

S11 Day Paddles - Myakka River

Deer Prairie Creek Preserve to North Port Marina Park Ramp Information Sheet

Description: Most of this paddle is along sections of the Myakka River that are still in their natural state with occasional views of housing developments along the river. The first part of the paddle will be in Deer Prairie Creek, a narrow, wild creek that feeds into the Myakka River. Once in the river, turn southeast (left) and head downriver. Most of the right bank remains wild. At about the 3 1/2 mile mark, the river will turn to the southwest. At that point, turn to the east (left) and enter Myakkahatchee Creek which will take you to the North Port Marina Park Boat Ramp.

Skill Level: Novice/Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 5 Miles/2.5 Hours

Launch Site: Deer Prairie Preserve Paddle Launch

Takeout Site: North Port Marina Park Ramp

Special Considerations: This part of the river is tidally-affected. Lower water levels may limit paddling to deeper sections of the river. Stay out of the middle of boat channels and be alert for fast moving powerboats while paddling on the river. This paddle requires shuttling vehicles.

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.