

BATTLE RIVER PADDLE GUIDE: BIG KNIFE PROVINCIAL PARK

#PaddleTheBattle



@BattleRiverWatershed

Why Go?

Big Knife Provincial Park and the surrounding area has to offer some of the most beautiful scenery in the watershed. There is dense coniferous forest, large hoodoos, and beautiful coulees. Not only that, but once in the park you have access to kilometers of hiking trails, spacious wooded campsites, day use areas, fire pits and picnic spots, playgrounds, and washrooms. The boat launch area here is very accessible, but may also be busy with fishing boats.



Know Before You Go

This section of the Battle River was dammed in 1956 to create a reservoir for the electricity generating station, and because of this it may feel more like you are paddling on a lake than a river. There are many areas to explore, just make sure you can find your way back out if you explore in the cattails! The warm water leaving the generating station keeps some of the river from freezing up in winter, attracting a variety of birds.



Plant and Animal Life

The mix of both white spruce and aspen forest makes this a hot-spot for wildlife viewing opportunities! It is common to see moose and deer in the park, and there has also been an abundance of beaver activity along Big Knife Creek and in the park's many wetlands. Bald and Golden Eagles are often soaring nearby to feed on fish, as do the peregrine falcon who nest at the Generating Station.



Local Attractions

Hoodoos

Walking among the hoodoos is fun for all ages, and is particularly thrilling for us who didn't know this place existed until now! It's like a mini Drumheller, right in our own backyard. You can take the easy walk along the River Flats trail to the Hoodoos, then climb the huge hills or admire them from below. Watch out for cacti!



Battle River Generating Station

This facility is a major source of electricity in the area. Since it was built in 1956 it has burned coal from the Paintearth mine. The mine can be viewed traveling south on Hwy 56, and you can visit the interpretive site a few miles north from the park entrance to learn more. As of 2019 the facility is transitioning from coal to natural gas.

Please use discretion when choosing a paddling route. You are expected to follow all traffic and boating laws, be aware of weather, respect private property, and assess hazards before going out. Prepare to be out longer than expected- bring extra food, water, and lights. The Battle River Watershed Alliance holds no responsibility for injuries or damage sustained on your paddle.

BATTLE RIVER

WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Sponsored by the Battle River Community Foundation

www.BattleRiverWatershed.ca