

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

NOTE: (R) and (L) represent right and left banks of the river when facing downstream.

Red text indicates caution areas.

- 57.4 Pine Mountain Lake Dam. No established portage. Backus trailer access on east end of lake. Rest area and toilets.
- 57.4-46 Be alert: Multiple box culverts, low culverts and dams in this area. Use caution, some may require portaging.
- 57.1 Highway 87 Culverts/Paul Bunyan State Trail bridge. No established portage.
- 56.1 Highway 371 low culverts. No established portage.
- 55.5 Enter Bowen Lake. Trailer access south end.
- 55.3 (R) Bowen Lake Dam. No established portage.
- 54.9 Township Road low culverts. Use caution.
- 53.8 (L) Lind Lake trailer access.
- 50.2 County Road 42 box culverts. No established portage.
- 46.5 Enter Lake Hattie.
- 46.5 Lake Hattie Dam. No established portage.
- 45.9 Lake Hattie Drive low bridge. No established portage.
- 44.9 (L) Confluence with Lizzie Creek.
- 44.8 Ding Pot Swamp. High grass, channel may be hard to find.
- 43.8 Powerline crossing.

- 41.7 (R) Township Road 4 low bridge. Use caution, portage right, 20 yards.
- 38.5 (R) Norway Lake South carry-in access. Norway Lake North trailer access.
- 37.8 (R) Pine River #1 trailer access. Fishing pier. City of Pine River.
- 37.6 (R) Constructed Rock Rapids, Class I. Portage right, 200 yards.
- 36.8 Highway 371/Paul Bunyan State Trail bridge.
- 36.6-36.1 Gromek Rapids, Class I. No established portage.
- 35.7 (R) Confluence with the South Fork of the Pine River.
- 35.6 (L) Watercraft campsite
- 34.5 (L) Confluence with Arvig Creek. Highway 371/ Paul Bunyan State Trail bridge.
- 34-33.7 Hopper's Rapids, Class I. No established portage.
- 33.3 Hopper's bridge crossing low bridge. Use caution, portage right, 20 yards.
- 32.5-32.2 Kell's Rapids, Class I. No portage. Old bridge pilings in river, use caution.
- 31.6 (R) South Bend watercraft campsite.
- 31-30.5 Reynold's Rapids, Class I. No established portage. County Road 15 bridge at mile 30.5.
- 30-29.7 Carlson Rapids, Class I. No established portage.
- 29.0-20.0 Beginning of the Whitefish Chain. Next 9 miles, large waves, heavy boat traffic. The best route is to follow the shoreline.
- 29.0 Upper Whitefish Lake trailer access.
- 21.1 County Road 16 bridge.
- 19.9-8 (L) Cross Lake Federal Recreation Area and Dam. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, portage left, 150 yards. Campground and trailer access. (Fee for overnight camping.) Dam on SE corner of Cross Lake Reservoir. Carry-in and shorefishing just below the dam.
- 19.7 County Road 3 bridge.
- 19.5 Powerline crossing.
- 18.5 (L) Staircase carry-in access.
- 18.4-17.6 Gould Rapids, Class I. No established portage.
- 18.0 County Road 36 bridge.
- 17.0-16.8 Anton Rapids, Class I. No established portage.
- 15.3 Constructed Rock Rapids, Class I. Scout before proceeding. No established portage.
- 14.5 (R) Mosquito Ridge watercraft campsite.
- 11.7 (R) Confluence with Pelican Brook.
- 6.0 (L) Confluence with Little Pine River. Little Pine watercraft campsite.
- 0.9 (R) Harvey Drake trailer access.
- 0.9 County Road 11 bridge. River level gauge south end of bridge.
- 0.8-0.5 Lower Pine Rapids, Class I. No established portage.
- 0.0 Confluence with Mississippi River at river mile 1024.6. 20 river miles upstream of Brainerd.

PINE RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL

Carry-in Access	Fishing Pier	Public Lands	Rapids
Trailer Access	Shorefishing	State Units	River Miles
Toilet	Campground	River Level Gauge	State Trail (paved)
Dam	Watercraft Campsite	Power Lines	WMA Wildlife Management Area
Constructed Rock Rapids	Drinking Water	Hazard Areas	
Rest Area			
Hospital/Clinic			

Scale 1:125,000

Scale in Miles

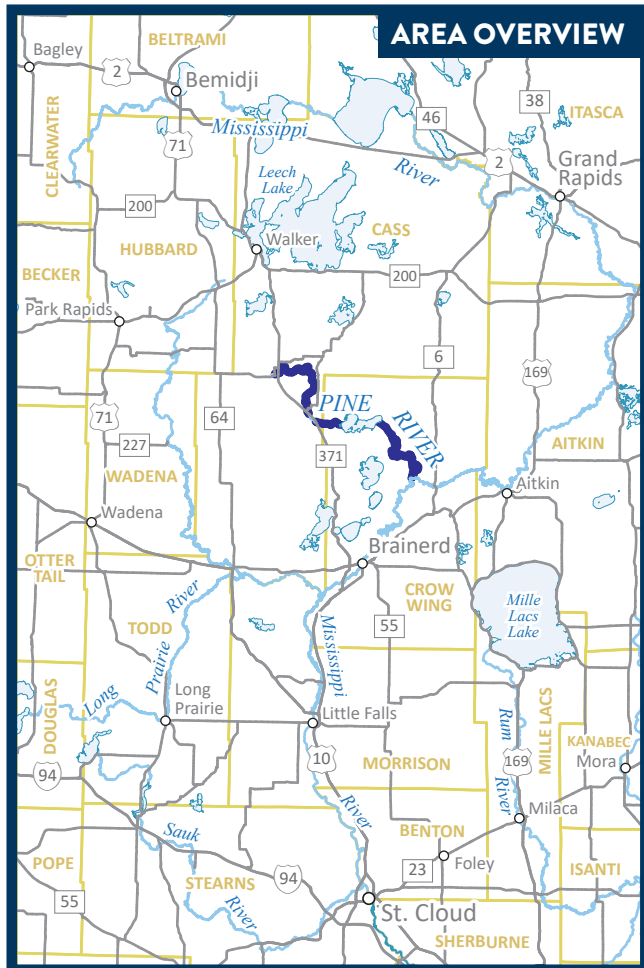
NOTE: Recommended Paddling Sections are highlighted in blue in the route description. See text side for details.

For detailed information on the Mississippi River State Water Trail, visit: mndnr.gov/watertrails

PINE RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



mn DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



ABOUT THE WATER TRAIL

The Pine River State Water Trail flows through the jack pine forests and glacial lakes of west central Minnesota. With the exception of the city of Pine River and the Whitefish Chain of Lakes, you'll find little development along the river.

Water levels usually peak in mid to late May and fall during the summer. They often rise again in September with another peak in mid-October. The river is generally runnable below the Cross Lake Dam throughout the summer. The river ranges from 25 to 150 feet wide and is gravel-bottomed with occasional boulders.

Hazards include several dams that require portaging; see map for locations. North of river mile 46, paddlers should be alert for numerous box culverts and low culverts that may require portaging. The Pine River drops an average of 2.3 feet per mile from Norway Lake to the Mississippi River, with large drops at the Pine River constructed rock rapids and Cross Lake dam. Be aware that large waves may develop in the Whitefish Chain of Lakes during windy conditions or significant boat traffic. Use caution and follow the shores.



Be alert for box culverts and low culverts at the beginning of this water trail.

CONTACTS

DNR INFORMATION CENTER
500 Lafayette Rd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040
888-646-6367
info.dnr@state.mn.us

DNR HEADQUARTERS
1601 Minnesota Dr.,
Brainerd, MN 56401
218-203-4300

STATE PARKS & TRAILS AREA OFFICE
3296 State Park Road NE
Bemidji, MN 5661
218-308-2372

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.

RECOMMENDED DAY TRIP

Rock Dam to Harvey Drake Access

- Put-in location: Rock Dam Carry-in Access
River mile **15.3**
- Take-out location: Harvey Drake Trailer Access
River mile **0.9**
- Length: **14.4** river miles

This is one of the few routes without rapids on the Pine River. Begin below Rock Dam and paddle through the beautiful Crow Wing State Forest where white pines tower above the hardwoods. Plan for a full day on the river, or include an overnight stay at one of two watercraft campsites. Greer Lake Campground is also just a few miles from the river in the state forest.

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



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

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

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.