

## S8 Day Paddles - Tarpon Lake

### Booker Creek Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** This is a small short creek, which drains into Tarpon Lake near John Chestnut Park. The distance from the boat launch in John Chestnut Park to the bridge going over East Lake Rd is only about a mile. The lower creek has a unique nature beauty to it. The banks are tightly packed with trees, ferns and other Florida vegetation, with many a house to be seen. Take your time paddling, there is great scenery for photographers if you enjoy Florida nature.

**Skill Level:** Novice

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 2.2 Miles/1.5 Hours

**Launch Site:** John Chesnut Park Ramp

**Special Considerations:** Brooker Creek has many sharp turns and favors shorter kayaks. Small snags or deadfall possible near the end. It is very narrow (10 feet in some places) and has very sharp turns.

#### 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.