

NELSON SLOUGH EAST PADDLE ROUTE

MCSWEEN ROAD EAST TO JESPERSON ROAD



Route Description

This route features a wide, calm slough that is bordered by trees and shrubs. It is easy to paddle, but rated moderate because the access can be difficult at Kitchen Road. You could do a there and back from each end and avoid crossing Kitchen Road. A small island near the McSween Road launch site is interesting to explore and makes a good location for a picnic. Paddling for a picnic lunch on the island would make an easy and fun trip for a very young paddler!

Difficulty: Moderate. The portage over Kitchen Road is difficult and may require exploring. .

Hazards: Floating debris concentrates near some of the access points. A short portage near Kitchen Road requires passing a fence. Please close any gates, if you use this crossing.

Parking: There is parking near the Jespersen Road and McSween Road access points. Please do not block the road or driveways. There is very little parking at Kitchen Road.

Recommendation: This route can be combined with the Nelson Slough Route to the east of McSween Road. The resulting trip is a 3.7 km paddle that can be completed in a few hours. Alternatively, you can make this a there and back paddle starting and ending at either end.

IMPORTANT NOTE: There are no public washrooms on this route. Please plan accordingly.

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

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.

RECENT CONDITIONS

Very few roads provide access to the route and there are not many houses, features which add to the solitude of a route that passes through rural agricultural neighbourhoods.

The Blueways entry point when heading east is McSween Road.

The first challenge is the approach to Kitchen Road: keep to the south side through floating debris and take canoe over one log and then up the slope to Kitchen Road

On east side of Kitchen Road, the best trail to the slough is between two trees on the north side of the culvert.

The second challenge is at Farm Land Bridge. Keep to the far north side. You can easily make it through floating debris and large logs should be out of your way. Portage across the land bridge and from there, it is an unobstructed paddle to Jespersen Road.

2023 Trip Report:

There is a decent entry point to Nelson Slough east of Kitchen Road, an easy cleared slope to a gravel put in site. The water is lovely, relatively clear with a gravel base. This is a really pretty wide slough. When you approach the land bridge by Norrish Farm, keep to the far north. We made a relatively clear passage between many logs to the land bridge and it is a fairly easy portage over. The farmer's gate was open and it was easy to get to the other side. I assume the route to the east, to Jespersen Road is all clear and easy. We looked at the section west of Kitchen Road and it remains impassable and ugly. Last year, we brought our boats up on the south slope right before all the debris, carried them along the top bank a short way, across Kitchen Road and continued. Going through the log debris remains difficult and not recommended.

We saw an osprey dive to catch a fish on Nelson Slough, right by the island with the picnic table!

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.



S.O.S. SAVE OUR SLOUGH

Nelson Slough



Picnic spot



Parking



Launch



South branch to Kitchen Road- 1.1 km

McSween Road to Ballam Road- 1.3 km

McSween Road to Kitchen Road- 1.5 km

Unidentified hazards may exist on mapped routes.
Always proceed with caution.
Map created by Stephanie Christensen, May 17, 2023.

Log jam located west of
Kitchen Road, impassable.

BALLAM ROAD

BALLAM ROAD

McSWEEN ROAD

KITCHEN ROAD

Beaver dam, easy portage
on north side, likely
passable at higher water.

This section was narrow
and contained some
downed logs, passable by
a short portage on the east
side.

0 100 200 300 400 m
1:5,000

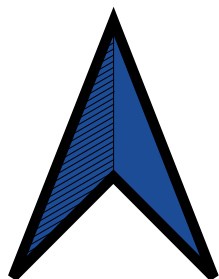
Nelson Slough- Jespersen Road to Kitchen Road



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Map created by Stephanie Christensen, May 17, 2023.

0 100 200 300 400 m

1:6,500



P Parking

★ Launch

••• Portage

— Nelson Slough Upstream Reach 1 - 0.3 km

— Nelson Slough Upstream Reach 2- 1.4 km