

HISTORY AND NATURE

St. Marks River Preserve State Park creates a permanent wildlife corridor along the St. Marks River and provides continuous linkage between state conservation lands stretching from Tallahassee to the Gulf of Mexico. The park provides a buffer from development and preserves the water quality while protecting the natural communities in the river floodplain.

The unique topography and geology of the park protects the water quality of the St. Marks River down to St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. At its headwater, the St. Marks River appears to be little more than a collection of connected wetlands. As the river continues south it picks up the drainage from swamps located in the surrounding area and flow increases to a recognizable dark-water creek by the time it crosses U.S. Highway 27 and through the park boundary. The river also links to the Floridan aquifer. The park is a retreat for wildlife, including the Florida black bear, a threatened species.

An ecosystem restoration project is currently underway at the north end of the park. Wiregrass seed has been planted followed by longleaf pine seedlings. The pine plantation located in the northern section of the park is being restored to a natural sandhill community.

The park encompasses old trade routes that were used in the first exploration and settlement of the region along the river, with historic dirt roads dating back to the mid-1800s. The landscape connectivity and diversity provided by the river corridor offers excellent recreational trail opportunities.



ST. MARKS RIVER PRESERVE STATE PARK

11950 Tram Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32303
850-487-7989



PARK GUIDELINES

- Hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- There are no fees currently required to enjoy this gem of a park.
- All plants, animals and park property are protected. Collection, destruction or disturbance is prohibited.
- Pets must be well-behaved and kept on a hand-held leash no longer than six feet at all times.
- To become a volunteer at St. Marks River Preserve State Park, call 850-487-7989.
- There are currently no amenities available at the park.
- Visitors must bring in their own water for themselves or their horse.
- The park currently does not have a restroom facility.

FloridaStateParks.org

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STATE PARKS**

...the Real FloridaSM

**ST. MARKS RIVER
PRESERVE
STATE PARK**



*A multi-use natural recreational area
nestled along the headwaters
of the St. Marks River*

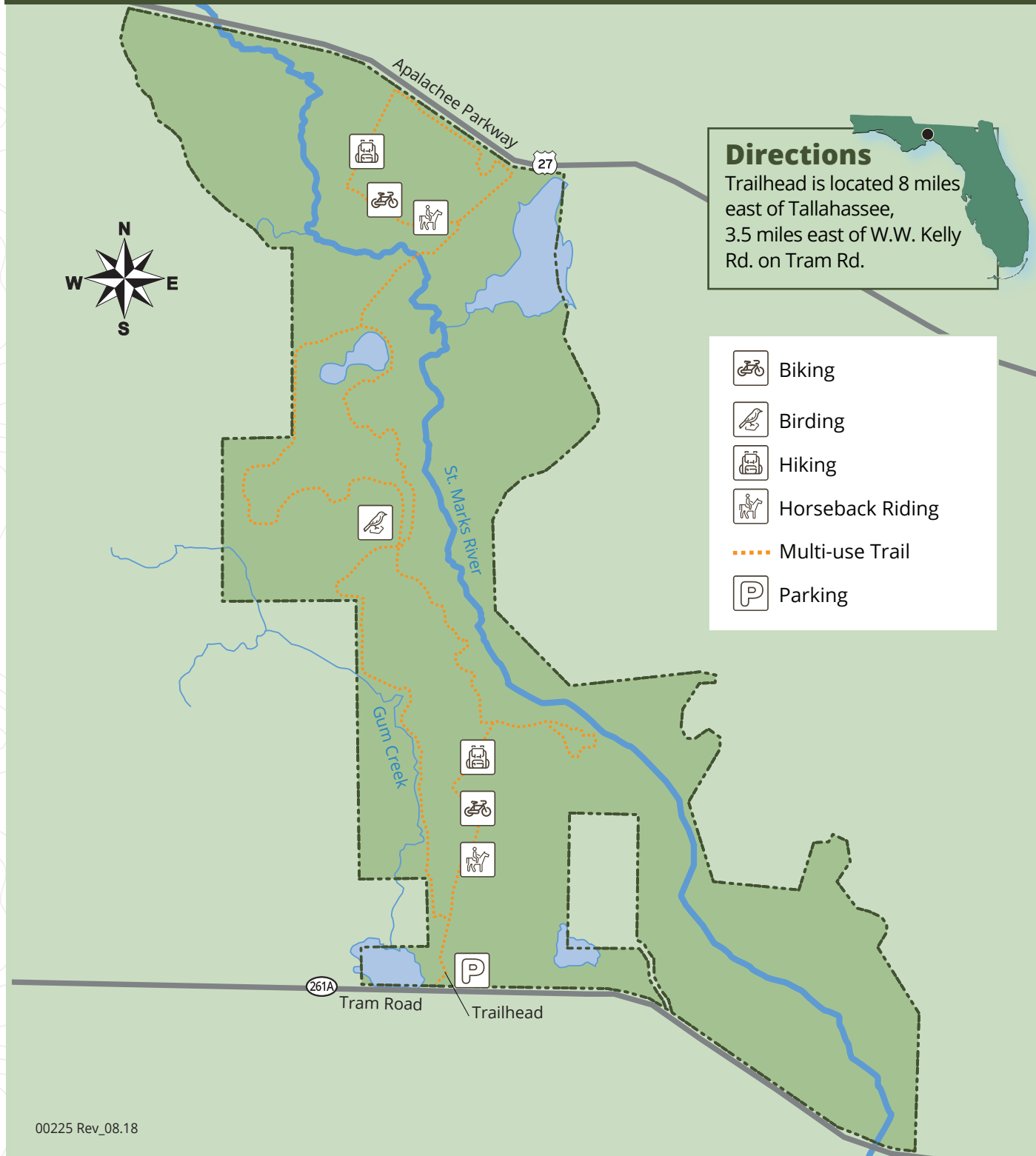
St. Marks River Preserve State Park

EXPERIENCES AND AMENITIES

Nestled along the banks of the St. Marks River headwaters, this park offers a picnic area with an extensive system of trails for hiking, horseback riding and off-road bicycling. A small equestrian trailhead parking area is located at the south end of the park, off Tram Road. The existing road network in the park takes visitors through upland pine forests, hardwood thickets and natural plant communities along the banks of the river. The St. Marks River is not navigable within the park boundaries and is not conducive to canoeing or kayaking.







Wildlife viewing is enjoyed by many park visitors. Turkey and deer tracks crisscross the park roads, fox, raccoon and opossum roam the woods. Birds fill the air with their melodic calls. Imperiled species known to frequent the park include the Florida black bear, gopher tortoise, swallow-tailed kite, wood stork, Southeastern American kestrel and merlin. This park is a birdwatching paradise. A wide variety of wading birds including little blue herons, snowy egrets and white ibis have been observed within the park's basin swamps and the extensive river floodplain swamp.

The Alabama azalea occurs sparingly along the banks of a small creek within the floodplain forest. Hooded pitcherplants, cardinal flower and southern crabapple are other listed plant species that occur in the park.



Directions

Trailhead is located 8 miles east of Tallahassee, 3.5 miles east of W.W. Kelly Rd. on Tram Rd.

-  Biking
-  Birding
-  Hiking
-  Horseback Riding
-  Multi-use Trail
-  Parking