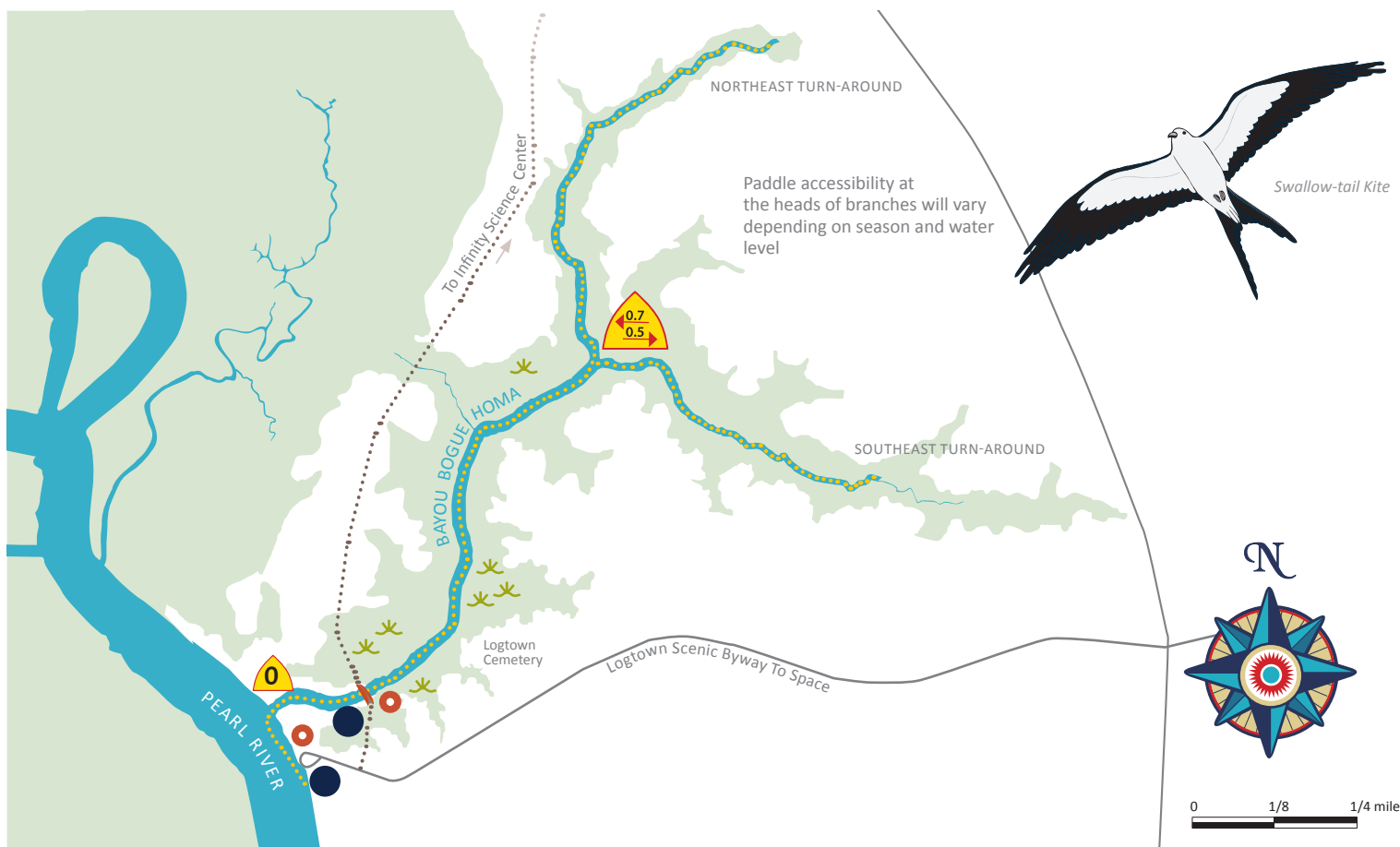


BOGUE HOMA BAYOU



MAP LEGEND

- Mile Marker
- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Blueway Trail Swamp
- Interpretive Sign Possum Walk Trail

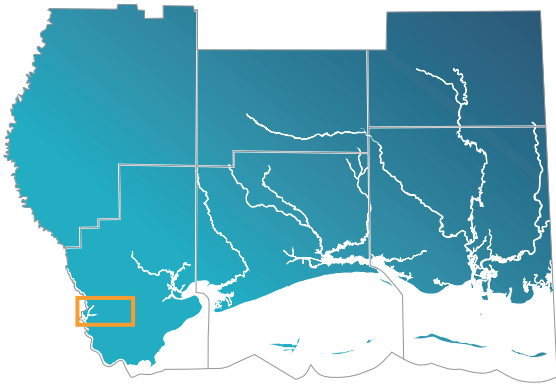
| | |
|----------------------|---|
| LEVEL | Beginner to Intermediate |
| START/END | East Pearl River Boat Launch |
| TRAIL MILES | 2.25 miles |
| PADDLING TIME | 2-1/2 hours round-trip |
| DESCRIPTION | Freshwater Swamp |
| SCENERY | Cypress along the bank with hanging Spanish Moss, native flowering vegetation, very calm and relaxing |
| ACCESS | Accessible Kayak/canoe launch |

The East Pearl River watershed has been home to people of many backgrounds: tribal cultures, explorers, pioneers, logging employees, traders, slaves and freedmen, and settlers from across the globe. Possum Walk was a traditional African-American community along the banks of Bayou Bogue Homa. In these waters people from Possum Walk and Logtown fished, drew water, washed clothing, and met their everyday needs.

The **Possum Walk Heritage Trail** opened on August 14, 2013 to hiking, off-road bicycling, and kayaking. The bayhead swamp offers unparalleled wildlife due to the thousands of acres of buffer zone that surround the site.



The Bayou Bogue Homa meets the marshes of the East Pearl River, hosting bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and blackgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*). The banks contain scattered patches of southern wild-rice (*Zizaniopsis*), pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*) and occasionally wild-rice (*Zizania aquatica*). Keep an eye out for alligators, as they have been spotted regularly in these waters! Birds of the area include: Anhinga, Osprey, Cooper's Hawk and other raptors, Bald Eagle, Kingfisher, Vulture species, Woodpecker species (although no evidence of the Ivory-Billed variety... yet.) Species of particular interest include: Brown-headed Nuthatch, Swallow-tailed Kite and Mississippi Kite (summer residents), Prothonotary Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, and Cerulean Warbler (an annual visitor), Painted Bunting, and Rusty Blackbird (a winter resident).



After the Weston mill closed in 1930, Logtown's population decreased steadily. A rich community life continued, however, in Logtown and in the Point, the mostly African-American community north across the Bogue Homa from Logtown. According to local lore and some former residents, the making of homemade whiskey, or moonshine, became common until the end of Prohibition in Hancock County after the closing of area timber mills.



Lumberjacks at Logtown, circa 1890.

Following the Depression, life went on in Logtown and the Point, and area residents enjoyed Sunday church picnics, bought supplies at Forest and Eldora Summers' general store, fished, hunted turkey and wild boar, went to Moultrie's tavern in the Point, and had parties, or "come-overs." The Point had its own cemetery, which still lies northeast of Logtown cemetery, between the forks of the Bogue Homa. In 1961, NASA announced plans to build Stennis Space Center, and the process of relocating residents of the acoustic buffer zone began



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.

