The Golden Triangle Run Blueway is one of eight featured waterway trails in the Lake County Blueways Program. The Lake County Parks & Trails Division, manages more than three dozen parks, preserves and boat ramps. For more information or a complete listing of Lake County parks, call (352) 253-4950 or log on to www.lakecountyfl.gov/parks.

For Lake County Tourism information, call (352) 429-3673, visit the Lake County Welcome Center, located at 20763 U.S. Highway 27, Groveland, or log on to www.lakecountyfl.com.

Produced by Lake County in partnership with the Lake County Water Authority, www.lcwa.org.

Prepare a “float plan.” Leave a paddling route and return time with a relative or friend.

When in a group, assign boats to be the lead and sweep. Preferably both boats should be manned by experienced paddlers with no one in the group passing the lead boat or falling behind the sweep.

Avoid canoeing or kayaking alone, or at night.

Secure your car and take keys with you; and remember a cell phone to call emergency personnel, if the need arises, at 9-1-1.

Make mental notes as you pass trail markers — knowing the location of the closest marker will help emergency personnel should you need assistance.

Watch for motorboats. Stay to the right and turn your bow into the wake.

Law requires persons in vessels less than 16 feet long, including canoes and kayaks, must have either a wearable or throwable PFD for every person on board.

Do not approach or harass alligators, as they can be dangerous. It is illegal to feed wildlife. Blueway trails are shared with alligators, nesting birds and other wildlife. Please observe, but do not disturb.

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A leading sports writer in the 1930s penned it as “the most beautiful mile of water in the world.” Lined with towering cypress trees draped with Spanish moss, the Dora Canal is a safe haven for nesting ospreys, herons, egrets and river otters.

Lake County is rich in history. Early residents were attracted to the central area of Lake County because of its high elevation, sparkling lakes and majestic oak groves. All three Golden Triangle cities feature quaint downtowns where boutiques and restaurants abound.

A must see of the Golden Triangle Run is the Dora Canal. Connecting the lakes of Dora and Eustis, the canal is the most well-known waterway in Lake County because of its beautiful mile of water. It is also known as: Northern River Otter or Common Otter.

**Length:**
26-30 inches

**Weight:**
10-20 lbs.

**Diet:**
Fish, amphibians, crayfish, and other invertebrates; may also eat birds, eggs and small mammals when available.