

# BATTLE RIVER PADDLE GUIDE: PONOKA

Hwy 2A to Town to Bobtail Rd

#PaddleTheBattle



@BattleRiverWatershed

## Why Go?

Despite crossing several highway, train, and walking bridges, and traveling through both the town of Ponoka and farmland, this stretch of the river is very peaceful and a beautiful paddle. The riverbanks, especially along the top half of the stretch, are steep, forested, and in excellent health. This reach crosses several beaver dams and shallows, but it still relatively navigable even when the river is low during midsummer.



## Know Before You Go

As with many places along the Battle River, the flow rates are only significant in early spring, tapering off around mid-June. Beaver dams and man-made obstacles exist along this stretch. Past 50 Ave, the water gets much shallower as it nears Bobtail Road, so you may be required to walk through the water and pull your canoe behind you.

Keep in mind that trash and other household objects tend to litter the riverbed of streams that run through cities- always keep your eye out for hazards.



## Plant and Animal Life

The healthy riparian areas provide habitat for a variety of animals. Ducks and geese raise their young along the river and swallows live in the riverbanks and under the bridges. The forest surrounding the river is a good place to spot deer and also provides food and building material for beavers. Beavers also build dams that Battle River canoeists become accustomed to crossing. Leeches, though not overly prolific, will attach to one's feet as you stir up the riverbed during the paddling divergences. Check between your toes! At certain times of year, you can also see large, pin clouds in shallow water. These are copepods, a small crustacean that is an important food source for fish.

[www.BattleRiverWatershed.ca](http://www.BattleRiverWatershed.ca)

## Local Attractions

### Historic Dam

The remnants of the C.P.R. Dam can still be seen in the Battle River river at certain times of year. This dam has served many purposes: including transporting timber from Pigeon Lake, and at one time was even the hot spot for Northern Pike fishing and swimming. The remnants of this historic dam can be found adjacent to Chipman Avenue in Ponoka.



### Ponoka Stampede

Ponoka is known for being the rodeo hot spot in the watershed, and if you plan your paddle for the Canada Day long weekend be sure to take part in all the festivities they have to offer! From concerts, to a carnival midway, farmers market and of course, rodeo events of all kinds!

*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