

CAMP S'ALXWITSEL AND BEAR SLOUGH PADDLE ROUTES

ROSE ROAD TO DAYTON POOL



ROUTE DESCRIPTION

The Camp Slough S'alxwitsel and Bear Slough paddling route includes the segment of Camp Slough near Rose Road and Dayton's Pool. Bear Slough is a slender watercourse that meanders to the north from the *east* side of the Rose Road crossing, to connect to Gravelly Slough, which links to Camp Slough at Dayton Pool.

Difficulty: Easy to moderate. Two or three portages.

Hazards: Driveway culverts on Gravelly Slough adjacent to Kitchen Road may be impassable at high water levels. Portaging these culverts may be very challenging. This segment may be best paddled at lower water levels. We recommend scouting this section from Kitchen Road before launching.

A large log is across Bear Slough, but it easily portaged on the south side of the channel. Two beaver dams are easily crossed by pushing your watercraft over. They may be underwater with higher water levels.

The Rose Road bridge may not be passable at high water, but it is easy to portage around it.

Parking: Parking is available at Rose Road and Dayton Pool. Many nearby landowners would appreciate if parked vehicles did not block passage of tractors and other vehicles. Please park with care on the roads.

Route Highlights

- 3.1 km easy paddling on Camp Slough from Rose Road to Dayton Pool
- 2.5 km with some portages on Bear Slough
- 1.2 km very easy loop on the east side of Rose Road
- 90 minutes of beautiful paddling
- Parking at Rose Road and Dayton Pool
- Beavers, birds, and many aquatic creatures live in these watercourses.

RECENT TRIP REPORT FROM MAY 2021

Bear Slough (from Kitchen Road to Rose Road), Camp Slough from Rose Road back to Kitchen Road put in. Optional at Kitchen Road put in: continue on Gravelly Slough to Dayton's Pool.

We were extremely pleased to find Bear Slough easily navigable for the entire length with three very easy obstacles. It is a lovely intermediate loop.

We put in at Kitchen Road, just south of the large red dairy barn. The grass has been mowed at the put-in and it is an easy entry. The channels are narrow and decrease along the route to a minimum of 3 meters. This might be one of the prettiest areas.

We meandered around two large curves. A very large log that crosses the entire slough and although we portaged around the left (north) side, the right would be a better location. Other than this most major obstruction, there are two very low beaver dams that a canoe can almost cross, but not quite. We had to get out. It's a good idea to wear rubber boots. It is shallow.

After approximately 1 hour of very leisurely paddling and picture taking, we joined Camp Slough, headed west under the Rose Road bridge and continued back to where we began.

In a month, it will not be possible to get under the Rose Road bridge and a very easy portage around will be necessary.

Geese are presently nesting on the small islands and even on some logs and care should be taken not to disturb them. Please stay off all the small islands to keep them safe for the nesting birds.

This trip could also be started from Rose Road which has slightly more parking places. It can be paddled in either direction but it should be noted that east of the Rose Road Bridge, before the point that Bear Slough joins Camp Slough, there is a narrow slough that has two large log obstructions. Wrong Way!

IMPORTANT NOTE

There are no public washrooms on this route. Please make sure to plan accordingly.

We acknowledge that we are on S'olh Temexw, the unceded traditional territory of the Stó:lō people.

Halq'eméylem is their language.

S'alxwitsel is the Halq'eméylem name for Camp Slough.

It means the middle.

PADDLING ETIQUETTE

- You must wear a personal flotation device (PFD).
- Don't paddle alone – you never know when you need a hand.
- Respect wildlife – the sloughs are important habitat for a wide variety of waterfowl, songbirds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals. Keep your distance.
- Do not disturb nesting waterfowl.
- Respect private property – the shoreline might look wild (which is good!) but the adjacent property is probably residential or a farm. Don't trespass.
- Your voice carries and others can hear – be mindful of what you say.
- Don't block other users – move your craft out of the way.
- Use leave no trace practices – please pack out all your garbage and take only photographs.

HAPPY PADDLING!



A painted turtle basks in the sun on the shore of the slough.

Disclaimer

The route depicted here may be different than described. Watercourses may have fluctuating water levels, downed trees, or other obstacles. Paddlers should be familiar with the risks they are assuming when using these watercourses.

DAYTON'S POOL

Dayton's Pool became a popular swimming spot in Chilliwack in the late 1920s. While it was officially known as Dayton Pool, it generally went by the name "Dayton's Pool".

By the mid-1950s, it was so popular with kids from all around the Chilliwack that it was enlarged, deepened, and improved. Two diving boards were installed and gravel paths around the area were raised and improved. An enclosed wooden wading pool for youngsters was built to the east/right of the main pool area. The 'new' Dayton's Pool was a huge success.

At the same time, the slow decline of Dayton's Pool began. It was associated with less-than-pristine water from cattle with access to upstream water and seepage from nearby septic fields.

Although Dayton's Pool technically existed in one form another for four decades, the 10-year period 1956-1966 was considered the swimming hole's heyday. When Dayton Pool's champion, Tony Jespersen, passed away in 1966, the condition of the pool rapidly declined, and by 1969, it had been dismantled by the municipality and shut down.

Today the location of Dayton's Pool is overgrown with vegetation. The concrete bridge still exists but there is very little water under it in the summer months. Kids (and adults) still fish to the south side of the bridge.

Excerpted from Chilliwack History Perspectives:

<https://www.facebook.com/chilliwackhistory/post/s/1503928339885295>

Camp Slough (S'alxwitsel) and Bear Slough Paddle Routes- Total length 6.8 km

