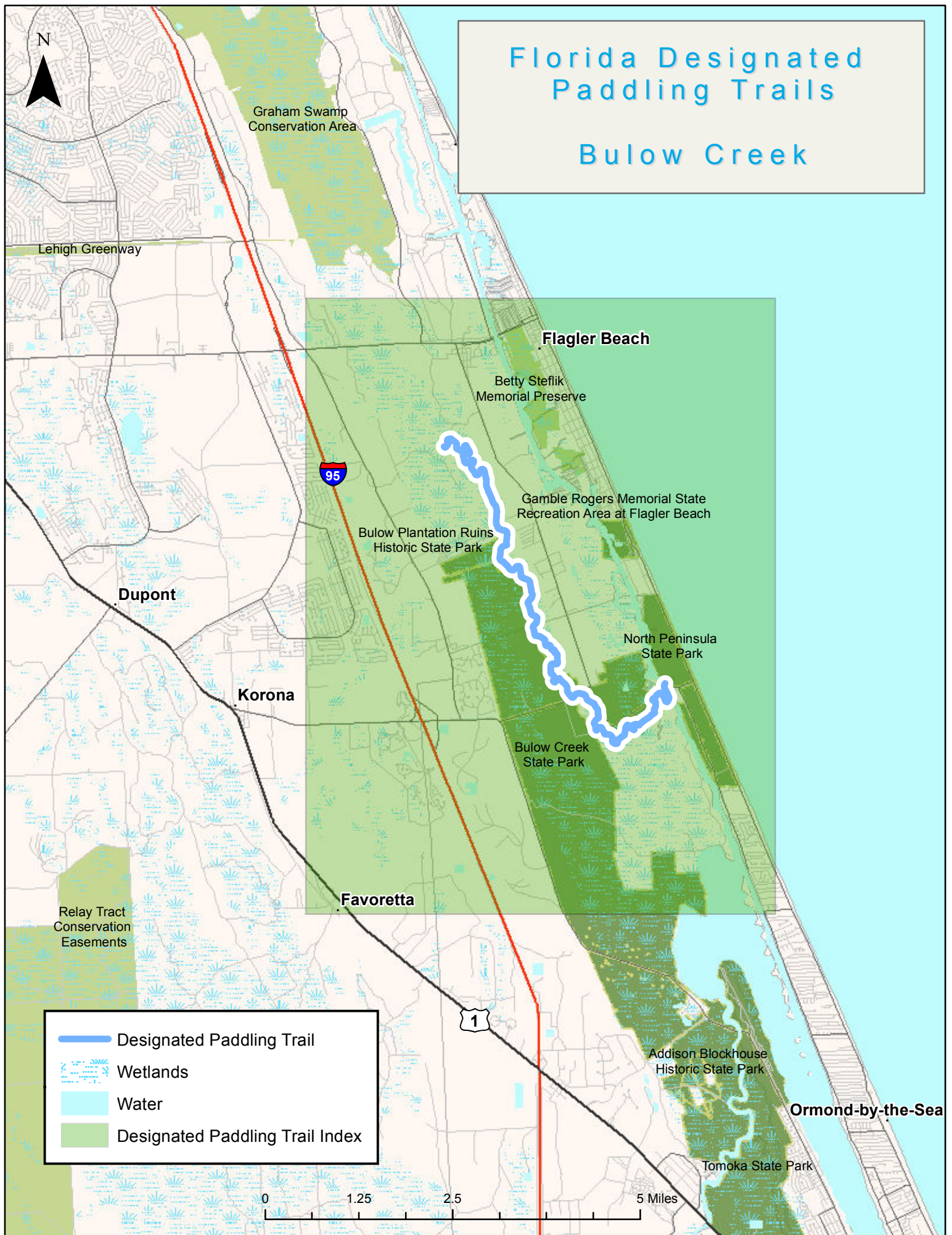


Florida Designated Paddling Trails

Bulow Creek



Bulow Creek Paddling Trail

N



MOODY BLVD

Flagler Beach

Betty Steflik Memorial Preserve

OCEAN SHORE BLVD

OLD KINGS HIGHWAY



2001

201

**Access Point 1: Bulow Plantation Ruins
Historic State Park**
N: 29.4344 W: -81.1370



Bulow Plantation Ruins
Historic State Park

Access Point 3: Smith Creek Landing
N: 29.4096 W: -81.1009

Access Point 2: Walter Boardman Lane Bridge
N: 29.4073 W: -81.1218

FLAGLER
VOLUSIA

JOHN ANDERSON HWY.

Atlantic Ocean

North Peninsula
State Park



HIGH BRIDGE RD

North Peninsula
State Park

OLD DIXIE HWY

WALTER BOARDMAN

401

OLD DIXIE HWY

Bulow Creek
State Park

Bulow Creek Designated Paddling Trail



Canoe/Kayak Launch



Restrooms



Camping



Potable Water



Florida State Parks



Florida Conservation Lands



Wetlands



Favoretta

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Tomoka
Basin

Bulow Creek Trip Planning

Overview: Bulow Creek begins at the historic Bulow Plantation Ruins State Park and leads upstream and back and then downstream to the entrance of the Intracoastal Waterway. As you approach the Intracoastal Waterway, the water begins to turn brackish. Much of the trail flows through grassy coastal marsh typical of the Atlantic Coast.

Counties: Flagler, Volusia

Nearest towns: Flagler Beach, Palm Coast

Trip length: 6.5 miles

Mileage:

1. Mile 0: Bulow Plantation Historic State Park*
2. Mile 3: Walter Boardman Lane Bridge
3. Mile 6.5: Smith Creek Landing

*Note: You can paddle up to 3.5 miles upstream from Bulow Plantation Historic State Park until the creek becomes too narrow. Most of this area is wild and scenic.

**The provided mileage data is approximate (rounded to the nearest 0.5 mi).

Difficulty: Easy with Navigational Challenges

Skill level: Beginner to Intermediate

Access Point 1 Put-in: Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park

Nearest towns to put-in: Flagler Beach

Miles from put-in: 9

Directions to put-in at Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park: From I-95, exit at Old Dixie Highway and head east. Turn north (left) onto Old Kings Rd. Bulow Ruins State park is about 2.5 miles, on the right.

Access Point 2 Directions to put-in at Walter Boardman Lane Bridge: From I-95, exit at Old Dixie Highway and head east. Turn left onto Walter Boardman Lane. Look for a small bridge over Bulow Creek.

Access Point 3 Take-out: Smith Creek Landing at North Peninsula State Park

Directions to take-out: From I-95, Exit at Old Dixie Highway and head east. Turn left onto Walter Boardman Lane. Continue for about 2 miles and turn right onto High Bridge Road. Cross over Halifax River, and park is on the left.

Driving distance from put-in to take-out: 6-7 miles

Topo maps (USGS quads): Flagler Beach W (4410), Ormond Beach (4309), Flagler Beach E (4409)

Gazetteer page: 74-75

Outfitters within 20 miles of trail:

Tropical Kayaks at Palm Coast Marina
300 Club House Dr.
Palm Coast, FL 32137
(386) 445-0506

<http://www.tropicalkayaks.com>.

East Coast Outdoors
385 S Yonge St (US 1),
Ormond Beach, FL 32174
(386) 672-5003.

Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park. (386) 517-2084

Shuttle service offered: Call outfitters

USGS link (water level info): None

Tide information: Check tides at this website: <http://tidesonline.nos.noaa.gov>

Break / Lunch areas: Bulow Plantation Ruins State Park has picnic tables and a shelter with restrooms. There is a picnic table approx 1 mile downstream from Boardman Bridge at a small park.

Camping options: No camping options along the creek.

Other lodging: Flagler Beach, Palm Coast, and Ormond Beach.

Food / Beverage restrictions: No alcohol in the state park

What to expect on the river:

Tidal influence: Yes

Pull-overs: Some deadfall may be encountered at the upper end of the trail as it narrows and meanders into the swamp

Low branches: None

Narrow water: None

Shallow water: Oyster bars may be encountered on the lower section during low tide.

Strong currents: Possible with tidal currents

Rocks: None

Houses: A few residences are scattered north of Bulow Ruins and several historic old homes are found riverside in the Mound Grove area.

Shoals: None

Tight turns: None

Open water: None

Springs: None

Potable water sources: Bulow Plantation Ruins State Park.

Wildlife: An abundant variety of wildlife and birds visit Bulow Creek including swallow-tailed kites and osprey. You may see frogs, various butterfly and dragonfly species, alligators, and manatees.

Natural communities: Maritime hammock, floodplain swamp, salt marsh.

Portages: None

Swimming: At your own risk.

Motorboats: Light motorboat use of Bulow Creek, the Halifax River has larger boats that utilize the drawbridge at High Bridge Road

Expect at parking: Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park

- **Parking fee:** Yes, self-pay station.
- **Bathrooms:** Yes
- **Hours of operation:** Gates close at 5 pm
- **Camping:** One primitive site. Reservations required. Contact (386) 517-2084.
- **Camping fees:** None
- **Crowds:** Some crowding on weekends and holidays
- **Boat Ramp:** Yes. Paved
- **Potable water source:** Yes.
- **Canoe/kayak launch:** None

Expect at parking: Walter Boardman Lane Bridge

- There are no amenities here. Launching is from the dirt bank south of the bridge.

Expect at parking: Smith Creek Landing at North Peninsula State Park

- **Parking fee:** None
- **Bathrooms:** Yes
- **Hours of operation:** Not gated. Park open sunrise to sunset.
- **Camping:** None
- **Camping fees:** NA
- **Crowds:** None
- **Boat Ramp:** None
- **Potable water source:** Yes
- **Canoe/kayak launch:** Yes. Unimproved, natural surface launch that is accessible at any tide level.

Cultural and historical features along the trail:

Native Americans inhabited the area along Bulow Creek for many years prior to European settlement, and middens are exposed in the middle section of the paddling trail, near the Boardman Bridge. The trail passes by an old Florida community called Mound Grove, and a number of old homes are easily visible from the water. While the marsh in the northern section is entirely intact, the marsh below the Boardman Bridge is traversed by a number of man-made canals and what appears to be an old railroad grade or tram road.

In 1836, the Second Seminole War swept away the prosperous Bulow Plantation where the Bulow family grew sugar cane, cotton, rice, and indigo. Ruins of the former plantation—a sugar mill, a unique spring house, several wells, and the crumbling foundations of the plantation house and slave cabins—show how volatile the Florida frontier was in the early 19th century. Today, a scenic walking trail leads visitors to the sugar mill ruins, listed on the National Register of Historic Sites

For more on the history of the Bulow Plantation access this website:
<http://www.floridastateparks.org/history/parkhistory.cfm?parkid=95>

Besides Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park, Bulow Creek State Park protects nearly 5,600 acres of the Bulow Creek basin. The park boasts one of the largest remaining stands of southern live oak forest along the East Coast, including the 400-year-old Fairchild Oak. To learn more: <http://floridastateparks.org/bulowcreek/default.cfm>.

Notes:

If you leave a vehicle at Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park, be sure to return to your car before the gates are locked at 5 p.m.

It can be difficult navigating the channels in the salt marsh between the Walter Boardman Bridge and the takeout at High Bridge Road. Be sure to take a good map and compass.

Allow time to visit the ruins at the Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park. Take the short 10-minute nature trail to the interesting sugar mill ruins and interpretive display.