

Day Paddles and Overnight Camping Trips - Suwannee Area

Lock Creek Loop Information Sheet

Description: Launch from the Anderson Landing Ramp and paddle through local canals to Lock Creek. Possibly the most alluring of Suwannee paddles takes one through the small creeks off the mainstream of the river that wend through swamps and marshes. Light filtered through the leaves of tupelos, ashes, and swamp bay, and reflected off still waters casts an enchanted glow on a surprising variety of wildflowers. Fish and alligators are abundant here, but this is the true haunt of wood ducks, river otters and turtles as any as 13 species of freshwater turtles may be found in the Suwannee, including a local specialty called the Suwannee cooter. After exiting Lock Creek, the Paddle continues down the Suwannee River and back to the Anderson Landing Ramp.

Skill Level: Novice

Distance/Time: 3.6 Miles/Approximately 2 hours

Launch Site: Anderson Landing Ramp in Suwannee-From the Suwannee Community Center: Head East on CR 349 1/2 mile and the ramp is on your right.

Special Considerations: None

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.