

# Florida Designated Paddling Trails

## Holmes Creek



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

0 2 4 8 12 Miles

# Holmes Creek Paddling Trail Map 1

N



Pate Lake

UNION HILL RD

**Access Point 1: Burnt Sock Landing**  
N: 30.6687 W: -85.6623

Beulah A. Laidlaw Preserve

79

JOHNSON RD

WASHINGTON

PLEASANT HILL RD

**Access Point 2: Cotton Landing**  
N: 30.6561 W: -85.6808

Choctawhatchee River/  
Holmes Creek  
Water Management  
Area

**Access Point 3: Culpepper Landing**  
N: 30.6493 W: -85.6901

Becton Pond

**Access Point 4: Vernon Wayside Park**  
N: 30.6301 W: -85.7100

170

CULPEPPER LN  
BRUNER DAIRY RD

COOK RD

**Access Point 6:  
Brunson Landing**  
N: 30.6088 W: -85.7567

278

OWENS COMMUNITY RD

Vernon

278

DORCH CIR

BRUNSON LANDING RD

DAWKINS ST

279

KEENKUTTER RD

S POLMILL RD

TWO CREEK BLVD

**Access Point 5: Fanning Branch  
Boat Ramp**  
N: 30.6069 W: -85.7468

HIGHTOWER SPRINGS RD

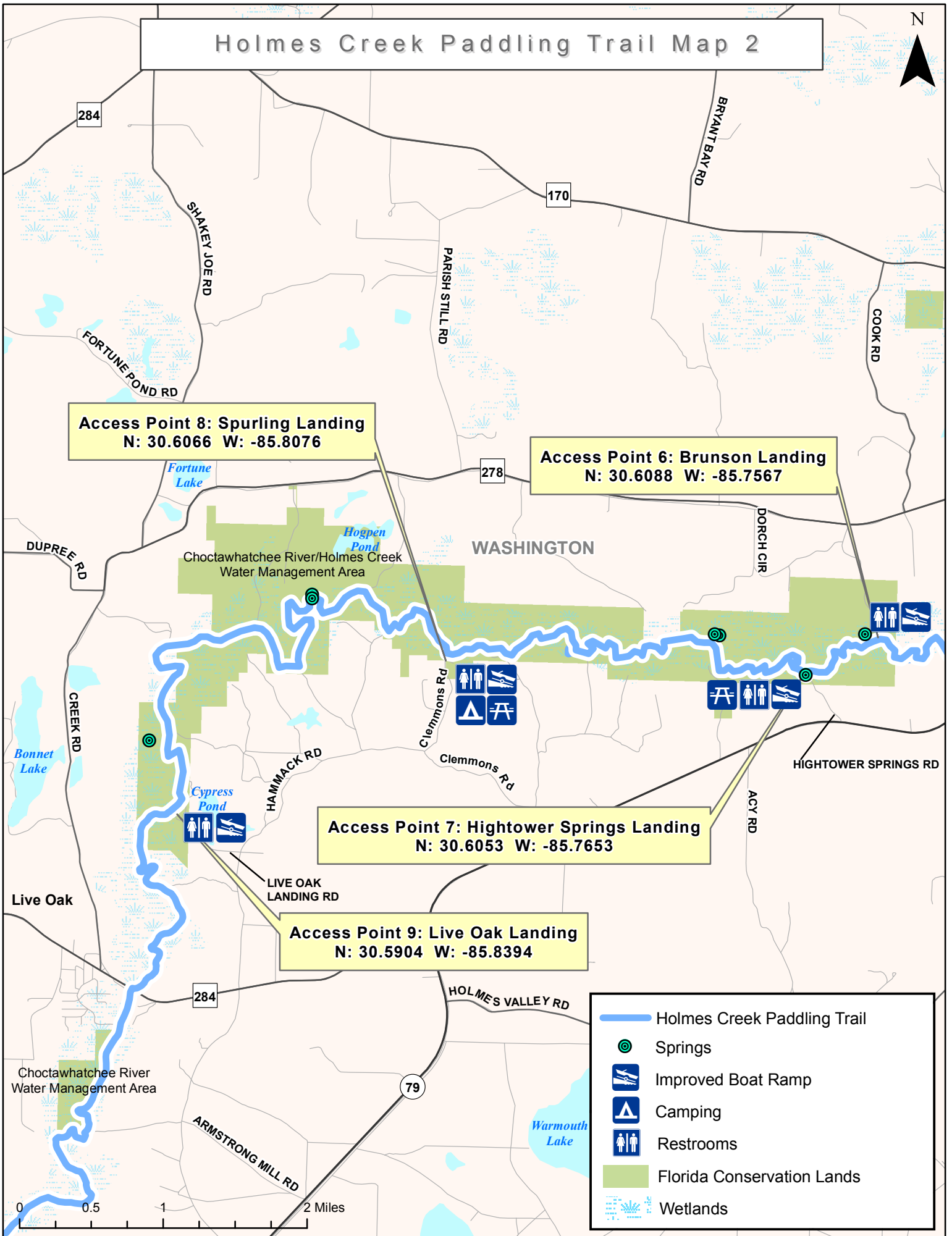
**Access Point 7:  
Hightower Springs Landing**  
N: 30.6053 W: -85.7653

- Holmes Creek Paddling Trail
- Springs
- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Improved Boat Ramp
- Camping
- Restrooms
- Florida Conservation Lands
- Wetlands

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

# Holmes Creek Paddling Trail Map 2

N



- Holmes Creek Paddling Trail
- Springs
- Improved Boat Ramp
- Camping
- Restrooms
- Florida Conservation Lands
- Wetlands

# Holmes Creek Paddling Trail Map 3

N



**Access Point 10: Shell Landing**  
N: 30.5382 W: -85.8622

**Access Point 12: Boynton Landing**  
N: 30.5239 W: -85.8711

**Access Point 11: Potter Springs  
Public Boat Ramp**  
N: 30.5370 W: -85.8596

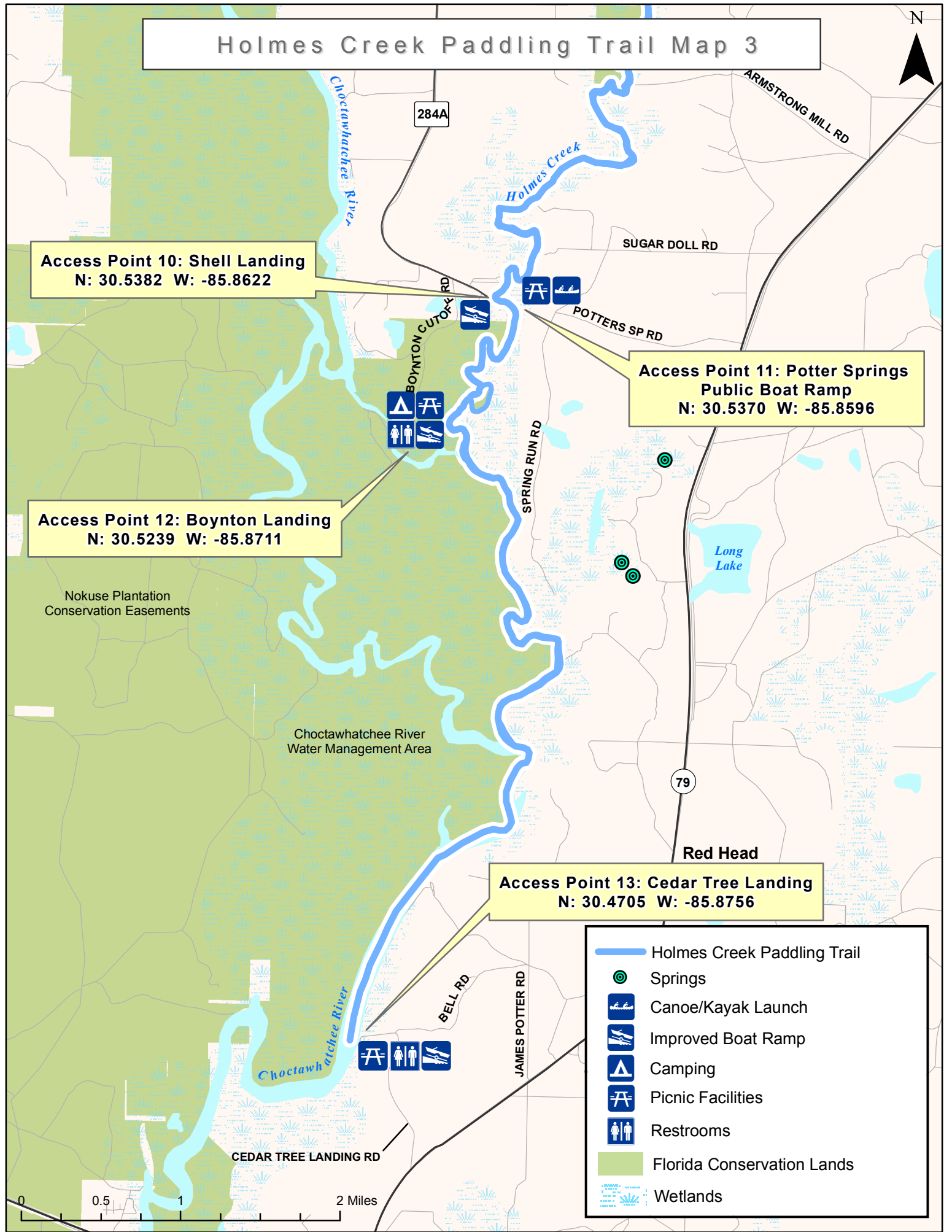
**Access Point 13: Cedar Tree Landing**  
N: 30.4705 W: -85.8756

Nokuse Plantation  
Conservation Easements

Choctawhatchee River  
Water Management Area

Red Head

- Holmes Creek Paddling Trail
- Springs
- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Improved Boat Ramp
- Camping
- Picnic Facilities
- Restrooms
- Florida Conservation Lands
- Wetlands





# Holmes Creek Paddling Trail Guide

## The Waterway

Be sure to bring a mask and snorkel if paddling scenic Holmes Creek. This remote Panhandle stream is fed by crystalline springs, so the water's clarity is often semi-transparent. Low-hanging branches and twisting bends add some challenge as the waterway makes its way past high sandy banks and lush swamplands. Several old-growth cypress and gum trees can be seen along the shore. Wildflowers in the spring and brilliant fall colors in October and November add to the beauty of this pristine waterway.

## The Paddling Experience

This 34-mile scenic paddling trail begins at Burnt Sock Landing and has numerous access sites to create a trip length of your choosing. It is suitable for beginning to intermediate paddlers and water levels are generally consistent. To avoid crowds, visit Holmes Creek during weekdays and during the cooler months, as the popular springs are filled with swimmers and boat traffic in the summer. Please avoid trespassing on private lands, especially around Cypress Springs. The Holmes Creek Paddling Trail has been extended to merge with the majestic Choctawhatchee River with a take out at Cedar Tree Landing, the first available public access downstream on the Choctawhatchee. A major summer congregation area for the federally protected Gulf sturgeon is just below where Holmes Creek joins the Choctawhatchee River. These huge fish may be seen leaping dramatically from the water and if encountered, move near the river's edge to avoid potential impact and injury.

## Access Points

### #1, Start of the Trail, Burnt Sock Landing

Burnt Sock Landing is only suitable for hand-launching canoes/kayaks and small carry-in boats. The access is remote and it is not recommended to leave vehicles here overnight. Check with local outfitters listed below for shuttling information. Directions: *Burnt Sock Landing is located on the south side of Johnson Road, approximately 1.5 miles east of Hwy 79. The Johnson Road/Hwy 79 intersection is approximately 3.7 miles north of Vernon and 6.3 miles south of Interstate 10.*

### #2, Mile 2.0, Cotton Landing

A private canoe outfitter is located approx. 1.0 mile south of Cotton Landing on CR. 277. Cypress Springs is a popular swimming area located just downstream from Cotton Landing and may be crowded with boats in the summer. Keep in mind that the shoreline is private property. Please avoid trampling the fragile aquatic vegetation. Directions: *From Vernon, travel 3.3 miles north on CR 277. Look for sign for Cotton Landing. Follow limerock road for 1 mile to launch.*



# Holmes Creek Paddling Trail Guide

## #3, Mile 3.0, Culpepper Landing

*Directions: From Vernon, travel 2 miles north on CR 277. Turn left onto Culpepper Lane. Follow paved road 0.4 miles to ramp.*

## #4, Mile 5.5, Vernon City Park

*From Vernon travel north on SR 79 to bridge and small park on the east side of the road. Private canoe outfitter is adjacent to park.*

## #5, Mile 9.5, Fanning Branch Boat Ramp

*Take SR 79 south from Vernon 3 miles to Two Creeks Boulevard, an unpaved road. Turn right and travel a quarter mile to Keenkutter Road and take a right. In less than a quarter mile take a sharp left and follow a short distance to launch.*

## #6, Mile 10.5, Brunson Landing

*Take CR 278 west 3 miles from Vernon; turn left on Dorch Circle and follow for 100 yards. As the paved road curves to the right, continue straight on narrow, unpaved road 0.7 mile to ramp.*

## #7, Mile 11.5, Hightower Landing

*Take SR 79 south from Vernon 4 miles to Hightower Springs Road. Go north 0.5 miles on improved unpaved road to landing.*

## #8, Mile 15.0, Spurling Landing,

*From Vernon, travel about 7 miles west on SR 79 and turn right onto Clemmons Road. Stay on Clemmons Road for 2.5 miles to landing.*

## #9, Mile 21.5, Live Oak Landing

*From Vernon, travel south 7.3 miles on SR 79 to junction of SR 284 (Miller's Ferry Road). Turn right (west) and drive about 1.3 miles to Hammack Road. Turn right on Hammack Road and go 1 mile to Live Oak Landing Road. Turn left on Live Oak Landing Road and drive about 0.5 mile to public boat ramp.*

## #10, Mile 27.5, Shell Landing

*From Vernon, travel south 7.2 miles on SR 79 to junction of Miller's Ferry Rd. Turn right and drive 3.8 miles, turn left on Shell Landing Rd (becomes SR 284A), drive 2.9 miles, road dead ends at landing.*

## #11, Mile 28, Potter Spring Road Landing

*This is the last access on Holmes Creek. The next access is on Choctawhatchee River. From Vernon, travel south on SR 79 10.9 miles. Turn right on Potter Springs Rd until dead ends at landing.*

## #12 Mile Boynton Landing

*An optional take out point is Boynton Landing, a short distance upstream (0.3 miles) on the Choctawhatchee River from where it joins Holmes Creek. The current may be strong depending on water levels. From*



# Holmes Creek Paddling Trail Guide

Vernon, travel south 7.2 miles on SR 79 to junction of Miller's Ferry Rd. Turn right and drive 3.8 miles, turn left on Shell Landing Rd (becomes SR 284A), drive 2.5 miles, turn right on Boynton Cutoff Road.

## #13, Mile 34, End of the Trail, Cedar Tree Landing

This landing is along the Choctawhatchee River about 5 miles below the confluence of Holmes Creek and the Choctawhatchee. From Vernon, travel south on SR 79 16.9 miles and turn right on Cedar Tree Lane. The road dead ends at landing.

## Outfitters and Shuttle Service

- [Holmes Creek Canoe Livery](#) adjacent to Vernon Wayside Park (850) 210-7001
- [Cypress Springs Adventures](#) 3324 Highway 277, Vernon (850) 535-2004

## Base Camp

Nearby [Falling Waters State Park](#) offers an excellent base camp for exploring the natural wonders of the Panhandle region and is a site on the [Great Florida Birding Trail](#). Visitors can see beautiful native and migrating butterflies in the butterfly garden, take a dip in the lake, or have a family picnic. Hikers can experience the verdant, gently sloping landscape of North Florida. Full-facility campsites nestled in a shady pine forest provide the perfect excuse for an overnight stay at Falling Waters.

Camping is allowed along the creek on properties unless otherwise posted. On-line [reservations](#) for free camping permits through the [Northwest Florida Water Management District](#) are required to camp at Cotton, Spurling, and Boynton Landings. Make shuttle arrangements with local outfitters to avoid leaving vehicles overnight at remote access points.

