

S8 Day Paddles - Hillsborough River

Lower Hillsborough River Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This section of the river runs mostly through the more residential areas of Tampa, although there are several Parks along the way to take a break. Once portaging the dam at Rowlett Park, you'll be passing under the following bridges: Rowlett Park Dr. , Hwy 41, I-275, N Florida Ave. , W Sligh Ave. , W Hillsborough Ave, and W Columbus Dr. The takeout at Rick's is on your right just before the North Blvd bridge.

Skill Level: Intermediate due to heavy boat traffic.

Distance/Approximate Time: 8.8 Miles/4 Hours

Launch Site: Temple Crest Park Paddle Launch

Takeout Site: Rick's on the River Marina Ramp

Special Considerations: Heavy powerboat traffic on this section of the river, especially on weekends. 300 yard portage around dam through Rowlett Park. This paddle requires vehicle shuttling. There is a small beach area just past the dock downriver from the ramp at Rick's that is more conducive for paddlers.

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.