



# Holmes Creek Paddling Trail Map 1

N



Pate Lake

UNION HILL RD

**Access Point 1: Burnt Sock Landing**  
N: 30.6687 W: -85.6623

Beulah A. Laidlaw Preserve

79

JOHNSON RD

WASHINGTON

PLEASANT HILL RD

**Access Point 2: Cotton Landing**  
N: 30.6561 W: -85.6808

Choctawhatchee River/  
Holmes Creek  
Water Management  
Area

**Access Point 3: Culpepper Landing**  
N: 30.6493 W: -85.6901

CULPEPPER LN

**Access Point 4: Vernon Wayside Park**  
N: 30.6301 W: -85.7100

Becton Pond

BRUNER DAIRY RD

170

COOK RD

277

OWENS COMMUNITY RD

**Access Point 6: Brunson Landing**  
N: 30.6088 W: -85.7567

278

Vernon

278

DORCH CIR

BRUNSON LANDING RD

DAWKINS ST

279

KEENKUTTER RD

SPOLMILL RD

TWO CREEK BLVD

**Access Point 5: Fanning Branch Boat Ramp**  
N: 30.6069 W: -85.7468

HIGHTOWER SPRINGS RD

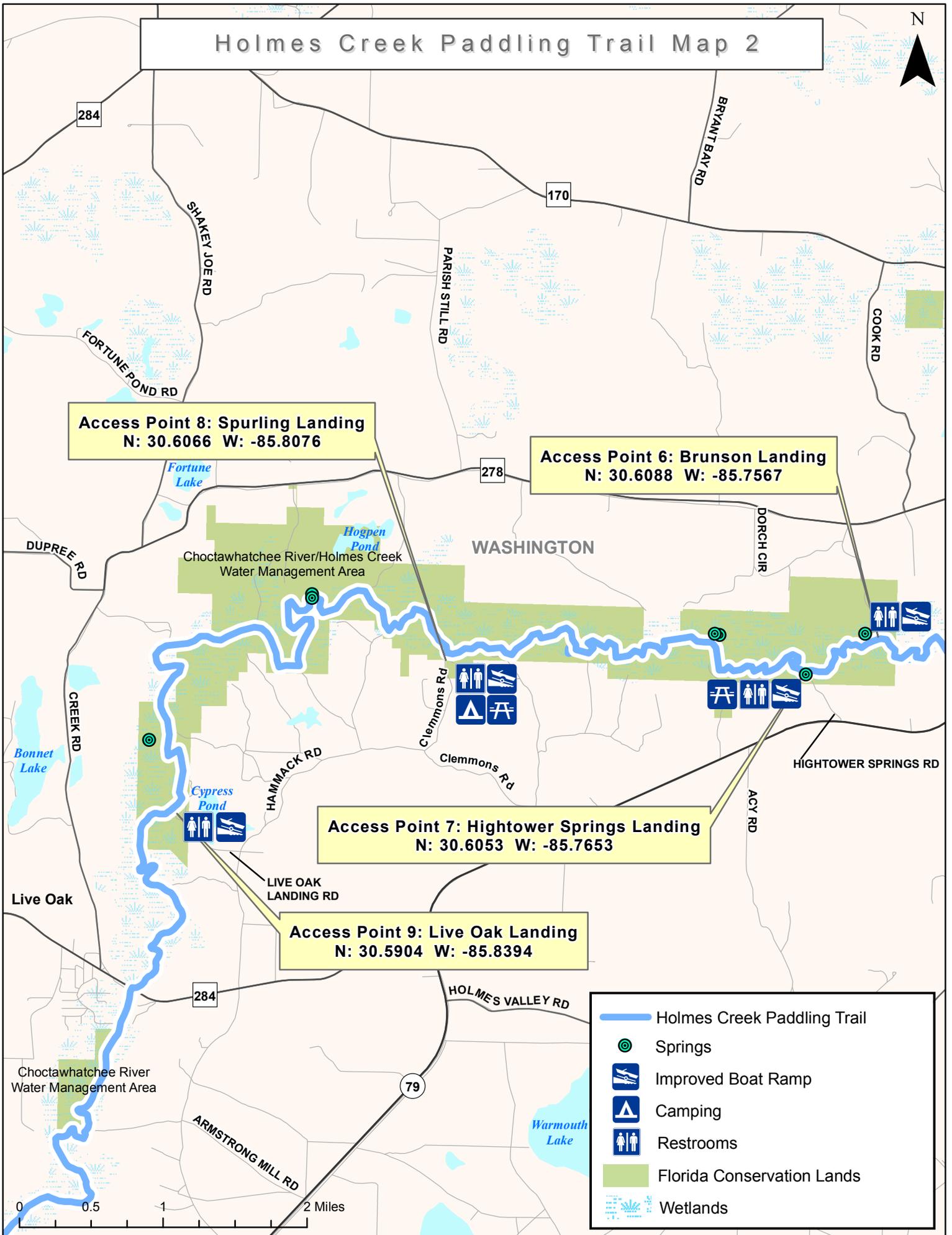
**Access Point 7: Hightower Springs Landing**  
N: 30.6053 W: -85.7653

- Holmes Creek Paddling Trail
- Springs
- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Improved Boat Ramp
- Camping
- Restrooms
- Florida Conservation Lands
- Wetlands



# Holmes Creek Paddling Trail Map 2

N



**Access Point 8: Spurling Landing**  
N: 30.6066 W: -85.8076

**Access Point 6: Brunson Landing**  
N: 30.6088 W: -85.7567

**Access Point 7: Hightower Springs Landing**  
N: 30.6053 W: -85.7653

**Access Point 9: Live Oak Landing**  
N: 30.5904 W: -85.8394

- Holmes Creek Paddling Trail
- Springs
- Improved Boat Ramp
- Camping
- Restrooms
- Florida Conservation Lands
- Wetlands



# Holmes Creek Paddling Trail Map 3

N



**Access Point 10: Shell Landing**  
N: 30.5382 W: -85.8622

**Access Point 12: Boynton Landing**  
N: 30.5239 W: -85.8711

**Access Point 11: Potter Springs  
Public Boat Ramp**  
N: 30.5370 W: -85.8596

**Access Point 13: Cedar Tree Landing**  
N: 30.4705 W: -85.8756

Nokuse Plantation  
Conservation Easements

Choctawhatchee River  
Water Management Area

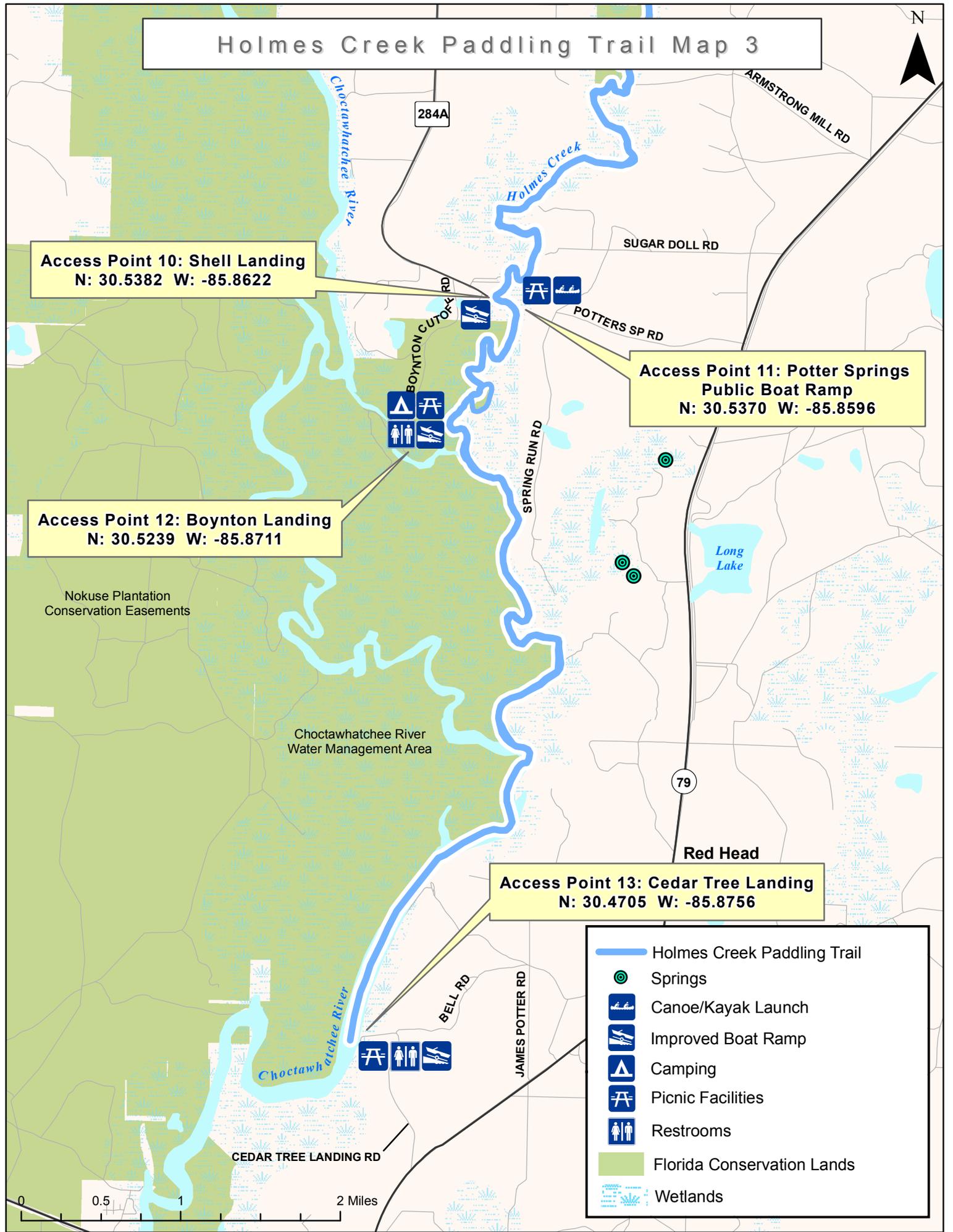
Long  
Lake

79

Red Head

- Holmes Creek Paddling Trail
- Springs
- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Improved Boat Ramp
- Camping
- Picnic Facilities
- Restrooms
- Florida Conservation Lands
- Wetlands

0 0.5 1 2 Miles





# Holmes Creek Paddling Trail Guide

## The Waterway

Be sure to bring a mask and snorkel if paddling scenic Holmes Creek. This remote Panhandle stream is fed by crystalline springs, so the water's clarity is often semi-transparent. Low-hanging branches and twisting bends add some challenge as the waterway makes its way past high sandy banks and lush swamplands. Several old-growth cypress and gum trees can be seen along the shore. Wildflowers in the spring and brilliant fall colors in October and November add to the beauty of this pristine waterway.

## The Paddling Experience

This 34-mile scenic paddling trail begins at Burnt Sock Landing and has numerous access sites to create a trip length of your choosing. It is suitable for beginning to intermediate paddlers and water levels are generally consistent. To avoid crowds visit Holmes Creek during weekdays and during the cooler months, as the popular springs are filled with swimmers and boat traffic in the summer. Please avoid trespassing on private lands, especially around Cypress Springs. Holmes Creek has been extended to merge with the majestic Choctawhatchee River with a take out at Cedar Tree Landing, the first available public access downstream on the Choctawhatchee. A major summer congregation area for the federally protected Gulf sturgeon is just below where Holmes Creek joins the Choctawhatchee River. These huge fish may be seen leaping dramatically from the water and if encountered, move near the river's edge to avoid potential impact.

## Access Points

### #1, Start of the Trail, [Burnt Sock Landing](#)

Burnt Sock Landing is only suitable for hand-launching small carry-in boats. The access is remote and it is not recommended to leave vehicles here overnight. Check with local outfitters listed below for shuttling information. Directions: *Burnt Sock Landing is located on the south side of Johnson Road, approximately 1.5 miles east of Hwy 79. The Johnson Road/Hwy 79 intersection is approximately 3.7 miles north of Vernon and 6.3 miles south of Interstate 10.*

### #2, Mile 2.0, [Cotton Landing](#)

A private canoe outfitter is located approx. 1.0 mile south of Cotton Landing on CR. 277. Cypress Springs is a popular swimming area located just downstream from Cotton Landing and may be crowded with boats in the summer. Keep in mind that the shoreline is private property. Please avoid trampling the fragile aquatic vegetation. Directions: *From Vernon, travel 3.3 miles north on CR 277. Look for sign for Cotton Landing. Follow limerock road for 1 mile to launch.*



# Holmes Creek Paddling Trail Guide

## #3, Mile 3.0, Culpepper Landing

*Directions: From Vernon, travel 2 miles north on CR 277. Turn left onto Culpepper Lane. Follow paved road 0.4 miles to ramp.*

## #4, Mile 5.5, Vernon City Park

*From Vernon travel north on SR 79 to bridge and small park on the east side of the road. Private canoe outfitter is adjacent to park.*

## #5, Mile 9.5, Fanning Branch Boat Ramp

*Take SR 79 south from Vernon 3 miles to Two Creeks Boulevard, an unpaved road. Turn right and travel a quarter mile to Keenkutter Road and take a right. In less than a quarter mile take a sharp left and follow a short distance to launch.*

## #6, Mile 10.5, Brunson Landing

*Take CR 278 west 3 miles from Vernon; turn left on Dorch Circle and follow for 100 yards. As the paved road curves to the right, continue straight on narrow, unpaved road 0.7 mile to ramp.*

## #7, Mile 11.5, [Hightower Springs Landing](#)

*Take SR 79 south from Vernon 4 miles to Hightower Springs Road. Go north 0.5 miles on improved unpaved road to landing.*

## #8, Mile 15.0, [Spurling Landing](#),

*From Vernon, travel about 7 miles west on SR 79 and turn right onto Clemmons Road. Stay on Clemmons Road for 2.5 miles to landing.*

## #9, Mile 21.5, [Live Oak Landing](#)

*There is a small concrete ramp with a steep drop-off at the end, use caution launching a boat from here. From Vernon, travel south 7.3 miles on SR 79 to junction of SR 284 (Miller's Ferry Road). Turn right (west) and drive about 1.3 miles to Hammack Road. Turn right on Hammack Road and go 1 mile to Live Oak Landing Road. Turn left on Live Oak Landing Road and drive about 0.5 mile to public boat ramp.*

## #10, Mile 27.5, Shell Landing

*From Vernon, travel south 7.2 miles on SR 79 to junction of Miller's Ferry Rd. Turn right and drive 3.8 miles, turn left on Shell Landing Rd (becomes SR 284A), drive 2.9 miles, road dead ends at landing*

## #11, Mile 28, Potter Spring Road Landing

*This is the last access on Holmes Creek, the next access is on Choctawhatchee River. From Vernon, travel south on SR 79 10.9 miles. Turn right on Potter Springs Rd until dead ends at landing.*

## #12, Mile 34, End of the Trail, Cedar Tree Landing

*From Vernon, travel south on SR 79 16.9 miles, turn right on Cedar Tree Lane, road dead ends at landing.*



# Holmes Creek Paddling Trail Guide

## Outfitters and Shuttle Service

- [Holmes Creek Canoe Livery](#) adjacent to Vernon Wayside Park (850) 210-7001
- [Old Cypress Canoe Rentals](#) 2728 Traverse Dr., Vernon (850) 388-2072
- [Snaggy Bend Outfitters](#) 3324 Highway 277, Vernon (850) 535-2004

## Base Camp

Nearby [Falling Water State Park](#) offers an excellent base camp for exploring the natural wonders of the Panhandle region and is a site on the [Great Florida Birding Trail](#). Visitors can see beautiful native and migrating butterflies in the butterfly garden, take a dip in the lake, or have a family picnic. Hikers can experience the verdant, gently sloping landscape of North Florida. Full-facility campsites nestled in a shady pine forest provide the perfect excuse for an overnight stay at Falling Waters.

Camping is allowed along the creek on [Northwest Florida Water Management District](#) properties unless otherwise posted. In addition, four primitive campsites are scheduled for development at Spurling Landing in mid to-late 2015. Make shuttle arrangements with local outfitters to avoid leaving vehicles overnight at remote access points.

