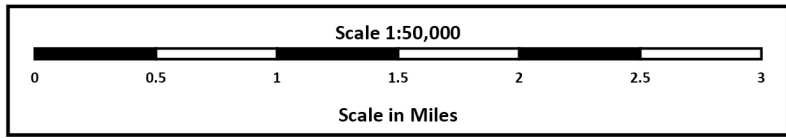


## SHELL ROCK RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL

Carry-in Access	Campground	Toilet	Powerlines
Trailer Access	Group Camp	Drinking Water	Hazard
Hospital/Clinic	Dam	State Public Lands	State Trail (paved)
Rest Area	Constructed Rock Rapids	River Level Gauge	
Fishing Pier		River Miles	

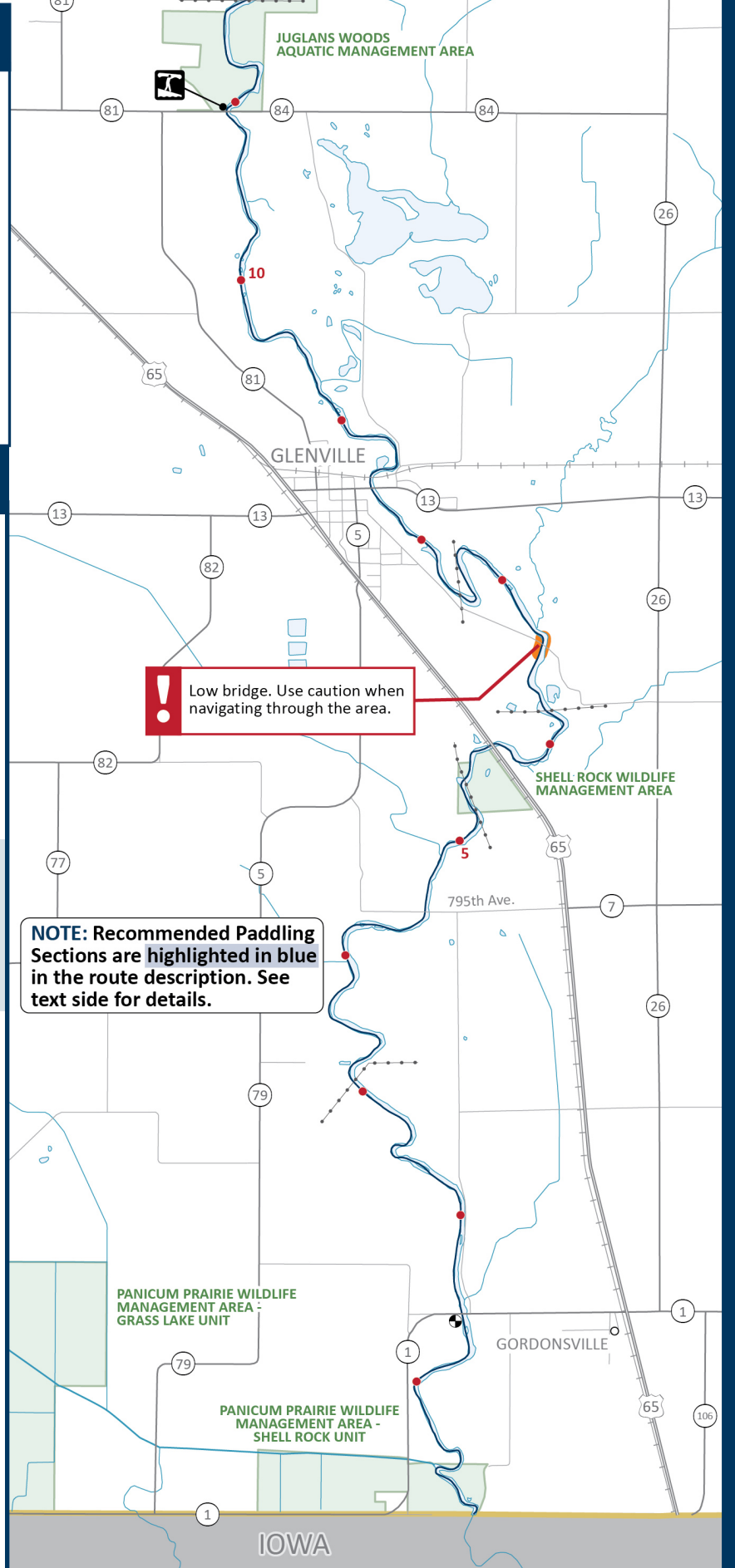


## ROUTE DESCRIPTION

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

**Red text** indicates caution areas.

- 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.** Portage on city streets to Frank Hall Park. State Highway 65 bridge.
- 17.6-17.3 **Railroad bridge.** Low clearance. Be aware of obstructions.
- 16.8 (R) Frank Hall Park trailer access/Blazing Star State Trailhead. 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 Landing trailer access.
- 12.6 County Road 19 bridge. Exit Albert Lea Lake.
- 12.5 (L) **Constructed Rock Rapids.** Low water portage left 60 yards.
- 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. (see iowadnr.gov for more opportunities on the Shell Rock River)



# SHELL ROCK RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



**mn** DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## 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

**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)

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

## 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.
- 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



**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 trailer accesses on Albert Lea Lake: Frank Hall Park, Myre-Big Island State Park, or St. Nicholas Landing.
- 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.

## 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](http://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](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.