



COOK'S LAKE TO SCATTERMAN PADDLING TRAIL

This 4.8-mile loop trail gives visitors a chance to paddle through the beautiful moss-draped cypress-tupelo slough in the biologically diverse Big Thicket National Preserve. It is also home to the Neches River Rally, a group paddling event held each September.

GETTING THERE

Access site:

Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA) Saltwater Barrier Boat Ramp
6790 Bigner Road Beaumont, TX (DD) 30.15523, -94.11588

From US Highway 69/96 in Beaumont take the Lucas Drive Exit and head east approximately one mile. Turn left heading North on Bigner Road and continue straight on Bigner Road until reaching the boat ramp in approximately 1.5 mile

TRAIL DESCRIPTION & LANDMARKS

Trail Length: 4.8 mile loop

Float Times: ~2- 5 hours *Depending on wind speed, water levels, and time spent exploring*

The paddling trail takes paddlers from the LNVA Saltwater Barrier Boat Ramp up the Neches River taking the left fork to Pine Island Bayou and into Cook's Lake. This looped paddling trail gives paddlers a chance to paddle through a moss-draped cypress/tupelo slough in the biologically diverse Big Thicket National Preserve to Scatterman Lake and back to the Neches River. The seemingly short trail can actually become an all-day adventure since Cook's Lake and Scatterman Lake are abandoned river channels that have become oxbow lakes which are fun to explore. This trail is relatively flat and very close to sea level giving paddlers a fairly easy paddle upstream; flow is generally quite low.

SHUTTLES & RENTALS

Services offered: Kayak Rentals, Canoe Rentals, Shuttle Services, Maps, Paddles, Lifejackets, Guided or Self-Guided Day Trips and Overnight Trips. Services will vary with each outfitter.

- Big Thicket Outfitters 115 Connolly Road, Vidor, TX 77662 (409) 786-1884; bigthicketoutfitters.com
- Eastex Canoe Trails/Eastex Outfitters 50 Turtle Creek Dr., Silsbee, TX 77656 (409) 385-4700; eastexcanoes.com
- Sharp's Canoe & Kayak Rentals 8632 Billy's Drive, Silsbee, TX 77656 (409) 385-6241
- Shawl Canoe School Mary Carter; (409) 791-0040

FISHING

The river and oxbow lakes support black (largemouth and spotted) bass. A favorite fish eaten by locals is catfish and blue, flathead (also called yellow), and channel catfish are present. This system supports a variety of sunfish, including bluegill, green, and longear sunfish. Spotted, alligator, and long-nose gar all inhabit these waters. Small lures such as jigs, plastic worms, spinner baits and light-line are recommended.

WILDLIFE AND ECOLOGY

The riparian corridor of the Neches River supports a great diversity of plant and animal life along the river and beyond the banks. Birds spotted here include: herons, egrets, cormorants, barred owl, belted kingfisher, osprey, pileated woodpecker, prothonotary warbler, roseate spoonbill, swallow-tailed kite, and wood duck. A variety of plants can be found along the river as well, including bald cypress, black tupelo, loblolly pine, oaks, river birch, ferns, cardinal flower, spider lilies, and Neches River rose mallow. Common wildlife encountered include bullfrog, leopard frog, opossum, red-eared slider, raccoon, river otter, American alligator, alligator snapping turtle, and a variety of water snakes.

LNVA SALTWATER BOAT RAMP

The primary trail head is located at the LNVA Saltwater Barrier. The Lower Neches River Authority operates and maintains the Barrier which was completed in 2003. The public boat ramp, public restrooms, picnic area, walking trail, and stocked fishing ponds provides the public world class facilities as well as increased access to the Neches River and the Big Thicket National Preserve.

Big Thicket National Preserve Visitor's Center
(409) 951-6700
www.nps.gov/bith/index.htm

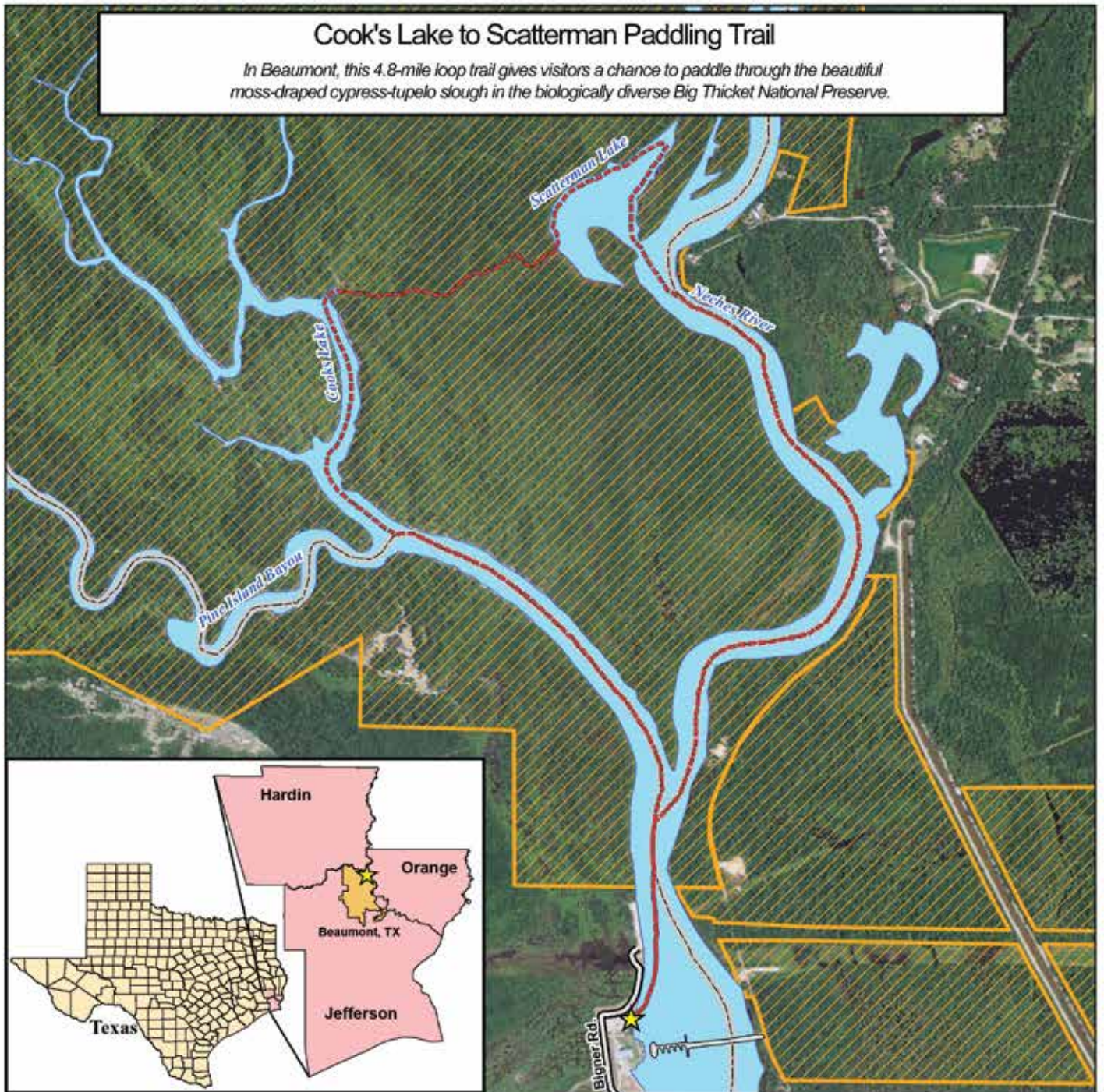
Big Thicket Association/Neches River Adventures
(Eco Tours on-board the Ivory Bill)
(409) 651- 5326
www.bigthicket.org





Cook's Lake to Scatterman Paddling Trail

In Beaumont, this 4.8-mile loop trail gives visitors a chance to paddle through the beautiful moss-draped cypress-tupelo slough in the biologically diverse Big Thicket National Preserve.



Legend

- Access Point
- Paddling Route
- Salt Water Barrier
- Water Bodies
- Big Thicket National Preserve
- County Boundary

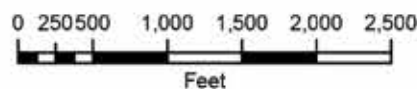
Trail Length: 4.0 Miles

Water Access Location:
 Lower Neches Valley Authority
 Salt Water Barrier
 6790 Bigner Rd.
 Beaumont, Texas 77708

Latitude: 30° 9' 19" N
Longitude: 94° 6' 58" W



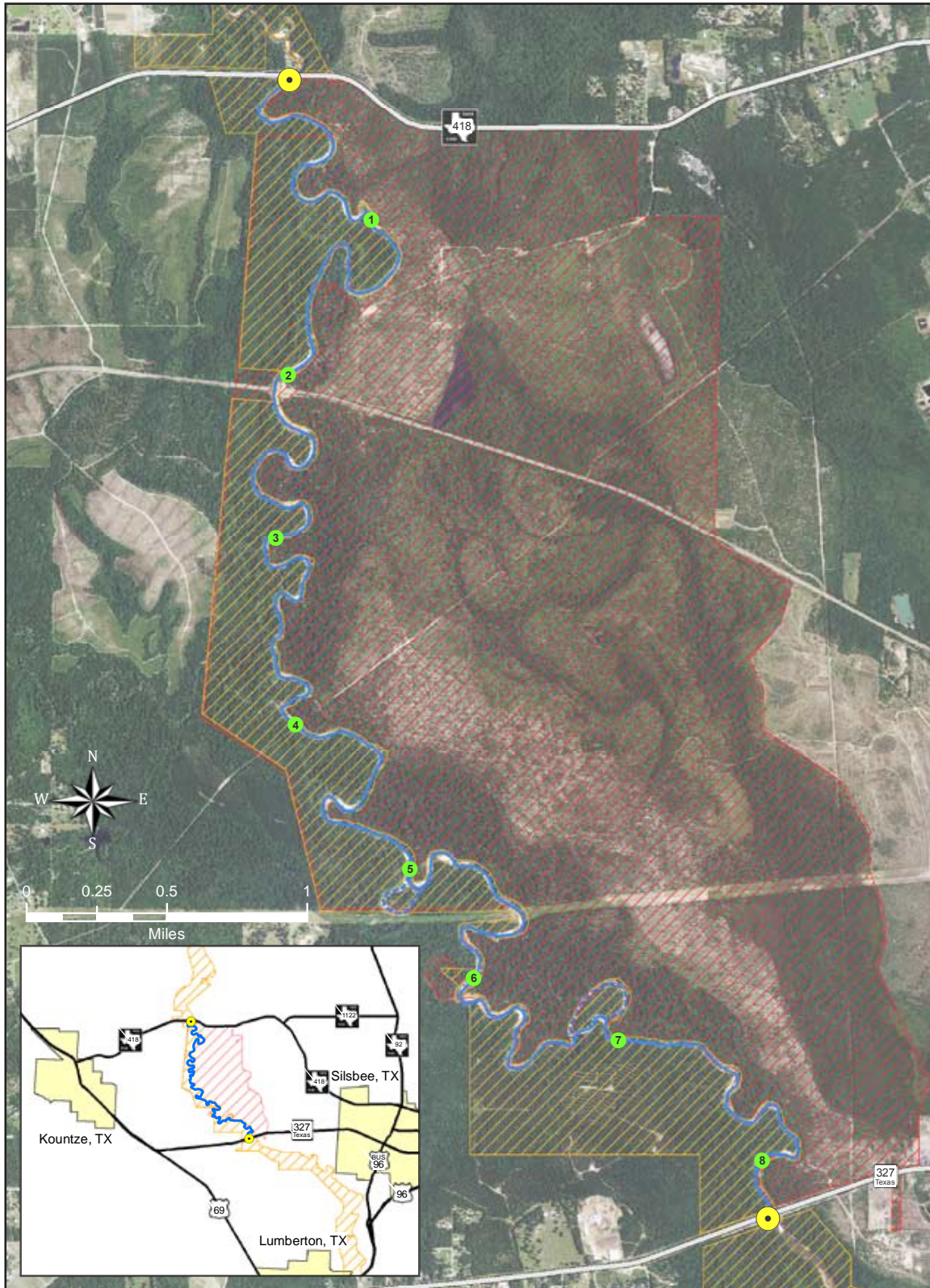
Created By: Aaron Friar
 Data Sources: Beaumont Planning Department,
 Big Thicket National Preserve, TNRI
 Date: 7/22/2013



Village Creek 1-Paddling Route



FM 418 to SH 327



Trail Length: 8.6 Miles

Water Access Locations:
 1.) FM 418 - Latitude 30°23'52.09"N
 Longitude 94°15'52.76"W

Directions: From Kountze on US 69, take FM 418 East for approximately 3.2 miles to Village Creek; turn right onto launch site road before crossing the bridge.






From Silsbee on Business 96, take FM 418 West for approximately 6.9 miles to Village Creek; turn left onto launch site road after crossing the bridge.

2.) SH 327 - Latitude 30°20'49.30"N
 Longitude 94°14'20.58"W

Directions: From Kountze on US 69, take SH 327 East for approximately 2.1 miles to Village Creek; turn right onto launch site road before crossing the bridge.

From Silsbee on Business 96, take SH 327 West for approximately 3.6 miles to Village Creek; turn left onto launch site road after crossing the bridge.

Legend

-  Access Point
-  Mile Marker
-  River Stretch
-  Road
-  Big Thicket National Preserve Boundary
-  Roy E. Larsen Sandyland Sanctuary



Village Creek 2-Paddling Route

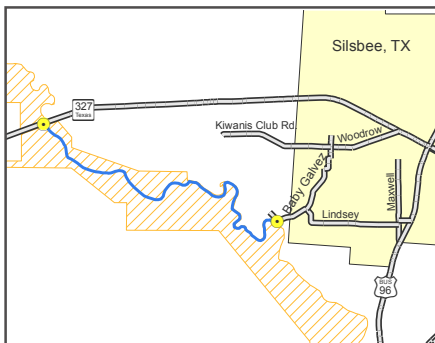


SH 327 to Baby Galvez



Legend

- Access Point
- Mile Marker
- River Stretch
- Road
- Big Thicket National Preserve Boundary



Trail Length: 3.5 Miles

Water Access Locations:

1.) SH 327 - Latitude 30°20'49.30"N
Longitude 94°14'20.58"W

2.) Baby Galvez - Latitude 30°18'14.63"N
Longitude 94°11'56.87"W

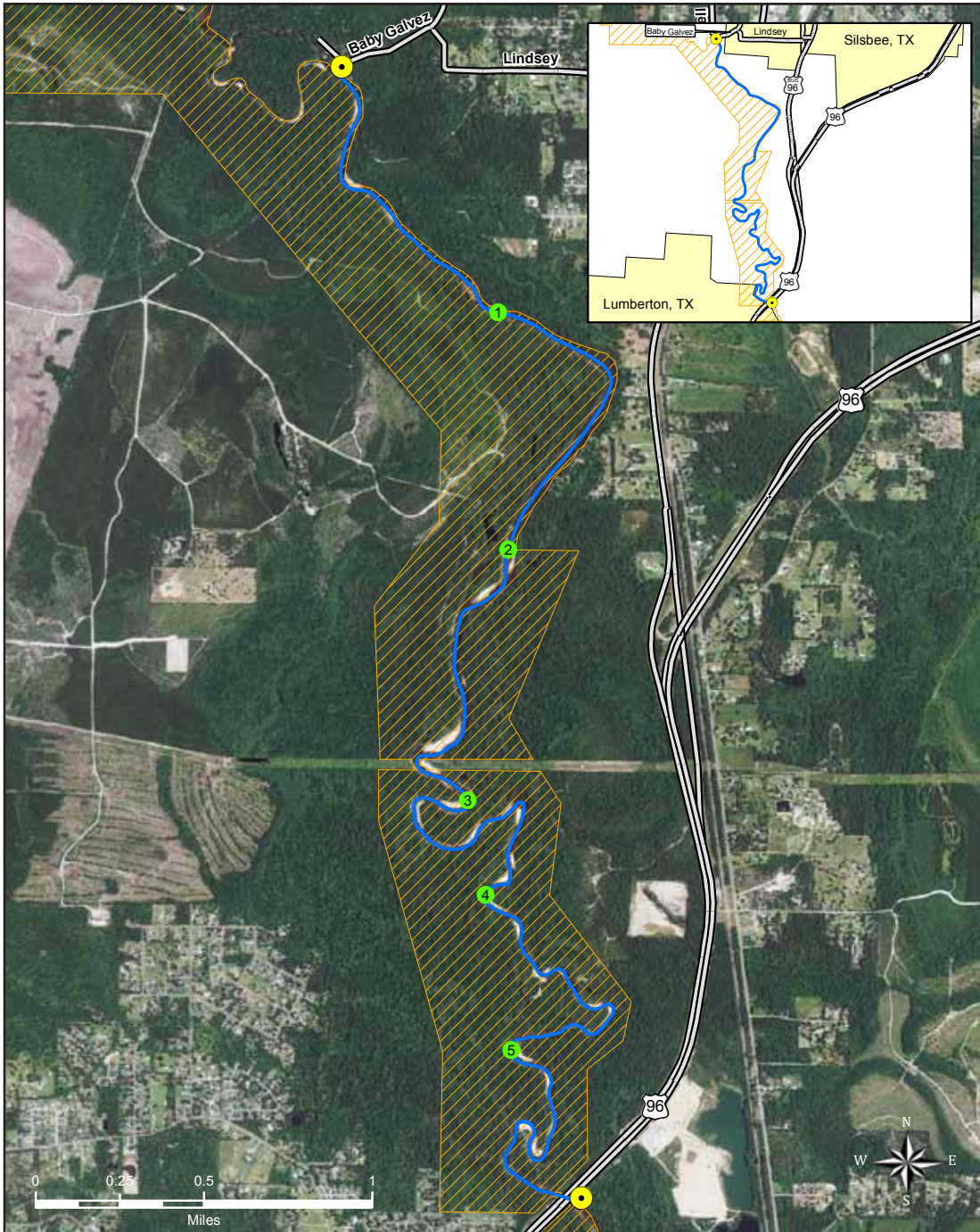
Directions: From Kountze on US 69, take SH 327 East for approximately 2.1 miles to Village Creek; turn right onto launch site road before crossing the bridge.

From Silsbee on Business 96, take SH 327 West for approximately 3.6 miles to Village Creek; turn left onto launch site road after crossing the bridge.

Directions: From Silsbee on Business 96, take Lindsey Rd. West for approximately 0.1 miles to Maxwell Dr., turn left and go one block and turn right back onto Lindsey Rd., continue straight for approximately 0.9 miles until it turns into Baby Galvez Rd. Follow Baby Galvez until reaching the boat launch.

Village Creek 3-Paddling Route

Baby Galvez to US 96



Trail Length: 5.9 Miles

Water Access Locations:

1.) Baby Galvez - Latitude 30°18'14.63"N
Longitude 94°11'56.87"W






Directions: From Silsbee on Business 96, take Lindsey Rd. West for approximately 0.1 miles to Maxwell Dr., turn left and go one block and turn right back onto Lindsey Rd., continue straight for approximately 0.9 miles until it turns into Baby Galvez Rd. Follow Baby Galvez until reaching the boat launch.

2.) US 96 - Latitude 30°17'17.72"N
Longitude 94°11'29.55"W

Directions: From Lumberton on US 96 North, go approximately 2 miles to Village Creek; turn right onto launch site road after crossing the Village Creek bridge

From Silsbee on US 96 South, go approximately 4 miles to Village Creek; turn right onto launch site road before crossing the Village Creek bridge

Legend

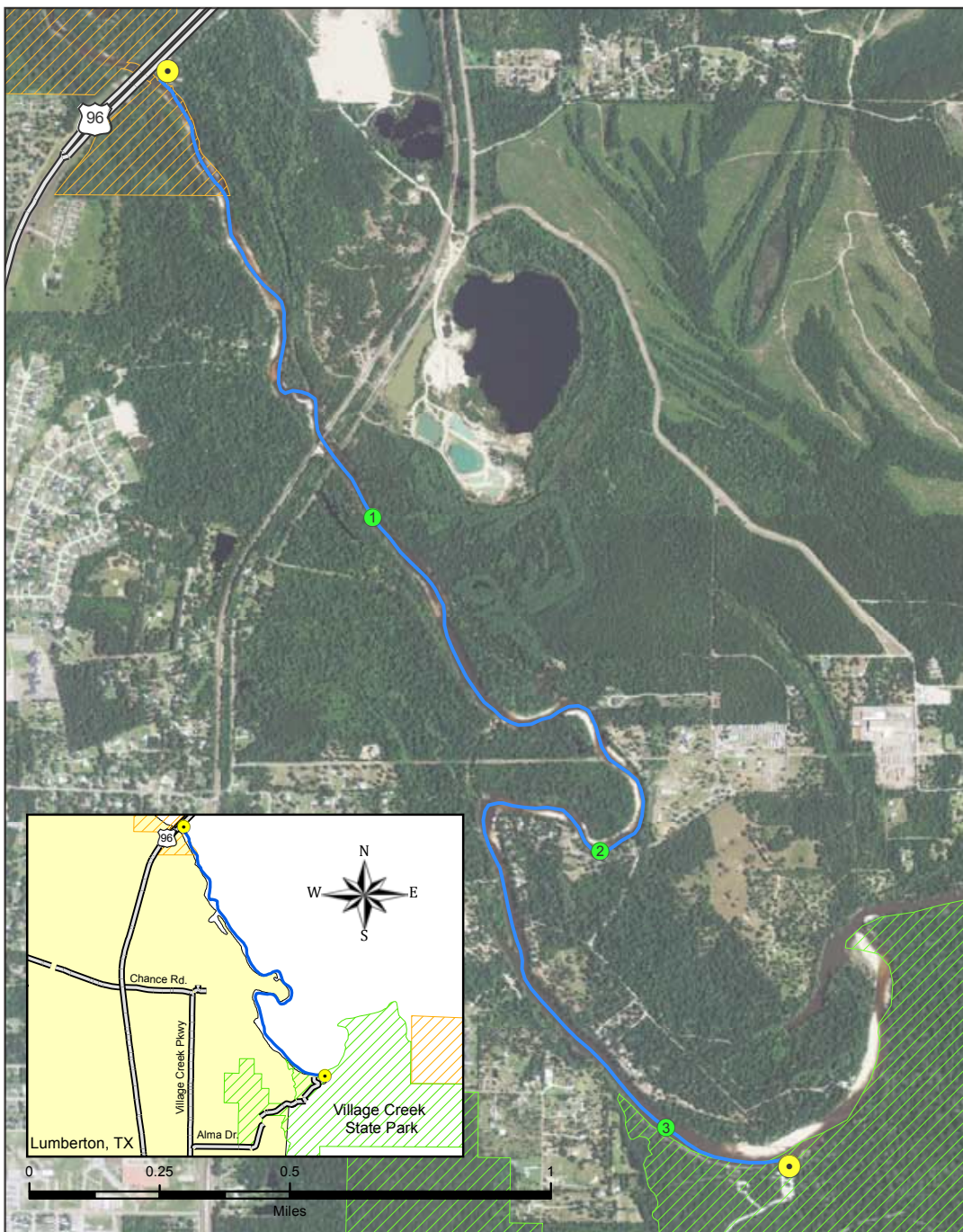
-  Access Point
-  Mile Marker
-  River Stretch
-  Road
-  Big Thicket National Preserve Boundary



Village Creek 4-Paddling Route



US 96 to Village Creek State Park



Trail Length: 3.2 Miles

Water Access Locations:

- 1.) US 96 - Latitude 30°17'17.72"N
Longitude 94°11'29.55"W

Directions: From Lumberton on US 96 North, go approximately 2 miles to Village Creek; turn right onto launch site road after crossing the Village Creek bridge

From Silsbee on US 96 South, go approximately 4 miles to Village Creek; turn right onto launch site road before crossing the Village Creek bridge

- 2.) Village Creek State Park -
Latitude 30°15'20.46
Longitude 94°10'14.55"W

Directions: From Beaumont, take US Highway 69/96 North; take Mitchell Road exit onto Mitchell Road (just before the US Highway 69/96 split). Go approximately 0.4 miles on the access road and turn east (right) onto Mitchell Road. Then turn immediately north (left) onto FM 3513 (Village Creek Parkway). Go approximately 2 miles and turn east (right) on Alma Drive. Cross the railroad tracks (veer to the left) and go 0.5 miles to the park entrance. Stop at the park Headquarters to pay entry and get directions to the access site.

From Silsbee on US 96 South, go approximately 6.1 miles to Chance Rd. in Lumberton. Turn left on Chance Rd. and go 0.6 miles before turning right onto Village Creek Parkway. Go approximately 1.3 miles and turn east (left) on Alma Drive. Cross the railroad tracks (veer to the left) and go 0.5 miles to the park entrance.

Legend

- Access Point
- Mile Marker
- River Stretch
- Road
- Big Thicket National Preserve Boundary
- Village Creek State Park