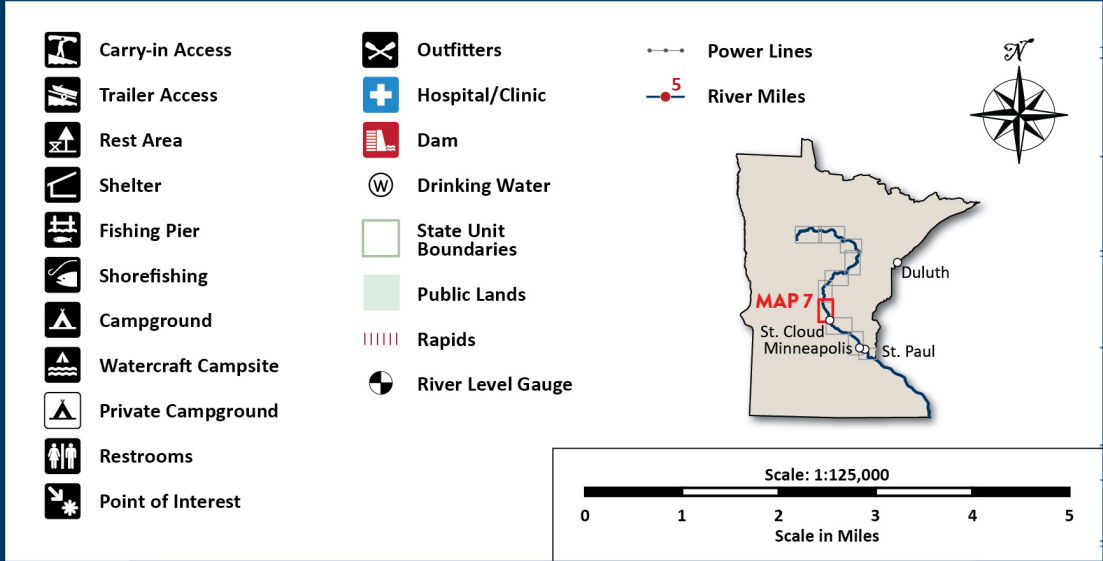
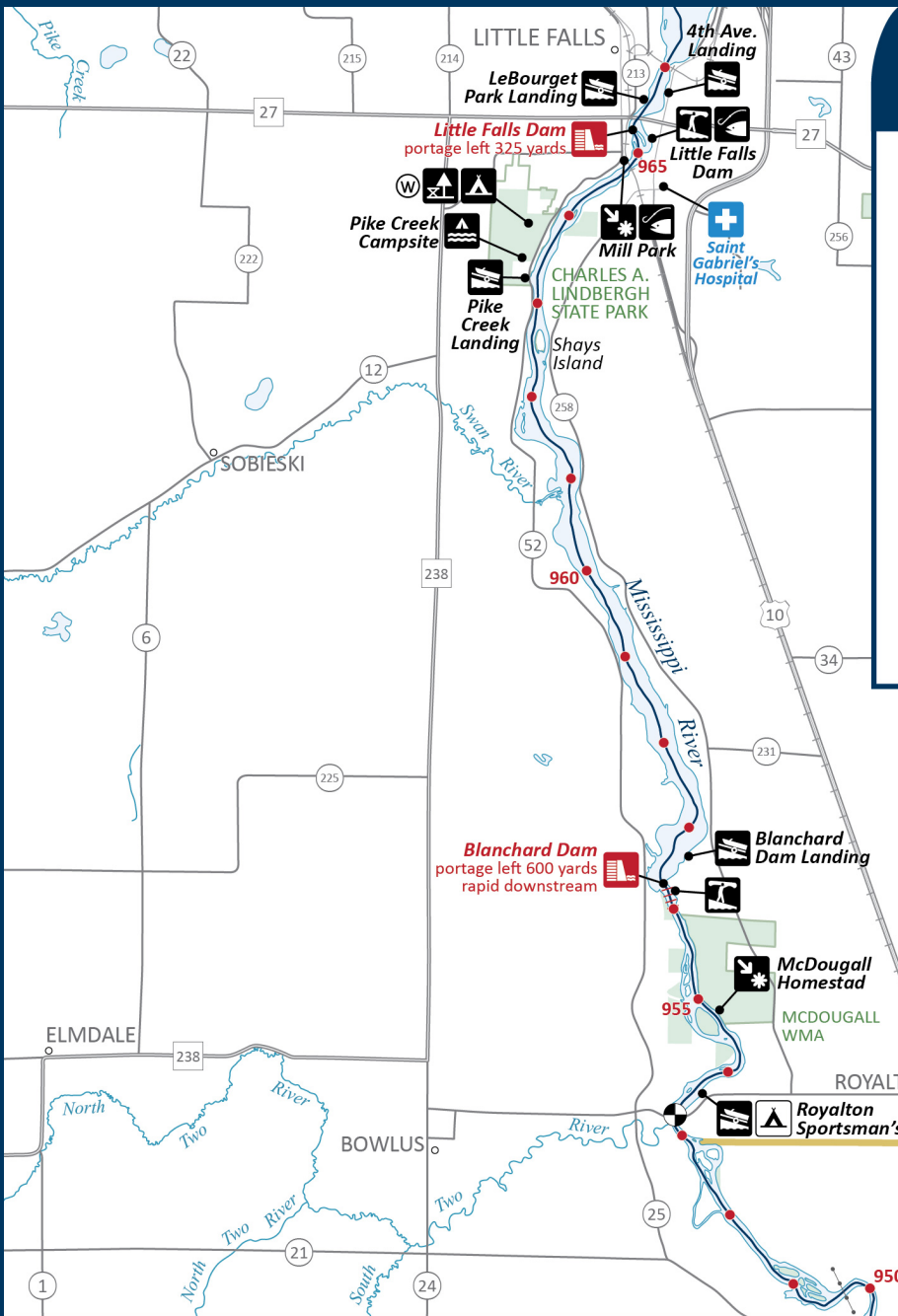


MISSISSIPPI RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL  
MAP 7 - Little Falls to St. Cloud



ROUTE DESCRIPTION

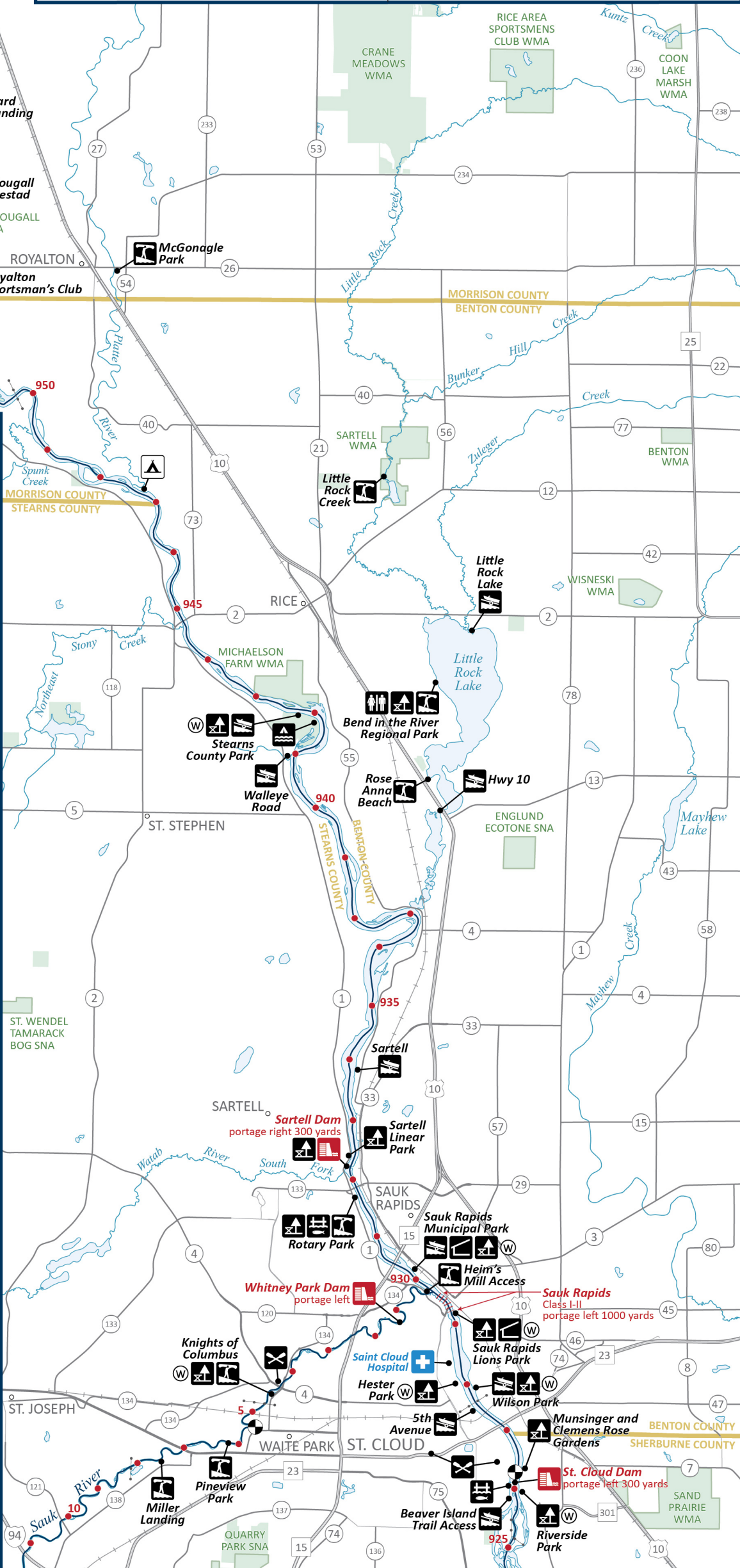
River miles 966 to 925 (41 miles)

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

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

- 965.6 LeBourget Park/4th Ave. Landings. Accesses are on both sides of the river.
- 965.2 **Little Falls Dam:** Portage left 325 yards.
- 965.1 (L) Little Falls Dam: Carry-in access and shorefishing.
- 964.8 (R) Mill Park: Shorefishing and historical site.
- 964-963.1 (R) Charles A. Lindbergh State Park: Camping, rest areas, trailer access and drinking water.
- 963.3 (R) Pike Creek Landing: Trailer access.
- 961 (R) Swan River confluence.
- 956.3 (R) **Blanchard Dam:** Rapids downstream. Portage left 600 yards.
- 954.9 (L) McDougall Homestead: Built in the mid-19th century.
- 953.6 (L) Royalton Sportsman's Club: Trailer access, private campground (fee charged).
- 953.3 Co. Road 26 bridge. Two Rivers Confluence (R).
- 949.4 (R) Spunk Creek confluence.
- 947.4 (L) Platte River confluence and private campground.
- 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. Campsite downstream.
- 941 (R) Walleye Road: Trailer access.
- 937 (L) Little Rock Lake. Public access upstream.
- 933.8 (L) Sartell: Trailer access.
- 932.3 (R) Sartell Linear Park.
- 932.2 **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 Access: Carry-in access. Sauk River confluence downstream.
- 929.6-929.2 **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, rest area, 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 Trail Access (trailer) downstream (R).

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





# MISSISSIPPI RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



## MAP 7 - LITTLE FALLS TO ST. CLOUD



**m MINNESOTA**  
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS



## 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](https://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.
- 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: River mile **953.6**
- Take-out location: 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). A private campground is located halfway through this trip. 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.

## EXPLORE ON SHORE

### Charles A. Lindbergh State Park River mile 964

This state park is upstream of the Mississippi's confluence with Pike Creek. You'll find boat access, hiking trails and camping (reservation required). A historic site is downstream of the confluence. The park is named for the Minnesota Congressman who was also the father of aviator Charles Lindbergh. [mndnr.gov/lindbergh](https://mndnr.gov/lindbergh)

## 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](https://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](https://mndnr.gov/buffers)

## 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

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](https://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](https://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](https://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.