

Biking Route #1 – East Palatka, SJR, & Forrester Point (12.7 miles)

This East Palatka route is a short loop that provides a pleasant hour-long ride along the east side of the St. Johns River. The ride begins in Palatka by the Bartram kiosk and BT 04. The crossing of the bridge has been facilitated with a separated bicycle/pedestrian trail on the north side of the bridge which is accessed from the south by a wooden boardwalk underpass. Take caution as many of the boards are slippery when wet. Across the bridge, the East Palatka Section of the Rails-to-Trails picks up and will take you to East River Road. Turning left on Elgin Road near the end of East River Road will take you to a public boat ramp. From there Forrester Point (BT 02) is visible on the east side of the St. Johns River. The Bartram's bivouacked here on January 30, 1766 after paddling up Grey's Creek – now Rice Creek. Directly across the river are Rice Creek (BT 03), Crystal Cove and Palatka (BT 04). One can return to excellent seafood restaurants with riverfront dining on both sides of the River in Palatka. Check your brakes before going over the bridge, the climb is moderately strenuous, but the downhill can be fast if you don't have brakes. Enjoy the view – William Bartram did!

Bartram Sites along the Route in order:

-  BT# 04 – Palatka
-  BT# 02 – Forester Point
-  BT# 03 – Rice Creek/Grey's Creek

Visit <http://bartram.putnam-fl.com/> and select “Trail Sites” for descriptions of these sites in Bartram's own words.

Biking Route #1 – East Palatka, SJR, & Forrester Point Q-Sheet

- 0.0 Start at the Clock Tower in downtown Palatka, and then go under the bridge via the boardwalk to get to the north side of Reid St. Cross the bridge to continue on the trail.
- 1.5 Left onto Masters Road (Bank on corner), trail
- 1.7 Right on Ferry Road, trail
- 2.2 Cross Putnam County Blvd going left (north) onto the trail – Caution crossing
- 2.4 Cross McCormick Road (East Palatka Post Office)
- 2.4 Parallels Louis Broer Road where there will be a trailhead with a crossing to Putnam County Public Works Dept.
- 3.1 Trail continues parallel to Putnam County Blvd a short ways then veers east to Hastings. Get off trail and continue on Putnam County Blvd to 207A
- 6.2 Left on CR 207A (Orange Ave continues out to Forrester Point on River-private)
- 7.6 Left onto East River Road
- 7.9 Left curve
- 9.6 Get back on the trail parallel to Louis Broer Road (basketball court on right)
- 10.4 Pass McCormick Road
- 10.4 Cross Putnam County Blvd, continue on trail (watch for Traffic)
- 10.6 Continue on Ferry Road (trail)
- 11.0 Left on Masters Road (trail)
- 11.3 Right on trail next to SR17 South, go over the bridge on north side
- 12.5 Take the boardwalk under the bridge back to the clock tower