

Paddle Trip Attributes

Water Body: Goose Creek

Put-in: Cement City Hwy Bridge (Cement City)

Take-Out: Somerset or Karen Parks (Somerset Road), from Hayes Rd., Lake Columbia

Water low in some places might require some wading with boat

Significant open lake water paddling with possible wind and wave effects

Combination of river and open lake paddling with some wind and wave effects

Route includes some slow backwater from a dam

Tight bends in river or debris in river will require maneuvering skills

Portage(s) around: dam(s), low bridge(s), and/or fallen trees

Wide river with more gradual bends

River current mostly slow

Some places with fast current

Some places with class one rapids (very mild)

Some places with class two rapids (moderate; some chance of capsizing)

Upstream paddle on half of the trip route

Route through mostly natural areas

Route through mostly developed or urban areas

Route has combination of natural and developed areas

Much of route is through wetlands

Much of trip through wooded areas

Water will be somewhat cold; bring extra change of clothes in waterproof bag

Comments:

Goose Creek feeds man-made Lake Columbia, the head waters of the River Raisin. The trip begins at the 70 acre Sanctuary owned and maintained by the Michigan Nature Association. The wet prairie, marsh and fen that make up the sanctuary, are host to over 200 plant species (7 of which are listed as rare) including native orchids, sedges, prairie flowers like Indian Paintbrush and many bog plants like buckbean. Goose Creek is truly one of the last remnants of the vast prairie which once stretched through out Southern Michigan, Indiana and Ohio a reminder of what our landscape would have looked like in the 1800's. A brief talk about this will be given prior by Garret Johnson of the Michigan Nature Association to put-in. The Lake Columbia Property Association has given special permission to take out on this private lake with many outstanding homes and cottages. There is one small dam to portage and a rock dam with small rapids.