



RED RIVER ROUTE DESCRIPTION
 Except during floods, the Red River of the North is slow moving and picturesque with its tree-covered banks and frequent wildlife sightings. It is serene and quiet even as the Red passes through cities. Reminders of the past are found in the muddy banks where bison bones occasionally are exposed. These muddy banks may make access difficult. There are no rapids except at some of the dams. Low flow expose rocks and snags creating hazards for motors and occasionally block the channel.

Note: River miles are counted beginning at the mouth of the Red River at Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba, and ending at Breckenridge, Minn., according to a system developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Right (R) and left (L) refer to right and left bank, respectively, when facing downstream.

- 409.9 County Road 39 bridge.**
 - 392.8 County Roads 1/25 bridges.**
 - 392.7 Norman County Highway 25 Boat Ramp (R).** Trailer access. Located north of bridge. Parking. Shore fishing. No other facilities
 - 392.5 Hendrum Watercraft Campsite (R).** 0.3 miles past the access. Access by road and from the Red River. No facilities. Hendrum is 1.5 miles to the east. For more information call Hendrum City Hall at 218-861-6210.
 - vicinity of 392.5 Hendrum Community Park.** 1.7 miles east of the Red River on Norman County Highway 25. Electric and tent sites, shelter, picnic tables, playground, water, and restrooms. Depending upon water levels, can be accessed by canoeing up the Wild Rice River from the Red River. For more information call Hendrum City Hall at 218-861-6210.
 - 387.0 Wild Rice River Outlet.**
 - 381.9 State Highway 200 bridge.**
 - 381.5 Halstad Boat Ramp (R).** Located north of bridge off of MN Highway 200 (240th Ave.) Parking. Shore fishing. No other facilities. Halstad is 0.8 miles to the east. Call Valley Hardware at 218-456-2148 for current conditions.
 - 364.8 County Highway 3 bridge.**
 - 363.8 Goose River Outlet.**
 - 362.9 Marsh River Outlet**
 - 353.2 County Roads 17/1 bridges.**
 - 341.4 Sand Hill River Outlet.**
 - 340.6 State Highway 220 bridge.**
 - 338.3 Belmont Park/Frog Point/Trail County Park Campground and Ramp (L).** located east of Buxton, ND off of Trail County Highway 2 and west of Climax, MN. Concrete boat ramp, parking, camping, toilets, fire rings electricity, water, and dock. Shore fishing. Historic site
 - 330.7 Buffalo Coulee Outlet**
 - 322.4 Thompson Road bridge.**
 - 310.2 Cole Creek outlet.**
 - 304.1 Lincoln Drive Park and Landing (L).** Trailer access, restrooms, playground, picnic tables, shelter, water, access to hiking and biking trails. Shore fishing. For more information and current conditions call 701-746-4636. See note below.
 - vicinity of 302.2 Red Lake River Dam Rapids (R).** Located 0.2 miles upstream from the confluence of the Red Lake River and the Red River. Shore fishing
 - vicinity of 302.2 Red Lake River Water Access (R).** 0.5 miles upstream from the confluence with the Red River. Dam/rapids located between the confluence and the ramp. Parking. Shore fishing. No other facilities. For more information and current conditions call 218-773-8000. See note below.
 - 301.9 Railroad trestle.**
 - 301.9 LaFave Park Trailer access (R).** Parking and dock. South of Demers Avenue Bridge. Shore fishing. Restroom and picnic tables at Sacred Heart Trailhead. For more information and current conditions call 218-773-8000. See note below.
 - 301.7 Demers Avenue bridge.**
 - 301.2 Red River State Recreation Area, Sherlock Park Campground (R).** 72 campsites, 48 with full hookups. Restrooms with showers, playground, picnic tables, access to hiking and biking trails. No direct river access but possible to beach a vessel on park property and walk a short distance to park office. Site of former neighborhood destroyed by flood of 1997. For more information call 218-773-4950 or visit http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/red_river/index.html. Make reservations at website: mndnr.gov or 1-866-85PARKS.
 - 301.1 Gateway Drive/US Highway 2 bridge.**
 - 300.0 Riverside Dam/Rapids.** This dam was retrofitted with a rock rapids to eliminate a dangerous undertow. The dam/rapids is marked with large signs. No identified portage but the ND side (left) has best elevation and access.
 - 299.8 Whopper John Little Landing (L).** Water access, parking. Shore fishing. For current conditions call 701-746-4636. See note below.
- NOTE:** The Cities of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks have determined that on-the-river use is unsafe at flood stage and above, which is 28 feet. Ramps will be closed when the river reaches this level. See <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nd/nwis/uv?05082500> for current river elevation or call 218-773-8000 or 701-746-4636 or 218-773-4950 for more information.
- Grand Forks and East Grand Forks have many more facilities adjacent to the Red River in their Greenway. See web sites for more information and maps.
- The MN DNR is developing additional access points in this area. For the latest information contact MN DNR at 218-681-0889.
- For more information about the Red River visit the River Keepers website at: riverkeepers.org

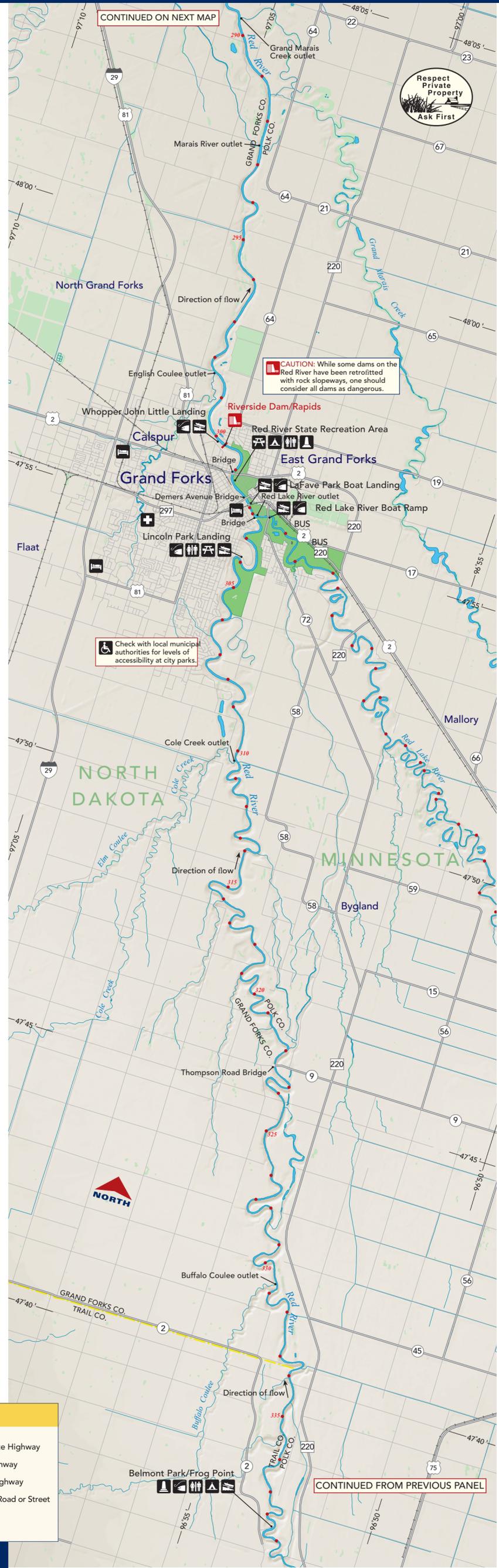


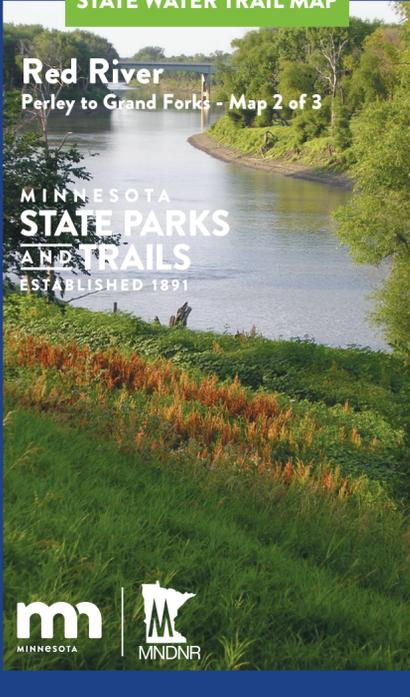
Look for this symbol along the Water Trail

Map Key

River Mile	Dam	Hospital	Interstate Highway
Trailer Access	Rest Area	Shore Fishing	U.S. Highway
Campground	Historic Site	Lodging	State Highway
Watercraft Campsite	Restrooms	Note	County Road or Street

0 1 2 Miles 0 1 2 Kilometers





The Red River of the North IS DESIGNATED BY THE STATE OF MINNESOTA AS AN OFFICIAL CANOE AND BOATING ROUTE. THE RED RIVER MEANDERS NORTHWARD 550 MILES FROM ITS source in Breckenridge, Minnesota to Lake Winnipeg in Canada. The designated portion of the river, 394 miles, forms most of the border between Minnesota and North Dakota. This map shows the middle 124-mile section of the route from Perley to Grand Forks.

RED RIVER HISTORY



Red River bridge between Climax, MN and Frog Point, ca. 1910

One of the world's flattest landscapes, the Red River Valley is located on the eastern edge of the Great Plains. By definition, the Red River Valley isn't a valley in the geologic sense. Instead, it is a remnant of glacial Lake Agassiz, the former floor of a massive, prehistoric lake.

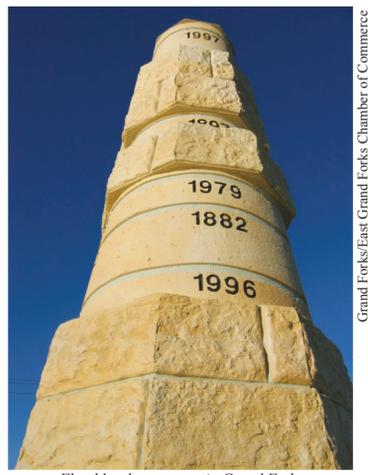
Glacial Waters Create a Lake
Geologists believe Lake Agassiz was formed when massive glaciers began to melt nearly 12,000 years ago. When Lake Agassiz, the most extensive body of water the North American continent ever saw, began slowly draining northward through Canada, and southeasterly toward Minnesota, the Red River of the North was created. The Red River of the North, or the "Rivieré Rouge du Nord" as early French Canadian explorers christened it, was probably so-named because of its clay soils, muddy banks, and reddish-brown silt-filled waters.

Early Residents
Nomadic cultures arrived soon after the retreat of the enormous glaciers, following the great herds of bison and caribou. Then, 2,000 years ago, Indians from the forests of Minnesota and Wisconsin began moving into the grassy areas of the Red River Basin. The early 1800s brought the first permanent European settlements to the banks of the Red River in present-day Manitoba. Throughout the century, European immigrants would continue to trickle down from Canada and from the east, settling

along the banks of the Red River in the United States.

Early Commerce
The Hudson's Bay Company controlled commerce in this area for almost two centuries. Trading in bison and beaver hides, they used large canoes and boats to ship goods to Europe via Hudson Bay. The development of the Red River oxcart trail connected that trade route with the Mississippi River and other parts of the United States. As trade continued to flourish, so did the demand for more efficient means of transportation, and by 1859, Anson Northup, the man and his same-named steamboat, made their debut on the Red. The oxcart trail system was connected with the Hudson's Bay Company's steamboat landing near Georgetown and the two systems of land and water transportation were connected. Eventually, steamboats couldn't compete with the much faster and cheaper railroad which reached Moorhead in 1871. By the turn of the century, steamboats were all but extinct on the Red River of the North.

Current Uses of the Red
Since the end of steamboat travel, the Red River of the North is a much quieter place. At its height, the river hosted public swimming areas, a 140-foot ski jump tower, and even a floating stage for outdoor concerts. Today, its tree-lined banks offer serenity often forgotten just steps away in the lively cities that lie alongside it. Currently the Red River is undergoing resurgence with new adjacent park facilities, a tour boat service, dam safety initiatives, and increasing recreational use.

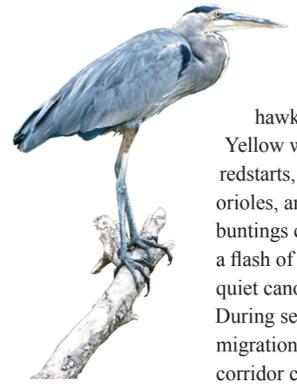


Flood level monument in Grand Forks

FLORA AND FAUNA
The tree-lined banks and flowing water are almost an oddity in the vast flat prairie that surrounds the river corridor. Wildlife, plants, and fish rarely found just 10 miles away may be abundant in the Red River environment.

Fishing on the Red River
Channel catfish and a diverse population of other fish provide abundant angling opportunities in the Red. Species such as northern pike, goldeye, carp, and a largely unfished population of trophy walleye lie within its waters. There is an international effort underway to reintroduce the lake sturgeon, which was decimated by overfishing and dams. It's the only fish species that doesn't have an open season on the Red.

Wildlife and Plants Along the Red
Birdwatchers will enjoy sighting bald eagles, wood ducks, great blue herons, Canada geese, woodpeckers, hawks, and owls. Yellow warblers, redstarts, Baltimore orioles, and indigo buntings can provide a flash of color to the quiet canoeist. During seasonal migrations the corridor can be a noisy place with bird sounds. Lower water levels expose holes in the banks used by "bank" beavers instead of their traditional huts. Other wildlife, such as raccoon, mink, squirrel, skunk, woodchuck, and occasionally bear and moose visit the banks of the Red. Some canoeists have reported seeing more than 100 white-tailed deer in a single day.



The distribution of plant species within the riparian forest is determined by their location within the flood plain. Look for willow, cottonwood, and box elder close to the water and oak, ash, and elm further up the bank. Over the years plant species have changed due to impacts from European settlement and Dutch elm disease.

Large stumps mark the site where huge cottonwoods towered over the Red. They were removed to decrease flooding caused by snag-created dams. Minnesota's second largest peach leaf willow tree is on the banks of the Red adjacent to the Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead. Flowering vines and shrubs, including the prairie rose, provide seasonal color. Beyond the riparian forest are vast fields of cropland including corn, wheat, soybeans, and sugar beets.

PLANNING A SAFE RIVER TRIP

The average slope of the Red River is just one-half foot per mile, which makes the Red a slow-moving, easily navigable river. However, high winds have been known to create whitecaps. It features channel widths of less than 100 feet to more than 500 feet at its northern reaches. At bank-full conditions, average depths vary from 10 to 30 feet. Its flow can be widely fluctuating. Devastating floods may be associated with summer rain storms and spring thaw.

Planning tips

- Travel with a companion or group.
- Don't overestimate your capabilities. Most people paddle two to three river miles per hour.
- Wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device (PFD), which state law requires to be on board.
- Check weather forecasts and flow rates.
- Use a map, know your route, and tell someone of your plans.
- Bring a first aid kit and know how to use it.
- Dams may not be marked. Refer to this map for locations.
- Be prepared for limited access to drinking water, sanitary and trash disposal facilities.



Hand-made kayaks ready to float on the Red River

Access, Rest Areas and Camping Sites

- Formal access sites are limited. Road right-of-ways adjacent to bridge crossing may be used for canoe access but overnight parking is rarely allowed.
- Spring and summer flooding or low water conditions may cause access sites to be unusable. Call ahead or check web sites for current conditions.
- Formal camping sites are limited adjacent to the river. They may be too far apart for certain trip lengths. Most riverfront property is privately owned. Ask for permission before camping. Consult websites and state maps for other park locations.

Boating Information

- Be aware that this river touches two states. Each may have different regulations, especially regarding personal watercraft (jet skis).
- Avoid the spread of exotic aquatic species: mndnr.gov/exotics
- Minnesota requires all watercraft, including canoes and kayaks, to be registered in Minnesota or state of residence.
- Low water conditions may not be suitable for boating. Snags are common. Leave motors unlocked.
- Minimize wakes in developed areas and when passing canoes and boats.

RED RIVER AREA RESOURCES

- MN DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
888-646-6367 or mndnr.gov
- NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH
701-328-6300 or gf.nd.gov
- CITY OF GRAND FORKS GREENWAY
701-787-3756 or grandforksgov.com/greenway
- EAST GRAND FORKS PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
218-773-8000 or ci.east-grand-forks.mn.us/parks
- GRAND FORKS PARK DISTRICT
701-746-2750 or gfparks.org
- GREATER GRAND FORKS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
1-800-866-4566 or visitgrandforks.com
- RED LAKE RIVER
crk.umn.edu/nature-northwest/redlakewebsite/

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.

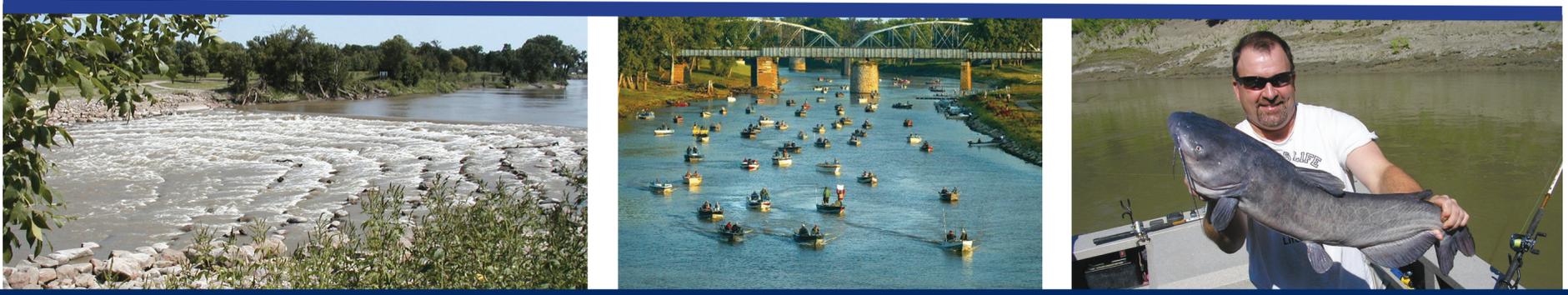
Natural shoreline buffers improve water quality by filtering out pollutants and sediments. Healthy and diverse native shoreline plant communities are attractive and provide important habitat for birds and wildlife.



DNR Information Center
The DNR Information Center provides free publications of facilities and services, and 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/watertrails

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Left to Right: Riverside Dam Rapids. Start of Catfishing Tournament. Big Cats flourish in the Red River. (River Keepers, Chamber of Commerce - Grand Forks/East Grand Forks, River Keepers)

