

NOTICE TO HIKERS

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FTA Map No. 04 Eglin East (Eglin AFB Reservation only)
Perm. Change? Yes
Effective Date: 10/22/2015
Ending Date: Unknown (until further notice)

Description:

FNST BRIDGE REMOVED – The footbridge over Alaqua Creek East (N30 37.916 W86 09.959) on the Eglin Reservation has been removed. Hiking this segment of the Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST) requires *fording* both Alaqua and Blount Creeks.

CREEK FORDS - The FNST trail corridor in the Alaqua and Blount Creek basin requires the fording of both Creeks. The Alaqua and Blount Creek basin is a major drainage and should be avoided during periods of high water. At flood stage, both streams can be dangerous to ford. The basin should be avoided during flood stage, during or immediately after heavy rains. Both creeks are subject to flash flooding and water levels can rise quickly. Under normal conditions the water depth at the Blount Creek ford is less than one foot. The normal depth for Alaqua Creek is two feet. Hikers are not to attempt fording this creek during periods of high water or when water level exceeds three feet.

Alternative Route (High Water Route): From the Eglin / U.S. 331 Trailhead travel north on US Hwy 331 to Bob Sikes Road (north of I-10 near Walmart). West on Bob Sikes Road to rejoin the FNST corridor at the Alaqua Trailhead on Eglin.

STAY ON THE TRAIL - Hikers are to stay on the blazed FNST trail corridor on the Eglin Air Force Base Reservation. The trail corridor on the Eglin Reservation traverses areas that are regularly used for military training exercises. The FNST corridor was developed to minimize trail closures due to these exercises. The trail corridor often borders areas that are closed to the public. Failure to stay on the blazed route could jeopardize the agreement with Eglin and future public use of the FNST on Eglin.

