

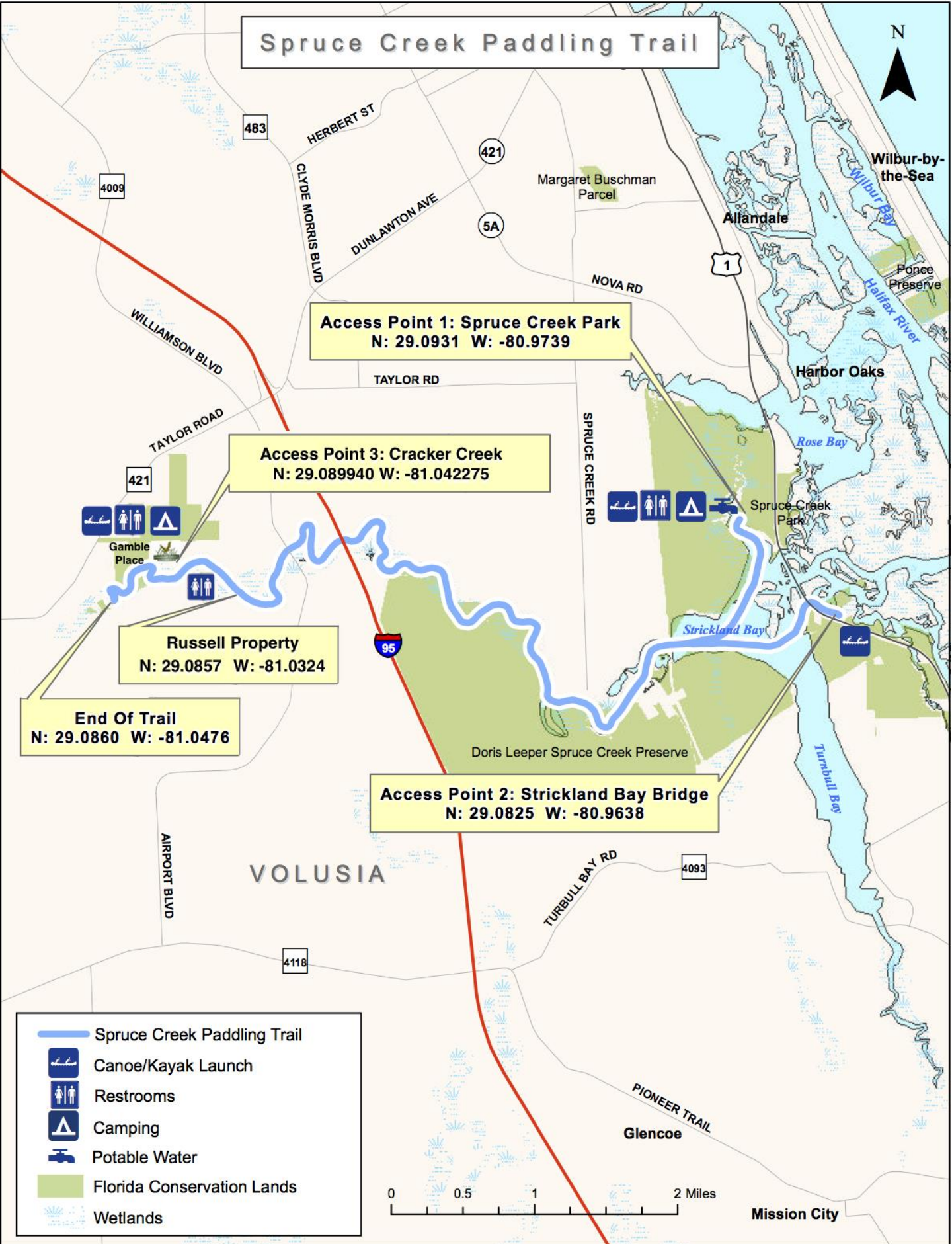
Florida Designated Paddling Trails Spruce Creek



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

0 2 4 8 Miles

Spruce Creek Paddling Trail



Access Point 1: Spruce Creek Park
N: 29.0931 W: -80.9739

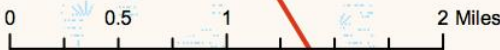
Access Point 3: Cracker Creek
N: 29.089940 W: -81.042275

Russell Property
N: 29.0857 W: -81.0324

End Of Trail
N: 29.0860 W: -81.0476

Access Point 2: Strickland Bay Bridge
N: 29.0825 W: -80.9638

- Spruce Creek Paddling Trail
- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Restrooms
- Camping
- Potable Water
- Florida Conservation Lands
- Wetlands



Mission City

Spruce Creek Paddling Trail Trip Planning

Overview: Paddlers begin their journey from a wide brackish bay, but as they head north, the creek narrows and marshy expanses give way to shoreline trees. Historically, a large indigenous Native American habitation was nestled around the Spruce Creek basin. Between Interstate 95 and the railroad bridge, visitors will find the [Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve](#) on both sides of the river. Further to the west, the water turns brackish saltwater with more marshlands and mudflats. Finally past Interstate 95 to the west and further upstream, the water is fresh with more tropical plants and animal species.

County: Volusia **Nearest towns:** Port Orange, New Smyrna Beach, Daytona Beach

Trip length: 16 miles round trip

Difficulty: Easy **Skill level:** Beginner

Put-in and Take-out: Launch from Spruce Creek Park only at high tide. Because of deep mud, the ramp is unusable at low tide. Strickland Bay Bridge or Cracker Creek (please see hours of operations below) can be accessed at any tide. The trip is the same distance, regardless of access choice. Note that the Strickland Bay Bridge and Spruce Creek Park are eastern launch sites where Cracker Creek is located further upstream and west.

Nearest town to put-in: New Smyrna

Miles from Park/Bridge put-in: 5

Directions to put-in at Spruce Creek Park: Take Dunlawton Avenue (SR421) east from I-95 interchange. Turn south on Nova Road (Hwy 5A) then south on US 1 for about one mile to Spruce Creek Park

Directions to put-in at Strickland Bay Bridge: From the intersection of SR 44 and US 1 in New Smyrna travel north on US 1 4.8 miles. Look for a small, sandy beach on the east side of US 1, at the south end of the bridge.

Directions to put-in at Cracker Creek: From **New Smyrna Beach**, take State Road 44 west to Interstate 95 and turn right to travel north towards Daytona. After about 7 miles, take exit 256 for FL-421 toward Port Orange then continue until Taylor road to turn left. After about 1.5 miles, there is a sign next to the entrance to Cracker Creek. Turn left and follow the signs to the office.

From **Daytona Beach**, take Interstate 95 south towards Miami. After about 6 miles, take exit 256 for FL-421 toward Port Orange then continue until Taylor road to turn right. After about 1.5 miles, there is a sign next to the entrance to Cracker Creek. Turn left and follow the signs to the office.

From **Orlando**, take I-4 east towards Daytona Beach. Take exit 118 A - B for Florida State Road 44 toward New Smyrna Beach/DeLand Historic District. Keep right at the fork and merge onto FL-44 eastward for about 7 miles. Turn left onto County Rd 4118/Pioneer Trail and continue about 4 miles until the next traffic light. Turn left at the light onto Tomoka Farms road. Continue for about 3 miles until the next traffic light, turn right onto County Road 421 East/Taylor Road. After about 1.5 miles, there is a sign next to the entrance to Cracker Creek. Turn right and follow the signs to the office.

Take-out: Same

Directions to take-out: Same

Topo maps (USGS quads): Samsula, New Smyrna Beach

Outfitters within 5 miles of trail: [Cracker Creek](#)
1795 Taylor Road
Port Orange, FL
(386)-304-0778

Shuttle service offered: No

USGS link (water level info): [USGS 02248000 Spruce Creek Near Samsula, FL](#)

Tide info: [Tide Location Selection for Florida Atlantic](#)

Break / Lunch areas: None

Camping options: Spruce Creek Park has campsites but there is no camping along the river

Other lodging: There are numerous hotels in the Daytona Beach/New Smyrna area

Food/Beverage restrictions: None

What to expect on the river:

Tidal influence: Yes, check tide conditions prior to picking launch site

Pull-overs: None

Low branches: None

Narrow water: None

Shallow water: Numerous oyster bars at low tide near Strickland Bay

Strong currents: Possible with tides on east waters

Rocks: None

Houses: Numerous, non-intrusive

Shoals: Saltwater Oyster bars, none in fresh

Tight turns: None

Open water: Strickland Bay crossing to Spruce Creek

Springs: None

Potable water sources: Spruce Creek Park and Cracker Creek

Wildlife: Numerous birds

Natural communities: Floodplain swamp, hydric hammock, freshwater marsh, salt marsh, mangroves

Portages: None

Swimming: At your own risk

Motorboats: May be heavy on weekends and holidays, near the bay

Russell Property: 15-acre community park, passive, with dock and port-a-let.

Expect at Spruce Creek Park: [Click here to view their website.](#)

- **Parking fee:** No
- **Bathrooms:** Yes
- **Hours of operation** (gates close): Sunrise to Sunset
- **Camping:** Yes, for groups only. Contact (386)-736-5953
- **Camping fees:** Yes
- **Crowds:** Varies with holidays, weekends
- **Potable water source:** Yes
- **Boat Ramp:** No
- **Canoe/kayak launch:** Yes

Expect at Strickland Bay Bridge

- Unimproved sandy boat launch in parking area at east side of the bridge, no amenities

Expect at Cracker Creek:

- **Parking fee:** No, included with ramp fee
- **Bathrooms:** Yes
- **Hours of operation** (gates close): 8AM-5PM, Wednesday-Sunday, reservations anytime.
- **Camping:** Yes, for groups only. Contact (386)-304-0778
- **Camping fees:** Yes
- **Crowds:** Varies with holidays, weekends
- **Potable water source:** Yes
- **Boat Ramp:** Yes
- **Ramp Fee:** Yes, under \$10 USD
- **Canoe/kayak launch:** Yes
- **Canoe/kayak rentals:** Yes, along with Hydrobikes and pontoon boat eco-tours

Cultural and historical features along the trail:

Historically, a large indigenous Native American habitation was nestled around the Spruce Creek basin. A large prehistoric earthen works, the Spruce Creek Mound, is located on the creek. The site functioned as a major ceremonial and political center for the Timucua Indians. Lesser mounds are scattered throughout surrounding areas.

James N. Gamble (of Procter & Gamble) found this area so inviting during his first visit to the area in the late 1800's that he purchased 175-acres and is included in the National Register of Historic Places. Today, this property features an historic home, cottage, and Citrus Packing House. The "Florida cracker-style" house, named "Egwanulti" (a Native American word meaning "by the water"), was built in 1907, and was used as a winter retreat. The once privately-owned Citrus Packing House is the only one currently in existence in its original location in Florida. For more information about this historical property, contact the Daytona Museum of Arts & Sciences or [click here](#) to visit their website.

Notes:

From the sandy beach launch area at the Strickland Bay Bridge on US 1, go under the bridge and paddle west through Strickland Bay towards a railroad bridge at the entrance of Spruce Creek. Nestled under tall pines just northwest of the US 1 Bridge, Spruce Creek Park has restrooms, picnic tables, nature trails, and a camping area. There is a canoe launch next to the park's fishing pier, however boats must be dragged quite a distance and it is unusable at low tide (too much mud). It is much easier to launch from the sandy beach off of US 1 or from Cracker Creek.

There are many oyster bars exposed at low tide in the bay between Strickland Bridge and the railroad bridge that marks the entrance of Spruce Creek.

Alternatively, launch from Cracker Creek and travel west to see more tropical canopies and habitats. Travel east to see the freshwater eco-systems transition into brackish marshes and mudflats then into the open saltwater bays.