

## Biking Route #5 – Welaka to Beecher Point (4.9 miles)

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In his travels, William Bartram mentions Beecher Point /Mount Hope – named such by John Bartram. The elder Bartram admired the huge Indian mound here. It was later renamed Beecher Point as Harriet Beecher Stowe's father owned a plantation here. The sites are best accessed by boat but this is a nice bike ride. The Bartram Trail Marker (BT 22) is located on the dock at the River Bend Condominiums. This route begins at the Welaka Bartram kiosk located at the corner of Palmetto and Front Street.

This small “Florida fishing town” is a great place for a local catfish or shrimp dinners. It also borders the Welaka State Forest with numerous hiking and mountain biking trails, and just a few miles south of the town on Georgetown road is a fish hatchery and small aquarium.

Bartram Sites along the Route in order:

- 🌐 Welaka Bartram Kiosk
- 🌐 BT# 19 – Beecher Point/Mount Royal
- 🌐 BT# 18 – Johnsons Bluff (not accessible)
- 🌐 BT# 17 – Welaka Spring (not accessible)

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

## Biking Route #5 – Welaka to Beecher Point Q-Sheet

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- 0.0 This route begins at the Welaka Bartram kiosk located at the corner of Palmetto and Front Street. (For parking & rest rooms -go 1 block west towards the St. Johns River)
- .1 Left on Front Street (south) pass the fishing tackle store at Elm St.
- .9 Continue to the end of Front Street and turn around at Lazy Days RV Park, continue back on Front Street
- 1.2 Left on Riverbend Road
- 1.5 Right on Beechers Pt. Dr., ends at Bartram Site (Beechers Pt./Mt. Hope)
- 2.0 Turn around at Riverbend Ct. Apts. (private), return to Beechers Pt. Dr.
- 2.8 Left on Front Street
- 3.4 Right on Elm St. at tackle store, Cross 309 at Citgo station (store/water), continue on Elm (BBQ restaurant behind Citgo)
- 3.8 Pass Jefferson Smith Park on left
- 4.1 Left on 11<sup>th</sup> Ave, curves around to left, becomes Palmetto, pass park
- 4.5 Left onto 7<sup>th</sup>
- 4.5 Right on Palmetto (James King Recreational Trail) Pass City Hall and fitness park
- 4.8 Cross 309 on Palmetto to Welaka Downtown Park
- 4.9 End of ride

\*note: At end of Palmetto is the city boat dock/short boardwalk. For good views of St. Johns River, Café Bleu restaurant on right, Shrimps R US Restaurant on McClure & 309, and Anderson's Lodge/Water's Edge Pub & Grill on River at end of Boston Street (several blocks north to left of 309).