

BATTLE RIVER PADDLE GUIDE: MAGICAL MAPLE ROUTE

Battle River From Ferry Point to Hwy 854 (S. of Rosalind)

#PaddleTheBattle



@BattleRiverWatershed

Why Go?

Although this stretch of the Battle River has a lot of big meanders, its calming beauty makes it highly recommended. Throughout the trip you will enjoy seeing beautiful badlands formed thousands of years ago by glaciation and made more distinct by water and wind erosion. Manitoba Maples line the river along the final $\frac{2}{3}$ of the route. In April 2020 the river was high enough that we could paddle into the maple groves and be amongst the trees. It was magical.



Local Attractions

La Prairieaire Eco Tourism

Local farmer and historian Forrest Hagen runs tours and/or overnight stays on property along this route and in the area. This unique operation is a fantastic way to get to know the area, from the dinosaur bones found here, to First Nations hunting and ceremonial sites, to early settlers and modern day farming. You can even arrange to stay at a campsite on route! Visit www.laprairieaire.ca for details.



Plant and Animal Life

Manitoba Maples (*Acer negundo*), also known as Boxelder, were the star of this route. Although native to Canada they are introduced to our region. They are unique from other maples because of their compound leaves. Naturally, they prefer moist soils such as riparian areas that could flood seasonally. Their multiple limbs spread wide and horizontal to the ground and make for beautiful photos. They are often found on farm sites and backyards as they are tough and adaptable and they grow quickly so could be used for windbreaks,

Also listen for the beautiful song of the meadowlark, and for the deep thumping sound of a Ruffed grouse mating display.

www.BattleRiverWatershed.ca

Know Before You Go

The total distance is about 20km, quite a long paddle. Go in the spring when water levels are highest, usually mid-late April and early May. The trip took us 5.5 hours to complete, including two breaks, during high flow,

There are two excellent options for put-in locations. The Ferry Point Campground offers amenities such as places to camp and park, rustic outhouses, and has easy access to the water. Secondly is the RR 184 bridge, just north of the campground. Park on Twp Rd 435A on the south-west side of the bridge. There is a gentle slope leading down to the Battle.

There are no alternative take-out points if you get tired. Start early and plan to be out longer than expected. You may notice a private dock on the river, this is about the halfway point on the route.



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