

BATTLE RIVER PADDLE GUIDE: PIPESTONE CONFLUENCE

Pipestone Creek (S. of Gwynne) to Battle River (S. of Bittern Lake)

#PaddleTheBattle



@BattleRiverWatershed

Why Go?

Confluences - where two waterways meet - often hold great historical, cultural, and spiritual significance. To experience a confluence is something special, even when it's the meeting of two small prairie waterways like Pipestone Creek and the Battle River. It was wonderful to paddle on both in one day. We also had the chance to hike up the valley hills and explore the small patches of native prairie that thrive there. We are always amazed at the diversity of plant life in these places!

This ~17km route offers enough variables to keep it interesting but is easy for any level of paddler. On June 2, 2020 this route took us 6 hours, including about 2 hours off water.

Local Attractions

Coal Lake South Park. Operated by the City of Wetaskiwin this park has lots of space for camping or day use. There are washroom facilities and picnic areas. Power Boating is allowed on the lake, so watch for the wakes of larger watercraft.

Pipestone Creek- Edmonton & Area Land Trust: Once privately owned, this land was bought to be maintained in its natural state. There are 5km of trails open only to foot traffic. Visit their website for details: www.ealt.ca/pipestone-creek



Plant and Animal Life

The tall grass prairie along Pipestone creek is a beautiful habitat for birds and other animals.

We saw and heard many sparrows, including Clay-coloured, White-throated, Vesper, LeConte's, Savannah and Song. There were also species we don't often see; the beautiful Baltimore Oriole and the Bobolink, whose song is a series of exuberant beeps and buzzes. We also saw a porcupine and plenty of beaver and muskrat.

Being close to Coal Lake, you may also see birds who fish, including divers such as Cormorants, and Western grebe, as well as Pelicans and Great Blue Herons.

www.BattleRiverWatershed.ca

Know Before You Go

We accessed the Pipestone Creek just south of Gwynne on Hwy 822. The slope on the south west side of the bridge made for a pretty easy put-in point. This creek has lots of tight turns and you may need to duck to avoid some shrub branches. The confluence with the Battle River happens around 8km in.

We took-out Twp Rd 462A, on the south-west side of the Bittern Lake South bridge, but crossed over to the east side of the bridge to pull up the boats. Watch for stinging nettles- they were abundant here.

The shuttle between these two points is less than 15 minutes. You could also extend the route by starting further upstream on the Pipestone (try the Coal Lake South campground), or going further down the Battle to the bridge on RR 215A (See our Peter Fidler Route Guide for details)

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