



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Central Florida Habitat Assessment Benchmark Sites



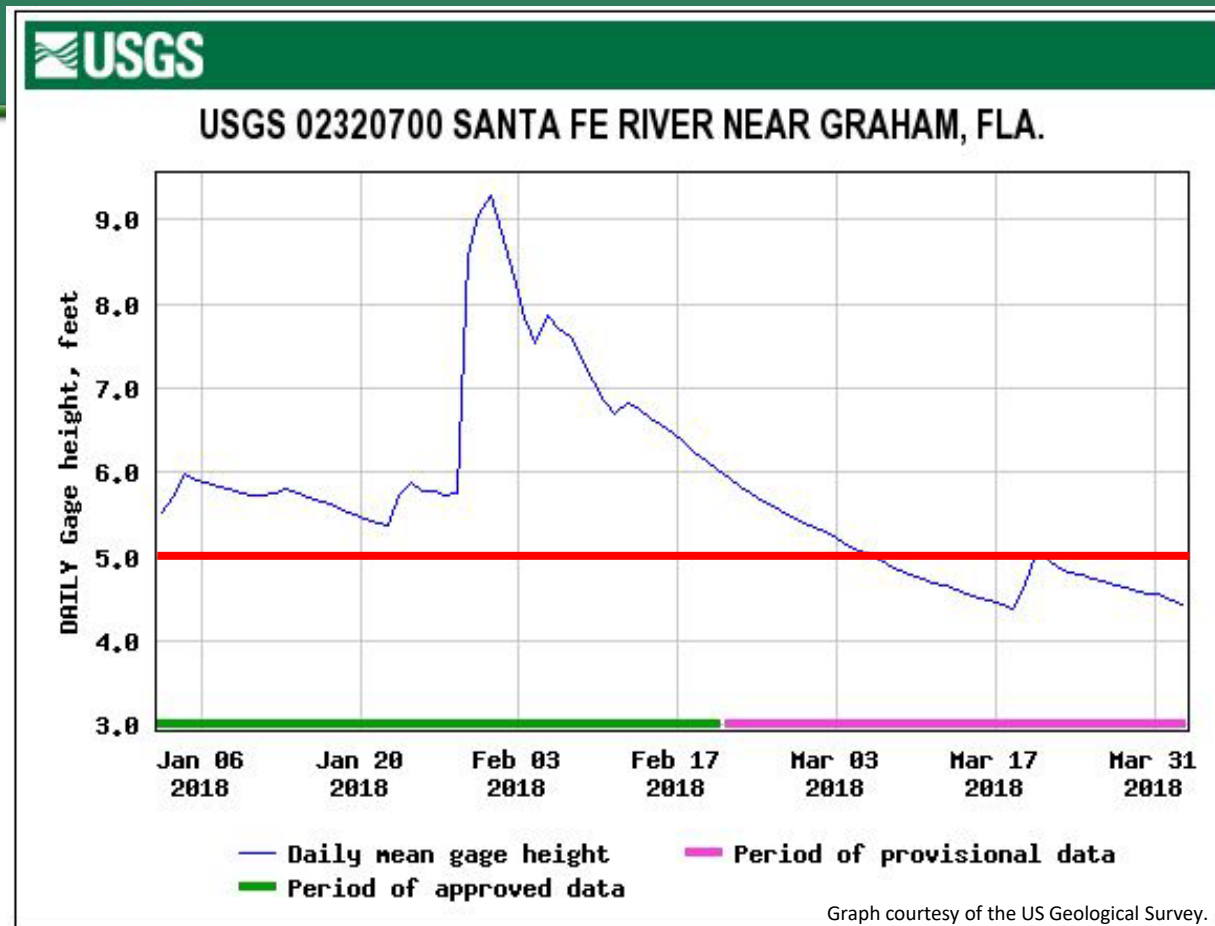
Aquatic Ecology and Quality Assurance

June 2024



Procedure

- Evaluate each site per SOP FT3100, "Stream and River Habitat Assessment," using forms FD 9000-3, FD 9000-4, and FD 9000-5. It is recommended that you use the most current editions of the forms and the SOP, found here: <https://floridadep.gov/dear/quality-assurance/content/sop-forms>
- **Work independently.**
- Analysts are strongly encouraged to conduct assessments within 6 months of the testing event announcement and at flow conditions akin to those when DEP established the benchmark sites.
- Submit all completed forms to the DEP Aquatic Ecology and Quality Assurance section (AEQAs) in Tallahassee.
- The range for a passing score is +/- 10 points from the predetermined consensus score. However, consideration will be given to scores outside this range if they were caused by different conditions at the time of sampling compared to conditions when the consensus score was decided (i.e., higher/lower water level, velocity, etc.) and sufficiently documented.
- Analysts must pass 3 Habitat Assessments but must test at all 5 sites.
- Once scores have been reviewed, analysts will receive notice of passing or failing from AEQAs.
- Analysts should take photos to document stream conditions at the time of assessment. Photos may be submitted to AEQAs after initial determination of passing/failing if an analyst believes their score for a given site is out of the +/- 10-point range due to justifiable reasons.

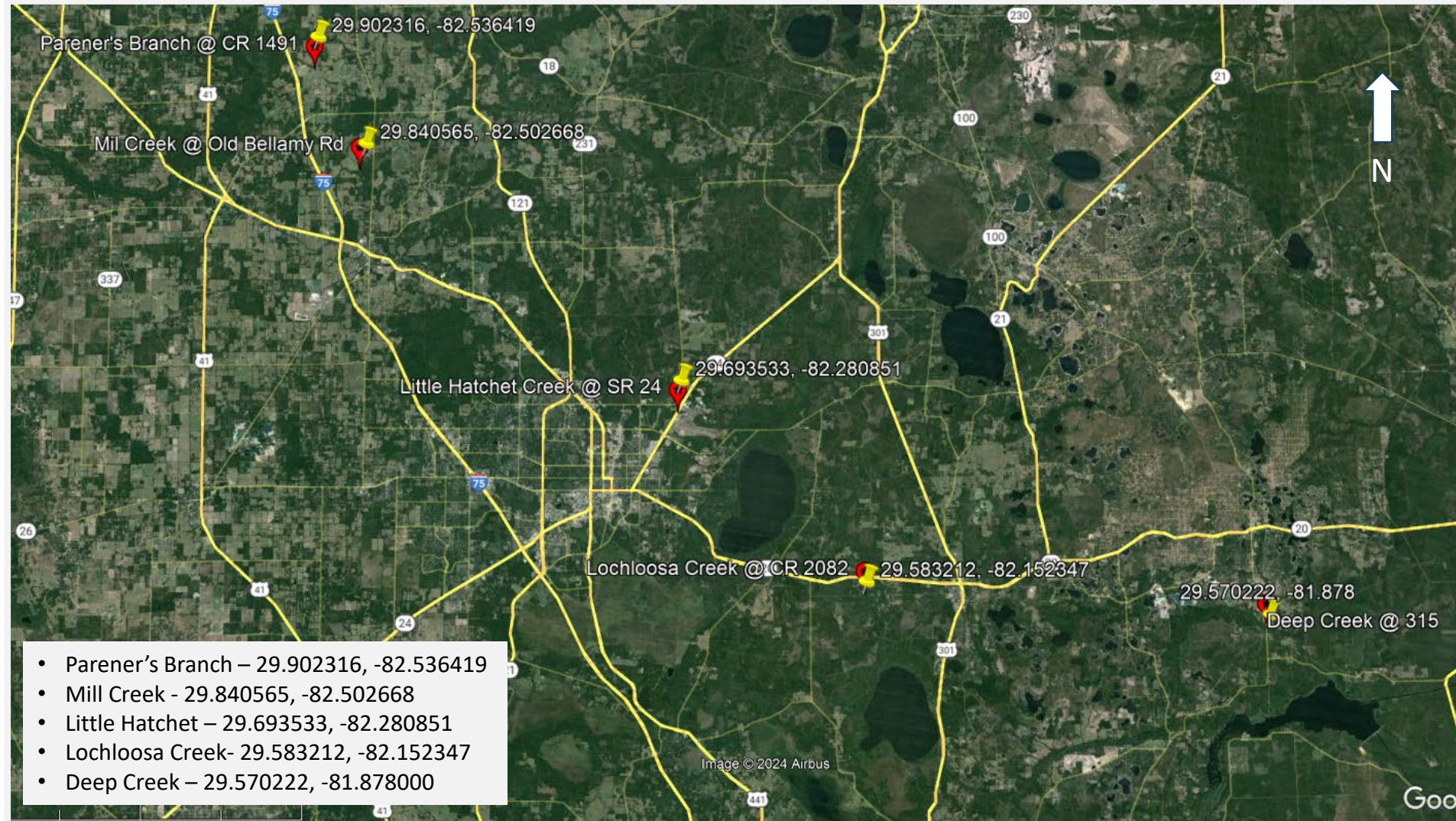


Consensus scores for these Central Region sites were established on March 7-8, 2018, and revisited in May 2024. The red line on the graph above shows the recommended gage height for testing based on a stream in the area. **We strongly suggest performing testing at similar water levels** to ensure comparable conditions. In all cases, it is critical to document conditions at the time of testing with photos and notes.

** Conditions below 4.5 ft may lack adequate flow for testing purposes.*



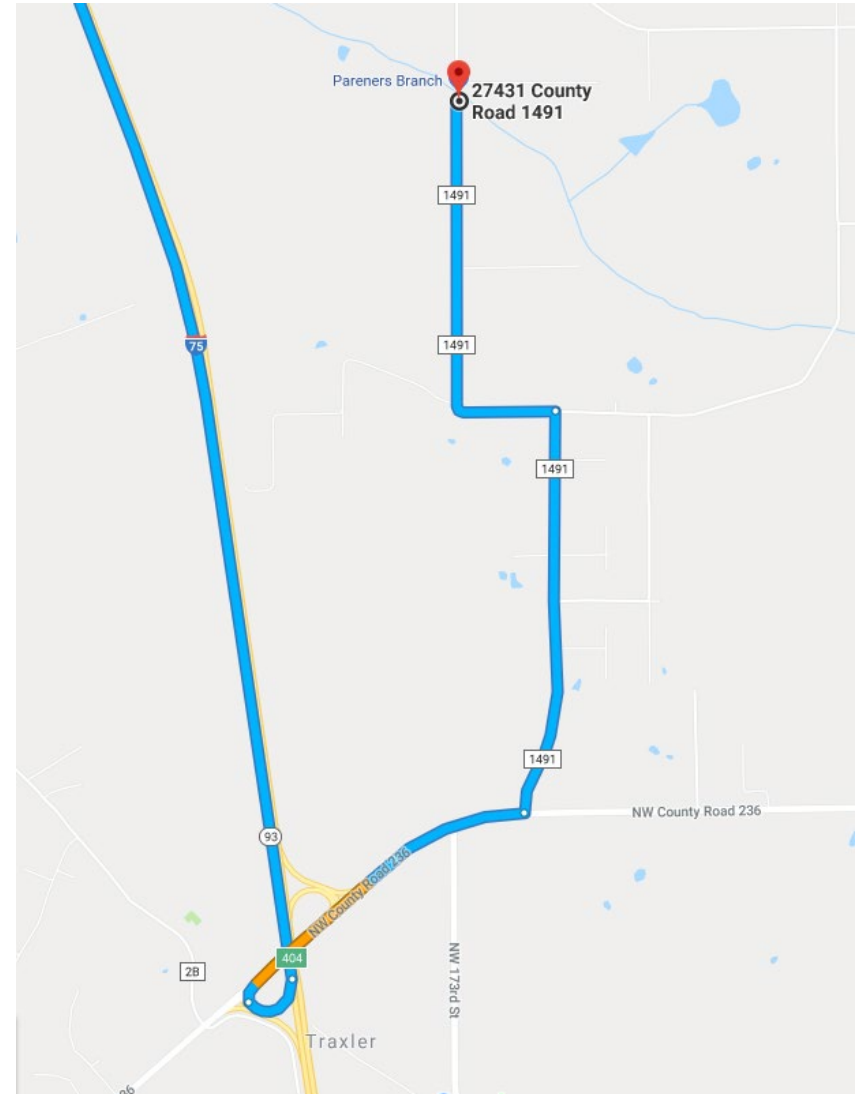
Overview Map of Central Habitat Testing Sites





Pareners Branch @ CR 1491

- **Region:** Central
- **County:** Alachua
- **Lat/Longs:** 29.902316, -82.536419
- **Directions:** From Interstate 75 N or S, take the Lake Butler exit (exit 404). Turn east onto NW County Road 236 (signs for Santa Fe/Lake Butler). In approximately 0.9 miles, turn left onto Co Rd 1491. In 1.1 miles, turn left onto Co Rd. 1491/NW 262nd Ave. Continue to follow Co Rd 1491 for 1.1 miles. Destination will be on the right.





Pareners Branch @ CR 1491

- **Directions:** Park on the SE side of bridge. 0 m mark starts about 20 m below bridge.
- **Homeowner:** Jane Nesbit



Park on east side of road.



Pareners Branch @ CR 1491



0 m flags looking downstream

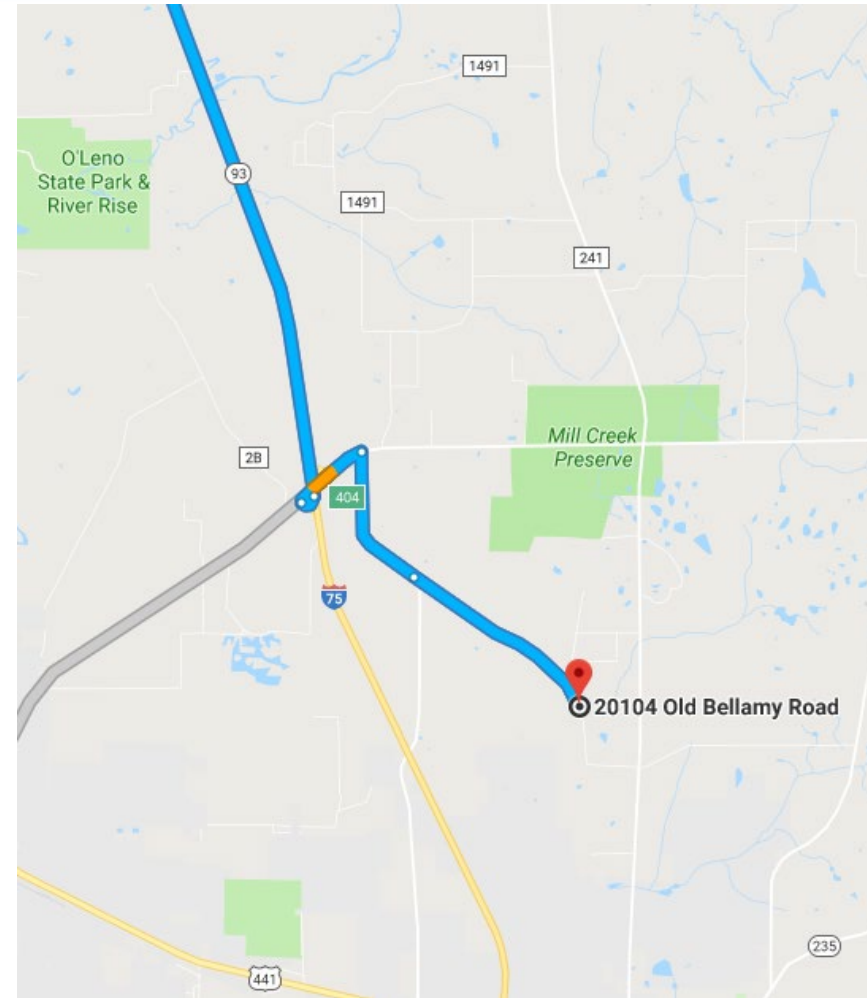


50 m flags



Mill Creek @ Old Bellamy Rd

- **Region:** Central
- **County:** Alachua
- **Lat/Longs:** 29.840565, -82.502668
- **Directions:** From Interstate 75 N or S, take exit 404 for County Rd 236 toward High Springs/Lake Butler. In approximately 0.2 miles, turn right onto NW County Rd 236 (signs for Santa Fe/Lake Butler). In approximately 0.7 miles, turn right onto NW 173rd St. In 1.4 miles, turn left onto Old Bellamy Rd. In approximately 2.0 miles, destination will be on the left.





Mill Creek @ Old Bellamy Rd

- **Directions:** Park on NE side of bridge. 0 m mark about 30 m upstream of bridge.



Park on NE side of road



0 m mark looking upstream



Mill Creek @ Old Bellamy Rd

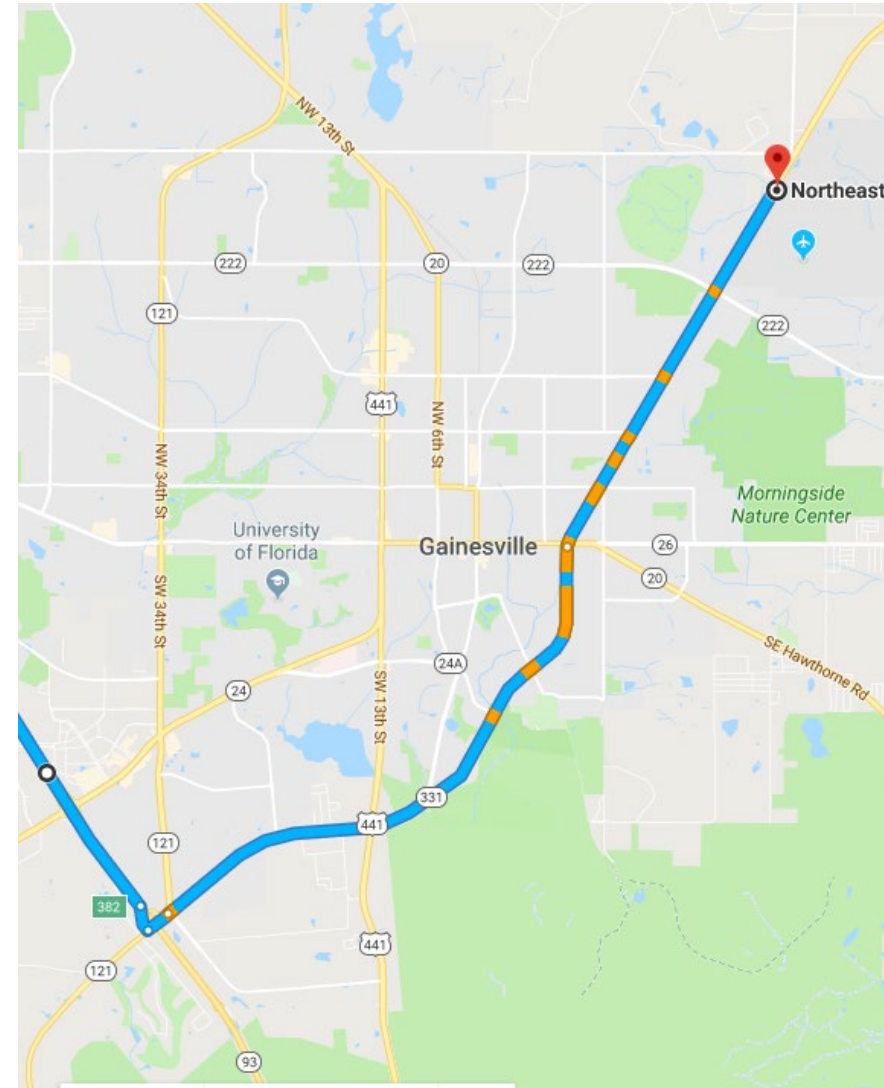


Mill Creek near 10 m mark



Little Hatchet Creek @ SR 24

- **Region:** Central
- **County:** Alachua
- **Lat/Longs:** 29.693533, -82.280851
- **Directions:** From Interstate 75 N or S, take exit 382 for FL-121 N toward Gainesville. Turn onto FL-121 N and continue straight onto FL-331 N for approximately 5.4 miles. Continue straight onto NE State Rd 24/NE Waldo Rd. In approximately 3.7 miles, the destination will be on your right.





Little Hatchet Creek @ SR 24

- **Directions:** Park on SE side of bridge. 100 m mark starts about 30 m downstream of bridge.



Park on SE side of bridge



Looking downstream near the 100 m mark



Little Hatchet Creek @ SR 24

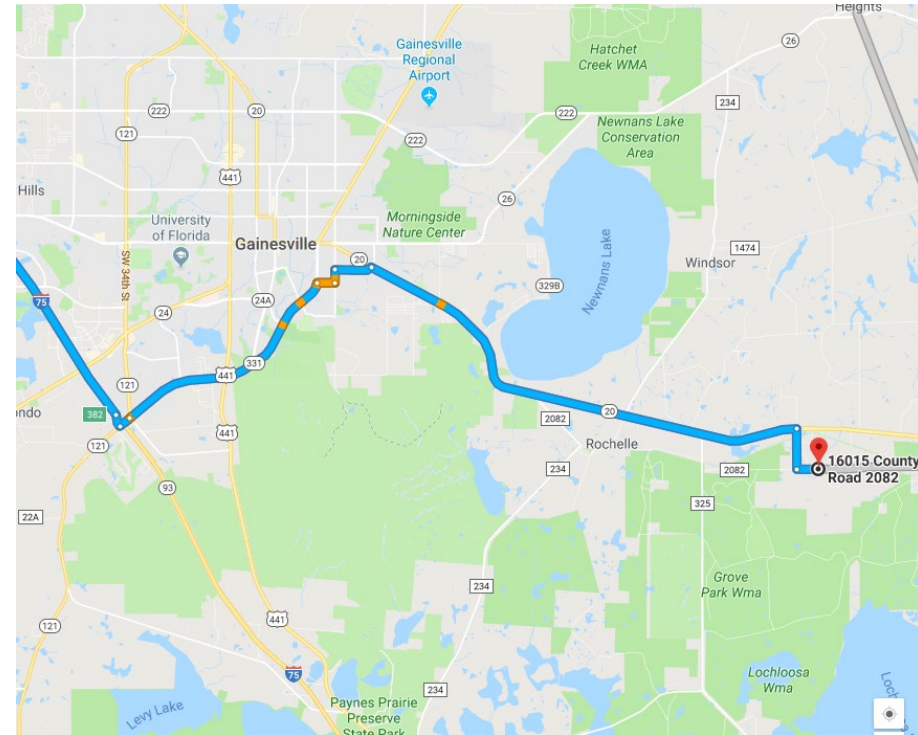


Little Hatchet Creek looking downstream



Lochloosa Creek @ CR 2082

- **Region:** Central
- **County:** Alachua
- **Lat/Longs:** 29.583212, -82.152347
- **Directions:** From Interstate 75 N or S, take exit 382 for FL-121 N toward Gainesville. Turn onto FL-121 N and continue straight onto FL-331 N. In approximately 4.7 miles, turn right onto SE 11th Ave, then make a left onto SE 15th street. In about 0.2 miles, turn right onto SE 8th Ave. In 0.7 miles, turn right onto FL-20 E/SE Hawthorne Rd. In approximately 9.4 miles, turn right onto SE 152 St. In 0.8 miles, turn left onto Co Rd 2082. In approximately 0.4 miles, the destination will be on the left.





Lochloosa Creek @ CR 2082

- **Directions:** Park on NW side of bridge. 0 m mark starts about 30 m upstream of bridge.



Park on NW side of road



0 m mark looking upstream



Lochloosa Creek @ CR 2082

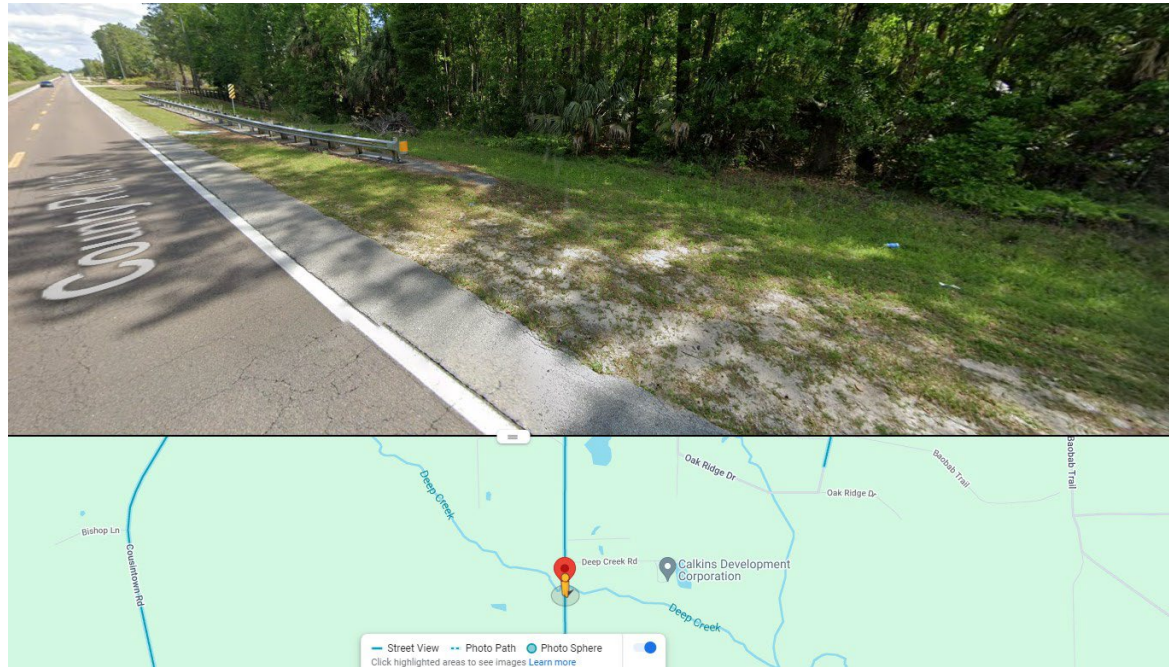


Looking upstream near 0 m mark



Deep Creek @ 315

- **Region:** Central
- **County:** Putnam
- **Lat/Longs:** 29.570222, -81.87800
- **Directions:** From Gainesville, travel on Hwy 20 (SE Hawthorne Rd) east to Putnam County and the town of Interlachen. Turn right (south) on Hwy 315 and travel approximately 4 miles to Deep Creek. From Palatka, travel on Hwy 20 west to the town of Interlachen. Turn left (south) on Hwy 315 and travel approximately 4 miles to Deep Creek. The 100m mark is ~ 50m downstream from the road crossing. The 0m mark is ~20m upstream of a small bridge.





Deep Creek @ 315



At Om looking upstream (just out of the picture approximately 10m downstream is small bridge).



Deep Creek @ 315



At 100m looking downstream (approximately 30 meters from the 315 bridge)