

## S22 Day Paddles - Lower ICW

### Crane Creek Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** Heading northeast, the Chart House restaurant is on the right and Florida Tech Marine Operations Center on the left as you enter Melbourne Harbor. Turn west in the Harbor and pass the Florida Tech floating docks and Melbourne Yacht club on the left. Go under the bridge and continue SW past the Manatee Promenade. Continue under the railroad bridge. Crane Creek widens here and paddlers are more affected by wind. Pass the wastewater treatment facility on the left and stay left at the fork just past there. The creek narrows again and winds past cattails, leather ferns, Brazilian pepper, and a few more homes. Alligators are sometimes seen upstream from here. Beyond a few more turns you come into a canopied jungle-like stretch that may make you forget you are still in Melbourne. Go under the bridge at Babcock Road. and take the loop on your left through the Florida Tech Botanical Gardens. Return the way you came.

**Skill Level:** Novice

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 4.7 Miles

**Launch Site:** Melbourne Riverview Park Paddle Launch - Scurrah's Landing

**Special Considerations:** Watch your head on the low pipes during high water at the Babcock Rd bridge. Be careful of powerboat traffic along the creek.

#### 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.