

Florida Designated Paddling Trails

Aucilla River



Aucilla River Paddling Trail Map 1

Lamont

MADISON

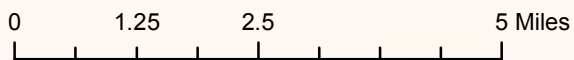
JEFFERSON

Eridu

Aucilla River Paddling Trail Map 2

TAYLOR

- Designated Paddling Trail
- Wetlands
- Water
- Designated Paddling Trail Index



Aucilla River Paddling Trail Map 1



Three Creeks Ranch
Conservation Easement

Middle Aucilla
Conservation Area

Access Point 2: US 27 Bridge
N: 30.3712 W: -83.8072

Access Point 1: Federal Road #1
N: 30.3815 W: -83.7681

FEDERAL ROAD #1

Lamont

US 27 BRIDGE

Federal County Road 328

Mount Gilead
Conservation Easement

Lick Skillet
Conservation Easement

S SALT RD / 257A

LANIER ROAD

19

JEFFERSON

SW OVERSTREET AVE

Walker Spring

Lanier
Herndons Landing

Access Point 3: Middle Aucilla Access
N: 30.3176 W: -83.8159

MADISON
TAYLOR

Middle Aucilla Conservation Area

Mt Gilead



- Aucilla River Designated Paddling Trail
- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Conservation Lands
- Wetlands

Aucilla River Paddling Trail Map 2



Access Point 4: Old Railroad Bridge Launch
N: 30.2799 W: -83.8422

Access Point 5: CR 257A/CR 14 Bridge
N: 30.2734 W: -83.8572

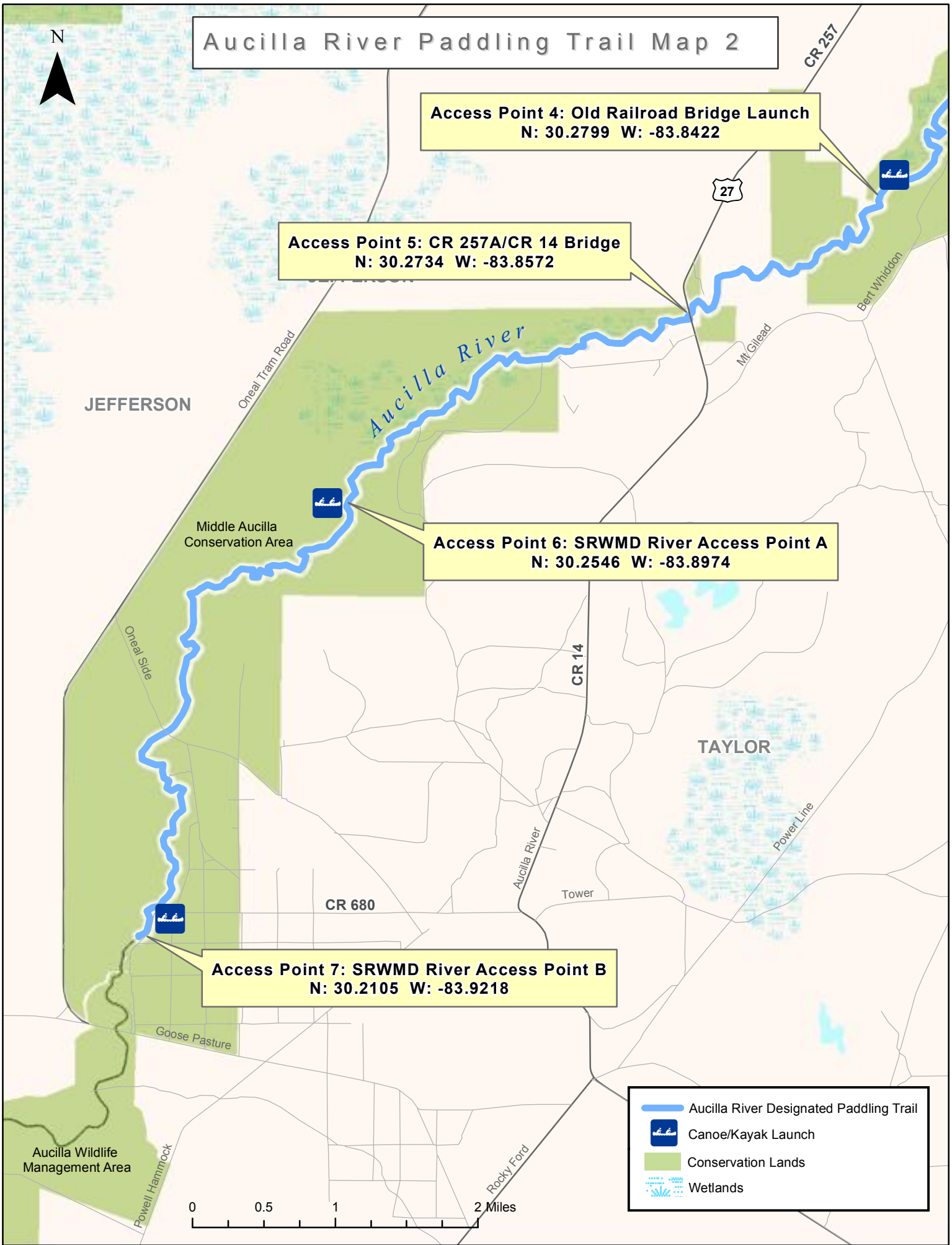
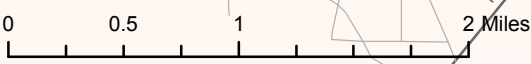
Access Point 6: SRWMD River Access Point A
N: 30.2546 W: -83.8974

Access Point 7: SRWMD River Access Point B
N: 30.2105 W: -83.9218

JEFFERSON

TAYLOR

- Aucilla River Designated Paddling Trail
- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Conservation Lands
- Wetlands



Aucilla River Paddling Trail Trip Planning

Overview: With high limestone banks and an arching canopy of live oaks, cypress and other trees, the Aucilla is as picturesque as it is wild. The river runs 75 miles to the Gulf of Mexico, but only about a third is navigable. This river has rapids and shoals that paddlers can find challenging, especially at low water. The river is not recommended for beginners.

Counties: Jefferson, Madison, Taylor **Nearest towns:** Lamont, Monticello, Perry

Trip length: 27 miles

Mileage:

1. Mile 0--Federal Road #1
2. Mile 4.5--US 27 Bridge
3. Mile 11-- Lanier Rd. Access (SRWMD)
4. Mile 15.5--Old RR Bridge (SRWMD)
5. Mile 17--CR 257/14 Bridge
6. Mile 20.5--SRWMD River Access Point A
7. Mile 27--SRWMD River Access Point B

**The provided mileage data is approximate (rounded to the nearest 0.5 mi)

Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult

Skill level: Intermediate to Advanced

Access Points:

Access Point 1 Put-in: Federal Road #1

Nearest town to put-in: Lamont

Miles from put-in: 3 miles

Directions to put-in: From US 27, turn east onto Federal Road #1, located 1 mile south of the Aucilla bridge. Follow FR 1 for 2.3 miles and turn left onto a limerock road that leads to the river. AT CERTAIN TIMES OF THE YEAR, THIS ACCESS POINT MAY REQUIRE FOUR WHEEL DRIVE. CHECK WITH THE SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (800-226-1066, 386-362-1001)

Access Point 2 Put-in: US 27 Bridge

Nearest town to put-in: Lamont

Miles from put-in: in town

Directions to put-in: The bridge is located about 1 mile east of US 27 intersection with CR 257, and 4 miles west of its intersection with CR 150. Boats can be launched on the northwest side of the bridge. If leaving a vehicle overnight, contact a local business in nearby Lamont or contact a local outfitter for shuttling.

Access Point 3 Put-in: Middle Aucilla Access, Lanier Rd. SRWMD

Nearest town to put-in: Lamont

Miles from put-in: 4 miles

Directions to put-in: From US 27, turn south onto CR 257A. After 4 miles, turn left onto Lanier Grade. (CR 257A intersects this road twice—it is best to take the second one, indicated by a small brown sign reading "Middle Aucilla"). Follow Lanier Road

0.7 miles, turn right on dirt road and proceed 0.2 miles to kiosk, bear left a short distance, then turn right on first dirt road to the river.

From US 98, turn north onto CR 14. After 3 miles, the pavement turns to limerock; about 7 miles later it becomes paved again. Four miles beyond the Aucilla bridge, turn right onto Lanier Rd., indicated by a small brown sign reading "Middle Aucilla." Follow about 2 miles to the river.

Access Point 4 Put-in: Old Railroad Bridge Launch (SRWMD)

Nearest town to put-in: Lamont

Miles from put-in: 6 miles

Directions to put-in: From US 27, turn south onto CR 257A and drive 6.1 miles and turn left on unnamed dirt road and proceed 0.2 miles to fork in the road. Stay to the right and proceed 0.7 miles to river access.

From US 98, turn north onto CR 14. Drive 11 miles on a paved/limerock road to the Aucilla River bridge and proceed north about 1 mile on CR 14/257A. Turn right on unnamed dirt road and proceed 0.2 miles to fork in the road. Stay to the right and proceed 0.7 miles to river access.

Access Point 5 Put-in: CR 257A/14 Bridge

Nearest town to put-in: Lamont

Miles from put-in: 7 miles

Directions to put-in: The bridge is located 7 miles south of CR 257A/14's intersection with US 27, and 11 miles from its intersection with US 98. There is no legal parking at this access point.

Access Point 6 Put-in: SRWMD River Access Point A

Nearest town to put-in: Lamont

Miles from put-in: 15 miles

Directions to put-in: From US 27, turn south onto CR 257A. After 5.2 miles, turn right onto Walker Springs/Thomas City Road and proceed 3.5 miles to O'Neil Tram. Turn left and go 5.5 miles to graded road on the left. Turn onto this road and proceed 1 mile to river launch.

From US 98, turn north onto State Road 59 and drive almost 14 miles to the town of Wacissa. Turn right onto Walker Springs/Thomas City Road and proceed 6.7 miles to O'Neil Tram. Turn right and go 5.5 miles to graded road on the left. Turn onto this road and proceed 1 mile to river launch.

Access Point 7 Put-in: SRWMD River Access Point B

Nearest town to put-in: Lamont

Miles from put-in: 20 miles

Directions to put-in: From US 27, turn south onto CR 257A. In 7 miles cross the Aucilla River, and the road becomes CR 14 when it turns to limerock instead of paved. Continue to the Cabbage Grove Fire Tower, and turn right onto Powell Hammock Rd. (you might see a small brown "Public River Access" sign). Follow 2 miles to Goose Pasture Rd, and turn right (indicated by brown recreation signs). Follow 0.8 miles to a limerock road heading off to the right (north) (GPS: N30.2005 W83.9219), indicated by a small brown "Public River Access" sign. Turn onto this limerock road and follow it for 0.6 miles (sign indicates upcoming access). River access is on the left. AT CERTAIN TIMES OF THE YEAR, THIS ACCESS POINT MAY

REQUIRE 4WD. CHECK WITH THE SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (800-226-1066, 386-362-1001)

From US 98, turn north onto Powell Hammock Rd (2 miles east of the bridge crossing the lower Aucilla). This road starts out paved, but becomes graded with limerock. After 4 miles, turn left (west) onto Goose Pasture Rd. (signs will indicate Goose Pasture Recreation Area/Great Florida Birding Trail). Follow 1 mile to a limerock road heading off to the right (north), indicated by a small brown "Public River Access" sign. Turn onto this limerock road and follow it for 0.5 miles (sign indicates upcoming access). River access is on the left. AT CERTAIN TIMES OF THE YEAR, THIS ACCESS POINT MAY REQUIRE 4WD. CHECK WITH THE SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (800-226-1066, 386-362-1001)

Link to more access points:

<http://www.srwmd.state.fl.us/index.aspx?nid=70>

Driving distance from put-in to take-out: 23 miles from Federal Road #1 to SRWMD River Access Point B.

Topo maps (USGS quads): Lamont, Lamont SE, Nutall Rise

Gazeteer page: 51

Outfitters within 30 miles of trail:

Blue Water Scuba
850-656-3483 (Tallahassee)
<http://bluewatersports.net/canoes.htm>

TNT Hide-a-Way, Inc.
850-925-6412
<http://tnthideaway.com/>

Wilderness Way
850-877-7200
<http://www.thewildernessway.net/>

Shuttle service offered: Call outfitters

Water level info:

Water levels can be checked online through the Suwannee River Water Management District website. The gauge at Lamont should be between 48 and 50 feet for ideal paddling conditions:

<http://www.srwmd.state.fl.us/30DayRiverLevels/30DayRiverLevels.aspx?statid=56>.

Or, you can call the 24 hour SRWMD water level hotline: 800-604-2272, 386-362-6626. If the river is below 48 feet at Lamont, snags and rocky areas may require frequent pullovers and portaging.

Break / Lunch areas:

Camping options: Riverside camping through reservations only (Suwannee River Water Management District, (800) 226-1066 (good in Florida only) or (386) 362-1001). Goose Pasture Campground, Suwannee River Water Management District, (800) 226-1066 (good in Florida only) or (386) 362-1001.

Area Lodging:

Tallahassee:

<http://www.visittallahassee.com/places-to-stay/accomodations-hotels/>.

Monticello/Jefferson County (bed and breakfasts)

<http://monticellojeffersonfl.com/members.cfm>

Perry/Taylor County:

http://www.taylorcountychamber.com/index.php?option=com_mtree&task=listcats&cat_id=77&Itemid=130.

Wakulla County:

<http://wakullacountychamber.com/business-directory/categories/sub/?id=28&cat=Hotels%20%26%20Campgrounds>.

Food/Beverage restrictions: None

What to expect on the river:

Tidal influence: No

Pull-overs: No

Low branches: No

Narrow water: No

Shallow water: No

Strong currents: Yes

Rocks: Yes

Houses: A few just below CR 257A bridge

Shoals: Yes

Tight turns: Yes

Open water: No

Springs: No

Potable water sources: No

Wildlife: Wood duck, otter, turkey, kingfisher, pileated woodpecker, beaver, squirrel, songbirds, brown water snake.

Natural communities: Cypress swamp with hardwoods (live oak, river birch, red maple, tupelo, ash).

Portages: Rapids can be portaged.

Swimming: Numerous swimming spots, especially at the junction of Jones Mill Creek.

Motorboats: No

Expect at parking: Federal Road #1

- **Parking fee:** No
- **Bathrooms:** No
- **Hours of operation (gates close):** Daylight hours
- **Camping:** No
- **Camping fees:** NA
- **Crowds:** No
- **Boat Ramp:** No
- **Potable water source:** No
- **Canoe/kayak launch:** Yes

Expect at parking: Middle Aucilla Access, Lanier Rd

- **Parking fee:** No
- **Bathrooms:** No
- **Hours of operation (gates close):** Daylight hours
- **Camping:** No
- **Camping fees:** NA
- **Crowds:** No
- **Boat Ramp:** No
- **Potable water source:** No
- **Canoe/kayak launch:** Yes

Expect at parking: Old RR Bridge Launch

- **Parking fee:** No
- **Bathrooms:** No
- **Hours of operation (gates close):** Daylight hours
- **Camping:** No
- **Camping fees:** NA
- **Crowds:** No
- **Boat Ramp:** No
- **Potable water source:** No
- **Canoe/kayak launch:** Yes

Expect at parking: SRWMD River Access Point A

- **Parking fee:** No
- **Bathrooms:** No
- **Hours of operation (gates close):** Daylight hours
- **Camping:** No
- **Camping fees:** NA
- **Crowds:** No

- **Boat Ramp:** No
- **Potable water source:** No
- **Canoe/kayak launch:** Yes

Expect at parking: SRWMD River Access Point B

- **Parking fee:** No
- **Bathrooms:** No
- **Hours of operation (gates close):** Daylight hours
- **Camping:** No
- **Camping fees:** NA
- **Crowds:** No
- **Boat Ramp:** No
- **Potable water source:** No
- **Canoe/kayak launch:** Yes

Cultural and historical features along the trail:

The word "Aucilla" may have been the name of an early Timucuan Indian village. Its meaning has been lost.

From MyFWC.com:

People have long been attracted to the Aucilla and Wacissa rivers. Hunting and fishing have always been part of the land's history. For over 12,000 years Indians made use of the river systems for hunting and fishing without adversely affecting the water quality of the rivers or the natural productivity of the rivers and the surrounding lands. State archeologists have found a treasure trove of prehistoric records in these rivers and along their shores. To protect these treasures, it is illegal for visitors to remove artifacts from Aucilla.

When the first Floridians arrived, the climate was drier and the sea level lower than today. Dry land extended miles into what is now the Gulf of Mexico. Water levels were also lower in rivers and lakes. Throughout the length of where the Aucilla runs today was a series of separate sinkholes. These sinkholes were a major source of freshwater, and mastodons and other large animals congregated around them to drink. Known today as Paleoindians, north Florida's first inhabitants hunted for big game around these watering holes with chert spear points attached to ivory shafts. In 1993, archeologists from the University of Florida recovered a 7.5-foot mastodon tusk from the site along the Aucilla River. Eight long cut marks at the point where the tusk emerged from the skull indicated that it had been removed from the skull by humans. Radiocarbon dated the tusk at 12,200 years ago, one of the earliest records of human activity in North America.

As the climate changed—it became wetter and forests replaced grasslands—the Indians adapted. They became more sedentary, hunting deer and other animals in the forests and fishing and gathering freshwater snails along the rivers.

By 400 AD, villages arose and people constructed burial and other mounds. Archeologists refer to this cultural tradition as Weeden Island, after the same type of site found in Tampa Bay. In the spring of 1902 and again in 1918, Philadelphian Clarence Moore excavated two Weeden Island mounds along the Aucilla River. These

mounds were associated with a nearby village. Moore uncovered numerous burials containing skeletal remains as well as ceramic burial goods including a human effigy vessel with a headdress that may represent the nubs of new deer antlers, a turkey vulture vessel, a dog head effigy, and a crested bird vessel.

Early in the 20th century, cypress was removed from the swamps along trams constructed for railroads. Today some of these trams provide raised roadways for vehicles while others are pathways for hikers and bikers as well as for wildlife. Longleaf pine was also harvested from the uplands. After which, slash pine and sand pine were planted for pulpwood.

Notes:

You can order a more detailed guide to the Aucilla, Wacissa and Econfinia rivers through the Wildlife Foundation of Florida website:

[http://shop.wildlifeflorida.org/default.tpl?pageID=1&page=full&cart=1307990394206368&--eqskudatarq=AWE BOOK GUIDE.](http://shop.wildlifeflorida.org/default.tpl?pageID=1&page=full&cart=1307990394206368&--eqskudatarq=AWE_BOOK_GUIDE)