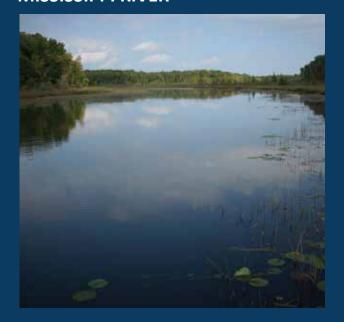


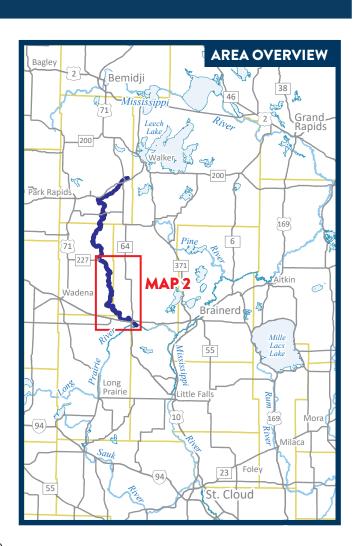
CROW WING RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



MAP 2 - NIMROD TO THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER



MINNESOTA
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS



ABOUT THE WATER TRAIL

Undeveloped shoreline and numerous camping options give this river a wilderness feel. Its crystal waters cut a gentle path rarely interrupted by rapids. Although the river is seldom more than three feet deep, it is nearly always deep enough for canoeing.

Named for a wing-shaped island at its mouth, the river rises in a chain of 11 lakes and then flows southeast for 90 miles before joining the Mississippi River. The Crow Wing River cuts through low marshland in its first 20 miles. It then broadens and its banks rise as it flows southward through pine forest in northern Wadena County. Finally, it then passes through river bottom forest before meeting the Mississippi.

Hazards include rapids and dams. Be sure you know the locations of dams and portage routes.



There is something new to see around every river bend.

(CONTACTS

STATE PARKS AND TRAILS REGIONAL OFFICE

3296 State Park Road NE Bemidji, MN 56601 218-308-2372

DNR INFORMATION CENTER

500 Lafayette Rd. St. Paul, MN 55155-4040 888-646-6367 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**.
- 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-

LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM

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49725 Cty. 83 Staples, MN 56479 218-894-1515

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911

RECOMMENDED DAY TRIPS —

Little White Dog to Cottingham County Park

- Put-in location: Little White Dog Carry-in Access River mile **59.3**
- Take-out location: Cottingham County Park Carry-in Access
 River mile 49.5
- Length: **9.8** river miles

Paddle the river's twists and turns past thickly forested shoreline and tiny islands. Canoe and kayak rentals are available from local outfitters. The southern portion of this route is also popular for tubing during the summer.

EXPLORE ON SHORE—

Wadena County Campgrounds

The Wadena County Parks System operates numerous primitive campgrounds along the Crow Wing River. Campsites are available for a fee and are a convenient option for multi-day river trips. Most campsites are first-come, first-served and offer a picnic table, fire ring and nearby water source and outhouse.

co.wadena.mn.us

- 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

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

More Information

mndnr.gov/watertrails

- River level reporting
- River conditions reporting
- Interactive water trail map
- Recommended routes

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- River rapids definitions
- Virtual tours

Search for outfitters at **exploreminnesota.com**

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by contacting info.dnr@state.mn.us,

651-296-6157, or MN Relay 711.