

BATTLE RIVER PADDLE GUIDE: RAPID RUN ROUTE

Battle River from Haultain Rd to Bethany House Rd, S of Gwynne

#PaddleTheBattle



@BattleRiverWatershed

Why Go?

This fast flowing stretch was full of class 2 and 3 rapids and tight turns. This was no lazy river-we had to stay paddling to avoid rocks and sweepers on the bends. There is a 45ft elevation drop between our put-in and take-out points, keeping the water moving fast!

The put-in point is about 15 minutes south of Gwynne. The shuttle is about 10 minutes to the end point on Twp Rd 462. If you want a longer route, continue to the confluence with the Pipestone Creek and the Twp. Rd 462A bridge take-out. See our "Pipestone Confluence" guide for more details.

Local Attractions

Chickadee Trail: Near the Gwynne ski hill is a lovely 3km trail known for its friendly chickadees. Bring some unroasted, unsalted sunflower seeds to feed the birds out of your hand. They are especially friendly in the winter! The trail does not receive a lot of maintenance. It starts (and ends) off Range Road 231 (52°59'03.9"N 113°13'14.6"W).



Plant and Animal Life

We were excited to find a colony of Cliff Swallows living true to their name. This insectivore has traditionally built their jug-shaped nests in great colonies on the sides of banks or cliffs. However



they now usually nest on bridges. The Cliff Swallow is more colourful than other swallows with a pumpkin coloured rump and neck-line and a square shaped tail.

Bank Swallows also live on the sides of rivers, but nest in holes they dig into the bank. They have a dark back and white undersides, with a dark stripe across their chest. Memory trick: Bank Swallows live "in the hole" (like a student's bank account!) and wear a banker's vest!

Know Before You Go

This route is 15km long, which took us 4 hours (including 1 hour for scouting and then tipping, and 1 hour for drying clothes and lunch.) In higher flows without stopping you might finish closer to 2 hours.

We put-in off the Haultain Rd 454 bridge on the north-east side. The bank is quite steep. It's a busy road so park back from the bridge and pull way off.

The river bluffs are high in places and there have been some significant slumps of soil falling into the river. One slump seemed to have happened very recently and caused the water to reroute over the land on the inner bank. As always, be sure to have everything tied down and have your safety plan in place before going through turbulent waters.

The route ended on the Twp Rd 462 bridge, on the south-east side. There is evidence of people gathering here, and a ATV trail leads up to the road. There have been some problems in the area with hunting or partying on private property. We met landowners who stopped to inquire about our visit. They were happy to have paddlers enjoying the river. Just be considerate and honest about your intent and you shouldn't have any trouble.

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.