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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It is important to emphasize that Lake County Blueways are near waterways with occasional to heavy boat traffic. Each blueway trail presents unique experiences with varying distances and levels of difficulty. Please plan your route accordingly and take all proper safety precautions before embarking.
Lake Griffin Run

The most northern of three Blueway trails in the Oklawaha Basin, the Lake Griffin Run encircles the southern section of the 9,428-acre lake. Griffin is one of eight in the Harris Chain of Lakes. The lake is the last link in the chain as the water continues to flow into the Ocklawaha River through the Ocala National Forest as it winds toward the St. Johns River and out to the Atlantic Ocean at Jacksonville.

The lake is a popular largemouth bass fishing spot and its shores were once well populated with Timuquan Indians. At the turn of the century, steamboats frequented the lake to provide transportation between ports on lakes Eustis, Harris and Griffin. Today, the lake is a popular recreational spot as Lake Griffin State Park lies on the west side of the lake near the City of Fruitland Park.

**Featured Wildlife:**

**Largemouth Bass**

**Characteristics:** Two dorsal fins with a deep notch between spines and soft-rayed portions, body longer than deep, upper jaw extends beyond rear of eye, dark lateral streak.

**Habitat:** Shallow water habitats, among reeds, water lilies and other vegetation

**Spawn:** Late spring or early summer

**Diet:** Minnows, carp and practically any other available fish species including their own

NOTE: Due to unforeseen circumstances, Blueways trail markers have been, on occasion, missing or damaged. Please report missing or damaged signs to Lake County Parks Or trails at (352) 253-4950.