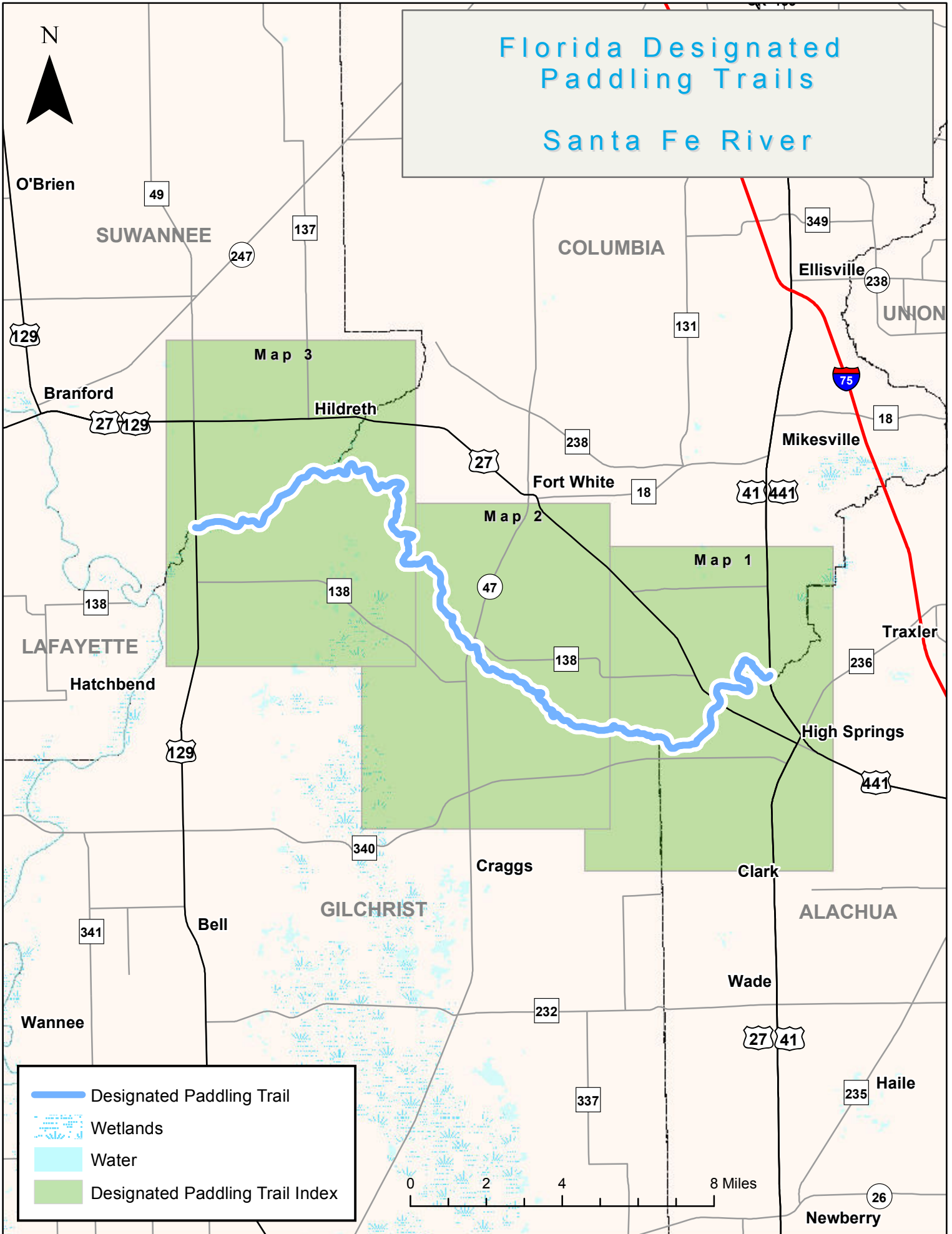


# Florida Designated Paddling Trails Santa Fe River



# Santa Fe River Paddling Trail Map 1

N



778

COLUMBIA

**Access Point 1: US 41/441 Bridge**  
N: 29.8521 W: -82.6116

41 441

River Rise Preserve State Park

138

**Access Point 2: US 27 Bridge**  
N: 29.8441 W: -82.6308

27

McCall Park

NW 210TH LN

236

RUM ISLAND RD

MAIN ST

High Springs

441

Poe Springs Park

340

**Access Point 3: Rum Island Park**  
N: 29.8334 W: -82.6784

ALACHUA

NW 174TH ST

27 41

GILCHRIST

NW 142ND AVE

0 0.45 0.9 1.8 Miles

Santa Fe River Paddling Trail

Springs

Canoe/Kayak Launch

Restrooms

Florida Conservation Lands

Florida State Parks

Wetlands

# Santa Fe River Paddling Trail Map 2

N



Ft White Mitigation  
Park Wildlife &  
Environmental Area

Ichetucknee  
Conservation  
Area

Loncala, Inc.  
Conservation Easement #1

COLUMBIA

47

**Access Point 4: CR 47 Bridge**  
N: 29.8646 W: -82.7399

138

138

Santa Fe Springs Conservation Area

GILCHRIST

341

 Santa Fe River Paddling Trail

 Springs

 Canoe/Kayak Launch

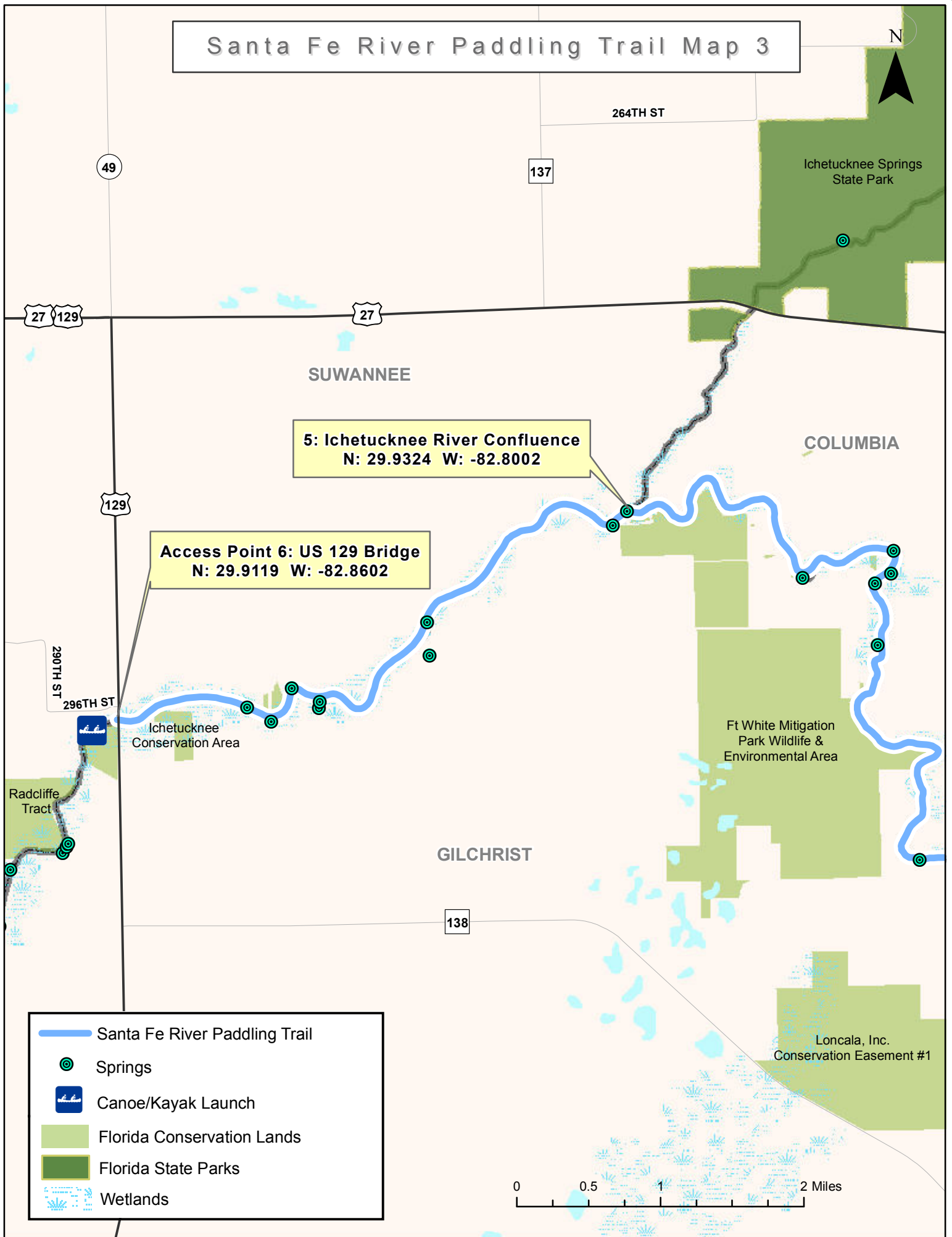
 Florida Conservation Lands

 Wetlands

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



# Santa Fe River Paddling Trail Map 3



**5: Ichetucknee River Confluence**  
N: 29.9324 W: -82.8002

**Access Point 6: US 129 Bridge**  
N: 29.9119 W: -82.8602

- Santa Fe River Paddling Trail
- Springs
- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Florida Conservation Lands
- Florida State Parks
- Wetlands

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



# Santa Fe River Paddling Trail Guide

## The Waterway

The picturesque Santa Fe River curves past hardwood hammocks and through river swamps on its way to joining the Suwannee River. Many clear [springs](#) feed the Santa Fe and a dip in the crystal waters provides relief on hot days. Some privately owned ones charge admission to enter and will be posted as such as you enter the spring run. There are other publicly owned parks that do not charge. Small shoals are present during low water, which can be attempted by intermediate paddlers. The Santa Fe River goes underground in O'Leno State Park and reemerges over three miles away in River Rise State Park as a circular pool before resuming its journey to the Suwannee River. From the put-in near US 41/441 it is possible to paddle about 5 miles roundtrip to visit the River Rise. This is a remote and beautiful area and it is worth paddling upstream to enjoy the wilderness scenery.

## The Paddling Experience

The 26-mile scenic Santa Fe paddling trail is suitable for beginners in general, depending on water levels. It is a well-loved river and may be crowded with tubers and boaters during summer and weekends. Lose the crowds and visit on weekdays or during Florida's pleasant winter months. Avoid leaving vehicles overnight in remote places; contact outfitters listed below for shuttling and safe parking. River levels at the [SRWMD gauge](#) at the US 441 Bridge should be above 32 feet for adequate water between US 441 and US 27. If river levels are below 31.5 feet at the same gauge, there will be some shallow spots below the US 27 Bridge that may require pushing or pulling your boat for short stretches.

It is permissible to camp on Suwannee River Water Management District property on the west side of the river between Ginie Springs and the SR 47 Bridge. There is no charge but you must call first at (386) 362-1001 or 1-800-226-1066 (Florida only) during business hours Monday - Friday.

## Access Points

### #1, Start of the Trail, US 41/441 Bridge

This launch is only a couple of hundred yards from the US 41 bridge. *From the intersection of US 41 and CR 236 (Main Street) in High Springs, travel north on US 41 about one mile. As US 41 curves to the right look for a paved road to your left and follow down to the boat ramp at the end.*

### #2, Mile 3.0, US 27 Bridge

Lily Springs, a short distance downstream of the US 27 boat ramp, is the home of Naked Ed, a colorful local character, who is frequently clad in a loincloth (or not). He welcomes respectful visitors to the springs and he usually sits behind a privacy screen as he chats to visitors. *Parking area and boat ramp are on the northwest side of the bridge just a few miles west of High Springs on US 27*

### #3, Mile 7, Rum Island Park

The name "Rum Island" was believed to be derived from bootlegging and moonshine operations on the island in the early 1900s. Currently, no alcohol is allowed in the park. *Follow Highway 27 west out of High Springs*



# Santa Fe River Paddling Trail Guide

*about 3 miles to County Road 138 (yellow flashing light). Turn left and drive 2 miles to Rum Island Road (look for a large sign) and take a left. Follow about 1.5 miles to the park. Rum Island Spring is a short distance from the launch.*

## **#4, Mile 12, CR 47 Bridge**

Travel 4.5 miles southwest of Fort White on CR 47. Cross bridge and turn left into small recreation area and launch managed by Gilchrist County.

## **#5, Mile 26, End of the Trail, US 129 Bridge**

The beautiful spring-fed river Itchetucknee River flows into the Santa Fe about six miles upstream from US 129. The Itchetucknee is popular with tubers within the State Park boundaries and motorboats cluster at the confluence with the Santa Fe. It is possible to paddle upstream a distance of about six miles into the Itchetucknee State Park, although the current may be strong. Motorboat traffic may be heavy between the confluence of the Santa Fe and Itchetucknee Rivers and US 129, especially during weekends and holidays. A few fishing boats venture upstream of the CR 47 bridge

## Outfitters and Shuttle Service

[Adventure Outpost](#), 386-454-0611

[Rum 138](#), 386-454-4247

[Santa Fe Canoe Outpost](#), 386-454-2050

## Base Camp

One of Florida's first state parks, [O'Leno State Park](#), was first developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. The park is located along the banks of the scenic Santa Fe River, and features sinkholes, hardwood hammocks, river swamps and sandhills. As the river courses through the park, it disappears underground and reemerges over three miles away in River Rise State Park. O'Leno State Park offers visitors the opportunity to unwind in a natural setting. Visitors can enjoy a day of hiking or biking on the park's shaded trails. The Santa Fe River is a beautiful spot to launch a canoe or try your hand at fishing along its banks. The shady, full-facility campground is the perfect place for basecamp to explore the area's natural beauty. O'Leno State Park is located on U.S. 441, six miles north of High Springs.

At [River Rise Preserve State Park](#) equestrians, hikers and off-road cyclists can explore over 35 miles of trails. Equestrians can end the day camping overnight with their horses at the park's primitive equestrian camp consisting of primitive campsites, a bathhouse, and a 20-stall horse barn available on a first-come-first-served basis. Located on US 27 just outside of High Springs.