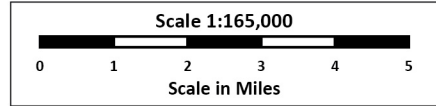


RED LAKE RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL

MAP 2 - Thief River Falls to East Grand Forks

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--|-------------|
| Carry-in Access | Fishing Pier | Public Lands | Power Lines |
| Trailer Access | Shorefishing | State Units | Rapids |
| Hospital | Toilet | National Unit | River Miles |
| Rest Area | Dam | <i>W.M.A. = Wildlife Management Area</i> | |
| Camping | Drinking Water | | |
| Watercraft Camping | River Level Gauge | | |

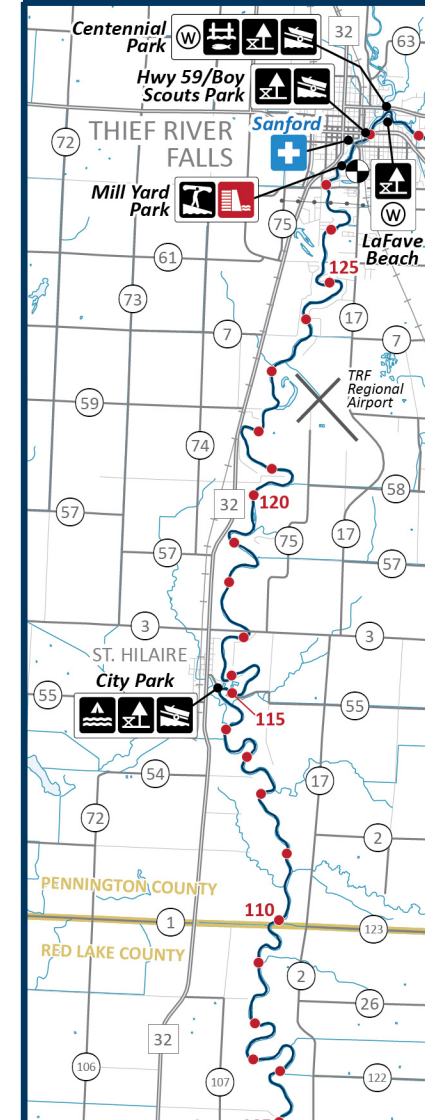
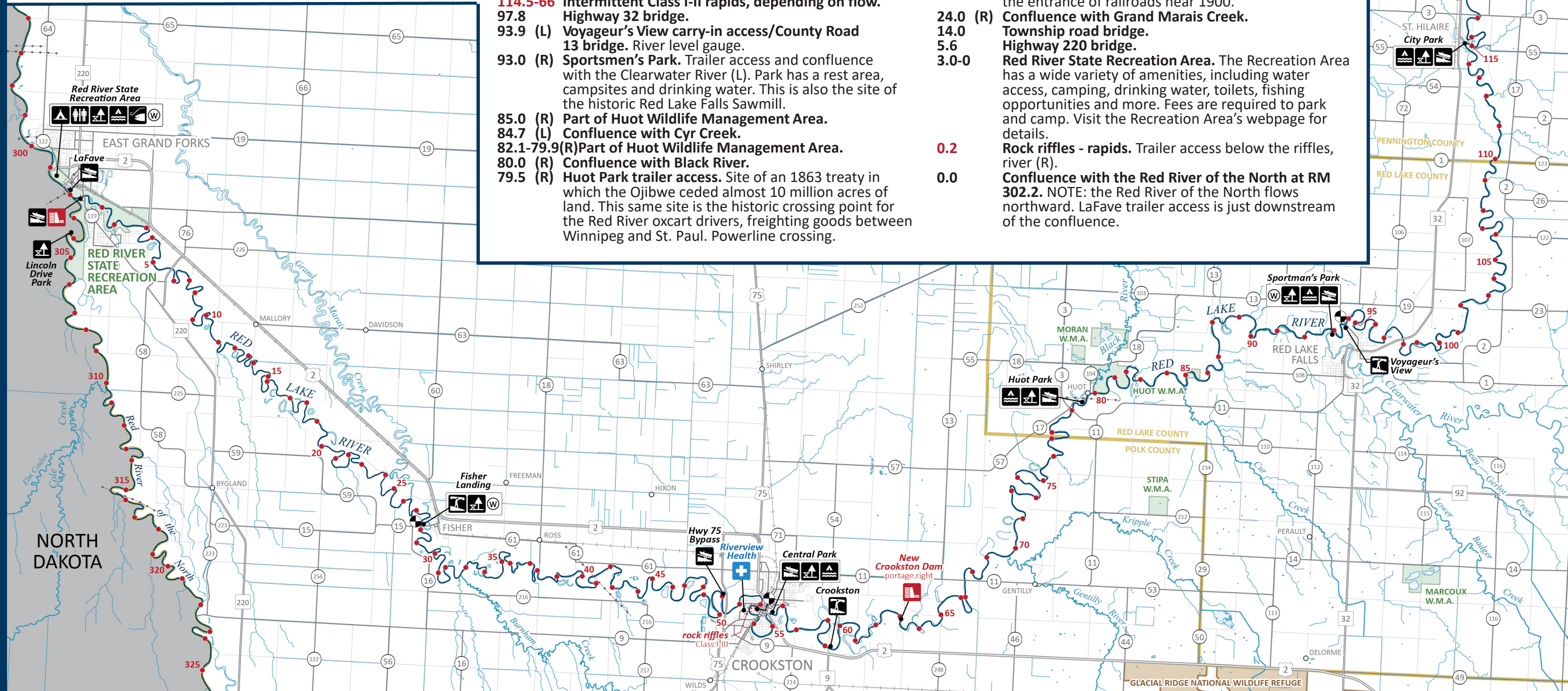


ROUTE DESCRIPTION (RM 129 to 0)

R and L represent banks of the river while facing downstream.

- 129.3 Powerline crossing.
- 128.6(R) Centennial Park/Highway 1. Trailer access at the bridge. Park has a picnic shelter, toilets, drinking water, fishing pier and parking.
- 128.6(L) LaFave Beach. Toilets, drinking water and parking.
- 128.0 Highway 59/Boy Scouts Park. Trailer access and rest area.
- 127.8 Railroad bridge.
- 127.5 Mill Yard Municipal Dam. Carry-in access below the dam. Portage right.
- 123.3(L) Thief River Falls Regional Airport.
- 117.1 County Road 3 bridge.
- 114.8(R) Town of St. Hilaire. Trailer access, camping and rest area. Drinking water and supplies in town.
- 114.5-66 Intermittent Class I-II rapids, depending on flow.
- 97.8 Highway 32 bridge.
- 93.9 (L) Voyageur's View carry-in access/County Road 13 bridge. River level gauge.
- 93.0 (R) Sportsmen's Park. Trailer access and confluence with the Clearwater River (L). Park has a rest area, campsites and drinking water. This is also the site of the historic Red Lake Falls Sawmill.
- 85.0 (R) Part of Huot Wildlife Management Area.
- 84.7 (L) Confluence with Cyr Creek.
- 82.1-79.9(R) Part of Huot Wildlife Management Area.
- 80.0 (R) Confluence with Black River.
- 79.5 (R) Huot Park trailer access. Site of an 1863 treaty in which the Ojibwe ceded almost 10 million acres of land. This same site is the historic crossing point for the Red River oxcart drivers, freighting goods between Winnipeg and St. Paul. Powerline crossing.

- 79.0 County Road 3 bridge.
- 69.8 (L) Confluence with Gently River.
- 67.5 County Road 11 bridge.
- 63.1 New Crookston Dam. Portage right.
- 59.1 (R) Crookston carry-in access.
- 55.5 (R) Central Park. Trailer access, rest area and campsites.
- 55.4 Highway 2 bridge.
- 53.8 Highway 75 bridge.
- 53.6 Main Street/railroad bridge.
- 53.8 Rock riffles - Class I-III rapids, depending on flow.
- 53.0 Woodland Avenue bridge.
- 51.0 (R) Highway 75 Bypass trailer access.
- 41.2 Powerline crossing.
- 32.7 (L) Confluence with Burnham Creek.
- 27.9 County Road 15 bridge. River level gauge.
- 27.9 (R) Fisher Landing. Carry-in access and rest area. Drinking water is available in the town of Fisher. This is an historic steamboat landing, used in the 1800s, prior to the entrance of railroads near 1900.
- 24.0 (R) Confluence with Grand Marais Creek.
- 14.0 Township road bridge.
- 5.6 Highway 220 bridge.
- 3.0-0 Red River State Recreation Area. The Recreation Area has a wide variety of amenities, including water access, camping, drinking water, toilets, fishing opportunities and more. Fees are required to park and camp. Visit the Recreation Area's webpage for details.
- 0.2 Rock riffles - rapids. Trailer access below the riffles, river (R).
- 0.0 Confluence with the Red River of the North at RM 302.2. NOTE: the Red River of the North flows northward. LaFave trailer access is just downstream of the confluence.



RED LAKE RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



MAP 2 - THIEF RIVER FALLS TO EAST GRAND FORKS



m MINNESOTA
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

(Photo Credit: Red Lake Watershed District)



ABOUT THE WATER TRAIL

The Red Lake River is one of the few state water trails in northwestern Minnesota. It begins at Upper and Lower Red Lake and flows generally westward to join the Red River of the North in East Grand Forks. The river flows past marshy wilderness, flat farmland, towering cliffs and steep, wooded banks.

You'll pass significant development as you enter Thief River Falls. Below St. Hilaire, the banks steepen and are heavily wooded. Near Red Lake Falls, you'll see tall, eroded cliffs and the first of many large slump areas. Spring floods have torn away entire hillsides and deposited them in the river. In its lower reaches, the river meanders through farmland, often screened from the river by stands of elm, willow and cottonwood.

Hazards include Class I-II rapids and several dams. The river is generally smooth, except for a chain of easily navigable boulder-field rapids and pools below St. Hilaire to almost Crookston. The river drops 110 feet in this 17-mile stretch. Some rapids can be Class II at high and low water.



Red Lake Watershed District

You'll encounter rocks, riffles and rapids along this 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

Sportsman's Park to Huot Park

- Put-in location: Sportsman's Park (trailer)
River mile **93.0**
- Take-out location: Huot Park (trailer)
River mile **79.5**
- Length: **13.5** river miles

This trip is for paddlers who are comfortable maneuvering past scattered boulders, riffles and rapids that vary with water levels. Begin your day on the river at Red Lake Falls. Paddle past tall bluffs, high clay banks and farmland before passing through the Hout Wildlife Management Area. Low water levels can create scrapable conditions in portions of this route.

EXPLORE ON SHORE

Red River State Recreation Area

This area is a unique blend of natural and urban. Enjoy trails, a picnic area, river access for fishing and boating, and a large campground near the Red River. Reservations are required for camping. mndnr.gov/redriver

Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge

This refuge is a key part of a patchwork of preserves and wildlife areas in the region that include some of Minnesota's best remaining prairies. fws.gov/refuge/glacial_ridge/

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 REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS

2115 Birchmont Beach Rd. NE
Bemidji, MN 56601
218-308-2700

DNR INFORMATION CENTER

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

MEDICAL



SANFORD HEALTH

3001 Sanford Pkwy.
Thief River Falls, MN 56701
218-681-4240

RIVERVIEW HEALTH

323 S Minnesota St.
Crookston, MN 56716
218-281-9200

ALTRU MEDICAL SERVICES

1200 S Columbia Rd.
Grand Forks, ND 58201
701-780-5000

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.