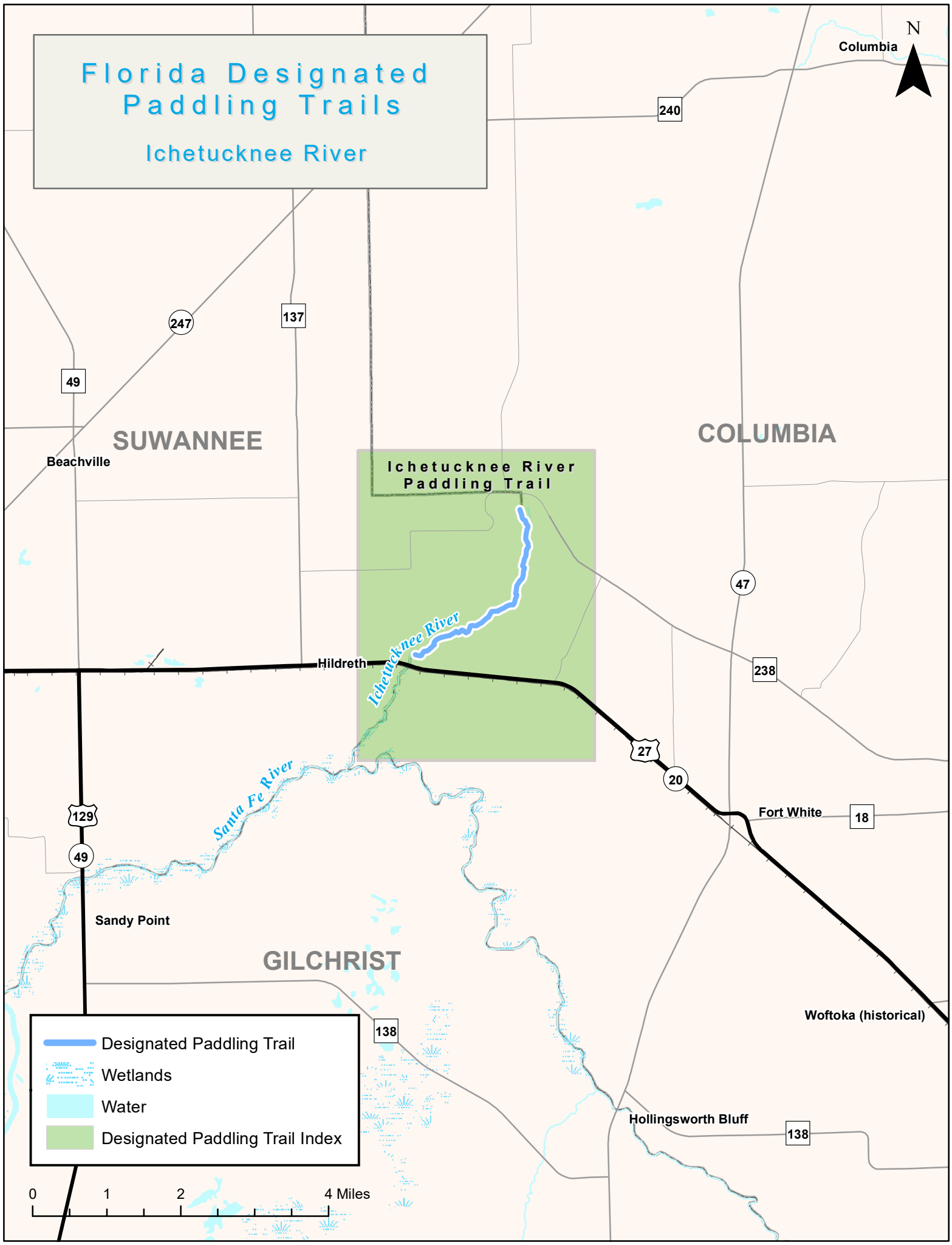
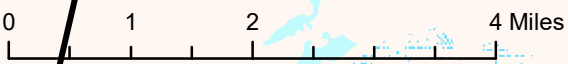


# Florida Designated Paddling Trails

## Ichetucknee River



- Designated Paddling Trail
- Wetlands
- Water
- Designated Paddling Trail Index



# Ichetucknee River Paddling Trail

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COLUMBIA  
SUWANEE

Access Point 1:  
Ichetucknee Head Spring

Ichetucknee Springs  
State Park

Access Point 2:  
Dampier's Landing

Access Point 3:  
Last Take Out

- Ichetucknee River Paddling Trail
- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Picnic Facilities
- Restrooms
- Springs
- Florida Conservation Lands
- Wetlands

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



# Ichetucknee River Paddling Trail Guide

## The Waterway

This scenic waterway begins near the beautiful headspring of Ichetucknee Springs at the north end of [Ichetucknee Springs State Park](#). Made up of nine springs, the Ichetucknee River's 72-degree year-round water flows three miles through the park boundaries. The park protects spectacular habitats that are home to a variety of wildlife and plant life that can be seen both above and below the surface of the clear water.

## The Paddling Experience

The Ichetucknee River is suitable for beginners and offers an easy 3-mile paddle downstream or paddle 6-mile roundtrip from either end. The river is very popular during the summer months, attracting hundreds of visitors who drift slowly on floats and tubes which can be rented outside the park boundaries. For a better experience, paddle between Labor Day and Memorial Day weekends when the crowds have disappeared and wildlife is abundant. Inflatable canoes, kayaks and rafts are not permitted to launch from the North End the day after Labor Day through the Friday before Memorial Day unless they are Coast Guard Certified as a vessel. Paddlers are permitted to take food and drink on the river in non-disposable containers only. **PADDLERS MUST BE ON THE RIVER NO LATER THAN 3:00 PM.** During the summer-season, there is an in-park shuttle service available. During the off-season, you must hike between access points, arrange your own shuttle, or call a local outfitter.

Outside of the state park property it is possible to continue your journey an additional 2 miles before reaching the Santa Fe River, then another 4 miles downstream to a public launch on US 129. After leaving the park the river narrows and shoots rapidly under the US 27 bridge so approach with caution. Houses appear along the banks and dead trees may jam the river past the state park boundary. Santa Fe River boat traffic may be heavy during weekends and holidays.

## Access Points



*It is possible to paddle round-trip from either end of the trail. However, the access points below begin at the north end of the park.*

### Access #1, Start of the Trail, North Entrance

The canoe/kayak launch charges a fee and is approximately 50 yards downstream from headspring. *From Fort White take US 47 north approximately 2 miles. Turn left at the blinking light at Elim Church Road. Drive about 4 miles to Ichetucknee Springs State Park North Entrance.*

### Access #2, Mile 2.0, Dampier's Landing

About a 10-minute walk from parking lot at South Entrance on US 27.

### Access #3, Mile 3.0, Last Take-out, South Entrance

This is the last chance to take-out within the park. The next opportunity is the US 129 bridge, 6 miles further downstream on the Santa Fe River.



# Ichetucknee River Paddling Trail Guide

## Outfitters and Shuttle Service

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

[Ichetucknee Family Canoe and Cabins](#) (386) 497-2150

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

[Paddling Adventures](#) (Concession at North Entrance inside the park), (386) 497-1500

## Base Camp

There is no camping available in Ichetucknee Springs State Park. There is a small private campground at the north entrance. The closest state park option is [O'Leno State Park](#) near High Springs. 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](#), a designated paddling trail and tributary of the Suwannee River. As the river courses through the park, it disappears underground and reemerges over three miles away in [River Rise Preserve State Park](#). 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 a relaxing overnight stay. O'Leno State Park is located on U.S. 441, six miles north of High Springs

## History

Perhaps the Ichetucknee's greatest historical treasure is the Mission de San Martin de Timucua. This Spanish/ Native American village was one of the major interior missions serving the important Spanish settlement of St. Augustine. The mission, built in 1608, flourished through most of that century. The river and springs were also used consistently by earlier cultures of Native Americans, dating back thousands of years. During the 1800s, early travelers on the historic Bellamy Road often stopped at Ichetucknee Springs to quench their thirst. Later that century, a gristmill and general store were located at Mill Pond Spring. With high quantities of limestone at or just below the ground surface, the area became early headquarters for North Florida's phosphate industry in the late 1890s and early 1900s. Small surface mines are still visible throughout the park. Continuing through the 1940s, cypress and longleaf pine forests were harvested by the local timber and naval stores industries. Ichetucknee Springs State Park was purchased by the State of Florida in 1970 from the Loncala Corporation to preserve one of the state's outstanding natural wonders. In 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior declared the Ichetucknee Spring a National Natural Landmark