

Paddling Trail Map St. Francis/ Dead River Run

Lake County



LAKE COUNTY
FLORIDA

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.



Lake County
WATER AUTHORITY

SAFETY TIPS

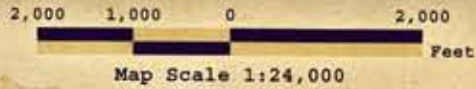
- Avoid canoeing or kayaking alone, or at night.
- Watch for motorboats. Stay to the right and turn your bow into the wake.
- Prepare a "float plan." Leave a paddling route and return time with a relative or friend.
- Secure your car and take keys with you; and remember a cell phone to call emergency personnel, if the need arises, at 9-1-1.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Make mental notes as you pass trail markers — knowing the location of the closest marker will help emergency personnel should you need assistance.



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.

www.PaddleLake.com

TRAILMAP



MAP GUIDE

Lat/Long Coordinates Trail Markers Boat Ramps Marinas Park Areas Food Parking Restrooms

MAP AREA

LAKE COUNTY

ST. FRANCIS/ DEAD RIVER RUN

OCALA NATIONAL FOREST

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.

ST. FRANCIS RUN

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.



CR 4125 (HONTOWN RD)

CENTER ST