

NELSON SLOUGH WEST PADDLE ROUTE

BALLAM ROAD TO MCSWEEN ROAD



ROUTE DESCRIPTION

Nelson Slough is wide and has really easy access at Ballam Road and McSween Road. This section of the slough is very flat with no current and is suitable for a paddle board. The only obstacle at low water is a beaver dam near McSween Road.

Difficulty: Easy, flat water, no current and minimal hazards when paddled at higher water levels.

Hazards: This stretch has few, if any hazards. Flotsam near McSween Road is unpleasant to paddle through. A beaver dam is the only obstacle.

Parking: Parking is Ballam Road and McSween Road. A few parking spaces are available at the Ballam Road put in and a large pullout on McSween Road provides ample parking. McSween Road has a nice gravel launch area.

Recommendation: This route can be combined with the segment on the east side of McSween Road that goes all the way to Jespersen Road. The resulting trip is a 3.7 km paddle that can be completed in a few hours.

Route Highlights

- 1.3 km from Ballam Road to McSween Road
- Possible to make a loop route by biking or walking on the Canyon to Coast Trail
- Suitable for paddleboards
- You might see a mink!

IMPORTANT NOTE

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

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

BLUEWAYS

Blueways are watercourses that are suitable for non-motorized watercraft, such as kayaks, canoes, rafts, and paddleboards. Over the past several years, the City of Chilliwack has been improving Blueways for recreational uses. The Nelson Slough, for example, has benefited with improved slough access at Ballam Road, Kitchen Road, and McSween Road.

In addition to water routes, the Canyon to Coast Trail has also been improved. The trail between Ferry Island and Island 22 opened in 2107. It follows the dyke on the south side of Fraser River and is well suited for walking and cycling. The trail provides a link to both ends of the Nelson Slough paddle route, making it possible to do a self-propelled trip, if you have a watercraft that you can carry or haul with your bike.

The Canyon to Coast trail is part of the Experience the Fraser project that will connect Hope to the Salish Sea with over 550 km of trails, most of which are completed. The trails will be on both the north and south side of Fraser River and will be designed for cycling, walking, and horses. More importantly, they will include blueways and blueways access.

More information is available on these websites:

<https://www.chilliwack.com/main/attachments/attachView.cfm?attachID=5256>

<https://www.fvrd.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation/experience-the-fraser.html>

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.

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

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.

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