







# Econlockhatchee River Paddling Trail Guide



## The Waterway

Flowing past unmarred forests, including the Little Big Econ State Forest, paddlers can see a diverse array of wildlife including sandhill cranes, bald eagles, ospreys, hawks, wading birds, wood storks, roseate spoonbills, waterfowl, shorebirds, deer, turkey and sometimes black bear. The Muscogee name for the river means "River of Many Mounds," named for the multitude of Indian mounds found along this waterway. The second largest tributary of the storied St. Johns River, this delightful black water stream is narrow in places and canopied by cypress and sabal palm.

## The Paddling Experience

The designated 19 miles of the Econlockhatchee River is suitable for beginning to intermediate paddlers, depending on water levels. It is not advisable to put-in at SR 50 as downed trees may be heavy and numerous portages are required, especially if water is low. Check with outfitters for updated water levels and accessibility of the river between SR 50 and CR 419. Check USGS gauge for water <u>levels</u>; river is at flood stage if gauge is over 18 feet. There may be downed trees in upper section if below 11 feet. When entering the St. John's River, stay on the left side of the wide channel and paddle towards the left side of the bridge for takeout.

#### **Access Points**

#### #1, Start of the Trail, County Road 419 Bridge,

Access to the river is by walking about 100 meters from the parking area on Northeast side of CR 419 bridge down a grassy easement to the unimproved launch under the bridge. From the town of Oviedo, take CR 419 about 2.5 miles east to the northeast side of the bridge over the river.

- #2, Mile 8, Little Big Econ State Forest Headquarters, 1350 Snow Hill Road, There is a boardwalk and canoe launch behind the Forestry Office. Go to the pavilion parking area and walk down a trail about 660 feet to the river. A fee is required; gates close at sunset. Overnight parking is allowed. From Oviedo travel northeast on CR 426 to Snow Hill Road, turn right (south) and proceed to Little Big Econ State Forest Headquarters.
- **#3, Mile 8.5, Snow Hill Road,** From Oviedo travel northeast on CR 426, turn right on Snow Hill Road to bridge over the river

### #3, Mile 19, End of the Trail, State Road 46 Bridge

From the town of Oviedo travel northeast on CR 426 to the junction of SR 46. Continue east on SR



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46 to the parking/launch area on the northwest side of the bridge over the St. John's River

#### **Outfitters and Shuttle Service**

Adventures in Florida (Orlando), (407) 924-3375

A Day Away Outfitters and Kayak Tours (Titusville) (321) 268-2655

Econ Outfitters, (407) 924-3375

### **Base Camp**

Primitive camping is allowed on the <u>Little Big Econ State Forest</u>. Call 407-971-3500 for a camping permit. There are no designated sites for camping. Please find a spot to camp anywhere between the beginning and ending GPS coordinates for the camp zone areas shown on the map on the north side of the river. The West Camp Area is approximately 2.8 river miles long and ends just east after the Flagler trail bridge. The East Camp Area is approximately 2.0 river miles long and ends at coordinates N 28.676453 W 81.068567.

The <u>Florida National Scenic Trail</u> crosses the river at the Little Big Econ State Forest and merges with the Flagler Trail for a short distance. The Flagler Trail is located along an abandoned railroad corridor, now featuring a new trail bridge over the river, and is a multi-use corridor with some primitive camping sites along the shady banks.





