

MISSISSIPPI RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



MAP 6 - BRAINERD TO LITTLE FALLS



m 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.

