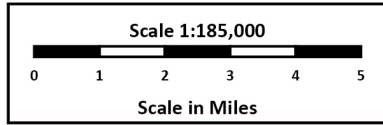
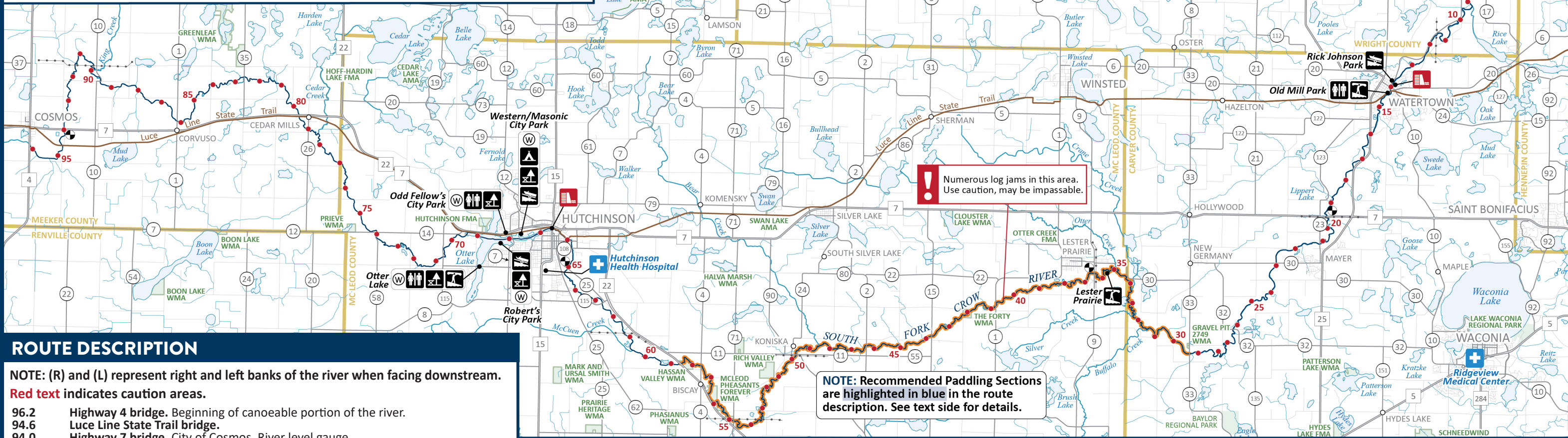


# SOUTH FORK CROW RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL

Carry-in Access	Drinking Water	River Miles	Wildlife Management Area
Trailer Access	State Public Lands	Luce Line State Trail	Aquatic Management Area
Hospital/Clinic	Other Public Lands		Fisheries Management Area
Dam	River Level Gauge		
Rest Area	Power Lines		
Campground	Hazard Areas		
Restroom			



For detailed information on the North Fork Crow River State Water Trail, visit: [mndnr.gov/watertrails](http://mndnr.gov/watertrails)



**!** Numerous log jams in this area. Use caution, may be impassable.

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

## ROUTE DESCRIPTION

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

- 96.2 Highway 4 bridge. Beginning of canoeable portion of the river.
- 94.6 Luce Line State Trail bridge.
- 94.0 Highway 7 bridge. City of Cosmos. River level gauge.
- 91.5 Powerline crossing.
- 90.1 (L) Confluence with King Creek. Powerline crossing.
- 89.5 145th Street bridge. Low bridge, could be dangerous in high water.
- 88.4 565th Avenue bridge.
- 87.5 140th Street bridge.
- 86.1 County Road 1 bridge.
- 85.0 140th Street bridge.
- 84.1 590th Avenue bridge.
- 82.6 County Road 35 bridge.
- 79.5 Highway 7/Luce Line State Trail bridge. City of Cedar Mills.
- 79.0 County Road 26 bridge.
- 77.0 Township Road 140/Zane Avenue bridge. Meeker/McLeod County boundary.
- 75.5 Township Road 48 bridge.
- 74.0 County Road 14/190th Street bridge.
- 72.4 Walden Avenue bridge.
- 70.7 County Road 115/Vale Avenue bridge.
- 68.9 (L) Hutchinson Fisheries Management Area.
- 68.8 Otter Lake carry-in access. South end of the lake at County Road 82 bridge.
- 68.6 City of Hutchinson.
- 68.2 (R) Robert's City Park. Trailer access, rest area and restrooms.
- 68.1 (L) Odd Fellow's City Park. Rest Area, drinking water and restrooms.
- 67.1 (L) Western/Masonic City Park. Trailer access, camping, rest area, drinking water and restrooms. Fee required.
- 66.7 (L) **Dam, portage left necessary.** State Highways 15/7 and Luce Line State Trail bridges.

- 66.3 Adams Street bridge.
- 65.7 2nd Avenue bridge.
- 65.0 County Road 22 bridge. River level gauge.
- 62.8 County Road 115 bridge.
- 61.1 160th Street bridge. Powerline crossing.
- 60.5 (R) Confluence with McCuen Creek.
- 58.7 Highway 22 bridge.
- 58.6-29.2 **Numerous log jams exist in this area and may be impassable.**
- 56.6-58(R) Hassen Valley Wildlife Mangement Area.
- 56.8-55 McLeod Pheasants Forever Wildlife Mangement Area.
- 57.7 County Road 4 bridge.
- 56.4 State Highway 22 bridge. City of Biscay.
- 56.7-55.8 McLeod Pheasants Forever Wildlife Management Area.
- 55.0 Powerline crossing.
- 54.9 County Road 71 bridge.
- 53.5 Powerline crossing.
- 53.3 137th Street bridge.
- 49.8 County Road 11 bridge. Powerline crossing.
- 48.6 (L) Confluence with Bear Creek.
- 46.3 County Road 2 bridge.
- 43.8 County Road 15 bridge.
- 42.0 (R) The Forty Wildlife Mangement Area.
- 40.8 County Road 1 bridge.
- 38.5 Cable Avenue bridge.
- 38.1 Babcock Avenue bridge. Powerline crossing. River gauge.

- 36.5 County Road 9 bridge. City of Lester Prairie.
- 35.0 (L) Confluence with Otter Creek.
- 35.5 (L) Lester Prairie carry-in access.
- 33.8 (L) Confluence with Crane Creek.
- 32.3 (R) Confluence with Silver Creek.
- 31.7 (R) Confluence with Buffalo Creek.
- 29.3 County Road 33 bridge.
- 26.2 County Road 32 bridge.
- 22.9 County Road 30 bridge. City of Mayer.
- 21.1 County Road 23 bridge.
- 19.6 Highway 7 bridge. Powerline crossing. River level gauge.
- 16.0 Highway 25 bridge.
- 15.4-13.5 City of Watertown.
- 14.3 County Road 10/Luce Line State Trail bridge. Carry-in access and restrooms at Old Mill Park (L).
- 13.8 (L) **Low head dam.** Portage left.
- 13.8 (L) Rick Johnson Park. Trailer access below the dam.
- 11.5 Powerline crossing.
- 10.0 Eastwood Avenue (Half-way) bridge.
- 8.5 Powerline crossing.
- 7.4 Powerline crossing.
- 6.1 Highway 12 bridge. City of Delano. Powerline crossing.
- 5.6 Bridge Avenue bridge. River level gauge.
- 3.0 Powerline crossing.
- 0.0 Confluence with North Fork of the Crow River.

# SOUTH FORK OF THE CROW RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



**m** DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## ABOUT THE WATER TRAIL

The South Fork Crow River runs eastward from Little Kandiyohi Lake to Rockford, where it converges with the North Fork Crow River. This gentle river is perfect for beginning paddlers when water levels are normal, but it can flow quickly after significant rainfall.

From Little Kandiyohi Lake to Cosmos, the river has been channelized for agricultural drainage and is fairly straight and narrow. Between Cosmos and Hutchinson, the river flows through a gently rolling landscape of grassy fields, ridges and forested banks. This segment offers a nice mixture of slow pools and swift riffles. The Main Street Dam in Hutchinson gives rise to Campbell and Otter lakes, which combine to form a 1.3-mile basin just before town. The river narrows from Hutchinson to Biscay.

The segment from Biscay to New Germany can be dangerous and impassable. Expect narrow bends and numerous overhanging trees, underwater snags and large logjams. The river widens downstream from Mayer. Watertown to Rockford is a popular stretch for paddlers.

Hazards include dams, logjams, overhanging trees and submerged snags.



Beware of fallen trees at river bends.

## CONTACTS

**DNR AREA OFFICE**  
164 County Rd. 8 NE  
Spicer, MN 56288  
320-409-2051

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

**McLeod County**  
<https://www.mcleodcounty.mn.gov/>

**Meeker County**  
<https://www.co.meeker.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.
- 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



**HUTCHINSON HEALTH HOSPITAL**  
227 Freemont Ave. SW  
Hutchinson, MN 55350  
320-234-5000

**RIDGEVIEW MEDICAL CENTER**  
500 S Maple St.  
Waconia, MN 55387  
952-442-2191

**IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911**

## RECOMMENDED DAY TRIP

### Rick Johnson Park to Lake Rebecca Regional Park

- Put-in location: Rick Johnson Park trailer access on South Fork Crow River  
River mile **13.8**
- Take-out location: Lake Rebecca Regional Park carry-in access on North Fork Crow River  
River mile **24.7**
- Length: **14.3** river miles

Launch on the South Fork Crow River below the dam in Watertown and end on the North Fork Crow River near the confluence of the two rivers (river right). You'll wind past wooded banks, fields and the town of Delano. Plan a full day for this longer paddle.

## 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.

