

# We're All Connected

Byways, Trails, Rivers,  
Culture, History, Humanity

## *DeLand Black Heritage Trail*

*Maggie Ardito*

*River of Lakes Heritage Corridor and  
St Johns River-to-Sea Loop Alliance*



*River of Lakes Heritage Corridor National Scenic Byway*





Byways, Trails, Culture, Rivers,  
History, Humanity

We're All Connected



- River of Lakes Heritage Corridor
- Volusia Bartram Trail
- St Johns River-to-Sea Loop Alliance
- DeLand Black Heritage Trail



*“Eventually,  
all things merge into one”*



# River of Lakes Heritage Corridor

A National Scenic Byway



From River of Lakes Heritage Corridor Website: [ROLHC.org](http://ROLHC.org)





# River of Lakes Heritage Corridor

We're All Connected

## River of Lakes Heritage Corridor



Green Springs



De Leon Springs State Park



Blue Spring State Park



DeBary Hall



Reptile Discovery Center



Lyonia Preserve





Stetson University  
Sponsored a  
River of Lakes Heritage  
Corridor Map Brochure  
featuring  
Bartram Trail locations  
along the byway

### Bartram Sites Along the Byway

These lettered sites are locations visited by William Bartram and included in his writings. A point with a **blue heading** is accessible by water only. The numbered **River of Lakes Heritage Corridor** site locations on the map below are starting points for accessing these Bartram sites.

- A** "Point of Piney Land"  
William and John Bartram camped here, describing "red cedar, live oak, great palmetto, and good oranges."
- B** "Orange Grove" and "a Middling Creek"  
John and William Bartram describe a "middling creek" nearby, Nelly Blue Creek just to the west. They camped here amid orange groves several times before or after crossing Lake George.
- C** Indian Horse Crossing and Shell Mound  
John and William describe a "place where the Indians swim their horses over" the river. Nearby they describe a shell mound six feet high and 200 yards long, now difficult to find. On the east side of the river you can still find the "Bartram Oak."
- D** Spalding's Upper Store  
William provisioned at Spalding's Upper Store, where he met "a white trader, who had for a companion, a very handsome Seminole young woman. Her father, who was a prince, by the name of the White Captain, was an old chief of the Seminoles, and with part of his family, to the number of ten or twelve, were encamped in an Orange grove near the stores, having lately come in from a hunt."
- E** "High Shelly Bluff" and *Calyptroche coelestina*  
William Bartram wrote his first natural history essay about the plant we now know as Bartram's iris (*Calyptroche coelestina*). He gathered specimens of this plant at this location. The Bartrams described the landing here as a "high shelly bluff."
- F** Alligator Battle and Bear Encounter  
Stagger Mud Lake was named "Stagger Lagoon" by William Bartram. It was here that he most vividly describes alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*), recounting a battle between them, a scuffle with them, and the character of their nests. Bartram also describes a multitude of them feeding on "hundreds of thousands" of migrating fish, most likely American Shad (*Alosa sapidissima*). Adding to Bartram's tension, his campsite was visited during the night by a pair of black bears (*Ursus americanus*).
- G** "Ancient Indian Fields"  
This area is one of many where Bartram describes ancient Indian fields and shell mounds juxtaposed with orange groves. It is here that Bartram gives a detailed account of sunfish (*Lepomis*).
- H** Indian Burials  
William Bartram camped here "on the border of an ancient burying ground; sepulchres or tumuli of the Yamacoes, who were here slain by the Creeks in the last decisive battle."
- I** Endures a "Hurricane"  
William Bartram gives a vivid account of a hurricane as he describes how "the spreading limbs of the ancient Live Oaks were flying over my head, and came about in the air as leaves and stubble." He otherwise describes Hontoon Island as "a delightful little bluff, consisting chiefly of shells," undoubtedly the remnants of a Timucua Indian shell mound.

The **blue sites** listed below include sites where you can get on the water to experience the **St. Johns River** as William Bartram did. The **green sites** include locations to hike and bike near sites the Bartrams were known to have visited. The **red sites** also include places along the byway where one can connect with William Bartram in a different way. If you want to see several of the reptiles Bartram described, visit the **Reptile Discovery Center**. Take the aspiring natural historian in your life to the **Gillespie Museum** or the **Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Garden**. The **Historic Volusia County Courthouse** displays paintings from William Bartram's era, including a portrait of him.

### Water Accessible Bartram Locations on River of Lakes Heritage Corridor

- 1** Lake George Park  
770 Nine Mile Point Road | Pierson, FL 32180 | 386.736.5953  
Most people need a boat to reach the lake. North of Pierson where CR 3 intersects with US 17, you can get to the lake by car via 9 Mile Pt. Rd.
- 2** Captain Ernie's St. Johns River Tours  
Leaving from the Blackwater Inn on the river in Astor  
557 16 Front Street Astor, Florida | 866.349.0674
- 3** Lake Dexter Boat Ramp  
25934 Holman Drive, Astor, FL 32102 | 352.759.2121  
This boat ramp can be accessed via Astor Landing in the Ocala Nat. Forest.
- 4** Bluffton Recreation Area  
Part of The Dexter Mary Farms Unit of Lake George State Forest.  
Take SR 40 to St. Johns River Road, located 1/2 mile east of Astor.
- 5** Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge  
2045 Mud Lake Road | DeLeon Springs, FL 32130 | 386.985.4673
- 6** DeLeon Springs State Park & Fountain of Youth Eco/History Pontoon Boat Tours  
601 Ponce de Leon Boulevard | DeLeon Springs, FL 32130 | 386.985.4212
- 7** Blue Spring State Park | St. Johns River Pontoon Boat Tours  
2100 W. French Avenue | Orange City, FL 32763 | 386.775.3663  
Blue Heron River Tours (Pontoon Boat)  
2317 River Ridge Road | DeLand, FL 32720 | 386.873.4843
- 8** St. Johns River EcoTours (Pontoon Boat)  
488 W. Highbanks Rd. | DeBary, FL 32713 | 386.626.9004
- 9** Lake Monroe Park  
Lake Monroe Park Cir., U.S. Hwy 17-92 | DeBary, FL 32713 | 386.736.5953
- 10** Lake Monroe Wayside Park  
4150 NW US Hwy 17-92 | Sanford, FL 32771 | 407.665.2001
- 11** Mariner's Cove Park  
1199 Enterprise-Osteen Road | Enterprise, FL 32725 | 386.736.5953
- 12** Hickory Bluff Preserve  
598 Guise Rd. | Osteen, FL 32764 | 386.736.5927
- 13** Seminole Rest Historic Site  
207 River Road | Oak Hill, FL 32759 | 321.267.1110
- 14** Halifax River | **15** Mosquito Lagoon
- 16** Canaveral National Seashore  
212 S Washington Ave., Titusville, FL 32796 | 386.428-3384

### Bartram Related Locations on River of Lakes Heritage Corridor

- 17** Spring to Spring Trail (Several Trailheads)  
Trailheads at: Gemini Springs, Green Springs, Lake Beresford Park, Glenwood, Lake Monroe Park, DeBary Hill, and others
- 18** St. Francis Trailhead  
The trailhead is accessed from CR 42 (west of DeLand) north of its junction with SR 44, on the west side of the bridge over the St. Johns River.
- 19** Historic Volusia County Courthouse  
125 W. New York Ave., DeLand, FL 32724  
Tours: Call the Museum of Florida Art at 386.734.4371
- 20** Gillespie Museum  
234 E Michigan Ave. | DeLand, FL 32724 | 386.822.7330  
Stetson University  
421 N. Woodland Blvd. | DeLand, FL 32723 | 386.822.7000
- 21** Reptile Discovery Center, DeLand  
2710 Big John Dr. | DeLand, FL 32724 | 386.740.9143
- 22** Lake Beresford Park  
2100 Fatio Road | DeLand, FL 32720 | 386.736.5953
- 23** Hontoon Island State Park  
2309 River Ridge Road | DeLand, FL 32720 | 386.736.5309
- 24** Lyonta Preserve  
2150 Eustace Ave. | Deltona, FL 32725 | 386.789.7207
- 25** Gemini Springs Park  
37 Dirksen Dr. | DeBary, FL 32713 | 386.736.5953
- 26** Thornby Park, Inspiration Playground  
110 Providence Blvd. | Deltona, FL 32725
- 27** Green Springs Park  
994 Enterprise-Osteen Rd. | Enterprise, FL 32725 | 386.736.5953
- 28** Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens  
3755 US 17 | Sanford, FL 32771 | 407.323.4450
- 29** Old Fort Park Archaeological Site  
On the National Register of Historic Places, this archeological site is located in the Historic District of New Smyrna Beach, FL.

To find out more about these and other **River of Lakes Heritage Corridor** locations, visit [ROLHC.org](http://ROLHC.org), where you can download our general touring brochure, watch video clips, and more.

## William Bartram

The regions recognized within the River of Lakes Heritage Corridor are rich with Bartram history. He travelled the region in 1765-1766 as a young man with his father, John Bartram, and in 1774 alone with the patronage of Dr. John Fothergill. His journeys were principally along the St. Johns River in a canoe fitted with a sail.

The landscape at Bartram's time had already been influenced by the actions of people. Shell mounds, eons old, marked Native American dwellings. Rather than a pristine wild, Bartram described a world alive with social and ecological vibrancy.

The traveler today may visit, by car or boat, many of the spots that Bartram described centuries ago, and changes on the landscape are evident. The Native American trace is all but forgotten, plants and animals constrained by habitat encroachment. We invite you to explore Bartram sites to reflect on the world as it was and as it is today.

# Explore the Bartram Trail along River of Lakes Heritage Corridor

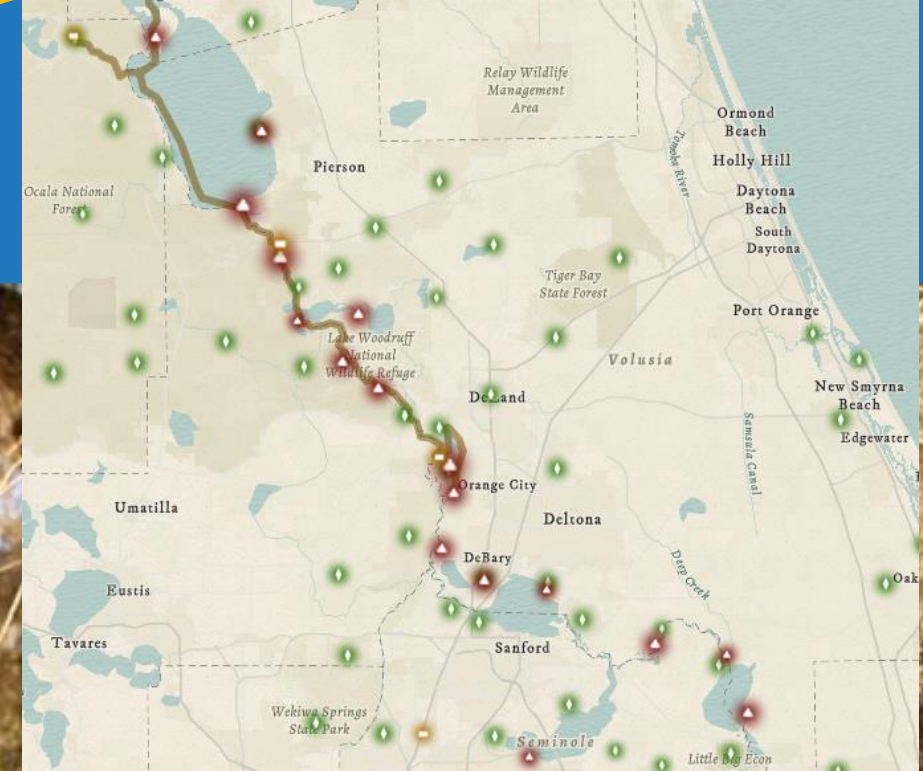
Bartram's flower specimens from the Natural History Museum, UK. Photo courtesy of University of Florida Digital Archives.

Bartram's illustration of the Turkeyfoot, courtesy of the Natural History Museum, UK.

Bartram's skunk specimen from the Natural History Museum, UK. Photo courtesy of University of Florida Digital Archives.



# The Bartram Trail in Volusia County



### BARTRAM AT BLUE SPRING

**William Bartram's Travels**  
Famed naturalist, artist and poetic writer William Bartram first visited Blue Spring in January 1766. His writing and artwork inspired many, from naturalist artist John James Audubon to Romantic poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge.  
"What he saw here was somewhat different from what we see today. Here is a quote about his experience of this site from his book, *Travels*:"

"This creek, which is formed instantly by this admirable fountain, is wide and deep enough for a sloop to sail up into the basin. The water is perfectly diaphanous, and here are continually a prodigious number and variety of fish; they appear as plain as though lying on a table before your eyes, although many feet deep in the water."  
"...A pale bluish or pearl coloured coagulum covers every inanimate substance that lies in the water, as logs, limbs of trees, &c. Alligators and gar were numerous in the basin..."  
William Bartram, *Travels*

"Coagulum" Bartram mentions was probably algae that thrived in water with different nutrient content than today. Today's spring water is often impaired by nutrients, including nitrogen and phosphorus, from human sources including septic use and lawn fertilization. Water flow paths within the aquifer system, partly as a result of human activities like groundwater withdrawal.

**William Bartram "Long Lake" Paddle Trail**  
Experience the water world history Bartram found in the 1760s. Paddling boats can be launched from landing sites on the map.  
Paddle between any landing sites for a new idea. For a longer adventure go around Horseshoe Island using one of the canals that connect the main river channel and Horseshoe Island. Snake Creek is short closed with water byzards.

Map of the most fascinating passages from *Travels* on about the St. Johns River region of Florida. The illustration below by Bartram is the first image many Europeans saw of an alligator, and it was created here in West Volusia County!

Alligator *meleagris*, American Alligator







# St Johns River-to-Sea Loop Alliance

We're All Connected



## About "The Loop"

- 260-mile multi-use Trail
- 2<sup>nd</sup> High Priority FDOT-Funded SUNTrail
- 55+% Complete
- Shared Use Non-Motorized  
Biking/Walking/Running/Strollers/Disability aids
- Connects 5 Counties  
Volusia/Putnam/St Johns/Flagler/Brevard

In Volusia the Loop follows  
the route of the  
St Johns River and  
River of Lakes Heritage Corridor

**go Florida by Trail**

The Coast to Coast Trail, together with the Heart of Florida Loop and the St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop, provide visitors with over 600 miles of paved trails.

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico, these trails lead you to Florida's oldest city, national wildlife areas, historic downtowns, natural springs, the St. Johns River and state and local parks. Experience coastal views, wetland, oak hammock and scrub environments along the way.

**COAST TO COAST TRAIL** 250 miles  
**ST. JOHNS RIVER-TO-SEA LOOP** 260 miles  
**HEART OF FLORIDA LOOP** 250 miles

For Current Trail Status, visit [www.floridadep.gov/parks/ogt](http://www.floridadep.gov/parks/ogt)





Since 2016 - 501(C)3 volunteer-driven organization

## Our Mission and Vision

- Advance, Advocate, Support, Promote and Protect the River-to-Sea Loop and Connecting Trails
- Increase active inclusive transportation & recreation for **all ages and abilities**
- Raise environmental, cultural and historical awareness
- Increase community & individual health, well-being & safety







# St Johns River-to-Sea Loop Alliance

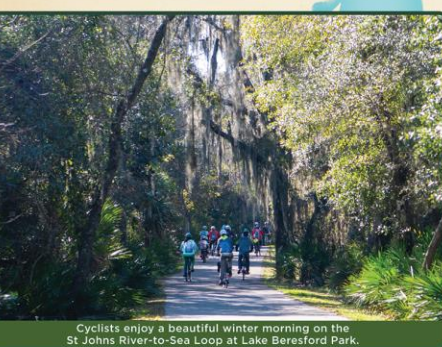
We're All Connected



## St Johns River-to-Sea Loop Alliance and River of Lakes Heritage Corridor partner on sign kiosk at DeBary SunRail Station



### Ride the St Johns River-to-Sea Loop Gateway to Volusia Trails



### River of Lakes HERITAGE CORRIDOR

**Natural Springs, Parks & Wildlife**

- 1 Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge
- 2 DeLeon Springs State Park & Old Spanish Sugar Mill Restaurant
- 3 Lake Dora Park/Gandace R. Stevens Park
- 4 Lake George Park
- 5 Hontoon Island State Park
- 6 Blue Spring State Park
- 7 Lyons Environmental Center & Preserve
- 8 Gemini Springs Park
- 9 Green Springs Park
- 10 Sanford Museum
- 11 Lake Monroe Park
- 12 Lake Monroe Wayside Boat Ramp
- 13 Hickory Bluff Preserve
- 14 Seminole Rest Trail - part of Canaveral Nat. Seashore
- 15 Smooth Waters Wildlife Park
- 16 Welkiva-Middle St. Johns Aquatic Preserve

**Art, Culture & Museums**

- 17 Barberville Pioneer Settlement
- 18 Athens Theatre
- 19 Museum of Art - DeLand, two locations
- 20 Henry DeLand House & West Volusia Historical Society
- 21 Gillespie Museum, Stetson University
- 22 Hand Art Museum, Stetson University
- 23 Lyonia Environmental Center & Preserve
- 24 Stetson Mansion
- 25 DeBary Hall Historic Site
- 26 Gallery on First & Jeanine Taylor Folk Art
- 27 Wayne Densch Theater for the Performing Arts
- 28 DeBary Public History Center
- 29 Enterprise Museum
- 30 African American Museum of the Arts
- 31 DeLand Memorial Hospital, Elizabeth Burgess Building & Veterans Museum
- 32 DeLand Naval Air Station Museum

**Fun & Adventure**

- 33 Gliders, Pierson
- 34 Reptile Discovery Center, DeLand
- 35 Skydive DeLand
- 36 Pontoon Boat Tours on St. Johns River
- 37 St. Johns River EcoTours
- 38 Blue Spring State Park St. Johns River Cruises & Tours
- 39 DeLeon Springs State Park - Fountain of Youth EcoHistory Tours
- 40 Blue Heron River Tours
- 41 Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens
- 42 Seminole Aerial Adventures
- 43 Riverboat - St. Johns RiverShip
- 44 Airboat Rides
- 45 Deep Creek Stables - Horseback Riding

**Trails**

There are numerous trails along River of Lakes Heritage Corridor. For more info, explore hiking and cycling under the outdoor recreation section on [ROLHC.org](http://ROLHC.org).

The St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop is a 260-mile trail that follows the ROLHC byway from Seville to DeBary to Maytown.

**Pontoon Boat Tours on St. Johns River**  
**YOU ARE HERE**

- 46 Spring to Spring Trail (Several Trailheads)
- 47 Heart Island Conservation Area
- 48 Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge
- 49 Lake Beresford Park
- 50 Hontoon Island State Park
- 51 Lyonia Preserve
- 52 Sanford Riverwalk
- 53 Mariner's Cove Park

Visit [ROLHC.org](http://ROLHC.org) to learn more, or ask about our byway brochures at visitor centers in Volusia County.

**LEGEND & MILEAGE**

- St Johns River-to-Sea Loop: COMPLETE TRAIL (solid line), INCOMPLETE TRAIL (dashed line)
- Coast to Coast Trail: COMPLETE TRAIL (solid line), INCOMPLETE TRAIL (dashed line)
- Lake Monroe Loop: COMPLETE TRAIL (solid line), INCOMPLETE TRAIL (dashed line)
- Trailhead: COMPLETE TRAIL (solid line), INCOMPLETE TRAIL (dashed line)
- DeBary SunRail Station (you are here)
- SunRail Track
- Volusia Trails Information Center (at DeBary Hall Historic Site)

Florida Scenic Highways logo: Real Places. Real Stories.

DeBARY Naturally logo: MORE THAN YOU IMAGINED

There's More to Florida  
 Visit [ROLHC.org](http://ROLHC.org)





**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**River of Lakes**  
HERITAGE CORRIDOR

*There's More to Florida*  
Visit [ROLHC.org](http://ROLHC.org)

DeBary Station  
ALL TRAINS LEAVE SOUTH

DEBARY  
ation  
ORD STATION





# St Johns River-to-Sea Loop Alliance

# We're All Connected



## Nature and History Corridor Project with Stetson University supported by Florida Humanities

River to Sea  
Nature and History Corridor



**BARTRAM TRAIL IN  
VOLUSIA COUNTY**

### Creating Wilderness:

Selective Memorial and  
William Bartram

March 18, 2021 6:00 – 8:00 PM

By Dr. Tony Abbott



William Bartram is known as America's first native-born natural historian. His explorations and writings cover flora and fauna, interaction with European settlers, and Native American culture including extensive and under-recognized positive descriptions of Native Americans in the South.



March 16, 2021 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Lecture

Dr. Andrew Eisen - Stetson University  
Exhibits on Slavery, Indian removal, and  
resistance in Volusia County. Created by  
incarcerated researchers at Stetson University's  
Community Education Project



### Slavery and The Struggle for Freedom in East Florida



March 20, 2021 1:00 – 4:00 PM

### "Saving Lost History" Discussion and Exhibit Tour

Exhibits on display February 1 – March 31

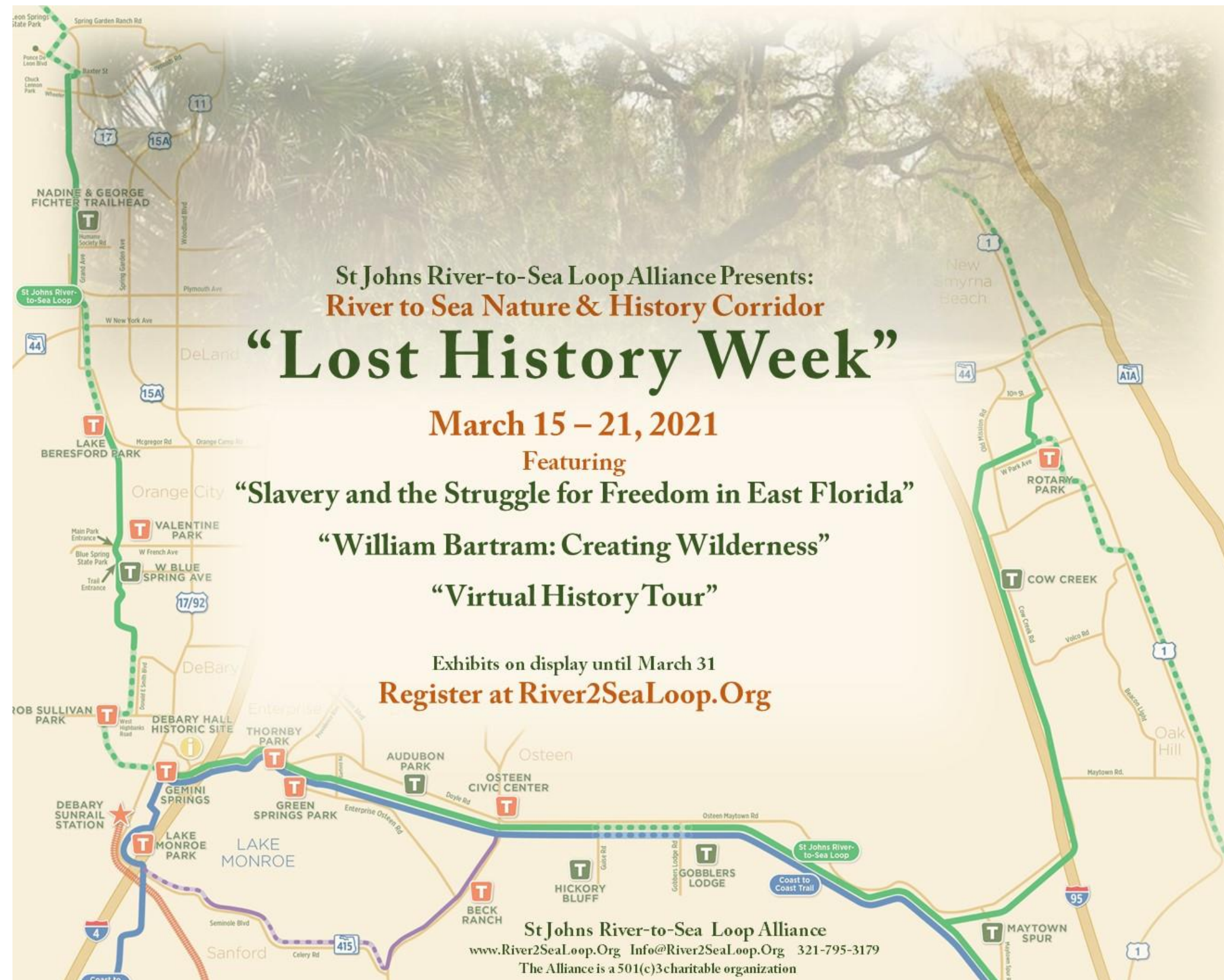
ENTERPRISE MUSEUM

360 Main Street, Enterprise, FL 32725

Open Thursdays, Friday and Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm  
Private tours available. Call Cindy Sullivan 386 804 6087



"Funding for this program was provided through a grant from the Florida Humanities with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of Florida Humanities or the National Endowment for the Humanities."



## St Johns River-to-Sea Loop Alliance Presents: River to Sea Nature & History Corridor "Lost History Week"

March 15 – 21, 2021

Featuring

"Slavery and the Struggle for Freedom in East Florida"

"William Bartram: Creating Wilderness"

"Virtual History Tour"

Exhibits on display until March 31

Register at [River2SeaLoop.Org](http://River2SeaLoop.Org)

St Johns River-to-Sea Loop Alliance  
[www.River2SeaLoop.Org](http://www.River2SeaLoop.Org) [Info@River2SeaLoop.Org](mailto:Info@River2SeaLoop.Org) 321-795-3179  
The Alliance is a 501(c)3 charitable organization



"Funding for this program was provided through a grant from the Florida Humanities with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of Florida Humanities or the National Endowment for the Humanities."





St Johns River-to-Sea Loop Alliance

We're All Connected



**River of Lakes  
Heritage Corridor**

**St Johns River**

**St Johns  
River-to-Sea  
Loop**

**We're All  
Connected**

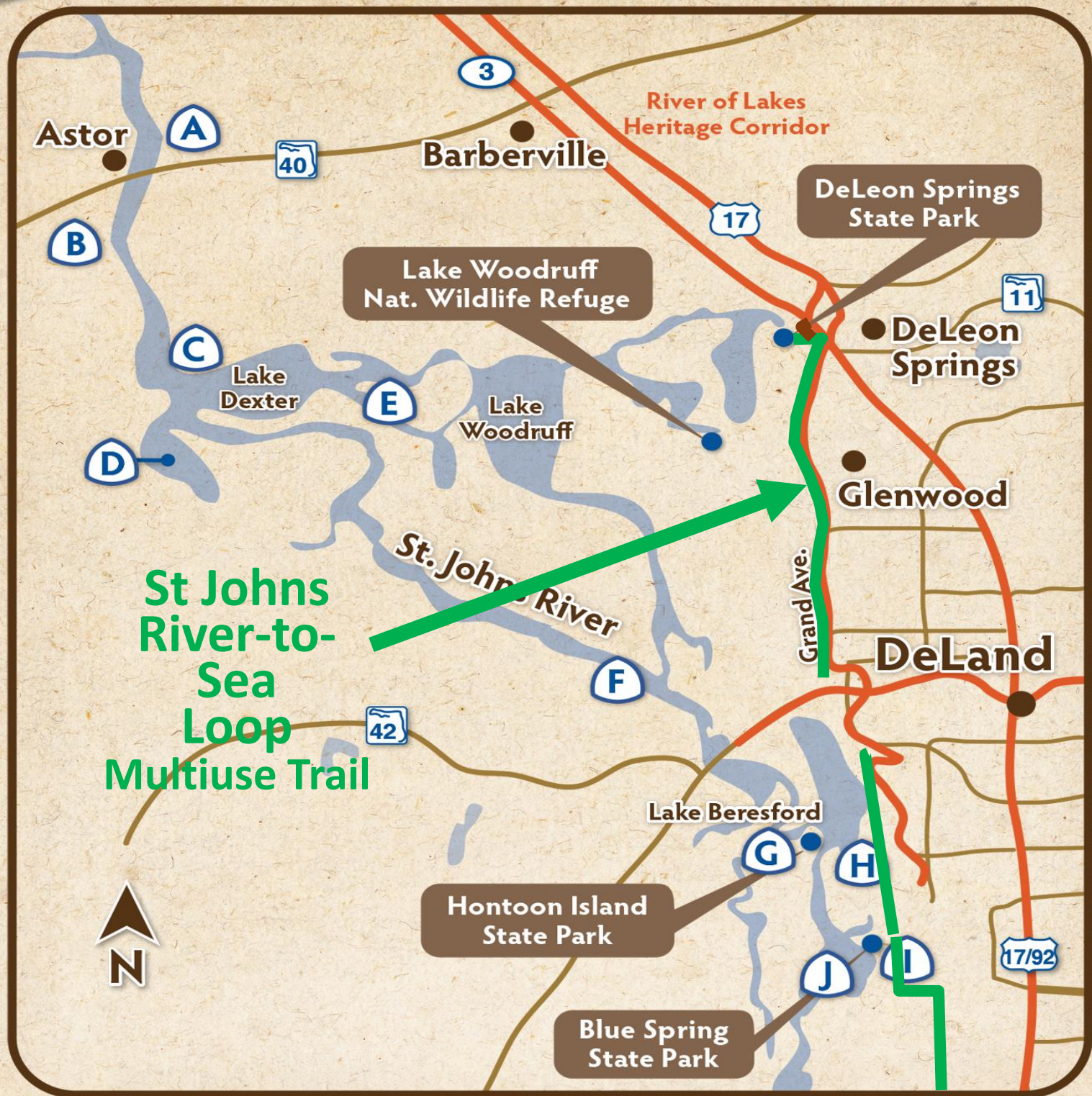






# St Johns River-to-Sea Loop Alliance

We're All Connected



## Explore Volusia County

By bicycle on the St Johns River-to-Sea Loop multiuse trail

By boat on the St Johns River

By car on the River of Lakes Heritage Corridor





# Long and Winding Path to the DeLand Black Heritage Trail

Connections and perseverance

<b>1995-2015</b>	Envisioning and building support for the St Johns River-to-Sea Loop
<b>2009</b>	River of Lakes Heritage Corridor formed
<b>2016</b>	St Johns River-to-Sea Loop designated second Top-Priority SUNTrail. River2Sea Loop Alliance forms and partners with River of Lakes Heritage Corridor
<b>2017</b>	Stetson University (Tony Abbott, Sailforth) and River of Lakes create Volusia Bartram Trail Project working with Bartram Trail Society Florida and Putnam
<b>2020-21 All About Partnerships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• River-to-Sea partners with Stetson on Nature and History Project w/ support by Florida Humanities Bartram Trail and Struggle for Freedom</li> <li>• River-to-Sea and River of Lakes partner on sign kiosk at DeBary Station</li> <li>• DeLand initiates Voorhis Ave Streetscape Alliance, Stetson, JW Wright building restoration partner.</li> </ul>
<b>2022</b>	Alliance and River of Lakes members apply for DeLand Black History Trail grant
<b>2023</b>	DeLand Black Heritage Trail project





# What is the DeLand Black Heritage Trail

- Guided and self-guided walking and cycling routes connecting DeLand's Black heritage sites and cultural landmarks
- Combine history, exploration, education, activity and accessibility
- Project Goals
  - Identify, photograph, document and showcase landmarks
  - Increase street activity
  - Influence Streetscape design
  - Inspire city/county/FDOT to connect a cycling route between Black Heritage Trail and St Johns River-to-Sea Loop SUNTrail and SunRail Station
  - Instill Pride of Place in the community





# DeLand BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL

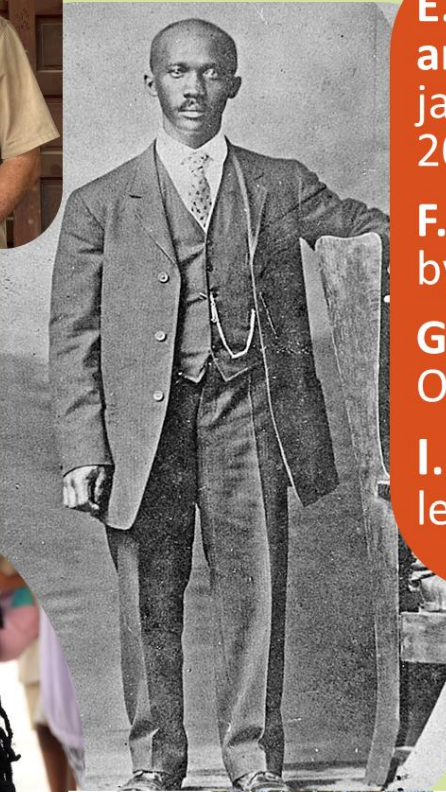
**The Places      The People      The History**

**A. James W. Wright Building:** Built in 1920 by James Washington Wright it became the business and social hub of the African American community.

**B. Washington Theater:** Former Booker T. Washington Movie Theater, now Emmanuel Seventh Day Adventist Church.

**C. Dr. Lancaster Starke's Office and Clinic**

**D. African American Museum of the Arts (AAMA):** Founded 1994



**E. Noble "Thin Man" Watts Amphitheater and Mural:** Built 2002 to honor DeLand's jazz saxophone player. Mural painted in 2022 by Seattle muralist Moses Sun.

**F. American Legion Orange Baker Post:** Built by Veterans in 1954.

**G. Greater Union First Baptist Church:** Organized in 1882, rebuilt here in 1893.

**I. "The Hill" Mural :** Honoring community leaders



**The DeLand Black Heritage Trail Project**

Self-guided cycling and walking routes connect DeLand's Black heritage landmarks that honor African American heritage. Outdoor activities like walking and cycling improve health and social connections for people and their communities. Connections are a catalyst that span social and economic divides. Historical awareness instills pride of place. **See map on reverse side for locations.**





Scan QR Code to download **Heritage Trail Guide** or visit [River2seaLoop.org](http://River2seaLoop.org)



# DeLand BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL



- Landmarks**
- A. James W. Wright Building - 258 W. Voorhis Ave.
  - B. Washington Theater/Emmanuel Seventh-Day Adventist Church - 254 W. Voorhis Ave.
  - C. Dr. Lancaster Starke's Office and Clinic - 206 W. Voorhis Ave.
  - D. African American Museum of the Arts - 325 S. Clara Ave.
  - E. Noble "Thin Man" Watts Amphitheater and Mural - 322 S. Clara Ave.
  - F. American Legion Orange Baker Post #187 - 415 W. Voorhis Ave.
  - G. Greater Union First Baptist Church - 240 S. Clara Ave.
  - H. Athens Masonic Lodge - 227 W. Voorhis Ave.
  - I. "The Hill" Mural - 201 W. Voorhis Ave.
- East Howry Avenue Area**
- J. Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church - 210 E. Howry Ave.
  - K. Home and Office of Dr. Senator Coleman - 237 E. Howry Ave.
  - L. Home of Joseph Vaughn - 246 E. Howry Ave.
  - M. Home of Noble "Thin Man" Watts - 500 E. Howry Ave.
- Other Areas**
- N. Former North East Jackson Gym - 420 S. Delaware Ave.
  - O. The Burgess Pavilion at DeLand Memorial Hospital and Veterans Museum in Bill Dreggors Park - 230 N. Stone St.
  - P. Murals at Painter's Pond - E. Wisconsin Ave.
  - Q. Original Spring Hill Resource Center and Butterfly Mural - 910 S. Adelle Ave.
  - R. Greater Bethlehem Baptist Church - 333 S. Clara Ave.



DELAND  
BLACK  
HERITAGE  
TRAIL



Scan the QR Code to  
download  
Heritage Trail Guide  
or visit  
[River2seaLoop.org](http://River2seaLoop.org)





## All about Partnerships



### Partners

- African American Museum of Art
- American Legion Orange Baker Post 187
- BeaconOnline News
- Bethlehem Baptist Church
- Bike Walk Central Florida
- Boys and Girls Club
- Dr Joyce Cusack Spring Hill Resource Center
- Emmanuel Seventh-Day Adventist Church
- Florida Victorian
- JCs Bikes and Boards
- Greater Union First Baptist Church
- Stetson Baptist Church
- West Volusia Tourism Bureau

### Special Thanks

- Laine Berman
- Al Bouie
- Kimberly Cline
- Chris Cloudman
- Shilretha Dixon
- Ryan Flesch
- Deborah McShane
- Suze Peace
- Andrew Powell
- Ella Ran
- Mark Shuttleworth
- Reggie Williams
- Kevin Winchell





Al Bouie discusses James W. Wright's impact on the community

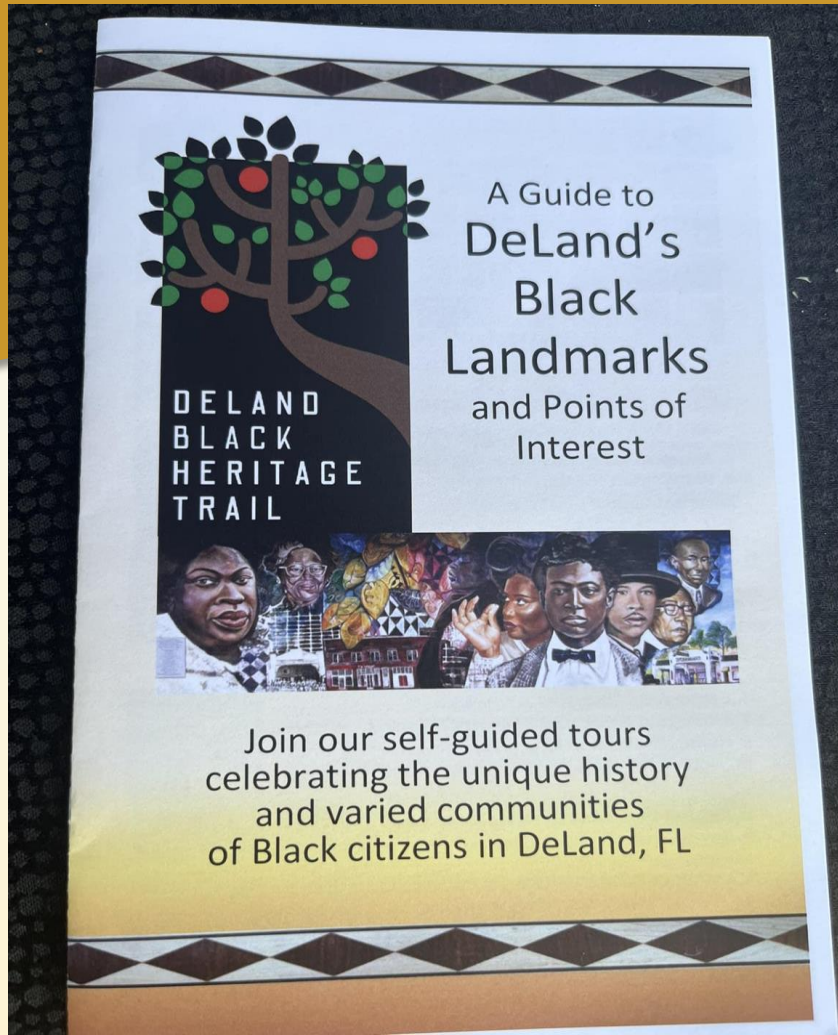
James W. Wright Building on the National Registry of Historic Places

Mark Shuttleworth discusses renovation progress on the James W. Wright Building



James W. Wright, portrayed by Vernon Burton, in the Wright Building,





- **Build connections**
- **Improve economy**
- **increase street activity**
- **Improve health**
- **inspire infrastructure improvements**
- **Connect to trails and byways**







A Guide to  
DeLand's  
Black  
Landmarks  
and Points of  
Interest



Join our self-guided tours  
celebrating the unique and  
varied history of Black citizens  
in DeLand, FL

The **DeLand Black Heritage Trail** is a self-guided cycling and walking route connecting DeLand's Black heritage sites and interesting destinations that honor African American heritage.

Get out on foot or bicycle to explore a unique part of our town, enjoy healthy, outdoor activity, and create deeper community connections.

Scan the code or visit the address below to download and print your own copy of the guide.



<https://river2sealoop.org/delandblackheritageproject/>







# DeLand Black Heritage Trail

We're All Connected



## Signage Work Continues

**Greater Union  
First Baptist Church**  
est. 1882

The Greater Union First Baptist Church was organized and established in 1882 as the only church in DeLand for African Americans.

It was originally located at a site on Rich Avenue in downtown DeLand. In 1893 the church was rebuilt at its present location at 240 S. Clara Avenue.

The beautiful white wooden church has been known for over a century for its Christian and community service.

Small logos and line drawings here

**DeLand  
BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL**  
The Places The People The History

**A. James W. Wright Building** (258 W. Voorhis Ave.) The building, built in 1920 by James Washington Wright became the business and social hub of the African American community. It provided a grocery, cafe, hairdresser and medical offices.

**B. Washington Theater/Emmanuel Seventh Day Adventist Church** (254 W. Voorhis Ave.) This church was the former Booker T. Washington Movie Theater, entertainment central for the community.

**C. Dr. Lancaster Starke's Office and Clinic** (206 W. Voorhis Ave.) The office of Dr. Starke, DeLand's beloved Black doctor, to move to DeLand from Alachua County, Florida in 1930.

**D. African American Museum of the Arts (AAMA)** (325 S. Clara Ave.) Founded in 1994 by Irene and Maxwell Johnson to showcase African American and Caribbean American arts and culture.

**E. Noble "Thin Man" Watts Amphitheater and Mural** (322 S. Clara Ave.) Built in 2002 to honor DeLand jazz tenor saxophone player Noble "Thin Man" Watts. Mural painted in 2022 by Seattle muralist Moses Sun.

**F. American Legion Orange Baker Post** - 227 W. Voorhis Ave. Built by Veterans in 1954 and it remains active today. Members included Lt. Charles Bailey, one of the most decorated fighter pilots of the Tuskegee Airmen in WWII.

**G. Greater Union First Baptist Church** (240 S. Clara Ave.) Organized in 1882 it was originally located on Rich Avenue, and was rebuilt at its current location 1893.

**I. "The Hill" Mural** - 201 W. Voorhis Ave. A colorful composite of the "unbroken chain of memories holding us together through the years and through the generations."

**The DeLand Black Heritage Trail Project**  
The project includes self-guided cycling and walking routes connecting DeLand's Black heritage sites and interesting destinations that honor African American heritage. Outdoor activities like walking, cycling, exploring, socializing, and relaxing improve health for people and their communities. Connections created are a catalyst to break barriers and span social and economic divides. Historical awareness instills pride of place, and can be a stimulus for continued advances. See detailed map on reverse side.

**DeLand  
BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL**

**Landmarks**

A. James W. Wright Building - 258 W. Voorhis Ave.  
 B. Washington Theater/Emmanuel Seventh-Day Adventist Church - 254 W. Voorhis Ave.  
 C. Dr. Lancaster Starke's Office and Clinic - 206 W. Voorhis Ave.  
 D. African American Museum of the Arts - 325 S. Clara Ave.  
 E. Noble "Thin Man" Watts Amphitheater and Mural - 322 S. Clara Ave.  
 F. American Legion Orange Baker Post #187 - 227 W. Voorhis Ave.  
 G. Greater Union First Baptist Church - 240 S. Clara Ave.  
 H. Athens Masonic Lodge - 227 W. Voorhis Ave.  
 I. "The Hill" Mural - 201 W. Voorhis Ave.

**East Howry Avenue Area**

J. Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church - 210 E. Howry Ave.  
 K. Home and Office of Dr. Senator Coleman - 237 E. Howry Ave.  
 L. Home of Joseph Vaughn - 246 E. Howry Ave.  
 M. Home of Noble "Thin Man" Watts - 500 E. Howry Ave.

**Other Areas**

N. Former North East Jackson Gym - 420 S. Delaware Ave.  
 O. The Burgess Pavilion at DeLand Memorial Hospital and Veterans Museum in Bill Dreggors Park - 230 N. Stone St.  
 P. Murals at Painter's Pond - E. Wisconsin Ave.  
 Q. Original Spring Hill Resource Center and Butterfly Mural - 910 S. Adelle Ave.  
 R. Greater Bethlehem Baptist Church - 333 S. Clara Ave.

Scan the QR Code to download Heritage Trail Guide or visit River2seaLoop.org





# DeLand Black Heritage Trail

We're All Connected



## New Landmarks and Point of View Emerge



IMAGE COURTESY COURTNEY CANOVA  
**HONORING A DELANDITE** — This concept image shows what a new mural, depicting health care and civil rights activist Byllye Avery, will look like on the side of The West Volusia Beacon building at 110 W. New York Ave. in Downtown DeLand. It was designed by mural artist Courtney Canova, whose goal was to deviate from the typical portrait-style mural and illustrate Avery as the large live oak tree in her childhood home's backyard that she spent many hours dreaming under. The tree is still standing, too, behind The Little House Next Door child care center at 133 E. Church St.





# Never Stop Envisioning a Golden Connected Future

- Voorhis Ave Streetscape is attractive and welcoming
- James W. Wright Building once again becomes a business and social center
- **Everything connects and is Accessible**
  - River of Lakes Heritage Corridor National Scenic Byway
  - Regional Multiuse/River2SeaLoop SUNTrails
  - Bartram Trails
  - DeLand Black Heritage Trail
  - SunRail Stations

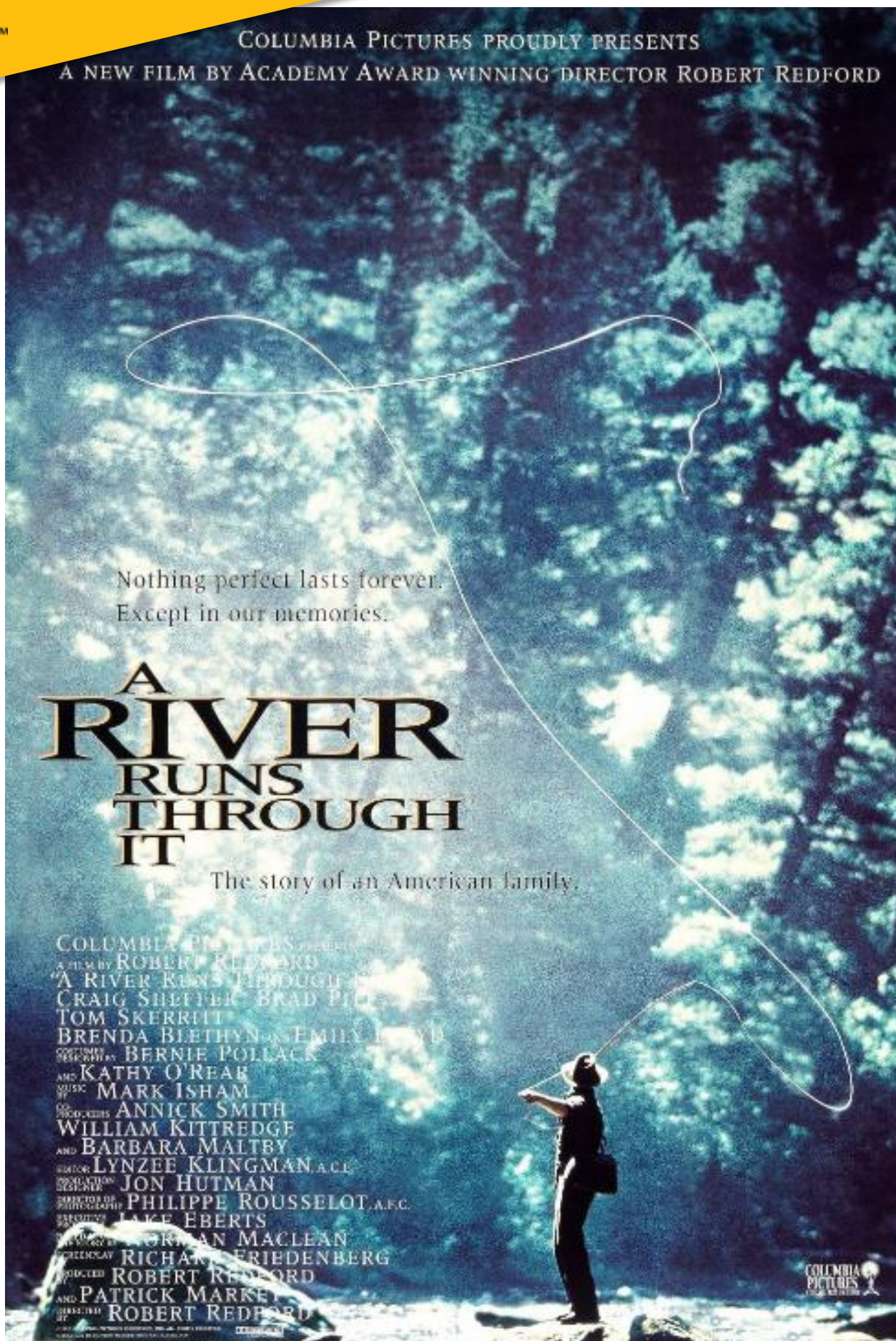






Byways, Trails, Rivers, Culture  
History, Humanity

St Johns River-to-Sea Loop Alliance  
River of Lakes Heritage Corridor  
We Are All Connected



“Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it.”  
Norman Maclean,  
A River Runs Through It and Other Stories





Byways, Trails, Rivers, Culture  
History, Humanity

St Johns River-to-Sea Loop Alliance  
River of Lakes Heritage Corridor

We Are All Connected

# Questions?

St Johns River-to-Sea Loop Alliance

Maggie Ardito

[Maggie@River2SeaLoop.Org](mailto:Maggie@River2SeaLoop.Org)

VISION | COMMITMENT | PERSEVERANCE

<https://www.River2SeaLoop.org>

[maggie@River2SeaLoop.ORG](mailto:maggie@River2SeaLoop.ORG)

“LIKE” us and share posts on Facebook

[Facebook.com/SJR2C](https://www.facebook.com/SJR2C)

DeLand Black Heritage Trail

<https://river2sealoop.org/delandblackheritageproject/>

<https://www.facebook.com/DeLandBlackHeritageTrail/>

