

Ghost River Section Trail Mileage and Description

The Wolf River Conservancy added 6 blue numbered signs along the Ghost River trail section to mark important points and mileages. Each of these spots also provides a regrouping and interpretation location for group trips.

Lagrange Bridge Put-in to Sign #1 End of Levee (1.48 miles): Sign #1 marks the end of a levee that forms a lake on river right.. The LaGrange put-in is the beginning of the 4,000-acre Beasley Plantation that was purchased by a developer/timber company in 1995 for \$3 million. The Wolf River Conservancy, with its state partners and donors, rescued the property from the developers for \$4 million, preventing the stripping of the timber and the addition of ugly “ranchette” cabins and trailers on stilts downstream along the entire left bank for the next 5.56 miles. Below #1, the Wolf starts to get wilder.

Sign #1 End of Levee to Sign #2 Mineral Slough (1.49 miles) (total distance paddled to Mineral Slough: 2.97 miles): Sign #2 marks the entrance on river left of Mineral Slough; at higher flows paddlers can paddle up the creek into an open area that we call “Cathedral Gardens”. If beaver dams didn’t block your passage, you could paddle all the way up to the Ghost River boardwalk.

Sign #2 Mineral Slough to Sign #3 Lunch Spot (.51 miles) (total distance to Lunch Spot: 3.48 miles): Sign #3 marks the “lunch spot”. The sand bar just upstream in the chute on river right provides a dry, sandy spot to have lunch.

Sign # 3 Lunch Spot to Sign #4 Ghost Trail Entrance (1.48 miles) (total distance to Ghost Trail Entrance: 4.96 miles): Sign #4 marks the entrance on river left to the Ghost River Trail. Look for a brown sign and an orange triangle. The narrow, meandering river channel is especially beautiful in this section.

Sign #4 Ghost Trail Entrance to Sign #5 Spirit Lake Entrance (.3 miles) (total distance 5.26 miles to Spirit Lake entrance): Until this entrance was discovered and the trail marked in 1991 most visitors would become lost trying to find their way through and then out. You enter a narrow twisting trail **to your left**, which is the only way through this large standing water cypress/tupelo gum swamp. **Do not continue straight ahead!**

#5 Spirit Lake entrance to #6 Spirit Lake Exit (1.79 miles) (total distance to Spirit Lake exit 7.05 miles): Sign #5 marks the beginning of a small version of Reelfoot – a lake-like area known as Spirit Lake. The fairly obvious channel/trail meanders west across acres of spatterdock, itea, swamp alder, cypress and tupelo gum trees.

#6 to Bateman Bridge take-out. (.99 mile) (total distance from LaGrange to Bateman Rd: 8.04 miles): The river passes the mouth of Mt. Tena Creek. Its sands have restricted the flow of the Wolf to form Spirit Lake. (Mt. Tena Creek flows over an outcropping of the Memphis Sands aquifer, the source of our drinking water). Starting with narrow channels through the forest, the Wolf then opens into beautiful wetland meadows reminiscent of the Everglades, ending at the take-out.