

S23 Day Paddles - Inland Lakes

Crescent Lake—Haw Creek West Paddle Information Sheet

Description: Haw Creek gets its name from the Haw trees that grow along the edge of the creek. This secluded area is comprised of 3,061 acres of mostly floodplain swamps, basin marsh and mesic hammock. Access to Haw Creek Preserve State Park is by water only. The park is an excellent place to enjoy a shady, serene paddle or boating adventure on a pristine blackwater creek. The creek winds through an old Florida cypress swamp and under a lush canopy, eventually leading into the astounding Crescent Lake. Tannins give the blackwater creek its brown/black stained water, resembling dark teas. Paddling traffic is light and wildlife is usually plentiful. This paddle explores the lower part of Haw Creek.

Skill Level: Novice/Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 5.8 Miles/2.5 Hours

Launch Site: Haw Creek Preserve - Russell Landing Ramp

Takeout Site: Dead Lake - Bull Creek Campground and Ramp

Special Considerations: GPS recommended due to side creeks. This paddle requires shuttling vehicles.

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.