

S11 Day Paddles - ICW

Gottfried Creek Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Although surrounded by suburban development, Gottfried Creek still has considerable wild buffer areas scattered along its banks. There usually an abundance of birds along the creek and plenty of dolphins along the short stretch of the Intracoastal Waterway. The section north of the South McCall Rd has a smattering of mangrove islands to explore. Most of the shoreline is mangrove and the creek is tidally influenced. Turnaround is shortly after the East Dearborn St. bridge.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 7.5 Miles/2.5 Hours

Launch Site: Ainger Creek Park Ramp

Special Considerations: Paddle along the shoreline when possible, and stay out of the channel to avoid fast moving powerboats. Currents can be strong under the bridges.

Skill Level Definitions

Beginner: New to paddling and may need tips and or instructions about paddling strokes, safety procedures, and entering/exiting kayaks. Comfortable on short trips of 1 to 3 miles on protected waters, when wind does not exceed 5 mph.

Novice: Paddlers acquainted with basic paddle strokes and can manage kayak handling independently in winds not exceeding 10 mph on protected waters. Comfortable on trips up to 6 miles.

Intermediate: Paddlers with experience in basic strokes and some experience on different venues, including some open water. Comfortable on trip distances of 6 to 10 miles, winds not exceeding 15 mph.

Advanced: Seasoned paddlers who possess skills and experience to paddle all venues and conditions. Experienced in self-rescues. Should be comfortable paddling more than 10 miles in a day.

NOTE: Great care has been taken to ensure this guides accuracy, but weather, tides, and water conditions can change rapidly and create hazardous conditions. These maps are for visual reference only, please consult NOAA Charts for navigation. Paddlers should have all proper safety equipment and check conditions before departure. All paddlers should always wear PFDs while on the water, and leave a float plan. There are inherent dangers in any paddle sport. There are special hazards along the Florida coast due to shifting tides, changing wind and weather, shallow waters, and treacherous bottoms with soft mud, rocks, and oyster bars. It is up to each paddler to be aware of these dangers, to accept and be prepared for the risks involved, and to be certain they have the skills to safely paddle in these conditions.