

S13NC Day Paddles - Northwest Coastal Area

Lely Outfall Paddle Information Sheet

Description: The paddle down the main Lely Canal is easy going with wildlife common on both sides. The spreader swale is turfstone with a 6 ft flat area on top. At high flows the spreader is submerged enough to float over. Otherwise you'll have to portage over. The section downstream of the spreader is a long tunnel with a parallel route through some lakes that comes back to the tunnel. The tunnel opens into some lakes and then a long channel that ends at a large bay on the side of the main boat channel.

Skill Level: Novice/Intermediate

Distance/Time: 5.5 Miles/2.5 Hours

Launch Site: The Lely Outfall Canal launch on the south side of US41 is accessible through the shopping center parking lot driveway closest to the Canal and drive southwest past the Culver's to the wall. Go left along the wall to the canal and turn left along the easement. Launch at the easiest spot

Take-out Site: Bayview Park is a Collier County owned and maintained facility. It has parking for about 2 dozen cars and 2 dozen boat trailers. There are rest rooms, picnic tables and pavilions. The launch fee is \$4 and there is a ticket machine near the rest rooms that takes credit cards. The ramp itself is concrete and you will compete with boat trailers launching, but they're careful and friendly.

Special Considerations: The route is easy to follow. Parts of the outfall canal are shallow at very low tide, but passable. One area downstream of the main tunnel has oyster bars.

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.