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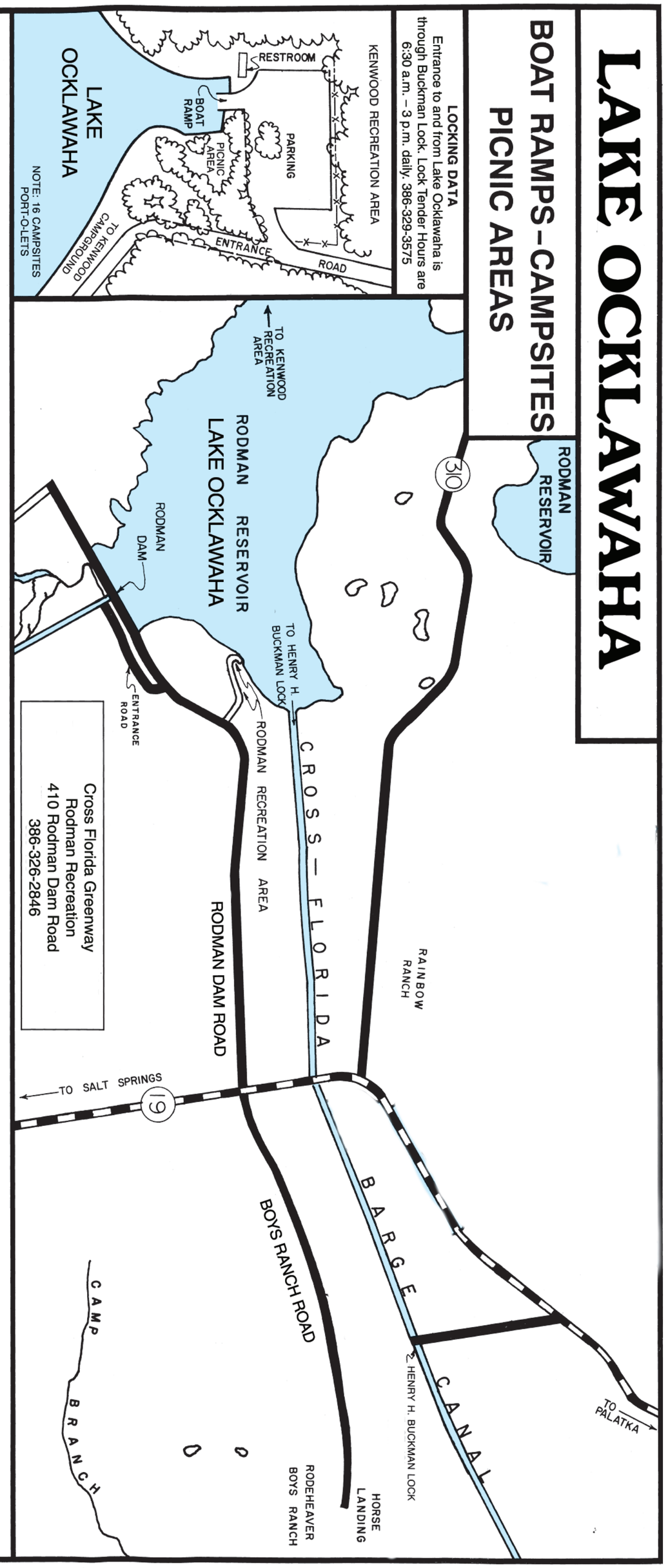
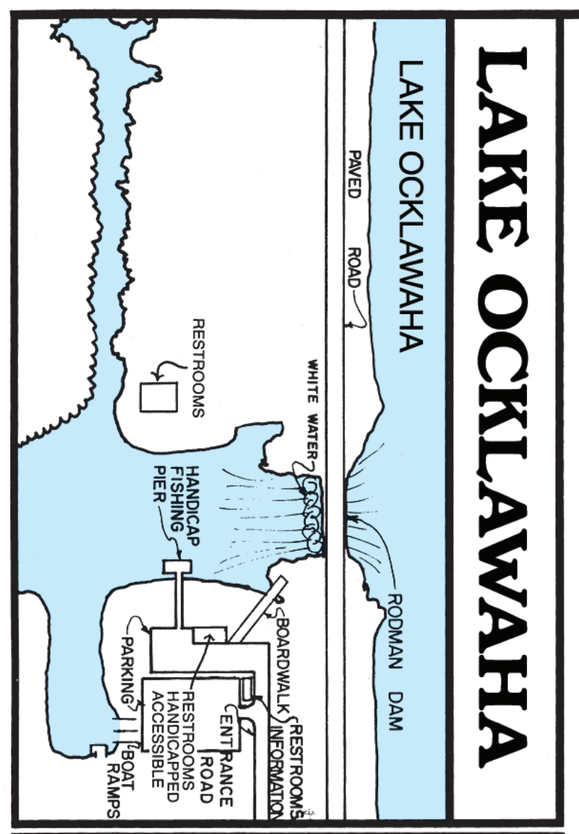
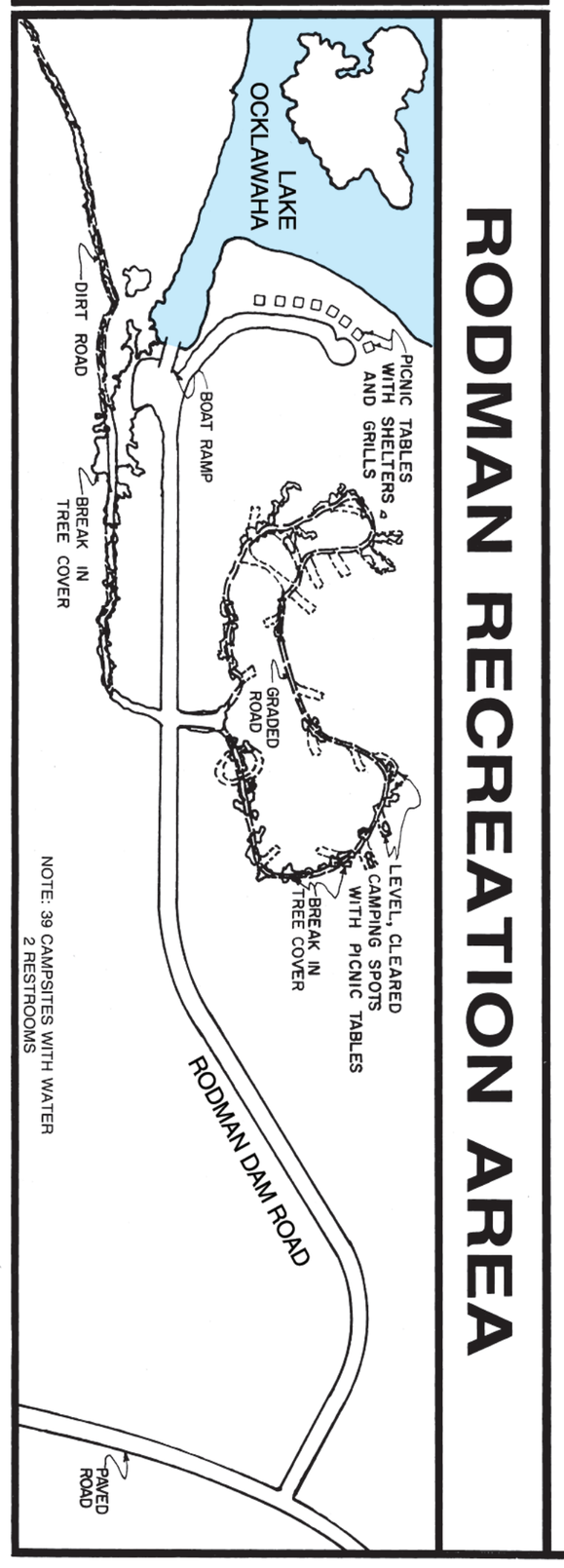
LOCKING DATA
Entrance to and from Lake Ocklawaha is through Buckman Lock. Lock Tender Hours are 6:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. daily: 386-329-3575



LAKE OCKLAWAHA



RODMAN RECREATION AREA



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Geared toward students, the center is a fun, interactive space for learning about the ecology of the St. Johns River and the wetlands area, and its connection to the history, culture and industry of Palatka.

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3. Murphy Creek Loop (6 mi.)
4. Dunn's Creek (5.47 mi. one-way)
5. Seven Sisters Islands Lower Store Loop (5.2 mi.)
6. Welaka Springs with Saratoga (5.7 mi.)
7. Welaka to Mud Spring (6.7 mi.)
8. Bear Island (3.4 mi.)
9. Drayton Island (9.2 mi.)

This QR code will lead you to detailed, downloadable PDF's of each paddling route.

Fishing in Putnam County

The St. Johns River flows north for 310 miles from Indian County to the Atlantic Ocean, and is divided into three basins - upper, middle and lower. Putnam County is in the lower basin and centrally located to the river's best fishing. Not only has it earned the title of "Bass Capital of the World", but it offers a list of other freshwater, saltwater, and brackish-water fishing. Freshwater species include the largemouth bass, black crappie (speckled perch), bluegill, shellcracker, warmouth and catfish. Saltwater species include red fish, flounder, sea trout and tarpon. Shrimp migrate up the brackish water during the summer months. Striped bass can be caught mostly during the fall and winter months.

From downtown Palatka south to Lake George, some 42 nautical miles, the St. Johns tree-lined shores and extensive vegetation provide excellent habitat for fish. Lake George is a 46,000 acre natural impoundment of the St. Johns. It is the second largest lake in the state, with three spring-fed tributaries, and holds acres of eelgrass beds, as well as old pilings, docks and jetties. In between the big lake and Palatka, the Ocklawaha River flows into the St. Johns north of Little Lake George via Rodman Reservoir/ George Kirkpatrick Dam. Further north, Dunns Creek connects a 5-mile stretch southeast to Lake Crescent, a 15,960 acre lake bordering Putnam and Flagler County.

North of Palatka Memorial Bridge to Trout Creek in St. Johns County there are plenty of drops, sandbars, docks, pilings and natural structure to satisfy any anglers idea of a good fishing trip. The river and its connecting waters have numerous marinas, motels, guide services, ramps and launches for local and visiting anglers.

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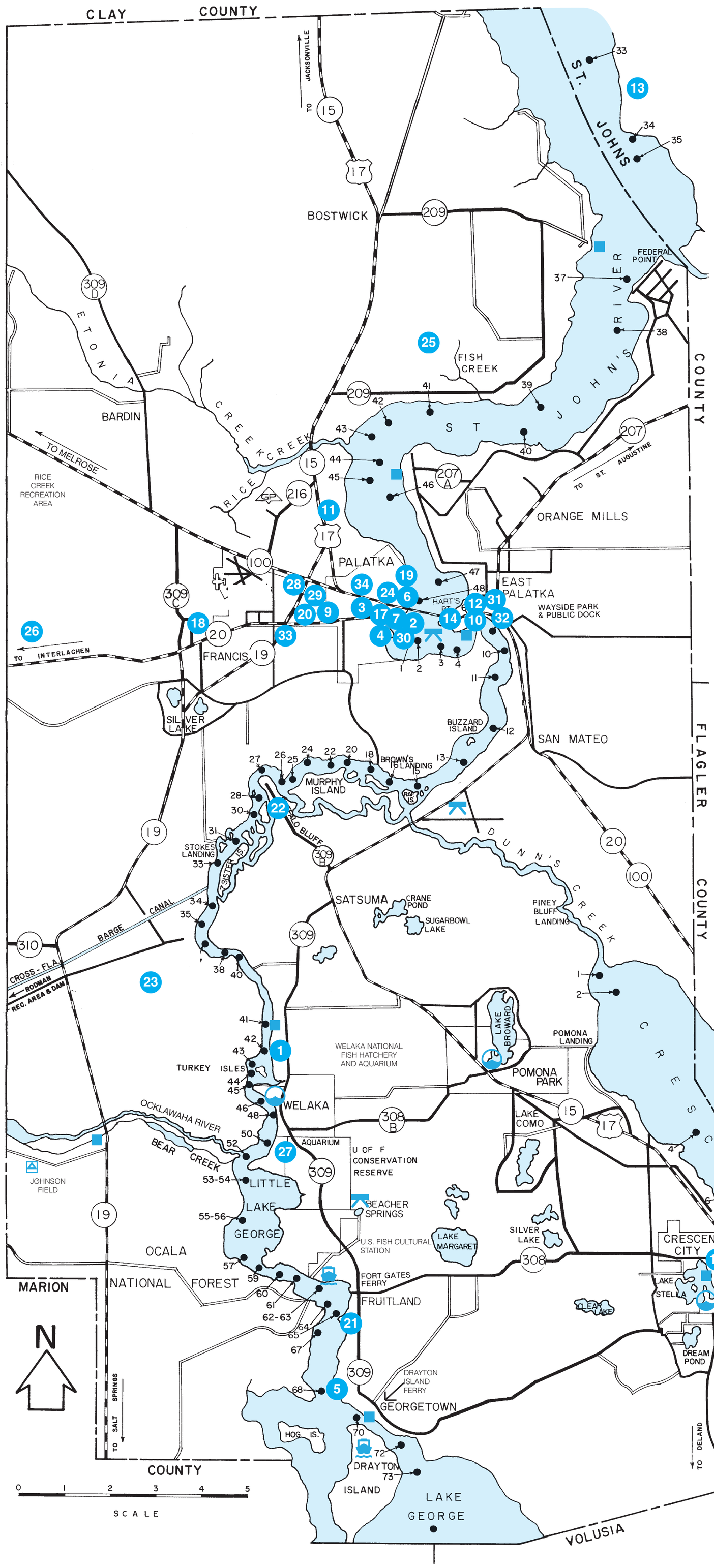

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