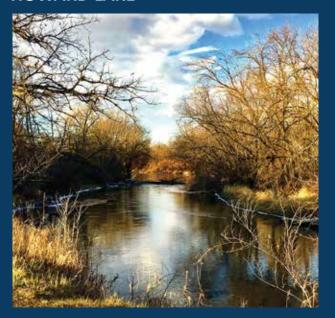
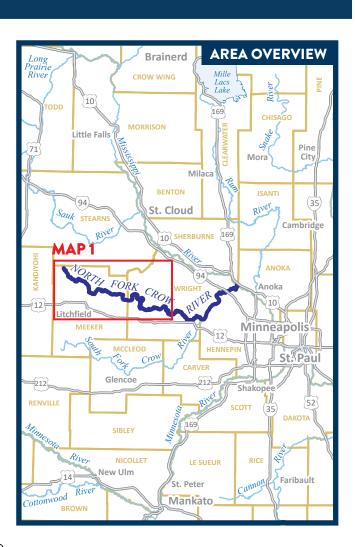


# NORTH FORK CROW **STATE WATER TRAIL**

## **MAP 1 - KORONIS LAKE TO HOWARD LAKE**



MINNESOTA STATE PARKS AND TRAILS



# **ABOUT THE WATER TRAIL**

The North Fork Crow River flows southeast from Lake Koronis about 125 miles before it joins the Mississippi River at Dayton. The upper reaches of this river are more challenging to paddle due to sandy, erodible banks and silver maples that fall and block the channel. Some sections are impassable in low water. You may see more wildlife in this upper section, but you will have to work harder to get around numerous obstacles and sharp bends in the river.

This upper section of the North Fork is narrow, shallow and fairly clean from the Lake Koronis Spillway to Kingston. A two-mile stretch below Lake Koronis is only canoeable during high water. Numerous drainage ditches in the area result in the river rising quickly and falling slowly. The river deepens and widens downstream from Kingston, meandering in a floodplain that is sometimes more than a mile wide.

Hazards include a low bridge and frequent river obstacles. Rapids are few and easy, but be alert for underwater branches and overhanging trees that can tip canoes and kayaks. While unlawful, river neighbors sometimes string fences across the river. Notify the DNR if you encounter one.



Be alert for downed trees around river bends.

# **(** CONTACTS

### **DNR CENTRAL REGION HEADQUARTERS**

1200 Warner Rd. St. Paul. MN 55106 651-259-5841

### **DNR INFORMATION CENTER**

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

### -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.

# **MEDICAL**

### **ALLINA MEDICAL** CLINIC

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303 Catlin St Buffalo, MN 55313 763-682-1212

### **MEEKER MEMORIAL** HOSPITAL

612 S Sibley Ave. Litchfield, MN 55355 320-693-4500

**IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911** 

# - RECOMMENDED DAY TRIPS $-\!\!-$

#### Betty T. Mason to Wildlife County Park

- Put-in location: Betty T. Mason Carry-in River mile **79.3**
- Take-out location: Wildlife County Park Carry-in River mile **69.1**
- Length: 10.2 river miles

Paddle the river's narrow twists and turns past wooded shoreline and farm fields. Keep an eye out for underwater snags and overhanging trees along the way. Make it a longer trip by camping at Wildlife County Park (permit required) and taking out at Albright's Mill County Park.

## EXPLORE ON SHORE-

#### **Meeker and Wright County Parks**

Take a break from paddling at several county parks along this section of the river. Some offer watercraft campsites, allowing you to plan a multi-day trip. Check with individual parks for information about camping permits or fees.

co.meeker.mn.us

co.wright.mn.us

### - 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.