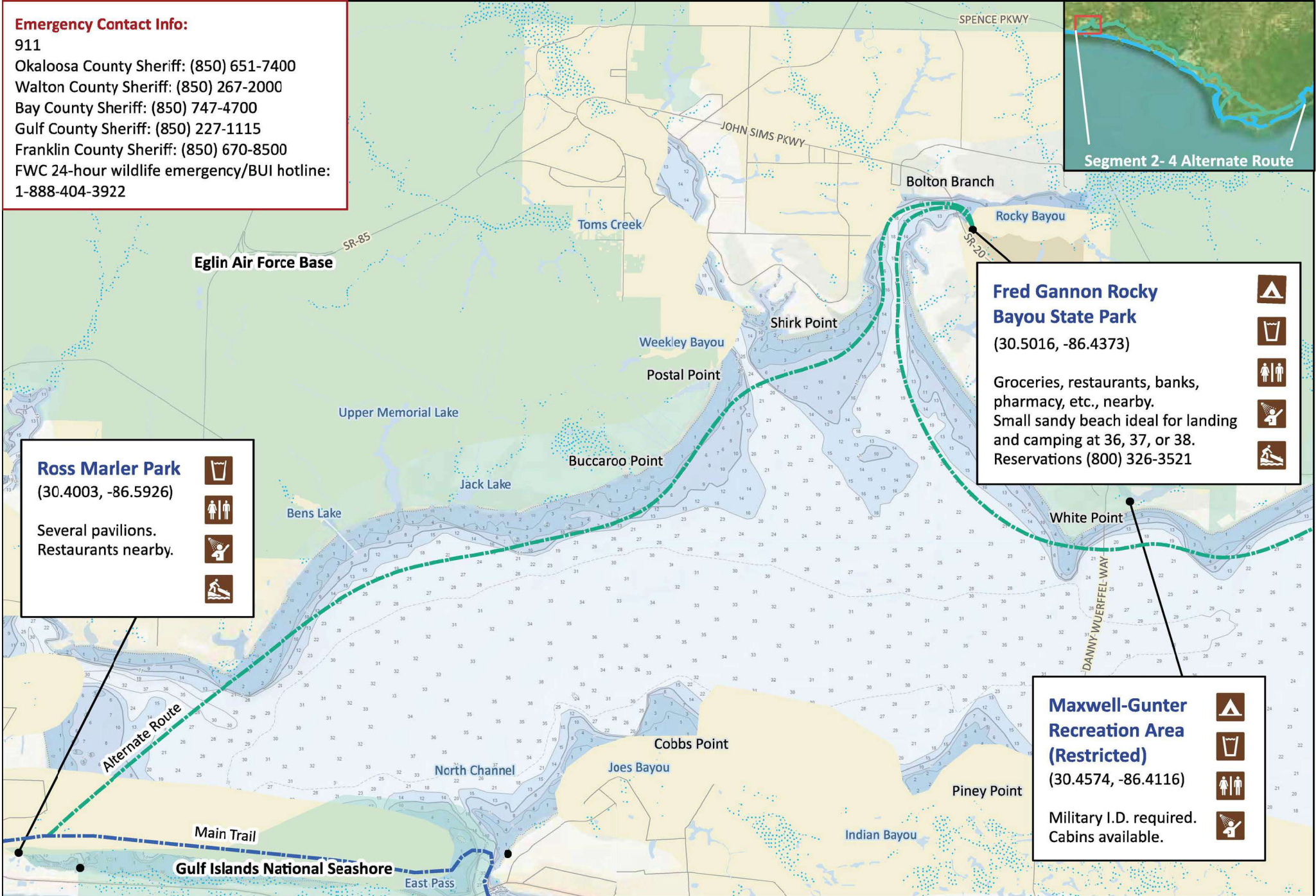


Emergency Contact Info:

911
Okaloosa County Sheriff: (850) 651-7400
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Gulf County Sheriff: (850) 227-1115
Franklin County Sheriff: (850) 670-8500
FWC 24-hour wildlife emergency/BUI hotline:
1-888-404-3922



Segment 2-4 Alternate Route



Ross Marler Park
(30.4003, -86.5926)

-
-
-
-

Several pavilions.
Restaurants nearby.

Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park
(30.5016, -86.4373)

-
-
-
-
-

Groceries, restaurants, banks, pharmacy, etc., nearby.
Small sandy beach ideal for landing and camping at 36, 37, or 38.
Reservations (800) 326-3521

Maxwell-Gunter Recreation Area (Restricted)
(30.4574, -86.4116)

-
-
-
-

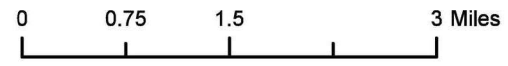
Military I.D. required.
Cabins available.



Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail

Segments 2-4: Alternate Panhandle Route (Map 1 of 12)

Begin: Destin
End: Apalachicola
Distance: 169 miles
Duration: 9 days



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Updated: 11/22/2024



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Basin Bayou Primitive Campsite

(30.4969, -86.2402)



Primitive campsite with tables and fire ring.
Need Eglin Outdoor Recreation Pass, fee,
and sportsman account.
Information (850) 882-4165 or (850) 882-4166

Eglin Air Force Base

STATE HWY. 20 W

COUNTY 83A

**Choctaw Beach
County Park**

(30.4767, -86.3308)



**Nick's Seafood
Restaurant**

(30.4866, -86.2509)



Choctawhatchee River Water Management Area

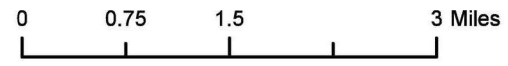


Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail

Segments 2-4: Alternate Panhandle Route (Map 2 of 12)

Begin: Destin
End: Apalachicola

Distance: 169 miles
Duration: 9 days



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Grady Brown Park

(30.4321, -86.1543)

Picnic pavilions available.



Live Oak Landing RV Resort

(30.4300, -86.1135)

RV sites and cabin rentals.
Accessible from water 2.5 miles east of SR 83 Bridge.
(877) 436-5063



Eden Gardens State Park

(30.3737, -86.1171)



ICW Peach Creek Primitive Campsite

(30.3741, -86.1039)



Pilcher Park

(30.3977, -86.1695)

Picnic pavilions available.



Seafood Restaurant

(30.3878, -86.1739)



Point Washington State Forest

Choctawhatchee River Water Management Area

Sandhill Lakes Conservation Easement

Devils Swamp

Devils Swamp Mitigation Bank

Intracoastal Waterway

Segment 2-4 Alternate Route

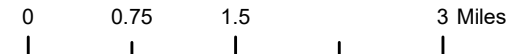


Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail

Segments 2-4: Alternate Panhandle Route (Map 3 of 12)

Begin: Destin
End: Apalachicola

Distance: 169 miles
Duration: 9 days



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Updated: 2/6/2025



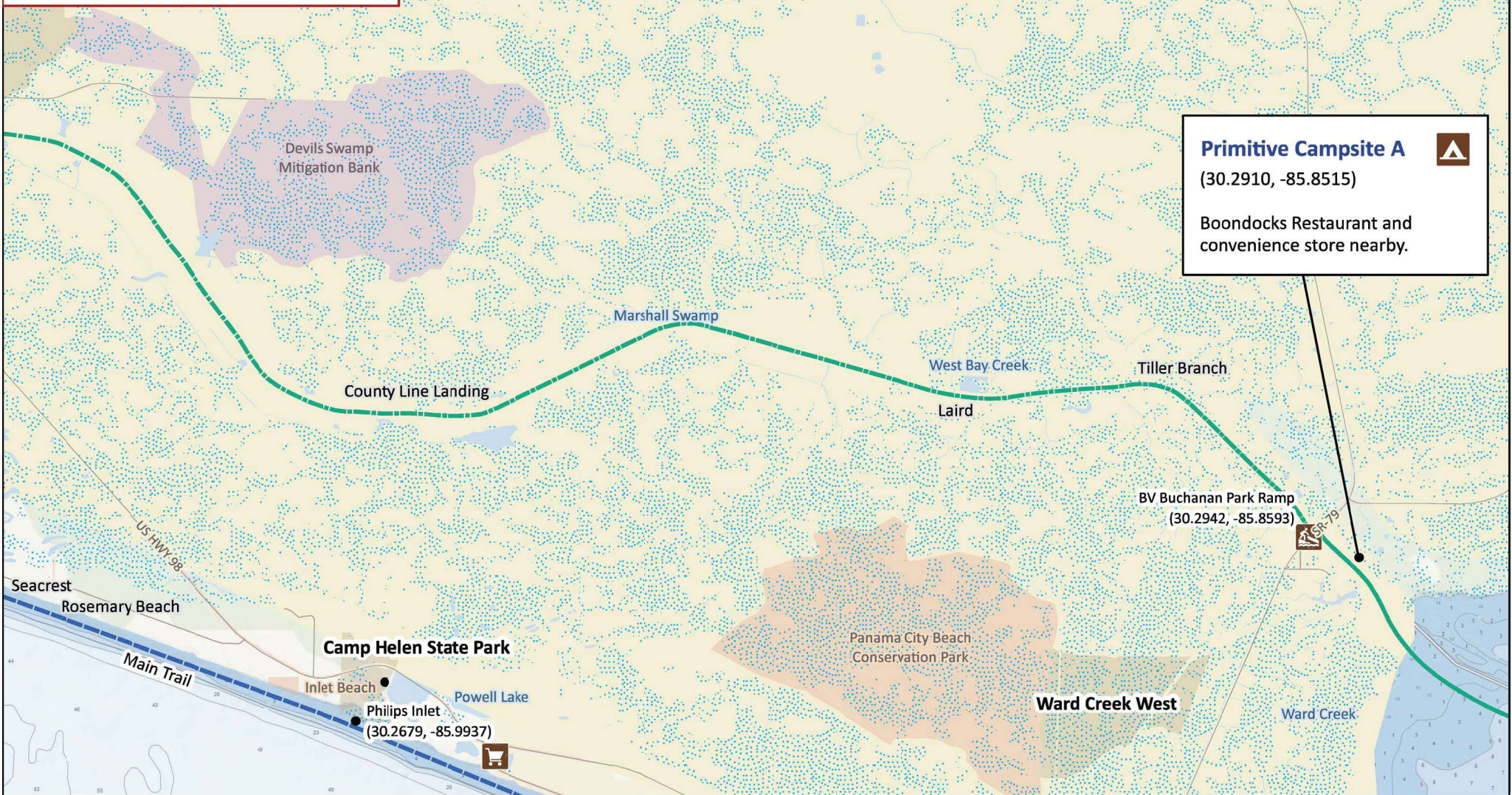
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Gulf County Sheriff: (850) 227-1115
Franklin County Sheriff: (850) 670-8500
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Choctawhatchee River Water Management Area



Segment 2- 4 Alternate Route

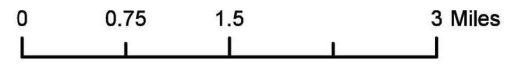


Primitive Campsite A
(30.2910, -85.8515)
Boondocks Restaurant and convenience store nearby.



Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail
Segments 2-4: Alternate Panhandle Route (Map 4 of 12)

Begin: Destin
End: Apalachicola
Distance: 169 miles
Duration: 9 days

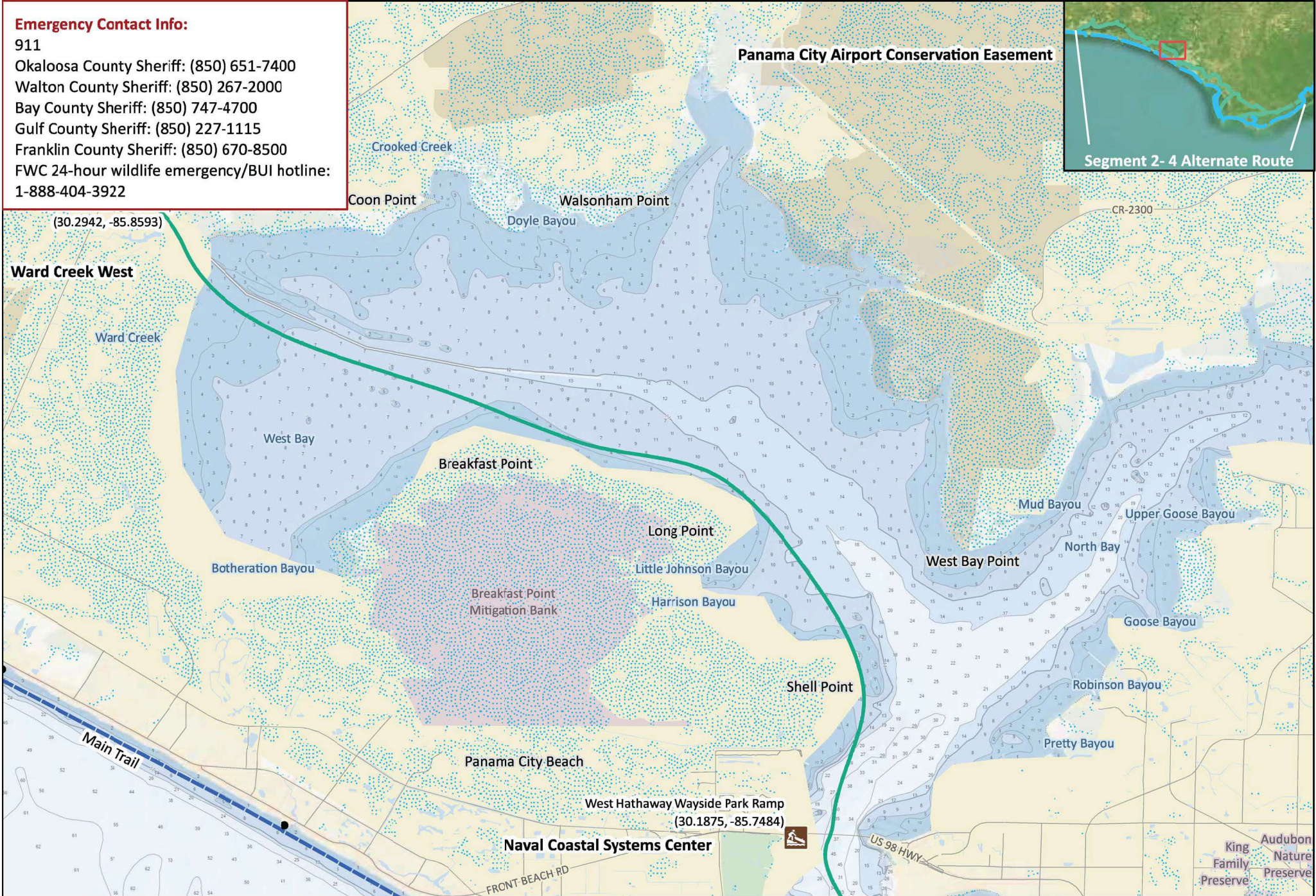


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Updated: 11/22/2024



Emergency Contact Info:

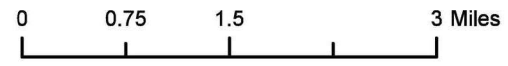
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Walton County Sheriff: (850) 267-2000
Bay County Sheriff: (850) 747-4700
Gulf County Sheriff: (850) 227-1115
Franklin County Sheriff: (850) 670-8500
FWC 24-hour wildlife emergency/BUI hotline:
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Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail

Segments 2-4: Alternate Panhandle Route (Map 5 of 12)

Begin: Destin
End: Apalachicola
Distance: 169 miles
Duration: 9 days

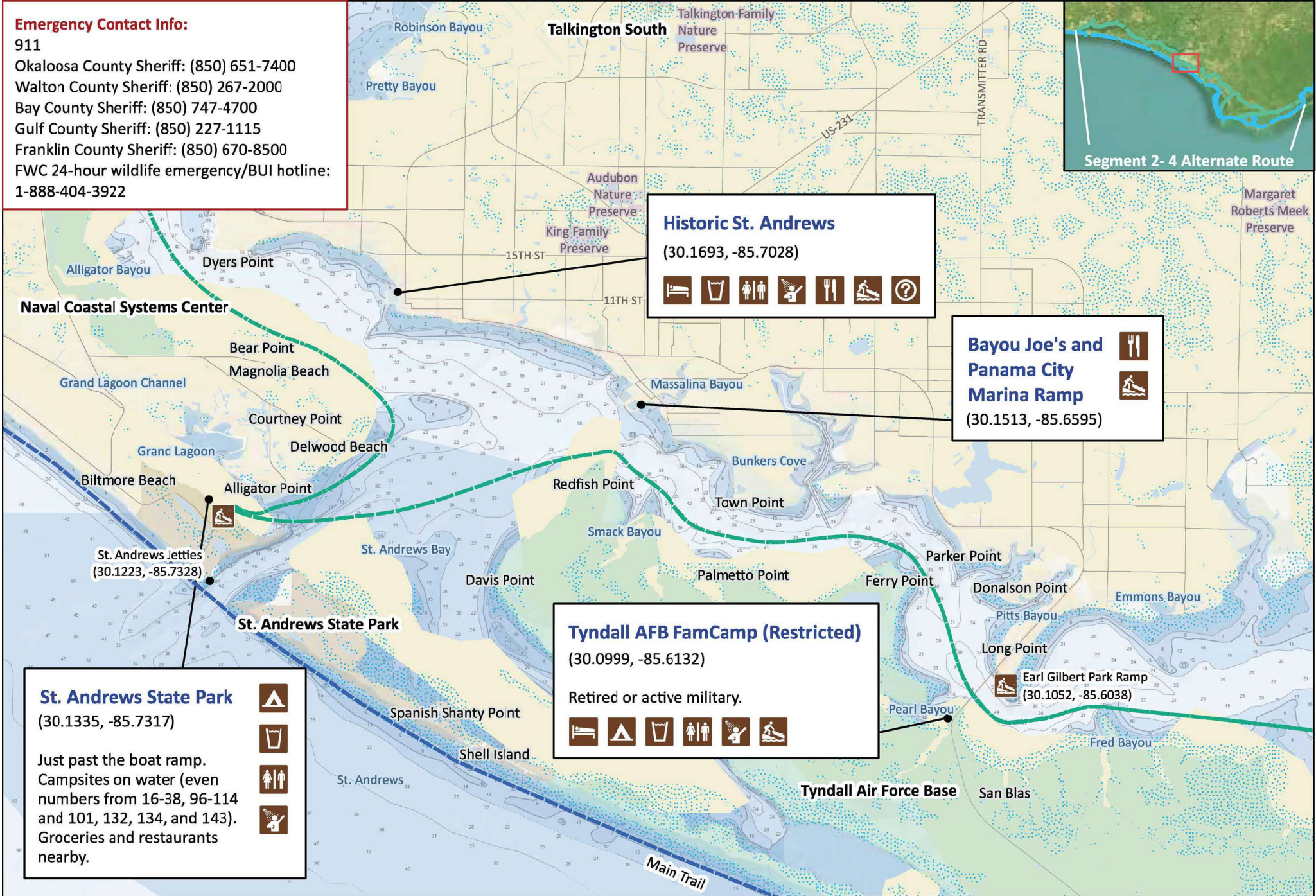


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Updated: 11/22/2024



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Franklin County Sheriff: (850) 670-8500
FWC 24-hour wildlife emergency/BUI hotline:
1-888-404-3922



Historic St. Andrews
(30.1693, -85.7028)

Icons: Bed, Trash, Restrooms, Wheelchair, Fork and Knife, Paddle, Question Mark

Bayou Joe's and Panama City Marina Ramp
(30.1513, -85.6595)

Icons: Fork and Knife, Wheelchair

Tyndall AFB FamCamp (Restricted)
(30.0999, -85.6132)

Retired or active military.

Icons: Bed, Tent, Trash, Restrooms, Wheelchair, Paddle

St. Andrews State Park
(30.1335, -85.7317)

Icons: Tent, Trash, Restrooms, Wheelchair

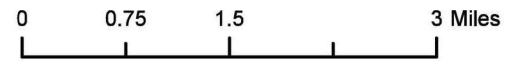
Just past the boat ramp.
Campsites on water (even numbers from 16-38, 96-114 and 101, 132, 134, and 143).
Groceries and restaurants nearby.



Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail

Segments 2-4: Alternate Panhandle Route (Map 6 of 12)

Begin: Destin Distance: 169 miles
End: Apalachicola Duration: 9 days



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Updated: 11/22/2024



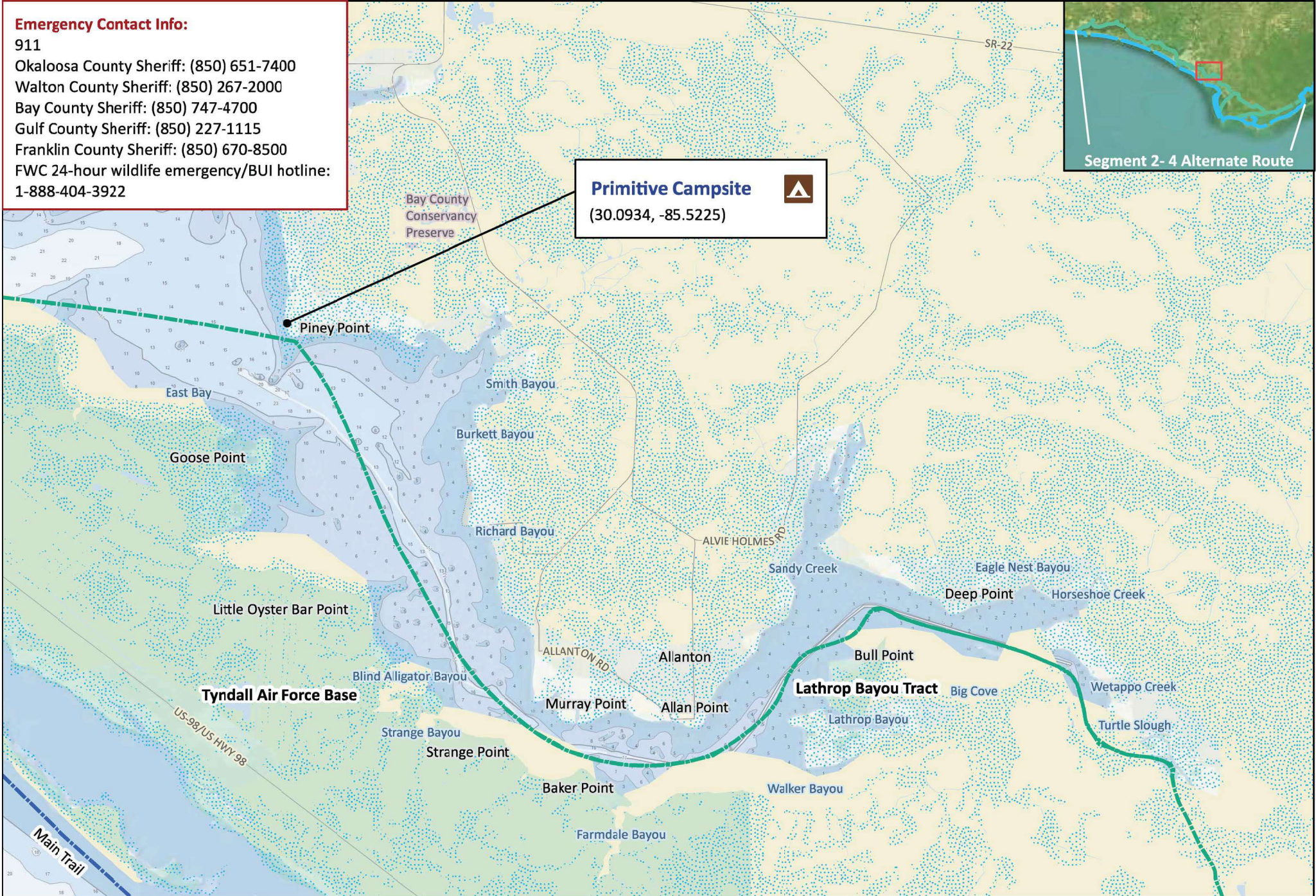
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Segment 2-4 Alternate Route

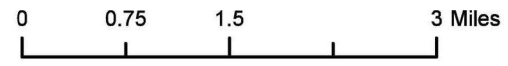
Primitive Campsite
(30.0934, -85.5225)



Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail

Segments 2-4: Alternate Panhandle Route (Map 7 of 12)

Begin: Destin
End: Apalachicola
Distance: 169 miles
Duration: 9 days



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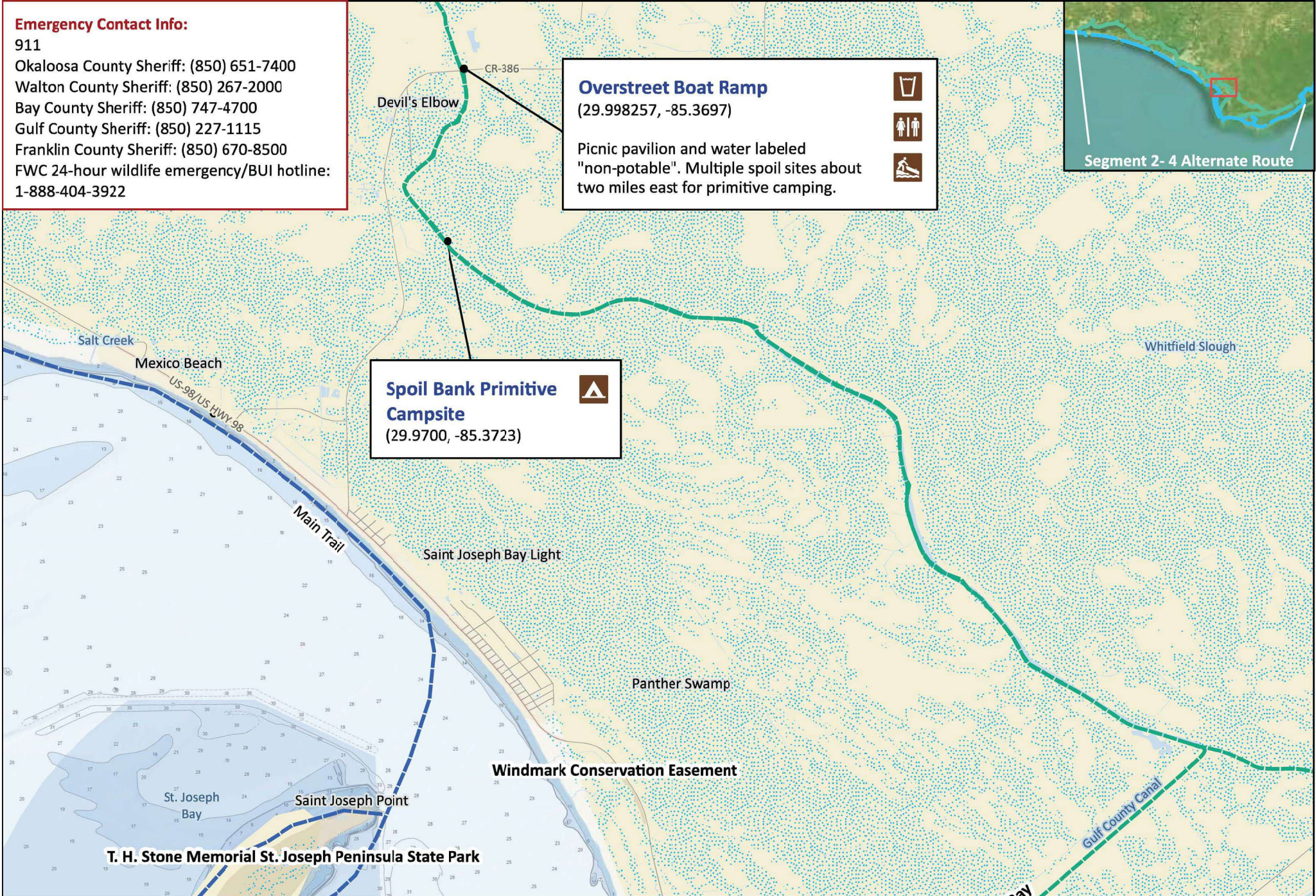


Segment 2-4 Alternate Route

Overstreet Boat Ramp
(29.998257, -85.3697)

Picnic pavilion and water labeled "non-potable". Multiple spoil sites about two miles east for primitive camping.

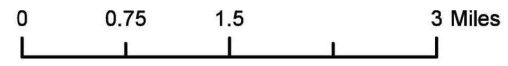
Spoil Bank Primitive Campsite
(29.9700, -85.3723)



Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail

Segments 2-4: Alternate Panhandle Route (Map 8 of 12)

Begin: Destin Distance: 169 miles
End: Apalachicola Duration: 9 days



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Updated: 11/22/2024

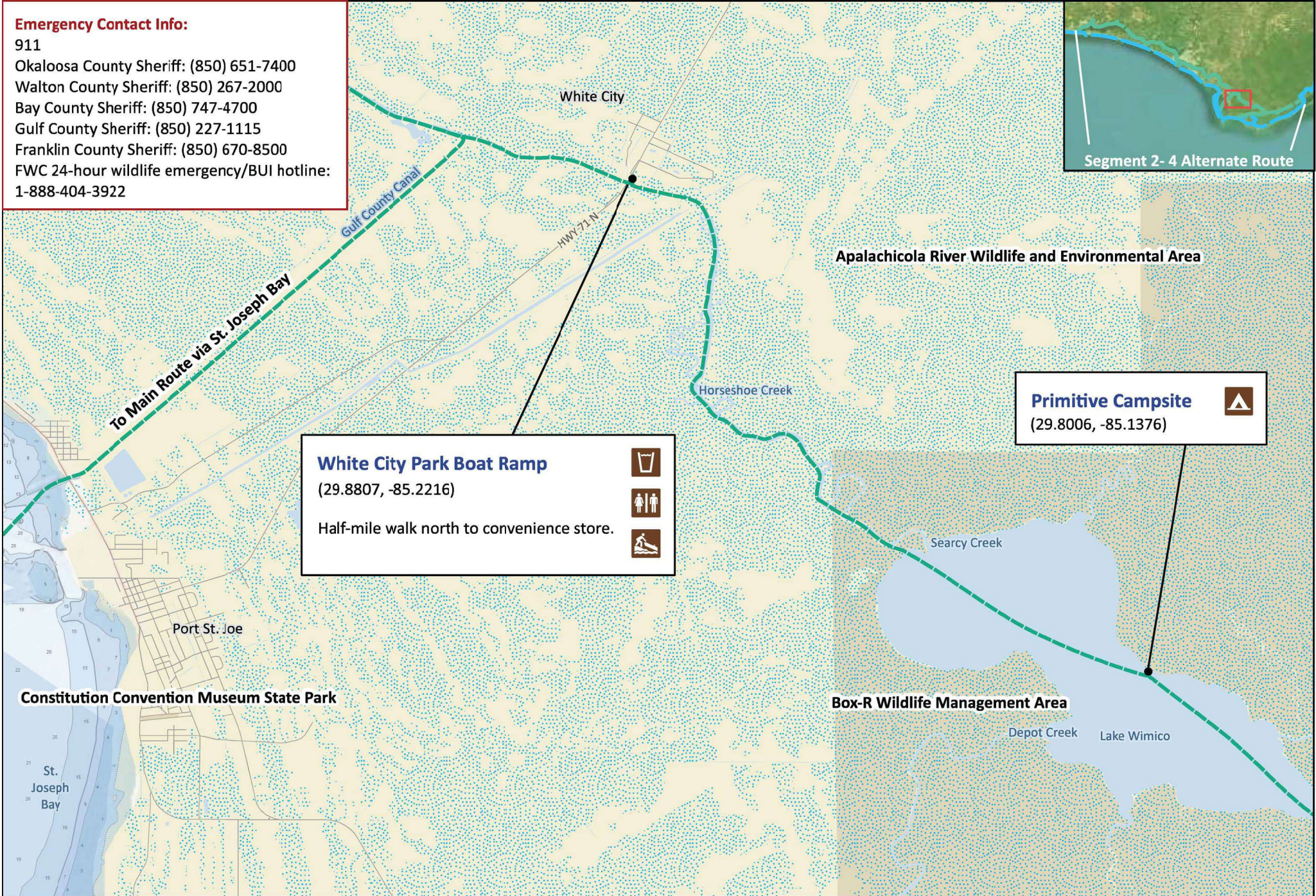


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Segment 2-4 Alternate Route



White City

Gulf County Canal

HWY 71 N

Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area

Horseshoe Creek

Primitive Campsite
(29.8006, -85.1376)

White City Park Boat Ramp
(29.8807, -85.2216)
Half-mile walk north to convenience store.



Searcy Creek

Box-R Wildlife Management Area

Depot Creek Lake Wimico

Port St. Joe

Constitution Convention Museum State Park

St. Joseph Bay

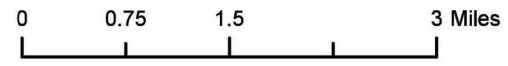


Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail

Segments 2-4: Alternate Panhandle Route (Map 9 of 12)

Begin: Destin
End: Apalachicola

Distance: 169 miles
Duration: 9 days



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Franklin County Sheriff: (850) 670-8500
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Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area

Sandbar Primitive Campsite

(29.7710, -85.0415)

Abercrombie Boat Ramp
(29.7684, -85.0432)

Orman House Historic State Park

B-9 Marine Ramp
(29.7307, -84.9861)

John Gorrie Museum State Park

Battery Park City Marina

(29.7217, -84.9809)



Box-R Wildlife Management Area

Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve

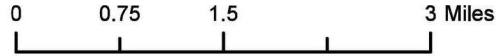


Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail

Segments 2-4: Alternate Panhandle Route (Map 10 of 12)

Begin: Destin
End: Apalachicola

Distance: 169 miles
Duration: 9 days



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Carrabelle Beach Park
(29.8293, -84.6923)

Picnic shelters available.

Sugar Hill Campsite
(29.7267, -84.7388)

Outdoor showers, water, and restrooms available 200 yards southeast of campsite. Camp in designated area. Avoid walking on dunes. Park Office (850) 927-2111

Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area

Tate's Hell State Forest

Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island State Park

Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve

Apalachicola Bay

St. George Sound

East Point
Eastpoint County Landing Ramp
(29.7353, -84.8802)

Millender Park
(29.7311, -84.8843)

Cat Point

Porters Bar Creek

US-98/US-319/SR-30

DRY BRIDGE RD

Main Trail

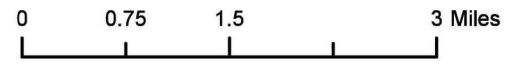


Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail

Segments 2-4: Alternate Panhandle Route (Map 11 of 12)

Begin: Destin
End: Apalachicola

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(29.8293, -84.6923)

Picnic shelters available.



Tate's Hell State Forest

Sugar Hill Campsite

(29.7267, -84.7388)

Outdoor showers, water, and restrooms available 200 yards southeast of campsite. Camp in designated area. Avoid walking on dunes. Park Office (850) 927-2111



Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island State Park

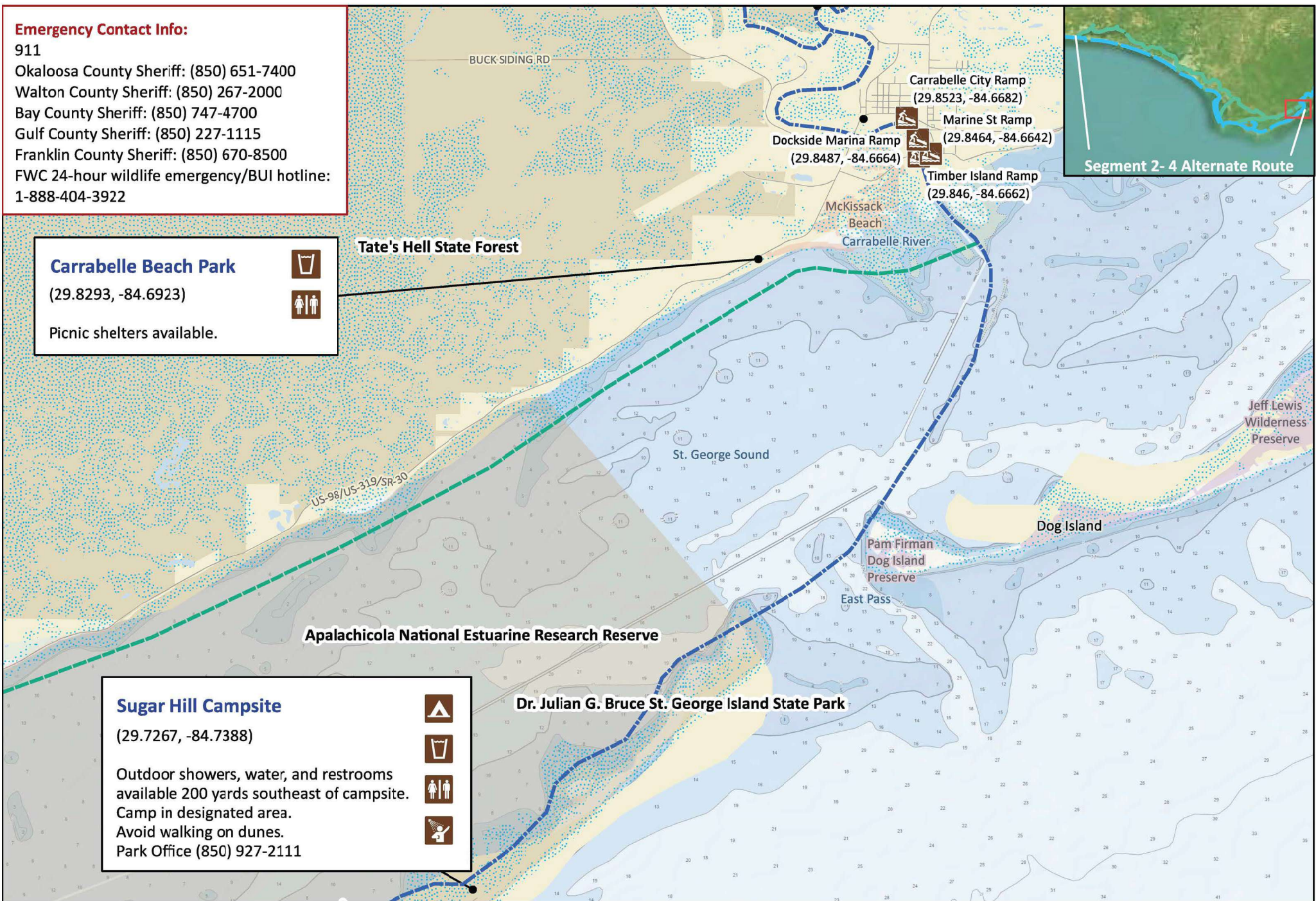
Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve

Pam Firman
Dog Island
Preserve

Jeff Lewis
Wilderness
Preserve

Carrabelle City Ramp
(29.8523, -84.6682)
Marine St Ramp
(29.8464, -84.6642)
Dockside Marina Ramp
(29.8487, -84.6664)
Timber Island Ramp
(29.846, -84.6662)

Segment 2-4 Alternate Route



Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail

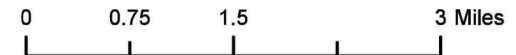
Segments 2-4: Alternate Panhandle Route (Map 12 of 12)

Begin: Destin

End: Apalachicola

Distance: 169 miles

Duration: 9 days



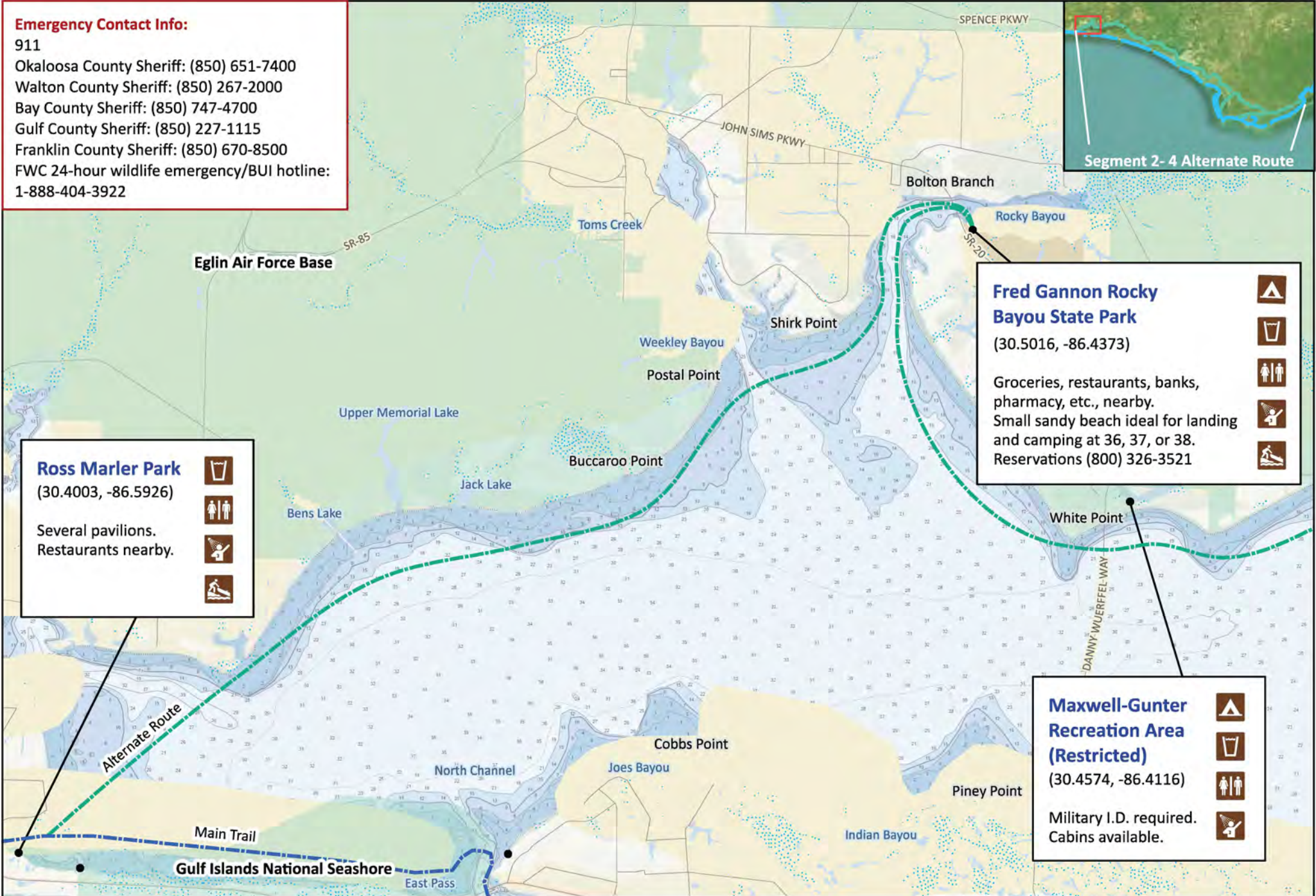
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Ross Marler Park
(30.4003, -86.5926)

- Several pavilions.
- Restaurants nearby.

Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park
(30.5016, -86.4373)

Groceries, restaurants, banks, pharmacy, etc., nearby.
Small sandy beach ideal for landing and camping at 36, 37, or 38.
Reservations (800) 326-3521

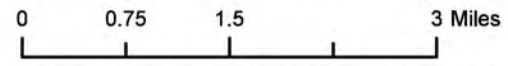
Maxwell-Gunter Recreation Area (Restricted)
(30.4574, -86.4116)

Military I.D. required.
Cabins available.



Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail
Segments 2-4: Alternate Panhandle Route (Map 1 of 12)

Begin: Destin
End: Apalachicola
Distance: 169 miles
Duration: 9 days

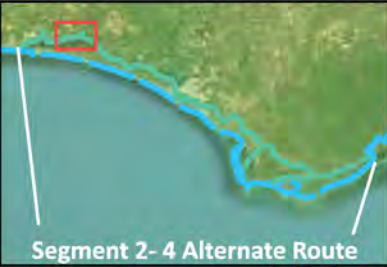


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Basin Bayou Primitive Campsite

(30.4969, -86.2402)



Primitive campsite with tables and fire ring.
Need Eglin Outdoor Recreation Pass, fee,
and isportsman account.
Information (850) 882-4165 or (850) 882-4166

Eglin Air Force Base

STATE HWY 20 W

Basin Bayou

Freeport

COUNTY 83A

Sharon Lake

Trout Creek

Choctaw Beach

Grassy Cove

Hammock Point

Alaqua Point

Big Hammock Point

Nick's Seafood Restaurant

(30.4866, -86.2509)



Choctaw Beach County Park

(30.4767, -86.3308)



Choctawhatchee River Water Management Area

Fourmile Point

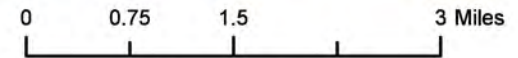


Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail

Segments 2-4: Alternate Panhandle Route (Map 2 of 12)

Begin: Destin
End: Apalachicola

Distance: 169 miles
Duration: 9 days



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Grady Brown Park

(30.4321, -86.1543)

Picnic pavilions available.



Live Oak Landing RV Resort

(30.4300, -86.1135)

RV sites and cabin rentals. Accessible from water 2.5 miles east of SR 83 Bridge. (877) 436-5063



Eden Gardens State Park

(30.3737, -86.1171)



Pilcher Park

(30.3977, -86.1695)

Picnic pavilions available.



Seafood Restaurant

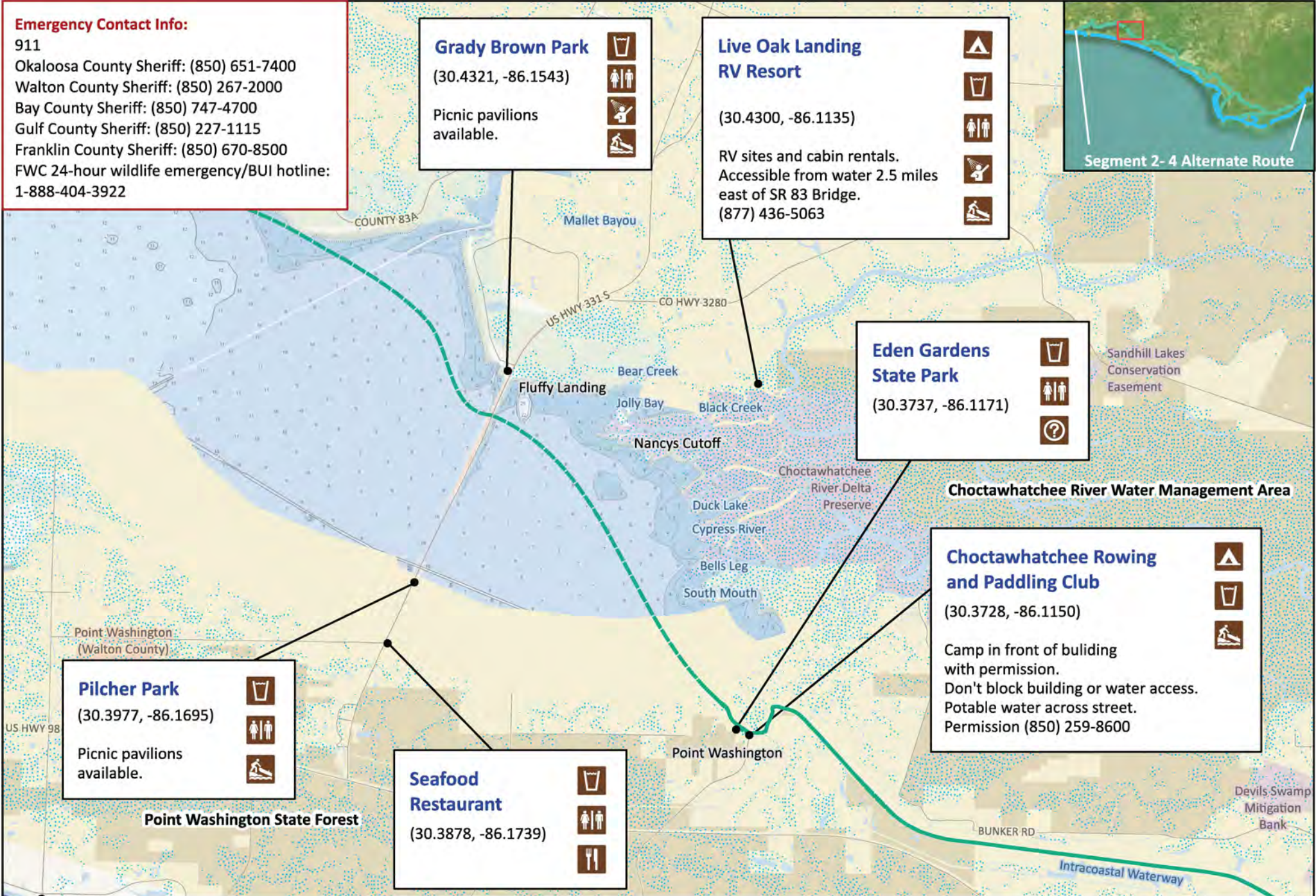
(30.3878, -86.1739)



Choctawhatchee Rowing and Paddling Club

(30.3728, -86.1150)

Camp in front of building with permission. Don't block building or water access. Potable water across street. Permission (850) 259-8600

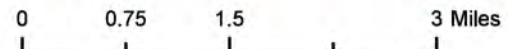


Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail

Segments 2-4: Alternate Panhandle Route (Map 3 of 12)

Begin: Destin
End: Apalachicola

Distance: 169 miles
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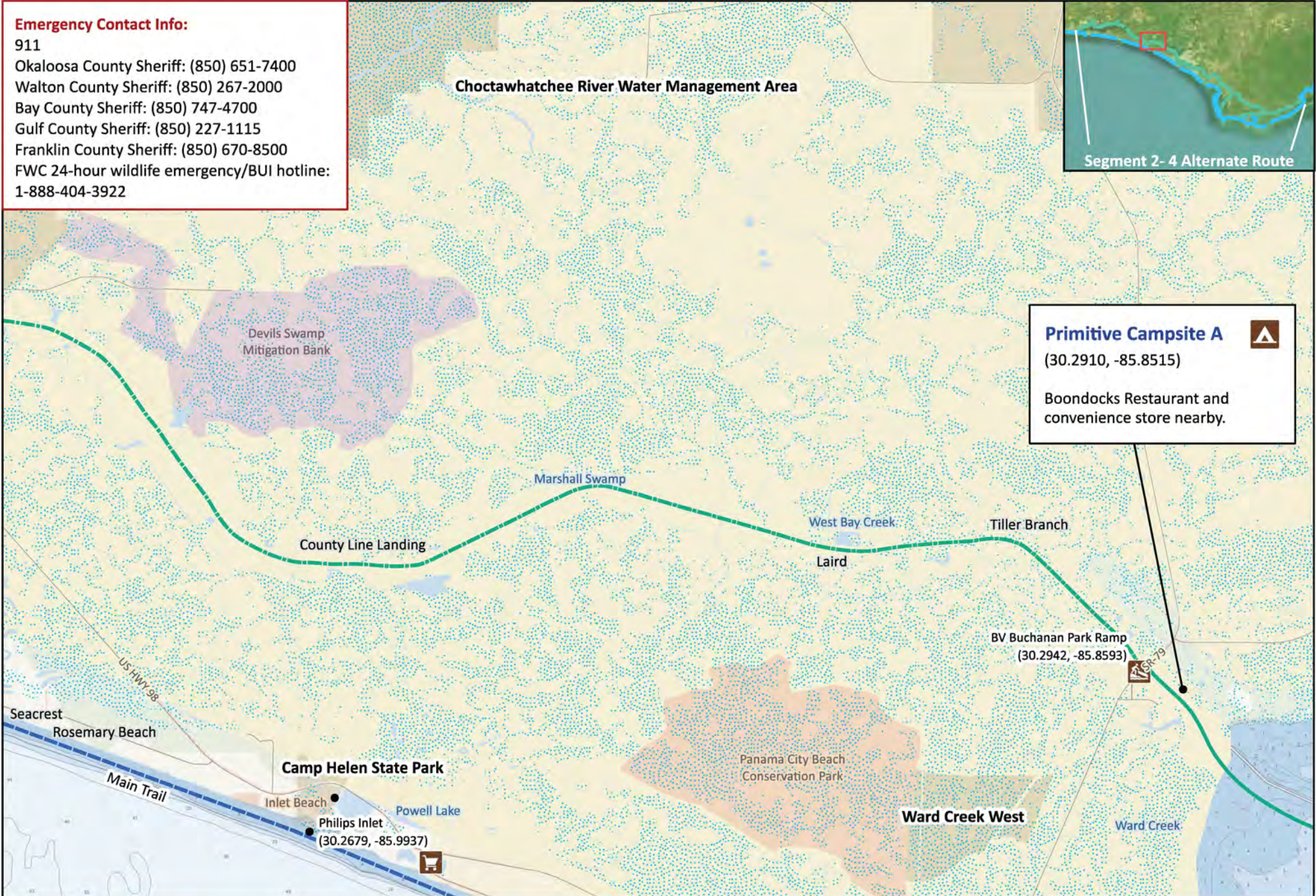
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Choctawhatchee River Water Management Area

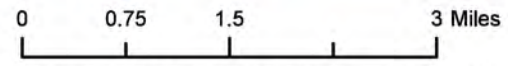


Primitive Campsite A 
(30.2910, -85.8515)
Boondocks Restaurant and
convenience store nearby.



Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail
Segments 2-4: Alternate Panhandle Route (Map 4 of 12)

Begin: Destin
End: Apalachicola
Distance: 169 miles
Duration: 9 days

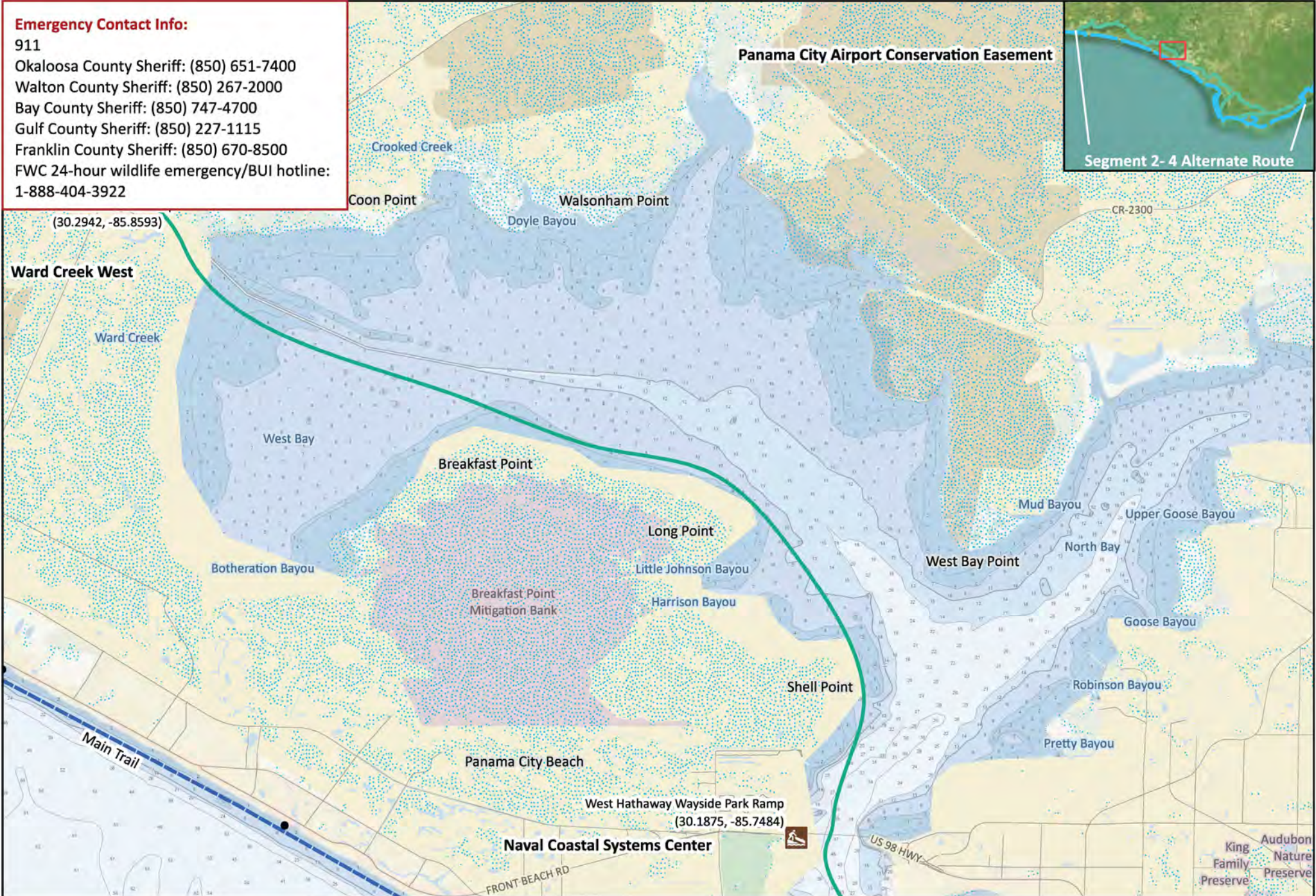


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Updated: 11/22/2024



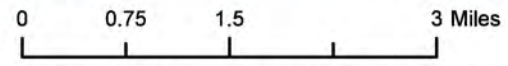
Emergency Contact Info:

911
Okaloosa County Sheriff: (850) 651-7400
Walton County Sheriff: (850) 267-2000
Bay County Sheriff: (850) 747-4700
Gulf County Sheriff: (850) 227-1115
Franklin County Sheriff: (850) 670-8500
FWC 24-hour wildlife emergency/BUI hotline:
1-888-404-3922



Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail
Segments 2-4: Alternate Panhandle Route (Map 5 of 12)

Begin: Destin
End: Apalachicola
Distance: 169 miles
Duration: 9 days

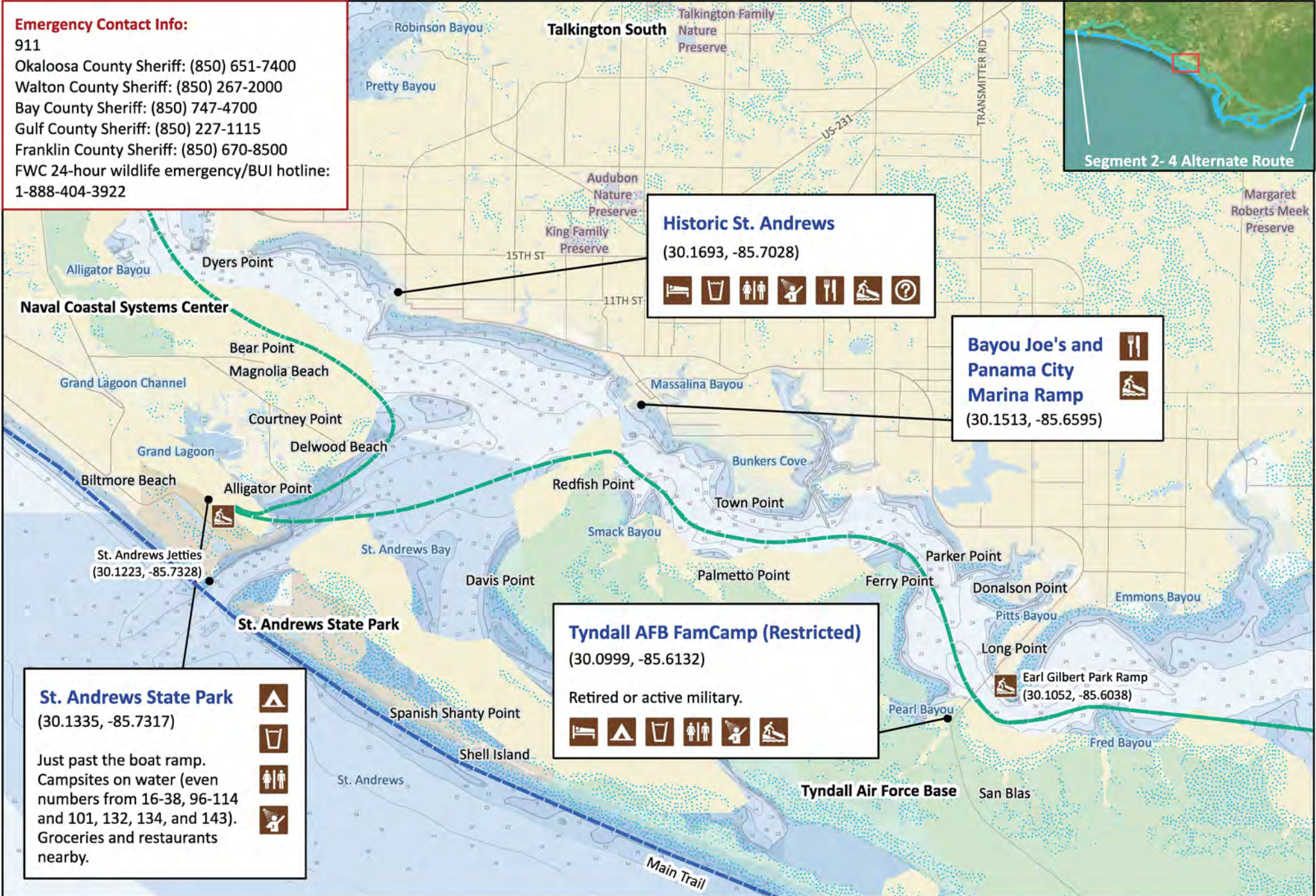


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Updated: 11/22/2024



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Historic St. Andrews

(30.1693, -85.7028)



Bayou Joe's and Panama City Marina Ramp

(30.1513, -85.6595)



Tyndall AFB FamCamp (Restricted)

(30.0999, -85.6132)

Retired or active military.



St. Andrews State Park

(30.1335, -85.7317)

Just past the boat ramp.
Campsites on water (even numbers from 16-38, 96-114 and 101, 132, 134, and 143).
Groceries and restaurants nearby.

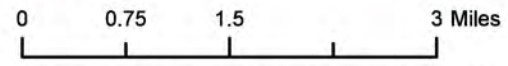


Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail

Segments 2-4: Alternate Panhandle Route (Map 6 of 12)

Begin: Destin
End: Apalachicola

Distance: 169 miles
Duration: 9 days



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Updated: 11/22/2024

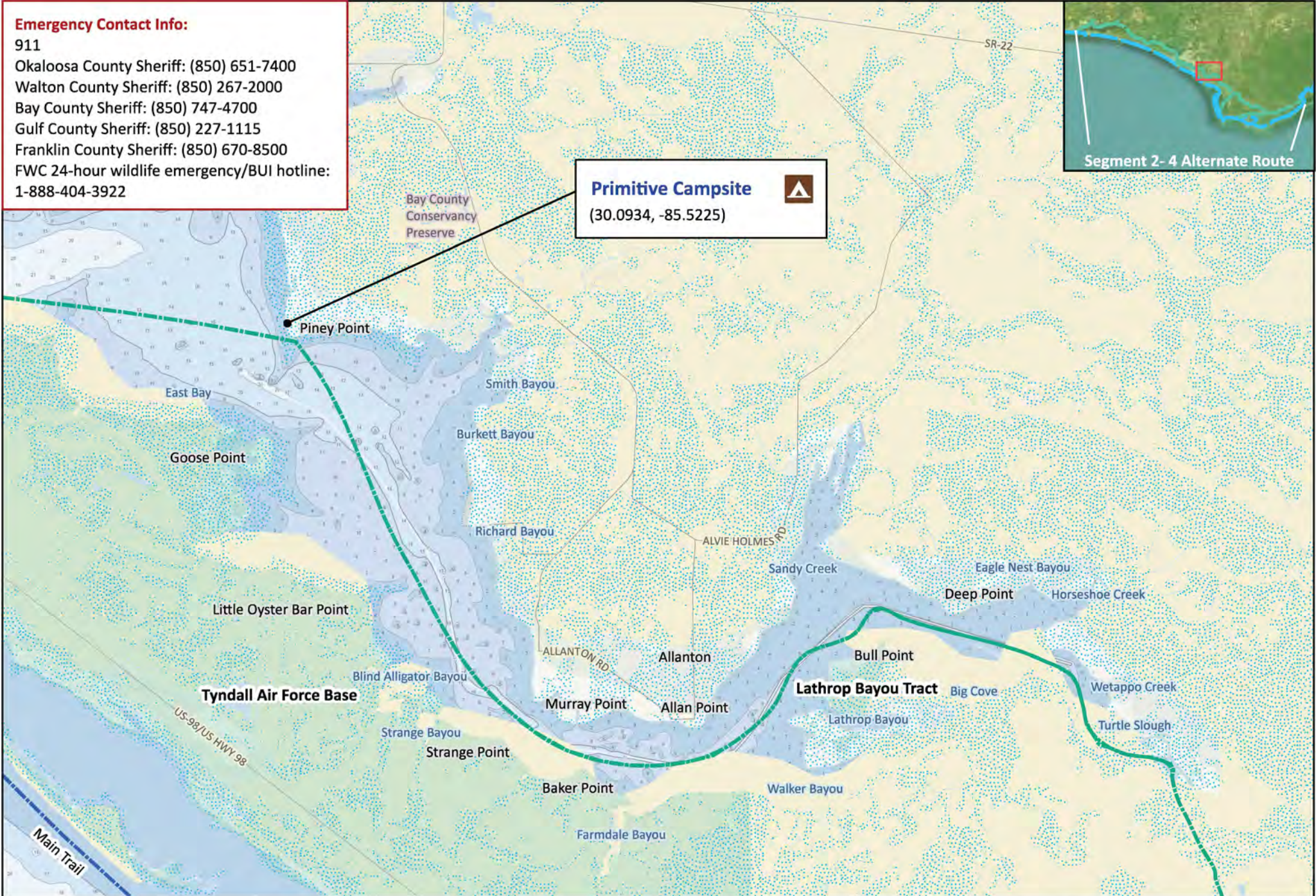


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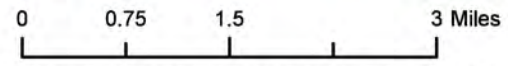


Primitive Campsite
(30.0934, -85.5225)



Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail
Segments 2-4: Alternate Panhandle Route (Map 7 of 12)

Begin: Destin
End: Apalachicola
Distance: 169 miles
Duration: 9 days



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Franklin County Sheriff: (850) 670-8500
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1-888-404-3922



Segment 2-4 Alternate Route

Overstreet Boat Ramp

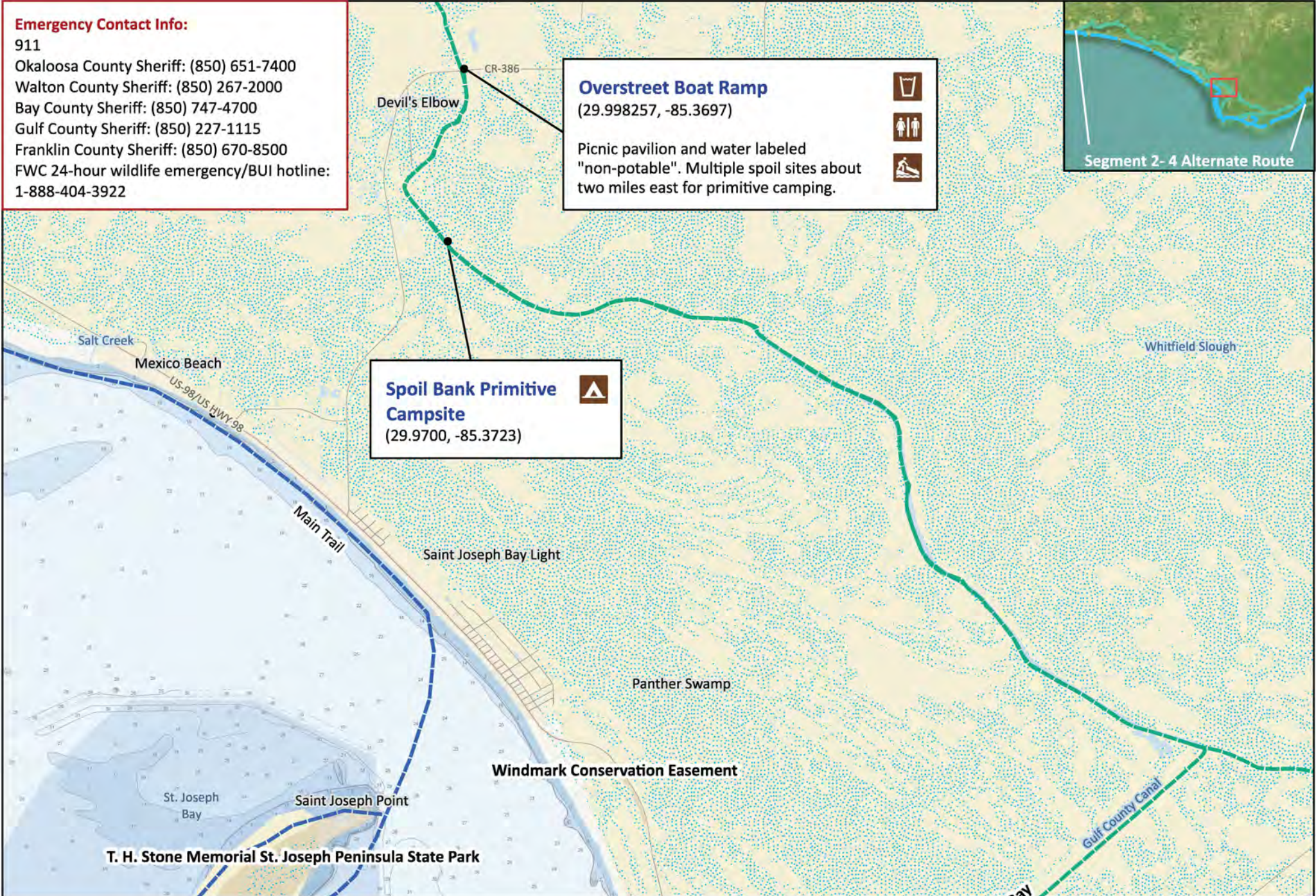
(29.998257, -85.3697)

Picnic pavilion and water labeled "non-potable". Multiple spoil sites about two miles east for primitive camping.



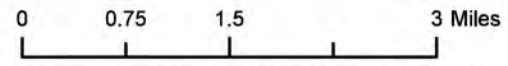
Spoil Bank Primitive Campsite

(29.9700, -85.3723)



Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail
Segments 2-4: Alternate Panhandle Route (Map 8 of 12)

Begin: Destin Distance: 169 miles
End: Apalachicola Duration: 9 days

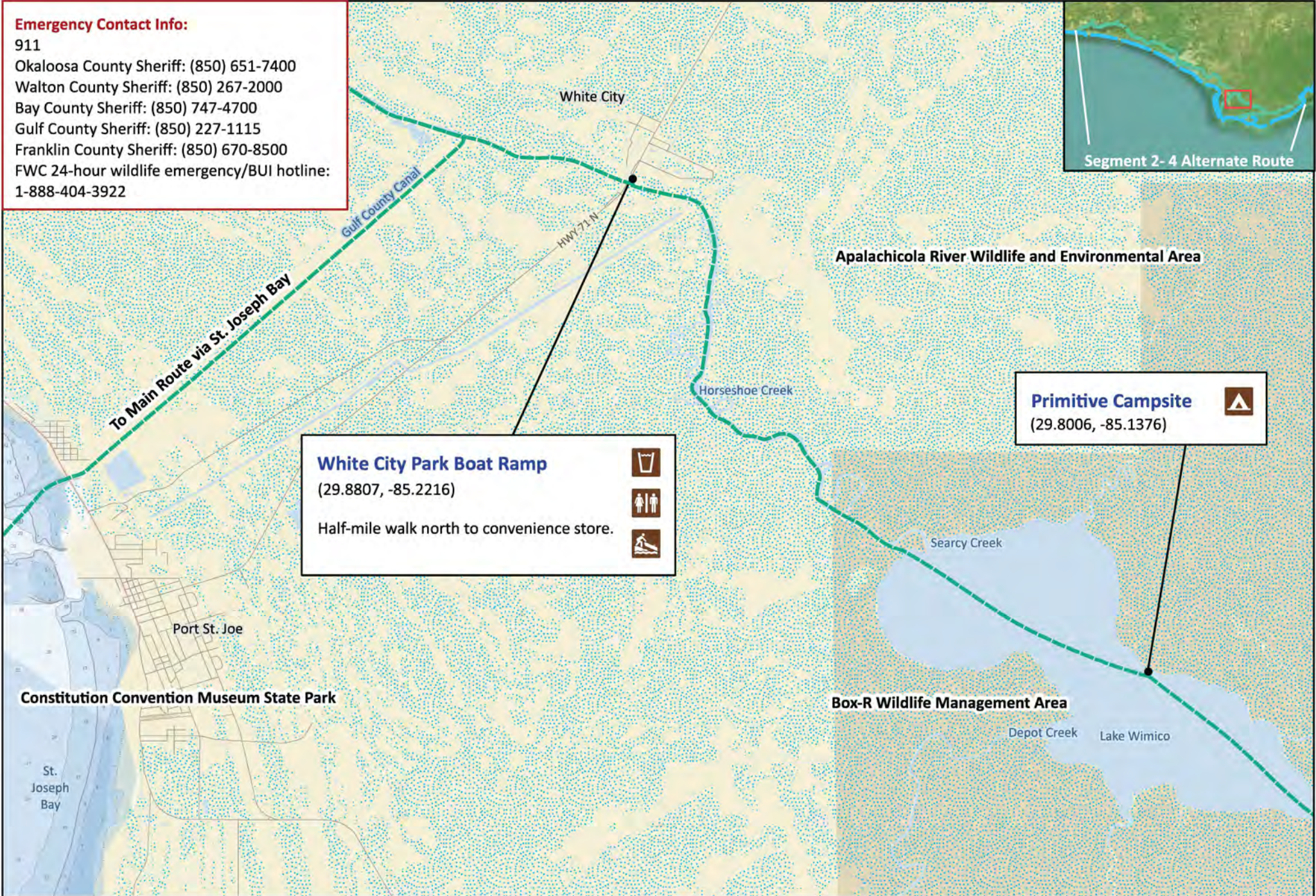


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Updated: 11/22/2024



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White City Park Boat Ramp
(29.8807, -85.2216)

Half-mile walk north to convenience store.

-
-
-

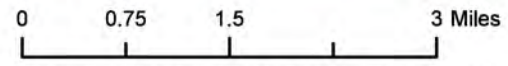
Primitive Campsite

(29.8006, -85.1376)



Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail
Segments 2-4: Alternate Panhandle Route (Map 9 of 12)

Begin: Destin Distance: 169 miles
End: Apalachicola Duration: 9 days



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FWC 24-hour wildlife emergency/BUI hotline:
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Sandbar Primitive Campsite

(29.7710, -85.0415)

Abercrombie Boat Ramp
(29.7684, -85.0432)

Orman House Historic State Park

B-9 Marine Ramp
(29.7307, -84.9861)

John Gorrie Museum State Park

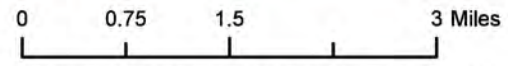
Battery Park City Marina

(29.7217, -84.9809)



Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail
Segments 2-4: Alternate Panhandle Route (Map 10 of 12)

Begin: Destin Distance: 169 miles
End: Apalachicola Duration: 9 days

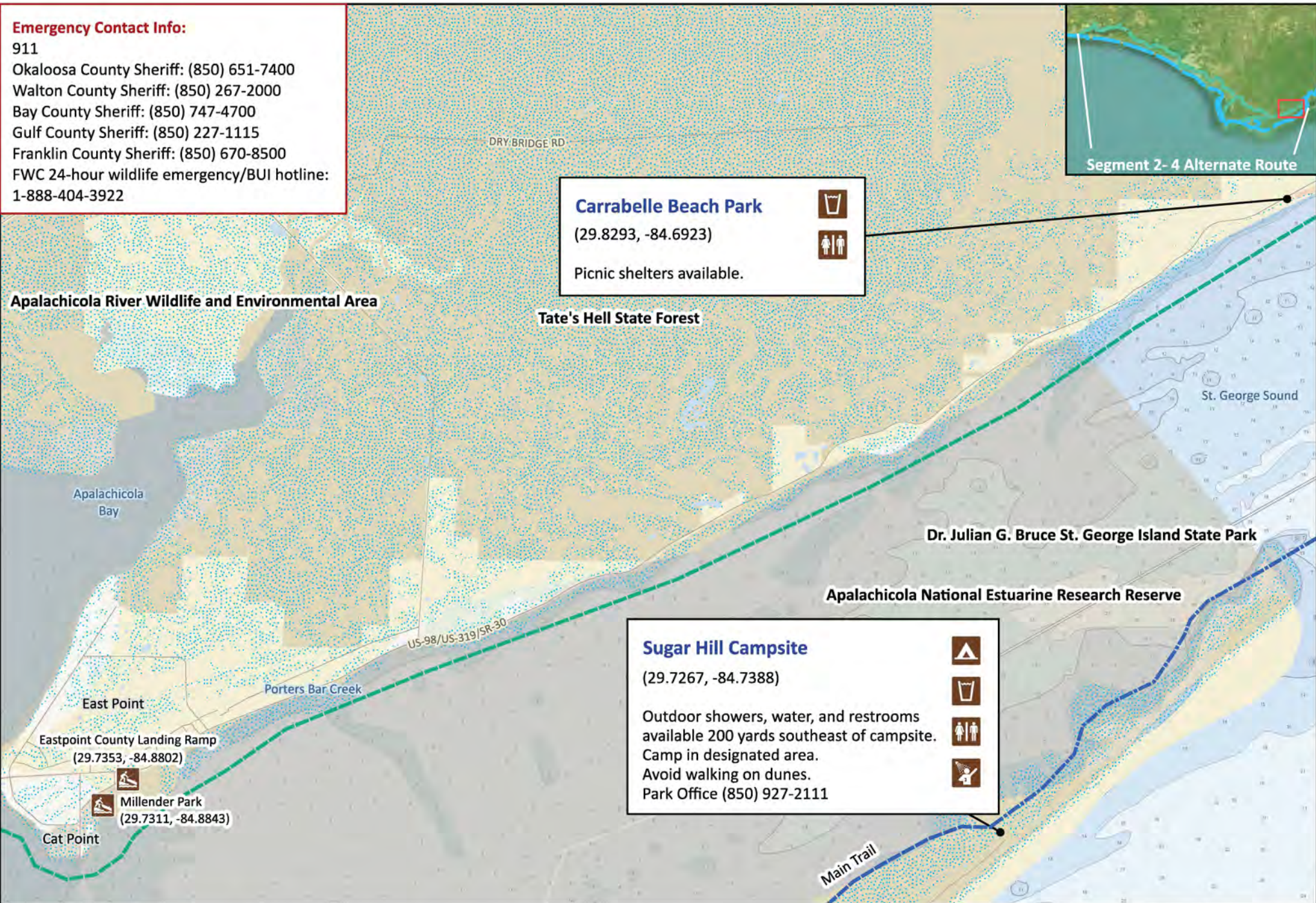


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Carrabelle Beach Park
(29.8293, -84.6923)

Picnic shelters available.

Sugar Hill Campsite
(29.7267, -84.7388)

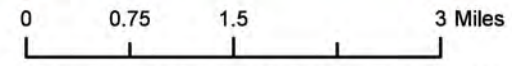
Outdoor showers, water, and restrooms available 200 yards southeast of campsite. Camp in designated area. Avoid walking on dunes. Park Office (850) 927-2111



Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail
Segments 2-4: Alternate Panhandle Route (Map 11 of 12)

Begin: Destin
End: Apalachicola

Distance: 169 miles
Duration: 9 days



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Updated: 11/22/2024



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Bay County Sheriff: (850) 747-4700
Gulf County Sheriff: (850) 227-1115
Franklin County Sheriff: (850) 670-8500
FWC 24-hour wildlife emergency/BUI hotline:
1-888-404-3922

Carrabelle Beach Park

(29.8293, -84.6923)

Picnic shelters available.



Tate's Hell State Forest

Sugar Hill Campsite

(29.7267, -84.7388)

Outdoor showers, water, and restrooms available 200 yards southeast of campsite.
Camp in designated area.
Avoid walking on dunes.
Park Office (850) 927-2111



Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island State Park

Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve

St. George Sound

Pam Firman Dog Island Preserve

Dog Island

Jeff Lewis Wilderness Preserve

Carrabelle City Ramp
(29.8523, -84.6682)

Marine St Ramp
(29.8464, -84.6642)

Dockside Marina Ramp
(29.8487, -84.6664)

Timber Island Ramp
(29.846, -84.6662)

McKissack Beach

Carrabelle River

BUCK SIDING RD

US-98/US-319/SR-30

Segment 2-4 Alternate Route

Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail

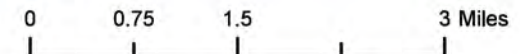
Segments 2-4: Alternate Panhandle Route (Map 12 of 12)

Begin: Destin

End: Apalachicola

Distance: 169 miles

Duration: 9 days



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Updated: 11/22/2024

N





Office of Greenways & Trails

Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail

Alternate Panhandle Route

Segments 2-4

Emergency contact information:

911

Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office: 850-833-9200

Walton County Sheriff's Office: 850-892-8186

Bay County Sheriff's Office: 850-747-4700

Gulf County Sheriff's Office: 850-227-1115

Franklin County Sheriff's Office: 850-670-8500

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 24-hour wildlife emergency/boating under the influence hotline: 1-888-404-3922

FPTA Regions: A and B

Begin: Destin

End: Carrabelle

Distance: 169 miles

Duration: 9-10 days

It is possible to choose an alternate 'inland' route to avoid the coastal option on the CT if weather conditions are not favorable for the outside passage along the Gulf coastline in Segments 2-4 which begins at the East Pass in Destin. Also, take into consideration that the outside passage between St. Andrews State Park and Mexico Beach traverses a long stretch of the coastal boundary of Tyndall Air Force Base that does not allow camping. This entails a 25-mile paddle to reach motels at Mexico Beach, the next available overnight stop after leaving St. Andrews State Park.

The inland route begins after leaving the spoil island in the Santa Rosa Sound and proceeds east under the US 98 Bridge. It skirts the north shore of the Choctawhatchee Bay and traverses through St Andrews Bay and Lake Wimico, using the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) to

Apalachicola, a distance of about 145 miles. It is also possible to return to the coastal route at several points if weather conditions are favorable. The alternate route does have its own potential challenges with long stretches of open water in the various bays and big barges that may be encountered in the narrow ICW. Plan to paddle early to avoid the bay winds that build up through the day.

The story of the ICW began in 1905 when the Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association was formed to promote the development of a single, major waterway that would connect all major ports along the Gulf Coast. This waterway also would require the establishment of federally-protected status for it and the other inland waterways of the Gulf Coast through legislative efforts. It took more than four decades for the Association's idea to materialize, but the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway was completed in 1949 and has remained one of the most heavily-traveled and economically-significant marine routes in the nation.

The Choctawhatchee River and Bay watershed covers approximately 3,422,154 acres. About 42 percent of this is within Florida, with the remainder in Alabama. The Choctawhatchee Bay is around 30 miles in length and 4-6 miles wide in places and bordered on the western and northern shores by Eglin Air Force Base.

1. Santa Rosa Spoil Island Site to Fred Gannon/Rocky Bayou State Park (FGRB), 16-17 miles

A passage around the north side of Choctawhatchee Bay has been created since the southern side of the Bay is almost all private residential land with very limited rest stops or overnight options. Leaving the Segment 2 spoil island campsite and passing through a narrow stretch of the Santa Rosa Sound known as The Narrows, you'll enter the wide Choctawhatchee Bay. A short distance beyond the US 98 bridge on the south side of the bay is Ross Marler Park with bathrooms, picnic pavilions, an outdoor shower, and potable water. There are several restaurants within walking distance of the park. From the Ross Marler Park paddle northeast along the shoreline bordering Eglin Air Force Base. Around 6 miles beyond the US 98 Bridge, the houses thin out and uninhabited stretches of beach appear. Much of the undeveloped shoreline on the north side of the bay is Eglin AFB property and short rest breaks are permissible, below the mean high water mark, east of White Point and the Mid-Bay Bridge. However, Eglin AFB Main Base beach (between Black and Postal Points) is a controlled area and all non-Department of Defense affiliated paddlers should only land vessels for emergency purposes. Buoys approximately one-quarter mile offshore will alert paddlers of this controlled area. Passage through this area is permitted, except during heightened security periods. Continue following the shoreline to the northeast and look for condos with red roofs on the east side of the channel leading to Rocky Bayou. Just to the north of these condos is the Bluewater Bay Marina and restaurant with a small sandy beach. From the marina keep the shoreline to your right and go under US 20 Bridge. About a half-mile east of the bridge look for kayak rentals along the southern shoreline. About 200 yards further east is a small sandy beach, ideal for landing and camping at #36, 37, or 38 in the Fred Gannon/Rocky Bayou State Park. For camping reservations, visit [Reserve Florida State Parks](#) or call (800) 326-3521.

U.S. Air Force Colonel Fred Gannon was instrumental in preserving this site with beautiful old-growth longleaf pine trees, several more than 300 years old. Rocky Bayou, the main feature of the park, is the trailing arm of Choctawhatchee Bay and is popular for boating and fishing. Other opportunities for recreation include hiking, geocaching, and wildlife viewing. A well-shaded campground is available for full-facility camping. From the entrance of the state park on SR 20, it is about a one-mile walk either east or west to groceries, restaurants, banks, a pharmacy, etc. This is your last chance to purchase groceries until you reach St. Andrews State Park in Panama City (there will be a couple of options for restaurants along the way).

2. Fred Gannon/Rocky Bayou State Park to Basin Bayou, 16-17 miles

From the state park return to the Bay and head south, keeping the shoreline to your left. If you have military I.D. it is possible to stay in cabins or camp at the Max Gunter Recreation Area as you round White point and proceed east. Continue along the shoreline for about 9 miles to Nick's Seafood Restaurant, an excellent place for local seafood. Nick's is the landmark for the channel to Basin Bayou where a primitive campsite with tables and a fire ring is located on the east side of this Eglin AFB property. Use of this campsite is strictly limited. Be sure to read the description of [authorized users](#). It is necessary to obtain an Eglin Outdoor Recreation pass and pay a fee in advance at eglin.isportsman.net. You must register for an isportsman account. Call (850) 882-4165 or 850-882-4166 for any other questions on Eglin permits.

3. Basin Bayou to ICW Peach Creek Primitive Campsite, 13.1 miles

Leaving Basin Bayou paddle towards the US 331 Bridge. On the northwest end of the bridge, you will find [Grady Brown Park](#), a great new county park accessible from the water with a dedicated kayak launch, restrooms, picnic pavilions, water, etc. On the south end of the bridge there is [Pilcher Park](#), a county park accessible from the water with restrooms, picnic pavilions, etc. On the southeast side of the bridge is a seafood restaurant with a good beach for landing kayaks. Another overnight option, if you don't want to camp, is to paddle to [Live Oak Landing RV Resort](#), a private resort on the northeast side of the Bay with RV sites and cabin rentals on Black Creek, accessible from the water about 2.5 miles east of the SR 83 Bridge. 877-436-5063.

After passing under the bridge, head toward Pt. Washington and the nearby entrance to the ICW. You can resupply drinking water at the Point Washington County Boat Ramp. There is a potable water spigot to the west side of the ramp.

A worthwhile stop is at the picturesque [Eden Gardens State Park](#) just to the west of the public ramp. Just in front of the park's retaining wall is an area of constructed oyster reef breakwaters, providing shelter for replanted salt marsh grasses, an effort by the non-profit Choctawhatchee Bay Alliance (CBA) to establish a [Living Shoreline](#). In Choctawhatchee Bay and all along the state's coastline, many property owners use hardened structures such as sea walls, riprap, groins, and bulkheads (as opposed to Living Shorelines) to stabilize and protect waterfront property from erosion caused by wind and wave action. While these "hard" solutions may prevent some localized shoreline erosion, they often act to increase erosion by reflecting wave energy and altering natural sediment movement. Volunteers coordinated by CBA help create living shorelines associated with natural, gradually sloping beaches, seagrass meadows, and salt

marshes. These efforts help restore nursery, feeding, and refuge habitats for vital estuarine species while also providing protection from shoreline erosion.

There are two day-use areas at the Eden Gardens historic state park with restrooms, a nature trail, and potable water. To visit the historic home, land to the east of the boat dock on a small sandy spot under large magnolias. Pay an entrance fee at the park office located just south of the historic home. The house is closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The focal point of this small park is the beautifully renovated, two-story Wesley house with its elegant white columns and wrap-around porch. The view from the mansion of the moss-draped, 600-year-old “Wedding Tree” and ornamental gardens inspire visions of hoop skirts and landed gentry at this popular wedding destination. Named after a wealthy Florida timber family, the park is part of the family's estate. In 1963, Lois Maxon bought and renovated the home, creating a showplace for her family heirlooms and antiques. The house holds the second largest known collection of Louis XVI furniture in the United States. Visitors can also take a stroll along the grounds and enjoy the picnic area. The old pilings visible in the water to the east side of the public boat ramp once moored large ‘rafts’ of logs that were floated down the Choctawhatchee River to await processing in nearby lumber mills.

Continue east along the ICW, fondly known as “The Ditch,” to the Peach Creek Primitive Campsite on your north bank. It is directly across from the mouth of Peach Creek. Please practice “Leave No Trace” principles.

4. ICW Peach Creek Primitive Campsite to SR 79 Bridge, 18 miles

After leaving the Peach Creek ICW Campsite, continue east along the ICW. The ICW has tall sandy spoil piles lining the long channel in places and barge boats with significant wake may be encountered. An unofficial primitive campsite is located just east of the bridge on the north side at N30.2910 W85.8516. There is the Boondocks Restaurant on the south side of the bridge and a convenience store about a half-mile walk over the SR 79 Bridge on the north side.

5. SR 79 Bridge to St. Andrews State Park, 18 miles

The ICW enters West Bay just beyond the SR 79 Bridge. It is about a 4-mile crossing to reach the mainland which you continue to keep on your right side heading eastward. Be careful crossing West Bay. This is a large body of water and can get quite rough on windy days. Continue under the US 98 (Hathaway) Bridge and into St Andrew Bay. There is an option to sample excellent local food at a variety of restaurants and bars while taking a walking tour to visit a slice of ‘Old Florida’ in the vibrant Historic St Andrews District. To choose this option stay on the north side of the bay after passing under the bridge and head to St Andrews Marina about 2.6 miles further east. Look for a small sandy cove just south of the boat dock at Uncle Ernie’s Bayfront Grill. The schooner Governor Stone, a Historic National Landmark, is sometimes moored here.

If you elect to head straight for St Andrews State Park then follow the southern side of the shoreline for about 4 miles east of the bridge as it makes a sharp right and proceed to the opening of the Grand Lagoon. Make another sharp right into Grand Lagoon and paddle east past the state

park boat ramp. There is not a dedicated CT campsite here. Use Reserve Florida State Parks (800-326-3521) well in advance for one of the numerous campsites on the water where you can land your kayak (even numbers from 16-38, 96-114, and 101, 132, 134, and 143). There may be rip-rap (large rocks) and marsh grass in front of others. The park offers fresh water, showers, and bathrooms. This is your last chance for potable water until you reach White City.

To access a large grocery store and restaurants paddle west from the state park and proceed under the bridge that crosses the Grand Lagoon. This is a very narrow and busy channel under the bridge so watch for boat traffic. Immediately turn right after the bridge and head for a small boat rental business that offers a small beach area for landing a kayak. Walk north along Thomas Drive about 0.7 miles to a grocery store or visit one of many restaurants along the road. This will be your last chance for a good-sized grocery store until you reach Apalachicola.

6. St. Andrews State Park to Piney Point, 15-16 miles

Human history at St. Andrews State Park began with early Native Americans, who feasted on fish and abundant shellfish and left behind numerous middens (trash heaps of discarded shells, bones, and other refuse). In the early 1900s, bathers frequently used the area, generally arriving by boat. The first known full-time resident during this period was a Norwegian-born sailor who wrecked his boat on the south bank of Grand Lagoon during a 1929 hurricane. “Teddy the Hermit” decided to homestead and remained until his death in 1954 at age 74. His makeshift shack once stood between campsites 101 and 102. The purchase of land for a state park began in 1947 when 302 acres were acquired from the federal government for the bargain price of \$2.50 an acre. Today, after the addition of several adjacent parcels, at a considerably higher cost, the popular park consists of more than 1,200 acres.

The inlets and bays around the park are part of the St. Andrews Aquatic Preserve. Considered one of the most diverse bays in North America, with over 2,100 recorded marine-dependent species, St. Andrews Bay has the largest expanse of ecologically valuable seagrass beds in the Florida panhandle. These beds, along with expansive salt marshes, provide spawning and nursery habitats for a wide variety of fish and shellfish. The beaches and uplands along the preserve provide habitat and nesting areas for several protected species such as loggerhead and green sea turtles, the Choctawhatchee beach mouse, and snowy and piping plovers.

When leaving St. Andrews cross the pass between Shell Island and the Grand Lagoon with caution as boat traffic can be heavy and conditions challenging in the pass. The land north of Shell Island is Tyndall Air Force property and visitors are not allowed to land on the shoreline where posted. If a restaurant meal is desired before entering the remote ICW again, head to the channel just to the east of the Panama City Marina and proceed under the drawbridge into Massalina Bayou. There is a dock-side restaurant, Bayou Joe’s, in the boat basin, and others within walking distance.

Continue paddling east passing shipyards and industrial sites along the waterway. Your destination is Piney Point, a failed subdivision, about 5 miles east of the US 98 (Tyndall) Bridge. If you are retired or active duty military you may stay at the Tyndall Air Force Base Fam Camp located on the southwest side of the US 98 Bridge, about 10 miles east of St Andrews State Park.

The Piney Point site is primitive with a great view of sunrise and directly opposite the airstrip at Tyndall Air Force Base, several miles across the bay. Jet pilots known as the 'Blue Angels' may be seen practicing hair-raising maneuvers for aerial shows held around the country, an entertaining contrast against the backdrop of rugged shoreline.

7. Piney Point to Overstreet Spoil Bank Area, 17-18 miles

From Piney Point, it is about 10.5 miles to the beginning of the next stretch of the ICW. Paddle through East Bay and along the shoreline of Tyndall Air Force Base where nothing but miles of planted pines, upland woodlands, and small slivers of white sand beaches are visible in this remote area. About 3.6 miles after entering the ICW the small village of Overstreet will appear below an enormous, tall bridge. On the east side of the bridge is a restroom, picnic pavilion, and boat ramp, with water labeled "non-potable". There are no amenities or businesses here. About two miles east of Overstreet there are a multitude of spoil sites that are easy to access for primitive camping. Just avoid stopping anywhere posted as private land.

8. Overstreet Spoil Bank Area to Lake Wimico Campsite, 18-20 miles

It is about 12.5 miles from Overstreet to an industrial canal that heads south to the town of Port St. Joe, a distance of 6 miles. From Port St Joe it is possible to rejoin the CT coastal option of Segment 4 by crossing St Joseph Bay to the T.H. Stone/St Joseph Peninsula State Park. This is really a stunning portion of the coastline with gorgeous barrier islands worth visiting if weather conditions are favorable for a return to the Gulf.

To continue the inland route to Apalachicola it is about 1.6 miles past the industrial canal to the small town of White City. There are restrooms and potable water at the city park with a half-mile walk north on the main road to a small convenience store. This is the last option for any limited amenities before arriving in Apalachicola. There are camping options on spoil sites along the eastern bank several miles after leaving White City. It is about 6 miles from White City to Lake Wimico and 2.4 miles farther to a small point of land jutting into the lake on the northern shoreline that provides a shady respite for camping on a small ridge. (GPS coordinates on the map)

9. Lake Wimico to Apalachicola, 13 miles

From Lake Wimico it is an easy paddle to historic Apalachicola, where paddlers may be tempted to spend several days soaking up the charms of this picturesque fishing village. There is a primitive camping opportunity on a large sandbar across from the Abercrombie Boat Ramp. If continuing to Apalachicola, the take out and this Alternate Panhandle Route segments 2-4 ends at Battery Park City Marina. Stop by the Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Center at 17 Avenue E and learn about the enduring culture and maritime heritage of this still vibrant port town of Apalachicola. Grab a map and enjoy a walking tour taking in historic homes, the colorful harbor, and the John Gorrie State Museum.

John Gorrie was a young physician who moved to Apalachicola in the early 1800s when it was a prominent port of trade, commerce, and shipping in Florida. Gorrie served as postmaster, city treasurer, town councilman, and bank director. Concern for his yellow fever patients motivated

Gorrie to invent a method for cooling their rooms. He became a pioneer in the field of air conditioning and refrigeration by inventing a machine that made ice and received the first U.S. Patent for mechanical refrigeration in 1851. A replica of his ice-making machine is on display at the museum, as well as exhibits chronicling the colorful history of Apalachicola, which played an important role in Florida's economic development.

To rejoin Segment 4 from Apalachicola, paddle across the bay six or seven miles to a number of campsites on either Cape St. George or St. George Island. If you remain on the north side of the bay, the next stop is The Moorings of Carrabelle (see Segment 5).

10. Apalachicola to Carrabelle - The Moorings

Paddling the Alternate route from Apalachicola, along the mainland, you can take a rest break at the Carrabelle Beach Park, where there is fresh water, restrooms, and picnic shelters (see map). Continue up the Carrabelle River hugging the right shoreline to The Moorings of Carrabelle on your right, just before the Hwy 98 bridge.

If a motel is desired, there are several places to stay in Carrabelle. Visit the Chamber of Commerce website [here](#). Carrabelle is a good supply stop where you can easily access a medium-sized supermarket, post office, and a library from The Moorings of Carrabelle (if you are staying there) or the city ramp along the Carrabelle River.