

MISSISSIPPI RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL
MAP 3 - Vermillion River to Jacobson

Carry-in Access

Trailer Access

Hospital/Clinic

Rest Area

Fishing Pier

Campground

Watercraft Campsite

Dam

Drinking Water

State Unit Boundaries

Public Lands

River Level Gauge

River Miles

State Trail (unpaved)

Scale: 1:120,000

012345

Scale in Miles

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

River miles 1,203 to 1,136 (67 miles)

(R) and (L) are right and left banks of the river when facing downstream.
Red text indicates caution areas.

- 1199.5-1198.2(R)

Schoolcraft State Park: Trailer access, rest area, campground, drinking water.
- 1196 (L)

Leaning Willow: Campsite.
- 1194.7 (R)

#10: Trailer access.
- 1191.8 (R)

Rice Lake Creek confluence.
- 1191 (L)

Little Drum Lake Creek confluence.
- 1187

Blackwater Lake: The Mississippi enters the Pokegama Dam reservoir.
- 1185.2 (L)

#1: Trailer access and fishing pier.
- 1185 (L)

City of Cohasset.
- 1183.5-1182.1 (R)

Bass Brook WMA.
- 1182.4 (L)

Pokegama Lake Rec. Area: Dam, trailer access, campground, picnic area, rest area. Portage left 44 yards. Portage service offered at Pokegama Dam.
- 1181.3 (R)

Izaak Walton Park: Trailer access.
- 1180.8 (R)

Minnesota Forest History Center.
- 1180.4 (R)

Grand Itasca Clinic.
- 1180.1 (R)

Sylvan Municipal Park: Trailer access and fishing pier.
- 1179.3 (R)

Blandin Paper Company Dam: portage right 1200 yards.
- 1179.1

US Highway 169 bridge.

- 1179 (L)

Grand Rapids Library: Campsite, fishing pier.
- 1178.9 (R)

Steamboat Access: Trailer access.
- 1178.3 (R)

Riverside Park.
- 1176.5 (L)

Prairie River confluence. Carry-in access at US Highway 2.
- 1173 (R)

Sucher's Campsite.
- 1170.9 (L)

Blackberry Bridge: Trailer access.
- 1163.9 (R)

Herb Beer's: Trailer access.
- 1162.3 (L)

Blackberry: Campsite.
- 1161.4 (L)

Co. Rd. 72: Trailer access.
- 1152.5 (R)

Split Hand Creek confluence.
- 1150.2 (L)

Swimming Bear: Campsite. Takeout upstream.
- 1145.5 (R)

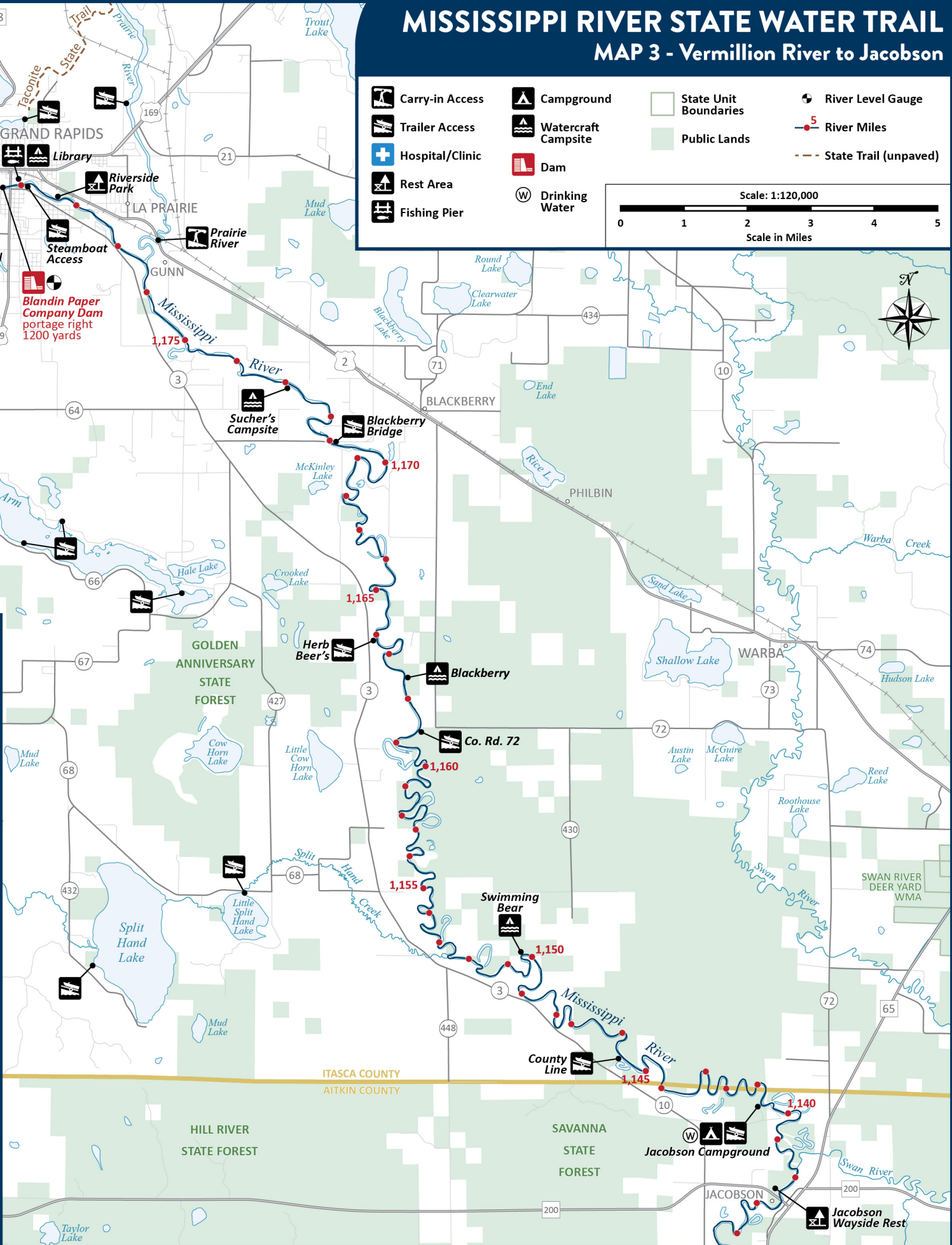
County Line: Trailer access.
- 1140.6 (R)

Jacobson Campground: Trailer access and drinking water.
- 1138.1 (R)

Swan River confluence.
- 1137.6 (R)

Jacobson Wayside Rest. Upstream of MN Highway 200.

Continued on Map 4: Mississippi River State Water Trail
Jacobson to Aitkin



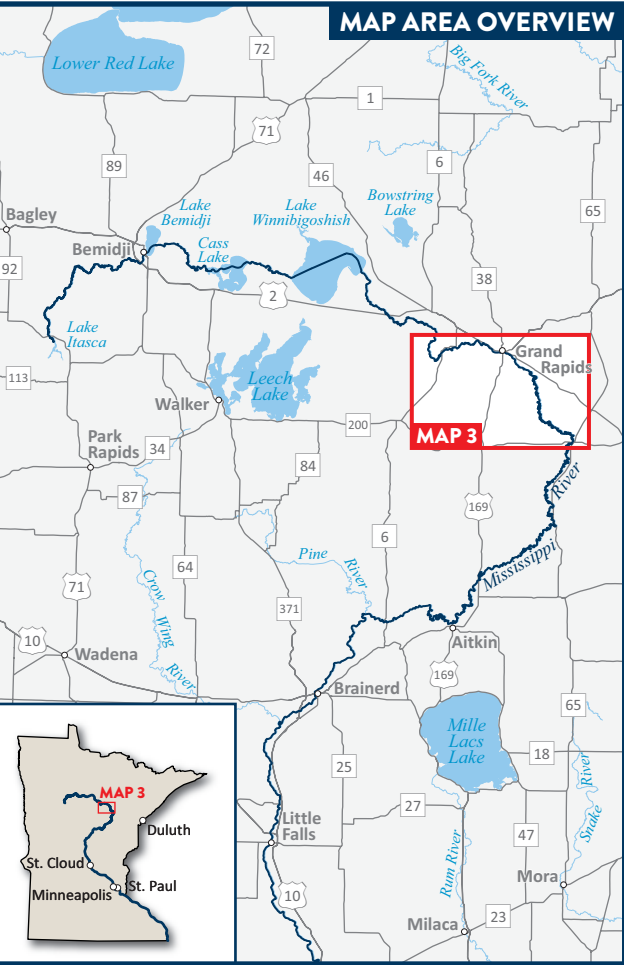
MISSISSIPPI RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



MAP 3 - VERMILLION RIVER TO JACOBSON



m MINNESOTA
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS



ABOUT THE WATER TRAIL

This section of the river is one of transition, from the wetlands and forests of the Chippewa National Forest, through the town of Grand Rapids, to the lowland hardwood forest of Aitkin County. Along the way you will pass hills that were once piles of glacial debris. The city of Grand Rapids lies at the center of these hills. South of Grand Rapids, the river enters an ancient glacial lake bed where it twists back and forth through the soft soil. Look for white and red pines, oaks, maples, birches and aspens that create a home for diverse wildlife.

This portion of the Mississippi River is flat and slow moving, offering easy paddling with no major rapids. As you approach the town of Grand Rapids, you will need to watch for two dams about three river miles apart. One dam controls the level of Lake Pokegama and the other provides hydropower to the Blandin Paper Company. Both must be portaged. Make sure you know what side of the dam to portage.



Changing seasons offer something new around every bend.

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. State and national forests do allow dispersed camping. Be sure to check regulations 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.
- Follow the rules for firewood. State forests allow you to gather dead wood for a fire, but state parks do not.

RECOMMENDED DAY TRIP

Steamboat Access to Blackberry Bridge Access

- Put-in location: River mile **1,178.9**
- Take-out location: River mile **1,170.9**
- Length: **8** river miles

Paddle past farmland and wooded river banks. Just downstream of the Prairie River, watch for swallows nesting in the sandy banks. This trip offers easy paddling with no significant rapids. You will find small sections of riffles when the water is low. Stop for a great picnic spot at Sucher's Campsite if it is unoccupied.

EXPLORE ON SHORE

Schoolcraft State Park

River mile **1,199.5**

The Vermillion River joins the Mississippi River here. Camping (fee required), public access and drinking water (no showers) are available at the park. Pull into the boat landing to hike a trail and explore. The park is named for Henry Rowe Schoolcraft who charted the headwaters of the Mississippi River with Anishinabe guide Ozawindib.

mndnr.gov/schoolcraft

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

CONTACTS

DNR INFORMATION CENTER

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

DNR REGION 2

HEADQUARTERS

Grand Rapids, MN 55744
(218) 328-8980

SCHOOLCRAFT STATE PARK

Deer River, MN 56636
(218) 328-8982

mndnr.gov/schoolcraft

MEDICAL



GRAND ITASCA CLINIC & HOSPITAL

1601 Golf Course Rd.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
(218) 326-3401

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

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