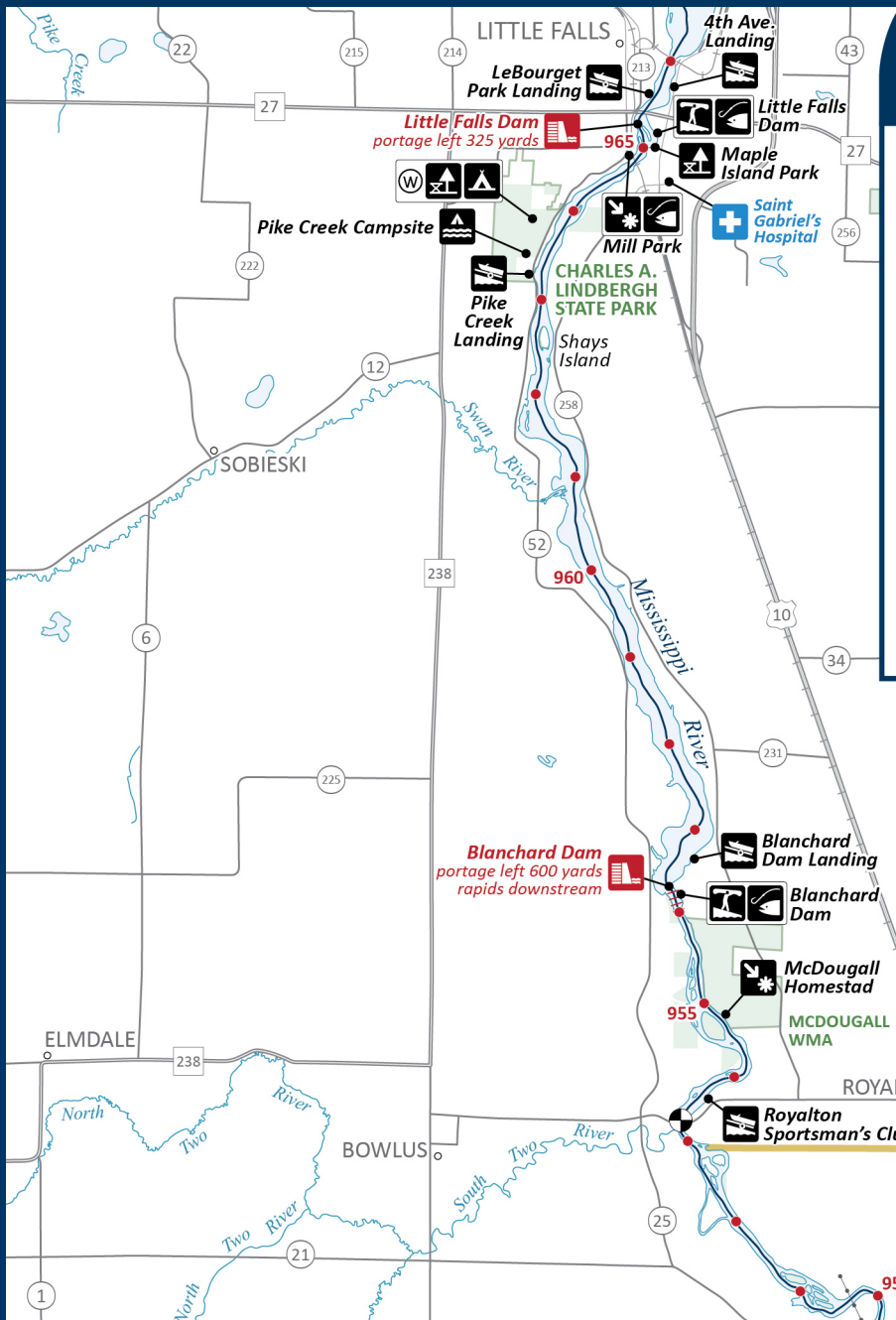
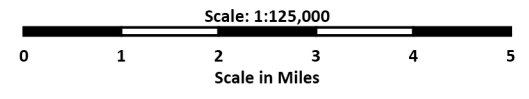


MISSISSIPPI RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL

MAP 7 - Little Falls to St. Cloud



Carry-in Access	Hospital/Clinic	WMA Wildlife Management Area
Trailer Access	Dam	SNA Scientific and Natural Area
Rest Area	Drinking Water	
Shelter	State Public Lands	
Fishing Pier	Public Lands	
Shorefishing	Rapids	
Campground	River Level Gauge	
Watercraft Campsite	Power Lines	
Restrooms	River Miles	
Point of Interest	Railroad	
Outfitters		



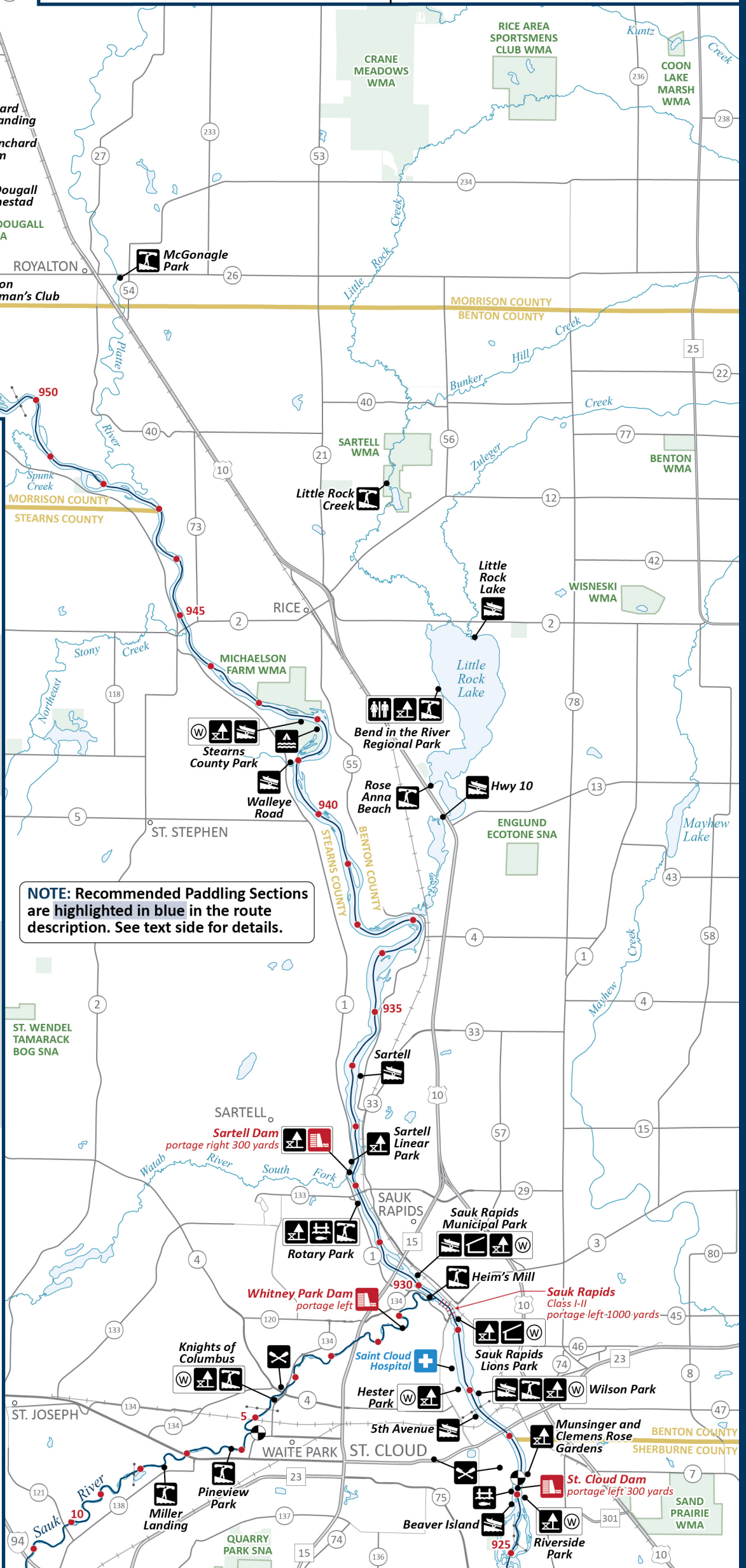
ROUTE DESCRIPTION

River miles 966 to 925 (41 miles)

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

- 965.6** LeBourget Park/4th Ave. Landings. Accesses are on both sides of the river.
- 965.2 (L)** Little Falls Dam: Portage left 325 yards.
- 965.1 (L)** Little Falls Dam: Carry-in access and shorefishing.
- 965 (L)** Maple Island Park: rest area, picnic area and toilet.
- 964.8 (R)** Mill Park: Shorefishing and historical site.
- 964-963.1 (R)** Charles A. Lindbergh State Park: Camping, rest areas and drinking water.
- 963.4 (R)** Pike Creek Campsite: Watercraft campsite
- 963.3 (R)** Pike Creek Landing: Trailer access.
- 961 (R)** Swan River confluence.
- 956.7 (L)** Blanchard Dam Landing: Trailer access.
- 956.3 (L)** Blanchard Dam: Rapids downstream. Portage left 600 yards.
- 956.2 (L)** Blanchard Dam: Carry-in access and shorefishing.
- 954.9 (L)** McDougall Homestead: Built in the mid-19th century.
- 953.6 (L)** Royalton Sportsman's Club: Trailer access, river level gauge.
- 953.3** Co. Road 26 bridge. Two Rivers Confluence (R).
- 949.4 (R)** Spunk Creek confluence.
- 947.4 (L)** Platte River confluence.
- 944.9** Co. Road 2 bridge. Stoney Creek confluence downstream (R).
- 942.9-941.3 (R)** Stearns County Park: Trailer access, rest area, drinking water. Watercraft campsite downstream.
- 941 (R)** Walleye Road: Trailer access.
- 933.8 (L)** Sartell: Trailer access.
- 932.3 (R)** Sartell Linear Park: Rest area.
- 932.2 (R)** Sartell Dam: Portage right 300 yards. Watab River confluence downstream (R). Veterans Park downstream (R).
- 931.7 (R)** Rotary Park: Carry-in access, fishing pier and rest area.
- 930.1 (L)** Sauk Rapids Municipal Park: Trailer access, rest area, drinking water.
- 929.7 (R)** Heim's Mill: Carry-in access. Sauk River confluence.
- 929.6-929.2 (L)** Sauk Rapids: Class I-II rapids. Portage left 1000 yards.
- 929.2 (L)** Sauk Rapids Lions Park: rest area, drinking water.
- 928.1 (R)** Hester Park: Rest area, drinking water.
- 927.9 (L)** Wilson Park: Trailer access, carry-in access, rest area with picnic shelters, drinking water.
- 927.6 (R)** 5th Avenue: Trailer access.
- 926.3 (L)** Munsinger and Clemens Rose Gardens: Rest area.
- 926.1 (L)** St. Cloud Dam: Portage left 300 yards.
- 926 (L)** Riverside Park: rest area, drinking water. Beaver Island trailer access downstream (R).
- 925.8 (R)** Beaver Island: Trailer access.

Continued on Map 8: Mississippi River State Water Trail St. Cloud to Elk River



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

MISSISSIPPI RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



MAP 7 - LITTLE FALLS TO ST. CLOUD



m DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ABOUT THE WATER TRAIL

This section of the Mississippi River connects Minnesota's forests to its prairies. Shorelands are covered in mixed hardwood forest and nearby grassland prairie supports wildflowers. Watch for deer, muskrat, otter, fox, red-tailed hawks, eagles, kingfishers and turtles along your trip. Water quality here is very good and boasts a premier fishery for walleye, muskie, northern pike and smallmouth bass. Expect more motorized boat traffic north of the Sartell Dam to the Highway 2 Bridge.

The Mississippi River drops six and a half feet for every river mile between Little Falls and Royalton. Two dams operated by Minnesota Power obscure the falls today. You'll see less development along this section of the river due to local and state protections. Downstream of the Highway 23 Bridge, the river is designated as a State Wild and Scenic River.

Hazards include rapids (near Sauk Rapids) and several dams. All dams must be portaged.



There are many opportunities for camping along this section.

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.
- 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

Royalton Sportsman's Club to Stearns County Park

- Put-in location: Royalton Sportsman's Club Trailer Access
River mile **953.6**
- Take-out location: Stearns County Park Trailer Access
River mile **942.2**
- Length: **11.4** river miles

Launch from the Royalton Sportsman's Club (fee required). You'll pass numerous islands (some on private land) and shorelines with a mix of forest and farmland. Stop at the Seven Islands Campsite to camp for the night or for a quick picnic (if unoccupied). You'll paddle past undeveloped shoreline along the Michaelson Farm Wildlife Management Area. Anglers will want to pack a fishing pole for this trip. Watch for rocky riffles during low water levels.

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 AREA OFFICE
1035 South Benton Drive
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
(320) 223-7878

CHARLES A. LINDBERGH STATE PARK
1615 Lindbergh Drive South
Little Falls, MN 56345
(320) 616-2525
mndnr.gov/lindbergh

MEDICAL

SAINT GABRIEL'S HOSPITAL
815 2nd St. SE
Little Falls, MN 56345
(320) 632-5441

ST. CLOUD HOSPITAL
1406 Sixth Avenue North
St. Cloud, MN 56303
(320) 251-2700

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 exploremnnesota.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.

