



White Springs Trail Town Proposal

Anna Hopkins

Office of Greenways and Trails
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Florida Greenways and Trails Council | December 2023

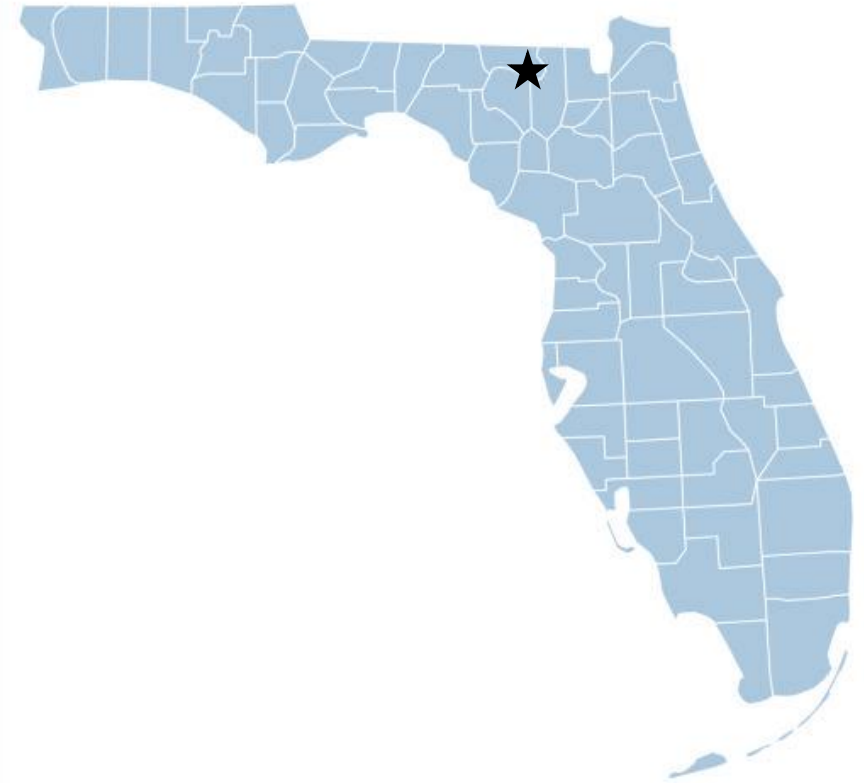
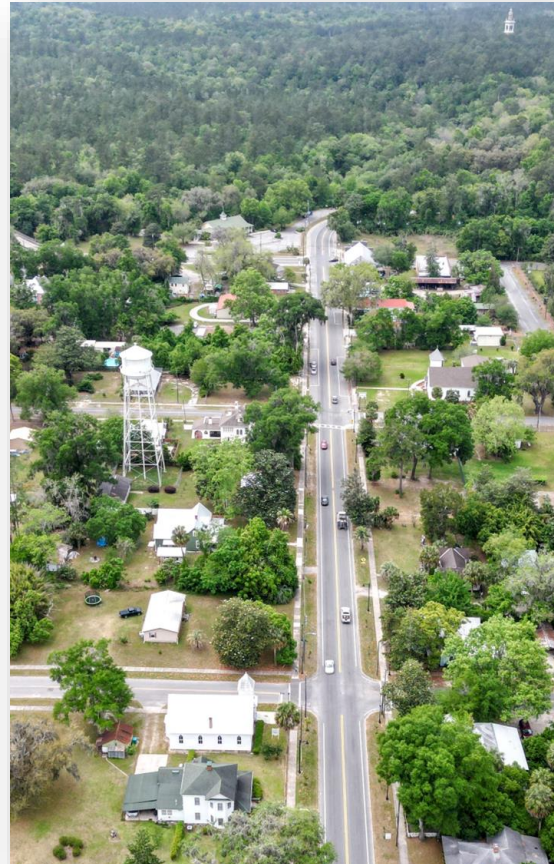


White Springs Trail Town Designation



Location

- White Springs is located in southeastern Hamilton County, just north of the Columbia County line.
- Approximately 20 minutes east of Live Oak and 15-20 minutes northwest of Lake City.





White Springs Trail Town Designation



Long Distance Trails

- Florida National Scenic Trail
 - The FNST runs through downtown White Springs.
 - Bell Springs Trail (FNST connector trail)
- Suwannee River Wilderness Paddling Trail





White Springs Trail Town Designation



Local Trails

- Stephen Foster State Park
 - Foster's Hammock Loop Trail (7 miles)
- Big Shoals State Park
 - Woodpecker Trail (3.4 miles)
 - Big Shoals Trail
 - Long Branch Trail
 - Palmetto Trail





White Springs Trail Town Designation



Local Trails

- Bridge-to-Bridge Trail
 - 4.5 miles
- Gar Pond Trail
 - 11 miles
- Beast of Burden Trail
 - 7 miles
- Beaver Loop Trail
 - 2 miles





White Springs Trail Town Designation



Signage

- Brand new 16-foot directional pole sign downtown.
- Kiosk maps show trails within the State Parks and Water Management District Areas.
- New Florida Trail signage is going up through downtown in the next few months.
- Map of local trails posted in Suwannee Bicycle Assoc. window.
- Highway signage for State Parks.

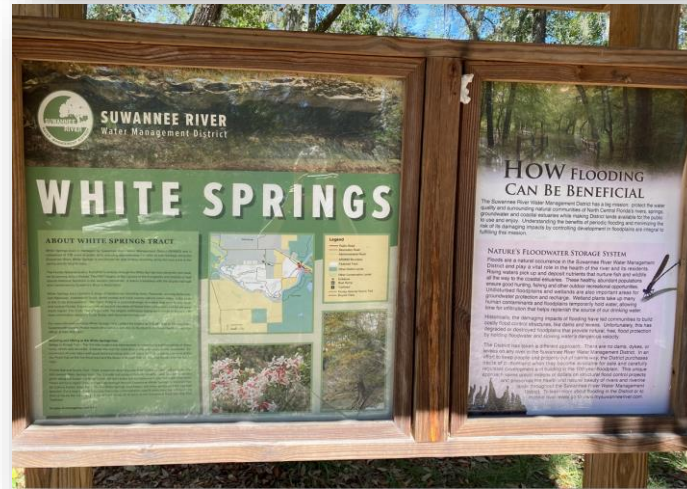




White Springs Trail Town Designation



Signage





White Springs Trail Town Designation



Safety

- Historic streetlamps light up the downtown at night.
- Marked crosswalks with pedestrian crossing signage.
- Local law enforcement familiar with trails.





White Springs Trail Town Designation



Amenities – Bike Racks

- Bike racks are available at the White Springs Public Library, Stephen Foster State Park, Big Shoals State Park, between the SBA HQ and Suwannee Hardware Store, and in the shared parking lot for Bud's Suds Laundry and Fat Bellies Restaurant.
- Nutrien is interested in sponsoring more bike racks and bike repair stations around town.
- Potential locations for future bike racks include DG Market, Wayside Park, Ahmoglee Okalee Town Park, the Post Office, and the Historic Spring House.





White Springs Trail Town Designation



Amenities - Restrooms & Water

- Public restrooms are available at:
 - Willie Guy Turner town park and playground
 - Ahmoglee Okalee town park
 - White Springs Library
 - Stephen Foster & Big Shoals State Parks
 - Bailey F. Ogburn Recreational Facility
- Water spigot is available at the Agriculture Station at the entrance to Gar Pond (used by Florida Trail hikers).





White Springs Trail Town Designation



Amenities – Food & Supplies

- Fat Bellies: local restaurant popular with residents and visitors. Offers a walk-up to-go window.
- Sun Stop & Munchies: Convenience stores/gas stations with ice, packaged snacks, drinks, and hot food options.
- DG Market: Small grocery with ice, produce, and other goods.
- Suwannee Hardware: Local foods (jams, sauces, spices, honey, etc.) and bottled drinks; carries some cycling and hiking supplies.



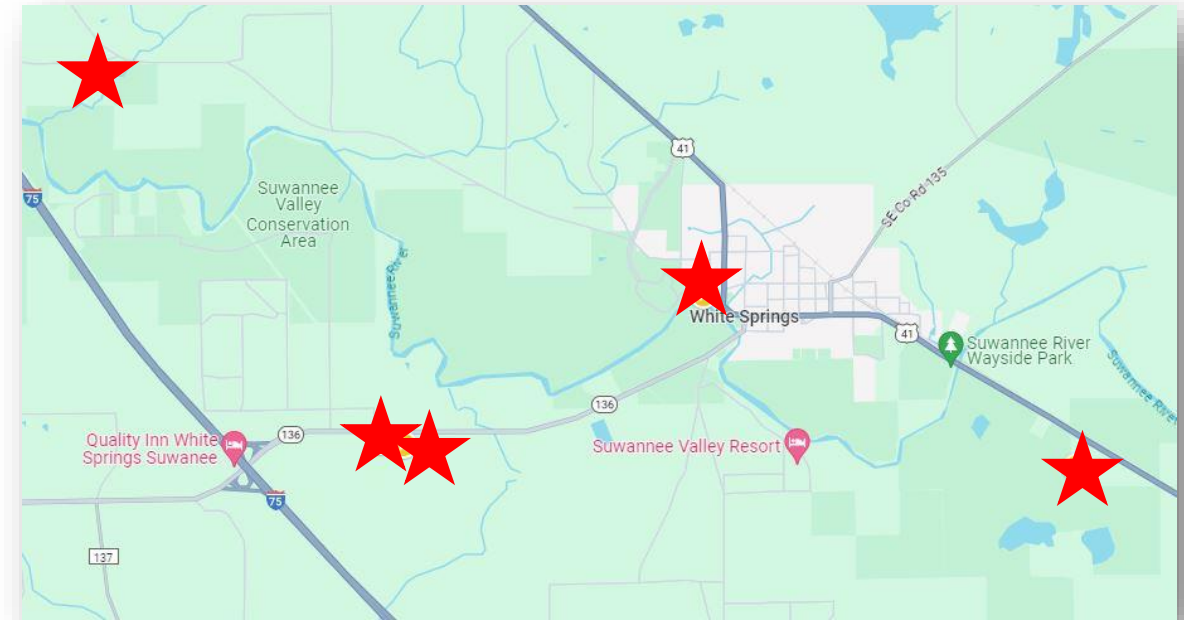


White Springs Trail Town Designation



Amenities – Lodging

- Camping, Cabin Rental, and RV Parks:
 - Stephen Foster State Park (camping and cabins)
 - Firelight Family Campground
 - Kelly's RV Park
 - Futter's Oaks RV Park
 - White Springs RV Park





White Springs Trail Town Designation



Amenities – Lodging

- Bed & Breakfasts, Rentals, and Inns:
 - Historic Carver House
 - White Springs B&B (discount for hikers)
 - Mrs. Kendrick's Cottage (discount for hikers and cyclists)
 - Chance's Cottage
 - Top of Bridge St. Cottage
 - Rock Island House
 - Whispering Pines
 - Bienville Outdoors Resort
 - Quality Inn White Springs





White Springs Trail Town Designation



Amenities – Rentals

- American Canoe Adventures, located in downtown White Springs, offers kayak and canoe rentals as well as shuttling services for paddlers on the Suwannee River.
- Stephen Foster State Park offers bicycle rentals.





White Springs Trail Town Designation



Local Support Groups

- **White Springs Historic Preservation Society** (WSHPS) was reactivated in 2023 to promote the town's ecotourism opportunities and historic character. The group includes a future Trail Town committee who will meet as needed.
- **Suwannee Bicycle Association** is headquartered in downtown White Springs and organizes events, rides, and trips for cyclists and paddlers. They also offer trail maps for the area.
- As a Gateway Community, the **Florida Trail Association** works with White Springs often.



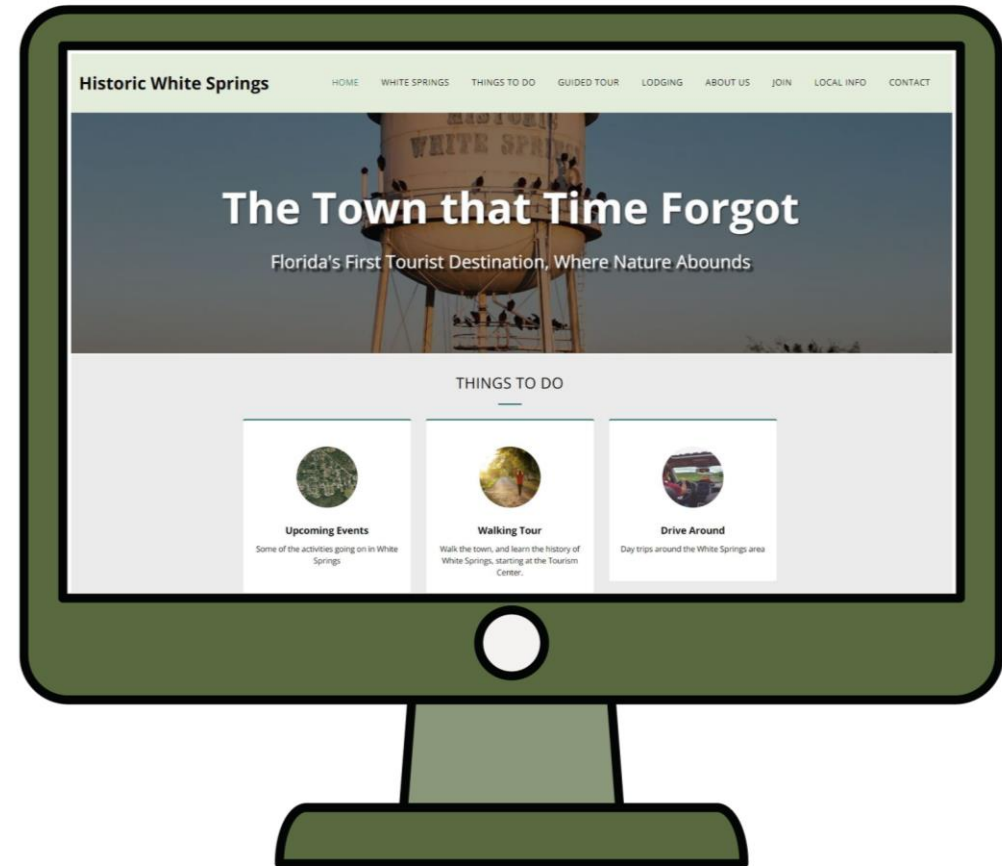


White Springs Trail Town Designation



- The White Springs Historic Preservation Society website features easily accessible information about:
 - Hiking
 - Paddling
 - Cycling
 - Birding
 - Local Lodging
 - Upcoming Events
 - Historic Walking Tours

www.historicwhitesprings.com





White Springs Trail Town Designation



Letters of Support

- 11 formal letters of support for White Springs' Trail Town designation were submitted by:
 - The Town of White Springs
 - Suwannee County and Hamilton County Tourism Development Councils
 - Suwannee Bicycle Association
 - Stephen Foster/Big Shoals State Parks
 - Suwannee River Water Management District
 - Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners
 - Hamilton County Development Authority
 - Hamilton County Veterans Service Office
 - Hamilton County Parks and Recreation
 - Hamilton County Chamber of Commerce





White Springs Trail Town Designation



Business Support

- 29 business owners have signed the Trail Town pledge.
- White Springs Bed and Breakfast, Mrs. Kendrick's Cottage, and Rock Cottage offer discounts to Suwannee Bicycle Association Members.
- Trail maps and free Wi-Fi are available at the White Springs Public Library.





White Springs Trail Town Designation



Community Events

- IDIDAHIKE at Stephen Foster State Park (hosted by Florida Trail Association)- 300 participants in 2023.
- Wild Florida Trail Run (hosted by FTA)- about 300 runners.
- IDIDARIDE (hosted by Suwannee Bicycle Association) with over 350 riders and volunteers from all over the United States. Over 1000 cyclists visit White Springs each year for SBA multi-day events and open houses.
- Suwannee Fat Tire Festival, Spring Pedal & Paddle Festival, and Suwannee Sweetheart hosted by SBA.





White Springs Trail Town Designation



Community Events

- Wild Azalea Festival- annual event hosted by the Town of White Springs.
- Stephen Foster State Park hosts many events including:
 - January Arts & Craft Show
 - Antique Tractor Show
 - Quilt Show & Sale
 - The Florida Folk Festival
 - Old-Time Music Championships
 - Festival of Lights
- Suwannee Hardware and Feed store (Adams Brothers Store, 1866) hosts the Sugar Cane Festival and Christmas on Bridge Street.
- Community Bike Giveaways every other year.



Sugar Cane Festival

Historical White Springs Florida
Saturday, November 11, 2023
8am - 4pm

Old Fashioned Cane Grind
Traditional Blacksmithing
Goat Milk Soap Making
Butter Churning
Honey Bee Keeping
Old Fashioned Icecream
Yarn Spinning
Bowl Turning
Pottery Spinning
Axe Throwing
Chainsaw Sculpture
and Much More

Live Music
Food
Arts & Crafts
60+ Vendors
Hands on Demonstrations
Clogging
Pie Eating Contest
Crowning Ms. Sugar Cane
Vintage Tractors
Hit Miss Engines
Vintage Auto's
Cruise In

Veterans Ceremony

Suwannee Hardware & Feed
10572 Bridge Street
White Springs, FL 32096
386-397-2551
www.suwanneehardware.com
suwanneehardware@gmail.com
Registration Required

Kids Corner
Train Rides
Pony Rides
Bounce Houses & Slides
Face Painting
Petting Zoo
Greasy Pig Contest
Sack Race



WILD AZALEA FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2023 10AM-4PM
NATURE & HERITAGE TOURISM CENTER

GET TICKETS NOW

