

## ROUTE DESCRIPTION

River miles 37 to 0 (37 miles)

(R) and (L) are right and left banks of the river when facing downstream.

Red text indicates caution areas.

Continued on Map 1: Cloquet River State Water Trail  
Indian Lake to Island Lake

- 37 **White Side Rapids:** Class II rapids. Steep with standing waves and boulders. Portage right 280 yards.  
35 (R) Minnesota Power (N): Trailer access and rest area.  
33.5 Island Lake: Rest area.

### ISLAND LAKE DAM TO HIGHWAY 53

**Character:** Scenic country with good fishing for walleye, smallmouth bass, and brown trout.

**Length:** 29 miles.

**Average run time:** 10-15 hours.

**Class:** Class 1.

**Optimal Flow:** Above 1.4 at US 53.

**Skill Level:** Beginner to Intermediate.

**Access:** North on CR 4 from Duluth, then west on CR 48 to access road that leads to Island Lake Dam.

- 33.4 (L) Trailer access, Island Lake Reservoir.  
33 (L) Abbott Road (E): Trailer access.  
32.5-30 Several watercraft campsites.  
28.7 (L) Island Lake Dam Site trailer access.  
28.6 (L) **Island Lake Dam:** Rest area and carry-in access. Portage left 300 yards  
28.5 **Class I rapids.**  
27.4 CR 48 bridge.  
26.2 (L) Beaverhouse: Watercraft campsite.  
25.7 (L) Salt Lick: Watercraft campsite.  
23.6 (R) Inlet to Hunter Lake.  
22.6 (L) Twin Pines: Watercraft campsite.  
21.8 (R) Pincherry: Watercraft campsite.  
21.4 (R) Side Lake.  
21 (L) Beaver River confluence.  
20.5 (L) Bachelor Road: Trailer access.  
19.7 Co. Road 15 bridge.  
18.5 (L) MCC: Watercraft campsite.  
18 (R) Us-Kab-Wan-Ka River confluence.  
18-17.6 **Class I rapids:** No established portage.  
17.8 Township road bridge.  
17.3 (L) Old Mule: Watercraft campsite.  
16.6 (R) Three Island: Watercraft campsite.  
15.9-15.3 **Class I rapids.**  
11.9-9.4 **Class I rapids.**  
11 (R) Chicken Creek confluence.  
10.4 (R) Hellwig Creek confluence.  
10.2 US Highway 53 bridges. Rest area and toilets (R), between bridges.  
10.2 (R) Carry-in access.

### ISLAND LAKE DAM TO HIGHWAY 53

**Character:** Also a scenic stretch with good fishing. Class I-II rapids become numerous close to the St. Louis River.

**Length:** 11 miles

**Average run time:** 5 hours

**Class:** Class 1 with a Class II stretch near the St. Louis River.

**Optimal Flow:** Above 1.4 at US 53

**Skill Level:** Beginner to Intermediate

**Access:** North on US 53 from Duluth, parking in rest area at the intersection of US 53 and MN 33.

- 9 Class I rapids.  
7.7-7 Class I rapids.  
7 Co. Road 8 bridge.  
6.8 (L) Chalberg Creek confluence.  
5.2 (L) Beartrap Creek confluence.  
4.8 Co. Road 7 bridge.  
4.2-1 Class I rapids.  
4.2 Railroad trestle, Co. Road 694 bridge and carry-in access (L)  
3.2 Class II rapids. River falls 20 feet in final mile to its confluence with the St. Louis River. The nearest takeout is below the Highway 2 bridge one mile from the Mouth of the Cloquet River (L). Class I-II rapids just downstream from mouth of the Cloquet River.  
1-0

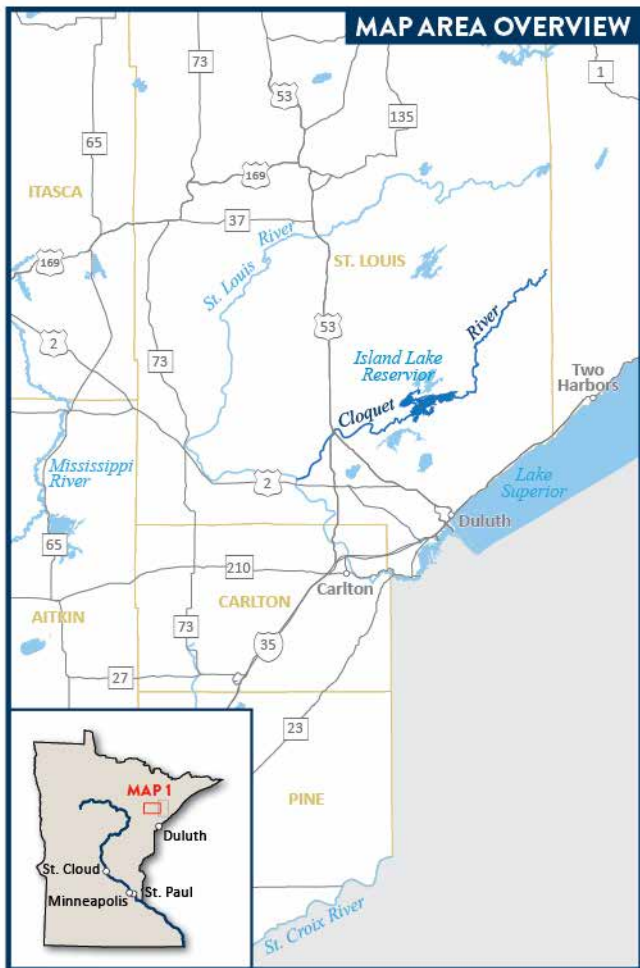
# CLOQUET RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



## MAP 1 - ISLAND LAKE TO ST. LOUIS RIVER



**m** MINNESOTA  
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS



## ABOUT THE WATER TRAIL

This area of the Cloquet River offers a scenic paddle past forested banks and occasional farmland or homes. You'll encounter several bridges as the river makes its way to the St. Louis River.

The river level depends on releases from the Island Lake Dam. Minnesota Power is required to provide a minimum flow of 350 cubic feet per second (if available) in May and June, which offers good paddling. During the rest of the summer, only 175 CFS is provided (if available). This is enough to float down the rapids with some scraping and river walking. Class I-II rapids become numerous near the St. Louis River.

Within the river is a diverse fish population with plentiful smallmouth bass. You may also spot painted, snapping and wood turtles. To protect their eggs, avoid trampling on sand bars and sandy banks.

Hazards include Class I-II rapids. Portages are available for Class II rapids and should be used by beginners. Always get out and scout the rapids before proceeding.



Be sure to check river flows before your trip.

## CONTACTS

**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)

**DNR AREA OFFICE**  
1568 Hwy 2  
Two Harbors, MN 55616  
(218) 834-1430

## 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. State and national forests do 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.
- Follow the rules for firewood. State forests allow you to gather dead wood for a fire, but state parks do not.

## MEDICAL



**ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL**  
915 East First St.  
Duluth, MN 55805  
(218) 249-5616

**ST. MARY'S MEDICAL CENTER**  
407 East Third St.  
Duluth, MN 55805  
(218) 786-4000

**LAKE VIEW HOSPITAL**  
325 Eleventh Avenue  
Two Harbors, MN 55616  
218-834-7300

**IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911**

## RECOMMENDED DAY TRIP

### Island Lake Dam Carry-in Access to Bachelor Road Access

- Put-in location: River mile **28.6**
- Take-out location: River mile **20.5**
- Length: **8.1** river miles

Enjoy scenic country with good fishing for walleye, smallmouth bass and brown trout. Plan to carry-in your canoe to launch and watch for Class I rapids near the launch site.

## EXPLORE ON SHORE

### Watercraft Campsites (DNR)

In this section, you'll find numerous primitive watercraft campsites on property managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. These sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis and do not require a fee. Camp during a longer trip or simply stop for a picnic meal (if unoccupied).

## 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.