

Manatee County

Rivers - Launch Sites - Trips

[Other Paddle Places](#)

Braden River

[Back to Top](#)

Launch Site Address

Griggs Landing on Ward Lake

Type & Amenities

Crude restroom and water.

Places Close By

Gazetteer

Directions

On I-75 head towards Bradenton, take Exit 217 onto State Rd 70 (head west), go about 1.5 miles and take a left turn onto Braden River Rd, then a right onto Linger Lodge Rd on which you will find Griggs Landing (a small commercial put in on Ward Lake). There is a grass launch area next to a concrete boat ramp.

Sights to See

Although there are a lot of houses along this river, you will still see plenty of egrets, heron along with turtles and other water wildlife.

Suggested Trips

Study the map before launching since the river is a little to find out of Ward Lake. If you go south, stop at the Linger Lodge for a bite to eat (about a 8 mile round trip paddle). If you choose to head north, you can explore to where the river dumps into the Manatee River (a 10 to 12 mile round trip paddle).

Manatee River

[Back to Top](#)

Launch Site Address

Rye Rd Bridge - Where Rye Rd and Upper Manatee Road meet.

Type & Amenities

Sandy beach, no toilets

Places Close By

Gazetteer

or water

Directions

This river is East of Bradenton. Take I75 South to State Rt 64, go East until you reach Upper Manatee Rd (take a left), follow the road until it dead ends into Rye Rd. The "official" launch site is off Upper Manatee Rd on the left, about 100 yds before you reach the bridge. There are several other entrances to the river, but this is the closest to the dam at Manatee Lake which we could find. There are launch sites/ exits down river if you wish to plan a shuttle.

Sights to See

This river is similar to other Florida rivers in that it wanders through a lush countryside and there is some wildlife to be seen. It is different in that it get wide rather quickly and has fairly steep banks. However, there are many sand bars which are great for taking breaks. The river is quite shallow if it has not rained recently. After heavy rains, the dam is opened to release excess water from Lake Manatee, making for a quite swift and possible dangerous river upstream.

Suggested Trips

Suggest that you put in at the bridge and go upriver as far as possible. If it is during a dry period, this may only be a mile or so before it get too shallow. Head downstream as far as your abilities will take you, or you can plan a shuttle for a take out down river.

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