

# BATTLE RIVER PADDLE GUIDE: GALAHAD GRAIL ROUTE

Battle River from Hwy 861 (S. of Galahad) to Hwy 36 (Alliance)

#PaddleTheBattle



@BattleRiverWatershed

## Why Go?

Did you know that Galahad is named after a knight of King Arthur's Round Table? This wonderful stretch of the Battle is close to being our own Holy Grail!

The put-in and take-out points are easy to access, and the shuttle between them is only a 12-minute drive along beautiful country roads. When we paddled at the end of April 2020, there was a good flow in the river. The 20km route took us 3.5 hours including a long lunch, so about 2.5 hours of relaxed paddling. Expect it to take longer later in the year.



## Local Attractions

**Alliance Valley Ski Hill.** Although we doubt you can paddle and ski the same day, you should definitely come back here in the winter! This club demonstrates community spirit at its finest. The hill is larger than expected for being in the prairies and you get a fantastic view of the valley. There is a full-service lodge, rental shop, ski school and more. The hill is closed in the summer.



## Plant and Animal Life

Being early in the spring we did not see a lot of animal life along this route. However we are sure they are out there, in the sky, on the ground, and in the water!

The Battle supports a variety of fish including white suckers, northern pike, lake chub, trout-perch, walleye, minnows, and the once common Goldeye. In an extensive 2007 *Index of Biological Integrity* study, only 7 Goldeye were found in the whole river, 6 of them within the CFB Wainwright Base. That study concluded the Battle had a biological health score of 42%, meaning that the river has level of poor fishing/species of concern, and levels of no fishing/species at risk.

## Know Before You Go

We put-in on the South-east corner of the Hwy 861 bridge, south of Galahad. On the map there appears to be a side road which also crosses the river west of the highway. We didn't see a clear road on the north end, and on the south side we got our car stuck. Probably best to just stay on the highway-be sure you pull way onto the shoulder.

To take out, we pulled off near the entrance to the Alliance Valley Ski Hill. There is lots of parking here, at the intersection of Twp Rd 400A and Twp Rd 400C, which leads to the hill. The river bends in towards Twp Rd 400, and you will see a bridge which crosses Paintearth creek.. Turn upstream at this confluence and take out on the west side of the bridge. There is a bit of bush to whack though, but it is a gradual slope and you don't have to carry your boat very far to the road. To extend your paddle by a few bends you can also take out on the Hwy 36 bridge, however we did not test the access here.

*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

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