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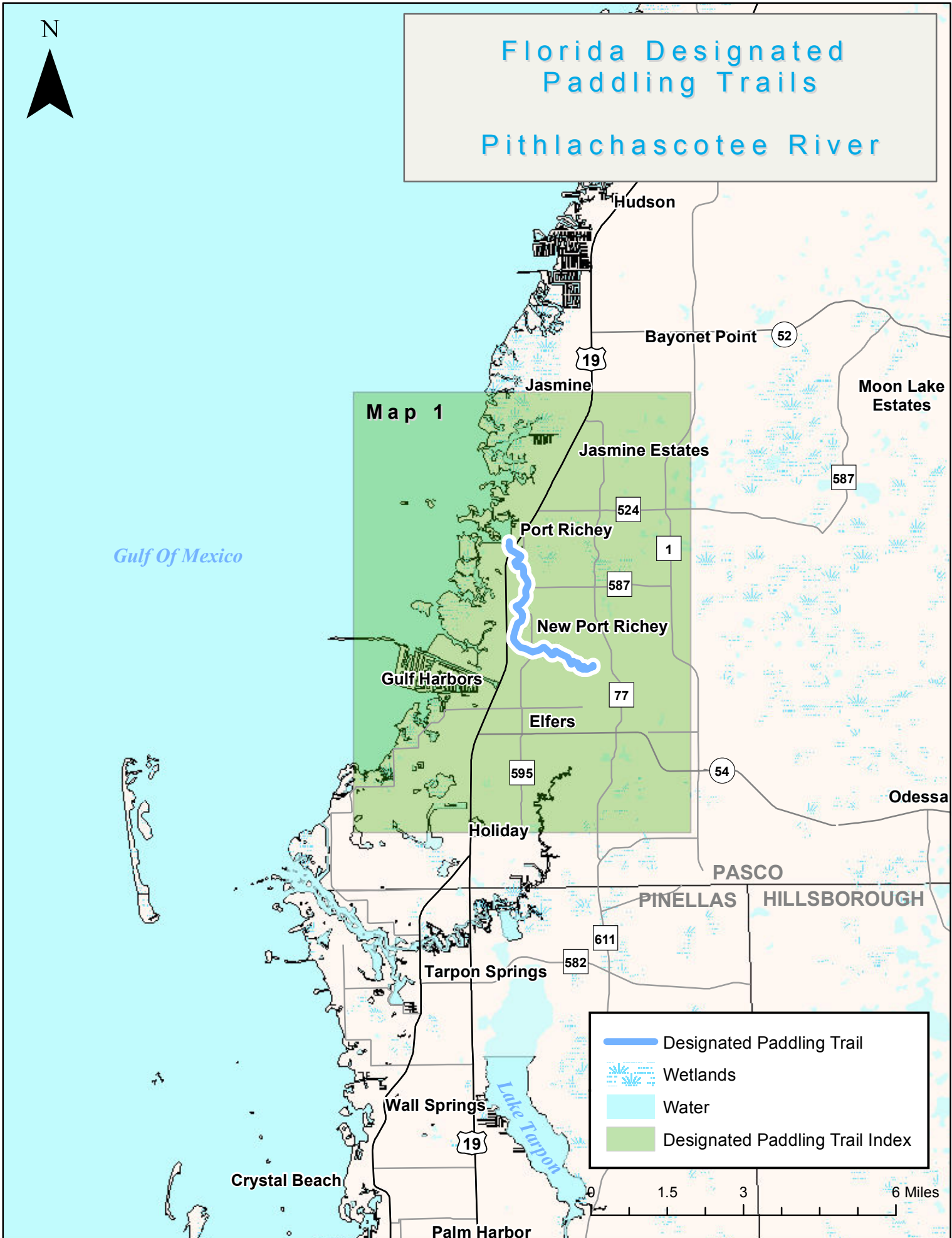


Florida Designated Paddling Trails

Pithlachascotee River

Map 1

Gulf Of Mexico



	Designated Paddling Trail
	Wetlands
	Water
	Designated Paddling Trail Index

1.5 3 6 Miles

Pithlachascotee River Paddling Trail



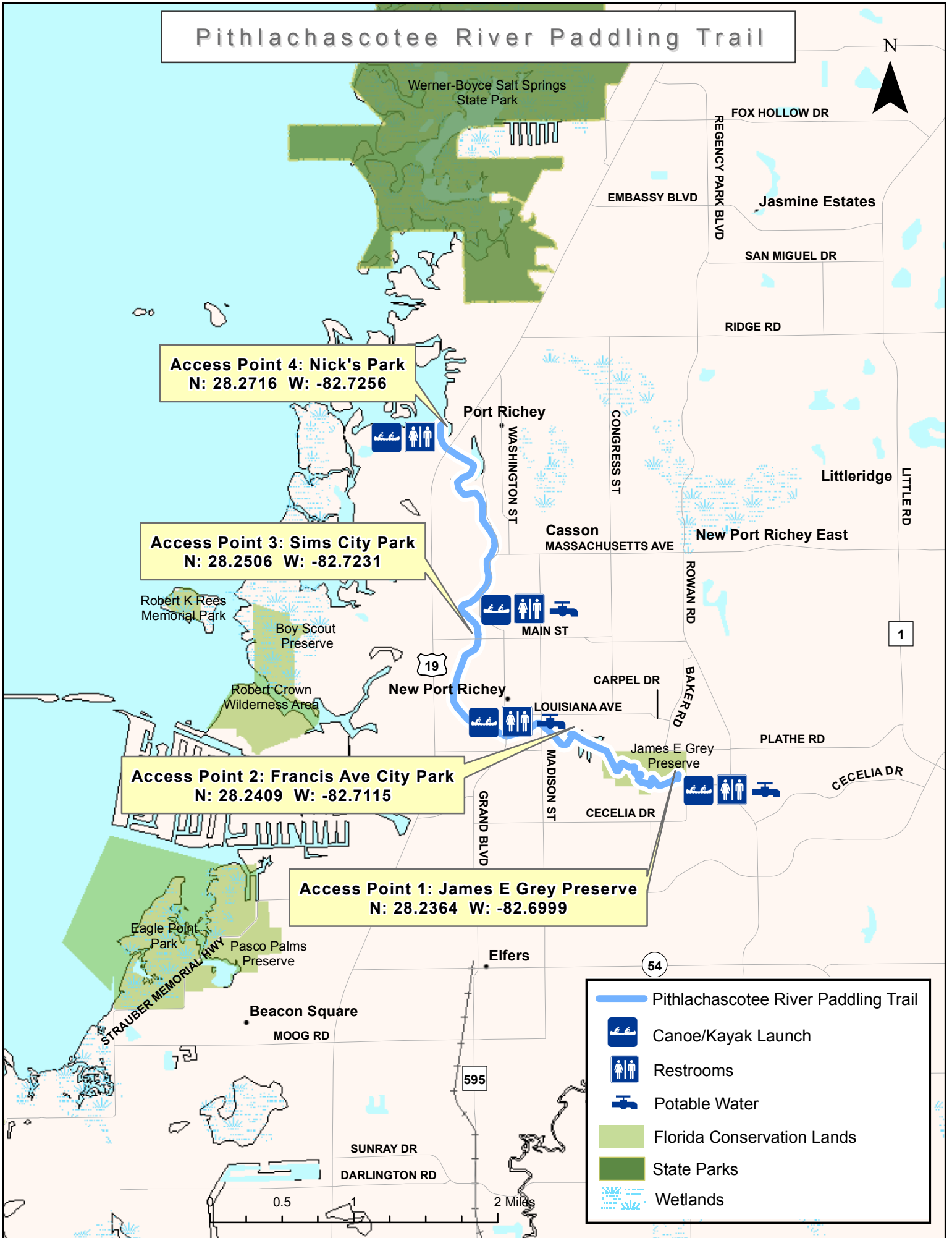
Access Point 4: Nick's Park
N: 28.2716 W: -82.7256

Access Point 3: Sims City Park
N: 28.2506 W: -82.7231

Access Point 2: Francis Ave City Park
N: 28.2409 W: -82.7115

Access Point 1: James E Grey Preserve
N: 28.2364 W: -82.6999

- Pithlachascotee River Paddling Trail
- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Restrooms
- Potable Water
- Florida Conservation Lands
- State Parks
- Wetlands





Pithlachascotee River Paddling Trail Guide

The Waterway

The wildest and most scenic section of the river is in the vicinity of the Grey Preserve, where houses disappear and arching trees form a jungle-like canopy. Fragrant spider lilies greet paddlers in the warmer months. Below the preserve, the river flows through the town of New Port Richey and it becomes an urban paddling trail, flanked by development.

The Paddling Experience

This short 6-mile trail is suitable for beginners. There are four access points, so it is possible to choose a trip of different lengths. Rowan Avenue Bridge is no longer a viable access point although it is listed on earlier canoe trail maps. The wildest and most scenic section of the river is within the boundaries of the 80-acre Grey Preserve. Below the Preserve and closer to the coast, the river can be busy with boat traffic, especially weekends and holidays. Submerged logs are the biggest hazard for paddlers since the water is dark. You can explore about a half mile upriver from Grey Preserve if desired.

Access Points

#1, Start of the trail, James E. Grey Preserve

An unexpected treasure in the middle of New Port Richey, the [Grey Preserve](#) is a site on the [Great Florida Birding Trail](#) with 140+ bird species. Allow time to hike the scenic 1.3-mile Palmetto Loop with extensive boardwalk winding along the river and protected wetlands. It may be possible to paddle about a mile upstream to the Rowan Ave Bridge, depending on blockages in the river. *From US 19, turn east onto Main St. go 0.6 miles. Turn right (south) onto Madison St., go 0.5 miles. Turn left (east) onto Louisiana Avenue, go 0.8 miles. Turn right (south) onto Carpel Drive and go 0.1 miles. Turn right (south), onto Baker Road and drive 0.2 miles. Turn left (east) onto Plathe Road. Grey Preserve is 0.2 miles on the right.*

#2, Mile 1.5, Francis Avenue City Park

At this point the river widens and the scenery changes. You will now be paddling through a residential area with houses on both sides of the river, still scenic but in a different sense. You can turn around here and head back to the launch area where you started or you can continue down river toward Sims Park and then on to Nick's Park and Miller's Bayou where the river empties into the Gulf of Mexico. *From US 19, turn east onto Main Street and drive 0.6 miles. Turn right (south) onto Madison Street, go 0.5 miles. Turn left (east) onto Louisiana Avenue and drive 0.1 miles. The park entrance is on the right. Boats must be carried 100 yards to the launch.*

#3, Mile 3.0, Sims City Park

The boat ramp is behind the Chamber of Commerce building on the northwest side of the Main Street Bridge. *From US 19, turn east (left) on Main Street and go two blocks to Sims Park.*



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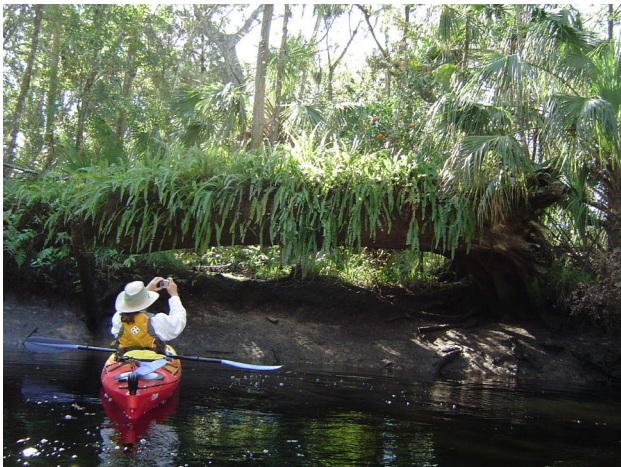
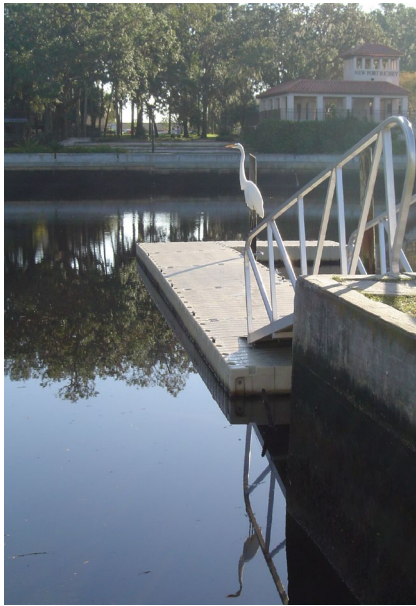
Mile 6.0, end of the trail, Nick's Park



Nick's Park is on the northwest side of the US 19 Bridge over the river.

Outfitters and Shuttle Service

[Hurley's Scuba Outpost](#) at Gill Dawg's in Port Richey offers kayak rentals and kayak tours on the lower river – 727-755-3483.



Photos: FWC