



## **Canoe Outpost-Peace River**

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# **Welcome to Canoe Outpost-Gardner/Gardner South**

## **Canoe Outpost-Gardner**

Canoe Outpost-Gardner is nestled on the banks of the Peace River at the end of SW River Road in southern Hardee County. River Road is a 1.5 mile dirt road that gets washboard in dry season and muddy when it rains. Welcome to the woods. It is located 12 miles north of the main office in Arcadia by river or 10 miles north by highway (US 17). Gardner itself is just a rural community with a few houses, a church, produce stand, a radio station, and a golf course. The Gardner Outpost is a secluded 20 acre compound with canoe and equipment storage, restrooms, picnic tables, outdoor shower, a small, seasonal office, and on-site living quarters for staff. You'll see the Gardner house, high up on stilts on your left when you leave the Gardner beach on the way to Arcadia. The Gardner Outpost gate is kept locked at all times except when customers are being put on the river or coming off the river. The Gardner Outpost is private property and for the exclusive use of Canoe Outpost-Peace River customers.

Gardner is the start of the 12 mile Gardner Run which ends in Arcadia and the terminus of the 19.5 Zolfo Springs Run. There is a big sandy beach for put-ins and take-outs. Paddlers doing the Zolfo Springs Run park their vehicles in Gardner and are bused upstream to Zolfo Springs. There is no end of trip bus ride. Paddlers doing the Gardner Day Run, park in Arcadia and are bused to Gardner. Gardner is open 'year around for customer parking. During busy season, there's enough water in the river and if enough folks are registered for the Zolfo Springs Run, the office in Gardner opens for check-in.

Gardner offers wilderness camping on Friday nights for those with overnight camping trips scheduled for the following day. Camping on other days of the week is available for groups. Reservations are required. There are some restrictions, give us a call if you're interested (800-368-0083). Some of the Campsite Concierge services are available in Gardner.

## **Canoe Outpost-Gardner South**

Canoe Outpost-Gardner South is south and adjacent to Canoe Outpost-Gardner. It is 170 acres of scattered oak hammock and pasture land in DeSoto County. Campsites are totally wilderness and not as numerous or shady as the Oak Hill camping but there are some nice ones. This is the perfect spot if you are doing the 33 mile run for your second night or got a late start and just want to camp in a hurry. You can even put in at Gardner when the water is low, paddle down to camp, then paddle back to your vehicles in Gardner. This is perfect for those wanting to camp more than paddle. Camping gear can be delivered to Gardner South for groups of 10 or more canoes.

Camping at Gardner South does give the paddlers access to some great fossil hunting. This is an area not as easily accessible or hunted as much as other sections of the river. So, think about a camping trip that focuses on fossil hunting. Put in a Gardner, camp at Gardner South and spend the day fossil hunting that stretch.

Plans are to develop this area into a possible paintball by canoe or a biking area. Keep checking back.