

S11 Day Paddles - ICW

South Creek Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Upon launching into the Intracoastal Waterway, head east a short distance and turn south under the Blackburn Point Road Bridge into Dryman's Bay. Continue paddling south in Dryman's Bay for approximately 1 mile. Turn east into the channel opposite the string of islands on your left. Follow the channel markers in a curving east to south-east direction. Turn east again and paddle under the SR 41 bridge. You will enter the park at about the 2 mile mark. Continue upstream as the river narrows until blocked by rocky shallows across the river. A footbridge crosses the river at this point. This is a good place to take a break before returning to the launch site. Restrooms are available across the foot bridge and just past the pond.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 6 Miles/3 Hours

Launch Site: Blackburn Point Park Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: Parts of the bay and the channel leading to Oscar Scherer State Park are shallow with oyster bars in many places. Consequently, this paddle is best done at mid to high tide. Be alert to avoid oyster bars, as well as fast moving power boats in the Intracoastal Waterway.

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.