

**Sycolin Rd Bridge to Riverpoint Drive (Kephart Bridge) Landing**

**Thumbnail** – Goose Creek Reservoir to Riverpoint Dr. - 5 miles - Practiced Novice run Cl. A-II (II+) Knipling Ranking: 62/68. 2.5 hours, 340 sq mi, 6 fpm gradient. ***Must portage the Fairfax Dam*** at the end of the Reservoir. Portage right, despite mandatory signs. *Bring a 25' rope to let boats down the steep trail.* No longer “Runs all Winter & Spring” but mainly after rains, placing a high premium on prediction. Beltway to Beltway – 7 hours

**Main Features** – This popular paddle is the closest mid-sized stream to Washington.

- Goose Creek Reservoir – 1.5 miles – take-out on right of dam – portage boats down 25-foot steep rocky trail.
- Golf Course Rapid - a Class II+, III in high water. Easiest run is to the left. Lunch spot.
- Clapham Falls Rapid – Cl. II+ - just before the Kephart Bridge take-out.

**Canoe Zero** ([USGS Leesburg](#) – 2 hrs upstream) is 180 cfs (1.93'); (sweet spot - 300-600 cfs) Class I, II, two II+ rapids

**Approach** – From the Beltway take VA 7 NW to Belmont Ridge Rd, go right (north), passing Lansdowne Shopping area, pass 2 traffic signals (cross “Riverside Pkwy”), go 3/4s around a tiny traffic circle, then go down Riverpoint Drive one mile to 43942 on left. This **take-out** is 20 miles, 45 mins from the Beltway.

Or to the **Put-in** (39.0395, -77.5355) take **TOLL** – VA 267 next to Dulles Airport Rd, then Dulles/Leesburg Greenway (VA 267) to Exit 4, go right (N) on Belmont Ridge Rd (VA 659), left at first traffic light on Sycolin Rd (VA 643) to the **put-in** – fast 20 miles, 22 mins, expensive (\$10)

**Meeting Place** – At Riverpoint Drive Landing (ex-Kephart Bridge) **take-out** with paved parking with 10 spaces. Portable toilet. 43942 Riverpoint Drive, Sterling (39.0978, -77.4972) Packed on summer weekends, so get there early.

**Shuttle** - east of the creek along Belmont Ridge Rd (VA 659) 3 miles; go right on Sycolin Rd (VA 643), cross Goose and park on shoulder. **Put-in** at 39.0395, -77.5355 on river left. No toilet.

**Alternate trips** – **Middle Goose** - With more water (Leesburg: 300 cfs) put in at Crooked Bridge Rd off Lime Kiln Rd (VA 733) for a 10-mile run down to Sycolin Bridge. **Reservoir Paddle:** Put in at Sycolin Rd Bridge, paddle up to Francis Mill Dam, portage up and continue to Evergreen Mills Rd (SR 621) [sketchy access point]. Some paddlers prefer a **shorter Lower Goose trip** put in at Keep Loudoun Beautiful Park. This eliminates the 1.5 miles of Reservoir flatwater and the troublesome portage down around the 20-foot Fairfax Reservoir Dam but also 2.2 miles of good rapids below it. Or for **surfing and playing in Golf Course Rapid**, paddle upstream ½ mile from Keep Loudoun Beautiful Park (39.0856, -77.5144) Look for < 300 cfs.

**Nearby Streams:** Immediately downstream of Kephart is a 0.9-mile flatwater paddle to the **Potomac**, which one can cross to Edwards Ferry. The Po should be 4.7 ft or more than 200 cfs must be coming down the Goose. Including 3.5 miles up from Sycolin Rd. **Upper and Middle Goose** can be paddled after heavy rains.

**Gauge** – [Leesburg](#): at Evergreen Mills Rd, 4.7 miles above the Sycolin Rd put-in. = a 2-hr lag *Beware* the NWS Advanced Hydrologic **Prediction** Service readings, which are frequently erroneous and internally inconsistent. Figure for yourself, using rainfall and readings at USGS [Middleburg](#) gage, 21 miles upstream from Sycolin Road Bridge put-in, factoring in a 6-hour lag. Add in gauges on [Beaverdam](#) and [North Fork](#) to obtain 62% of what'll soon arrive at Leesburg.

**Guidebooks/Maps:** Ettinger p. 347, Corbett, p. 45, Grove, p. 102, Gertler, p. 31, [Ron Canter](#) on CCA Website – 2 Maps and a detailed creek description with historical citations and links. Also [American Whitewater](#) – starts at Sycolin Road Bridge.

Also, several [Trip Reports](#) on CCA Website. **Goose Creek Access Recommendations** with maps, photos, and descriptions and **3 Goose Creek Assn Maps:**