

S25 Day Paddles - St Johns River Western Watershed

Dunn Creek Paddle Information Sheet

Description: This is a very long paddle only for the more experienced paddler. The lower part of the creek is at Heckscher Blvd where it meets the St Johns River, and the upper part ends near New Berlin Rd. Considering it is in the middle of the greater Jacksonville area, it has a considerable amount of its shoreline wooded or marsh.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Distance/Approximate Time: 17.3 Miles/8 Hours

Launch Site: Reddie Point Preserve Paddle Launch

Special Considerations: Since this is a long out and back paddle, you can stop at any point if you wish to cut it short and return to the launch site. Crossing the St Johns at this point can be very dangerous due to heavy boat traffic, river current, tidal current, deep water and the length of the crossing. It should not be attempted on windy days, and the crossing is best paddled at, or near the change of tides.

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.