U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Okefenokee
National Wildlife Refuge

Upland Hiking Trails at Suwannee Canal Recreation Area

Canal Diggers Trail Length: 0.7 mi, 1 km Loop
Difficulty: Moderate
Follow the remnants of the Suwannee Canal built in 1891 through pine uplands and cypress wetlands to look for signs of gopher tortoises and woodpeckers on this gently sloping up-and-down trail.

Upland Discovery Trail Length: 0.25 mi, 0.5 km Loop
Difficulty: Easy
Walk through pines and palmetto to look for woodpeckers and warblers. Trees marked with a white band indicate roosting or nesting sites for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker.

Chesser Homestead Trail Length: 0.7 mi, 1 km Loop
Difficulty: Easy
This trail loops through woods of oak, palmetto, and Spanish moss around the historic Chesser Island Homestead.

Deerstand Trail Length: 0.5 mi, 0.75 km One way
Difficulty: Easy
Enjoy a stroll through pine uplands from the Chesser Homestead to the Chesser Island Boardwalk parking area.

Chesser Island Boardwalk Length: 0.75 mi, 1 km One way
Difficulty: Easy
Stroll the Chesser Island Boardwalk, made of a recycled wood-plastic composite, to the 40-foot Owl's Roost Observation Tower for a birds-eye view of Seagrove Lake and Chesser Prairie. No Pets Allowed.

Cane Pole Trail Length: 0.35 mi, 0.5 km One way
Difficulty: Easy
Traverse 100 feet of the Suwannee Canal into wetland prairie, serenaded by cricket and pig frogs to see a sandhill crane or red-shouldered hawk.

Longleaf Pine Trail Length: 4.0 mi, 6.5 km One way
Difficulty: Easy
Explore the longest trail in the refuge as it winds back and forth across the entrance road while listening for frogs and birds that make their home in the wetlands along the trail’s edge. Portions of the trail may be flooded/under water seasonally.

Phernetton Trail Length: 1.3 mi, 2 km Loop
Difficulty: Easy
Look for clusters of fox squirrel nests in the trees above you while viewing wildlife in the pine forest community.

Ridleys Island Trail Length: 0.16 mi, 0.3 km One way
Difficulty: Easy
Explore and view the remnants of past wildfires along this short boardwalk trail that is a spur off of the Chesser Homestead Trail.