

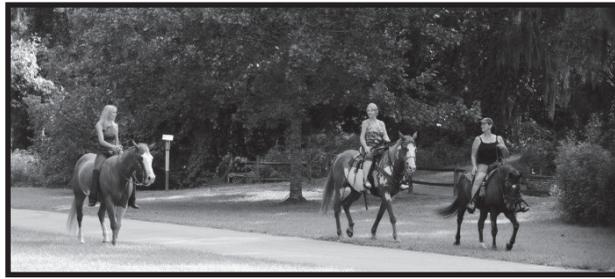
Withlacoochee State Trail

In the late 1800s, railroad entrepreneur Henry Plant established a rail line that ran from Croom to Inverness, Florida, thus completing the Plant System's West Coast Route. The Plant System eventually became the Atlantic Coast Line in 1902, the Seaboard Coast Line in 1967, and finally, CSX Transportation in 1980. In December of 1989, CSX Transportation sold their 46 miles of right-of-way between Gulf Junction (Citrus Springs) and Owensboro Junction, six miles north of Dade City, to the state of Florida to establish the Withlacoochee State Trail. The corridor was one of the first purchased under the Florida Rails to Trails Program.

At 46 miles in length, the Withlacoochee State Trail is one of the longest, paved rail-trails in Florida. The trail corridor runs through small towns, ranches and natural areas as it makes its way south from Citrus Springs to Dade City. With proper planning, a ride along the trail could include breakfast, lunch, dinner and accommodations. Like most rail-trails in Florida, the Withlacoochee State Trail is generally flat, offering an easy ride for all skill levels. Mile markers are located along the trail. An unpaved equestrian trail parallels portions of the paved trail.

Reminders of historic railroad activity include cement mileage and whistle markers, the Lake Henderson Trestle and the privately owned Inverness Depot, which was built in 1892. Along the trail, visitors will pass through a variety of habitats, including upland mixed forest, sand hill and wetland communities. The trail corridor also serves as a habitat for gopher tortoises and other native plant and animal species.

The trail traverses a region that offers many other outstanding recreational opportunities. Among the recreational highlights nearby are the unpaved trails in the Croom area of the Withlacoochee State Forest, Fort Cooper State Park, as well as the Withlacoochee River (South) Canoe Trail.



Trail Safety and Etiquette

- Bicyclists and in-line skaters yield to other users; all trail users yield to equestrians.
- Obey all trail rules posted at trailheads.
- Stay to the right except when passing.
- Pass slower traffic on their left; yield to oncoming traffic when passing.
- Give a clear warning signal when passing.
- Always look ahead and behind when passing.
- Travel at a responsible speed.
- Keep pets under control on a maximum 6-foot leash; walk them along the edge of any shared-use trail.
- Do not trespass on private property.
- Move off the trail surface when stopped to allow others to pass.
- Yield to other trail users when entering and crossing the trail.
- Do not disturb wildlife. All animal and plant life is protected in Florida State Parks.
- Watch out for traffic at road crossings. Obey all traffic signals.
- Helmets are required by Florida law for cyclists and equestrians under the age of 16 and are recommended for all ages.
- Equestrians should carry a copy of the negative Coggins test. (Chapter 5C-18.010, F.A.C.).

Contact Information:
Withlacoochee State Trail
3100 S. Old Floral City Road
Inverness, FL 34450
(352) 726-0315 (Office/Voicemail)
FloridaStateParks.org /trail/Withlacoochee

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available upon
request at any
Florida state park.



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Withlacoochee State Trail



One of Florida's
longest rail-trails

Withlacoochee State Trail

Major Activities:

Walking, biking, skating, horseback riding and bird-watching

Trail Length/Surface:

46 miles, paved (asphalt, 12' wide)

Fee:

None

Counties:

Citrus, Hernando, Pasco

Nearby Towns:

Brooksville, Dunnellon, Inverness

Notes:

Help support the trail by joining Rails to Trails of the Withlacoochee, the trail's Citizen Support Organization. Visit www.rttwst.org to learn more.

Hours: 8 a.m.-Sundown, 365 days a year.

A Gulf Junction Trailhead

2233 W Magenta Drive
Citrus Springs, FL 34434



B South Citrus Springs Trailhead

64 W Citrus Springs Blvd
Citrus Springs, FL 34434



C Hernando Park



D Hernando Beach County Park



E Lake Henderson Trestle

F Inverness Trailhead

315 N Apopka Ave.
Inverness, FL 34450



G Wallace Brooks Park



H Fort Cooper State Park



J Floral City Rest Area



J Townsen Lake Preserve



K Silver Lake Recreation



L Ridge Manor Trailhead

6410 Croom Rital Road
Ridge Manor, FL 33523



M Owensboro Trailhead

19755 U.S. Highway 301
Dade City, FL 33523

