

## Coastal, Rivers and Blueways Trails - Withlacoochee River (South)

### Upper Trail Leg 4 Information Sheet

**Description:** After a short NE section, the river begins its journey NW toward the Gulf. You will have to portage your paddle craft around the Wysong Dam. Don't miss Cypress Spring on your right before you get to the SR 44 bridge. The Potts Preserve Primitive campsite is on your left a little ways past the Turner Camp Rd ramp, and has bathroom facilities. Almost directly across from the campsite is the entrance to Gum Slough which is an beautiful spring fed trip which takes a full day, if you have the time to spare.

**Skill Level:** Intermediate /Advanced due to distance

**Distance/Time:** 20.3 Miles/8 Hours

**Start Site:** Wynnhaven Riverside RV Park

**End Site:** Potts Preserve Primitive Campsite

**Special Considerations:** Check water levels with the Nobleton Canoe Outpost before departure. Occasionally during long droughts, sections of this river can become too shallow to paddle. Potts Preserve campsite has bathroom facilities. Reservations required at SWFWMD.

<https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/recreation/potts-preserve>

#### 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.