

KETTLE RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL

Map 1 - Kettle River to Sandstone

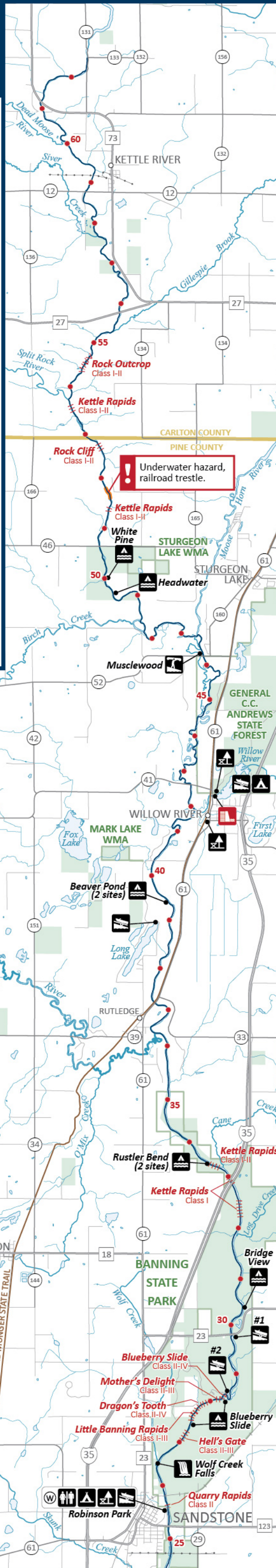
- Carry-in Access
- Trailer Access
- Rest Area
- Waterfall
- Restroom
- Drinking Water
- Campground
- Watercraft Campsite
- Dam
- River Level Gauge
- State Public Lands
- Other Public Lands
- Willard Munger State Trail (paved)
- River Miles
- Powerlines
- Rapids
- Hazards



Scale 1:111,410



Scale in Miles



Route Description, RM 62 to 24.6

R and L represent sides of the river facing downstream.

- 62.0-56.0** Many short boulder-bed rapids. Class I-II. Most of the river is Class I during low water with some stretches reaching II or III in high water.
- 61.1** Highway 73 bridge.
- 60.1 (R)** Confluence with Dead Moose River.
- 59.1** Powerline crossing.
- 58.8** County Road 12 bridge. River level gauge.
- 57.8 (R)** Confluence with Silver Creek.
- 55.8** Highway 27 bridge.
- 55.6-55.3** Class I rapids.
- 55.3** Confluence with Gillespie Brook.
- 54.7-54.3** Class I rapids.
- 53.8 (R)** Confluence with Split Rock Creek.
- 53.6-53.5** Class I rapids.
- 52.7-52.6** Class I rapids.
- 51.6** Underwater hazard railroad trestle.
- 51.4-51.3** Class I rapids.
- 50.7** Highway 46 bridge.
- 50.0 (L)** White Pine Campsite.
- 49.6 (L)** Headwater Campsite.
- 48.5 (R)** Confluence with Birch Creek.
- 46.6 (L)** Confluence with Moose Horn River.
- 46.3 (R)** Musciewood Carry-in Access. County Road 52 bridge.
- 42.5** County Road 41 bridge.
- 41.9 (L)** Confluence with Willow River.
- 40.3** Long Lake Road bridge. River level gauge.
- 39.4 (R)** Beaver Pond Campsites (2 sites). **Caution: steep bank.**
- 37.3** County Road 61 bridge. Willard Munger State Trail crossing.
- 36.4 (R)** Confluence with Pine River.
- 35.2-end of map** Banning State Park.
- 33.5-33.3** Short Class I boulder-bed rapids. Outcrop on right with glacial potholes cut by swirling water.
- 33.5** Rustler Bend Campsites (2 sites).
- 33.2 (L)** Confluence with Cane Creek.
- 33.0** Short Class I boulder-bed rapids.
- 32.9** Interstate 35 bridges.
- 32.5** Short Class I boulder-bed rapids.
- 31.9 (L)** Confluence with Log Drive Creek.
- 30.4 (L)** Bridgeview Campsite. Fire rings, toilet. The trail to this site joins Highway 23, but is gated closed. No parking at the site, but is available at access downstream.
- 29.8 (L)** #1 Trailer Access. Highway 23 bridge, river level gauge. Rapids downstream are unrunnable when gauge reads less than one foot.
- 28.4-28.2** Portage left, 1.5 miles.
- 28.5 (L)** Blueberry Slide Watercraft campsite (N).
- 28.4 (R)** Banning State Park #2 Trailer Access. Permit required to park.
- 28.4-28.2** Blueberry Slide. The first of the Banning Rapids. Class II-IV. Two steep pitches in this long rapids create large holes and standing waves.
- 28.2 (L)** Blueberry Slide Watercraft Campsite (S). Accessible by portage trail.
- 27.8-27.2** Mother's Delight. Class II-III. River rushes through steep boulder-bed rapids into the Dalles of the Kettle River, a short, narrow canyon flanked by sandstone cliffs.
- 27.8** Dragon's Tooth. Named for a large rock on the right side of the channel near the tail of the rapids. Class II-IV. The river, less than 50 feet wide, has severely undercut the canyon walls. The "tooth" forms a powerful hole and waves in high water.
- 27.6-27.3** Little Banning Rapids. A series of boulder-bed rapids. Class I-III.
- 27.3** Banning ruins. The town of Banning, grew around major sandstone quarries two miles north of Sandstone. More than 20 million tons of rock were shipped out of Banning. By 1905, however, the quarries were abandoned.
- 26.9-26.8** Hell's Gate. Long boulder-bed rapids ending in a steep, narrow pitch between high sandstone escarpments as the Kettle leaves the dalles. Class II-III.
- 26.4** Wolf Creek Falls. Wolf Creek tumbles over a 10-foot ledge before it joins the Kettle. Find the mouth of the creek on the right and follow the stream about 100 yards into the woods.
- 25.8** Railroad bridge.
- 25.5 (R)** Quarry Rapids. Class II, portage right 100 yards. This drop may not be runnable at low water since the entire river tumbles onto sharp boulders; at high water, large back rollers develop.
- 25.4 (R)** Robinson City Park. Campground, boat ramp, toilets, drinking water, picnic tables and a shelter.
- 25.1** State Highway 123 bridge.
- 24.6** Powerline crossing.

All Class I Rapids in this section are Class II if gauge is above 4.5 at the Hwy 12 bridge.

CONTINUED ON TO MAP 2 -
SANDSTONE TO ST. CROIX RIVER

KETTLE RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



MAP 1 - KETTLE RIVER TO SANDSTONE



m MINNESOTA
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

ABOUT THE WATER TRAIL

The Kettle River offers a scenic experience as it threads through dense forest, rocky cliffs and bluffs. It is also one of the best whitewater rivers in the Midwest. Its clear waters, tinted amber by area swamps, fall an average of 6.1 feet per mile. The river depends on runoff for most of its flow and responds dramatically to rain. Be sure to check river level gauge readings before paddling.

Most rapids, except in the upper reaches, are runnable if the County Road 12 bridge gauge and/or Willow River Long Lake Road gauge reads "Medium" or above. Many rapids will be scrapeable in lower water conditions. Most of the rapids on this river are Class I during low water, with some stretches reaching II or III in high water. Rapids along Banning State Park range in difficulty from Class II-IV at all water levels. During low water, the most runnable stretch of the river for canoeists is between County Road 52, near Willow River, to Highway 23 near Sandstone.

Hazards include Class I-IV rapids and an underwater trestle. Make sure you are aware of their locations and portage options.



The river offers a variety of whitewater opportunities.

CONTACTS

STATE PARKS AND TRAILS DISTRICT OFFICE
701 S Kenwood Ave.
Moose Lake, MN 55767
218-460-7020

DNR INFORMATION CENTER
500 Lafayette Rd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040
888-646-6367
info.dnr@state.mn.us

BANNING STATE PARK
P.O. Box 643
Sandstone, MN 55072
320-216-3910

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



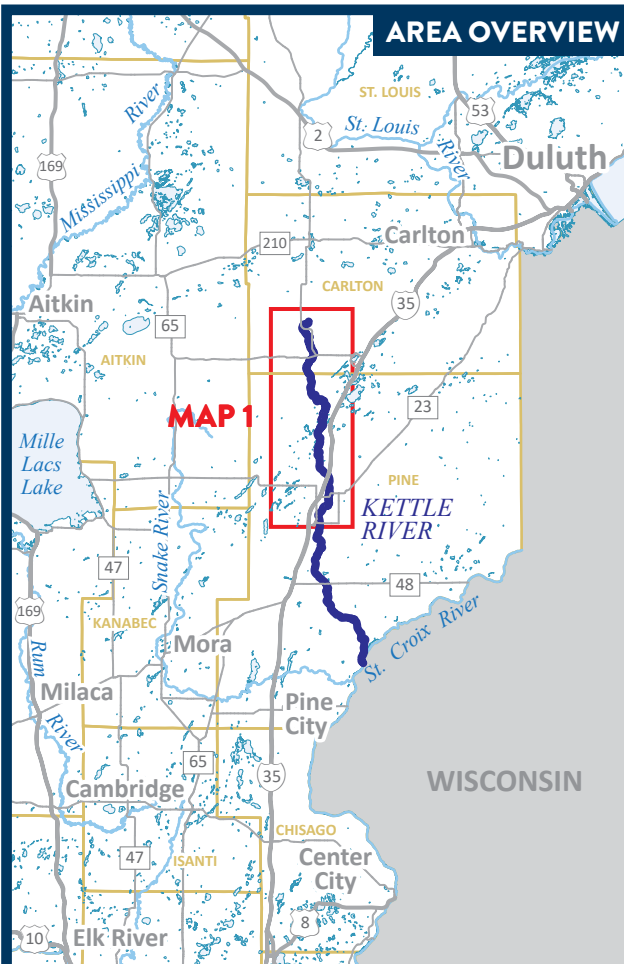
- Camp only in designated campsites, which are often available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Riverbed camping next to private property is not permitted.
- Stay off private property. Stop only at designated sites; much of the shoreland is private property.
- Be sanitary! Use designated toilet facilities or bury human waste away from the river.
- Follow the rules for firewood. State forests and watercraft campsites allow you to gather dead wood for a fire, but state parks do not.

MEDICAL



ESSENTIA HEALTH
705 Lundorff Dr
Sandstone, MN 55072
320-245-5600

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911



RECOMMENDED DAY TRIPS

Musclewood to #1 Trailer Access

- Put-in location: Musclewood Carry-in Access
River mile **46.3**
- Take-out location: #1 Trailer Access
River mile **29.8**
- Length: **16.5** river miles

Enjoy a full day's paddle with small rapids along this stretch. The river winds past wooded banks, tiny islands and sandbars. Several other rivers and creeks join it along the way. Watch for Class I-II rapids between river miles 33.5 and 32.

EXPLORE ON SHORE

Banning State Park

Start or end your paddle from several access points within the park. At the #2 Trailer Access, you can enjoy a meal at a picnic table or hike miles of trails. Several watercraft campsites are also available within the park, call ahead for details.

mndnr.gov/banning

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
- 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.