

LOCATION

Off-road bicycle trails in the Croom Tract of the Withlacoochee State Forest are located in Hernando County northeast of Brooksville. To reach all three trailheads from Exit 301 off Interstate 75, travel east about one mile on State Road 50 to the traffic light at Croom-Rital Road, turn north and proceed about five miles onto Croom-Rital Road (about one mile from Silver Lake Recreation Area). The primary trailhead is centrally located on Croom Road (Forest Road 6) adjacent to the Tucker Hill Fire tower. Turn east onto Croom Road from US Highway 41 about two miles until you see the fire tower on your right. The second and third trailheads are located further east along Croom Road at the intersection of Forest Road 7 and at the intersection of the Withlacoochee State Trail.

This area is Withlacoochee State Trail and trailhead for the Croom Off-Road Bicycle Trails and one hundred yards past this trailhead, keep left at the "Y" intersection onto Croom Road. Continue about two miles to the next trailhead on the southwest corner of the intersection of Croom Road and Forest Road 7. parking for the final trailhead is located east of Tucker Hill fire tower. The Florida Forest Service is not responsible for articles lost, stolen or damaged.

DESCRIPTION

The off-road bicycle trails are dry-to-damp, all-weather trails that wind through Florida's longleaf pine and scrub oak hills, live oak thickets, hardwood hammocks, past creek bottoms and cypress ponds. Particular areas of interest are the area's ravines, prairies and abandoned rock mines. Wildlife found in the area include deer, quail, grey squirrels and bobcats.

DESIGNATION

The Yellow Loop is about 12 miles and the Blue Trail is about 32 miles long. Red trails are connector trails and green marks are bailout points. Colored 4" circle blazes (corresponding with trail colors) along with signs showing the international symbol for bicyclists mark the trails. Supplemental information signs are placed where needed.

The Croom Tract also contains Hiking (marked with 2"x6" blazes) and Horse (marked by a 6" band) Trails. Hikers may walk on horse or off-road bicycle trails and you may encounter hikers or equestrians at trailheads and trail crossings. Please be courteous to hikers and horseback riders. Allow hikers and riders to pass you on trails designated for them. Step off the trail and downhill from passing horses. Stand quietly and listen for special instructions from the rider.

Bicycles are allowed only on designated bicycle trails and open, designated vehicle roads on the Croom Tract of the Withlacoochee State Forest. Riders must not travel cross-country, on fire lines, hiking or horse trails or on closed roads.

All dogs must be kept on a leash and under control at all times, especially when passing other trail users.

WATER

Drinking (potable) water is available at the parking area at Tucker Hill Fire tower trailhead. For longer, hot weather or overnight riding trips, you may wish to cache supplemental water at forest road crossings prior to riding.

www.FDACS.gov/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/Our-Forests/State-Forests/Withlacoochee-State-Forest

CAMPING

Overnight primitive camping is permitted only within the camp zones designated by yellow-banded trees. These are located north of the Tucker Hill trailhead and north of Croom Road between Forest Road 9 and Nobleton Road. Nearby campgrounds with bathhouses are located at Hog Island Recreation Area and Silver Lake Recreation Area. To reserve sites in the campgrounds please visit www.FloridaStateForests.ReserveAmerica.com or call 877-879-3859.

TIPS

- Stick to the path and avoid trampling the sensitive vegetation around you.
- Keep a bandanna on hand when biking. It has many uses: sponge, napkin, bandage, etc.
- If you are riding a lengthy trail, be sure to take along sunscreen, insect repellent and a container of water.
- Wear good bicycling shoes. If you have to break them in, do it before the ride.
- Check your bicycle for maintenance problems and your repair kit and supplies for needed items before you arrive.
- Pace yourself. If you aren't an experienced biker, don't take on a 32 mile trail your first time out. Take your time, there is plenty to observe out on the trails.
- For your safety always yield, pass with care and keep to a safe pace.
- Approach each bend as if someone were around the corner.
- Always wear a helmet.

CROOM OFF-ROAD BICYCLE TRAILS

Withlacoochee State Forest



Florida Forest Service management plans include prescribed burning most months of the year. For personal safety reasons, area users should contact the FFS for information and location of burn areas, (352) 797-4100.

Withlacoochee Visitor Center
15003 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34601
Phone: (352) 797-4140 Fax: (352) 797-4108
www.FDACS.gov

RULES OF THE TRAIL

- Only cooking fires are allowed in the primitive camp zones. Bonfires are not permitted. Fires may be prohibited during times of drought and high wildfire potential.
- Dig a six-inch deep hole for human waste well away from the camp zone. Be sure to cover it completely.
- Please help keep the primitive camp zones in their natural states by packing out all litter. Do not bury or burn litter. Report any irregularities to the Visitor Center.
- Unlicensed off-road motorcycles and ATVs (all-terrain vehicles) are not allowed on the Withlacoochee State Forest, with the exception of the Croom Motorcycle Area. All other vehicles must be licensed and travel only on open, designated vehicle roads.
- All groups using the Withlacoochee State Forest are required to obtain a Special Use Permit from the Visitor Center.

Use of trails is not recommended during the muzzleloading gun and general gun portions of the annual hunting season. Trail users should wear brightly colored clothing when riding during all portions of the hunting season. Dates vary from year to year and from tract to tract on the state forest.

Much of the Withlacoochee State Forest is divided into Wildlife Management Areas administered by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. All rules and regulations pertaining to firearms, dogs, game and non-game animals and other wildlife management area regulations must be followed. Hunting rules and regulations for the Wildlife Management Areas are available at www.myfwc.com or the Withlacoochee Visitor Center.

The Florida Forest Service established these off-road bicycle trails in cooperation with the South West Association of Mountainbike Peddlers (SWAMP) for the enjoyment of riders and nature lovers. For more information about riding, SWAMP or volunteering contact the Visitor Center.



SWAMP
mountain
bike club
www.SWAMPCLUB.org

ALL TRAILS
ESTABLISHED AND
MAINTAINED BY
SWAMP MOUNTAIN
BIKE CLUB.

Trail Legend

- FOREST ROADS
- YELLOW LOOP
Approx. 12 miles
- BLUE LOOP
Approx. 24 miles
- RED CONNECTOR TRAILS
Approx. 7 miles
- GREEN BAILOUTS/SHORTCUTS
Approximately 1 mile

In case of
emergency: Call 911

Croom Mountain Bike Trails

JOIN SWAMP TO HELP SUPPORT THESE TRAILS

