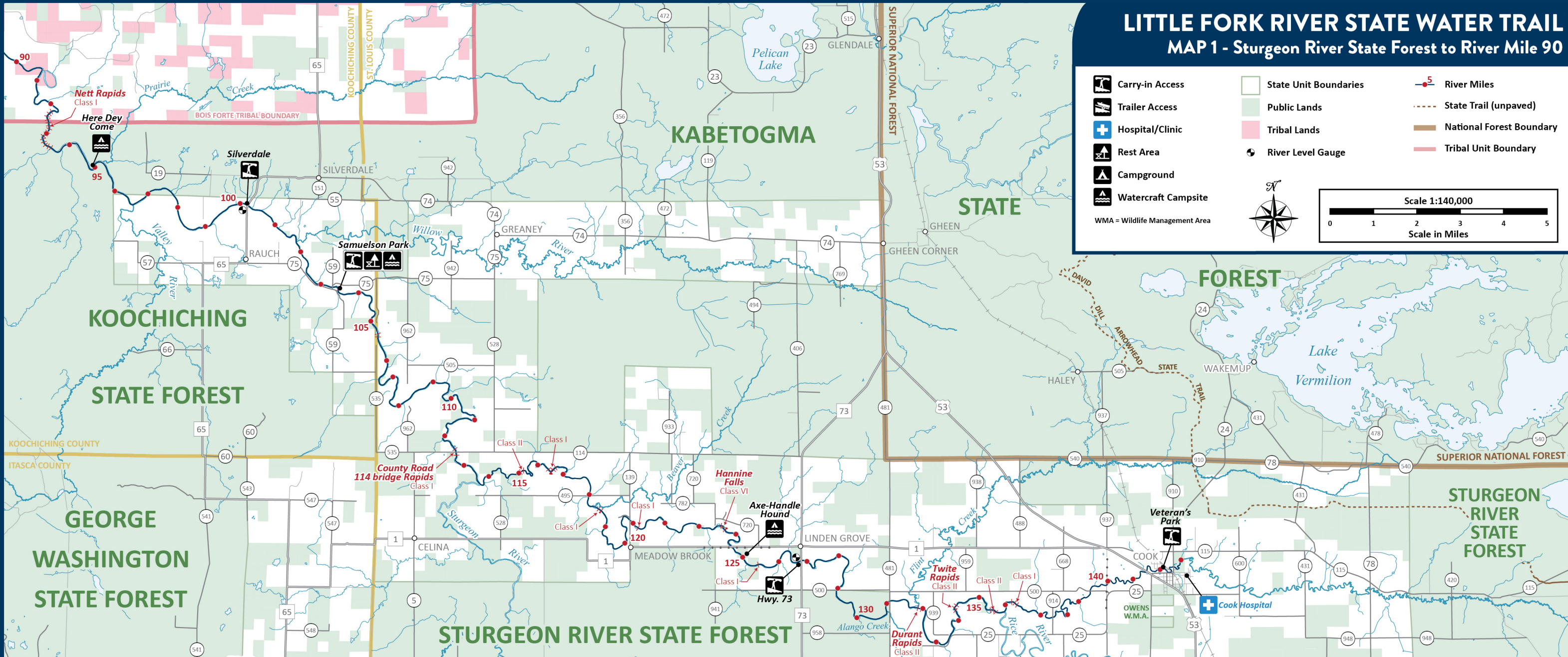


# LITTLE FORK RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL

## MAP 1 - Sturgeon River State Forest to River Mile 90



### ROUTE DESCRIPTION

River Miles 159-90

**NOTE:** (R) and (L) represent right and left banks of the river when facing downstream.

#### RIVER MILE

- 142.0 (R) Veteran's Park carry-in access.
- 142.5 County Road 24 bridge. Town of Cook. Upstream, the river meanders through marsh.
- 142.4 Railroad bridge. River level gauge.
- 142.3 River Street bridge.
- 142.2 Private bridge.
- 141.5 U.S. Highway 53 bridge.
- 140.0 Powerline crossing.
- 139.4 County Road 500 bridge.
- 137.4 County Road 914 bridge.
- 136.2 Class I rapids.
- 135.8(L) Confluence with Rice River.
- 135.5 Class II Rapids. Portage, left on private land.

- 134.2 Twite Rapids, Class II. The river drops about eight feet in 300 yards. Scattered boulders create two-foot waves in high water. Scout from the right. Portage, right on private land. Short Class II rapids around the bend after Twite. Portage, left.
- 132.0 Durant Rapids. A Class II stretch that bends right and then left. In high water, two-foot waves fill this bouldery 100-yard-long pitch. Portage, left on private land. Confluence with Flint Creek river right.
- 131.9 (R) Confluence with Flint Creek.
- 131.1 County Road 481 bridge.
- 130.8 (L) Confluence with Alango Creek.
- 129.0 County Road 500 bridge.
- 126.8 (L) Highway 73 bridge. Carry-in access, upstream side of the bridge. River level gauge.

- 125.4 Class I rapids.
- 125.0 (R) Highway 1 bridge. Axe-Handle Hound watercraft campsite below the bridge. Powerline crossing.
- 123.6 Hannine Falls. Portage-180 yards right. A jagged, sloping 15-foot drop. Class VI. Though conceivably runnable at low water levels by an expert in a decked boat, this falls is filled with big holes in high water. The waterfall is followed by 150 yards of Class II rapids.
- 121.2 Class I boulder-bed rapids.
- 120.9 County Road 356 bridge.
- 118.6 Class II rapids. This boulder-filled 150-yard-long pitch splits around an island and throws two foot waves in high water. High clay banks on river right.
- 118.4 (R) Confluence with Beaver Creek.
- 118.0 County Road 495 bridge.
- 116.6 Class I rapids.

- 115.1 Class II rapids. A big, flat outcrop on the right pinches the river, forming two-foot waves in high water. The 100-yard-long rapids tails off into scattered boulders. No developed portage.
- 113.8 Confluence with Sturgeon River. The upper reaches of the Sturgeon is punctuated with a few Class II-III rapids. Its lower reaches, though less difficult, are blocked by downed trees.
- 112.7-112.5 County Road 114 bridge and Rapids. Class I.
- 105.3 Class II rapids. With three-foot waves and side curlers in high water. In low water, the 150-yard-long rapids is bouldery and ledgy. Portage 440 yards, river right.
- 103.5 (R) Samuelson Park/County Road 59 bridge. Class II rapids. Portage (R), 175 yards. A four-foot drop

- 101.7 (R) Confluence with Willow River.
- 100.2 Highway 65 bridge. Silverdale carry-in access (R) below the bridge. River level gauge.
- 96.5 (L) Confluence with Valley River.
- 95.2 (R) Confluence with Prairie Creek.
- 94.9(R) Here Dey Come watercraft campsite.
- 94.4-94 Class I - II Rapids. Two sets of rapids, lower set only appears in low water.
- 93.5-92.4 Nett Rapids, Class I.

END MAP 1 - Continue to MAP 2, River Mile 90 to Rainy River

# LITTLE FORK RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



## MAP 1 - STURGEON RIVER STATE FOREST TO RIVER MILE 90



**m** MINNESOTA  
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

## ABOUT THE WATER TRAIL

The Little Fork River flows north to meet the Rainy River. Along its low banks, you'll find flat land with a dense forest of pine, spruce, fir, aspen and birch. This river segment begins in an area dotted with farms, houses and small bridges. It then transitions to wild, nearly inaccessible landscape between river mile 97.7 and 57. You may notice that the river has a dark tint from clay and other suspended solids.

Stream flow usually peaks in late April and falls throughout the summer. Rapids may be impassable in the summer unless there have been heavy rains. The U.S. Geological Survey maintains a gauge on river mile 21.6. A reading of 3 feet or lower means most rapids are too shallow for easy passage.

Hazards for this segment include numerous Class I-II rapids and Class VI rapids at Hannine Falls. Use caution at Hannine Falls and be aware of the portage location. Some portages may be difficult due to overgrown brush.



Dense forest borders much of this river.

## CONTACTS

**DNR NORTHEAST HEADQUARTERS**  
1201 East Hwy. 2  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
218-328-8780

**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)

## 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.
- 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 or on public land where dispersed camping is allowed. State, county and national forests allow dispersed camping, be sure to check rules 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. Plan to pack out your trash.
- Follow the rules for firewood. State forests allow you to gather dead wood for a fire, but state parks do not.

## MEDICAL

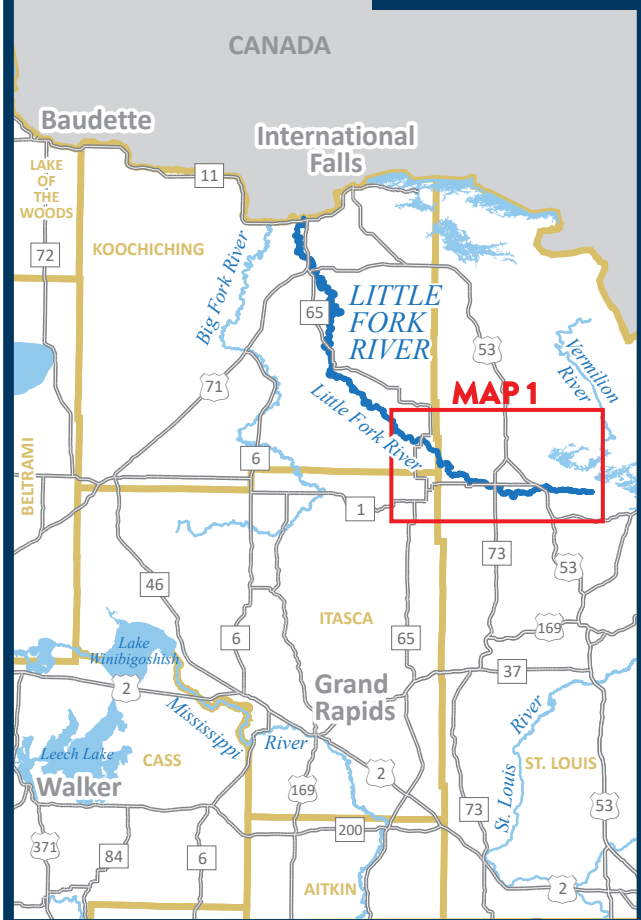


**BIGFORK VALLEY HOSPITAL**  
258 Pine Tree Dr.  
Bigfork, MN 56628  
218-743-3177

**RAINY LAKE MEDICAL CENTER**  
1400 US-71  
International Falls, MN 56649  
218-283-4481

**IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911**

## AREA OVERVIEW



## RECOMMENDED DAY TRIP

### Veterans Park to Hwy. 73 Bridge

- Put-in location: Veterans Park (carry-in)  
River mile **142**
- Take-out location: Hwy. 73 bridge (carry-in)  
River mile **126.8**
- Length: **15.2** river miles

This route is for paddlers with experience running Class II rapids. Follow the river's twists and turns past wooded shoreline and farm fields. Expect several rock riffles and multiple rapids spread throughout your trip. Be sure to scout the larger rapids before attempting to paddle them.

## EXPLORE ON SHORE

**George Washington, Kabetogama, Koochiching and Sturgeon River State Forests**  
The river travels through several of Minnesota's state forests. You'll find opportunities for camping, hiking, fishing, picnicking, birding and more. Each forest is unique and information for each can be found on the DNR's website.  
[mndnr.gov/stateforests](http://mndnr.gov/stateforests)

## 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.