

BAYOU TECHE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE PADDLING TRAILS

WOOD DUCK PADDLING TRAIL

NEARBY CITIES

Franklin, Garden City, Centerville and Patterson

MILEAGE

Approximately 10 miles round trip

TYPE OF TRAIL

Loop route

SKILL LEVEL

Beginner

DIFFICULTY

Easy

APPROXIMATE PADDLING TIME

5 hours

USUAL CURRENT

None

NOTES & PRECAUTIONS

May through September can be very hot! Bring sunscreen, plenty of water and bug spray.

ACCESS

Fairfax Foster Bailey Boat Launch – From Highway 90, take the Franklin exit 3211. Turn onto Northwest Boulevard. At the four-way stop, take a right onto Chatsworth. After you cross the bridge, take an immediate right onto Willow Street. Take the first right to the Fairfax Foster Bailey Memorial Boat Launch, located under the overpass.

BLACK BEAR PADDLING TRAIL

NEARBY CITIES

Franklin, Garden City, Centerville and Patterson

MILEAGE

Approximately 12 miles round trip

TYPE OF TRAIL

Loop route

SKILL LEVEL

Beginner

DIFFICULTY

Easy

APPROXIMATE PADDLING TIME

6 hours

USUAL CURRENT

None

NOTES & PRECAUTIONS

May through September can be very hot! Bring sunscreen, plenty of water and bug spray. From time to time, canals could become clogged with floating lilies.

ACCESS

Fairfax Foster Bailey Boat Launch – From Highway 90, take the Franklin exit 3211. Turn onto Northwest Boulevard. At the four-way stop, take a right onto Chatsworth. After you cross the bridge, take an immediate right onto Willow Street. Take the first right to the Fairfax Foster Bailey Memorial Boat Launch, located under the overpass.



ALLIGATOR PADDLING TRAIL

NEARBY CITIES

Franklin, Garden City, Centerville and Patterson

MILEAGE

Approximately 10 miles round trip

TYPE OF TRAIL

Loop route

SKILL LEVEL

Beginner

DIFFICULTY

Easy

APPROXIMATE PADDLING TIME

5 hours

USUAL CURRENT

None

NOTES & PRECAUTIONS

May through September can be very hot! Bring sunscreen, plenty of water and bug spray.

ACCESS

Fairfax Foster Bailey Boat Launch – From Highway 90, take the Franklin exit 3211. Turn onto Northwest Boulevard. At the four-way stop, take a right onto Chatsworth. After you cross the bridge, take an immediate right onto Willow Street. Take the first right to the Fairfax Foster Bailey Memorial Boat Launch, located under the overpass.

YELLOW BAYOU PADDLING TRAIL

NEARBY CITIES

Franklin, Garden City, Centerville and Patterson

MILEAGE

Approximately 6 miles round trip

TYPE OF TRAIL

Loop route

SKILL LEVEL

Beginner

DIFFICULTY

Easy

APPROXIMATE PADDLING TIME

3 hours

USUAL CURRENT

None

NOTES & PRECAUTIONS

May through September can be very hot! Bring sunscreen, plenty of water and bug spray.

ACCESS

Verdunville Boat Launch #1 – From Hwy. 90, take the Centerville/Burns Point exit. Head towards Centerville on Hwy. 317. At the red light, turn left onto Hwy. 182. Turn right to cross the Centerville Bridge over Bayou Teche. At the stop sign, turn right onto Hwy. 87. Travel about two miles until you come to a paved road on the left. Turn left and head to the levee. Turn left onto the road on the side of the levee. The boat landing will be approximately one mile on left.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuge (BTNWR), established in 2001, is located in St. Mary Parish in southeast Louisiana. The 9,028 acre refuge is composed of wet bottomland hardwood forests laced with bayous and canals. The primary mission of the refuge is to preserve and manage habitat for the Louisiana black bear, a federally threatened subspecies of the American black bear. The refuge also provides excellent habitat for wading birds, neotropical songbirds, waterfowl, reptiles and amphibians. In addition to fish and wildlife habitat, other objectives include providing environmental education and opportunities for public recreation.

The refuge's waterways set aside for paddling offer a unique area of tranquility for wildlife and visitors alike. Visit the Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuge Web site www.fws.gov/bayouteche for maps and additional information regarding paddling on the refuge.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, and thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 63 Fish & Wildlife Management offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies. For additional information, please contact the Cajun Coast Visitors & Convention Bureau at (800) 256-2931 or visit www.cajuncoast.com.

