

## S24 Day Paddles - St Johns River Western Watershed

## Cedar Creek Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** This paddle involves a 2.3 mile crossing of the St Johns River at the beginning and end of the paddle. Once in the creek you'll find some boat docks on your right during the first half of the way up the creek, but the houses are mostly set back behind the wood line and not visible. The upper half of the creek is wild and canopied. There is a 3 fork split near the turnaround point. If there isn't too much deadfall you can continue to explore farther. The central fork, which continues west southwest is the longest. The northerly and southerly trails don't continue very far.

**Skill Level:** Intermediate

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 7.7 miles/4.5 Hours

**Launch Site:** Riverdale Park Ramp

**Special Considerations:** Possible deadfall and/or snags in the upper part of the creek, especially after storms. The width of the river at this point is a safety concern on windy days. Be mindful of the boat traffic crossing the St Johns River.

### 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.