

BATTLE RIVER PADDLE GUIDE: WAINWRIGHT

From Fabyan Campground to Riverdale Mini Park

#PaddleTheBattle



@BattleRiverWatershed

Why Go?

The paddle from Fabyan Campground to Riverdale Mini Park provides beautiful scenery, wildlife sightings, and calm waters. This is one of the more natural sections of the river, with healthy riparian areas throughout. This paddle is about 25km long and should take 4-6 hours, depending on water levels given the river's meandering nature and slow moving waters. Both the put in and take out locations are at parks with ample parking and washrooms, and are only about a 20 minute drive from each other.



Know Before You Go

This is a long stretch of river- get an early start and be sure you have enough food and water. There were a few fences crossing the river, but there was always a large opening to pass through. The fences were easy to see from a distance and we had lots of time to get maneuver around. Also, businesses close early in these parts, so have a plan for where you will go for dinner, and make sure you have a full tank! If you can, plan for dinner at the Honey Pot in Wainwright- its our favorite.



The Hwy 14 bridge at Fabyan

Plant and Animal Life

The soil along this stretch is very sandy, making a unique habitat. You will see a lot of sandbar willow along the banks and sizable sandbars to stop for breaks. Take a closer look in the water to find crayfish jetting around the riverbed, who love the sandy habitat. As you're paddling, keep your eyes peeled for bison bones and petrified wood sticking out of the banks! Local paddlers know this route is a treasure trove for fossils, but make sure to contact Alberta Environment if you find anything bigger than bison!

As for birds, bring your binoculars! We saw; Osprey, Bald Eagle, Cooper's & Redtail Hawk, Turkey Vulture, Kingfisher, Catbird, and Goldfinch.

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Local Attractions

Mistahiya Retreat Centre

Just down river from Riverdale is a jewel of the Battle River valley- Mistahiya (named for the Cree word for Grizzly Bear). Once a ski resort, it now hosts private events and the Come by the Hills Music festival in August. Check their website for events. A 7.5km nature trail with wildlife lookout tour is publicly available.



Take-out just past this Hwy 41 bridge.



Riverdale Mini-Park

The park, operated by the MD of Wainwright is serviced with a golf course, mini putt, playground, campsites, and clubhouse (check ahead for operating hours). The take out point is a beautiful beach, a naturally sandy section of the river which is a nice place to stretch out after your paddle.

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