

Ready, Set, Go!

Apalachicola River WEA

For a good overview of the area, start your explorations on the east side of the Apalachicola River at the Sand Beach Recreation Area. Take in the views from the observation tower, launch a kayak, take a short nature walk or just enjoy your lunch at a shaded picnic table.

Wildlife Viewing

ARWEA hosts more than 280 species of resident and migratory birds and features four Great Florida Birding Trail (floridabirdingtrail.com) sites. On the east side of the river, visit Sand Beach, Cash Bayou and Bloody Bluff for a range of birds, from waders to warblers. In the pine flatwoods surrounding Bloody Bluff, look for red-cockaded woodpeckers, brown-headed nuthatches, pine warblers and Bachman's sparrows. On the river's west side, scan the dove fields and old agricultural fields south of Howards Creek for deer, turkey, quail, sparrows and hawks and Mississippi and swallow-tailed kites. You may also request a copy or download or print the Apalachicola River WEA Bird List at MyFWC.com/recreation.

Nature Study/Botanizing

Diverse habitats support several species of rare plants. Enjoy the peak of wildflowers in the fall and the brilliant foliage of cypress and tupelo trees.

Hiking, Bicycling, Horseback Riding

Hike the nature trail at the Sand Beach Recreation Area and explore nearly 100 miles of scenic, unpaved roads.

Picnicking

Picnic tables are located at Sand Beach and at Graham Creek, Butcher Pen, Gardner, Misfit and Whiskey George Creek landings.

Hunting

Dove, deer and squirrel hunts are popular on the WEA. Hunting peaks between mid-November and mid-January. Pick up a Regulations Summary and Area Map at Sand Beach and Howards Creek Landing. For more details and a hunting season calendar, go to MyFWC.com/recreation.

Camping

Primitive camping is allowed throughout the area, except where otherwise posted. There are no developed campgrounds; no permits are required.

Paddling

The best way to explore the ARWEA is by canoe or kayak along hundreds of miles of scenic natural waterways. The paddling trail system includes 11 routes that range from easy half- or full-day trips to more challenging multi-day explorations. Bike racks at some boat ramps help you complete your shuttle. Request a copy of the ARWEA Paddling Guide or download paddling trail maps at MyFWC.com/recreation.

Fishing

Fish from banks or boats for largemouth bass, catfish, striped bass and bream. The East, St. Marks and Little St. Marks rivers offer productive fishing in areas with a good mix of fresh and salt water. Fish the high slack tide or outgoing tide for best results.

Boating Access

Numerous boat landings are marked on the map and several are ADA-accessible.

Don't Forget

- If you hike during a hunting season, wear bright orange clothing.
- Protected Florida black bears roam the Apalachicola region, but are very shy and rarely confront humans. Keep campsites clean and pack out ALL food and garbage.
- Management activities such as timber thinning and prescribed fire are ongoing.
- Bring fishing and hunting licenses and permits (when required). Obtain required licenses and permits to hunt and fish: 1-888-HUNT-FLORIDA (486-8356) or 1-888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356), or go to MyFWC.com/recreation.
- For safe travel on the water, carry the Apalachicola River WEA Paddling Guide and recommended equipment (tide table, GPS unit, life jacket, compass, etc.).

How to Get to the Area

For access by vehicle in Gulf County, take SR 71 to CR 387. Travel east to Saul's Creek and Murphy Road; in Franklin County, follow signs to access points off SR 65. Consult map for numerous boating access points.

Contacts

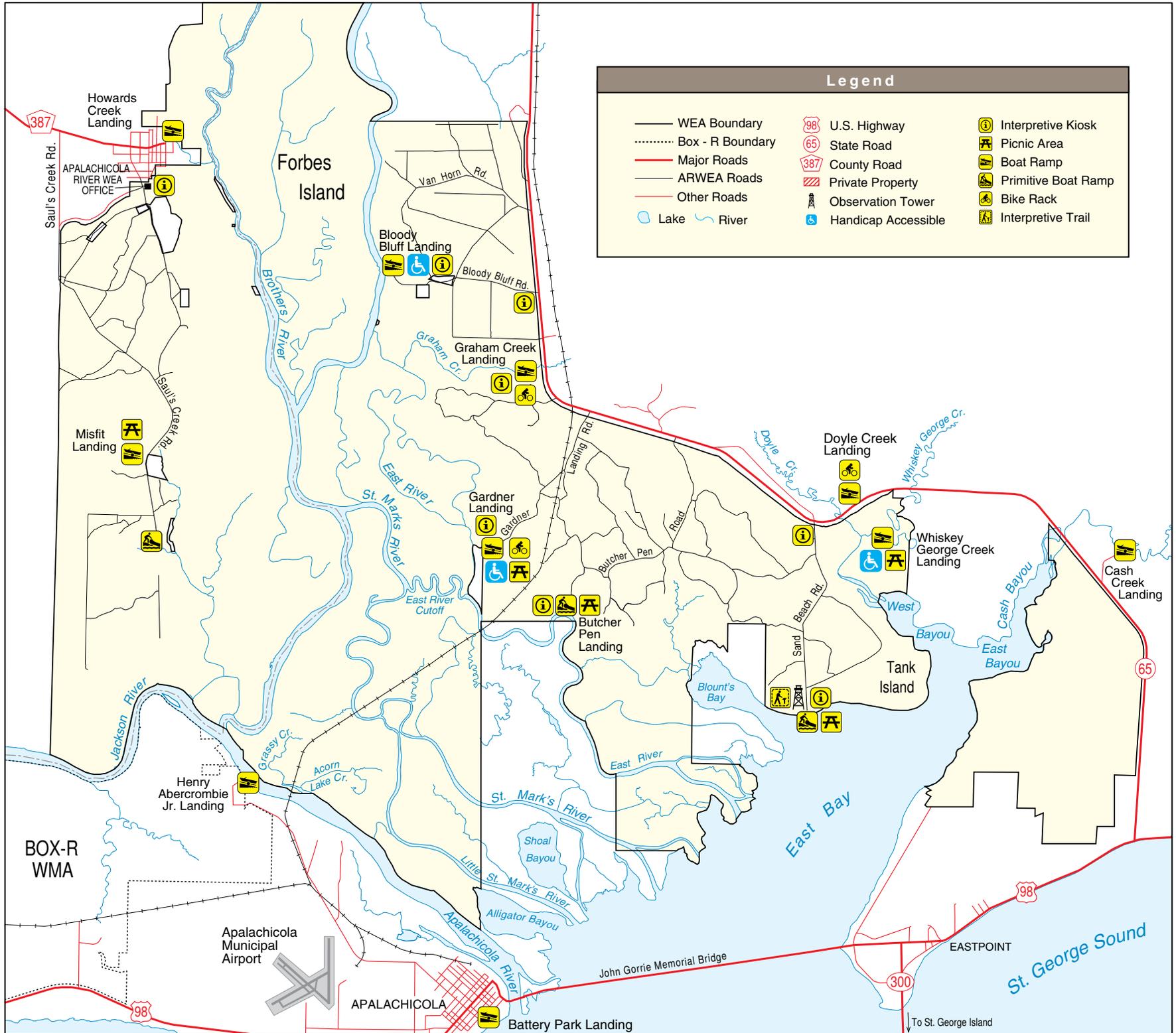
Franklin County Sheriff's Office
(850) 670-8500 or 911 for emergencies

To report marine or wildlife law violations, dial *FWC or #FWC (*392 or #392) or toll-free (888) 404-3922

Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce
(850) 653-9419; apalachicolabay.org

Weather forecasts: www.srh.noaa.gov/tlh
Follow links to rivers and lakes.

Tides and current predictions:
tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov



Legend					
	WEA Boundary		U.S. Highway		Interpretive Kiosk
	Box - R Boundary		State Road		Picnic Area
	Major Roads		County Road		Boat Ramp
	ARWEA Roads		Private Property		Primitive Boat Ramp
	Other Roads		Observation Tower		Bike Rack
	Lake		Handicap Accessible		Interpretive Trail
	River				