

No Canoe Launching at the Fire Department



Regrettably, we must ask that you not use the Fire Department property to launch your kayaks or canoes. This area is not suited for launching for the following reasons:

- The bank is steep and getting steeper as it continues to erode;
- Those launching canoes/kayaks must carry their vessels over or near an open (sloped) drainage swale with an exposed pipe;
- This site is immediately adjacent to a diesel fuel tank;
- This drainage canal is extremely narrow and kayaks/canoes put in this area could have a potential conflict with the permitted, private docks and boats that currently exist; and
- With the canopy of mangroves expanding, the opening to the water is narrowing.

There are two public launch sites between the causeways available for your use. They are:

1. **Oars and Paddles Park**, located just west of the intersection of South Patrick Drive and Banana River Drive on the south side of Banana River Drive. Ample free parking is available. The park is open from Dawn to Dusk and overnight parking is prohibited.
2. **Lake Sheppard Launch site**. Directions:
 - (1) North on South Patrick Drive
 - (2) Left onto Sheppard Boulevard
 - (3) Right onto Lakeside Drive
 - (4) Left onto North Waterway Drive
 - (5) Left onto North Point Court (the boat ramp will be on your left).

The launch site is open from Dawn to Dusk. Signs indicate that parking is not permitted at the launch site on North Point Court. Patrons should only park in areas where parking is permitted. Ideally, this is a “drop off/pick-up” launch site, as parking issues have been, at times, a source of contention between users of the launch site and nearby residents. The Lake Sheppard launch site is closer to Samsons Island than the Fire Station site.

Thank you for your understanding.