

## Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Suwannee Area

## Gopher River Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** Launch from Munden Creek, and cross the Suwannee to the entrance of the Gopher River. The Gopher River and the several small streams that feed it are some of the most enchanting and biologically interesting parts of the refuge. While the estuaries and salt marshes of the coast are among the world's most productive ecosystems, fresh-water creeks and swamps of the lower Suwannee are among the most diverse temperate ecosystems, harboring an impressive number of plant and animal species. Return to Munden Creek ramp

**Skill Level:** Novice/Intermediate

**Distance/Time:** 4.4 Miles/Approximately 3 hours

**Launch Site: Munden Creek Ramp**—From the Suwannee Community Center: Head East on CR 349 3.2 Miles, turn right on SE 371<sup>st</sup> St. Veer right on SE 374<sup>th</sup> St and ramp is at the end of the road.

**Special Considerations:** Navigation can be difficult due to a multitude of side creeks, and occasional clogs.

### 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.