

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

River miles 1,145 to 1,056 (89 miles)

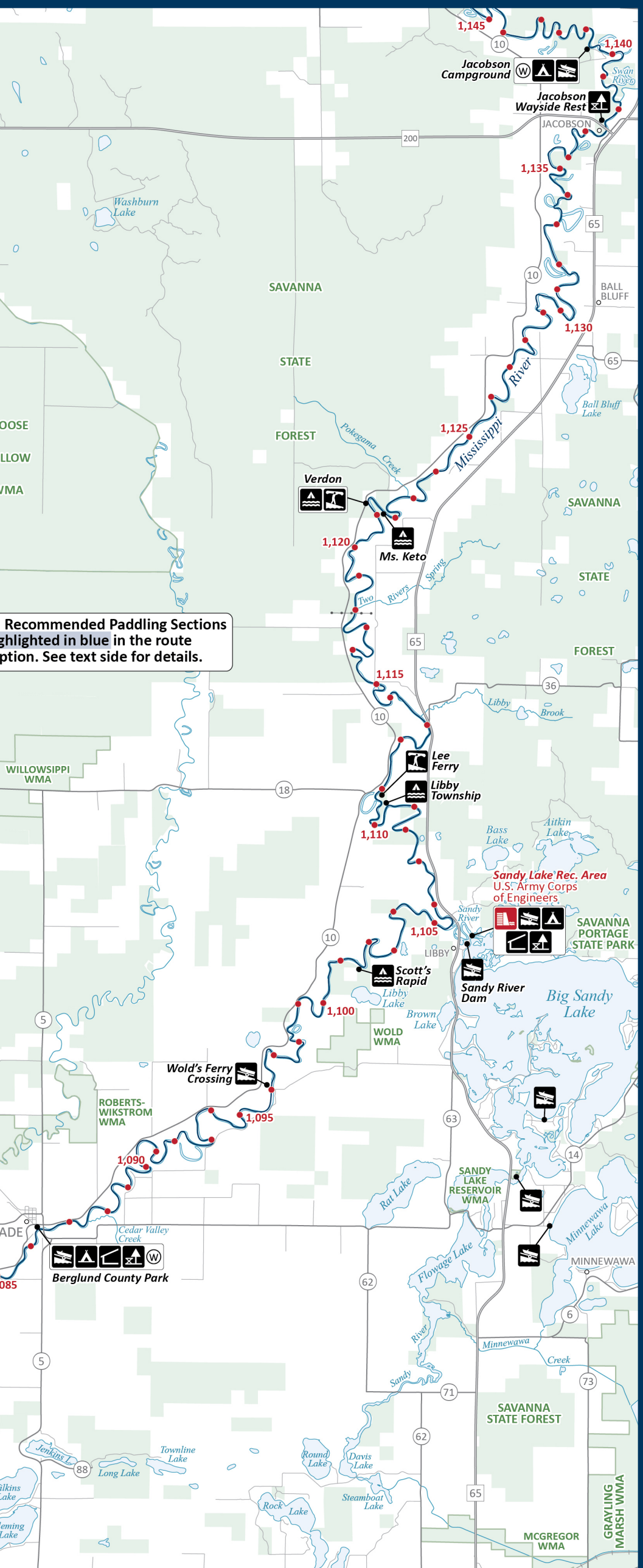
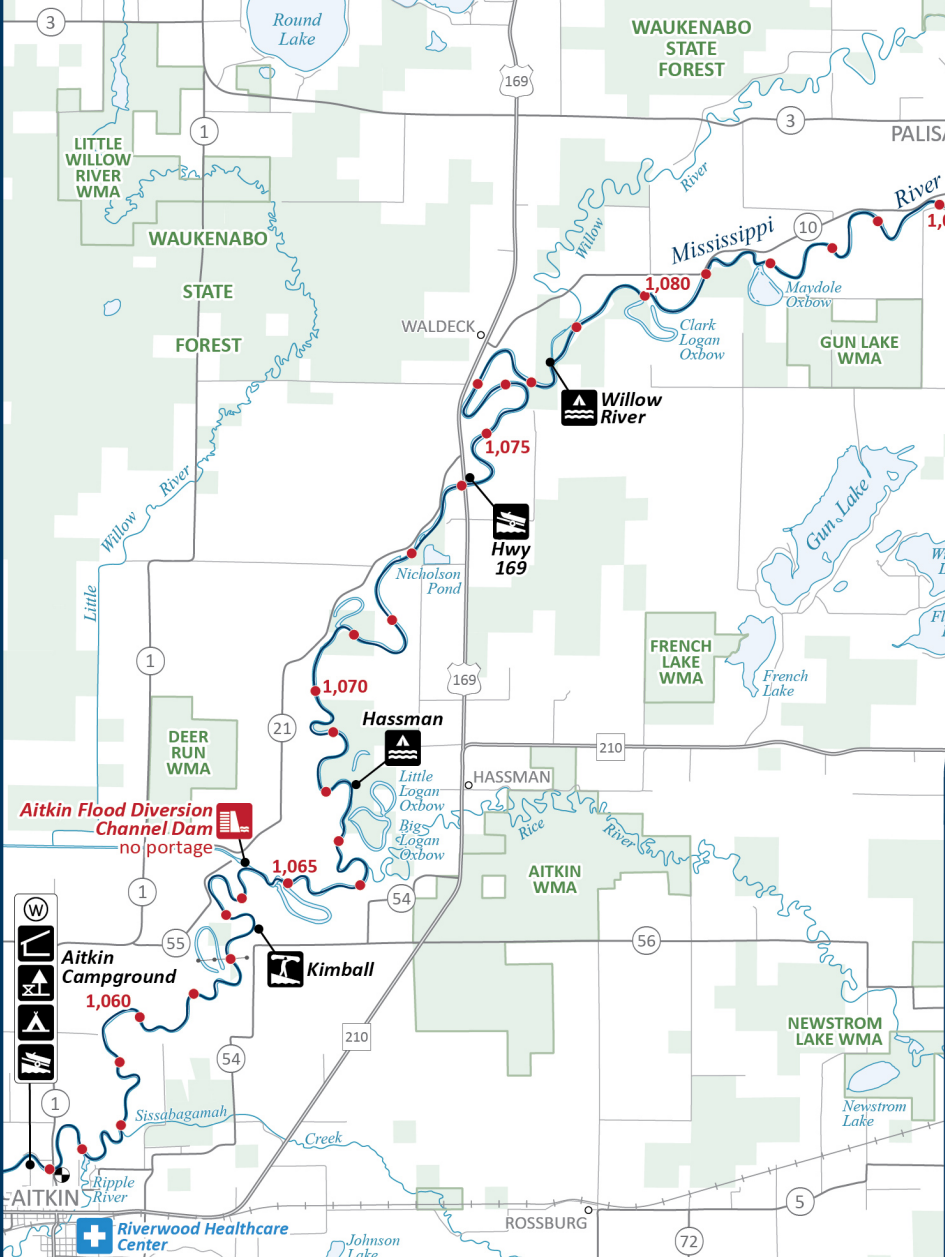
(R) and (L) are right and left banks of the river when facing downstream.
Red text indicates caution areas.

Continued from Map 3: Mississippi River State Water Trail Vermillion River to Jacobson

- 1140.6 (R) **Jacobson Campground:** Trailer access and drinking water.
- 1138.1 (R) **Confluence with Swan River.**
- 1137.6 (R) **Jacobson Wayside Rest.**
- 1137.6 **Highway 200 bridge.**
- 1122.9 (R) **Confluence with Pokegama Creek.**
- 1121.7 (L) **Ms. Keto Watercraft Campsite.** River access only. Riffles and rocks may be present during low flow conditions. Please be respectful of private property.
- 1121.3 (R) **Verdon:** Carry-in access and watercraft campsite.
- 1118 (L) **Confluence with Two River Springs.**
- 1117.9 **Power line crossing.**
- 1113.2 (L) **Libby Brook confluence.**
- 1111 (L) **Lee Ferry:** Carry-in access.
- 1109.5 (L) **Libby Township Watercraft Campsite.**
- 1105.5 (L) **Big Sandy River confluence.** **Note: Sandy Lake Recreation Area access by 0.5 mile paddle up the Big Sandy River.** Dam, trailer access, shelters, rest area, picnic area and campground. Managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- 1101.4 (L) **Scott's Rapids:** Watercraft campsite. Access by river only.
- 1096 (R) **Wold's Ferry Crossing:** Trailer access.
- 1086.5 **County Road 3 bridge.**
- 1086.4 (R) **Berglund County Park:** Trailer access, campground, shelters, picnic area and drinking water.
- 1081.9 (L) **Maydale Oxbow.**
- 1080 (L) **Clark Logan Oxbow.**
- 1078.5 (R) **Willow River Watercraft Campsite.** Access by river only.
- 1074.1 (R) **Highway 169 Trailer access.** Highway 169 bridge downstream.
- 1067.6 (L) **Hassman Watercraft Campsite.** Access by river only. Takeout is upstream of campsite.
- 1066.5 (L) **Confluence with Rice River.**
- 1064.4 (R) **Aitkin Flood Diversion Channel Dam:** No portage. Use caution and follow the main channel.
- 1062.6 (L) **Kimball:** Carry-in access.
- 1062 **Power line crossing.**
- 1058 (L) **Confluence with Sissabagamah Creek.**
- 1057.1 (L) **Confluence with Ripple River.**
- 1056.1 **County Road 1 bridge.** River level gauge.
- 1055.7 (L) **Aitkin Campground:** Trailer access, campgrounds, shelters, rest area.

Continued on Map 5: Mississippi River State Water Trail Aitkin to Brainerd

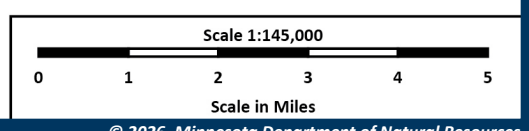
NOTE: Recommended Paddling Sections are highlighted in blue in the route description. See text side for details.



MISSISSIPPI RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL MAP 4 - Jacobson to Aitkin

- Carry-in Access
- Drinking Water
- Trailer Access
- State Public Lands
- Rest Area
- Public Lands
- Shelter
- River Level Gauge
- Campground
- Power Lines
- Watercraft Campsite
- River Miles
- Dam
- Hospital/Clinic

WMA Wildlife Management Area
SNA Scientific and Natural Area



MISSISSIPPI RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



MAP 4 - JACOBSON TO AITKIN



m DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ABOUT THE WATER TRAIL

This section of the Mississippi River is influenced by glacial lakes Upham and Aitkin, which once covered most of the area. You'll find a flat landscape with meandering streams and many oxbows (u-shaped sections of abandoned river channel). The still waters of the oxbows are excellent for fish and other wildlife. You will also pass floodplain forests that offer food, shelter and habitat for muskrat, beaver, otters, turtles, herons, hawks, osprey, eagles and more. Much of the shoreline is privately managed for forest or agriculture with few houses due to the river's tendency to flood.

Hazards include snags, downed trees and a diversion channel dam. At the Rice River confluence, a diversion channel carries water around the town of Aitkin during high flow. There is no portage route around this diversion channel dam.



Watch for wildlife along the river's banks.

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

Sandy Lake Rec. Area to Wold's Ferry Crossing

- Put-in location: Sandy Lake Rec. Area Trailer Access
River mile **1,105.5**
- Take-out location: Wold's Ferry Crossing Trailer Access
River mile **1,096**
- Length: **9.5** river miles

A fee is required to launch from the Sandy Lake Recreation Area. You'll paddle approximately a mile from the launch to reach the Mississippi River. This is an easy section to paddle, with riffles during low water. Fish for catfish, walleye and smallmouth. Stop for a picnic at Scott's Rapid Campsite if it is unoccupied.

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 2 HEADQUARTERS
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
(218) 328-8980

SANDY LAKE RECREATION AREA- US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
McGregor, MN 55760
(218) 426-3482

MEDICAL

RIVERWOOD HEALTHCARE CENTER

200 Bunker Hill Dr.
Aitkin, MN 56431
218-927-2121



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.

