

BATTLE RIVER PADDLE GUIDE: CASTOR CREEK

#PaddleTheBattle



@BattleRiverWatershed

Why Go?

Castor Creek is a hidden gem just outside of the town of Castor. This route is perfect for those who are hoping for a relaxed three hour paddle, whether that be solo or with family and friends! You will see cliffs along the shoreline, unique to this part of the watershed. Take a moment to spot the distinct layers of sandstone, clay and coal.



Know Before You Go

This stretch of Castor Creek was dammed in the 1940s and became known as Parr Reservoir. Because of this, the creek is slow moving and wide, almost lake-like in some areas. The best place to put your watercraft into the creek is at the parking lot and boat launch just east of Castor off 54 Ave.

This is an in-and-out paddle, as there is one public launching location along this stretch of the creek. At the north end of the paddle there is a concrete drainage weir that manages the reservoir levels. The year BRWA visited, there was a small beaver dam across the creek at the south end of the paddle, under the HWY 599 bridge.



Plant and Animal Life

Several colonies of cliff and bank swallows inhabit the unique cliffsides along this paddle route. There are also many species of marsh birds that you may spot during your paddle, such as coots, grebes, and red-winged blackbirds.

The name Castor Creek is a reference to the French and Latin name for beaver. While you may not see a beaver on this paddle, there is plenty of beaver activity in the area to remind you that they are around.



Local Attractions

Castor Historical Walking Tour: Castor has several historic buildings with tours for visitors to enjoy. The landmarks include Our Lady of the Rosary Hospital historical site, the grain elevator historical site, the Pharmacy Museum, the Train Station Museum, and more. Start the tour at Pals Park on Main Street and follow the signs!

Big Knife Provincial Park: See our Big Knife paddle guide for more details about this park. There is lots to explore and enjoy, including the hoodoos on the River Flats Trail. Also in the area is the Diplomat Mine Interpretive Site, just off the highway north of the park.



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.

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