

## S9 Day Paddles - Alafia River

## Lower Alafia River Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** On this section the river broadens, with more houses and more places to take out. You will be passing under the US Hwy301 bridge, the I-75 bridge and the US Hwy41 bridge on the way to the mouth of the river. The takeout is on your right, just after the last bridge. This part of the river is more forgiving than the upper part.

**Skill Level:** Intermediate

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 7.5 Miles /3.5 Hours

**Launch Site:** Center Ave Ramp

**Takeout Site:** Williams Park Ramp

**Special Considerations:** This paddle requires shuttling vehicles. Increased power-boat traffic. Easiest paddled on an outgoing tide.

### 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.