

S17 Day Paddles - ICW

Deerfield Island Park Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This paddle takes you through a four mile saltwater loop that circumnavigates Deerfield Island Park. The Park is the only city park that is truly an island and can only be accessed via a ferry, private motorboat or paddlecraft. To visit the Park you must enter via the small harbor that is used by the Ferry and tie up next to the docks but check first to see if the Park is open. There are several areas shallow enough to stop around the periphery of the island particularly at low tide. Tidal currents are a factor and the route around the east side of the island will take you into the Intracoastal Waterway which abounds with motor boat traffic and can get very choppy. Launch from the paddlecraft launch at Hillsboro El Rio Park South. You can also launch from Sullivan Park which is directly across from the Ferry Harbor of Deerfield Island.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 4 Miles/3 Hours

Launch Sites 1. Hillsboro El Rio South Park: Free parking and restrooms, short portage.

2. Sullivan Park: Free parking and restrooms, long portage, floating dock.

Special Considerations: Beware of motorboat and jetski traffic throughout the entire loop and particularly within the Intracoastal Waterway and especially on weekends and holidays.

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.