

ST. LOUIS RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL
MAP 1 - Seven Beaver Lake to Meadowlands

Carry-in Access

Trailer Access

Hospital/Clinic

Rest Area

Watercraft Campsite

Dam

Drinking Water

Public Lands

State Units

National Forest

Rapids

W.M.A. = Wildlife Management Area

Power Lines

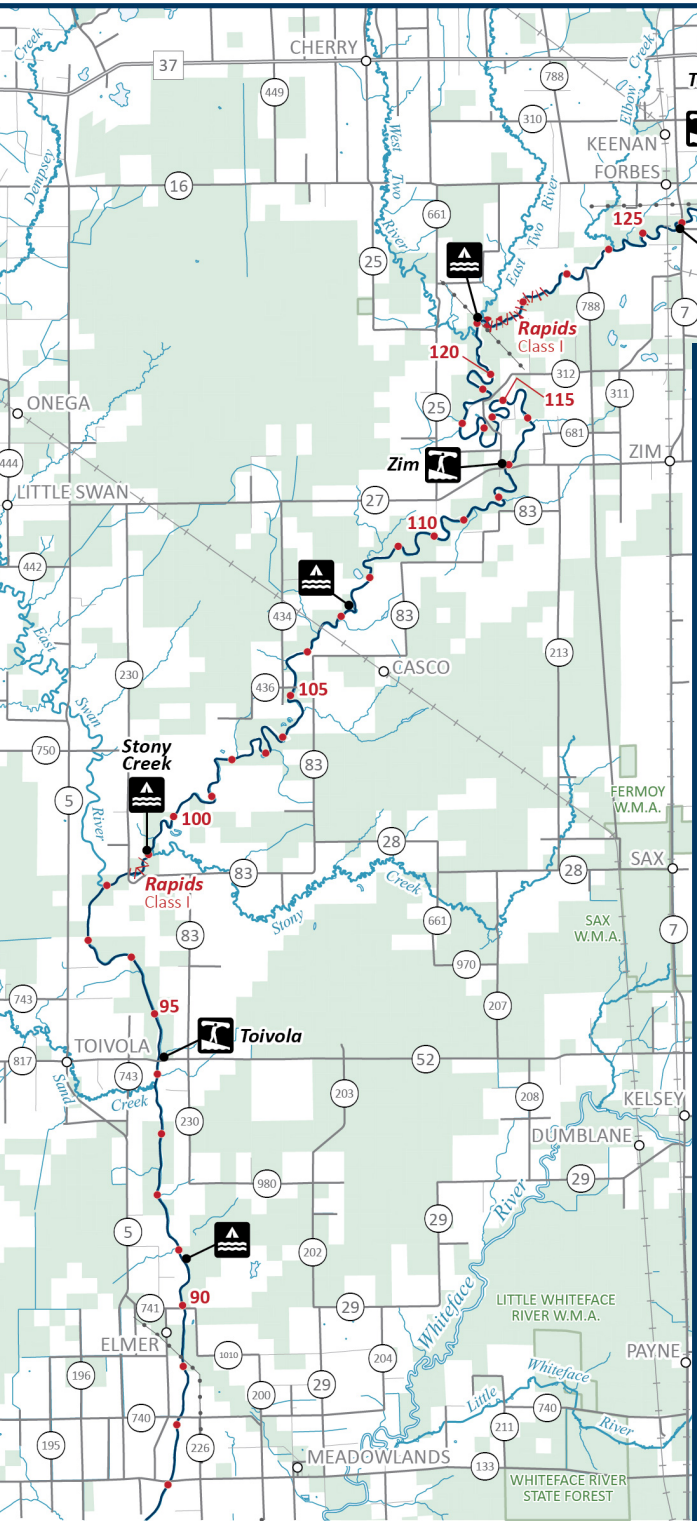
River Miles

River Level Gauge

Scale 1:195,000

012345

Scale in Miles



ROUTE DESCRIPTION - RM 200 to 87

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

- RIVER MILE
- 200

Seven Beaver Lake. Carry-in access south of lake on Round Lake. Access accessible only by portage or ATV.
- 198.9

Railroad bridge.
- 193.6(R)

Confluence with Stone Creek. Carry-in access on Stone Lake.
- 191.7(R)

Skibo Mill Landing trailer access.
- 191.7-163.7

Many boulder bed rapids exist, making it difficult to paddle. In low water, it is nearly impossible. Please take caution and do not attempt if you are a newer paddler. Fiberglass boats only recommended.
- 188.5(R)

Confluence with Laird Creek. Carry-in access.
- 187.4

Railroad bridge.
- 183.9(L)

County Road 110 bridge. Carry-in access.
- 181.4(R)

Hush carry-in access.
- 175.2(L)

County Road 346 trailer access.
- 172.7

Forest Road 790 bridge.
- 172.2

County Road 346 bridge.
- 167.2 (R)

Confluence with Whitewater Lake Outlet. Trailer access on north end of lake.
- 164.6(R)

Confluence with Partridge River.
- 164.2

County Road 100 bridge.
- 155.7

Consistent log jams in this area. Approach with caution.
- 151.9

County Road 4 bridge.
- 150.0 (L)

Confluence with Frying Pan Lake Outlet.
- 148.1

County Road 108 bridge.
- 144.6(R)

County Road 95 bridge. Carry-in access.
- 141.1(R)

Confluence with Embarrass River.
- 137.2 (R)

Confluence with Ely Creek.
- 136.0

County Road 957 bridge.
- 134.4(L)

Confluence with Mud Hen Creek.
- 132.9

US Highway 53 bridge. River level gauge.
- 129.5

Railroad bridge. Town of Peary.

From 163.7 to 191.7, there are several boulder beds that make paddling difficult. Not recommended for novice paddlers.

- 129.5 (R)

Confluence with Long Lake Creek.
- 128.5

Powerline crossing.
- 127.9(R)

Forbes Dam. Portage on right. Townline Road carry-in access.
- 126.9

Powerline crossing.
- 125.9(L)

Carry-in access. County Road 7 bridge.
- 125.8

Railroad bridge.
- 124.1(R)

Confluence with Elbow Creek.
- 123.4 (L)

County Road 788 borders the river, no bridge.
- 122.5-121.2

Class I rapids.
- 121.0(R)

Watercraft campsite. Confluence with East Two River. Powerline crossing.
- 120.8(R)

Confluence with West Two Rivers.
- 116.3

County Road 312 bridge.
- 113.0(R)

Carry-in access. County Road 27 bridge.
- 107.2(L)

Watercraft campsite.
- 106.5

Railroad bridge.
- 105.2

County Road 436 bridge.
- 99.0 (L)

Begin series of class I rapids. Stony Creek watercraft campsite. Confluence with Stony Creek.
- 98.9

Small island.
- 98.4

County Road 230 bridge.
- 98.0 (R)

Confluence with East Swan River.
- 94.2 (L)

Toivola carry-in access. County Road 52 bridge.
- 93.8 (R)

Confluence with Sand Creek.
- 90.8 (L)

Watercraft campsite.
- 90.0

County Road 741 bridge.
- 89.1

Powerline crossing.
- 87.1

County Road 740 bridge.

END OF MAP 1 - CONTINUE TO MAP 2, MEADOWLANDS to HIGHWAY 2

ST. LOUIS RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL



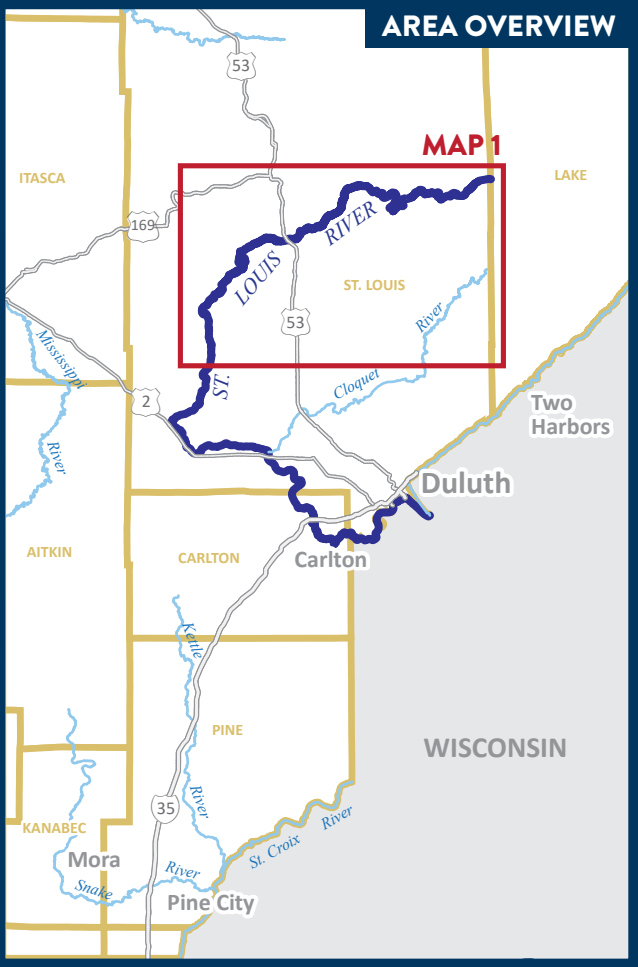
MAP 1 - SEVEN BEAVER LAKE TO MEADOWLANDS



m MINNESOTA
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

Photo Credit: Bret Alexander

AREA OVERVIEW



ABOUT THE WATER TRAIL

The St. Louis River has one of the largest watersheds in Minnesota, covering 3,650 square miles. It begins in the Superior National Forest and flows southwest to Floodwood before turning southeast to meet Lake Superior.

You'll experience a wilderness feel on this upper section of the river. Paddle past remote, forested areas, bluffs and wooded hills. You may even see moose, gray wolves or black bear. Stream flow usually peaks in late April and falls throughout the summer.

From Skibo Mills to near Hwy 100, expect Class I-II rapids and numerous boulder beds that may damage watercraft. This area may be impassable at medium to low water levels. Paddling conditions improve below Hwy 100 where the river twists and turns past wooded shoreline and occasional farm fields.

Hazards include Class I rapids and a dam below Hwy 53. Be aware of the dam's location and portage options.



Photo Credit: Bret Alexander

The upper portions of the river can be quite rocky.

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 in designated campsites, often available on a first-come, first-served basis, or follow specific rules for dispersed camping on federal, state forest, county or tax forfeited lands. Practice Leave No Trace principles when camping.
- 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

County Road 4 to County Road 95

- Put-in location: County Road 4 Bridge
River mile **151.9**
- Take-out location: County Road 95 Carry-in Access
River mile **144.6**
- Length: **7.3** river miles

Follow the river's winding path past thickly wooded shoreline with glimpses of farm fields and county roads. You'll encounter several shallow, sandy sections along the way. The put-in location is undeveloped and requires carrying-in your canoe or kayak on the downstream side of the bridge.

EXPLORE ON SHORE

Superior National Forest

This national forest holds three million acres of diverse habitat, plants and animals. The upper reaches of the St. Louis River flow through the Laurentian Divide District of the forest. Contact the US Forest Service for rules regarding dispersed camping during a canoe or kayak trip.

fs.usda.gov/superior

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 DISTRICT OFFICE

650 Hwy 169
Tower, MN 55790
Call 218-300-7841 for river questions or to report conditions and water levels.

DNR NORTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE

1201 East Hwy. 2
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
218-328-8980

DNR INFORMATION CENTER

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

MEDICAL

ESSENTIA HEALTH: NORTHERN PINES

5211 Highway 110
Aurora, MN 55705
218-229-2211



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.