MISSISSIPPI RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL

MAP 6 - Brainerd to Little Falls

- Carry-in Access
- Trailer Access
- Hospital/Clinic
- Shelter
- Rest Area
- Fishing Pier
- Shore Fishing
- Picnic Shelter
- Campground
- Watercraft Campsite
- Primitive Group Camp
- Outfitters
- Dam
- Point of Interest
- Drinking Water
- State Unit Boundaries
- Public Lands
- River Level Gauge
- River Miles
- State Trail (paved)

Pillager Dam
portage right
125 yards

Sylvan Dam
portage right
200 yards

Potlatch Dam
portage right
201 yards

Fort Ripley Landing

Pipe Island

Fletcher Creek

Belle Prairie County Park

Little Falls Dam
portage left 325 yards

Pike Creek Campsite

Pike Creek Landing

Wilder

Sylvan Reservoir

Overlook Park

Riverview Park

Essentia Health Saint Joseph's Medical Center

Evergreen

Lum Park

Kiwanis Park

Sebie

4th Ave. Landing

LeBourget Park Landing

Little Falls Dam

Mill Park

Saint Gabriel's Hospital

Scale: 1:120,000

0 1 2 3 4 5

Scale in Miles

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

River miles 1,005 to 963 (42 miles)

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

Continued on Map 5: Mississippi River State Water Trail
Aitkin to Brainerd

1004.7 (L)	Lum Park: Trailer access, rest area, shelter and fishing pier.
1004.1	***Potlatch Dam:*** Portage right 201 yards.
1003.4	Evergreen: Trailer access.
1002	MN Hwy 200 bridge.
1001.2 (L)	Kiwanis Park: Carry-in access, rest area, shelter and fishing pier.
998.2 (L)	Buffalo Creek confluence.
997-979.5 (L)	Crow Wing State Park: Includes numerous water accesses, camping, shelters and drinking water.
997	MN Hwy 371 bridge. Paul Bunyan State Trail.
995.8 (R)	Baxter campsite.
990.6 (R)	Crow Wing River confluence.
990.4 (L)	Crow Wing State Park access, group camp (fee charged).
982.3 (L)	Fort Ripley Landing: Trailer access. Shore fishing downstream of the access.
979.5-979.2	Pipe Island. Numerous smaller islands downstream.
973.6	MN Hwy 115 bridge. South boundary of Camp Ripley.
972.7 (R)	Fletcher Creek: Trailer access and campsite.
972.3-971.7	Otter Point Wildlife Management Area.
970.2 (L)	Belle Prairie County Park: Trailer access, rest area, large picnic shelter and drinking water.
967.8 (R)	Little Elk River confluence.
967.2	U.S. Hwy 10 bridge.
965.6	LeBourget Park/4th Ave. Landings. Accesses are on both sides of the river.
965.2	***Little Falls Dam:*** Portage left 325 yards.
965.1 (L)	Little Falls Dam: Carry-in access and shore fishing.
964.8 (R)	Mill Park: Shorefishing and historical site.
964-963.1 (R)	Charles A. Lindbergh State Park: Includes camping, rest areas, trailer access and drinking water.
963.3 (R)	Pike Creek Landing (trailer access).

Continued on Map 7: Mississippi River State Water Trail
Little

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MISSISSIPPI RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL

MAP 6 - BRAINERD TO LITTLE FALLS

MINNESOTA STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

ABOUT THE WATER TRAIL

In this section, the Mississippi River flows out of forest and wetlands and into a narrow valley surrounded by sandplains. Below the confluence with the Nokasippi River, the Mississippi flows through a flat valley bordered by hills. You'll see vegetation along the shoreline and farmland beyond. Riffles are present at Pipe Island and downriver to the State Highway 115 bridge. These riffles are made by rock bars that create small standing waves. Navigating the riffles is difficult for even the smallest boat's motor.

On the west side of the river, the Camp Ripley Military Reservation extends 18 miles downstream of the Crow Wing River confluence. The land is owned by the State of Minnesota and managed by the Minnesota Department of Military Affairs. Islands along the river corridor owned by Camp Ripley are open to public recreational use. Access to the Camp Ripley Training Center is not allowed from any point along the Mississippi or Crow Wing rivers.

Hazards include dams. Be aware of their locations and know where to portage.

You'll pass many islands on this section of the river.

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 TRIP

Fort Ripley to Fletcher Creek

- Put-in location: River mile **982.3**
- Take-out location: River mile **972.7**
- Length: **9.6** river miles

Paddle past numerous islands and wooded shoreline with farmland beyond. This easy paddle also offers scenic backwaters as you paddle between islands and the shore. River levels can be fairly shallow, especially late in the summer. Anglers, be sure to pack a fishing pole!

EXPLORE ON SHORE

Charles A. Lindbergh State Park River mile **964**
This state park is upstream of the Mississippi's confluence with Pike Creek. You'll find boat access, hiking trails and camping (reservation required). A historic site is downstream of the confluence.
mndnr.gov/lindbergh

Crow Wing State Park River mile **997**
Explore the park for hiking trails and historic sites along the river. You'll find a boat ramp one mile upstream from the confluence of the Mississippi and Crow Wing rivers. Camping (by reservation) is also available at the park.
mndnr.gov/crowwing

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

CROW WING STATE PARK
3124 State Park Road
Brainerd, MN 56401
(218) 825-3075
mndnr.gov/crowwing

CHARLES A. LINDBERGH STATE PARK
1615 Lindbergh Drive South
Little Falls, MN 56345
(320) 616-2525
mndnr.gov/lindbergh

MEDICAL

ESSENTIA HEALTH ST. JOSEPH'S MEDICAL CENTER
523 N 3rd St.
Brainerd, MN 56401
(218) 829-2861

SAINT GABRIEL'S HOSPITAL
815 2nd St. SE
Little Falls, MN 56345
(320) 632-5441

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.