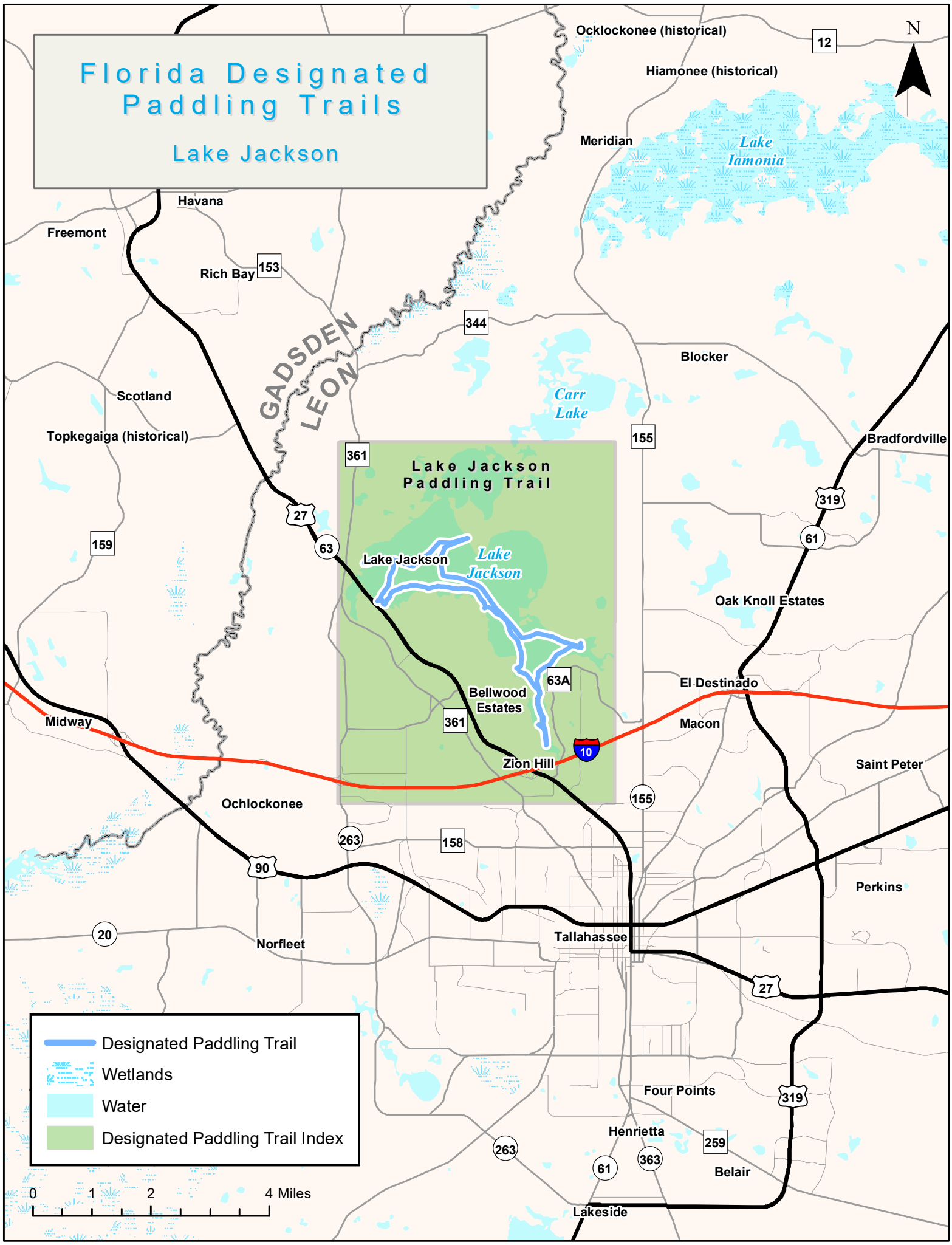


Florida Designated Paddling Trails

Lake Jackson



 Designated Paddling Trail

 Wetlands

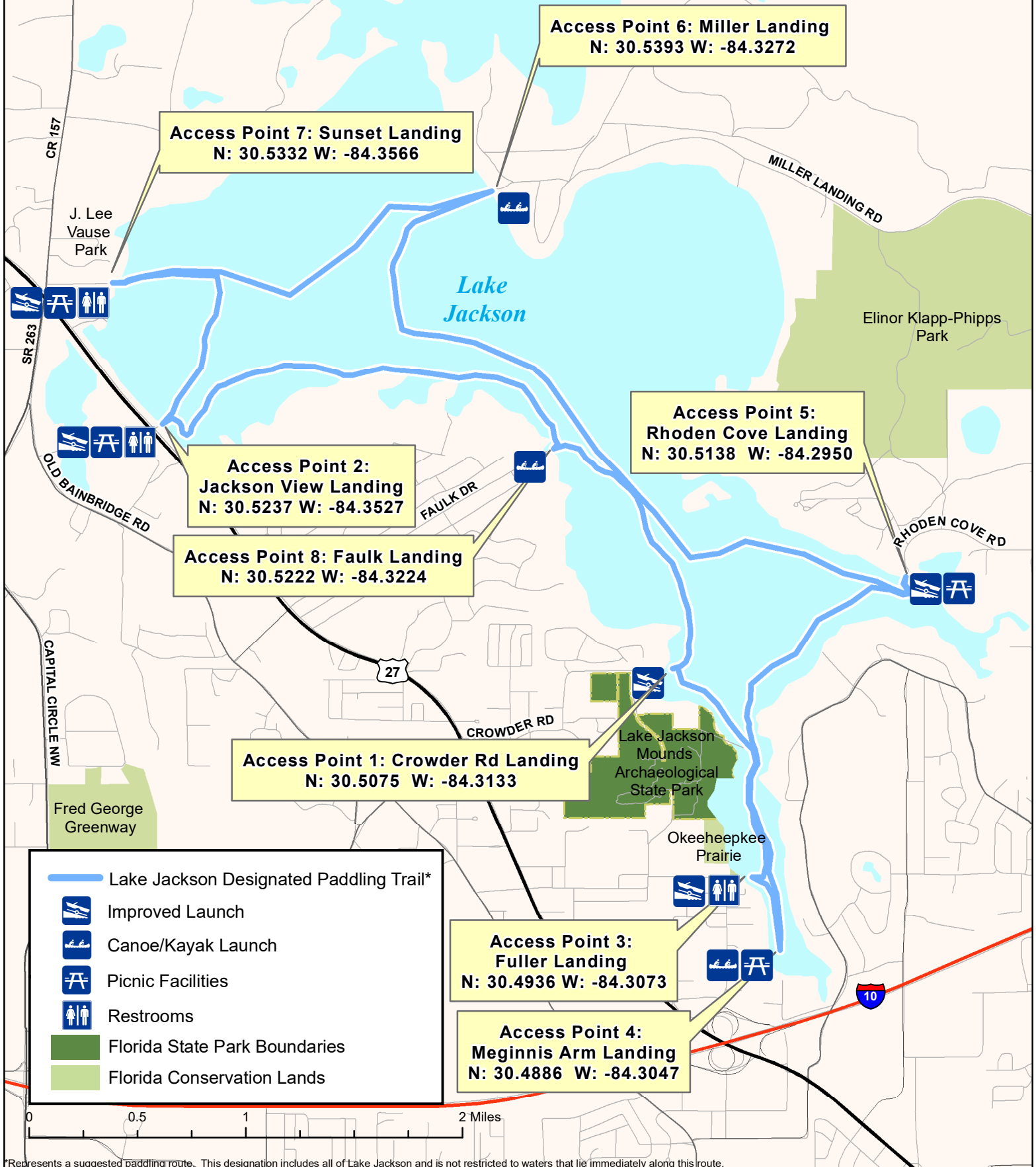
 Water

 Designated Paddling Trail Index



Lake Jackson Paddling Trail

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*Represents a suggested paddling route. This designation includes all of Lake Jackson and is not restricted to waters that lie immediately along this route.



Lake Jackson Paddling Trail Guide

The Waterway

Located just north of Tallahassee, Lake Jackson provides a tranquil oasis within a bustling urban area. Designated a [state aquatic preserve](#) due to its ecological significance, it is an enticing destination for viewing sunsets, paddling, boating, fishing, and birding. Lake Jackson's wide open vistas offers excellent birding opportunities within several small parks ringing the lake that are sites on the [Great Florida Birding & Wildlife Trail](#). Lake Jackson has historically been a prime destination for bass fishing and other freshwater fish. Hunters are drawn here during a short winter waterfowl hunting season. Lake Jackson is a classic upland prairie lake that occasionally drains through several sinkholes located in the lake bed, a naturally occurring phenomenon known as a dry-down. The lake's most recent dry-down occurred in 2005.

The Paddling Experience

Paddling on Lake Jackson is relatively easy, given its openness, lack of current, and few powerboats. The lake has impressive views, and the water quality is good. Access to the lake is convenient with multiple County boat landings which allow visitors to create a trip of any length. Be aware the lake is also larger than it appears, and the length of the trails between landings can be significant for less experienced paddlers. The lack of shade requires sunscreen, hats, and protective clothing on hot days, and a windy day can generate some chop in open water areas. There are also large areas of native floating vegetation in certain parts of the lake that can be difficult to paddle through. However, staying in established channels that connect all of the boat ramps makes for easy paddling.

Access Points

The following facilities are maintained by Leon County Parks & Recreation. For information or questions call 850-606-1470 or www.leoncountyfl.gov/parks

#1 Crowder Landing, 1300 Crowder Road



Southwestern shore of Lake Jackson at the east end of Crowder Road. This is popular landing with one lane improved boat launch and four paved parking spots. Additional, parallel parking can be found along the road leading to the boat landing.

#2 Jackson View Landing, 4697 N Monroe Street



Improvements are pending in 2016-17 for this popular location on US 27. Currently there is ample parking and unimproved launch area. A pleasant excursion is to follow the boat channels and paddle to restaurant at Sunset Landing and return, a distance of about 1.5 miles.

#3 Fuller Landing, 1294 Fuller Road



West shore of Meginnis Arm. The landing has one lane improved boat ramp, a few unpaved parking spots and minimal boat trailer parking. It is also adjacent to the new Okecheepkee County Park, which has a small parking area and a portable restroom.

#4 Meginnis Arm Landing, 3017 Meginnis Arm Road





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Southern section of Lake Jackson at the south end of Meginnis Arm. This is a very small public access area that receives little use. The landing provides a put-in for canoes and kayaks, but no boat ramp. It also provides a shady picnic area, paved parking spots, but no restrooms.

#5 Rhoden Cove Landing, 801 Rhoden Cove Road

Southeast portion of Lake Jackson, accessible from Meridian Road near Fords Arm. One-lane improved boat launch. The park offers two picnic shelters & grills, 10-12 unpaved parking spots, but no restrooms.

#6 Miller Landing, 2900 Miller Landing Road

Northeast section of Lake Jackson, the end of Miller Landing Road. This [landing](#) offers an unimproved sandy area for launching. There is room to maneuver boats and trailers with 6-7 paved parking spots. Duck hunters often use this landing in the fall and winter seasons. There are no restrooms or amenities.

#7 Sunset Landing, 4800 Jackson Cove Road

Located just south of J. Lee Vause Park, on the western shore of Lake Jackson with one-lane improved boat launch, restrooms, and two picnic shelters. Popular Shucker's Half-Shell Oyster Bar next to the boat launch also provides canoe rentals and a bait shop.

#8 Faulk Landing, 1895 Faulk Drive

Located south of Jackson View Park and north of Crowder Landing, on the west shore of Lake Jackson. This landing is a good bird watching area, but not ideal for boating or viewing Lake Jackson. It is difficult to launch a boat here and has no room for trailer parking. It is suitable for hand launching small paddlecraft but has a narrow road and heavy vegetation in the access channel.

Outfitters and Shuttle Service

Shuckers Half-Shell Oyster Bar (Sunset Landing) 850-562-0944. Canoe and kayak rentals.





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Photos: Liz Sparks