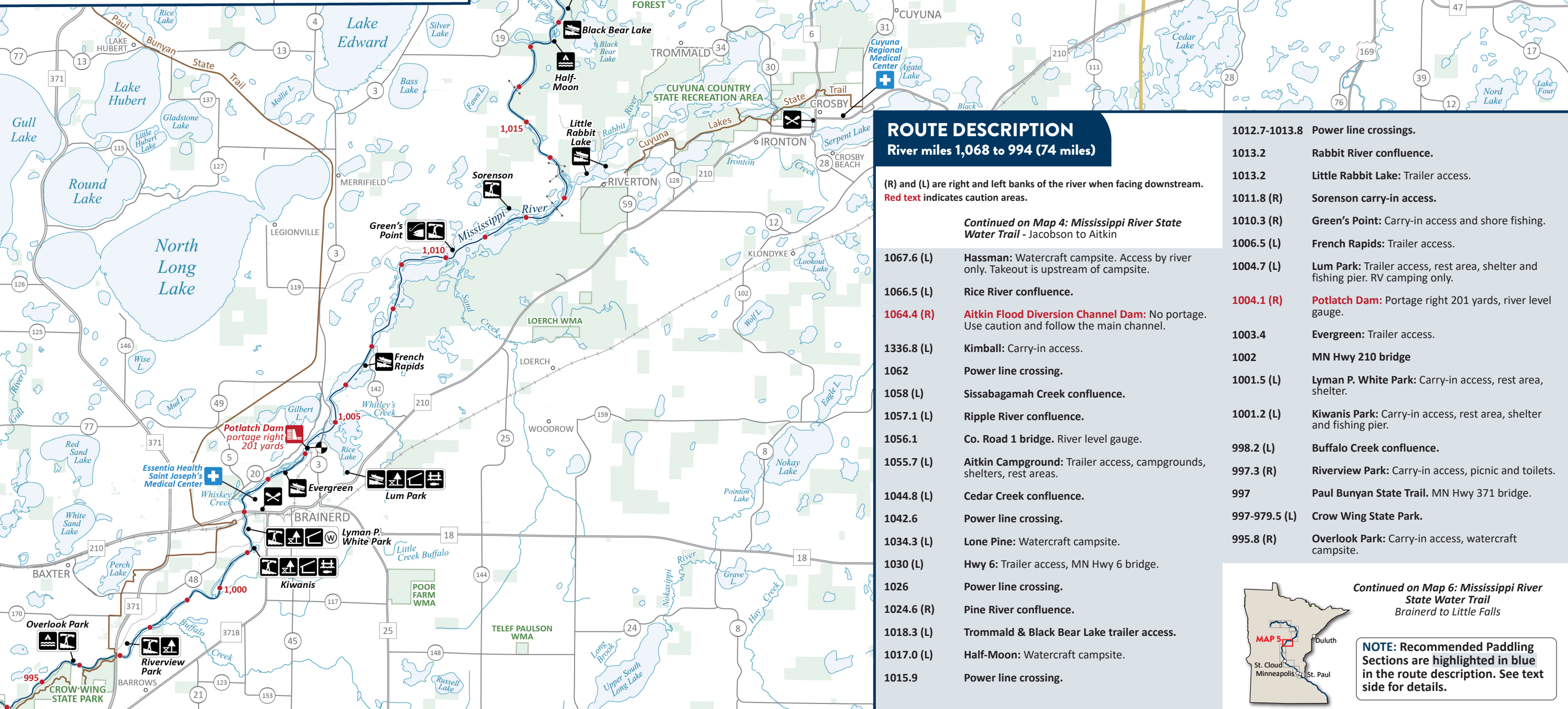
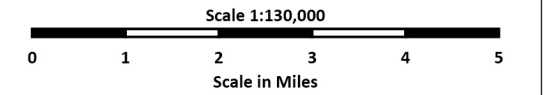


MISSISSIPPI RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL

MAP 5 - Aitkin to Brainerd

- Carry-in Access
- Trailer Access
- Hospital/Clinic
- Shelter
- Rest Area
- Fishing Pier
- Shore Fishing
- Campground
- Watercraft Campsite
- Outfitters
- Dam
- Drinking Water
- State Public Lands
- Public Lands
- River Level Gauge
- Power Lines
- Rapids
- River Miles
- Railroad
- State Trail (paved)
- WMA Wildlife Management Area
- SNA Scientific and Natural Area



ROUTE DESCRIPTION

River miles 1,068 to 994 (74 miles)

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

- Continued on Map 4: Mississippi River State Water Trail - Jacobson to Aitkin*
- 1067.6 (L) Hassman: Watercraft campsite. Access by river only. Takeout is upstream of campsite.
 - 1066.5 (L) Rice River confluence.
 - 1064.4 (R) Aitkin Flood Diversion Channel Dam:** No portage. Use caution and follow the main channel.
 - 1336.8 (L) Kimball: Carry-in access.
 - 1062 Power line crossing.
 - 1058 (L) Sissabagamah Creek confluence.
 - 1057.1 (L) Ripple River confluence.
 - 1056.1 Co. Road 1 bridge. River level gauge.
 - 1055.7 (L) Aitkin Campground: Trailer access, campgrounds, shelters, rest areas.
 - 1044.8 (L) Cedar Creek confluence.
 - 1042.6 Power line crossing.
 - 1034.3 (L) Lone Pine: Watercraft campsite.
 - 1030 (L) Hwy 6: Trailer access, MN Hwy 6 bridge.
 - 1026 Power line crossing.
 - 1024.6 (R) Pine River confluence.
 - 1018.3 (L) Trommald & Black Bear Lake trailer access.
 - 1017.0 (L) Half-Moon: Watercraft campsite.
 - 1015.9 Power line crossing.
 - 1012.7-1013.8 Power line crossings.
 - 1013.2 Rabbit River confluence.
 - 1013.2 Little Rabbit Lake: Trailer access.
 - 1011.8 (R) Sorenson carry-in access.
 - 1010.3 (R) Green's Point: Carry-in access and shore fishing.
 - 1006.5 (L) French Rapids: Trailer access.
 - 1004.7 (L) Lum Park: Trailer access, rest area, shelter and fishing pier. RV camping only.
 - 1004.1 (R) Potlatch Dam:** Portage right 201 yards, river level gauge.
 - 1003.4 Evergreen: Trailer access.
 - 1002 MN Hwy 210 bridge
 - 1001.5 (L) Lyman P. White Park: Carry-in access, rest area, shelter.
 - 1001.2 (L) Kiwanis Park: Carry-in access, rest area, shelter and fishing pier.
 - 998.2 (L) Buffalo Creek confluence.
 - 997.3 (R) Riverview Park: Carry-in access, picnic and toilets.
 - 997 Paul Bunyan State Trail. MN Hwy 371 bridge.
 - 997-979.5 (L) Crow Wing State Park.
 - 995.8 (R) Overlook Park: Carry-in access, watercraft campsite.



Continued on Map 6: Mississippi River State Water Trail Brainerd to Little Falls

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

MISSISSIPPI RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



MAP 5 - AITKIN TO BRAINERD



m DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ABOUT THE WATER TRAIL

This section of the river offers easy paddling, great fishing and many places to stop. The Mississippi River above Brainerd is often used by pleasure boaters and motorized fishing boats. The good water quality supports game fish such as walleye, northern, muskie, bass and panfish.

Near Brainerd, the river enters a defined valley. You'll notice a change from lowland hardwoods and tamaracks to red pine and mixed hardwood. The river also passes through French Rapids, a narrow channel with 100-foot banks. Just below this you'll find Rice Lake, an impoundment created by the Potlach Dam.

Hazards include dams. Be aware of their locations and know which side to portage.



A designated campsite at Crow Wing State Forest.

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

CROW WING STATE PARK
3124 State Park Road
Brainerd, MN 56401
(218) 825-3075
mndnr.gov/crowwing

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

Highway 6 Bridge to Trommald

- Put-in location: Highway 6 Trailer Access
River mile **1,030**
- Take-out location: Trommald Trailer Access
River mile **1,018.3**
- Length: **11.7** river miles

Wind through hardwood forests on this wide section of the Mississippi River. The Pine River Water Trail will intersect the Mississippi midway through your paddle. This is an easy route with no rapids, though the current can be quite strong after a rain event. This trip typically takes about 4 hours of paddling. Boat ramps and ample parking can be found at both the put-in and take-out locations. The put-in and take-out are 9 miles apart by road.

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

MEDICAL



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

CUYUNA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
320 E Main St.
Crosby, MN 56441
(218) 546-7000

ESSENTIA HEALTH ST. JOSEPH'S MEDICAL CENTER
523 N 3rd St.
Brainerd, MN 56401
(218) 829-2861

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.

