

Proposed Florida Greenways and Trails Designation

FGTC Meeting January 11, 2018

Project Name: Ocheeese Pond Paddling Trail

Applicant: Jackson County

Manager: Jackson County

Landowners: Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida

Project Description: Ocheeese Pond offers a unique recreational opportunity for paddlers in that the proposed 5.2-mile loop paddling trail is largely through a scenic cypress swamp. Only the southern end of the pond would be considered open water. The Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department has marked an easy follow trail with yellow blazes and OGT staff assisted by making a GPS track for the attached maps. The proposed paddling trail provides a wealth of recreational, environmental, economic and educational opportunities. Recreation uses include kayaking, canoeing, stand up paddleboard, fishing, boating, duck hunting and wildlife viewing. The pond is home to a vast array of birds, mammals and aquatic life. The pond was also the place where a supposed skunk ape was captured in 1884. The documented case turned out to be a wild man “entirely destitute of clothing, emaciated, and covered with a phenomenal growth of hair.” <http://www.exploresouthernhistory.com/ocheeseewildman.html>.

Ocheeese Pond is easy to reach in that it is just north of Interstate 10 south of Sneads (Exit 158, then north on CR 286 for 1.9 miles, left on CR 280 for 2.8 miles, and then right on Arkansas Road and follow .3 mile to [county boat ramp](#)). Three Rivers State Park is about 9 miles north of the pond and offers public camping opportunities.

Public Access: Ocheeese Pond has one public access site near the southern end of the pond, an improved boat ramp, which is managed by Jackson County.

FGTS Plan Status

Opportunity Trail Network: Ocheeese Pond is identified as a Florida Greenways and Trails System opportunity paddling trail.

Staff Recommendation: The Division of Recreation and Parks, Office of Greenways and Trails recommends approval of this designation.

Note: Signed application forthcoming



Florida Designated Paddling Trails

Ocheesee Pond Paddling Trail


Grand Ridge


Sneads

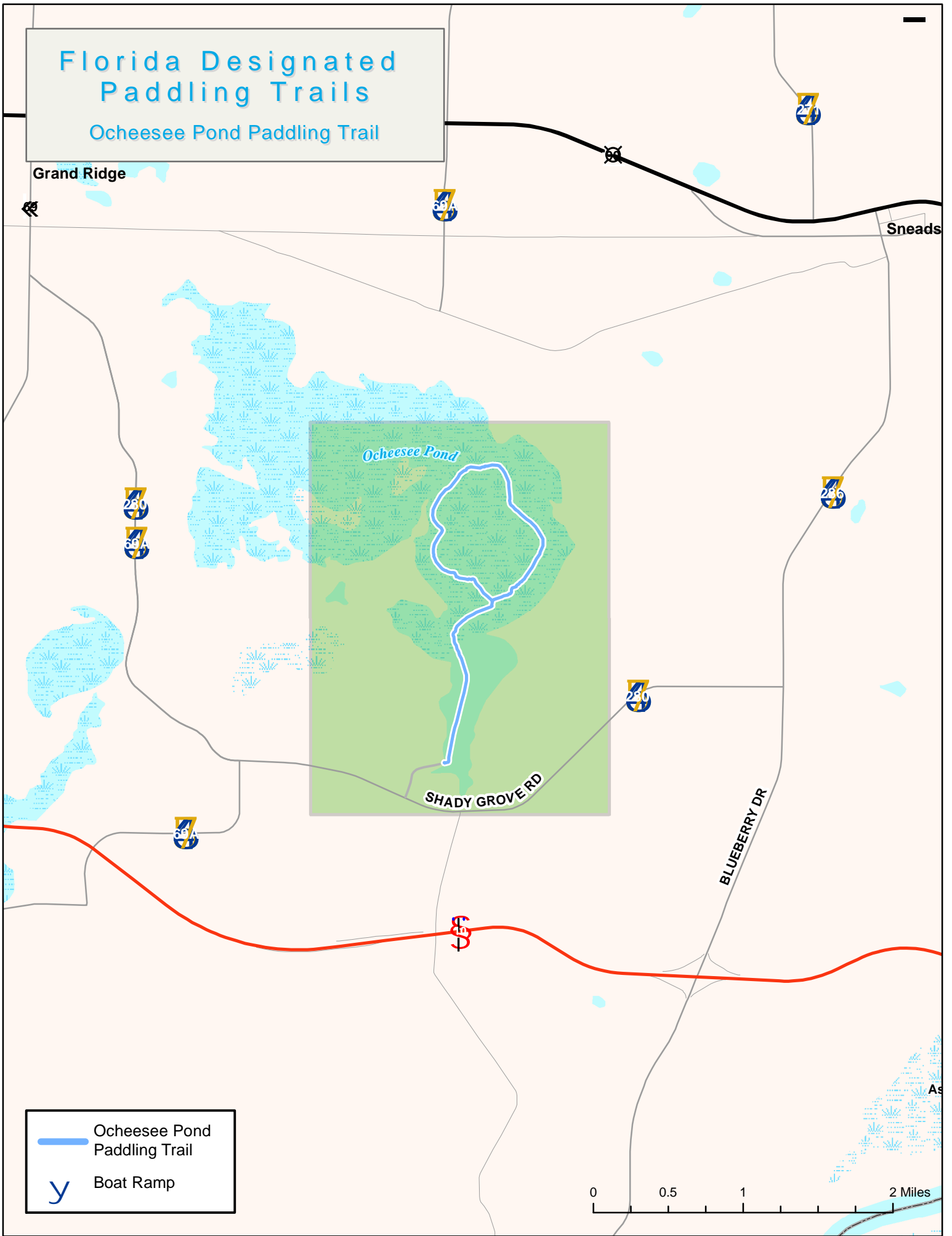
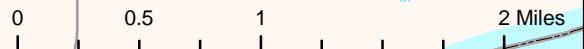
Ocheesee Pond

SHADY GROVE RD

BLUEBERRY DR

 Ocheesee Pond Paddling Trail

 Boat Ramp





Ocheese Pond Paddling Trail

Loop Entrance/Exit
N: 30.6726 W: -84.9682

Marked Trail Entrance
N: 30.6682 W: -84.9721

Access Point: Ocheese Pond Landing
N: 30.6567 W: -84.9733

 Ocheese Pond Paddling Trail

 Boat Ramp

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

ARKANSAS RD

SHADY GROVE RD CR 280