

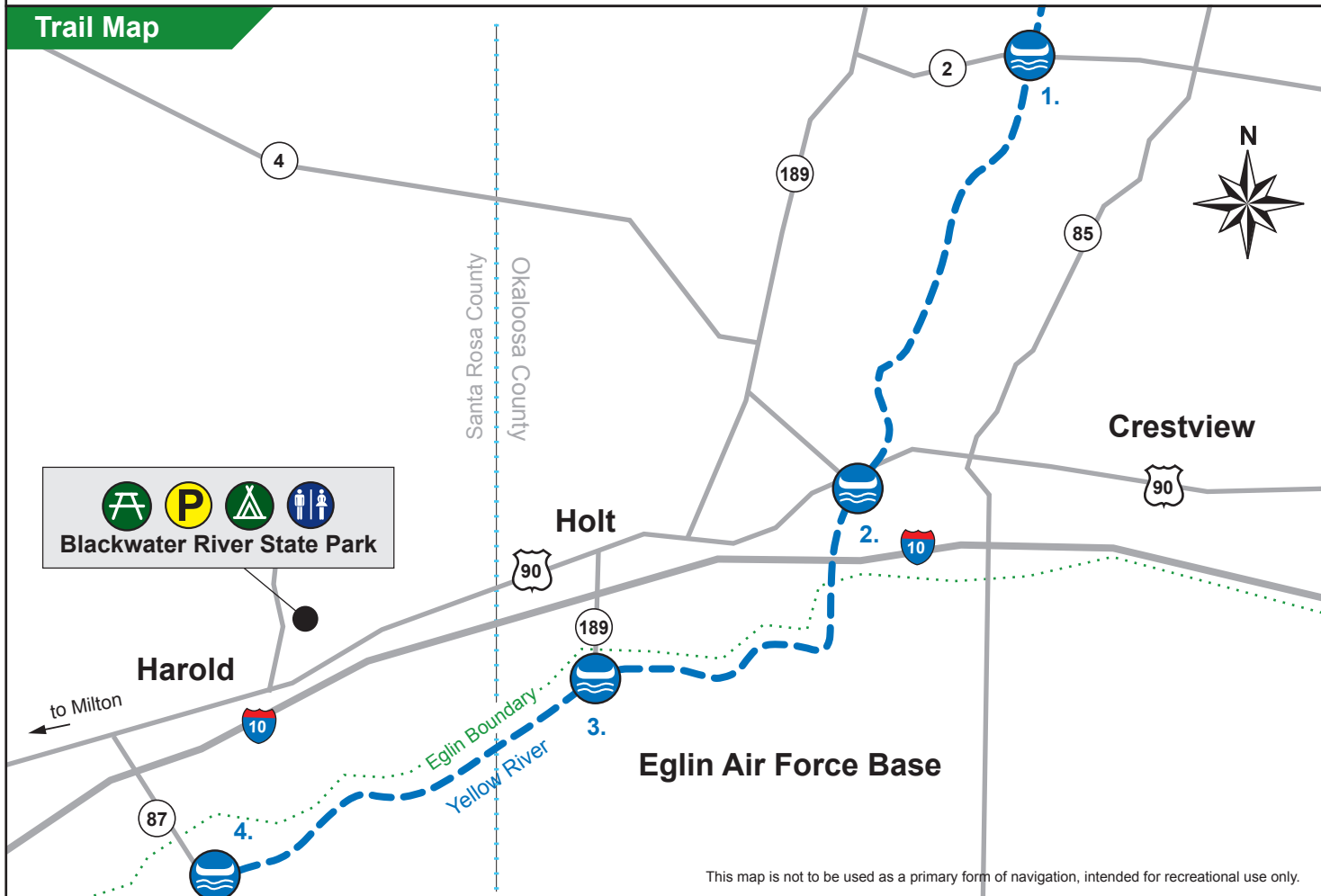
15. Yellow River Canoe Trail

Legend

-  Canoe Launch
-  Rest Rooms
-  Picnic Area
-  Camping
-  Parking



Trail Map



Description

Canoeing, Kayaking • 56 mi. • Intermediate • Current: Avg. (2-3 mph) on lower, to swift (3+) on upper

Located in the western Panhandle near Crestview, this trail offers 56 miles of very pleasant paddling. The Yellow River drains the state's highest elevation. The current is faster than many other Florida rivers because of the river's steeper descent to sea level. In its northern portion near the Alabama state line, the river is quite narrow. It widens as it meanders southward towards its final destination, the Blackwater Bay. This route is for explorers, as you will paddle through untouched territory.

Notes and Precautions: Motorboats are more numerous on the lower section. Be aware of overhanging branches and snags beneath the water that may require technical skill to navigate around.

Landscape & Wildlife: The upper section of the trail is bordered by hardwood forests and high sandy banks. Further downstream, the river widens and becomes more placid as it meanders through cypress-gum swamps. Sandbars can be found on some of the curves. Long sections of the trail, particularly on the upper section, are undeveloped, offering the paddler a glimpse of the Florida early explorers might have seen. Observing wildlife, particularly birds, is an enjoyable part of paddling this trail. Look for turtles sunning on logs over the water, or the large, long-legged wading birds such as the great egret as it stands motionless in the shallow water.

Access/Directions:

1. **SR 2 Bridge:** At Oak Grove 4.5 miles west of SR 85.
2. **US 90 Bridge:** 4 miles west of Crestview. Launch from the graded road .25 mile southwest of the bridge. (17 miles)
3. **Boat Ramp:** From Holt, take SR 189 south 2.5 miles to the river. Launch at private landing. (19 miles)
4. **SR 87 Bridge:** SR 87 leads southeast from US 90, 6 mi. west of Harold. Access is at SR 87 bridge 3 mi. south of I-10. (20 miles)

There may be access points (both public and private) in addition to those listed here. Please remember that some sites require a fee for launching and/or parking.