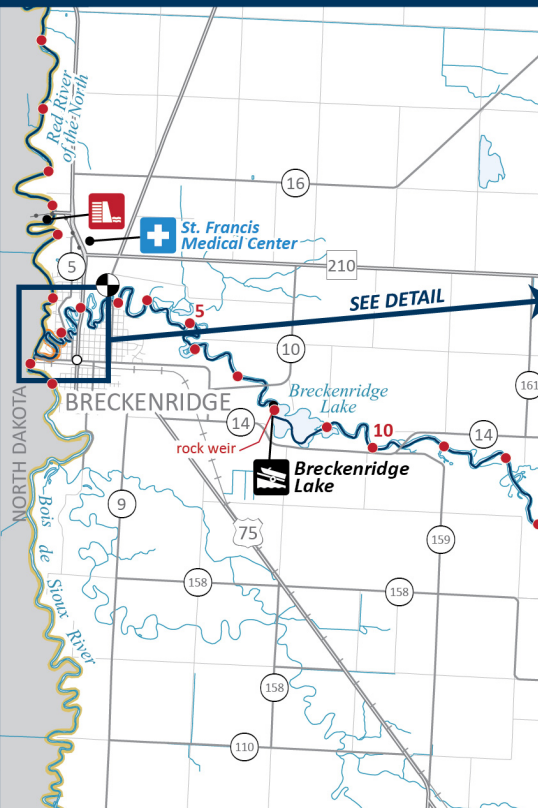
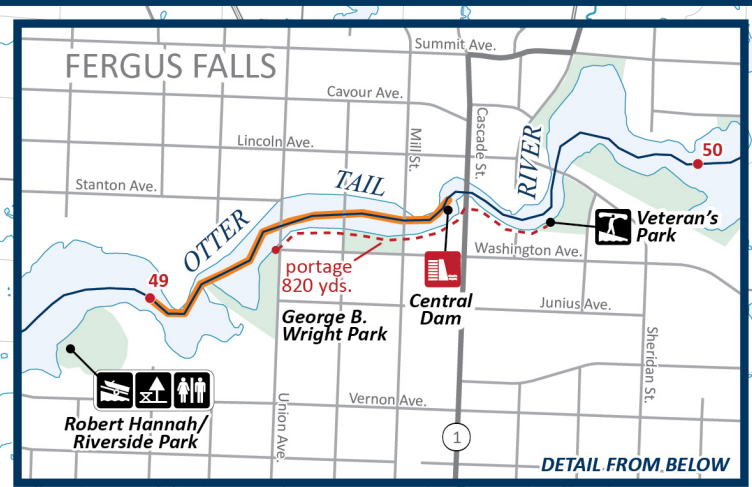
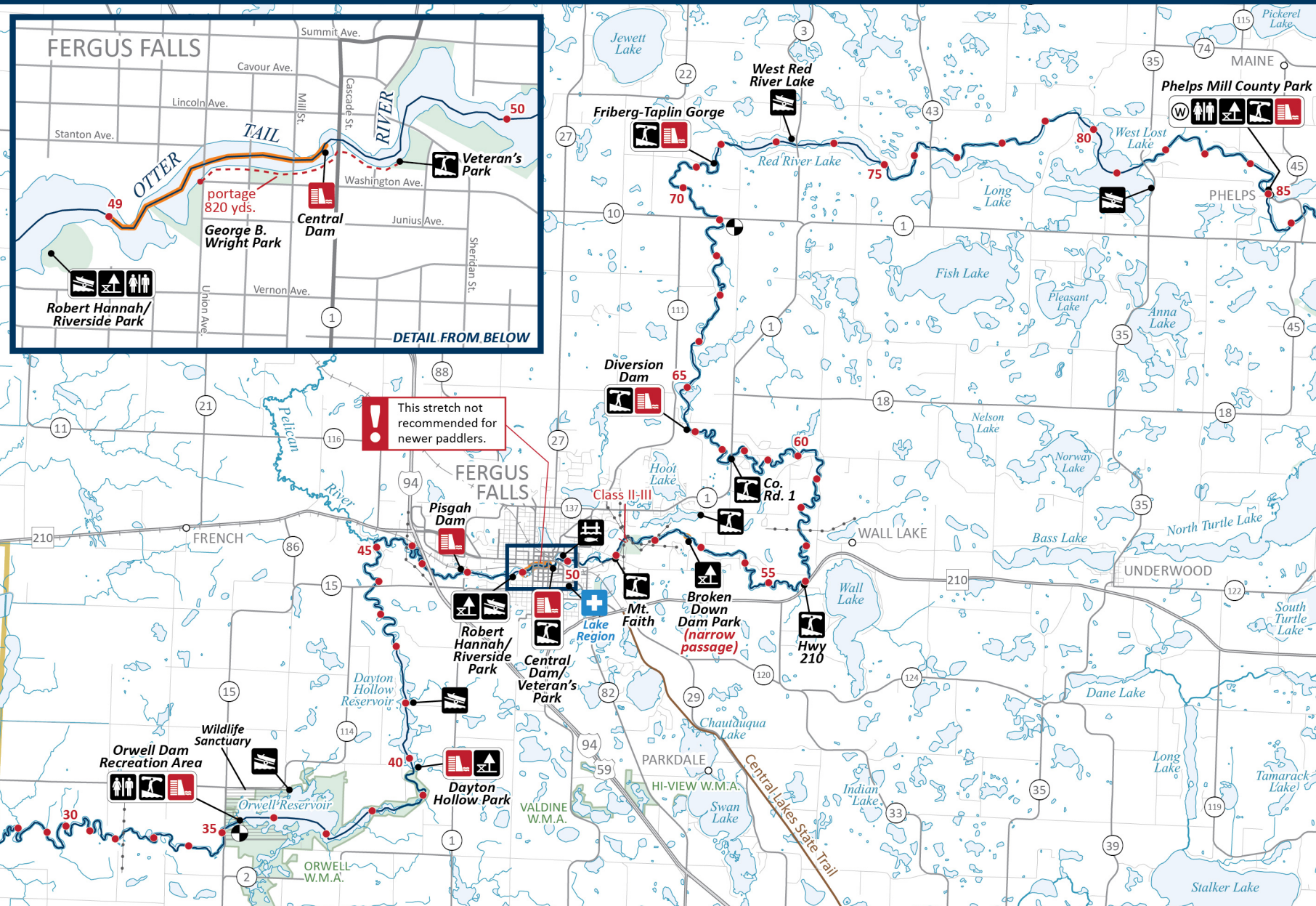
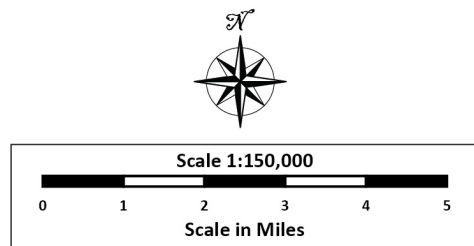


OTTER TAIL RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL

MAP 2 - Phelps Mill to Breckenridge

- Carry-in Access
- Trailer Access
- Hospital/Clinic
- Rest Area
- Fishing Pier
- Campground
- Dam
- Restroom
- Drinking Water
- River Miles
- Hazards
- Rapids
- State Unit Boundaries
- Public Lands
- River Level Gauge



ROUTE DESCRIPTION - RM 86 to 0

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

- RIVER MILE**
- 86.4 County Road 45 bridge.
 - 85.0 (R) Phelps Mill and Dam. Carry-in access. 285 yd. portage to inlet near parking lot. Restrooms in county park.
 - 81.5 County Road 35 bridge. West Lost Lake trailer access. (L)
 - 79.6 Water Street Road bridge.
 - 76.4 County Road 43 bridge.
 - 73.3 County Road 3/Schmidt's bridge. May encounter people jumping off the bridge into the river. Make yourself known if people are on the bridge.
 - 73.2 (R) West Red River Lake trailer access.
 - 71.5 (R) Friberg/Taplin Gorge Dam. Portage right 200 yds. Do not enter concrete-lined channel which leads to hydro power plant. Private property, but access allowed between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. Parking allowed. Long carry to river from the parking lot.
 - 69.0 County Road 10 culverts. Can be paddled during most flow conditions. River level gauge.
 - 64.3 245th Street bridge.
 - 64.2 (R) Diversion Dam. Portage right 75 yds. on Diversion Drive to dirt path downstream of dam.
 - 62.5 (R) County Road 1 carry-in access and bridge.
 - 59.6 Sophus Anderson Road bridge.
 - 57.5 Powerline crossing.

- 56.1 Ridgewood Circle bridge.
- 56.0 (L) Highway 210 carry-in access.
- The next reach contains a series of rapids and remnants of old dams, requiring a higher degree of paddling skills.
- 52.8-53.5 Remnants of Page and Broken Down Dams Rapids. Class II, Portage left 225 yds. around remnants. Long walk to dam from parking site. Broken Down Dam Park rest area (52.8).
- 52.0 Hoot Lake Power Plant bridge #1.
- 51.6 Hoot Lake Power Plant bridge #2.
- 51.3 Hoot Lake Power Plant and railroad bridge. Depending upon flow conditions, experienced paddlers can make it through. Class II-III rapids. Others takeout 50 yds. before railroad bridge and portage on the left 240 yds. then up stairs. Follow signage.
- 52.0 (L) Mt. Faith Avenue/Main Street bridge. Carry-in access.
- 50.2 Concord Street bridge.
- 49.9 (R) Fishing pier.
- 49.8 Lincoln Avenue and railroad bridges. Low clearance, portage may be necessary.
- 49.7 Cascade Street bridge.
- 49.6 Central Dam/Veteran's Memorial Park. ADA carry-in access. 820 yd. portage on paved "River Walk" to George B. Wright Park (L).
- The stretch from River Mile. 49.6 to 49 is not recommended because of dangerous obstructions. Experienced paddlers only.
- 49.4 Mill Street bridge.
- 49.3 Court Street bridge.

- 49.2 County Road 1/Union Street bridge and George B. Wright Park. End of portage.
- 49.1 Railroad bridge.
- 48.8 (L) Robert Hannah/Riverside Park. Trailer access and rest area.
- 47.9 Pisgah Dam. 75 yd. portage left around the dam.
- 47.1 I-94 bridge. Caution: There is often debris obstructing culverts under I-94, culvert on far left is best option.
- 45.9 Powerline crossing.
- 45.1 L Confluence with Pelican River.
- 43.9 County Road 15 bridge.
- 41.0 (L) Dayton Hollow Reservoir trailer access.
- 39.9 (L) Dayton Hollow Dam and Park. 135 yd. portage on left.
- 39.5-35 39-35 Orwell Wildlife Management Area.
- 39-35 Orwell Dam and Recreation Area. Managed by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, RM 39-36 watercraft with 10 h.p. or less are allowed. Wildlife Sanctuary (RM 35-36.1 non-motorized portion). No trespassing on shore or hunting in this portion of river. Buoy mark upstream start of sanctuary. At RM 36.2 (R) concrete trailer access on north shore of the lake. Portage 625 yds. Below the dam (R) Carry-in, shore fishing, picnic grounds and toilets below the dam. River level gauge. (mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Orwell-Lake/) County Road 15 culverts. Lots of rocks in this next reach, especially during low flow.
- 35.0 Powerline crossing.
- 32.1 County Road 19 bridge. A plaque on right side commemorates a local historical ox cart crossing.
- 24.0 Man made rock riffles, class I. Can be paddled in most flow conditions.
- 20.7

- 19.3 County Road 169 bridge. In the next reach, look for remnants of old dams.
- 16.5 County Road 17 bridge.
- 10.3 County Road 14 bridge. May encounter swimmers. Make yourself known if people are on the bridge..
- 8.0 (L) Breckenridge Lake trailer access. A rock weir at the west end of the lake may make passage difficult. If water is low, exit on left side adjacent to culvert -50 yard portage.
- 7.5 County Road 10 bridge.
- 2.8 County Road 16 bridge. River level gauge.
- 2.8 (R) Floodwater diversion channel. Stay left.
- 2.1 (L) Lions Park trailer access. Picnic shelters and parking.
- 2.0 Highway 75 bridge.
- 1.3 (L) Water Plant Dam. Depending upon flow conditions, experienced paddlers can make it through. Others portage left. No verified portage.
- 1.2 County Road 5/Main Street bridge.
- 0.3 (R) CAUTION: During high flows, water overflows banks into Red River of the North. Concrete riprap may damage watercraft. Stay left.
- 0.3 Nebraska Avenue bridge.
- 0.1 Walking bridge access to Welles Memorial Park. Camping, picnic area, toilets, drinking water.
- 0.0 Confluence with Bois de Sioux River and start of Red River of the North.

END MAP 2 - ENTER RED RIVER OF THE NORTH

OTTER TAIL RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



MAP 2 - PHELPS MILL TO BRECKENRIDGE



m MINNESOTA
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

ABOUT THE WATER TRAIL

The Otter Tail River is a peaceful, slow-moving river with few rapids, but it flows over and under dangerous obstacles. The river begins at Elbow Lake in Becker County and encounters many lakes as it flows westward. At Breckenridge, it joins with the Red River of the North to form the Minnesota-North Dakota boundary. The Otter Tail River starts out flowing south, but then flows north when it joins the Bois de Sioux River in Breckenridge. While higher flow rates will have adventurous paddlers dodging rocks, low flow rates may require walking alongside your canoe or kayak. Check gauge levels before your trip.

Hazards include numerous dams, dangerous obstructions and culverts with fast-moving water and little or no headroom. Do not enter a culvert or go under a bridge unless you are aware of what you may encounter. Even experienced paddlers should get out and survey obstructions. Bridges and culverts may have projecting bolts or nails. Bridges may have dams under them. If in doubt, stop, get out and look! Paddling on the larger lakes during windy conditions is not recommended.



Know what is around the river bend by using your map.

CONTACTS

DNR NORTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE

2115 Birchmont Beach Rd. NE
Bemidji, MN 56601
218-308-2372

DNR INFORMATION CENTER

500 Lafayette 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



ST. FRANCIS MEDICAL CENTER

2400 St. Francis Dr.
Breckenridge, MN 56520
218-643-3000

LAKE REGION HEALTHCARE

712 S Cascade St.
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
218-736-8000

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911

RECOMMENDED DAY TRIP

Phelps Mill Park to West Red River Lake

- Put-in: Phelps Mill County Park carry-in access
River mile **85**
- Take-out: West Red River Lake trailer access
River mile **73.2**
- Length: **11.8** river miles

At the put-in, portage across the park's lawn and launch west of the parking area. This gentle section of the river flows past forests and fields and through several lakes. Be sure you know which direction to go when entering each lake, as it may be difficult to see where the river outlet is. This full-day trip is not recommended on windy days.

EXPLORE ON SHORE

City, County and Federal Lands

The cities of Phelps, Fergus Falls and Breckenridge are dotted with small parks along the water. The river also passes the Orwell Lake Recreation Area, managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Boat launches and other facilities can be found here. Nearby, you'll also find the State of Minnesota's Orwell Wildlife Management Area.

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.

