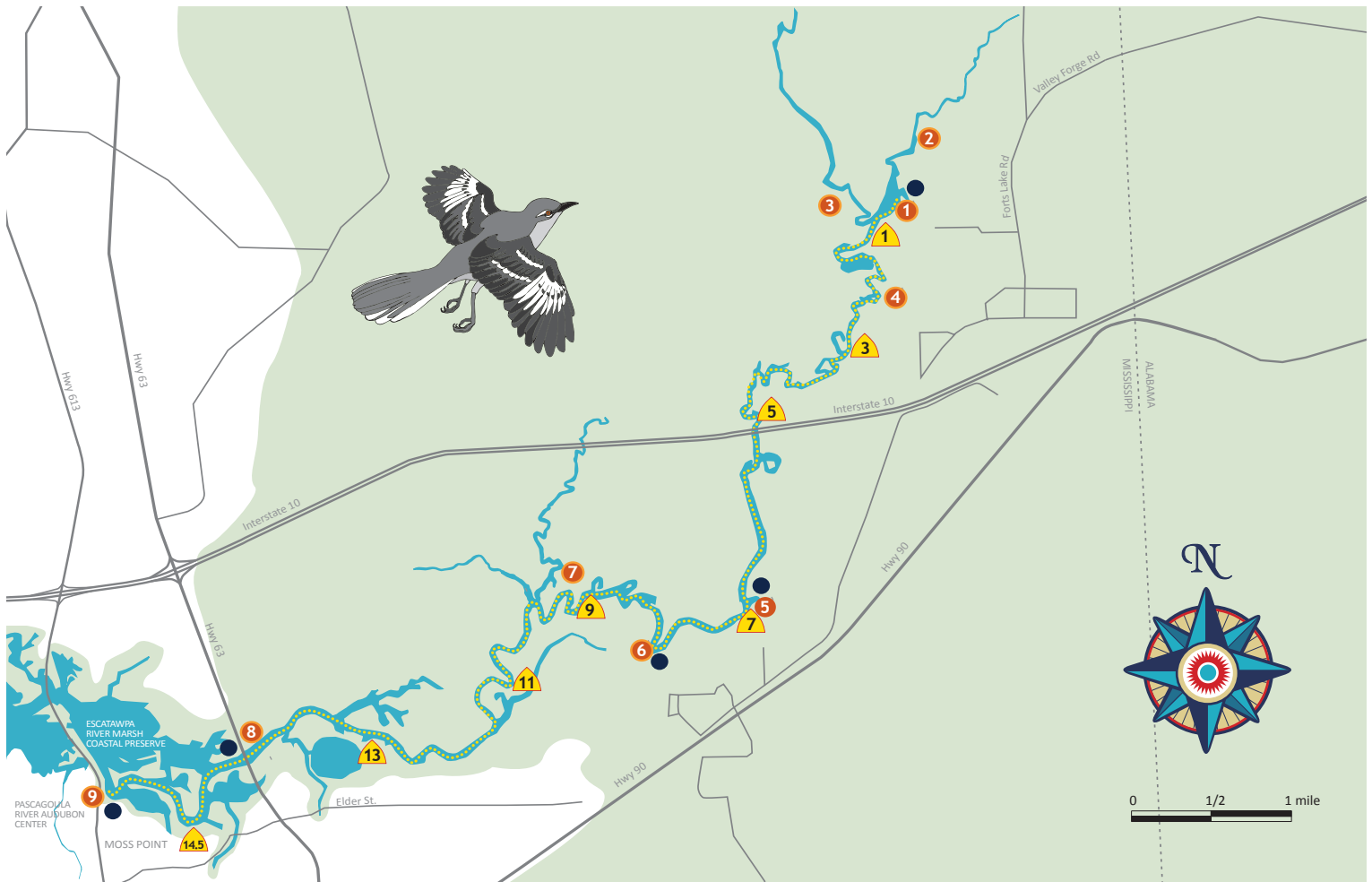


# ESCATAWPA RIVER



## MAP LEGEND

Mile Marker

Canoe/Kayak Launch

Blueway Trail

Points of Interest

**LEVEL** Beginner to Intermediate

**START/END** Presley's Outing / Moss Point Riverfront

**TRAIL MILES** 14.5 miles

**DESCRIPTION** Freshwater Swamp

**SCENERY** Cypress along the bank with hanging vegetation

**ACCESS** Accessible canoe/kayak launch

To float the lower **Escatawpa River** is to experience exquisite natural scenery within one of the most biologically diverse watersheds in the country. One of three major tributaries of the Pascagoula River, the Escatawpa is unique in its proximity to the coast and its rapid transition between fresh and brackish waters that make up the lower reaches of coastal rivers.

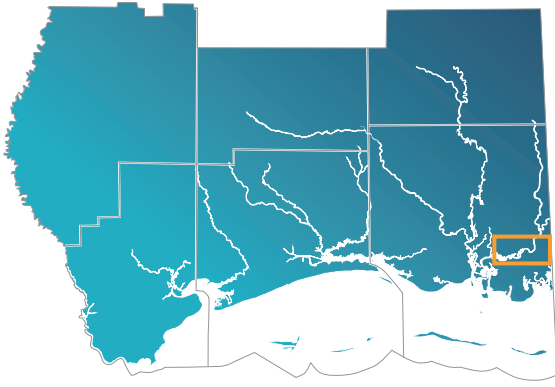
The Escatawpa River Blueway is a 14.5-mile trail that begins in a large freshwater lake within the bottomland hardwood forest portion of the river where giant Bald Cypress, Water Tupelo, and Atlantic White Cedar dominate the scene and dark, tannic (tea-colored) waters flow downstream around numerous "oxbow" bends in the river.

From this upper third of the float, and still within the tannic water reach of the river, the influence of tides shifts the scenery to open, Sawgrass-dominated marshes with numerous yet scattered majestic Pond Cypress trees. The final third of the float transitions to more tidally-influenced marshes where higher salinity shifts plant life to Black Needlerush and more brackish water conditions. The endpoint of the Escatawpa River Blueway route connects with the Pascagoula River Jackson County Blueway in Downtown Moss Point the Riverfront Welcome Center.

### ESCATAWPA RIVER



Along the way, a rich diversity of bird life can be observed across this transition, including bottomland species such as Prothonotary Warbler, Northern Parula, and Swallow-tailed Kite, with Osprey, Bald Eagle and a rich diversity of wading and marsh birds adding to the diversity that makes this watershed and region a premier destination for nature enthusiasts that want to see nature as it should be.



## Points of Interest

1. Presley's Outing
2. Jackson Creek
3. Escatawpa River
4. Franklin Creek
5. Pollock's Ferry Launch
6. Shingle Mill Landing
7. Little Black Creek
8. Highway 63 Launch
9. Moss Point Riverfront

There are several unique and very interesting side trips that can be paddled from the blueway. The three best side trips start with **Jackson Creek**, which flows into Goodes Mill Lake at Presley's Outing. Jackson Creek can be paddled for approximately two miles from its entrance at Presley's Outing. The time required to make the round trip from Presley's is one to two hours, depending on paddling speed.

Another side trip is **Franklin Creek**, which enters the Escatawpa River at a point about a mile downriver from Presley's Outing. Franklin Creek can be paddled for approximately three miles from its mouth at the Escatawpa River. Total paddling time for the round trip from Presley's is two to four hours, again depending on paddling speed. The scenery in Franklin Creek is very similar to that of Jackson Creek, and is some of the most fascinating in Jackson County. Both creeks are mostly narrow but deep. Both start with beautiful cypress swamps on their banks, then narrow up such that the trees reach completely across the waterway making it seem like you're in a tunnel. When the leaves are shed in the winter, this stretch becomes very spooky looking giving one the feeling of a haunted forest. Quite a sight to see.

The third side trip is the longest. **Little Black Creek** empties into the Escatawpa River at a point two miles downriver of Shingle Mill Landing. Little Black can be paddled approximately ten miles up from its mouth making it a 24-mile round trip if the entire length is paddled from Shingle Mill Landing. Paddling times will vary depending on at what point the paddler turns around. Little Black Creek also has the cypress swamps and overhanging trees where it narrows about halfway up, but it also has some marsh grasses. This creek is very deep in parts, starting at a general depth of 20' to 30' at its lower end and shallowing to 8' to 10' farther up. This creek is also generally wider than the other two creeks.



AVOID PADDLING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL. ALWAYS WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET AND CARRY A WHISTLE OR OTHER SOUND PRODUCING DEVICE, PREFERABLY ATTACHED TO YOUR LIFE JACKET. PADDLERS SHOULD CHECK WATER LEVEL AND TIDES, WEATHER, AND WATERWAY CONDITIONS PRIOR TO EVERY TRIP. REMOVE WHAT YOU BRING, CLEAN UP MORE IF YOU CAN. AVOID TRESPASSING ON PRIVATE LANDS. PLEASE BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS AND ALWAYS RESPECT THE WILDLIFE. REPORT ANY PROBLEMS YOU ENCOUNTER TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES IF APPROPRIATE.

