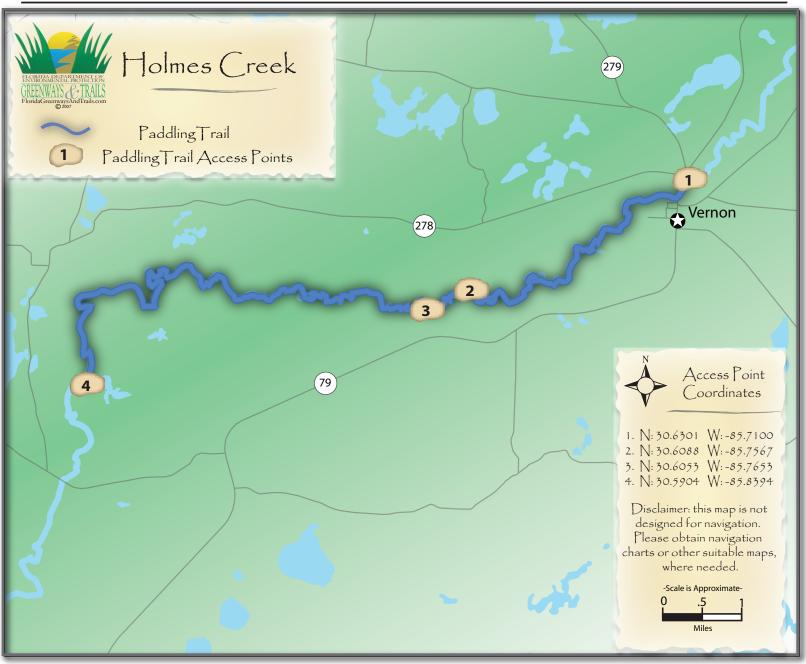
Holmes Creek Paddling Trail



Holmes Creek Trip Planning

Counties: Washington Nearest towns: Vernon

Trip length: 9 miles Mile 0--Vernon Wayside Park Mileage:

Mile 5--Brunson Landing Difficulty: Easy - moderate

Mile 5.9--Hightower Springs Landing

Mile 16--Live Oak Landing.

Skill level: Beginner - intermediate

**The provided mileage data is approximate (rounded to the nearest 0.5 mi) and shouldn't be relied upon for navigation.

Holmes Creek Paddling Trail

(Access Point 1) Put-in: Wayside park off SR 79 in Vernon

Nearest town to put-in: Vernon Miles from put-in: In town

Directions to put-in at Vernon: From Vernon travel north on SR 79 to bridge and small park on the

east side of the road

(Access Point 2) Access Point: Brunson Landing

Directions: Take CR 278 west 3 miles from Vernon; take dirt road 1 mile south to landing.

(Access Point 3) Access Point: Hightower Springs Landing

Directions: Take SR 79 south from Vernon 4 miles to Hightower Springs Road. Go north 0.5 miles to

landing.

(Access Point 4) Take-out: Live Oak Landing

Directions to take-out: From Vernon travel south on SR 79 to junction of SR 284, turn right (west) and drive about 1.3 miles to Hancock Rd. Turn right on Hancock Rd. and go 1 mile to Live Oak Landing

Rd. Turn left on Live Oak Landing Road and drive about 0.5 miles to public boat ramp.

Driving distance from put-in to take-out: About 10 miles

Topo maps (USGS quads): Vernon, Millers Ferry

Gazeteer page: 30

Outfitters within 20 miles of trail: None

Shuttle service offered: None known

USGS link (water level info): http://waterdata.usgs.gov/fl/nwis/uv?02366000

Break / Lunch areas: Picnic facilities located at Fanning Branch, Hightower Springs, and other small

boat launch areas

Camping options: Camping is allowed on Water Management District properties except at Cotton

Landing, no permit is required on posted areas.

Other lodging: Hotels available nearby in Chipley and Bonifay

Food/Beverage restrictions: No alcohol in parks

What to expect on the river:

Tidal influence: None

Pull-overs: Possible after storm events

Low branches: Few

Narrow water: None

Shallow water: None

Holmes Creek Paddling Trail

Strong currents: Usual current 1-2 mph, stronger after rain

Rocks: Along the banks

Houses: Few residences

Shoals: None

Tight turns: None

Open water: None

Springs: Numerous springs empty into Holmes Creek, access this website:

http://tfn.net/Springs/index.html

Potable water sources: None

Wildlife: Alligators, turtles, otter, numerous freshwater fish, and birds

Natural communities: Higher banks on upper and lower stretches of the creek have pine and mixed hardwood communities. The middle portion flattens out and contains black gum/cypress swamp, and river floodplain forest

Portages: Possible after storm events

Swimming: Crystal Springs and Beckton Springs are popular swimming areas located upstream from the put-in. Swimming is at your own risk along the rest of the creek

Motorboats: May be encountered near Vernon and other boat ramps along the creek but presence of motor boats is limited by presence of deadfall.

Expect at parking Vernon wayside park put-in:

Parking fee: NoneBathrooms: Portable

Hours of operation (gates close):

Camping: NoneCamping fees: N/A

Crowds: Possible on weekends and holidays

Boat Ramp: ConcretePotable water source: NoCanoe/kayak launch: None

Notes: The Northwest Florida Water Management District has installed a canoe/kayak launch at Cotton Landing, located about three miles north of the put-in at Vernon on CR 277. This adds another 3 miles to the trip and offers access to Beckton Springs and Cypress Springs which can be reached by paddling about 0.25 miles up the spring run from Holmes Creek. These two popular springs may also be accessed by paddling upstream from the Vernon put-in, adding another two miles to the trip.