

ROUTE DESCRIPTION - River miles 498 to 424 (74 miles)

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 small 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 flows 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, MN, 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.

- 498.0 Powerline Crossing.
- 492.2 County Road 18/2 bridge.
- 489.8 **Rock dam.** Scout before proceeding with caution. No identified portage.
- 487.0 Powerline crossing.
- 483.6 (R) Confluence with Wolverton Creek.
- 480.9 County Roads 16/8 bridge.
- 476.8 (L) Confluence with Wild Rice River.
- 473.5 (L) Forest River Park. Rest area, parking lot, carry-in access.
- 468.5 52nd Avenue/County Road 12 bridge.
- 468.4 (L) Iwen Park/Convent Landing. Trailer access, dock, parking, seasonal toilet, disc golf course.
- 467.2 Powerline Crossing.
- 466.8 Confluence with Rose Coulee.
- 464.4 **South Dam.** Retrofitted with rock slopeway, **portage left.** Shore fishing.
- 461.5 Interstate 94 bridge.
- 461.4 (L) Lindenwood Park. Picnic shelters, tent and trailer sites with hookups, playgrounds, restrooms, bicycle rental, kayak rental, carry-in access, trails, public telephone. A trail exists that connects Lindenwood Park to Oak Grove Park (456.5)
- 460.3 (R) Gooseberry Mound Park. Picnic shelters, playground, seasonal restrooms, trails.
- 460.3 Lindenwood/Gooseberry Mound Park pedestrian bridge. Seasonal.
- 458.5 (L) Midtown Dam upstream trailer access. Parking, picnic area, shore fishing, dock, dog park nearby.
- 458.5 Floating pedestrian bridge. Seasonal. **Portage Left.**
- 458.4 **Midtown Dam.** Portage left. Retrofitted with rock slopeway.
- 458.3 (L) Midtown Dam downstream trailer access. Parking, picnic area, dock and shore fishing.
- 458.0 - 457.5 Street and railroad bridges.
- 457.8 (R) Hjemkomst Landing. Carry-in access, ADA ramp, canoe/kayak rental, parking, trails, interpretive kiosk, interpretive center, museum, restrooms.
- 456.5 Oak Grove Park/Davy Memorial Park pedestrian bridge. Seasonal, picnic area, playground, trails, shore fishing, historic cabin, disc golf course. A trail exists that connects Oak Grove Park to Lindenwood Park (461.4).
- 455.4 (L) Mickelson Field. Carry-in access.
- 455.4 12th Avenue/15th Avenue bridge.
- 455.2 **North Dam.** **Portage right.** Retrofitted with rock slopeways, re-enter at carry-in access. Shore fishing.
- 452.1 (R) M.B. Johnson Park. Two trailer accesses, parking, seasonal toilets, picnic shelters, playground, trails, interpretive signage, fish cleaning station.
- 447.5 (L) Trollwood Park. Picnic shelters, seasonal restrooms, trails and disc golf.
- 446.5 North Broadway bridge and powerline crossing.
- 445.8 County Roads 20/22 bridge.
- 439.6 Powerline crossing and County Roads 22/26 bridge.
- 438.5 Powerline crossing.
- 435.4&.9 Powerline crossings.
- 434.1(L) Confluence with Sheyenne River.
- 433.6(R) Confluence with Oakport Coulee.
- 423.5 (R) Confluence with Buffalo River.

END OF MAP 2 - Continue to Map 3: Georgetown to Belmont Park

RED RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



MAP 2 - WILKIN/CLAY COUNTY LINE TO GEORGETOWN



m MINNESOTA
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

ABOUT THE WATER TRAIL

The Red River is a slow moving, easy to navigate river. This section offers wooded shorelines with agricultural land just beyond. The scenery changes quickly leading into the cities of Fargo and Moorhead which border the river for miles.

The Red River formed thousands of years ago as Glacial Lake Agassiz drained. Today, the river's tree-lined banks and flowing water are a novelty in the landscape that surrounds it. Travel just ten miles away and the wildlife and plant species that are abundant in the Red River environment are rarely seen. The river's waters are home to channel catfish and other diverse fish species, offering many angling opportunities.

Hazards include dams and widely fluctuating water levels. Flooding may occur during spring, summer and fall. Be sure to check water levels before your trip. Low water conditions may not be suitable for boating. Snags are common. Leave motors unlocked. Be aware that this river touches two states and each may have different regulations.



Photo credit: River Keepers

Forested shoreline leads you into Fargo and Moorhead.

CONTACTS

DNR NORTHWEST REGION HEADQUARTERS
2115 Birchmont Beach Rd. NE
Bemidji, MN 56601-8669
218-308-2378

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.
- River levels can affect your speed and trip safety. Most people paddle 2-3 river miles per hour. Check conditions at mndnr.gov/river_levels.
- Don't underestimate the power of wind and waves.
- 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.
- Swimming in the river is not recommended.
- 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. Many areas do not allow you to gather dead wood for a fire.

MEDICAL



ESSENTIA HEALTH WALK-IN CLINIC
720 Main Ave.
Moorhead, MN 56560
(218) 359-0399

SANFORD BROADWAY URGENT CARE
720 Fourth St., N
Fargo, ND 58102
(701) 234-6640

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911

RECOMMENDED DAY TRIP

Fargo North Dam to M.B. Johnson Park

- Put-in location: North Dam
River mile **455.2**
- Take-out location: M.B. Johnson Park
River mile **452.1**
- Length: **3.1** river miles

Launch just north of the dam for this short trip. You'll pass wooded shorelines with residential areas just beyond. The river twists and curves before hooking sharply to the right around M.B. Johnson Park. Most paddlers take about 2 hours to complete this route.

EXPLORE ON SHORE

Much of this section of the river borders the cities of Fargo, North Dakota and Moorhead, Minnesota. You'll find parks, hiking and biking trails, canoe and kayak rentals, and area businesses not far from the river's edge.

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

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