

ROUTE DESCRIPTION - RM 126-53.5

NOTE: (R) and (L) represent right and left banks of the river when facing downstream.

RIVER MILE

- 126.0 Lake Osakis Dam. Several accesses and facilities on the lake.
- 125.7 County Road 37 bridge.
- 125.3 Highway 27 bridge.
- 122.2 County Road 4 bridge.
- 119.4 County Road 57 bridge.
- 117.1 151st Avenue bridge.
- 115.4 (R) Guernsey Lake trailer access.
- 114.0 171st Avenue bridge.
- 110.9 (L) Little Sauk Lake trailer access.
- 110.7 County Road 11 bridge.
- 107.1 County Road 50 bridge.
- 106.6 US Highway 71 bridge.
- 105.7 Cedar Lake Road bridge.
- 103.7 County Road 2 bridge.
- 102.9 (L) Diamond Point trailer access. On Sauk Lake.
- 98.0 US Highway 71 bridge. Trailer access (R).
- 96.0 (R) Confluence with Hoboken Creek.
- 95.8 (R) Sinclair Lewis Park. Trailer access, campground, rest area and fishing pier.
- 95.6 US Highway 71 bridge.
- 95.6 Sauk Centre Dam. Portage left. Carry-in below the dam.
- 95.0 County Road 17 bridge.
- 93.6 Lake Wobegon Trail bridge.
- 93.5 County Road 186 bridge. Powerline crossings.
- 92.8 Interstate 94 bridge.
- 92.5-86.6 Sauk River Wildlife Management Area.
- 85.1 County Road 186 bridge.
- 83.4 Highway 4 bridge.
- 81.8 Interstate 94 bridge. Powerline crossing.
- 80.7 Lake Wobegon Trail bridge.
- 80.8 County Road 65 bridge.
- 79.0 (R) Mill Pond trailer access.
- 78.5 Melrose Dam. Portage left.
- 78.4 (L) Sauk River Park. In the city of Melrose. Carry-in access, camping and picnic area.
- 75.5 (L) Confluence with Adley Creek.
- 74.5 County Road 65/Lake Wobegon Trail bridge.
Powerline crossing.
- 73.6 Interstate 94 bridge. Powerline crossing.
- 72.7 Riverview Road bridge.
- 70.3-69.3 Christopher Kurilla Wildlife Management Area.
- 68.6 County Road 30 bridge.
- 68.3 Former railroad bridge.
- 67.0 (L) Oak Township County Park. Carry-in access, toilets, rest area and watercraft campsite.
- 64.1 County Road 31 bridge.
- 62.5 (L) Confluence with Getchell Creek.
- 56.6 (R) Confluence with Stony Creek.
- 56.2 (L) Spring Hill County Park. Watercraft campsite, carry-in, restrooms and rest area.
- 56.1 (R) Spring Hill County Park. Carry-in access, rest area, watercraft campsite and drinking water.
- 56.0 County Road 14 bridge.

END MAP 1 - BEGIN MAP 2, COUNTY ROAD 40 to
MISSISSIPPI RIVER

SAUK RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



MAP 1 - OSAKIS LAKE TO COUNTY ROAD 14



m MINNESOTA
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

ABOUT THE WATER TRAIL

The Sauk River begins in Lake Osakis in Todd County and flows 126 miles across central Minnesota before joining the Mississippi River. This shallow river passes farmland, residential areas, naturally restored prairie grasslands, swamps and rich hardwood forests. You'll find many parks, river accesses and campsites. Most the river offers an enjoyable paddling experience for all skill levels.

From Lake Osakis to Guernsey Lake, the river is considered impassable most of the year because of low water levels. You'll see broader banks and wider valleys as the river continues south. The river forms a "Chain of Lakes" near Richmond, with over 80 miles of continuous shoreline in less than 8 miles. From there, granite outcrops and small hills offer a scenic landscape. Near St. Cloud, the river gradient creates a series of rapids before meeting the Mississippi River.

Hazards include dams; be aware of portage routes. Snags (fallen trees) can be found in the river and may tip an unwary paddler. While unlawful, river neighbors occasionally string fences across the river in the northernmost portion of the water trail.



The river offers many opportunities for paddlers.

CONTACTS

DNR AREA OFFICE
1035 South Benton Dr.
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
320-223-7878

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



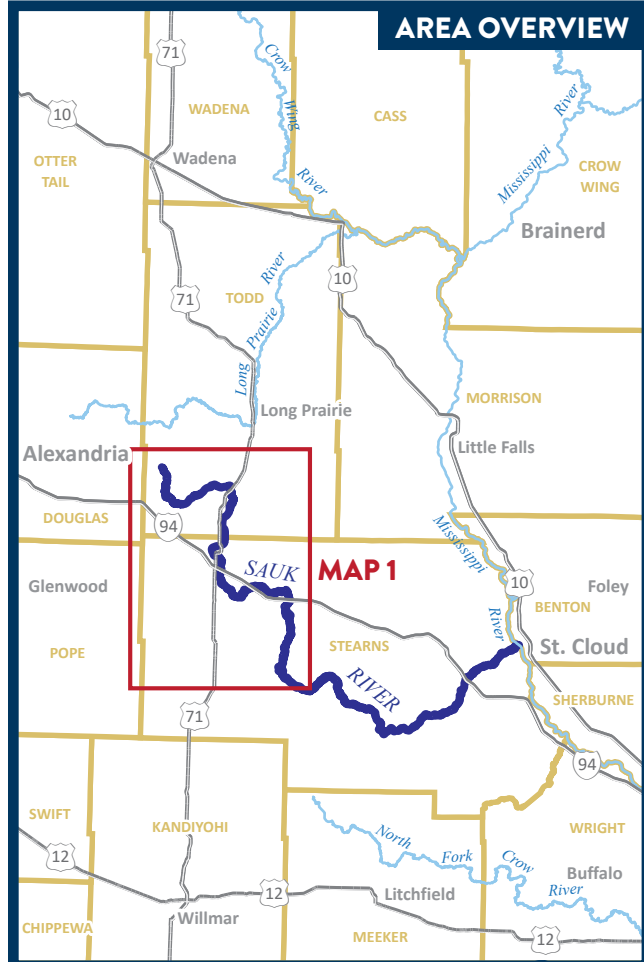
CENTRACARE HEALTH - SAUK CENTRE
425 Elm St. N
Sauk Centre, MN 56378
320-352-2221

CENTRACARE HEALTH - MELROSE
525 W Main St.
Melrose, MN 56352
320-256-4231

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911

Photo Credit: Sauk River Watershed District

AREA OVERVIEW



RECOMMENDED DAY TRIP

Sauk Centre Dam to Mill Pond

- Put-in location: Below Sauk Centre Dam (carry-in) River mile **95.6**
- Take-out location: Mill Pond (trailer access) River mile **79.0**
- Length: **16.6** river miles

This long, easy stretch offers variety from city to city. You'll paddle under bridges, past wetlands in the Sauk River Wildlife Management Area, and along the river's twists and turns through open lowlands and tree-lined corridors. Plan an entire day for this long trip.

EXPLORE ON SHORE

Sauk River Wildlife Management Area

This wildlife management area borders over 5 miles of the river. The area allows hunting and is known for deer, pheasants and a wide variety of waterfowl.

mndnr.gov/wmas

Lake Wobegon Regional Trail

This paved, regional trail is 65 miles long and crosses the Sauk River at several points. This provides an opportunity for a great pedal (biking)/paddle experience.

lakewobegontrail.com

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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