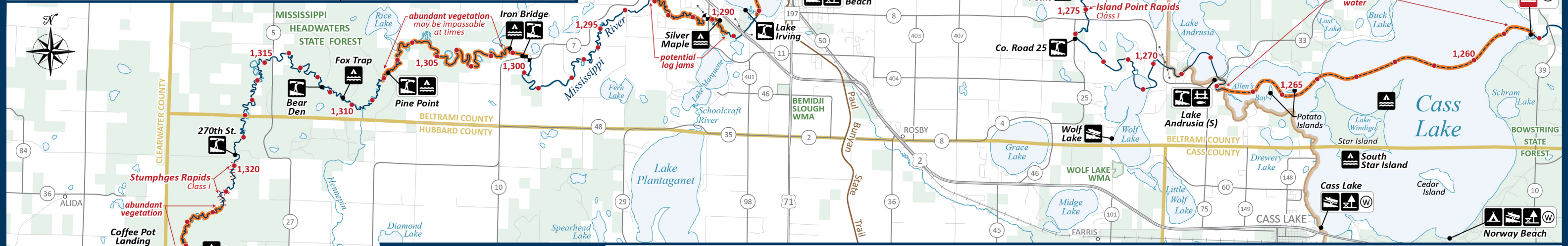


MISSISSIPPI RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL

MAP 1 - Lake Itasca to Cass Lake

Carry-in Access	Watercraft Campsite	Drinking Water	Rapids	Wildlife Management Area
Trailer Access	Point of Interest	State Public Lands	River Miles	Scientific and Natural Area
Shelter	Dam	Public Lands	State Trail (paved)	
Rest Area	Constructed Rock Rapids	River Level Gauge		
Fishing Pier	Hospital/Clinic	Power Lines		
Campground		Hazard Areas		

Scale 1:145,000
Scale in Miles 0 1 2 3 4 5



ROUTE DESCRIPTION

River miles 1,341 to 1,258 (83 miles)

(R) and (L) are right and left banks of the river when facing downstream.
Red text indicates caution areas.

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

- 1341.6 Mississippi Headwaters/Itasca State Park.
- 1341.2 Co. Road 38 bridge.
- 1339.6 (R) Gulsvig Landing: Carry-in access.
- 1336.8 (R) Wanagan watercraft campsite.
- 1334.4 (L) Vekin's Dam: Portage left 50 yards.**
- 1334.4-1331 Vekin's Dam Rapids: Class I rapids for the next four miles.**
- 1333.2 Co. Road 37 bridge. River level gauge.
- 1331.1 Co. Road 2 bridge.
- 1329.2 Co. Road 40 bridge.
- 1327.1 Power line crossing.
- 1326.2 (L) Coffee Pot Landing: Carry-in access, watercraft campsite.
- 1325 (R) LaSalle Creek confluence.
- 1325-1321.6 Caution: The Mississippi enters a large wetland area prone to aquatic vegetation obstructions.**
- 1324.4 (L) Brownie watercraft campsite.
- 1321.5-1320 Stumphges Rapids: Class I rapids for two half-mile segments.**
- 1319.6 (L) Forest Road bridge and 270th Street carry-in access.
- 1314.7 Co. Road 5 bridge.
- 1311.4 (L) Bear Den: Carry-in access.
- 1310.4 (L) Fox Trap watercraft campsite.

- 1309.5 (R) Hennepin Creek confluence.
- 1307.8 (R) Pine Point: Carry-in access and watercraft campsite.
- 1308.1-1300.6 Caution: The river enters a large wetland area prone to aquatic vegetation obstructions.**
- 1306.5 (L) Rice Lake channel confluence.
- 1301.2 (L) Iron Bridge watercraft campsite.
- 1300.6 (R) Iron Bridge: Carry-in access, river level gauge.
- 1294 Fern Lake Road SW bridge.
- 1290.2 Co. Road 11 bridge. River level gauge.
- 1290 Power line crossing.
- 1289.8 (L) Silver Maple watercraft campsite.
- 1288.7 US Highway 2/Yellowhead Road. A series of three bridges. Power line crosses the river nearby.
- 1288-1287 Caution: Submerged pilings by public access. Stay in marked channel to avoid underwater hazard.**
- 1287.1 (L) Lake Irving: Carry-in access. Trailer access downstream 1 river mile (R).
- 1286.9 (L) Paul Bunyan City Park. Carry-in access and fishing pier. City of Bemidji.
- 1286.9-1284.1 Caution: Wind can produce large waves.** Paddling across bigger lakes is not recommended, but if you do, stay closer to the shore. NOTE: This will add several miles to the trip.
- 1284.1 Lake Bemidji State Park.
- 1284 Paul Bunyan State Trail. Co. Road 19 Bridge.
- 1279.1 (L) Stump Lake watercraft campsite.
- 1277.7 (R) Co. Road 12 Dam: Portage right 125 yards, river level gauge. Carry-in access.**
- 1275.8 (L) Island Point watercraft campsite.

- 1275.1 Island Point Rapids: Class I rapids. No established portage.**
 - 1274.7 Co. Road 8 bridge.
 - 1273.9 (R) Co. Road 25: Carry-in access.
 - 1271.5 (R) Wolf Lake: Trailer access.
 - 1269.5 Co. Road 8 bridge. Power line crossing.
 - 1267.5 (R) Lake Andrusia: Carry-in access, fishing pier. Trailer access is north on lake.
 - 1266.8-1258.2 Cass Lake: Wind can produce large waves.** Paddling across bigger lakes is not recommended, but if you do, stay closer to the shore. NOTE: This will add several miles to the trip.
 - 1266.8-1264 Allen's Bay.
 - 1264-1262 Star Island: There is a campsite on the south side of the lake.
 - 1264.6 City of Cass Lake.
 - 1258.2 (R) Bimijian Dam Recreation Area: Portage right 185 yards.** Constructed rock rapids, scout before proceeding. Includes campground, water access and drinking water.
- Continued on Map 2: Mississippi River State Water Trail Cass Lake to Vermilion River*



MISSISSIPPI RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



MAP 1 - LAKE ITASCA TO CASS LAKE



mn DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ABOUT THE WATER TRAIL

The Mississippi River State Water Trail begins its 2,350-mile journey in Itasca State Park. Its first 50 miles are narrow, sometimes just five to 10 feet wide, and have few signs of development. You will pass white and red pine, oaks, maples, birch and aspen that support diverse wildlife. You may also notice the past effects of glaciers, where deposited rock and sand formed hills or melting ice flattened plains.

As you travel toward Bemidji, the river's banks become more defined, and you'll begin to notice farms and homes. Wetlands throughout this stretch have dense, maze-like vegetation, which may lead you astray or prove to be an obstacle. In most cases, follow the downstream flow to stay on the main channel.

The river falls an average of four feet per mile. You will find riffles and Class I rapids throughout this stretch. Class I rapids are usually small waves with few obstructions. Hazards include dense vegetation, log jams and large, open water, which can produce powerful waves.



The river meanders through dense wetlands.

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.
- 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. State and national forests do allow dispersed camping. Be sure to check regulations before your trip.
- 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.



RECOMMENDED DAY TRIP

Gulsvig Landing to Coffee Pot Landing

- Put-in location: Gulsvig Landing Carry-in Access
River mile **1,339.6**
- Take-out location: Coffee Pot Landing Carry-in Access
River mile **1,326.2**
- Length: **13.4** river miles

This stretch starts off wooded and intimate. Expect to lift the watercraft over beaver dams during lower water levels, or around road culverts during high water levels. To take a break, pull over at Wanagan. The stretch between Vekin's Dam and Co. Road 2 has Class I rapids, which can be challenging for new paddlers. Conclude at Coffee Pot Landing.

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

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

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

CONTACTS

DNR INFORMATION CENTER
500 Lafayette Rd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040
888-646-6367
info.dnr@state.mn.us

DNR REGION 1 HEADQUARTERS
2115 Birchmont Beach Rd. NE
Bemidji, MN 56601
218-755-3955

ITASCA STATE PARK
Lake Itasca, MN
218-266-2100
mndnr.gov/itasca

LAKE BEMIDJI STATE PARK
Bemidji, MN
218-755-3843
mndnr.gov/lakebemidji

MEDICAL

SANFORD MEDICAL CENTER
1300 Anne St. NW
Bemidji, MN 56601
218-751-5430



IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911

More Information

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

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

