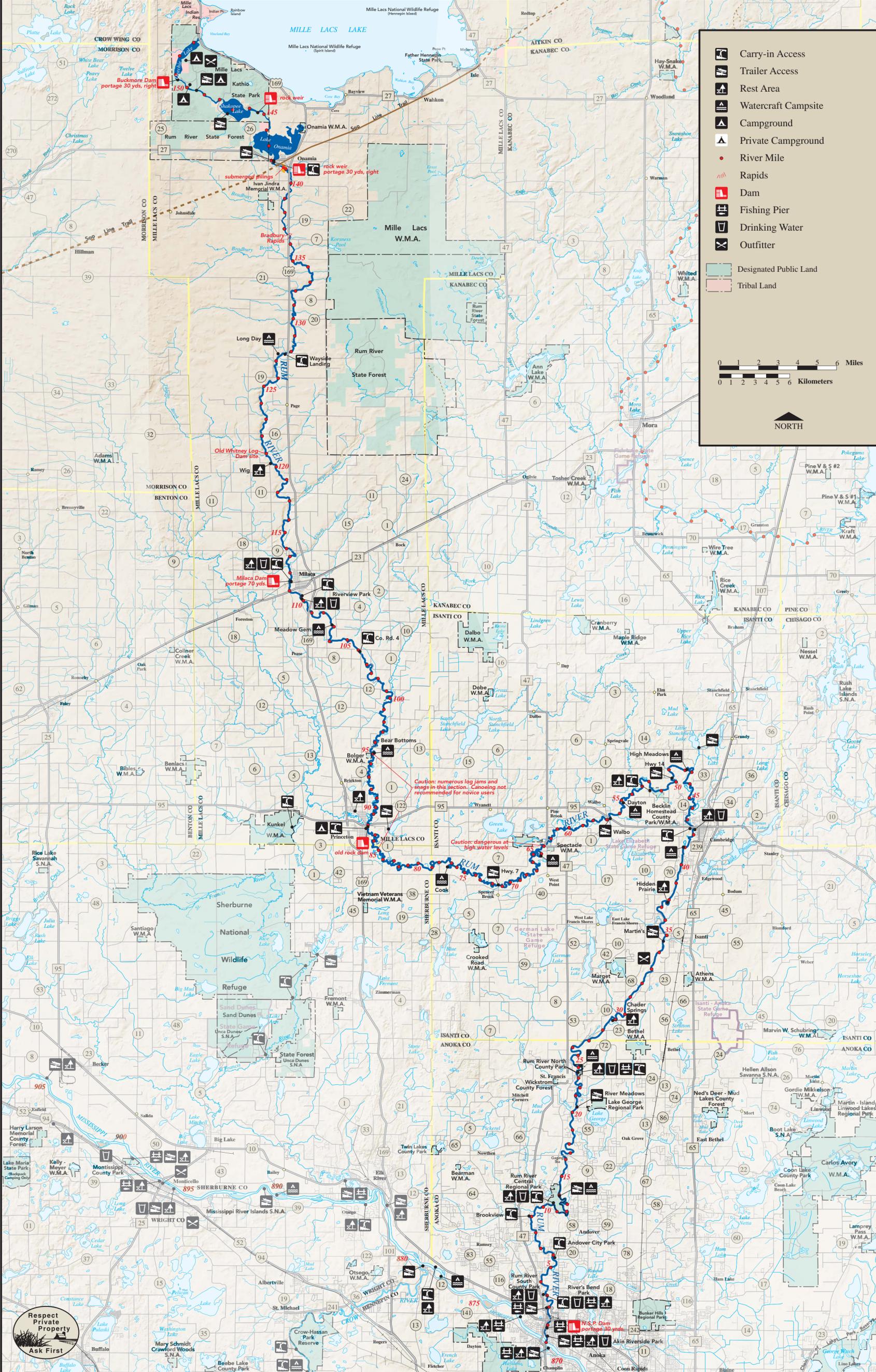


A STATE WATER TRAIL GUIDE TO THE RUM RIVER



Route Description of the Rum River

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

- RIVER MILE**
- 153.2 Rum River leaves Mille Lacs at Vineland Bay. Mille Lacs Kathio State Park. State Highway 169 bridge.
 - 151.9 Mille Lacs-Kathio State Park Campground. Fee.
 - 151.8 Outfitter, off-river.
 - 150.7 (R) Buckmore Dam, portage right - 30 yards.
 - 150.5 (L) State Park group camp/canoe camp - fee.
 - 149.3 (L) State Park Access; trailer access; vehicle permit required.
 - 147.1 (R) Shakopee Lake trailer access (south).
 - 145.6 Rock weir; use caution
 - 144.7 Downstream boundary of Mille Lacs-Kathio State Park.
 - 142.0 (R) Lake Onamia trailer access.
 - 142.0 Rock weir, use caution. Portage right - 30 yards.
 - 142.0 (R) Carry-in access, just below dam.
 - 142.0 Highway 27 bridge.
 - 141.2 Onamia Railroad Trestle; submerged pilings; hazardous currents; use caution.
 - 140.2 County Road 25 bridge.
 - 140.9, 139.5 State Highway 169 bridge.
 - 137.5 County Road 19 bridge.
 - 136.2 Bradbury Rapids; Class I-II; use caution. State Highway 169 bridge.
 - 131.3 County Road 8 bridge.
 - 127.9 State Highway 169 bridge.
 - 127.8 (L) Wayside Landing carry-in access; downstream of road bridge.
 - 127.7 (R) Long Day watercraft campsites (2).
 - 122.2 County Road 16 bridge.
 - 121.0 Old Whitney Log Dam Site; use caution.
 - 120.3 (R) Wig rest area and primitive campsite.
 - 118.0 County Road 11 Bridge.
 - 111.5 (L) Milaca Dam; portage - 70 yards.
 - 111.5 (L) Milaca Municipal park carry-in access and rest area.
 - 110.3 (L) Milaca Riverview Park carry in access and rest area.
 - 109.2 State Highway 169 bridge.
 - 107.1 (R) Meadow Gem watercraft campsites (2); Native Prairie Restoration Project.
 - 103.9 (L) Mille Lacs County Road 4 Access; carry-in.
 - 101.2 County Road 12 bridge.
 - 95.1 (L) Bear Bottoms watercraft campsites (2).
 - 92.9 Stay right at significant fork in the river.
 - 88.0 Highway 95 bridge.
 - 87.9 (R) Princeton City Park carry-in access and campground (fee).
 - 87.9 Old Rock Dam—use caution.
 - 76.6 (R) Cook watercraft campsites (2).
 - 71.2 (L) County Road 7 Bridge; trailer access.
 - 64.1 (L) West Point watercraft campsites (2). Caution: poison ivy.
 - 62.9 Minnesota Highway 47 Bridge; use caution at high river levels.
 - 56.8 (R) Walbo Ferry trailer access.
 - 56.8 Highway 95 bridge.
 - 55.1 (R) Dayton watercraft campsite.
 - 51.6 (R) Becklin Homestead County Park/W.M.A. carry-in access and picnic area.
 - 49.6 (R) County Road 14 carry-in access and bridge.
 - 47.8 (R) High Meadows watercraft campsite. Caution: poison ivy.
 - 42.5 (R) Minnesota Highway 95 Bridge.
 - 42.5 (R) Cambridge West Park carry-in access.
 - 42.3 (L) Cambridge East Park rest area.
 - 41.0 (R) Cambridge West Park watercraft campsite.
 - 37.8 (R) Hidden Prairie rest area.
 - 35.1 County Highway 5 bridge.
 - 34.7 (L) Martin's Landing trailer access.
 - 33.2 (L) Outfitter.
 - 28.9 (L) Chader Springs rest area.
 - 24.0 Rest Area
 - 23.8-23.2 (L) Rum River North County Park. Carry-in access and campsites, fishing pier, toilets, drinking water and picnic areas.
 - 23.1 County Road 24/Bridge St. bridge.
 - 20.3 (R) River Meadows Park boat access.
 - 16.3 County Road 22 bridge.
 - 14.3-10.3 (R) Rum River Central County Park has a small trailer access, carry-in access, watercraft campsites, fishing pier, rest area, toilets and drinking water.
 - 9.0 (R) Brookview Park carry-in access and rest area. City of Ramsey.
 - 5.7 (L) Andover City Park carry-in access.
 - 3.0 (R) River's Bend Park carry-in access, fishing pier and rest area.
 - 2.0 (R) Rum River South County Park trailer access, carry-in access, fishing pier and drinking water.
 - 1.3 Highways 10 and 47 bridges.
 - 0.8 N.S.P. dam, portage right, 30 yards. Fishing pier.
 - 0.3 (L) Akin Riverside City Park and trailer access; City of Anoka, also 2 fishing structures and parking.
 - 0.0 (R) Peninsula Point Park carry-in access and parking; City of Anoka.



Rum River

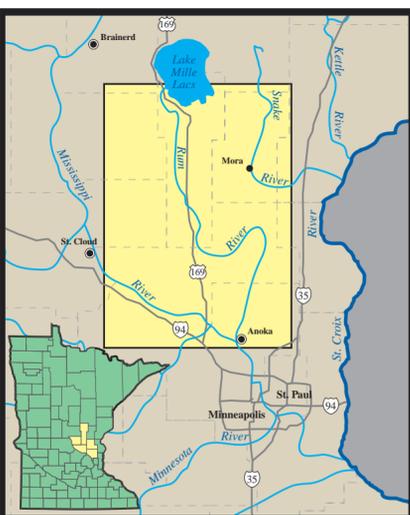
MINNESOTA
STATE PARKS
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A STATE WATER TRAIL GUIDE TO THE RUM RIVER



Throughout its course, the Rum flows through extensive backwaters, marshes, upland plains, and bottomlands of maple, ash and other hardwoods. ...It is a worthy calling for the beginning paddler or family that seeks a nearby retreat.



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The Rum River



The Rum, a 148-mile river of gradual grade, is steeped in history. The French explored it. The Chippewa and Sioux fought along it, and the pine logs that helped build the cities of the Midwest were floated down it during the lumber heydays of the 1800s. The Rum was particularly prized because it spilled its bounty of logs into the Mississippi River above the falls of St. Anthony. It, like the Mississippi River to the west and the St. Croix River to the east, carried away the vast pine stands of east-central Minnesota in less than 50 years.

The Rum's name is an interesting story in itself. The Sioux referred to Lake Mille Lacs, the source of the Rum, as Spirit Lake. Europeans apparently mistranslated "Spirit" to "Rum."

The Rum's headwaters were the capital of the Sioux when the French explorer Daniel Greysolon, Sier Du Luht, arrived in 1679. Du Luht had been sent to the region of the "thousand lakes" by the Governor of New France, Count Frontenac, who hoped to establish new trapping grounds and wrest domination of the fur-trade industry from the British. Du Luht, who had left from Montreal, discovered what the Indians already knew, the nearby lands were rich in natural resources, especially wild rice, fish and game.



The Sioux, however, would lose these lands. The end came during a fierce three-day battle in 1745 with the Chippewa at Kathio, a community of Sioux villages at the headwaters of the Rum. Though the Sioux and Chippewa would battle each other for nearly another century, the Chippewa became the permanent residents.

Their presence continued the tradition of more than 4,000 years of human habitation at the river's headwaters. Mille Lacs Kathio State Park, located along the river, is a National Historic Landmark because of its importance as a historic and archaeological site.

Clearly, Lake Mille Lacs is the source of the Rum, yet the Rum flows through three lakes—Ogechie, Shakopee and Onamia—before it takes on the true character of a river corridor. The Rum starts at 1,250 feet above sea level and drops about 145 feet before it reaches its confluence with the Mississippi River at Anoka. About half of the drop occurs between Onamia and Milaca.

The canoeist will discover three distinctly different reaches. The uppermost stretch, Onamia to Princeton, is narrow, rocky, shallow, and clear. This 65-mile segment flows almost straight south. Wading may be necessary at times. The second stretch, Princeton to Cambridge, is wider, deeper, slower and muddier as it flows east and north across the belly of central Minnesota. This is the wildest and most remote reach of the river.

The final 35-mile stretch, Cambridge to Anoka, runs almost straight south again. Here the river is wider and deeper still as it passes through more civilized surroundings. The valley is deeper in this final stretch and the vistas longer. It offers the kind of broad, flat water that's good for hard paddling or simply letting the current float you along like a fallen leaf.

The Rum is a river for beginning and intermediate canoeists. Flows are moderate, rapids are few, and the river is generally shallow, with the exception of the extreme southern reach.

The Rum is a designated Wild and Scenic River, which means state Legislation preserves and protects its outstanding scenic, recreational, natural, historic and scientific values. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is not meant to restore rivers, but rather prevent damage to exceptional rivers caused by uncontrolled development.

For those who enjoy fishing, the river offers three popular game fish species, northern pike, smallmouth bass, and walleye. The best fishing tends to be in the middle and lower stretches of the river where the water is deeper.

In midsummer, the upper reach between Onamia and Milaca is usually too shallow to hold many fish. Most

good-sized fish have migrated south by then in search of deeper water. However, fishing can be good on the upper reach of the river in May and June, especially in the deeper pools at bridge crossings.

Smallmouth bass up to 19 inches long have been found by DNR Fisheries sampling crews in Isanti County and walleye as long as 28 inches in Anoka County. Though the smallmouth bass population is strong, the habitat is more sandy than rocky.

For the wildlife watcher, the land holds white-tailed deer, beaver, mink, muskrat and raccoon, just to name a few species.

Hawks, ospreys, owls and eagles are common. The aspen stands along the river are excellent for ruffed grouse. Squirrels and chipmunks thrive in maple and oak stands. The small streams that flow into the Rum provide homes for amphibians and insects, which in turn attract larger birds and mammals.



The Rum is not the river it was when Du Luht and Father Louis Hennepin paddled it more than 300 years ago, yet many of its wild characteristics remain. Being just a short jaunt from the Twin Cities, it is a worthy calling for the beginning paddler or family that seeks a nearby retreat.

The Rum River Weir, located midpoint in the dogleg of the river between Shakopee and Onamia lakes, was installed to allow water level manipulation (drawdown capabilities) in Onamia without affecting Shakopee. This lowering of Onamia enhances the ability to ensure good to excellent wild rice crops in 3 out of 4 years.

This is especially true during significant summer rainfalls which can cause dramatic shifts in water levels and uproot rice plants in the floating leaf stage



of growth. Onamia Lake is a Designated Wildlife Lake, with long range planning efforts geared toward maximizing wild rice production and associated increases in waterfowl and furbearer populations.

Planning A Safe River Trip

A successful river trip is safe. To enjoy a safe journey, you should be prepared by acquainting yourself with your route.

Choose a distance that is comfortable for you. Water levels can speed up or slow down your trip: get information about water levels from the regional DNR office, DNR website, or DNR Information Center.

Protect the water and shorelands and leave nothing behind you except footprints. Remember that much of the shorelands are privately owned.

- Travel with a companion or group. Plan your trip with a map before you depart and advise someone of your plans, including planned departure and arrival times.
- Most people paddle two to three river miles per hour.
- Bring a first-aid kit that includes waterproof matches.
- Be cautious of river obstructions, such as overhanging and dead trees in the river.
- You must pack out all trash.
- Leave only footprints; take only photographs!

Boating Information

- Wear a U. S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device that state law requires to be on board the craft.
- Bring an extra paddle.
- Not all portions of this water trail are suitable for motor use.

- Register your watercraft. All watercraft more than 9 feet in length, including nonmotorized canoes and kayaks, must be registered in Minnesota or your state of residence.

Rest Areas and Camping Sites

- Public rest areas are available along the route to rest, picnic and explore.
- Camp only in designated campsites, which are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

- Bring drinking water. It is only available at a limited number of rest areas. Drinking river water is not recommended, but if you do it must be treated.
- Respect 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.

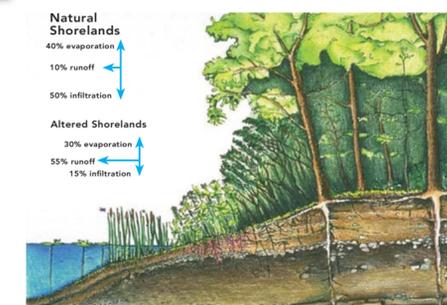


Sustainable Ecosystems

Outdoor recreation is dependent on a healthy and attractive natural environment. Sustainable outdoor recreation enables people to enjoy the outdoors without negative impacts on the environment.

Communities working together can improve water resources by promoting environmentally sensitive land-use practices along rivers and throughout watersheds. Natural shoreline buffers improve water quality by filtering out pollutants and sediments.

Healthy and diverse native shoreline plant communities are attractive and provide important habitat for birds and wildlife.



This information is available in alternative format upon request.

Minnesota State Parks and Trails Regional Unit

1200 Warner Road
St. Paul, MN 55106
651-259-5841

Online water trail information and maps can be found at mndnr.gov/watertrails

DNR Information Center

The DNR's Information Center is available to provide free publications of facilities and services as well as answers questions pertaining to DNR recreational opportunities in Minnesota.



500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040
651-296-6157 Metro Area
1-888-646-6367 MN Toll-Free
mndnr.gov