

### Route Description, Pomme de Terre River

- R and L represent sides of the river facing downstream.  
**Red text indicates caution areas.**
- 30.0 County Road 7 bridge.
  - 27.5 (L) Koosman carry-in launch. County Road 20 bridge.
  - 24.6 185th Avenue bridge.
  - 23.0 County Road 56 bridge.
  - 19.7 190th Avenue bridge.
  - 19.1 (L) Pomme de Terre #1/US Hwy 12 carry-in access. US Highway 12 bridge. Rest area and watercraft campsite.
  - 16.6 (R) Confluence with Long Lake Creek.
  - 14.8 (L) Larson carry-in access. County Road 36 bridge.
  - 13.5 (L) US Highway 59 bridge.
  - 9.1 Hening Street bridge. City of Appleton.
  - 8.9 (L) **Constructed Rock Rapids.** Veum Avenue bridge.
  - 8.8 (R) Appleton carry-in access. Munsterman Street/Highway 119 bridge. Appleton Municipal Campground/City Park, reservation required (fee) and Shorefishing.
  - 8.8-0 **Caution: numerous rapids and log jams in this area.**
  - 8.7 Railroad bridge.
  - 8.0 Railroad bridge.
  - 5.0 County Road 51 bridge.
  - 2.3 County Road 51 bridge.
  - 0.1 (R) Marsh Lake carry-in access.
  - 0-4 Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area.
  - 0.0 Pomme de Terre enters Marsh Lake/Minnesota River.

**NOTE: Recommended Paddling Sections are highlighted in blue in the route description. See text side for details.**

**!** Paddling is not recommended in this area, due to rechanneling. Numerous log jams exist in this area.

**!** Numerous rapids and log jams exist in this area.

### Route Description, Minnesota River - RM 318 to 278

- R and L represent sides of the river facing downstream.  
**Red text indicates caution areas.**
- 318-300 **Caution: Numerous log jams and snags exist in this area.**
  - 317.9 Minnesota River enters from Big Stone Lake. City of Ortonville.
  - 317.9 (L) Big Stone #8 trailer access and fishing pier.
  - 317.7 **Dam.** No portage. Railroad bridge.
  - 317.6 **Ortonville Dam.** No portage. Shorefishing site.
  - 317.5 US Highway 12 bridge. Powerline crossing. River level gauge.
  - 316.8 Pedestrian bridge.
  - 316.8-303.4 Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge.
  - 316.0 Powerline crossing.
  - 312.5 Bridge.
  - 307.9 (L) Confluence with Stony Run.
  - 307.5 (L) Odessa carry-in access.
  - 307.4 County Road 19 bridge.
  - 303.6 **Dam.** No portage. Minnesota River rest area on river left.
  - 303.4 Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area.
  - 303.4 US Highway 75 bridge.
  - 301.9 (L) Highway 75 carry-in access.
  - 294.2 (R) Cement Bridge trailer access. Enter Marsh Lake. 615th Ave. bridge. Marsh Lake #1 carry-in access 1/2 mile north.
  - 292.8 (L) Correll trailer access. On the north side of Marsh Lake. **Caution: Not open during Marsh Lake draw-down phase**
  - 291.2 (R) Peterson trailer access. On the south side of Marsh Lake.
  - 291.0 (L) Confluence with Five Mile Creek.
  - 288.7 (L) Marsh #2 trailer access. On the north side of Marsh Lake.
  - 288.5 **Constructed Rock Rapids.** May be impassible, scout out area before proceeding.
  - 288.4 (L) Marsh Lake carry-in access. Rest area and pier. Confluence with Pomme de Terre River.
  - 288.0 Railroad bridge.
  - 286.0 Highway 119 bridge. Enter Lac qui Parle Lake.
  - 285.9 (R) Twin Bridges trailer access and shorefishing site.
  - 282.9 (R) Hantho trailer access. On the west side of Lac qui Parle Lake.
  - 280.2 (R) Confluence with Emily Creek.
  - 280.1 (L) Milan Bridge trailer access and fishing pier. Highway 40 bridge.
  - 279.8 (R) Lac qui Parle WMA carry-in.
  - 279.1 (L) Englebretzen trailer access.
  - 278.0 (R) Boyd Landing trailer access and shorefishing site.

CONTINUE TO MAP 2 - Highway 40 to Granite Falls

# MINNESOTA RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



## MAP 1 - ORTONVILLE TO HIGHWAY 40 INCLUDES THE POMME DE TERRE RIVER



**m** DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## ABOUT THE WATER TRAILS

The Minnesota River flowing out of Big Stone Lake begins its journey as a fairly narrow and meandering stream that can be tough to paddle due to snags, broken-down bridges and other obstacles. From Ortonville to Granite Falls (on map 2), there is a variety of terrain, from marshy lowlands to steep granite bluffs. From Ortonville to Marsh Lake, trees and vines overhang the river and give it a jungle-like appearance; dark woods of soft maple, cottonwood and elm fringe the banks. Snags and broken-down bridges create obstacles. The river broadens near Marsh Lake. Thousands of birds use this stretch of the river corridor for nesting, breeding and resting during migrations.

The Pomme de Terre River flows through both wooded and prairie areas on its way to the Minnesota River at Marsh Lake Reservoir. Named for the wild turnip (which has a potato-shaped root), the Pomme de Terre is known for Class 1 rapids and fast running water over a sandy bottom. Be on the lookout for trees that have fallen into the river or fences from nearby farms. There is a fun, constructed rock rapids as you enter Appleton City Park, just before the water access site.



Small rapids provide a fun entry to Appleton City Park

## CONTACTS

**DNR INFORMATION CENTER**  
500 Lafayette Rd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040  
888-646-6367  
[info.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us)

**DNR AREA OFFICE**  
164 County Rd. 8 NE  
Spicer, MN 56288  
320-409-2051

**DNR REGION HEADQUARTERS**  
21371 State Hwy 15  
New Ulm, MN 56073-5228  
507-233-1200

## TRIP PLANNING AND SAFETY



- Plan your trip with a map before you leave. Tell someone your plans, including put-in and take-out times.
- Travel with a companion or group.
- Most people paddle 2-3 river miles per hour.
- River levels can affect your speed and trip safety. Check conditions at [mndnr.gov/river\\_levels](http://mndnr.gov/river_levels).
- Don't underestimate the power of wind and waves, especially on large lakes.
- Be cautious of obstacles in the river and avoid overhanging and dead trees.
- Bring clean drinking water and a waterproof container with a first aid kit, waterproof matches and extra clothes.
- Wear a life jacket at all times while on the water.
- Purchase a license for your non-motorized watercraft if it's more than 10 feet in length. If you're not from Minnesota, check your state's watercraft license laws.

## WATERCRAFT CAMPING



- Camp only in designated campsites, which are often available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Riverbed camping next to private property is not permitted.
- Stay off private property. Stop only at designated sites; much of the shoreland is private property.
- Be sanitary! Use designated toilet facilities or bury human waste away from the river.
- Practice Leave No Trace principles when camping.
- Follow the rules for firewood. State forests allow you to gather dead wood for a fire, but state parks do not.

## MEDICAL

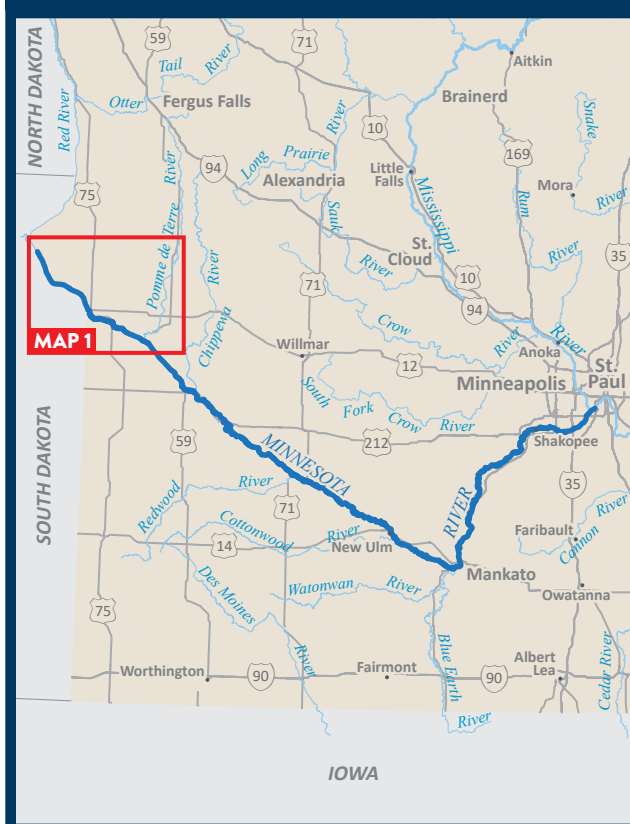


**ORTONVILLE AREA HEALTH SERVICES**  
450 Eastvold Ave.  
Ortonville, MN 56278  
320-839-6157

**APPLETON AREA HEALTH SERVICES**  
30 South Behl  
Appleton, MN 56208  
320-289-1580

**IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911**

## AREA OVERVIEW



## RECOMMENDED DAY TRIP

### Larson to Appleton: Pomme de Terre

- Put-in location: Larson Carry-in Access  
River mile **14.8**
- Take-out location: Appleton Carry-in Access  
River mile **8.8**
- Length: **6** river miles

This stretch has a lot of visual and paddling interest and is great for new paddlers. Meandering through farms, wooded areas, a golf course and eventually, the city of Appleton, visitors can have a wide variety of sights to see in a short stretch of river.

## RECOMMENDED PADDLING SECTIONS

**NOTE:** River conditions can change at any time. Be sure to check water levels before heading out.

**Recommended paddling sections are highlighted in blue in the route description.**

At typical water levels, these **Recommended Paddling Sections** offer:

- Enjoyable experience for all ages and abilities
- Fewer obstacles and woody obstructions
- Well-marked and maintained portages and public access facilities
- Variety of options for trip length and duration

[mndnr.gov/recommended-paddling](http://mndnr.gov/recommended-paddling)

## PROTECT THE RIVER

Your experience on the river depends on a healthy environment. As you explore the beauty of this waterway, also do your best to protect it.

### Protect Your Waters

- Before launching...before leaving
- Clean off aquatic plants and animals.
  - Drain all water away from the landing.
  - Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.

[mndnr.gov/invasives/aquatic](http://mndnr.gov/invasives/aquatic)

### Buffer Protection

The Minnesota buffer law establishes new vegetation buffers along rivers, streams and ditches to help filter out chemicals and sediment before they reach waterways.

[mndnr.gov/buffers](http://mndnr.gov/buffers)

## More Information

[mndnr.gov/watertrails](http://mndnr.gov/watertrails)

- River level reporting
- River conditions reporting
- Interactive water trail map
- Recommended routes
- River rapids definitions
- Virtual tours

Search for outfitters at [exploreminnesota.com](http://exploreminnesota.com)

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by contacting [info.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us), 651-296-6157, or MN Relay 711.