

## ROUTE DESCRIPTION - River miles 341 to 289 (52 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.

341.4 (R) Confluence with the Sand Hill River.

340.6 County Road 21/7 bridge.

338.3 (L) Belmont Park/Frog Point County Park. East of Buxton, ND off County Road 2 and west of Climax, MN. Trailer access, parking, camping, toilets, fire rings, electricity, water, dock, shore fishing, historic site.

330.7 (L) Confluence with Buffalo Coulee.

322.4 County Road 9/6th Avenue bridge.

315.5 Powerline crossing.

310.2 (L) Confluence with Cole Creek.

304.5 Pedestrian bridge. Enters to local golf course.

304.1 (L) Lincoln Drive Park and Landing. Trailer access, restrooms, playground, picnic tables, shelter, water, trails, shore fishing. For more information and current conditions check this website. <http://bit.ly/2XXoMXK>.

302.2 (R) Confluence with the Red Lake River.

0.2 - 0.5 Upstream on the Red Lake River. Shore fishing, trailer access, parking just below the dam.

302.1(R) LaFave Park. Trailer access, parking and dock. South of Demers Avenue Bridge. Shore fishing, restroom and picnic tables at Sacred Heart Trailhead.

301.9 Railroad bridge/powerline crossing.

301.7 Demers Avenue bridge.

301.6 Downtown Landing. Carry-in access, trails, canoe/kayak rentals, shore fishing.

301.2 (R) Red River State Recreation Area, Sherlock Park Campground. 113 campsites, 98 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. For more information call 218-773-4950 or visit [mndnr.gov/redriver](http://mndnr.gov/redriver). Make reservations at website: [mndnr.gov/reserve](http://mndnr.gov/reserve) or call 1-866-85PARKS.

301.2 River level gauge.

301.1 Gateway Drive/U.S. Highway 2 bridge.

300.1 Riverside Dam/Rapids. The dam/rapids is marked with large signs. No identified portage but the ND side (L) has best elevation and access.

300.1 (L) Whopper John Little Landing. Trailer access, parking, shore fishing. For current conditions call 701-746-4636.

298.2 Confluence with English Coulee.

296.9 Powerline crossing.

END OF MAP 4 - Continue to Map 5: Grand Marais Creek to Drayton, ND

# RED RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



## MAP 4 - BELMONT PARK TO GRAND MARAIS CREEK



**mn** MINNESOTA  
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

Cover Photo: Brad Durick



## 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 along the cities of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks which border the river for several miles.

The river's tree-lined banks and flowing water are a novelty in the vast prairie 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.



Trees border the river's edge through much of this section.

## 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](http://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 prohibited in both Grand Forks and East Grand Forks.
- 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.

## RECOMMENDED DAY TRIP

### Lincoln Drive Park to LaFave Park

- Put-in location: Lincoln Drive Park Landing  
River mile **304.1**
- Take-out location: LaFave Park Trailer Access  
River mile **302.1**
- Length: **2** river miles

Take a quick trip through this section of the river. You'll pass wooded corridors with homes and stores in the distance. Pack a picnic lunch to enjoy at one of the parks before you put-in or after you take-out.

## EXPLORE ON SHORE

### Red River State Recreation Area

River mile **301.2**

While there is no direct access from the water, you can beach a canoe or kayak along the state recreation area and walk a short distance to the office. The recreation area offers restrooms, a playground, picnic tables, shoreline fishing, a campground (by reservation) and access to miles of hiking and biking trails.

[mndnr.gov/redriver](http://mndnr.gov/redriver)

## 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](http://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](http://mndnr.gov/buffers)

## 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](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us)

### RED RIVER STATE RECREATION AREA

515 2nd Street Northwest  
East Grand Forks, MN 56721  
218-773-4950

## MEDICAL



### ALTRU HOSPITAL

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

**IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911**

## More Information

[mndnr.gov/watertrails](http://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](http://exploreminnesota.com)

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by contacting [info.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us), 651-296-6157, or MN Relay 711.