

ROOT RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL

MAP 2 - Rushford to the Mississippi River

Route Description - RM 34 to 0

R and L represent sides of the river facing downstream.

- 33.9** **Submerged dam.** Use caution when navigating over this structure.
- 33.8 (L)** **Rushford carry-in access.**
- 33.5** **State Highway 16 bridge.** Town of South Rushford to the south.
- 33.5 (L)** **City of Rushford.** Just north of river. A trailhead for the Root River State Trail has parking.
- 33.2 (L)** **Confluence with Rush Creek, a designated trout stream.**
- 32.3** **Outfitter off river.**
- 29.8 (R)** **Confluence with Ferndale Creek.**
- 27.0 (L)** **Money Creek Management Unit, Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest.** Campground and toilet available off river.
- 26.3 (R)** **Confluence with Daley Creek, a designated trout stream.**
- 24.8 (L)** **Houston watercraft campsite.** Two sites with picnic tables.
- 24.7** **Root River State Trail bridge.**
- 22.5** **Abandoned railway bridge debris.**
- 20.4 (L)** **Confluence with Money Creek.**

- 18.8** **CAUTION: Dredging operation for sand removal.** Use caution when navigating through the area.
- 18.7** **State Highway 76 bridge.** City of Houston. River level gauge on bridge. The first trailhead for the east end of Root River State Trail has parking, a toilet and rest area.
- 18.7 (L)** **Houston carry-in access.**
- 18.0** **Powerline crossing.**
- 17.3** **Former road bridge.**
- 17.0 (R)** **Confluence with South Fork of the Root River.**
- 14.6 (L)** **Confluence with Silver Creek, a designated trout stream.**
- 14.0 (L)** **Confluence with Storer Creek, a designated trout stream.**
- 13.5 (R)** **Confluence with Crystal Creek.**
- 11.9** **County Road 25 bridge.** River level gauge on bridge.
- 12.0 (R)** **Mound Prairie carry-in access.**
- 11.0 (L)** **Mound Prairie Wildlife Management Area.**
- 10.5 (R)** **Confluence with Mound Prairie Creek.**
- 10.1 (L)** **Confluence with Day Creek.**
- 9.7 (L)** **Confluence with Brush Valley Creek.**
- 9.0 (R)** **Root River Wildlife Management Area.**
- 6.9 (L)** **Root River Wildlife Management Area.**

- 6.6 (R)** **Town of Hokah.** Highway 16 bridge.
- 5.8 (R)** **Hokah carry-in access.** Confluence with Thompson Creek, a designated trout stream.
- 4.9 (L)** **Confluence with Oxbox Creek.**
- 4.0** **Abandoned railway bridge.**
- 3.2 (L)** **Hwy 26 carry-in access.** Highway 26 bridge and railway bridge.
- 1.6** **Enter Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge.**
- 0.0** **Confluence with Mississippi River.** Next available downstream access on the Minnesota side is at Brownsville (not on map). The next available upstream access on the Minnesota side is the Sportsman Landing Access at La Cresent.

END OF MAP SERIES - FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER IN THIS AREA, CHECK OUT THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER GUIDE, HASTINGS TO IOWA BORDER.

ROOT RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



MAP 2 - RUSHFORD TO THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER



m MINNESOTA
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

ABOUT THE ROOT RIVER WATER TRAIL

The branches of the Root River join into one and the river straightens as the valley broadens considerably. The scenery then settles into a gentle plain of pastureland and mixed cottonwood and maple with wooded rolling hills visible in the distance.

The Root River has a gentle to moderate flow with some riffles at various stretches. From Chatfield to the Mississippi River the river falls 310 feet for an average drop of 3.4 feet per mile. River levels peak in mid-March and once again in early June. Water levels also vary substantially with rainfall.

Natural life along the Root River is as diverse as anywhere in the state. Wooded shores harbor mammals such as white-tailed deer, gray fox, red fox, coyote, raccoon, woodchucks, squirrels, weasels, and badgers. The eastern edge of the river flows through the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge, which spans over four states and encompasses one of the largest blocks of floodplain habitat in the United States.



Flat water greets paddlers along much of this route.

CONTACTS

DNR CENTRAL REGION HEADQUARTERS
1200 Warner Rd.
St. Paul, MN 55106
651-259-5800

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



OLMSTED MEDICAL CENTER
1650 Fourth Street SE
Rochester, MN 55904
507-529-6600

MAYO CLINIC HEALTH SYSTEM
1000 1st Dr NW
Austin, MN 55912
507-433-7351

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911

AREA OVERVIEW



RECOMMENDED DAY TRIP

Rushford to Houston

- Put-in location: River mile **33.8**
- Take-out location: River mile **18.7**
- Length: **15.1** river miles

This stretch connects two quaint cities with a mixture of wooded areas and farmlands in between. Both cities offer parks with hiking trails, hilly areas along the Root River State Trails with beautiful overlooks, food stops, and overnight lodging. In addition, Houston is home to the International Owl Center.

EXPLORE ON SHORE

Root River State Trail

This paved, 42-mile state trail, begins in Fountain and runs through to Houston.
mndnr.gov/rootriver

International Owl Center

An educational center dedicated to inspiring visitors to get involved in the conservation of owls.
internationalowlcenter.org

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

Fishing, hunting and birdwatching are big activities in this expansive refuge.
fws.gov/refuge/Upper_Mississippi_River

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.