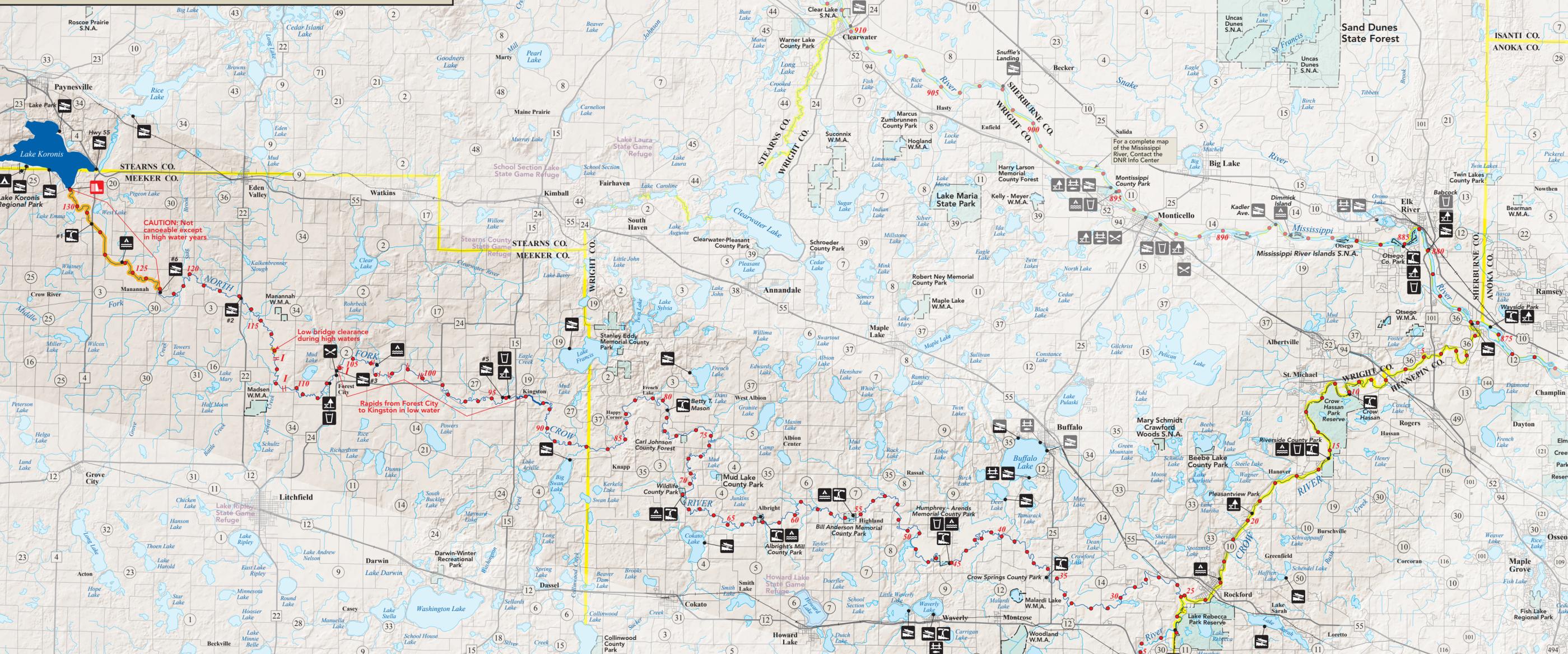


# A WATER TRAIL GUIDE TO THE NORTH FORK of the CROW RIVER

Carry-in Access     • River Mile  
 Trailer Access     🌊 Rapids  
 Rest Area     🏠 Fishing Pier  
 Watercraft Campsite     🚰 Drinking Water  
 Campground     🏢 Outfitter  
 Dam     ⚠️ Caution Areas  
 Designated Public Lands  
 S.N.A. = Scientific and Natural Area  
 W.M.A. = Wildlife Management Area

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 Miles  
 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 Kilometers

NORTH



## Route Description of the North Fork of the Crow River

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

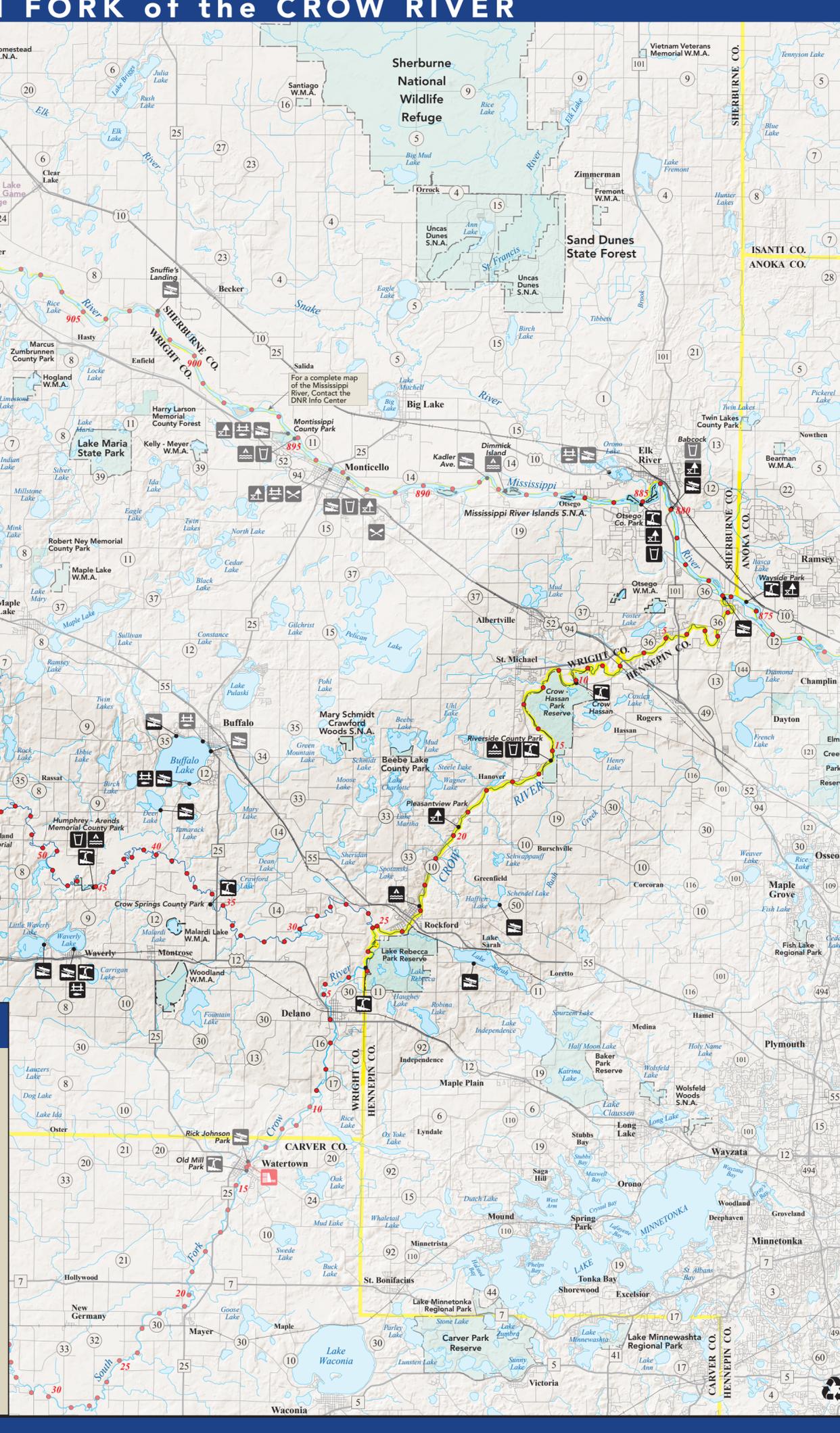
### RIVER MILE:

- 131.0 Dam, Lake Koronis outlet
- 131.123 Not canoeable except in high water years
- 128.1 Township road bridge. (380th Street)
- 128.5 State Highway 4 bridge. #1 carry-in access river right
- 127.0 Township road bridge (365th Street)
- 126.2 (L) Watercraft campsite
- 122.9 Meeker County Rd 30 bridge town of Manannah
- 122.8 (L) Manannah trailer access
- 122.0 (R) Middle Fork Crow River confluence
- 121.6 (R) Grove Creek confluence
- 120.5 (L) Stag Brook confluence
- 119.0 592nd Avenue bridge
- 117.0 State Highway 22 bridge
- 116.9 (L) #2 trailer access
- 113.0 328th Street bridge Caution: Low bridge clearing in high water
- 112.5 Rapids
- 110.6 Rapids
- 110.2 Meeker County Road 34 bridge
- 106.8 (R) Meeker County Parks - Forest City. Rest area and drinking water
- 106.3 Meeker County Road 2, town of Forest City and outfitter
- 106.3-93.0 Small rapids from Forest City to Kingston in low water.
- 106.2 (L) #3 trailer access.
- 103.6 (R) Watercraft campsite.

- 101.3 675th Avenue bridge
- 99.5 State Highway 24 bridge
- 99.1 690th Avenue bridge
- 94.2 (L) Meeker County Park / Finnish Memorial, #5 trailer access, rest area, and drinking water
- 93.6 State Highway 15 bridge
- 93.3 Meeker County Road 19 bridge, town of Kingston
- 89.4 (R) Washington Creek confluence
- 87.0 Collinwood Creek confluence
- 87.0 Wright County line
- 86.0 Betty T. Mason County River Park
- 79.3 (L) Betty T. Mason carry-in access
- 74.3 10th Street bridge
- 71.1 Highway 35 bridge
- 69.1 (R) Wildlife County Park. Carry-in access, and campsite. Permit required.
- 68.2 Oliver Avenue Bridge.
- 65.8 Highway 4 bridge.
- 62.9 Highway 5 bridge.
- 62.7 (R) Albrights Mill County Park. Carry-in access, drinking water, campsite - fee required.
- 60.8 Keats Avenue Bridge.
- 58.7 Highway 6 Bridge.
- 55.3 (L) Bill Anderson Memorial County Park. Carry-in access and watercraft campsite - fee required.
- 55.2 Highway 7 bridge.

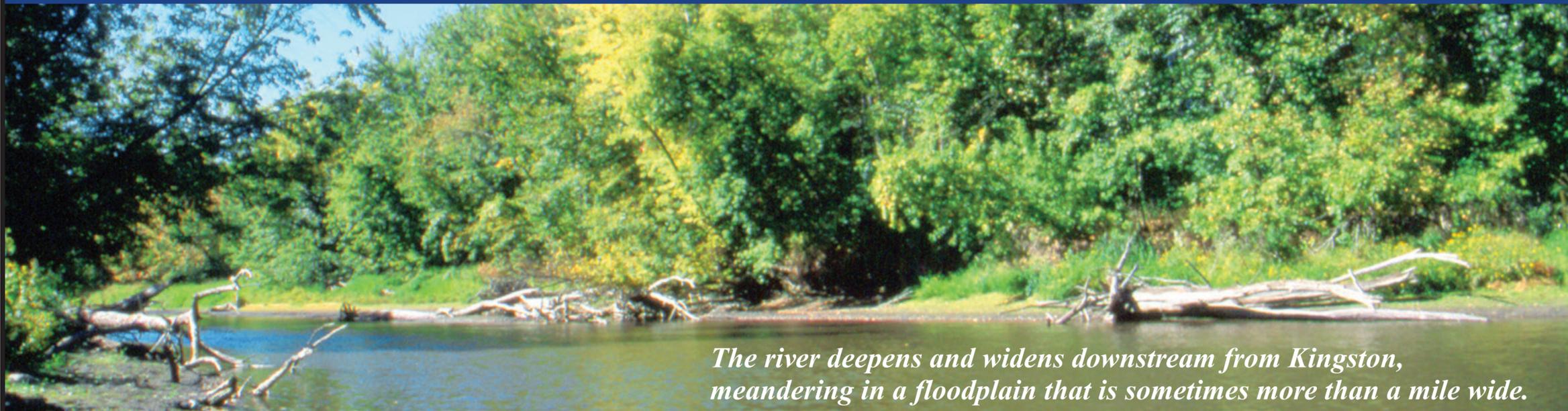
- 51.7 Highway 8 bridge
- 50.8 Bridge
- 45.1 (R) Humphrey-Arends Memorial County Park - carry-in access, drinking water campsite - fee required
- 39.7 County Road 12 bridge
- 35.6 (R) Crow Springs County Park. Small trailer access and campsite - fee required
- 35.3 County 25 bridge
- 31.5 Highway 14 bridge
- 27.5 Farmington Avenue bridge
- 25.2 Confluence of South Fork of the Crow River
- 22.8 (L) City of Rockford - campsite
- 19.7 (L) Pleasantview Park
- 17.0 County Road 19 Bridge
- 16.8 Mill Pond Trail/Hanover Bridge
- 15.4 (L) Riverside County Park - carry-in access, campsite, drinking water
- 10.0 (R) Crow Hassan Park Reserve carry-in access
- 9.5 County Road 116/Territorial Road bridge
- 6.8 Interstate 94 bridge
- 4.3 Highway 101 bridge
- 0.0 Confluence with Mississippi River

\* Wright County campsites require a camping permit - obtain by calling the county parks department at 763-682-7693



North Fork of the Crow River

MINNESOTA STATE PARKS AND TRAILS ESTABLISHED 1891



*The river deepens and widens downstream from Kingston, meandering in a floodplain that is sometimes more than a mile wide.*

**The North Fork of the Crow River**

Rising in southeastern Pope County, the North Fork of the Crow River flows southeast for about 175 miles until it joins the Mississippi River at Dayton. Although the North, Middle and South forks of the Crow are all part of a state-designated canoe and boating route, the North Fork is generally considered to be the main stem, the best maintained, and the best for canoeing.

The North Fork is small, shallow and fairly clean from the Lake Koronis Spillway to Kingston. Prairie and hardwood vegetation border the river. Falling an average of less than 3 feet per mile, the river tumbles over many small rapids (the spillway, however, should be avoided).

A two-mile stretch of the river below Lake Koronis has been channelized. Many snags in this reach make canoeing difficult, particularly in high water when the river flows quickly.

Although rapids are not difficult, hidden snags can tip canoes and overhanging branches may strike canoeists. Sharp bends may also make this part of the river difficult for beginners. Because of many drainage ditches in the area, the Crow rises quite quickly but falls slowly. The upper reaches of the North Fork may be impassable in low water.

The river deepens and widens downstream from Kingston, meandering in a floodplain that is sometimes more than a mile wide. Rapids are few and easy. This stretch is generally suitable for family canoeing, although many snags routinely cause problems.

The Crow River grows straighter and even broader and deeper as the North and South forks join near Rockford. Ideal for family canoeing, the lower river is used extensively for day trips.



Named by the Ojibway Indians for the bird they called the "marauder of newly planted corn," the Crow River passes several archaeological sites,

although none have been thoroughly studied. Two sites near Lake Koronis have a total of 43 mounds.

The Crow River was once flanked by the "big woods," a thick forest of maple, basswood, elm and other hardwoods supporting abundant wildlife. Considered a sacred hunting ground by the Indians, the forest later attracted white trappers. The Ojibway and Dakota, and later the Dakota and the settlers, fought many battles near the Crow River.

The whites first settled the Crow River in 1851, building their homes near the site of Dayton. Several lumber mills operated along the river as the forest was cleared for agriculture.

Steamboats were the only means of hauling passengers and freight during the early 1850s. Paddle-wheel boats brought provisions from St. Anthony Falls to Dayton where the goods were transferred to rowboats and carried up the Crow. Rowboats regularly ran supplies from Dayton to Rockford for about two years. In May 1851, when the river was high, the steamboat, "Governor Ramsey" paddled to Rockford, farther upstream than any other steamboats has traveled.

**Rating White Water**

Rivers and rapids are rated according to the International Scale of River Difficulty. Ratings are estimates based on observations at low or

moderate water levels or on secondhand reports. **CLASS I.** Easy rapids with small waves and few obstructions.

\* The following classes are not on the North Fork Crow river, but are here for your reference.

**CLASS II.** Rapids with waves up to three feet high. Some maneuvering is required.

**CLASS III.** Difficult rapids with high, irregular waves capable of swamping an open canoe. Narrow chutes may require extensive maneuvering. Usually considered the limit for an experienced paddler in an open canoe.

**CLASS IV.** Long, turbulent rapids with high, irregular waves, constricted passages and blind drops. Decked canoes and kayaks only; open canoes should be portaged.

**CLASS V.** Long, violent rapids with complex routes and steep drops or waterfalls. Hazard to life in the event of a mishap. Runnable only by experts in decked boats.

**CLASS VI.** Cannot be attempted without great risk to life.

**Planning A Safe River Trip**

A successful river trip is safe. To enjoy a safe journey, you should be prepared by acquainting yourself with your route. Choose a distance that is comfortable for you. Water levels can speed up or slow down your trip: get information about water levels from the regional DNR office, DNR website, or DNR Information Center.



Protect the water and shorelands and leave nothing behind you except footprints. Remember that much of the shorelands are privately owned.

- Travel with a companion or group. Plan your trip with a map before you depart and advise someone of your plans, including planned departure and arrival times.
- Most people paddle two to three river miles per hour.
- Bring a first-aid kit that includes waterproof matches.
- Be cautious of river obstructions, such as overhanging and dead trees in the river.
- You must pack out all trash.
- Leave only footprints; take only photographs!

**Boating Information**

- Wear a U. S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device that state law requires to be on board the craft.
- Bring an extra paddle.
- Not all portions of this water trail are suitable for motor use.
- Register your watercraft. All watercraft more than 9 feet in length, including nonmotorized canoes and kayaks, must be registered in Minnesota or your state of residence.

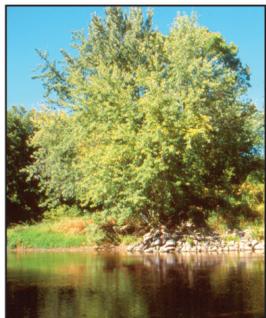
**Rest Areas and Camping Sites**

- Public rest areas are available along the route to rest, picnic and explore.
- Camp only in designated campsites, which are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

- Bring drinking water. It is only available at a limited number of rest areas. Drinking river water is not recommended
- Respect 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.

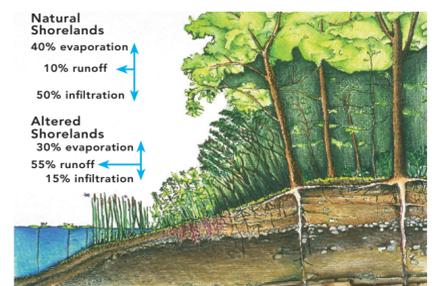
**Sustainable Ecosystems**

Outdoor recreation is dependent on a healthy and attractive natural environment. Sustainable outdoor recreation enables people to enjoy the outdoors without negative impacts on the environment.



Communities working together can improve water resources by promoting environmentally sensitive land-use practices along rivers and throughout watersheds.

Natural shoreline buffers improve water quality by filtering out pollutants and sediments. Healthy and diverse native shoreline plant communities are attractive and provide important habitat for birds and wildlife.



The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

This information is available in alternative format upon request.

Online water trail information and maps can be found at [mndnr.gov/watertrails](http://mndnr.gov/watertrails)

**DNR Information Center**  
The DNR's Information Center is available to provide free publications of facilities and services as well as answers questions pertaining to DNR recreational opportunities in Minnesota.



500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040  
651-296-6157 Metro Area  
1-888-646-6367 MN Toll-Free

[mndnr.gov](http://mndnr.gov)

All photos: MN DNR