The St. Francis/Dead River 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.
The St. Francis Dead River Run traverses the river of the same name, which is a major tributary of the St. Johns River. The trail passes the ghost town of St. Francis, also formerly known as “Old Town.” St. Francis was located about 20 miles south of Astor. Paddlers can see where the town used to be as pilings in the water indicate where a grand motel stood on the shores of the river. St. Francis is one of Lake County’s 30-plus ghost towns, but quite possibly the most prolific during its heyday. A thriving port on the St. Johns River, St. Francis had its own newspaper (The Florida Facts), post office, general store, warehouse, wharves and several hundred acres of citrus. After the Big Freeze of 1894-1895, many residents abandoned the town.

Featured Wildlife:
American Bald Eagle

Length: 28-36 in.
Weight: 8-14 lbs.
Wingspan: 80 in.

Diet: Prefers fish, but will eat large birds, mammals and carrion.

Interesting Fact: Removed from endangered species list in 2007.

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 & Trails at (352) 253-4950.