

PESHTIGO RIVER (P5)

Put-in Farm Dam Landing
Take-out WPS Landing # 12
Distance 5.2 miles
Approximate Time 3-4 hours
Most Difficult Rapids Class 3-4

Elevation Drop 176 feet
Average Gradient 34.5 feet per mile
Minimum Suggested Flow 3.6 feet on USGS Gauge @ Cnty C,
 -5 on Paddlers Gauge @ Cnty C
Water Level Info / Phone Contact local outfitter

Paddler's Notes

Suggested River Levels for Paddling

The river gauge that corresponds with the chart below is located in this segment, and should provide an accurate indication of river levels and conditions in this reach.

(Numbers in parenthesis reference the Paddler's Gauge at Highway C)

Scout the rapids and know your limitations!



Below 3.6 feet	(0 to -5) Paddling not recommended.
3.6 feet to 4.0 feet	(-5 to 0) Low runnable flow. Rapids should be navigable, but will be scrappy in this range. Class II-III run.
4.0 feet to 4.5 feet	(0 to 6) Low runnable flow for an enjoyable run. Playspots are starting to develop nicely. Class III run.
4.5 feet to 5.3 feet	(6 to 15) Medium runnable flow. All of the rapids and playspots should be nicely developed at high end of this range - not too sticky or overpowering for intermediates.
5.3 feet to 6.0 feet	(15 to 24) Medium to high runnable flows. Waves are becoming big & pushy, may overpower intermediates. Joey's Hole is difficult to exit. S-Curve Rapids are class III. First Drop & Horserace Rapids are approaching class IV at high end of this range.
6.0 feet to 7.0 feet	(24 to 36) High runnable flows. A nice adrenaline charge for "big-water", advanced-level paddlers. Holes at 3rd Drop are very difficult to exit. Local rafting services are using 8-12 person rafts in this range. Overall, a class IV run.
Above 7.0 feet	(Above 36) Rare, unusually high flows. Huge & powerful waves. Previous "big-water" experience is necessary to run the river at these levels.

There are several rafting outfitters in the area that offer fun and exciting, guided trips for paddlers of all skill levels. It is important to note that varying water levels change the character of the rapids dramatically. Kayakers should call one of the local outfitters for river conditions before embarking on your trip.

83.6 Miles Farm Dam Landing River: A short pitch of low-hazard rapids occurs shortly after put-in; a rocky class 2 boulder garden that starts out in a slight constriction. There are some areas of nice waves down the center in medium to high flows, and scattered boulders to be wary of left of center during low water. **Shuttle:** On County C, the entrance is marked by road signs. There are two separate landings, one for the commercial outfitters and one for public use. The public landing is the northern-most, on Otter Creek. Trailer access ramps, parking, trailer turnaround.

82.7 Miles Boulder Gardens (Class 2) The first pitch of rapids (see above) is followed by a stretch of riffley flat-water through a left bend. A mile and a half of continuous boulder gardens and rapids begins shortly after the bend.

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81.6 Miles **Area 51** A clearing on both sides of the river marks a spot known as "Area 51". So named because of the numbered pipeline marker next to the river. First Drop Rapids are 80 yards downstream from the end of this clearing.

81.5 Miles **First Drop Rapids (Class 3-4)** At First Drop Rapids, the river constricts and drops over several ledges in a short series. *In medium to high flows*, this is a challenging, wavy and technical rapid with a tricky hole, a sidecurler, and a nice backroller. Many kayakers will run this rapid over and over.

The 'safe' line is down the right, where you'll avoid the most challenging features altogether. The center line will lead you directly into a hole and a wicked sidecurler that often flips kayakers and rafters. The most legendary flips are performed by funyacks and rafters. Swimmers are rarely hurt.

The most technical line is to start down the left and let the current push you across to the center, through the hole and directly into the sidecurler. If you manage to stay upright, give yourself a pat on the back. If you want to avoid the sidecurler, start on the far left and paddle hard - straight down the left side to avoid the center hole. This is known as the "Cheater Line". If anyone watches you do this, you may be jeered (*in a good-natured way!*).

During low flows, First Drop can be pretty tame, and many of the features previously noted won't be present. Scout from the ledge on river left.

81.4 Miles **Second Drop Rapids (Class 3)** About 150 yards below First Drop, a submerged river-wide ledge forms Second Drop Rapids. Playboaters will find fun surf waves from medium-high to high runnable flows. Some consider these waves to be the best on the Peshtigo for playboating (*great vertical playspot!*). Downstream, more rapids and boulder gardens continue to Third Drop Rapids.

81.0 Miles **Third Drop Rapids & Joey's Hole (Class 3)** Third Drop Rapids occurs about a hundred yards below a small island. The river rushes over three ledges that form a pair of sticky holes in higher flows. To avoid the holes: start your line on the right past the initial waves to avoid the first hole, then cross over (paddle hard!) to the left to avoid the 2nd hole, which is named: "Joey's Hole". It gets powerful and very sticky in high water. If you're going to hit it, paddle hard to get through! It can be a bit scary to get stuck. Scout from the right bank.

80.9 Miles **Five Foot Falls (Class 3)** Five Foot Falls immediately follows Third Drop Rapids. The Falls are a river-wide ledge with a couple of route options. First, is a chute down the left that becomes more navigable (*and challenging*) at higher water levels. This is the line most often run. Just be aware that the current will push you into the rocky left bank at the outflow. The second route is down the center over a rocky slide - this is usually the 'safest' route, but use your judgement. The base of the falls are often shallow and rocky in the center. Scout the rapids from the right bank.

80.8 Miles **Horserace Rapids, Jerry's Chute (Class 3-4)** Horserace Rapids are less than 200 yards downstream from Five Foot Falls. The initial drop of Horserace occurs where the river narrows in a right bend and plunges into a narrow, rocky gorge. This is the longest stretch of challenging whitewater in the "Roaring Rapids" segment, and features 120 yards of big waves, large holes and 'boiling' eddies. The rapids will rate class 4 in high water. Land and scout from the right bank.

The final stretch of Horeserace is a wavy chute named: "*Jerry's Chute*". The waves get BIG in higher flows! Jerry's is a blast. It's important to note that the river immediately below Jerry's Chute is shallow and rocky; if you're upside down, kiss your deck, or roll back upright - fast. If your swimming, get your feet pointing downstream. That being said, injuries are rare, and in higher flows you should be OK.

Wildman Adventure Resort is located beyond the right bank.

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- 80.6 Mile S-Curve Rapids (Class 2-3)** S-Curve Rapids are about 200 yards below Horserace; where the river splits around a long wooded island, the rapids begin at the head of the left channel. The river flows over a submerged ledge to create the rapids. The best line is down the left. A nice hole often forms here in medium to high flows. This is a popular playspot.
- 80.6 Mile Rapids (Class 2)** After S-Curve, there is almost continuous class 2 rapids for nearly a half-mile with several long stretches of fun waves and small drops (*medium to high flows*). A short stretch of flatwater follows, where the river bends left into a small oxbow. After the river passes under a powerline, another class 2 rapid begins near several homes. The whitewater ends as you approach a small wooded island.
- 79.0 Mile County C Bridge** You will come upon the County C Bridge after a sharp left bend. Both the "Paddlers Gauge" and the USGS Gauge are located here. Rapids Resort and Kosir's Rafting and Campground are located just below the bridge on river left. This is a private landing.
- 78.4 Mile WPS Landing #12** **River:** A few sets of riffles and easy rapids precede the landing. The boat ramp is on river-left in a wide clearing. **Shuttle:** On County C, turn south onto Landing 12 Lane. The entrance is marked by road signs. This excellent, large developed landing is part of the Peshtigo River State Forest and is maintained by Wisconsin Public Service. There is plenty of room for trailers. The landing is very popular with boaters going down to the Caldron Flowage. Trailer access ramp, parking, trailer turnaround, trailer parking, water, pit toilets.

Driving Directions (Google Maps)



Farm Dam Public Landing



WPS Landing #12

GPS - NAD83 / WGS84

Farm Dam Public Landing	45.41351,-88.34615
1st Drop Rapids	45.41221,-88.32142
2nd Drop Rapids	45.41200,-88.31941
3rd Drop Rapids	45.40667,-88.31773
5 Foot Falls	45.40623,-88.31674
Horserace Rapids	45.40439,-88.31521
S-Curve Rapids	45.40186,-88.31423
County C Bridge	45.38766,-88.30468
WPS Landing #12	45.38092,-88.30101