



Florida Department of Environmental Protection Central Florida Habitat Assessment Benchmark Sites

**Aquatic Ecology and Quality Assurance
November 2021**

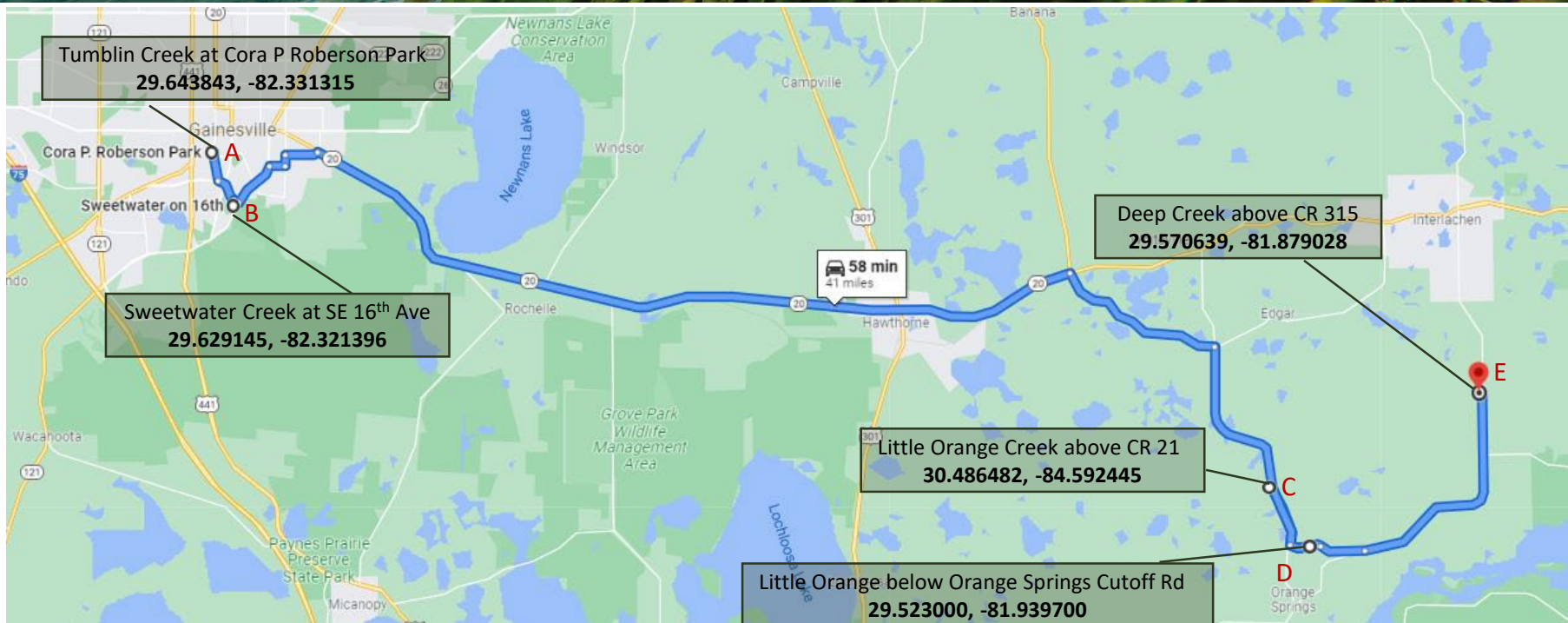


Procedure

- Evaluate each site per SOP FT 3100, “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.**
- Submit all completed forms to the FDEP Aquatic Ecology and Quality Assurance (AEQA) Section 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 legitimately 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.).
- Analysts must pass 3 Habitat Assessments every 2 years but should test at all 5 sites.
- Once scores have been reviewed, analysts will receive notice of passing or failing from the AEQA Section.
- Analysts should take photos to document stream conditions at the time of assessment. Photos may be submitted to AEQA after initial determination of passing/failing if an analyst believes his/her score for a given site is out of the +/- 10-point range due to justifiable reasons.



Overview Map of the Central Habitat Testing Sites



- A) Tumblin Creek at Cora P Roberson Park
29.643843, -82.331315
- B) Sweetwater Branch at SE 16th Ave
29.629145, -82.321396

Directions start in Gainesville and follow the order shown but sites can be completed in any order.

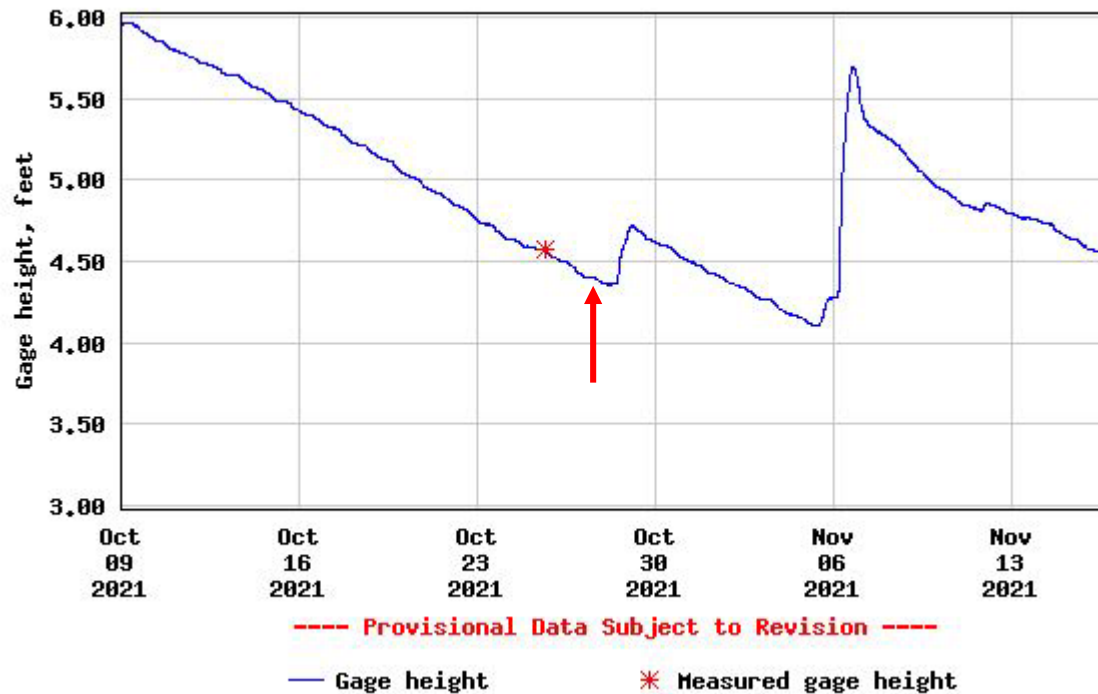
- C) Little Orange Creek above CR 21
29.541300, -81.954100
- D) Little Orange below Orange Springs Shortcut Rd
29.523000, -81.939700
- E) Deep Creek above CR 315
29.570639, -81.879028



Area Hydrograph

Orange Creek at Orange Springs, FL

USGS 02243000 ORANGE CREEK AT ORANGE SPRINGS, FL



The consensus scores for these sites were established on October 27, 2021. Above is the gage height data for streams in the area during that time period. If you conduct habitat assessment at these sites at different water levels, be sure to document the conditions.



Tumblin Creek at Cora P. Roberson Park

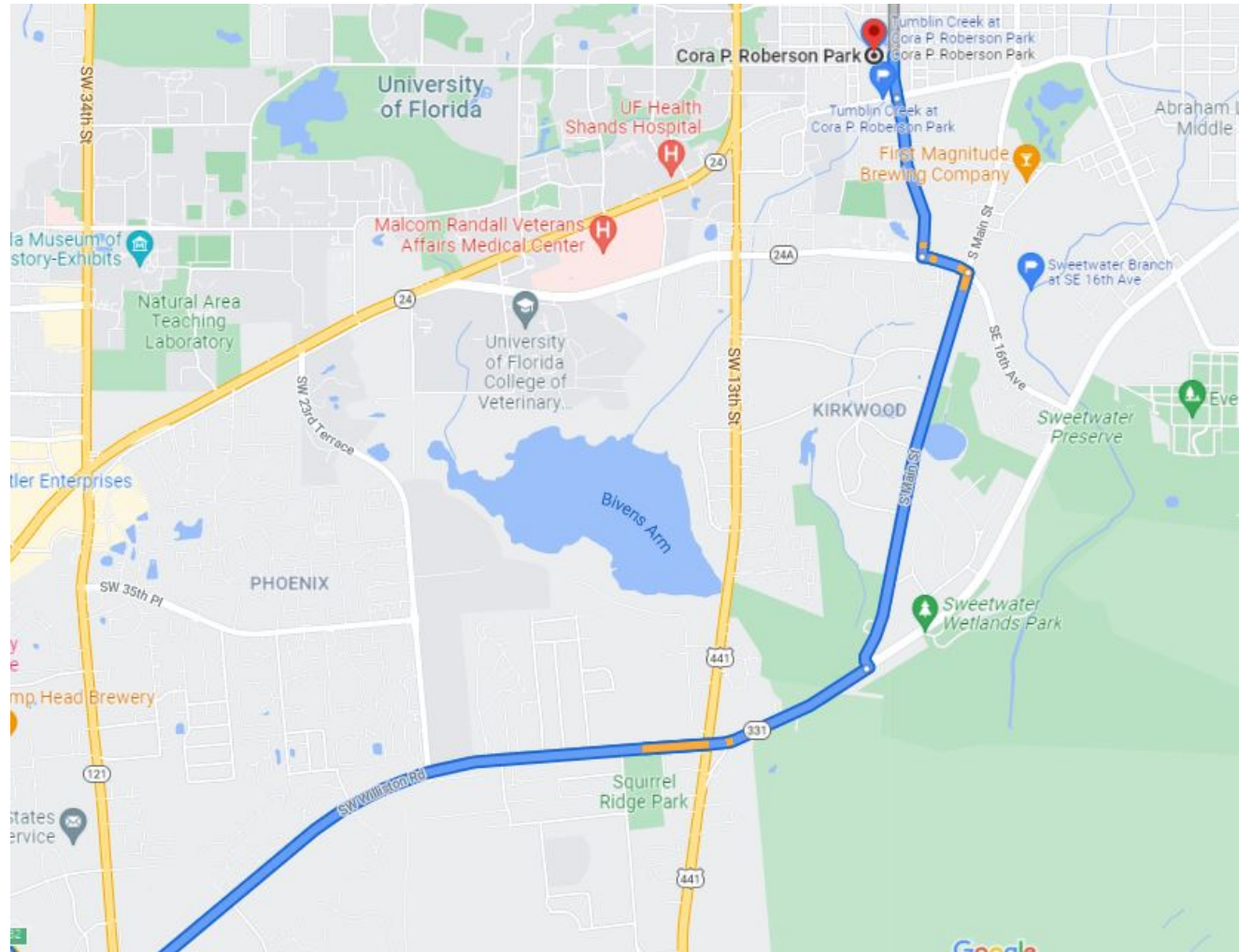
Coordinates: 29.643843,
-82.331315

Region: Central

County: Alachua

Date Analyzed:
10/27/2021

Directions: From 1-75, take 331N (SW Williston Rd), left onto S Main St, left onto SW 16th Ave, R onto SW 6th Ave, at the traffic circle, continue and straight to stay on SW 5th St. Site is on the left. Park along the road or in the park.





Tumblin Creek at Cora Roberson Park

- **Directions:**

Park on the street beside the park or in the park's parking lot. The 0m flags are behind the basketball court area about 10m above the culvert.





Sweetwater Branch at SE 16th Ave

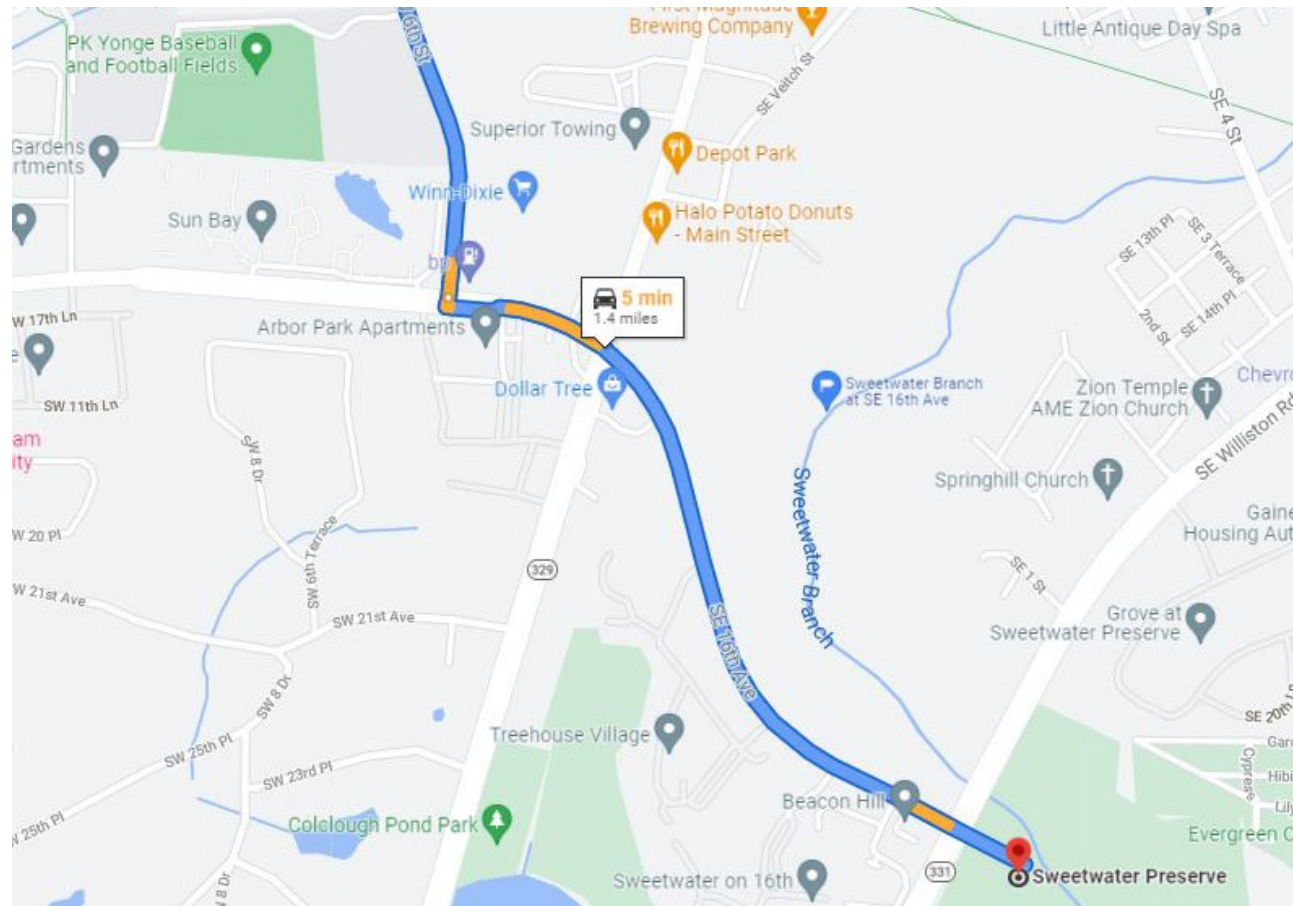
Coordinates: 29.629145, -82.321396

Region: Central

County: Alachua

Date Analyzed: 10/27/2021

Directions: From Tumblin Creek, head S on SW 6th St, at the traffic circle, stay straight to stay on SW 6th St, turn left onto SW 16th Ave. There may be construction at the site. Parking and access is discussed on the following slides.





Sweetwater Branch at SE 16th Ave

Directions: The parking area was fenced off on 10/27/2021. If the road is still closed, **use caution** and park across the street. Use the crosswalk to enter the site along the trail (shown on the next page).



There is a trail that accesses the stream to the right of fencing.

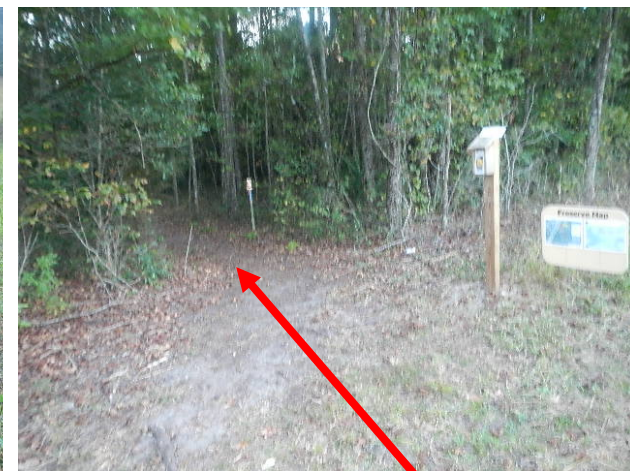


Park here if construction is still on-going. Use crosswalk to get to site.



Sweetwater Branch at SE 16th Ave

Follow Trail signs if the parking area on SE 16th Avenue is still fenced off.



Trail to the creek



Sweetwater Branch at SE 16th Ave

The 0m flags (double blue and white flagging tape) are downstream of SE 16th Ave. The flags are tied to vegetation on the left bank.





Little Orange Creek above CR 21

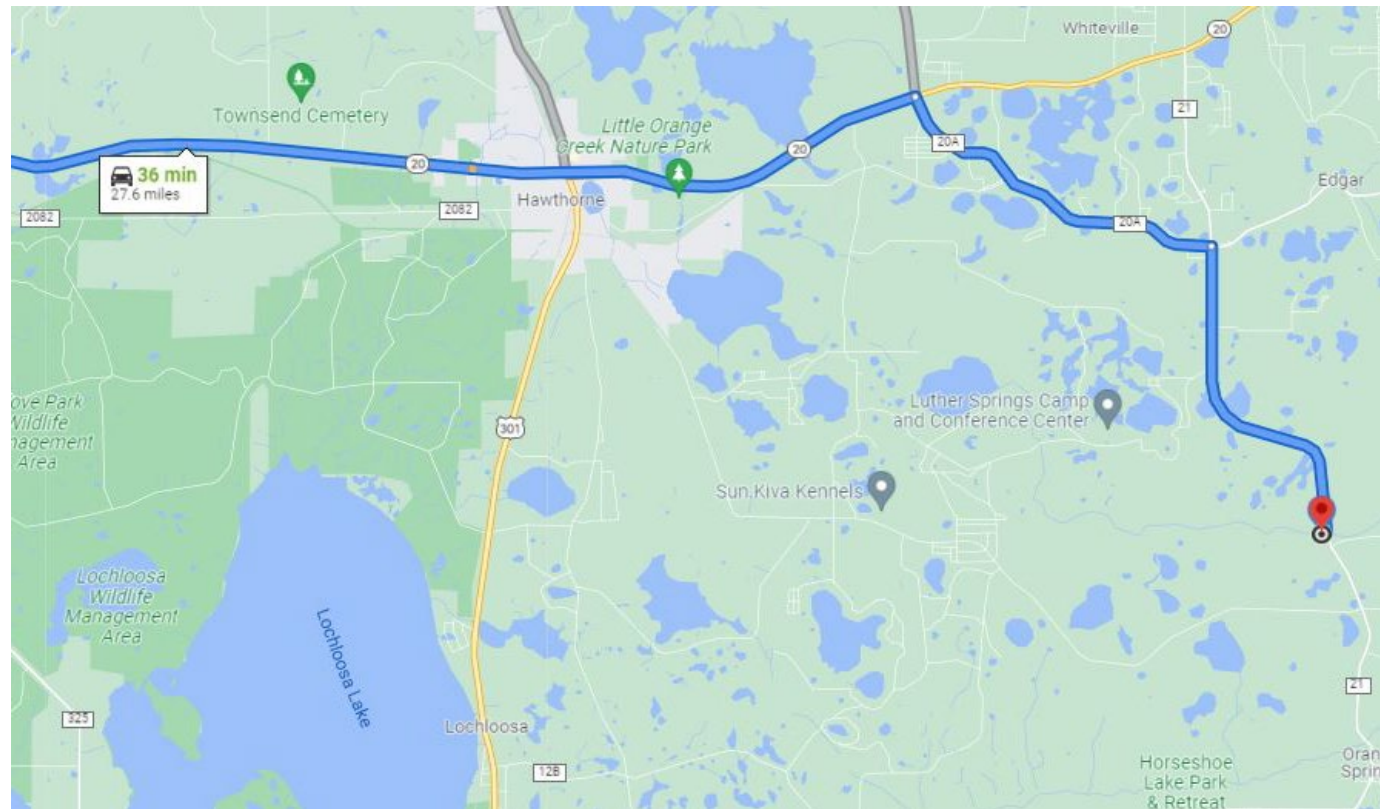
Coordinates: 29.541300,
-81.954100

Region: Central

County: Putnam

Date Analyzed:
10/27/2021

Directions: From Sweetwater Branch, take 331 N and SE 8 Ave to FL-20 E/SE (Hawthorne Rd), turn R onto FL-20, and then another R onto 20A. After 3.8 miles, turn R onto CR 21. Site is 3.8 miles on the right.





Little Orange Creek above CR 21

Directions: The site is marked with blue and white flagging tape and starts +/- 10m above the road. Park on the NW side of the road, enter near the bridge and walk upstream to the site. There is a “No Trespassing” sign on the left bank; stay on the right bank as much as possible.



Park & Enter system



0m flags



0m flags



Little Orange Creek below Shortcut Rd

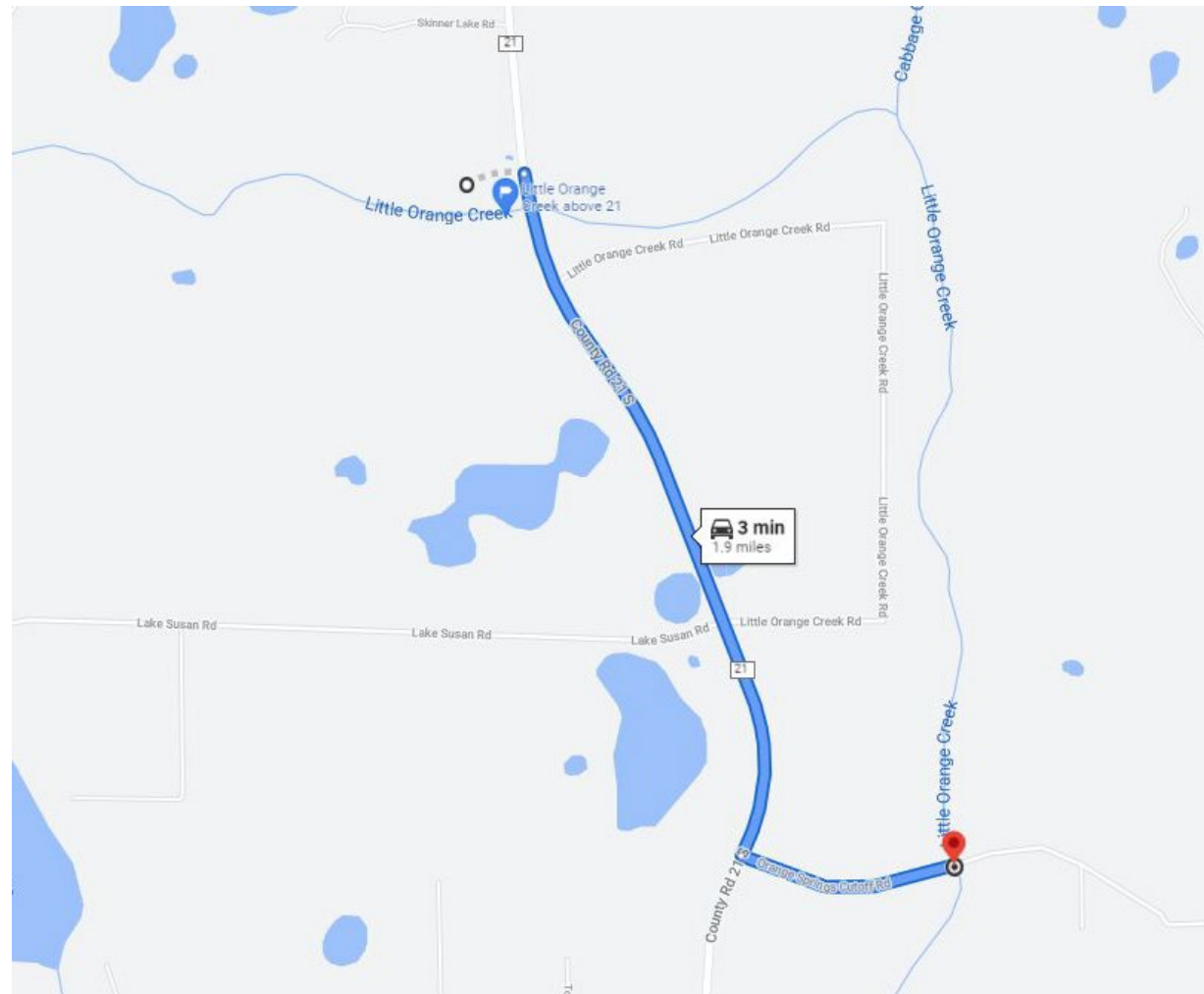
Coordinates: 29.570639,
-81.879028

Region: Central

County: Putnam

Date Analyzed: 10/27/2021

Directions: From Little Orange Creek at CR 21, head south and turn L onto Orange Springs Cutoff Rd, go 0.4 miles. Park and enter site on the right (S). The 100m flags are about 15m below the bridge. Follow flags downstream to 0m flags.





Little Orange Creek below Shortcut Rd

- **Directions:** Enter near the bridge on the SW side. The site is marked with blue and white flagging tape. The 100m flags are +/- 20m below the road. Follow flags downstream to 0m flags.



Enter system



100 m flags



Deep Creek above CR 315

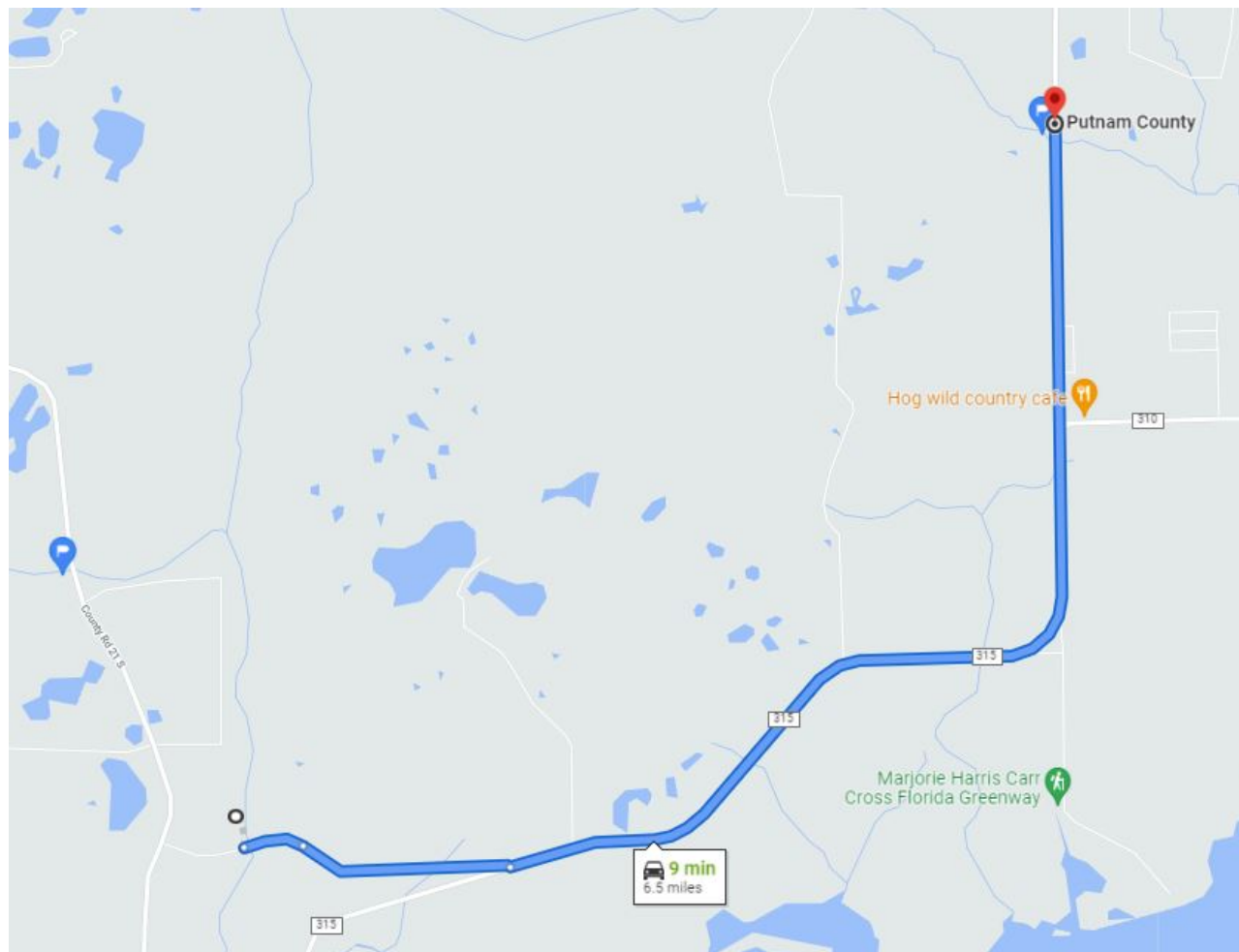
Coordinates: 29.570639,
-81.879028

Region: Central

County: Putnam

Date Analyzed: 10/27/2021

Directions: From Little Orange below Shortcut, head east on Orange Shortcut Rd, turn L onto CR 315, go N for 5.2 miles. Park on the left and enter on the left bank of creek.





Deep Creek above CR 315

- **Directions:** The site is marked with blue and white flagging tape and starts +/- 10m above the road. Enter on the left side of the creek.



Park and Enter system



0 m flags