

P to 64 on Peshtigo River (Marinette County)

- P to E (10.4 miles) took us 3¼ hours. The take-out at E is not an easy access because of large rocks.
- Recommend take-out at Ferndale Road Bridge (7.3 miles) because it has a sandy beach (could swim here.) Would take 2+ hours.
- If put-in at Ferndale Road Bridge, could paddle to Bagley Road (12.9 miles), next to the railroad tracks (for a 5.6 mile trip).
- There is a public boat landing (Wis Public Service at another mile down). It is tucked away behind some islands on river left.

This narrative (& map) is from *Paddling Northern Wisconsin* by Mike Svob:

PESHTIGO RIVER PE-9

County P to County E (10.4 Miles)

A peaceful and pleasant paddle through a mixed setting of uplands and lowlands.

The next-to-the-last section of the Peshtigo is a very pleasant paddle, with dependable current, a winding course, a mixed upland/lowland setting, a few glimpses of interesting marshy sloughs and an exciting but not very difficult rapids. Appropriate for novices, the stretch can nevertheless be tiring if the wind is out of the east. Paddlers often see deer and eagle, and anglers catch northern, smallmouth and panfish along the stretch.

Public **camping** is available a few miles south of the take-out at Badger Park in the city of Peshtigo.

Water levels are almost always adequate for good paddling. High water demands special caution, and may require staying away altogether. For general information on water conditions (high, medium or low), call the DNR office at Peshtigo (715-582-5000).

The **shuttle route** is via County P, Highway 64 and County E.

Put in at the **County P bridge**, upstream-right, near the old cheese factory.

The section begins fairly wide and deep, with a left-hand bend. A house with a big grassy yard appears on the left around the bend. Cedar trees are plentiful at the beginning. Later, pines, maples and birches are abundant.

Before long, the river becomes shallow as you approach a Class I rapids, located in a curve alongside a river-right house. Waves are created as the river drops a little, but the route is easy to find. High and low banks alternate downstream.

Shortly after a house on the right, the river sharply bends left, then right (1.5 miles). There is an island at the next left-hand bend (2 miles). Attractive wooded banks line the river for a while, including a high bluff on the left midway through a big right-hand loop. As soon as the loop ends and the river swings to the left (3.2 miles), Fawn Lane parallels the river on the right; there are many cabins here.

A big island precedes the County W bridge (4.2 miles); the right channel is narrow, shallow and choked with deadfall. There is no good access at the bridge. After County W, the banks are generally low and grassy, but trees line the river all the way to the take-out. You will spot an occasional deer stand.

Downstream from the bridge, the Little Peshtigo River (4.5 miles) enters on the right, opposite a cabin. After a small, grassy island (5 miles), the river bends right, then left, with several houses along the bank in the curve. There is a slough on the left where the river bends back to the left. Several times on the rest of the stretch, you will see sloughs in the midst of bends.

Another slough on the right, then Gravelly Brook on the left (5.9 miles) follow the next right-hand bend. Other sloughs follow.

The Ferndale Road bridge (7.3 miles) is an **alternate access**; the put-in or take-out is downstream-right or left, with room for a few cars alongside the road. Downstream, the river continues wide, with moderate current and low shoreline. Swampy sloughs appear in the first loops after the bridge, then a straightaway that ends at a wooded island and a right turn. There are a few farm buildings and wooded bluffs in the remainder of the section, but most of the last miles flow between low banks, with sloughs in the bends.

Take out at the County E bridge (10.4 miles), upstream-right or downstream-left. Because of the large rocks used for rip-rap at the bridge, this is not an easy **access**. There is room for a few cars alongside the road.

Another possible take-out is 2.5 miles farther downstream at the unimproved **landing** alongside Bagley Road. By the time you reach this landing, which is next to the railroad tracks where the river swings right, you are already into the backup of the Potato Rapids Flowage. There is still a little current at Bagley Junction, and room for a couple of cars.

Downstream a mile from the Bagley Road landing is the public boat **landing** owned by the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation. This landing, on river left, is well into the flowage and is tucked away behind some islands.

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Two dams lie downstream from this section: Potato Rapids Dam, upstream from the Highway 64 bridge 4 miles north of the city of Peshtigo; and the paper-mill dam located in the city just south of Highway 41. The final trip on the Peshtigo begins well below the paper-mill dam.

