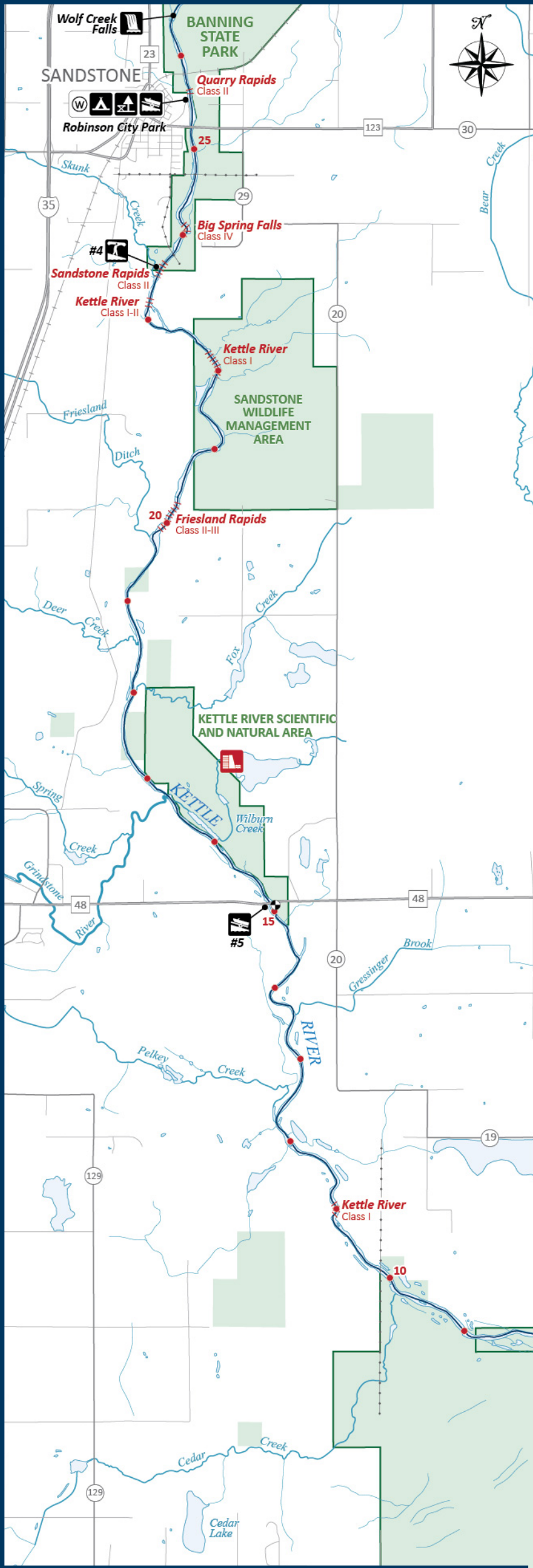


KETTLE RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL

Map 2 - Sandstone to the St. Croix River



Carry-in Access	Campground	State Unit Lands	River Miles
Trailer Access	Watercraft Campsite	Other Public Lands	Powerlines
Rest Area	Dam	Matthew Lourey State Trail	Rapids
Waterfall	River Level Gauge	Paved	
Restroom		Unpaved	
Drinking Water			

Scale 1:80,000
0 1 2 3
Scale in Miles

Route Description, RM 26 to 0

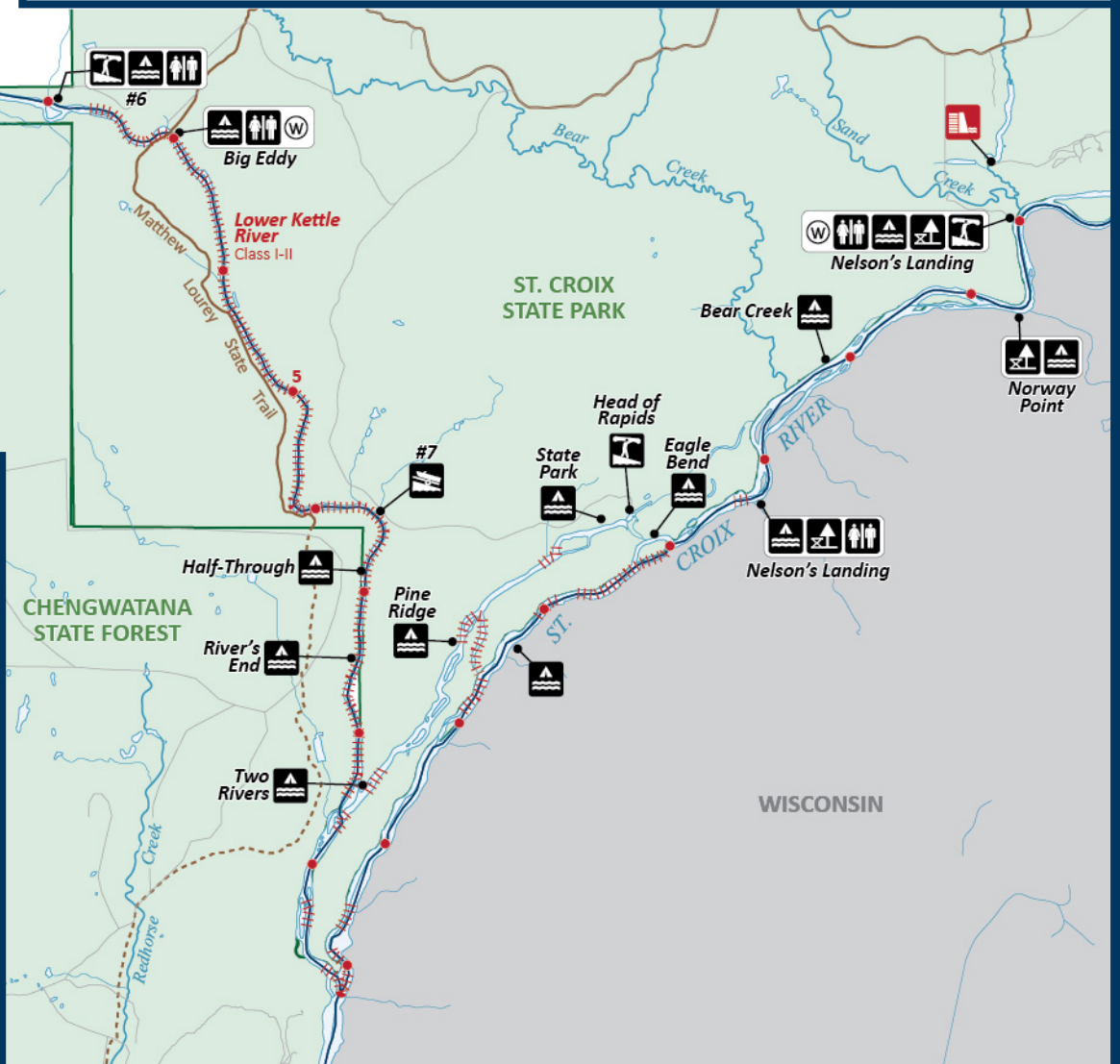
R and L represent sides of the river facing downstream

Top of map to 23.5 Banning State Park.

- 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.
- 26.6 A cave is in the sandstone bluffs on the right. Remains of some sandstone quarries can be seen from the cave downstream to Robinson Park in Sandstone.
- 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, well, picnic tables and a shelter.
- 25.1 State Highway 123 bridge.
- 24.6 Powerline crossing.
- 24.0-23.4 Portage right 0.7 miles.
- 23.9-23.9 Big Spring Falls. Class IV, the river splits into two channels around the island. Right channel drops over cascading waterfall; Left channel curves through boulder-ledge rapids with difficult turns, the falls are followed immediately by dangerous severely undercut ledges which will trap trees, boats and swimmers. IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED NOT TO TRY THESE FALLS AND THAT WAVE SURFING NOT BE ATTEMPTED HERE.
- 23.5-23.4 Sandstone Rapids. Class II. This is the location of the former Sandstone Dam last used for electricity in 1963. The dam was removed in 1995, and as a result, Big Spring Falls is visible again.
- 23.5 (R) #4 Carry-in Access. Near electrical complex/tower. Confluence with Skunk Creek.
- 23.3 Powerline crossing.
- 23.2 Three short boulder-bed rapids. Class I-II.
- 22.5-20.7 Sandstone Wildlife Management Area.
- 22.0 Class I rapids.
- 20.2-19.9 Friesland Rapids. Three boulder-bed pitches. Class I-II.
- 19.8 (R) Confluence with Friesland Ditch.
- 18.5 (R) Confluence with Deer Creek.
- 18. Confluence with Fox Creek.
- 17.1-14.8 (L) Kettle River Scientific and Natural Area.
- 16.8 (R) Confluence with Grindstone River.
- 16.8 (L) Confluence with Wilburn Creek.
- 15.1-15.0 (R) #5 Trailer Access. State Highway 48 bridge, river level gauge.
- 13.6 (L) Confluence with Gressinger Brook.
- 12.2 (L) Confluence with Pelkey Creek.
- 11.0 Class I rapids.
- 10.2-8.9 (R) Chengwatana State Forest.
- 10.2 Powerline crossing.
- 9.8 (R) Confluence with Cedar Creek.

- 8.9 - 0 St. Croix State Park.
- 8.0 (L) Maple Island Trailer Access and campsite.
- 7.9 (L) #6 Trailer Access. Watercraft campsite and toilet.
- 7.8-0.0 Lower Kettle River Rapids. A series of long boulder-bed pitches. Class I-II. Large standing waves form in high water.
- 7.0 Willard Munger State Trail crossing.
- 7.0 (L) Big Eddy. Campsite, toilet and drinking water.
- 3.6 (L) #7 trailer access. Kennedy Brook.
- 3.1 (R) Half Through Campsite.
- 2.5 (R) River's End Campsite.
- 1.6 (L) Two Rivers Campsite.
- 0.0 Boulder-studded channels split around several islands. Slightly more than a mile downstream, where the two channels of the St. Croix join, the river tumbles over steep, low ledge that forms a three-foot backroller in high water.

END OF ROUTE



KETTLE RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



MAP 2 - SANDSTONE TO THE ST. CROIX RIVER



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, II or III depending on water levels.

The Big Spring Falls and Sandstone Rapids Area (RM 24 to 23.4) in Banning State Park range in difficulty from Class II-IV at all water levels. Portage right 0.7 miles. Dangerous undercut walls and ledges in this section of boulder bed rapids can trap debris, watercraft and swimmers. Only highly experienced whitewater paddlers who have done the required scouting should attempt this area.

Hazards include Class I-IV rapids; be aware of their locations and ratings.



The river offers a wide range of paddling 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

ST. CROIX STATE PARK
30065 St. Croix Park Road
Hinckley, MN 55037
320-384-6591

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.



RECOMMENDED DAY TRIPS

#5 Trailer Access to #6 Trailer Access

- Put-in location: #5 Trailer Access
River mile **15.1**
- Take-out location: #6 Trailer Access
River mile **7.9**
- Length: **7.2** river miles

If you are looking for mostly flat water, this is the route for you. This slow, winding segment passes through forest with black spruce, fir, birch, aspen, maple, ash, elm and scattered red, white and jack pine. Watch for Class I rapids at river mile 11.

EXPLORE ON SHORE

Banning State Park

Pull onto shore at the park's southernmost boat launch and hike a short trail for views of Big Spring Falls from land.

mndnr.gov/banning

St. Croix State Park

The Kettle River meets the St. Croix River within this large park. You'll find several launch sites and designated canoe campsites (first come, first served).

mndnr.gov/stcroix

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

MEDICAL

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



IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911

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.

