

S10 Day Paddles - Braden River

Pine Island Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This is an urban paddle with housing developments along much of the length of the river, but with natural vegetation growing in the middle of the river. This is a shallow water paddle in brackish water that is best done during mid to high tide. After launching from Braden River Park onto Gap Creek, paddle east and then turn north onto the main Braden River channel. The river tends to be shallow and it may be necessary to paddle along the edge of the boat channel. Follow the main channel until you reach Pine Island. Go around Pine Island counterclockwise and return upriver staying on the west side of the river. This will allow you to enter the channel to the right of the main channel. The natural vegetation in the middle of the river will now be on your left. Paddle south to follow this secondary channel. This section of the river is quite shallow with numerous oyster bars which requires vigilance and a willingness to wend your way up the river. Eventually you will return to the main river channel and continue upriver to Gap Creek and the launch site.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 9.5 Miles/4.5 Hours

Launch Site: Braden River Park Drive past the athletic fields. The launch site is in the grassy area behind the athletic fields.

Special Considerations: With the exception of the boat channel, the river is quite shallow and is best paddled at mid to high tide. Use extreme caution due to the high boat traffic when on the main channel of the river. Be aware of oyster bars out of the channel.

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.