

Paddle Wekiva



A National Partnership Wild and Scenic River

Paddle Trips & Experiences



The Wekiva River system is a nationally treasured landscape and outstandingly scenic resource that offers many opportunities to experience an unspoiled part of natural Florida. Over the years however, population growth and expanding urbanization in central Florida have stressed this system leading to excessive nutrients, exotic plants, and habitat loss. The system, while threatened, still provides a high quality riverine experience.

ROCK SPRINGS RUN- A popular 8 mile, four to five hour downstream paddle begins at **1 Kings Landing** and ends at **3 Wekiva Island**. (Call **1** for Shuttle info). Rock Springs Run's clear spring water flows under a shady canopy of cypress and hardwood trees interspersed with sunny flats, floating plants and eelgrass on the sunlit bottom. Shorter upstream paddles from Kings Landing to the Kelly Park boundary and back take 1-2 hours.

WEKIWA SPRINGS RUN- begins at **2 Wekiwa Springs**, a second magnitude spring, where over 40-million gallons per day flow freely from the Floridan aquifer. Launch a canoe or kayak downstream of the swimming area. Watch for wildlife in the subtropical shoreline vegetation and submerged grasses. Less than a mile downstream Wekiwa Springs Run joins Rock Springs Run to form the Wekiva River. Turn left where the rivers merge for a short excursion up Rock Springs Run or continue downstream on the Wekiva River.

PADDLE TIP - For all trips downstream, leave ample time for the return trip because going against the strong current takes longer and can be difficult.

Learn more about the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System by visiting:
www.WekivaWildandScenicRiverSystem.com



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Enjoy Your Trip and be Safe!

- Plan your route ahead of time and leave your itinerary with someone at home.
- Everyone in the boat must have a life vest or personal flotation device (PFD) BE SAFE...WEAR IT!
- Bring water, sun-screen and a hat. Keep all food and supplies secured to the boat.
- Be prepared for changing weather. Bringing a rain poncho is a good idea.
- Stay in your boat unless you are at an approved boat launch or designated swimming area.
- LEAVE NO TRACE - take a bag for your trash and to help pick up after others.

Protect the Wekiva River!

- Reduce stormwater runoff by using slow release fertilizers and natural pesticides options.
- Keep septic systems in good working order.
- Pick up animal waste and dispose of it properly.
- Plant Florida native plants in your yard to enhance wildlife habitat and reduce stormwater runoff.

Paddle Wekiva was funded through the Partnership Rivers program.

The National Park Service is tasked with administering the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River program in partnership with state and local land managers and guidance from the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River Advisory Management Committee. The partnering entities who represent the Committee are as follows:

- Friends of Wekiva River, Inc.
- Florida Forest Service (Seminole State Forest)
- Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Florida Audubon
- Lake County Water Authority
- St. Johns River Water Management District
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection: Florida Park Service - Wekiwa Springs State Park
- Wekiva/Middle St. Johns Aquatic Preserve
- City of Altamonte Springs
- City of Apopka
- City of Longwood
- Lake County
- Orange County
- Seminole County
- East Central Florida Regional Planning Council
- The Nature Conservancy

River System Classifications

What is a Wild River?

These rivers, or reaches of the river, represent vestiges of primitive America. They have natural shorelines, unpolluted waters, and are free flowing.

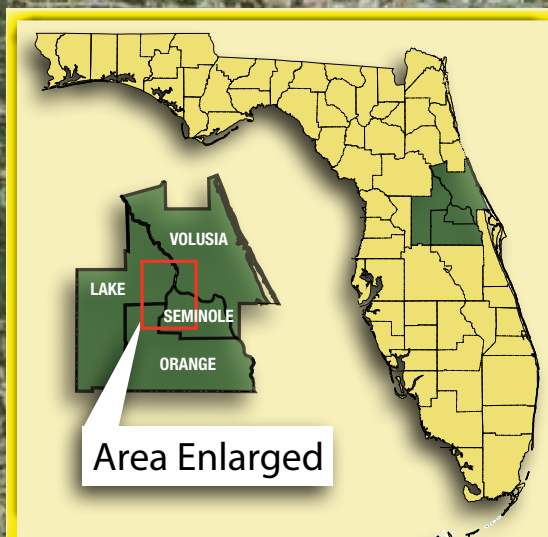
Scenic River:

These rivers or reaches of the river are still largely primitive with shorelines mostly undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

Recreational River :

These rivers or reaches of the river, are readily accessible by road, may have some development along their shorelines, and may have had some impoundments in the past.

In October 2000, the Wekiva River, Wekiwa Springs Run, Rock Springs Run and Black Water Creek were designated by the United States Congress as a National Wild and Scenic River.



— Wild River
— Scenic River
— Recreational River

0 1 2 miles
 Approx. scale

Paddle Trips & Experiences



UPPER WEKIWA RIVER- from 3 Wekiva Island.

Travel upstream one mile to Wekiwa Springs Run and the swimming area at Wekiwa Springs State Park. Travel downstream through lush, subtropical vegetation where turtles bask on logs. Observe wading birds such as great blue heron, great egret, little blue heron, tri-colored heron, limpkin and the occasional wood stork.

3 Wekiva Island to 4 Wekiva Falls (6.4 miles)

5 Wilson's Landing (7.4 miles) or 6 Katie's Landing (8.9 miles) - For these adventures, you must bring your own canoe or kayak and leave a vehicle at the take out, but it is well worth the extra planning. Leave civilization behind and enjoy the solace of the riverine forest. Paddle downstream through forested canopy and open stretches. State lands border both sides of the river for most of this reach.

LOWER WEKIWA RIVER- 6 Katie's Landing to

8 Highbanks on the St. Johns River; leave a vehicle at **8 Highbanks**. Experience many twists and turns as the river winds through 8 miles of a remote section of the Wekiva River Aquatic Preserve and Lower Wekiva River Preserve State Park.

BLACK WATER CREEK- Bring your own canoe or kayak.

Drive three miles through Seminole State Forest to the **7** launch site, and look for scrub jays along the way. Paddle upstream to see **1 Moccasin Springs** and farther upstream for a wilderness experience in the state forest. Call ahead for a day pass and gate combination. Stage a vehicle at **8 Highbanks** or **6 Katie's Landing** for a full day excursion.



Wekiva Wild & Scenic River

WekivaWildandScenicRiverSystem.com



Paddle Trips

- 1 to 3 8.5 miles
- 2 to 3 1 mile
- 3 to 4 6.4 miles
- 4 to 5 1 mile
- 5 to 6 1.5 mile
- 6 to G 4 miles
- 7 to G 4.7 miles
- 7 to I .7 mile
- G to 8 3.6 miles
- I to J 3.6 miles
- 9 to K 1 mile

Difficult Paddle from 44A to the fork of the Seminole and Black Water Creeks.

Motor Boat Traffic



0 1mile 2miles
Approx. scale
← = 2 miles between each mark

RECREATION AREAS CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH, RESTROOMS & PARKING AVAILABLE AT ALL SITES (Exception - no restrooms at site #9)	LAUNCH PTS. GPS COORDINATES	PHONE & WEBSITE	CANOE & KAYAK RENTALS \$	MOTOR BOAT RAMP	WATER FOUNTAIN WATER for sale	FOOD	OVER-NIGHT PARKING	HIKING TRAILS	SWIM AREA	CAMP SITES	PRIMITIVE CAMPING	GPS COORDINATES	SPRINGS	PRIMITIVE CAMP RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
1 Kings Landing 5722 Baptist Camp Rd., Apopka	N: 28.7684 W: -81.5039	407.886.0859 kingslandingfl.com	✕		☑	☑	☑				☑	N: 28.7562 W: -81.5016	☑	☑
1A Camp Joy / Kelly Park 400 E. Kelly Park Rd., Apopka	N: 28.7574 W: -81.5028	407.254.1902 ocfl.net/CultureParks			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	N: 28.7574 W: -81.5028	☑	☑
2 Wekiwa Springs State Park 1800 Wekiwa Cir., Apopka	N: 28.7095 W: -81.4628	407.553.4383 floridastateparks.org	✕		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	N: 28.7095 W: -81.4628	☑	☑
3 Wekiwa Island 1014 Miami Springs Dr., Longwood	N: 28.7139 W: -81.4443	407.862.1500 wekivaisland.com	✕	☑	☑	☑	☑					N: 28.7139 W: -81.4443	☑	☑
4 Wekiwa Falls RV Resort 30700 Wekiwa River Rd., Sorrento	N: 28.7951 W: -81.4168	352.269.6952 wekivafalls.com	✕	☑	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	N: 28.7951 W: -81.4168	☑	☑
5 Wilson's Landing Park 387 Malekean Trail, Sanford	N: 28.8087 W: -81.4169	407.665.2180 seminolecountyfl.gov			☑							N: 28.8087 W: -81.4169		☑
6 Katie's Landing 262 Wekiwa Park Dr., Sanford	N: 28.8292 W: -81.4127	407.553.4383 floridastateparks.org						☑				N: 28.8292 W: -81.4127		☑
7 Seminole State Forest SR 46 & Wekiwa River Rd., Sorrento	N: 28.8580 W: -81.4372	352.360.6675 freshfromflorida.com						☑				N: 28.8580 W: -81.4372	☑	☑
8 Highbanks Public Boat Ramp 488 & 499 W. Highbanks Rd, DeBary	N: 28.8904 W: -81.3547	386.736.5953 386.668.2350 volusia.org campresort.com		☑	☑	☑						N: 28.8904 W: -81.3547		☑
9 Lake Norris Conservation Area 38343 Lake Norris Rd., Eustis	N: 28.9146 W: -81.5442	352.324.6141 lcwa.org						☑			☑	N: 28.9146 W: -81.5442		☑

WETLANDS