

## S2 Day Paddles - Choctawhatchee Bay

### Fourmile Creek/Lafayette Creek/LaGrange Bayou Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** Lafayette Creek is owned and operated by the [Northwest Florida Water Management District](#) and is open for public use year-around, during daylight hours only, when hunting is not allowed. Four Mile Creek is a creek located in Walton County, Florida. Freeport, Florida is located along its banks. Its source is located west of Auxiliary Field 11, an unpaved field on Eglin Air Force Base. It is fed by Thomas Branch and Lafayette Creek. Four Mile Creek and Lafayette Creek meet at the Marse Landing at Four Mile Creek, a public access boat ramp located near the port area of Freeport. Both creeks are paddled up to the first bridge before heading down into the LaGrange Bayou and into Choctawhatchee Bay.

**Skill Level:** Intermediate

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 8.4 Miles/4 Hours

**Launch Site:** Four Mile Landing Ramp

**Takeout Site:** Grady Brown Park Ramp/Paddle Launch

**Special Considerations:** 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.