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Enjoy Newly Paved Apalachicola Trail

By Garth Smelser

Are you looking for an opportunity to get outdoors and be active? What could be better than a bike ride (or jog or skate) through 2 1/2 miles of long-leaf pines followed by a leisurely stroll alongside a peaceful forest lake?

The Apalachicola National Forest offers that unique combination just 6 miles southwest of Capital Circle off Springhill Road (State Road 373).

The refurbished Trout Pond Recreation Area and newly paved 2 1/2 miles of Georgia Florida & Alabama Trail provide forest visitors with a truly

special experience. The grand reopening for the recreation area and trail is at 9 a.m. Saturday and consists of a short ribbon-cutting ceremony, light refreshments, displays and an optional group bicycle ride/hike. The reopening ceremony coincides with National Bike Month. There's no admission charge.

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Originally dedicated in 1970 as a recreation area for people with disabilities, Trout Pond has been closed for many years but recently got a much needed face-lift. It now offers walking paths, wildlife viewing opportunities, a fishing dock, a picnic area and new bathroom facilities. These amenities also serve as a pleasant portal to the GF&A rails-to-trails project, which converted a portion of the abandoned GA-FL-AL Railroad corridor into a paved path.



Come celebrate the grand reopening with the U.S. Forest Service. Bring your walking shoes, bike and helmet, or just your appreciation of local outdoor treasures.

If you have questions about this or the many other treasures right in the Apalachicola National Forest, visit www.fs.fed.us/r8/florida/apalachicola.

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