

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

River miles 931 to 882 (49 miles)

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

- Continued on Map 7: Mississippi River State Water Trail Little Falls to St. Cloud*
- 930.1 (L) Sauk Rapids Municipal Park: Trailer access, rest area, shelter, drinking water.
 - 929.7 (R) Heim's Mill Access: Carry-in access.
 - 929.6 Sauk River confluence.
 - 929.6-929.2 **Sauk Rapids:** Class I-II rapids. Portage left 1000 yards.
 - 929.2 (L) Sauk Rapids Lions Park: Rest area, shelter, drinking water.
 - 928.1 (R) Hester Park: Rest area, drinking water.
 - 927.9 (L) Wilson Park: Trailer access, rest area with picnic shelters, drinking water.
 - 927.6 (L) 5th Avenue: Trailer access.
 - 926.3 (L) Munsinger and Clemens Rose Gardens: Rest area.
 - 926.1 (L) **St. Cloud Dam:** Portage left 300 yards. River level gauge.
 - 926 (L) Riverside Park: Rest area, drinking water.
 - 925.8 (R) Beaver Island: Trailer access.
 - 922.8 (R) River Bluffs Regional Park: trailer access, rest area.
 - 922.8 (L) Putnam's Pasture: Watercraft campsite (no fee).
 - 916.6 (L) Boy Scout Point: Watercraft campsite (no fee).
 - 914 (R) Confluence with Clearwater River.
 - 914 (R) Riverside Park: Rest area with shelter and toilets upstream on both sides of Clearwater River.

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

- 913.7 (L) Clearwater: Trailer access. City of Clearwater.
- 913.6 MN Hwy 24 bridge.
- 906 Oak Island: Watercraft campsite (no fee).
- 905.5 (L) Snuffie's Landing: Trailer access, rest area. City of Becker.
- 899-898.4 (R) **Montissippi County Park:** Trailer access, fishing pier, rest area with picnic facilities, toilets, watercraft campsite (no fee).
- 896.9 (R) **Bridgeview Park:** Campsite (by permission only), rest area with picnic facilities, fishing pier, drinking water, toilets. City of Monticello.
- 896.2 (R) Ellison Park: Trailer access, rest area with picnic facilities, drinking water, toilets.
- 893-884.5 **Mississippi River Islands SNA.**
- 891 (R) **Norin Landing:** Trailer access.
- 890.2 (L) **Dimmick Island:** Watercraft campsite (no fee).
- 885.6 (R) **Otsego County Park:** Carry-in access, rest area with picnic facilities, drinking water, toilets.
- 883.4 (L) **Babcock:** Trailer access, rest area with picnic facilities, drinking water, toilets.

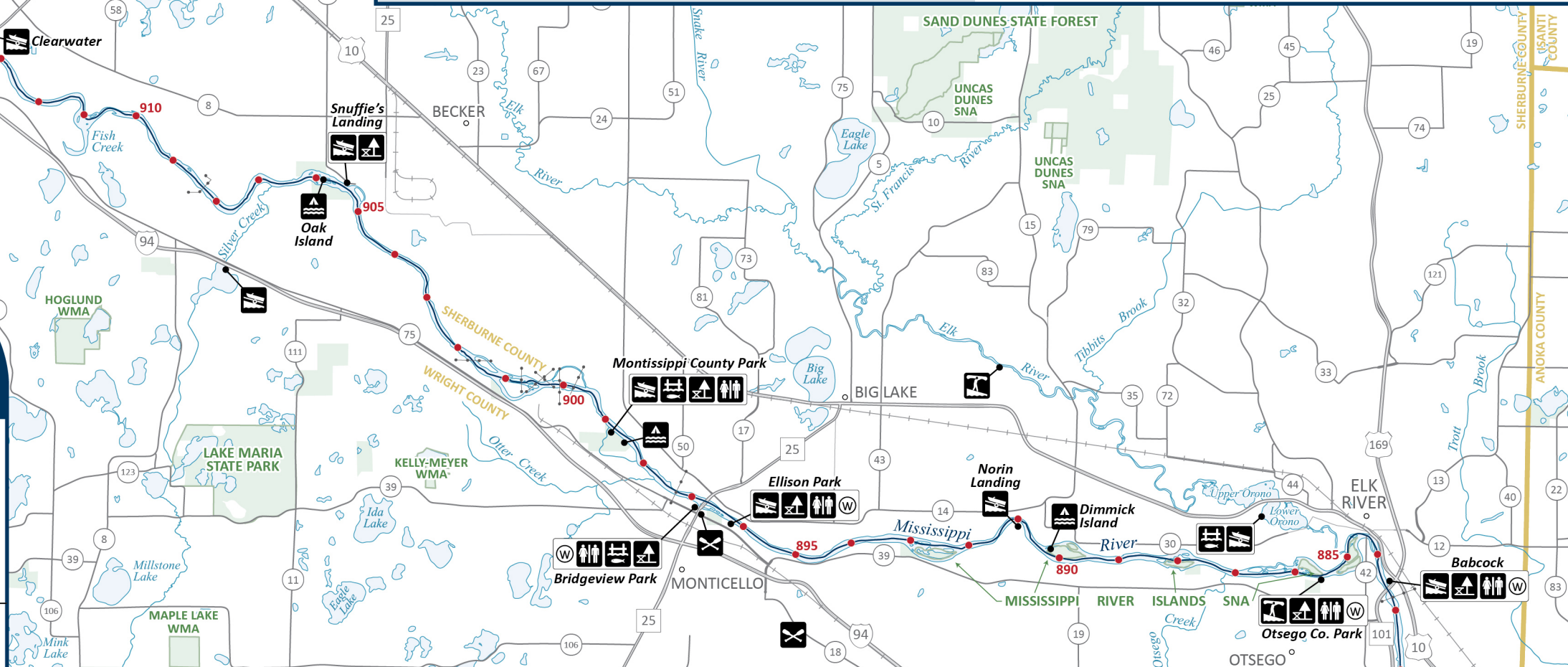
Continued on Map 9: Mississippi River State Water Trail Elk River to St. Anthony Falls



MISSISSIPPI RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL MAP 8 - St. Cloud to Elk River

Carry-in Access	Hospital/Clinic	River Level Gauge	Railroad
Trailer Access	Dam	Power Lines	Wildlife Management Area
Rest Area	Outfitters	River Miles	Scientific and Natural Area
Shelter	Drinking Water	Rapids	State Public Lands
Fishing Pier	Public Lands		
Watercraft Campsite			
Toilet			

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



MISSISSIPPI RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



MAP 8 - ST. CLOUD TO ELK RIVER



m DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ABOUT THE WATER TRAIL

Between St. Cloud and Anoka, the Mississippi River flows through a broad valley with tall bluffs and diverse plant communities. You'll discover over 100 islands varying in size from sandbars to mile-long islands. Though this portion of the river borders one of the fastest growing areas in the state, much of the natural character of the river corridor remains. This section of the river was designated and protected as a Minnesota Wild and Scenic River in 1973.

Small boats can maneuver this entire stretch, although shallow areas may be difficult during low river levels. Paddlers will find mild rapids and a moderate current perfect for a family trip. You'll encounter many rest stops, camping areas and access points. Anglers may enjoy fishing for smallmouth bass, walleye and northern pike. Nearby outfitters offer shuttling.

Hazards include Class I-II rapids (near Sauk Rapids) and dams, be sure to know which side to portage on.



Watch for shallow areas during low river levels.

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

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 or on public land where dispersed camping is allowed. State, county and national forests 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.



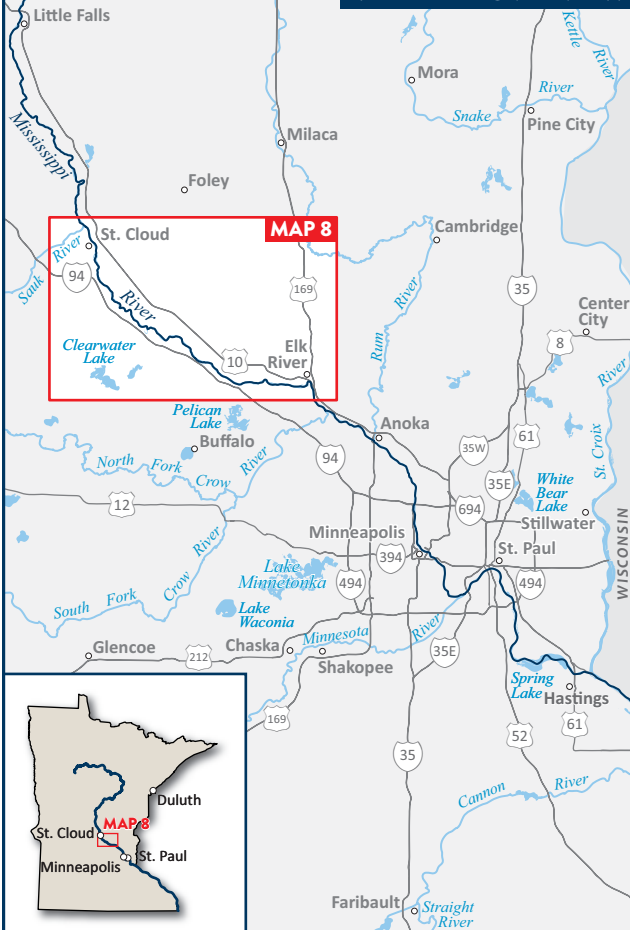
MEDICAL

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



IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911

MAP AREA OVERVIEW



RECOMMENDED DAY TRIP

Beaver Island to Clearwater

- Put-in location: Beaver Island Trailer Access
River mile **925.8**
- Take-out location: Clearwater Trailer Access
River mile **913.7**
- Length: **12.1** river miles

Paddle narrow channels through the Beaver Islands at the start of your trip. The islands are a mix of public and private land. The river then widens through a mostly undeveloped landscape with bluffs. You'll find several public boat launches and campsites perfect for a picnic lunch stop. Expect some riffles when the river levels are low and fast moving water when they are high. Local outfitters offer shuttling services in this section.

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

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.