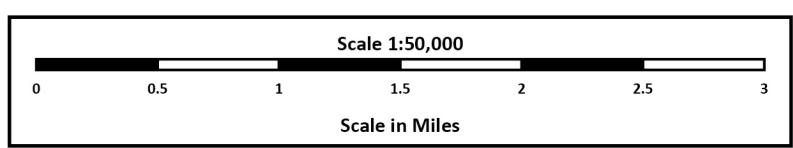


For details on Myre-Big Island State Park, visit: [mndnr.gov/myre](http://mndnr.gov/myre)

## SHELL ROCK RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL

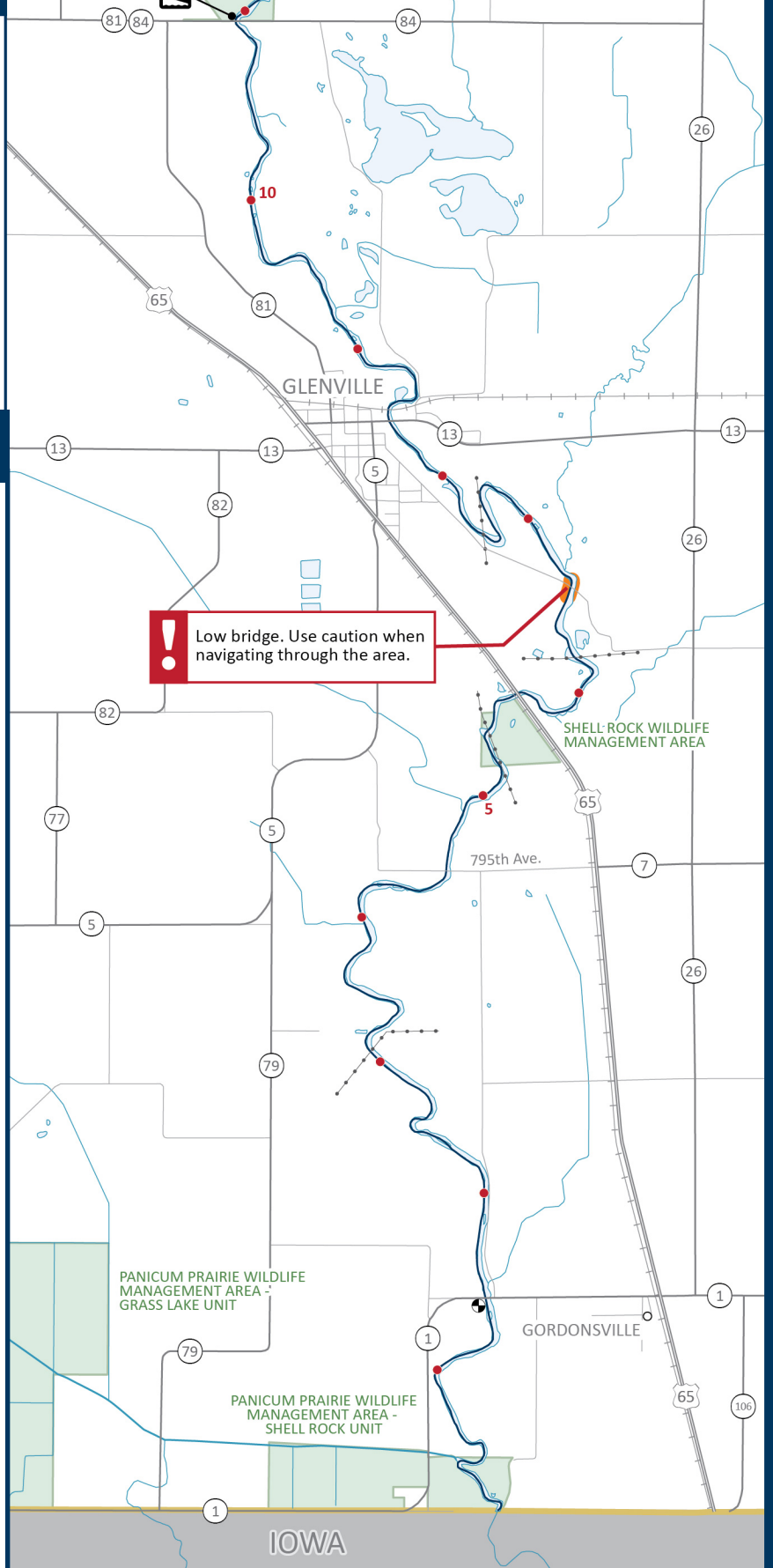
- |                 |                     |                   |             |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Carry-in Access | Campground          | State Units       | River Miles |
| Trailer Access  | Watercraft Campsite | Public Lands      | Powerline   |
| Hospital/Clinic | Dam                 | River Level Gauge | Hazard      |
| Rest Area       | Toilet              |                   |             |
| Fishing Pier    | Drinking Water      |                   |             |



## ROUTE DESCRIPTION

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

- 20.1 North Edgewater Bay trailer access. Toilet.
- 19.5 (L) Edgewater Park. Fishing pier and toilet.
- 19.2 Lakeview Boulevard bridge.
- 18.0 (R) Fountain Lake Park rest area.
- 17.6 Bridge Avenue Dam. No verified portage. State Highway 65 bridge.
- 17.6-17.3 Railroad bridge. Low clearance. Be aware of obstructions.
- 16.9 (R) Blazing Star State Trail Trailhead. Rest area, toilets, fishing pier and drinking water.
- 16.8 (R) Frank Hall Park trailer access. Rest area, fishing pier and toilet. Albert Lea Lake.
- 15.0-12. (L) Myre-Big Island State Park. Several amenities, including camping, drinking water, fishing pier, rest area and toilets. Fee required.
- 14.9 Interstate 35 bridge.
- 13.6 (R) St. Nicholas trailer access.
- 12.6 County Road 19 bridge. Exit Albert Lea Lake.
- 12.5 (L) **DANGER** – Dam and electrified fish barrier. Portage left 60 yds.
- 12.5-10.9 Juglans Woods Aquatic Management Area.
- 11.8 Powerline crossing.
- 10.9 (R) Juglans Woods Aquatic Management Area Carry-in Access.
- 10.9 County Road 84 bridge.
- 8.7 Railroad bridge.
- 8.5 County Road 13 bridge.
- 7.4 Powerline crossing.
- 6.5 140th Street bridge. Clearance could be low at high water.
- 6.2 Powerline crossing.
- 5.6 U.S. Highway 65/railroad bridges.
- 5.6-5.3 Shell Rock River Wildlife Management Area.
- 5.3 Powerline crossing.
- 4.5 795th Avenue bridge.
- 3.1 Powerline crossing.
- 1.4 County Road 1 bridge. River level gauge.
- 0.5-0.0 Panicum Prairie Wildlife Management Area. Minnesota/Iowa border.





# SHELL ROCK RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



**mn MINNESOTA**  
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

## ABOUT THE WATER TRAIL

The Shell Rock River begins at the outlet of Albert Lea Lake and flows 113 miles to the Mississippi River, joining the Cedar and Iowa rivers along the way. This warm, gentle stream was named for the fossilized shells found along its banks. It offers opportunities for boating on Fountain Lake, fishing and bird watching. The Minnesota Shell Rock River State Water Trail travels 20 miles through Freeborn County from the headwaters at Fountain Lake to the Iowa border.

The river has no major rapids and few elevational changes. This is a true prairie river, where paddlers will experience a pleasant meander through wetlands, upland slopes and tallgrass prairies. Anglers may enjoy casting a line for black bullhead, bluegills, channel catfish, crappies and walleye.

Hazards include dams and a low bridge, be sure to know portage locations.



Flat water greets paddlers along much of this route.

## CONTACTS

**RICE LAKE AREA OFFICE**  
8485 Rose Street  
Owatonna, MN 55060  
507-414-6191

**DNR INFORMATION CENTER**  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040  
888-646-6367  
[info.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us)

## 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](http://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.

## MEDICAL



**MAYO CLINIC HEALTH SYSTEM**  
404 West Fountain St.  
Albert Lea, MN 56007  
507-373-2384

**IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911**



## RECOMMENDED DAY TRIP

### Explore Albert Lea Lake

- Put-in and take-out at one of three accesses on Albert Lea Lake.
- Trip length varies, as this route is on the lake only.

Albert Lea Lake borders city parks and Myre-Big Island State Park, with opportunities for hiking, biking, fishing, picnicking and more. The northwest corner of the lake is the most developed, while areas to the southeast are a patchwork of forest, wetlands and agricultural land.

## EXPLORE ON SHORE

### Myre-Big Island State Park

This park has plenty of opportunities for camping, hiking, fishing and paddling.  
[mndnr.gov/myre](http://mndnr.gov/myre)

### Blazing Star State Trail

Plan a pedal/paddle adventure! This state trail starts in the city of Albert Lea and travels six miles through town and Myre-Big Island State Park.  
[mndnr.gov/blazingstar](http://mndnr.gov/blazingstar)

### Area Wildlife and Aquatic Management Areas

Enjoy wildlife viewing and fishing opportunities.  
[mndnr.gov](http://mndnr.gov)

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

## More Information

[mndnr.gov/watertrails](http://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](http://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.