



Trail Tales

The Newsletter of
RAILS TO TRAILS OF THE WITHLACOOCHEE, INC.
The Citizen Support Organization for the Withlacoochee State Trail (WST)
The Friendliest Trail in the Country

Withlacoochee State Trail: Reopened for Use

The Withlacoochee State Trail is open for daily use again after the devastation of Hurricane Irma. Thanks to the quick response and hard work of our volunteers and Florida State Park employees, all fallen trees and debris have been removed from the trail surface. However, downfall remains on the trail's grassy shoulders, and it will take some time for volunteers to remove all of this remaining downfall.



To give you an idea of the extent of the damage, in this picture the truck and the volunteers are on the trail itself, as is this massive tree.



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Additionally, repairs to asphalt damaged by both vandalism and nature, originally scheduled for September, has been delayed by the storm, as contractors are unavailable. Trail users will be visually alerted to these rough areas by safety cones placed at those sites as much as possible, but please take extra care as the storm has created enough instability that new asphalt problems could open at any time.

Also, because of severe flooding of the Withlacoochee River in Hernando County, cars are using the state trail starting at the State Road 50 bridge and extending south for approximately 1/2 mile, plus an additional 1/2 mile just north of the Ridge Manor Trailhead, which remains open. This will continue until the water recedes and residents can access their homes via regular roads.

Always stay on the asphalt and do not stray into the grass where you might easily encounter sharp branches or run into large logs. Be especially aware of children with you using the trail, as riding into the grass is something many children do when they want to slow down or as they are turning to look for you behind them.





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Annual Fundraising Ride: Postponed Until March 4, 2018

While the trail can be used by our usual number of daily riders, it would not have been safe to add an extra 1000+ cyclists who would fill the trail for 4 to 6 hours during the annual Rails to Trails Bike Ride on the Withlacoochee State Trail. Thus, Rails to Trails of the Withlacoochee, Inc., and Florida State Park management are postponing the ride until Sunday, March 4, 2018. This will help us make it a safer, more enjoyable experience for all riders.

If you're already registered - GREAT! You should have received an email with options if you can't make it March 4. If you haven't signed up yet, head on over to rttwst.org and sign up today! Please share this information to spread the word.

Tree Planting Along the Trail

You might have noticed tree plantings at Edan Drive in Inverness. Volunteers, led by Ken Spilios, have planted 21 trees or shrubs in the bare spots on both the north and south sides of the trail there.



They have planted Live Oaks (*Quercus virginiana*), Simpson's Stopper

(*Myrcianthes fragrans*), and Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*); all of which are native to Florida.

The Simpson's Stoppers and Wax Myrtles should get 20 feet tall and fill in to block the view of the road. The Live Oaks grow to over 60 feet tall. Simpson's Stoppers also have blossoms and berries that feed wildlife.



The tree plantings are a project funded by our bike rides. Our sincere thanks to Ken and his crew for making the RTW nicer for today's riders, and tomorrow's, too.





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Bicycle Break Recall

SRAM, in conjunction with the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, has issued a recall of 7,000 'SD7' linear-pull rim brakes.

According to SRAM (a bicycle components manufacturer founded in 1987), a rivet in the brake unit can work loose, which can cause the brakes to fail, posing a crash hazard to the rider.

SD7 brakes included in this recall were sold at bike shops and online retailers from June 2014 to May 2017. They were also sold as original equipment on ElliptiGO model 11R stride-bikes from October 2014 through May 2017.

Owners can check to see if their SD7 brakes are included in this recall by checking the date code stamped onto the rear of the brake arm.



For complete information, please visit <http://www.bikeradar.com/us/road/news/article/avid-single-digit-7-sd7-brake-recall-50981/>

I Need to Hear from You!

Have a story for the newsletter? Have an idea for one? Send it along to me, the editor, at njnkeefe@yahoo.com

Rails to Trails of the Withlacoochee, Inc

www.rttwst.org

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