

## Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Caloosahatchee River Area

## Hickey Creek Information Sheet

**Description:** You can paddle up the creek to the Hickey Creek Mitigation Park kayak landing, which is a good place to take out for lunch and some nice hiking. Unfortunately, the kayak landing is not accessible by land.

**Skill Level:** Intermediate

**Distance/Time:** 7 Miles round trip

**Launch Site:** South Entrance to Franklin Locks. Park in the first parking lot, not at the regular boat launch. It's an easy carry and launch from the grassy slope located upriver of the lock. Take SR80, turn north on to Old Olga Rd, then a right on S Franklin Lock Rd.

**Special Considerations:** As you paddle upstream on the Caloosahatchee River to the entrance of Hickey Creek, stay close to the right river bank and be careful of powerboats, especially on weekends.

### 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.