

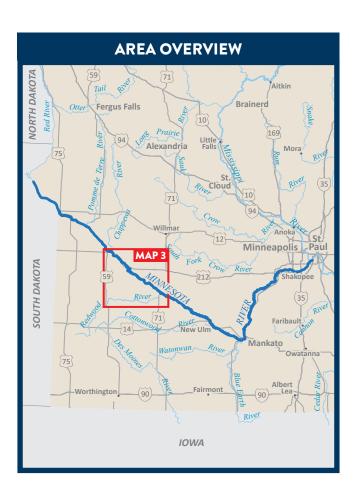
MINNESOTA RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



MAP 3 - GRANITE FALLS TO MORTON INCLUDES THE REDWOOD RIVER



MINNESOTA
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS



ABOUT THE WATER TRAIL

This stretch is one of the best stretches of the Minnesota River to experience with a number of challenging sections, including the Class II-IV rapids at Minnesota Falls and Class I rapids both upstream and downstream of the Vicksburg County Park area.

From Granite Falls to North Redwood the Minnesota flows through an area of Gneiss outcrops. Some outcrops are the oldest rocks discovered in North America, dating back more than three billion years. The banks along this stretch of river are heavily forested with maple, elm, cottonwood and willow.

At the area around Redwood Falls, paddlers will encounter thick forest and high ridges that tower above the Minnesota River. Bordering the river is the recently created Whispering Ridge Aquatic Management Area, part of the effort of the Green Corridor Project to provide a trail system from Skalbekken County Park to Fort Ridgely State Park. You will also find a rock ledge that was once dynamited to allow steamboats upstream.



Pockets of rapids can be found along this stretch.

(CONTACTS

DNR REGION HEADQUARTERS

21371 State Hwy 15 New Ulm, MN 56073-5228 507-233-1200

DNR INFORMATION CENTER

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

RENVILLE COUNTY PARKS

320-523-3747

renvillecountymn.gov

-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.

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-MEDICAL

AVERA GRANITE FALLS

345 10th Avenue Granite Falls, MN 56241 320-564-6200

CARRIS HEALTH

100 Fallwood Road Redwood Falls, MN 56283 507-637-4500

AVERA MARSHALL

300 S. Bruce Street Marshall, MN 56258 507-532-9661

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911

- RECOMMENDED DAY TRIP-

Kinney Access to Skalbekken County Park

- Put-in location: River mile 233.8
- Take-out location: River mile 224.6
- Length: **9.2** river miles

This is a great stretch of river for beginners! The paddle from Kinney Landing to Skalbekken County Park has no rapids to speak of.

The river twists and turns for the first few miles before straightening out and offering a mixture of forested and open areas. Skalbekken County Park offers overnight camping.

EXPLORE ON SHORE-

Skalbekken County Park River mile 224.5

Park amenities include shelters, restrooms, water, picnic areas and rustic camping area.

Vicksburg County Park River mile 210

This lovely park offers a concrete boat ramp that makes it easy to get in and out of the water. This is one of the more popular sections of the Minnesota River for both paddling and fishing.

- 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.