

Winooski River Descriptions

Date	Section	Miles	Special Considerations
June 21 st	Marshfield to E. Montpelier	12	Plainfield dam portage
June 22 nd	Montpelier to Waterbury	11	Middlesex dam; class I/II rapids
June 23 rd	Waterbury to Richmond	15	Bolton dam; class I/II rapids
June 24 th	Richmond to Essex	11.5	Essex dam; flat no portages
June 25 th	Essex to Winooski	7	Winooski dam, class I/II rapids
June 26 th	Winooski to the Lake	10	Flat water, no portages

Section 1 Marshfield to East Montpelier Length: 12miles

The river is narrow and winding in this section. The water can sometimes be fairly quick and there are several rocky stretches that can be very shallow. Paddlers must have strong boat handling skills in this section to avoid pinning on rocks. The number of boats will be limited to 20 on this day.

There will be one dam portage in the Village of Plainfield that will coincide with our lunch stop. The boats will be loaded on vehicles and transported to the afternoon put in.

Section 2 Montpelier to Waterbury Length: 11 miles

The river becomes considerably wider below Montpelier. This section is mostly flat with a steady but not fast current. About 2.5 miles below Montpelier, there is a short rapid. It can be easily portaged on the left side of the river. We will reach the Middlesex Gorge dam (5.5 miles from Montpelier) in the late morning. The portage is short so some boats will be carried around the dam. However, we will have some vehicular support as well.

Just below the dam, there is a short straight forward rapid (class I/II). It can be portaged on the left. Shortly after the Mad River enters the Winooski (approximately 2 more miles) there is another rapid know as Junkyard Rapid. Depending on the water level, this rapid (class I/II) can be run by those with strong boat handling skills. The rapid is short and easily portaged on the left.

Section 3 Waterbury to Richmond Length: 15 miles

This section of the river is mostly flat with a steady current. There is one significant portage around Bolton Dam that will be done with vehicular support. This portage will correspond with our lunch stop. More advanced paddlers will put in directly below the dam and run a rapid known as the Trestle Rapid (class I/II). Other paddlers will join this group at an alternative put in about 1 mile downstream.

Section 4 Richmond to Essex Length: 11.5 miles

The entire stretch from Richmond to Essex is flat with a slow current. The river becomes extremely wide and almost lake-like behind the dam in Essex. We take out for the day just above this dam. The boats will be transported to just below the dam for the next day's put in.

Section 5 Essex to Winooski Length: 7 miles

This section, depending upon water level, can be very rocky. Paddlers should have solid boat handling skills. We will take out above the Winooski Gorge dam.

Section 6 Winooski to Lake Champlain Length: 10 miles

This section is flat, slow moving water. The river is very wide and generally fairly shallow. There are no portages.