

Appendix B
Priority Springs

PRIORITY SPRINGS DESCRIPTION

Six of the 17 Priority Springs are Outstanding Florida Springs (OFS) (Table 1). An OFS is a spring and associated spring run designated by the FDEP as worthy of special protection because of its natural attributes and quality. Section 373.802(4), Florida Statutes (F.S.), defines OFS to include “all historic first magnitude springs, as determined by the department using the most recent Florida Geological Survey springs bulletin, and the following additional six springs: DeLeon, Peacock, Poe, Rock, Wekiva, and Gemini. OFS do not include submarine springs or river rises.”

Much of the considerable information available for the Priority Springs in the LSFR system has been developed through piecemeal data collection and studies. Florida Geological Survey 66 (Scott, et al. 2004) is a compendium of spring descriptions and infrequent measurements of historic spring flow and water quality. The springs descriptions that follow this section are excerpts from Florida Geological Survey 66. Based on information compiled by cave divers, synoptic water-quality sampling, and dye-tracing studies, five of the 17 Priority Springs are characterized as resurgences and the other 12 as exurgences (Table 1). A resurgence is the re-emergence of groundwater through a karst feature, a part or all of whose waters are derived from surface water inflow into a swallow hole (swallet) where surface water disappears underground in a limestone region. The two resurgences, recognizable by their names, are Santa Fe River Rise and Siphon Creek Rise. An exurgence is a spring or seep in karstic terrain not clearly connected with swallets (or ponors) at a higher elevation.

Nine Priority Springs have no discernible runs or very short runs a tenth of a mile or less in length (Table 1). With a length of about 0.9 miles, Treehouse Spring run is the longest. The runs of the other seven Priority Springs range between about 0.2 and 0.7 miles in length. The springs in Table 1 are listed in downstream order, hence the straight-line distances between the springs on the LSR and Cody Scarp increase generally when progressing downstream, ranging from about 1.1 miles at Santa Fe River Rise to 5.4 miles at Siphon Creek Rise. Located along the upper reach of Ichetucknee River which flows southward, the six Priority Springs on the IR are all about 7 miles away from Cody Scarp.

All 17 springs are utilized primarily to one degree or another for recreation in and on the water such as swimming, diving, tubing and canoeing (Table 1). All but five of the Priority Springs are located on public land, the largest tract of which is Ichetucknee Springs State Park. Public use facilities such as restrooms, docks, and concessions are available at, or near, seven of the Priority Springs.

Recognizing the unique features and public interest in the springs and karst terrain of the LSFR watershed, the FDEP has completed Land Management Plans for tracts that encompass Santa Fe River Rise (Florida Department of Environmental Protection 2017) and the six Priority Springs on the IR (Florida Department of Environmental Protection 2000). A 2018 draft management plan for the Ginnie Springs area that includes Gilchrist Blue Spring is under review.

The Ichetucknee Springs Working Group (ISWG) was organized in 1998 to help educate the public and local stakeholders about the Ichetucknee Springs and River and changing land uses in the Ichetucknee Springshed (Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute (FSI) 2012). The FDEP contracted Normandeau and Associates, Inc. to draft a restoration plan for the IR system. The FSI lead an effort to finalize the restoration plan (Table 1), based on best available science, which is intended to provide a basis and

preliminary guidance for actions needed to achieve comprehensive ecosystem restoration and protection of the Ichetucknee River system.

A substantial proportion of the Florida economy is attributed to the tourism industry, and Florida's springs are a primary destination for many in-state and out-of-state visitors. Springs-based tourism serves as an economic engine (Borisova, Stevens and Hodges 2015). The authors conducted a study of the economic contributions generated by recreation and tourism activities at 15 spring sites (10 public and 5 private) including 5 of the LSFR system Priority Springs (Table 1). Ichetucknee Springs State Park was one of four spring systems in north Florida assessed for economic impact in the early 2000's (Bonn and Bell 2003).

Four entities have maintained data-collection programs involving the systematic collection of hydrologic, water-quality, and biological data in the many of the Priority Springs and runs (Table 1). The USGS has collected streamflow and spring-flow data in north Florida since the early 1900s. Starting in the 1970s, the SRWMD and USGS implemented hydrologic data collection efforts more frequently and at more locations, including the 17 Priority Springs. Stream and spring water-quality data have also been collected more frequently since the 1970s at multiple locations within the LSFR watershed by FDEP, counties, and municipalities (Florida Department of Environmental Protection 2018). Devil's Eye Spring and Ichetucknee Head Spring are two Priority Springs addressed in the state's more recent integrated water-quality assessment.

In 2018, the FSI initiated quarterly synoptic sampling at multiple river and spring locations including several Priority Springs (Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Insitute 2018). The quarterly sampling events involve the concurrent collection of hydrologic, water quality, biological and ecological data. Karst Environmental Services recently completed a botanical survey of SAV at seven Priority Springs and runs along the LSFR for Alachua County (Morris, Butt and Shemitz 2017). While these recent surveys of provide insight into the spatial distribution of recent water quality and biological conditions, they are of limited use when assessing WRV metrics over the long-term, baseline period of hydrologic record considered in the current MFLs re-evaluation.

Table 1. Distinguishing characteristics of Priority Springs in the lower Santa Fe River system

Spring ¹	Type ²	Magnitude	Run Length (mi)	Distance From Cody Scarp ³ (mi)	Utilization (Ownership)	Public Use Facilities Onsite	Management or Restoration Plan Available	Economic Impact Assessment Available	Aquatic Vegetation Predominant Present in Spring / Run	Select Spring Description References ⁴	Select Recent Data and Sources ⁵
Santa Fe River:											
Santa Fe River Rise	R	1	--	1.1	Recreation (public - River Rise Preserve State Park)	No	Management	No	--	a, d	F(a,b), Q(b), B(b,c)
Hornsby ¹	E	1	0.9	1.8	Recreation (private - Camp Kulaqua)	Yes	No	Yes	Filamentous algae	a, b	F(a,b), Q(b), B(b,c)
Treehouse ¹	R	1	<0.1	2.0	Recreation (privately owned area)	No	No	No	Filamentous algae, Naiad	a	F(a), B(b,c)
Columbia ¹	R	1	0.1	2.5	Recreation (privately owned area)	No	No	No	--	a	
Poe ¹	E	2	<0.1	4.5	Recreation (public - Poe Springs County Park)	Yes	No	Yes	Filamentous algae	a, b	F(a,b), Q(b), B(b,c)
COL 101974	E	2	0.2	4.3	Recreation (public - Rum Island County Park)	Yes	No	--	--	a	
Rum Island	E	2	--	4.3	Recreation (public - Rum Island County Park)	Yes	No	Borisova and others (2015)	Filamentous algae, East Indian Hygrophila	a, b	F(a,b), Q(b), B(b,c)

Spring ¹	Type ²	Magnitude	Run Length (mi)	Distance From Cody Scarp ³ (mi)	Utilization (Ownership)	Public Use Facilities Onsite	Management or Restoration Plan Available	Economic Impact Assessment Available	Aquatic Vegetation Predominant Present in Spring / Run	Select Spring Description References ⁴	Select Recent Data and Sources ⁵
Gilchrist Blue	E	2	0.2	4.6	Recreation (public - Ruth B. Kirby Gilchrist Blue Springs State Park)	Yes	Management (2018 draft)	Borisova and others (2015)	Tapegrass, Red Ludwigia, Hydrilla, Stone-wort	a, b	F(a), Q(b), B(b,c)
July	R	1	<0.1	4.6	Recreation (privately owned area)	No	No	--	Hydrophila, Filamentous algae	a	F(a,b), Q(b), B(b,c)
Devil's Ear Complex ¹	E	1	<0.1	4.8	Recreation (private - Ginnie Springs Resort)	Yes	No	--	Filamentous algae, East Indian Hygrophila	a	F(a,b), Q(b,d), B(b,c)
Siphon Creek Rise	R	1	--	5.4	Recreation (public - SRWMD owned area)	No	No	--	native aquatic vegetation	a	
Ichetucknee River:											
Ichetucknee Head ¹	E	1	--	7.0	Recreation (public - Ichetucknee Springs State Park)	Yes	Restoration	Yes	very little	a, b, c, e, f	F(a,b), Q(b,d), B(b)
Blue Hole	E	1	<0.2	7.0		Near Ichetucknee Head		--	Strap-leaf sagittaria	a, e, f	F(a,b), Q(b), B(b)
Mission	E	2	<0.3	7.0		No		--	Strap-leaf sagittaria	a, e, f	F(a)
Devil's Eye	E	2	<0.4	7.0		No		--	Strap-leaf sagittaria	a, e, f	F(a)
Grassy Hole	E	3	<0.5	7.0		Near South Takeout		--	aquatic weeds	a, e, f	F(a)

Spring ¹	Type ²	Magnitude	Run Length (mi)	Distance From Cody Scarp ³ (mi)	Utilization (Ownership)	Public Use Facilities Onsite	Management or Restoration Plan Available	Economic Impact Assessment Available	Aquatic Vegetation Predominant Present in Spring / Run	Select Spring Description References ⁴	Select Recent Data and Sources ⁵
Mill Pond	E	2	<0.6	7.0		Near South Takeout		--	Eel grass	a, e, f	F(a)

¹Denotes an Outstanding Florida Spring (a spring and associated spring run designated by the FDEP as worthy of special protection because of its natural attributes and quality)

²Spring type descriptions by Copeland (2003):

Swallet (swallow hole) is a place where water disappears underground in a limestone region (Field 1999).

R denotes resurgence (rise) is the re-emergence of groundwater through a karst feature, a part or all of whose waters are derived from surface water inflow into a swallow hole.

E denotes exsurgence is a spring or seep in karstic terrane not clearly connected with swallets (or ponors) at a higher level.

³Determined by SRWMD

⁴Citations:

a) FGS Bulletin 66.

b) Economic contributions and ecosystem services of springs in the lower Suwannee and Santa Fe River Basins of north-central Florida (Borisova, Stevens and Hodges 2015).

c) Economic impact of selected Florida springs on surrounding local areas (Bonn and Bell 2003)

d) O'Leno/River Rise State Park Management Plan (Florida Department of Environmental Protection 2017)

e) Ichetucknee Springs State Park Unit Management Plan (Florida Department of Environmental Protection 2000)

f) Ichetucknee Springs Restoration Plan (Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute (FSI) 2012)

⁵Type and source of historical data denoted by F (spring flow), Q (water quality - physical, chemical, and/or bacteriological), B (biological - flora and/or fauna)

a) USGS / SRWMD

b) Florida Springs Institute Environmental Analysis reports (baseline and quarterly assessments since 2016)

c) Santa Fe River and springs biological/botanical survey, with focus on submerged aquatic vegetation; selected Santa River Springs, Alachua, Columbia and Gilchrist Counties, Florida (Morris, Butt and Shemitz 2017)

d) Integrated water quality assessment for Florida: 2018 Sections 303(d), 305(b), and 314 report and listing update (Florida Department of Environmental Protection 2018)

REFERENCES

- Bonn, Mark A., and Frederick W. Bell. 2003. *Economic impact of selected Florida springs on surrounding local areas*. Contract report for Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, FL: Florida State University.
- Borisova, Tatiana, Thomas J. Stevens, and Alan W. Hodges. 2015. *Economic contributions and ecosystem services of springs in the lower Suwannee and Santa Fe River Basins of north-central Florida*. Gainesville, FL: University of Florida IFAS Extension.
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection. 2018. *Final integrated water quality assessment for Florida: 2018 Section 303(d), 305(b), and 314 report and listing update*. Tallahassee, FL: Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
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- Florida Department of Environmental Protection. 2017. *O'Leno/River Rise Preserve State Park Management Plan*. Tallahassee, FL: Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
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- Morris, Thomas L., Peter L. Butt, and Georgia A. Shemitz. 2017. *Santa Fe River springs biological/botanical survey, with focus on submerged aquatic vegetation; selected Santa Fe River springs, Alachua, Columbia and Gilchrist Counties, Florida*. High Springs, FL: Karst Environmental Services, Inc.
- Scott, T., G. Meegan, S. Upchurch, R. Copeland, T. Roberts, and A. Willet . 2004. *Springs of Florida 1.1*. Bulletin 66, Tallahassee: Florida Geological Survey.

Santa Fe River Rise



Location - Lat. 29° 52' 26.0" N., Long. 82° 35' 29.9" W. (SW¼ SW¼ SW¼ sec. 14, T. 7 S., R. 17 E.). Santa Fe River Rise is located within O'Leno State Park/River Rise Preserve State Park. From the junction of US 441/41 and US 27 in High Springs, head north on US 441/41 approximately 6 miles (9.7 km) to O'Leno State Park entrance on the east (right) side of the road. Directions to the river rise via park roads can be obtained at the park entrance.

Description - Santa Fe River Rise is the re-emergence of the underground Santa Fe River. The spring pool measures 175 ft (53.3 m) east to west and 165 ft (50.3 m) north to south. There is a vertical limestone ledge on the northeast side of the pool. The depth just south of the ledge measures 49 ft (14.9m). The water color is typically that of the Santa Fe River, which may be tannic or clear depending mainly on rainfall. No boil was observed during the October 2001 visit. The river flows southward from the vent and is approximately as wide (east to west) as the spring pool. There is a narrow band of cypress growing around the pool perimeter. There are patches of duckweed around the periphery of the pool, and no aquatic vegetation could be seen through the tannic water. Several hundred yards of the Santa Fe River below Santa Fe Rise is choked with water hyacinth, and boat access to the rise is nearly impossible. Land around the river rise quickly rises to approximately 8 ft (2.4 m) above water level and levels off into a flat mesic hardwood hammock.

Utilization - The Santa Fe River Rise is a pristine, state-owned natural area.

Treehouse Spring



Location - Lat. 29° 51' 17.6" N., Long. 82° 36' 0.4" W. (SW¼ NE¼ NW¼ sec. 27, T. 7 S., R. 17 E.). Treehouse Spring is approximately 2 miles (3.2 km) north of High Springs on the east bank of the Santa Fe River. The spring can be accessed by boat from a public boat ramp downstream from the spring. From the junction of US 441/41 and CR 236 (Main Street) in High Springs, drive north on US 441/41 approximately 1.2 miles (1.9 km). Turn west (left) at public access boat sign just before the Santa Fe River. The spring is 0.6 miles (1 km) upstream from the boat ramp on the southeast side of the river.

Description - Treehouse Spring is in a circular cove on the southeast side of the Santa Fe River. The spring discharges westward into the adjacent river. Spring pool diameter measures 125 ft (38.1 m) north to south and 175 ft (53.3 m) east to west. Pool depth over the vent is 31 ft (9.4 m). Water color was tannic, and there was no spring boil during October 2001. Water hyacinth was the only non-native plant species observed in the spring pool. No other vegetation could be seen through the dark water. Land adjacent to this spring is a forested lowland flood plain. The nearest high ground is approximately 150 ft (46 m) to the east, and it rises 10-12 ft (3-3.7 m) higher than the flood plain and is forested with mixed hardwoods and pines. Treehouse Spring is also published as ALA112971 (Hornsby and Ceryak, 1998).

Utilization - the land surrounding this spring is privately owned and is pristine. There is a small rope swing on the east side and the spring is a local swimming spot.

Hornsby Spring



Location - Lat. 29° 51' 01.3" N., Long. 82° 35' 35.5" W. (NE ¼ NE ¼ SE ¼ sec. 27, T. 7 S., R. 17 E.). Hornsby Spring is located in Camp Kulaqua 1.5 miles (2.4 km) north of High Springs. From the US 441/41 and CR 236 (Main Street) intersection in High Springs, drive north on US 441/41 approximately 1.5 miles (2.4 km) to Camp Kulaqua which will be on the east (right) side of the road. Turn east (right) at Camp Kulaqua sign and follow road approximately 1 mile (1.6 km) to campground entrance. The spring is located inside the camp-ground about 300 ft (91.4 m) northwest of the camp entrance.

Description - Hornsby Spring has a circular spring pool measuring 155 ft (47.2 m) north to south and 147 ft (44.8 m) east to west. Its depth at the vent is 34.5 ft (10.5 m). The water is clear and slightly greenish blue. The spring has an underwater limestone ledge on the north side under a floating walkway. Algae patches are growing on limestone substrate. The spring run is approximately 0.9 miles (1.5 km) long, 15 ft (4.6 m) wide and up to 5 ft (1.5 m) deep. It flows generally westward into the Santa Fe River. During the first FGS visit, the spring was not flowing. The FGS sampled the spring during a subsequent visit when a small spring boil was visible near the wooden walkway. This spring is situated on the edge of the lowland floodplain of the Santa Fe River. The floodplain is forested with cypress, gum, and maple. High ground on the east side of the spring rises steeply to 6 ft (1.8 m) above water level, then gently rises to approximately 15 ft (4.6 m) and is a rolling sand hills terrain. The uplands are open and grassy. An underwater cave system has been mapped at Hornsby Spring.

Utilization - Hornsby Spring is the central feature of the privately-owned Camp Kulaqua. The spring is developed into a swimming and recreation area. There are numerous board-walks over and around the spring. A slide leads into the spring pool on the north side. Full facilities are located nearby.

Columbia Spring



Location - Lat. 29° 51' 14.80" N., Long. 82° 36' 43.03" W. (NW¼ SE¼ NE¼ sec. 28, T. 7 S., R. 17 E.). Columbia Spring is located 2 miles (3.2 km) northwest of High Springs on the Santa Fe River and can be accessed by small boat. From the junction of US 441/41 and CR 236 in High Springs, drive north on US 441/41 approximately 1.2 miles (1.9 km). Turn west (left) at public access boat sign just before the Santa Fe River. Spring is in a cove on the northeast bank of the river, 900 ft (274.3 m) downstream from the boat ramp.

Description - Columbia Spring has an oval-shaped pool that measures 75 ft (23 m) north to south and 150 ft (45.7 m) east to west. The depth at the vent is 25 ft (7.6 m). Water is typically clear, but was tannic in October 2001. It has a 30 ft (9.1 m) wide spring run that flows approximately 600 ft (182.9 m) westward to the Santa Fe River. There are native aquatic grasses in the spring run and some algae are present on most substrates. The spring run has a jagged limestone and sand bottom. There is a 1-2 ft (0.3 - 0.6 m) tall manmade line of rocks that stretches across the spring run about 90 ft (27.4 m) west of the vent. The entire spring and spring run are within the lowland flood plain of the Santa Fe River. The flood plain in this area is heavily forested with cypress and other swamp inhabiting hardwoods. The nearest high ground is approximately 600 ft (182.9 m) east of the spring, and it rises to nearly 10 ft (3 m) above the flood plain. It is generally forested with mixed hardwoods and pines. A house sits on the high ground to the east of the spring.

Utilization - The land surrounding the spring is privately owned. The spring is a local swimming hole with pristine surroundings.

Poe Spring



Location - Lat. 29° 49' 32.58" N., Long. 82° 38' 56.30" W. (SW ¼ NW ¼ NE ¼ sec. 6, T. 8 S., R. 17 E.). Poe Spring is located within Poe Springs County Park, 3 miles (4.8 km) west of High Springs. From the junction of US 441/41 and US 27 in High Springs, drive southwest on US 41/27 for 0.6 miles (1 km). Turn west (right) on SR 340 (Poe Springs Road) and travel 2.9 miles (4.7 km), then turn north (right) into the park at the park sign. The spring is down a foot path along the Santa Fe River.

Description - Poe Spring is bordered by a man-made retaining wall. It forms a circular pool 120 ft (36.6 m) in diameter. The vent is on the south side of the pool at the bottom of a conical depression where there is exposed limestone. The depth measures 18.7 ft (5.7 m) over the vent and a boil is present on the spring surface. The water is clear with a blue-greenish hue. The spring has an exposed sand bottom resulting from heavy use. Aquatic vegetation and algae are sparse within the spring. A steep, underwater limestone ledge is on the east side of the vent. The spring run is swift and short, flowing approximately 75 ft (22.9 m) northwest into the Santa Fe River. The river in this vicinity is choked with exotic aquatic vegetation, but none occurs within the spring or its run. Pavilions and picnic tables are on the east side of the spring. A wooden boardwalk is on the south side of the pool. Land around the spring is low-lying river flood plain. Dense mesic hardwood forest occurs to the south and west of the spring.

Utilization - Poe Spring is in a county recreational area with full facilities.

COL101974



Location – Lat. 29° 50' 02.39" N, Long. 82° 40' 36.05" W (NE¼ NE¼ SE¼ sec. 35, T. 7 S, R. 16 E). COL101974 is located on the north bank of the Santa Fe River about 0.1 mi (0.2 km) east of the Rum Island boat ramp. From High Springs drive northwest on U.S. 27/SR 20 approximately 4.0 miles (6.4 km). Turn west (left) onto SR 138 and drive about 2.0 miles (3.2 km) and turn south (left) at sign for Rum Island. Follow dirt road about 1.5 miles (2.4 km) to river. The spring is to the east of the boat ramp.

Description – COL101974 has a circular spring pool 6 ft (1.8 m) in diameter and 4.5 ft (1.4 m) deep. Aquatic vegetation covers the pool bottom obstructing the view of the spring vent. The water is clear blue, and a prominent boil is visible at the water surface. Two runs flow from this spring into the Santa Fe River. The southern run is 3 ft (0.9 m) wide, 1 ft (0.3 m) deep and flows south for approximately 12 ft (3.7 m). A small footbridge crosses the run where it converges with the Santa Fe River. The second run is 15 ft (4.6 m) wide and 1 ft (0.3 m) deep and flows west 60 ft (18.3 m). The spring is surrounded by a forested floodplain.

Rum Island Spring



Location – Lat. 29° 50' 00.67" N, Long. 82° 40' 47.39" W (NE¼ NW¼ SE¼ sec. 35, T. 7 S, R. 16 E). Rum Island Spring is located within Rum Island County Park. From the intersection of US 27 and Main Street in High Springs, drive northwest on US 27 approximately 3.3 miles (5.3 km) to the intersection with CR 138. Turn west (left) onto CR 138 and drive about 2.0 miles (3.2 km) to the intersection with Rum Island Road. Turn south (left) at sign for Rum Island and travel approximately 1.5 miles (2.4 km) to the boat ramp. The spring discharges to a large pool just west of the parking area.

Description – Rum Island Spring occupies a 200 ft (61 m) wide cove along the north bank of the Santa Fe River. Spring water issues from a 19 ft (5.8 m) long and 3-4 ft (0.9-1.2 m) wide fissure. The pool bottom is sand and is covered with algae. The spring water is clear blue and contrasts with the slightly tannic river where the two meet. A boil is visible on the spring pool surface. There is an abundance of *Hydrilla* in the spring pool. The pool is surrounded by grass banks. A few picnic tables are to the north and a parking lot is located to the east associated with Rum Island County Park. The spring is a local swimming hole.

Gilchrist Blue Spring



Location – Lat. 29° 49' 47.64" N., Long. 82° 40' 58.27" W. (NW ¼ SW ¼ SE ¼ sec. 35, T. 7 S., R. 16 E.). Gilchrist Blue Spring is located within Blue Springs Park and Campground, a privately run facility 3.5 miles (5.6 km) west of High Springs. From the junction of US 441/41 and US 27 in High Springs, drive SW on US 41/27 for 0.8 miles (1.3 km). Turn west (right) on SR 340 (Poe Springs Road), travel west on SR 340 (Poe Springs Road) 4.6 miles (7.4 km). Turn north (right) onto Blue Spring Road and continue 1.1 miles (1.8 km) to the parking area just south of the spring.

Description - Gilchrist Blue Spring has a circular spring pool that measures 132 ft (40.2 m) in dia. The depth at the vent is 18.9 ft (5.8 m). Water issues from a cave under a submerged limestone ledge on the NW side of the spring pool. No boil was observed on the pool surface in May 2002. The water is clear and blue. A wooden platform is on the NW side of the spring pool directly over the vent. The spring pool is shallow with a sand bottom, except for limestone near the vent. Pool is enclosed by a wooden retaining wall. A wooden boardwalk runs along the south side of the pool and east side of the run to the Santa Fe River. The spring run flows north approximately 1,100 ft (335.3m) to the river through the river floodplain. Exotic aquatic vegetation is abundant in the run and much of the spring pool. 3 additional springs enter Gilchrist Blue Spring Run. Little Blue Spring discharges from the west and Naked Spring and Johnson Spring discharge from the east into the run approximately 100 ft (30.5 m) and 500 ft (152.4 m) downstream from the spring pool. Gilchrist Blue Spring is along the south edge of the Santa Fe River flood plain at the base of sandy slopes. The hillside rises gently to the south and west to about 12 ft (3.7 m) above water level, leading up to a concession area and picnic tables.

Utilization - The spring is operated as a private recreation area with full facilities.

Devil's Ear Spring



Location - Lat. 29° 50' 07.26" N., Long. 82° 41' 47.76" W. (SE¼ SW¼ NE ¼ sec. 34, T. 7 S., R.16 E.). Devil's Ear Spring is located among a complex of springs on the south bank of the Santa Fe River. The spring is approximately 6.5 miles (10.5 km) northwest of High Springs and can be accessed either by river or through the privately owned Ginnie Springs Resort. From the junction of US 441/41 and US 27 in High Springs, drive southwest on US 41/27 for 0.8 miles (1.3 km). Turn west (right) on SR 340 (Poe Springs Road), drive 6.6 miles (10.6 km) west on SR 340. Following the signs to Ginnie Springs, turn north (right) on a graded road and go 1.2 miles (1.9 km) to the Ginnie Springs Resort entrance. Follow the road around to the back of the office and towards the river. Turn right just before the bathhouse and follow the sand road to the parking area. Devils Ear Spring is part of a complex of three vents and is the vent nearest the Santa Fe River.

Description - Devil's Ear Spring is situated at the mouth of a 375 ft (114.3 m) long spring run that enters into the Santa Fe River from the south side. It is an elongated limestone fissure that discharges directly into the adjacent Santa Fe River. The spring pool measures approximately 105 ft (32 m) east to west and 60 ft (18.3 m) north to south. The vent is an oval shaped opening in limestone with steep sides leading down to a depth of 34 ft (10.4 m). There is a large boil over the spring vent. Dark water from the river contrasts distinctly with clear, bluish water issuing from the spring along the side of the river. Native aquatic grass-es are common around the vent opening, and some algae are on grass blades and limestone walls. The banks on the south side of the river rise steeply to approximately 3 ft (0.9 m) above water level, then levels off. On top of the bank, a mesic hardwood forest with interspersed clearings is present. An underwater cave system has been mapped at Devil's Ear Spring.

Utilization - Devil's Ear Spring is part of the privately-owned Ginnie Springs Resort. The spring is heavily used for swimming and scuba diving and is a hotspot for cave diving. Full facilities are located nearby to the east.

July Spring



Location – Lat. 29° 50' 10.23" N, Long. 82° 41' 47.03" W (SE¼ SW¼ NE¼ sec. 34, T. 7 S, R. 16 E). July Spring is located across from the Ginnie Springs Complex. From the junction of US 441/41 and US 27 in High Springs, drive south on U.S. 41/27 approximately 0.8 miles (1.3 km). Turn west (right) onto SR 340 (Poe Springs Road) and drive about 6.6 miles (10.6 km) and then turn north (right) onto graded road at sign for Ginnie Springs. Follow the graded road another mile (1.6 km) to the Ginnie Springs entrance. A canoe must be used to visit July Spring. The easiest access is from Ginnie Springs Complex. Canoe directly across the river from Devil's Ear Spring.

Description - July Spring occupies a circular cove on the northeast side of the Santa Fe River that is 90 ft (27.4 m) in diameter. Spring water issues from a 40 ft (12.2 m) long lime-stone fissure approximately 8 ft (2.4 m) deep. The water in the pool is clear bluish green and most of the pool is covered with exotic aquatic vegetation. The fissure creates several boils at the pool surface. Privately owned, dense hardwood forest surrounds the spring and it is a popular swimming hole. Discharge measured November 4, 1997 was 117 ft³/s.

Siphon Creek Rise



Location - Lat. 29° 51' 22.29" N., Long. 82° 43' 58.98" W. (SW¼ SW ¼ SE¼ sec. 20, T. 7 S., R. 16 E.). Siphon Creek Rise is approximately 4 miles (6.4 km) south of Fort White on the Santa Fe River. From the intersection of US 27 and SR 47 in Ft. White, drive south on SR 47 approximately 4.5 miles (7.2 km) to the boat launch on the northwest side of the Santa Fe River. The river rise is upstream approximately 0.75 mile (1.2 km) on the south of the river at the mouth of Siphon Creek.

Description - Siphon Creek Rise is the reemergence of Siphon Creek that discharges from a single vent along the west bank of the Santa Fe River in the mouth of Siphon Creek. The spring pool measures 45 ft (13.7 m) north to south and 90 ft (27.4 m) east to west. Spring pool depth is 11.8 ft (3.6 m). The water is tannin colored, like that of the adjacent Santa Fe River. There is a voluminous boil over the vent. Native aquatic grass grows in the vicinity of the vent and sways back and forth in the powerful current. The adjacent west riverbank rises steeply to 2 ft (0.6 m) above the water, and fresh water shell marl is exposed. All land adjacent to the spring is lowland river floodplain with cypress, gum, and maple.

Utilization - Land around Siphon Creek Rise is pristine and owned by the SRWMD.

Ichetucknee Head Spring



Location – Lat. 29° 59' 03.10" N., Long. 82° 45' 42.73" W. (SE ¼ NE ¼ NE ¼ sec. 12, T. 6 S., R. 15 E.). This spring forms the head of the Ichetucknee River. Part of The Ichetucknee Springs its located within the Ichetucknee Springs State Park which is approximately 10 miles (16.1 km) northeast of Branford. From the bridge over the Suwannee River in Branford, drive east on US 27/129 for 7 miles (11.2 km). Turn north (left) onto CR 137 and continue for 1.3 miles (2.1 km). Turn east (right) and go 4.2 miles (6.8 km) through the north park entrance to the parking area.

Description - The spring pool measures 102 ft (31.1 m) east to west and 87 ft (26.5 m) north to south. The depth measures 17 ft (5.2 m) over the vent. Water is clear and light blue and issues from a fracture in the limestone forming a visible boil. A thin layer of algae carpets most of the bot-tom of the spring. The spring has sand and limestone bottom with little or no aquatic vegetation. North and east shorelines have thick emergent grass and shrubs, and the west shore is near high ground sloping to approximately 15 ft (4.6 m) above water. All sur-rounding land is densely forested. Restroom facilities are about 200 ft (61 m) west. This spring is easily accessed by a path and is a popular swimming hole.

Utilization - The springs, river, and surrounding forested land are part of Ichetucknee Springs State Park from the US 27 bridge northward. The park is a high-quality natural area that is partly developed and whose heavy public use is highly regulated in order to minimize damage to the environment. Camping, hiking, swimming, tubing, and canoeing are some of the activities that are offered in the state park.

Blue Hole Spring



Location – Lat. 29° 58' 49.91"N., Long. 82° 45' 30.44" W. (SW ¼ SW ¼ NW ¼ sec. 7, T. 6 S., R. 15 E.). This spring is located in the spring run channel of Cedar Head Spring, which is north of Blue Hole. Part of The Ichetucknee Springs is located within the Ichetucknee Springs State Park which is approximately 10 miles (16.1 km) northeast of Branford. From the bridge over the Suwannee River in Branford, drive east on US 27/129 for 7 miles (11.2 km). Turn north (left) onto CR 137 and continue for 1.3 miles (2.1 km). Turn east (right) and go 4.2 miles (6.8 km) through the north park entrance to the parking area.

Description - The spring pool and outflow greatly widens the incoming spring run, and the combined run flows south a short distance to the Ichetucknee River. The spring pool measures 87 ft (26.5 m) east to west and 117 ft (35.6 m) north to south. The depth measured over the vent is 37 ft (11.3 m). The water is clear and light blue, and a boil is visible on the pool surface. Water issues from a cavern in limestone. The pool has a sand and limestone bottom with abundant aquatic grass and some algae. The land around the spring is heavily forested with mixed hardwoods and palm. The spring run is fenced off approximately 100 ft (30.5 m) south of vent. This is a swimming spot with a wooden boardwalk for spring access. A foot path leads to the spring from the north.

Utilization - The springs, river, and surrounding forested land are part of Ichetucknee Springs State Park from the US 27 bridge northward. The park is a high-quality natural area that is partly developed and whose heavy public use is highly regulated in order to minimize damage to the environment. Camping, hiking, swimming, tubing, and canoeing are some of the activities that are offered in the state park.

Mission Spring



Location – Lat. 29° 58' 33" N., Long. 82° 45' 28" W. (SW ¼ NW ¼ SW ¼ sec. 7, T. 6 S., R. 15 E.). The spring is located approximately 3,571 feet (1,088 m) downstream of Ichetucknee Head Spring. It is part of a group of springs that surrounds Fig Island located on the east side of the river. Mission Spring is also known as Fig, Singing or Roaring Spring. Part of The Ichetucknee Springs its located within the Ichetucknee Springs State Park which is approximately 10 miles (16.1 km) northeast of Branford. From the bridge over the Suwannee River in Branford, drive east on US 27/129 for 7 miles (11.2 km). Turn north (left) onto CR 137 and continue for 1.3 miles (2.1 km). Turn east (right) and go 4.2 miles (6.8 km) through the north park entrance to the parking area.

Description - Eight vents are associated with this spring group and the maximum depth is 5 feet. The runs contained aquatic weeds and exposed limestone and the weeds were covered with algae. This spring group was the site of a Spanish Mission in the 1700'

Utilization - The springs, river, and surrounding forested land are part of Ichetucknee Springs State Park from the US 27 bridge northward. The park is a high-quality natural area that is partly developed and whose heavy public use is highly regulated in order to minimize damage to the environment. Camping, hiking, swimming, tubing, and canoeing are some of the activities that are offered in the state park.

Devil's Eye Spring



Location – Lat. 29° 58' 24" N., Long. 82° 45' 37" W. (SW ¼ NW ¼ SW ¼ sec. 7, T. 6 S., R. 15 E.). The spring is located approximately 4,610 feet (1,405 m) downstream of Ichetucknee Head Spring on the west side of the river. Part of The Ichetucknee Springs is located within the Ichetucknee Springs State Park which is approximately 10 miles (16.1 km) northeast of Branford. From the bridge over the Suwannee River in Branford, drive east on US 27/129 for 7 miles (11.2 km). Turn north (left) onto CR 137 and continue for 1.3 miles (2.1 km). Turn east (right) and go 4.2 miles (6.8 km) through the north park entrance to the parking area.

Description - The pool area is approximately 125 feet wide and the run is 50 feet long. There are two boils present and the water has bluish color. The pool area and run have aquatic weeds covering approximately 80 percent of the bottom.

Utilization - The springs, river, and surrounding forested land are part of Ichetucknee Springs State Park from the US 27 bridge northward. The park is a high-quality natural area that is partly developed and whose heavy public use is highly regulated in order to minimize damage to the environment. Camping, hiking, swimming, tubing, and canoeing are some of the activities that are offered in the state park.

Grassy Hole Spring



Location – Lat. 29° 58' 04" N., Long. 82° 45' 35" W. (SE ¼ NE ¼ NE ¼ sec. 13, T. 6 S., R. 15 E.). The spring is located approximately 1.27 miles (2.04 km) downstream of Ichetucknee Head Spring on the east side of the river. Part of The Ichetucknee Springs is located within the Ichetucknee Springs State Park which is approximately 10 miles (16.1 km) northeast of Branford. From the bridge over the Suwannee River in Branford, drive east on US 27/129 for 7 miles (11.2 km). Turn north (left) onto CR 137 and continue for 1.3 miles (2.1 km). Turn east (right) and go 4.2 miles (6.8 km) through the north park entrance to the parking area.

Description - The pool area is approximately 12 feet wide with a maximum depth of 2 feet. The run is 200 feet long with two boils present in the pool area. Aquatic weeds cover approximately 99 percent of the bottom of the pool area.

Utilization - The springs, river, and surrounding forested land are part of Ichetucknee Springs State Park from the US 27 bridge northward. The park is a high-quality natural area that is partly developed and whose heavy public use is highly regulated in order to minimize damage to the environment. Camping, hiking, swimming, tubing, and canoeing are some of the activities that are offered in the state park.

Mill Pond Spring



Location – Lat. 29° 57' 59.98" N, Long. 82° 45' 35.91" W (NW¼ SW¼ NW¼ sec. 13, T. 6 S, R. 15 E). The spring is 1.3 miles (2.1 km) below Ichetucknee Head Spring on the east side of the river. Part of The Ichetucknee Springs its located within the Ichetucknee Springs State Park which is approximately 10 miles (16.1 km) northeast of Branford. From Branford, drive southeast on US 27 for approximately 10.0 miles (16.1 km) to the intersection with CR 137 (Sand Hill Road). Turn north (left) at park sign onto CR 137 (Sand Hill Road) and travel approximately 4.5 miles (7.2 km) to the first paved road on the right. Take first paved road on the right (CR 238) and travel to the park entrance on the right.

Description - Mill Pond Springs form an oval spring pool 20 ft (6.1 m) by 140 ft (42.7 m). Two vents are located on the pool bottom and two seeps flow from the adjacent riverbank, one to the southeast and one to the southwest of the pool. Maximum depth of the spring pool is 3.8 ft (1.2 m). The pool's mud bottom is coated with algae, leaves, and eel grass. Limestone is exposed around the vents. The water is light brown in color, but clear, and a prominent boil is visible on the surface. The spring run flows 150 ft (45.7 m) north into the Ichetucknee River. The run has a mud bottom that is covered with algae and eel grass. An old mill is situated along the spring run and the run is surrounded by a dense forest of live oaks, cypress and palm trees. High ground gently slopes up from the spring pool and run to 6.5 ft (2 m).

Utilization - The springs, river, and surrounding forested land are part of Ichetucknee Springs State Park from the US 27 bridge northward. The park is a high-quality natural area that is partly developed and whose heavy public use is highly regulated in order to minimize damage to the environment. Camping, hiking, swimming, tubing, and canoeing are some of the activities that are offered in the state park.