

## S22 Day Paddles - Banana River

### Oars and Paddles Park Loop Information Sheet

**Description:** Access from the park to the Banana River is through Whiting Waterway. To reach the Grand Canal, go north in the Banana River and under Mathers Bridge. Entrance to the Grand Canal is on the right a few hundred yards beyond Mathers Bridge. Amenities at this launch site include a boathouse, pavilion, restrooms, pedway, parking, picnic tables and a long sloping dock providing access to the water. The nearby Grand Canal is a popular training location for Olympic and collegiate sculling teams. At the north end, the four-mile long canal is bordered on the west by a long strip of spoil deposit, which is divided into three islands. The central island is a nature sanctuary known as Samson's Island. The Canal is a great place to paddle when it is too windy to paddle on the open waters of the lagoon.

**Skill Level:** Intermediate

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 6.3 Miles/2.5 Hours

**Launch Site:** Oars and Paddles Park

**Special Considerations:** Be cautious of powerboats, especially on the Banana River. Stay close to shore and out of the channel.

#### 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.