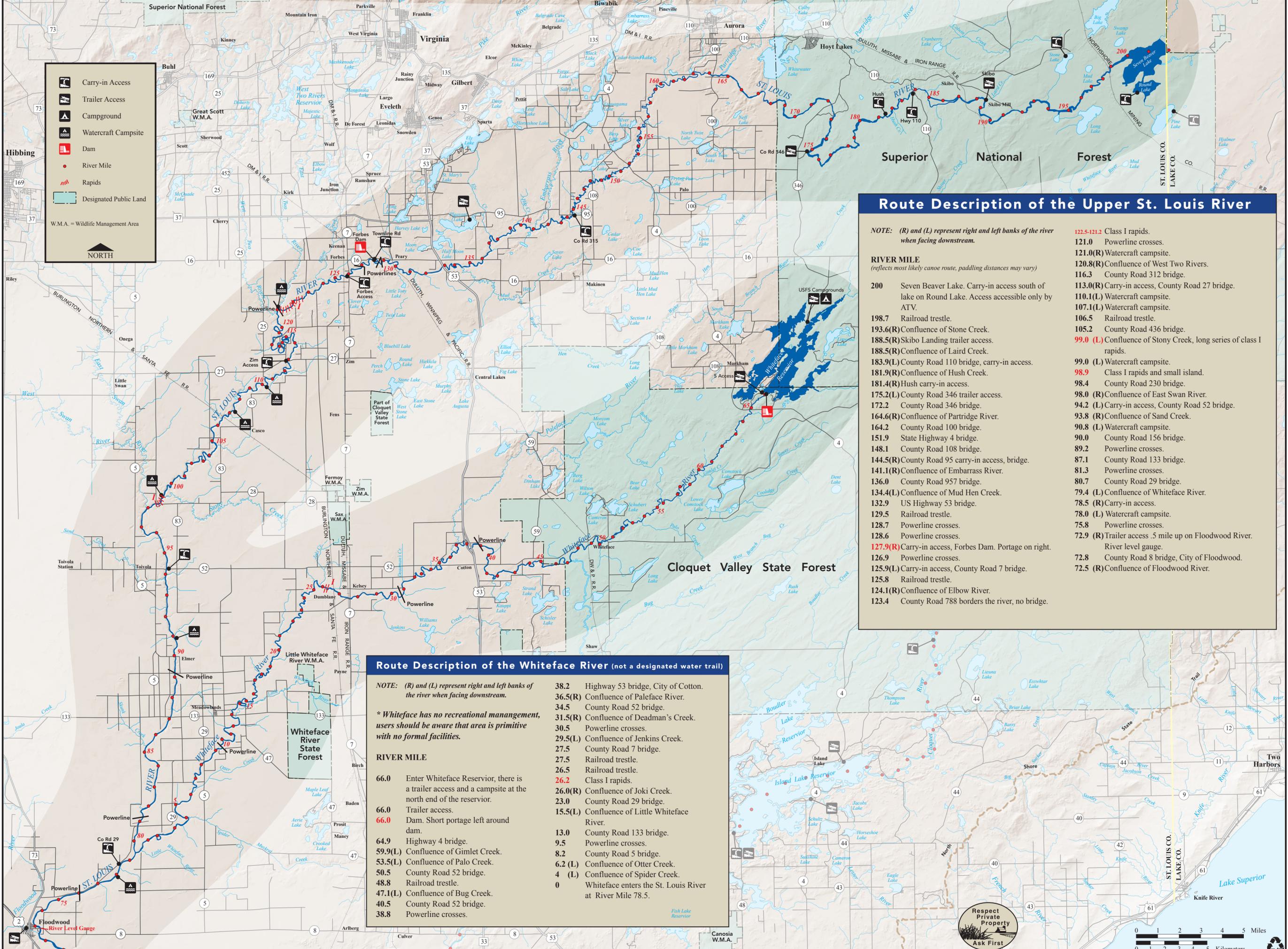


A STATE WATER TRAIL GUIDE TO THE UPPER ST. LOUIS RIVER (Includes the Whiteface River)



Legend

- Carry-in Access
- Trailer Access
- Campground
- Watercraft Campsite
- Dam
- River Mile
- Rapids
- Designated Public Land

W.M.A. = Wildlife Management Area

NORTH

Route Description of the Upper St. Louis River

- NOTE:** (R) and (L) represent right and left banks of the river when facing downstream.
- RIVER MILE**
(reflects most likely canoe route, paddling distances may vary)
- 200 Seven Beaver Lake. Carry-in access south of lake on Round Lake. Access accessible only by ATV.
 - 198.7 Railroad trestle.
 - 193.6(R) Confluence of Stone Creek.
 - 188.5(R) Skibo Landing trailer access.
 - 188.5(R) Confluence of Laird Creek.
 - 183.9(L) County Road 110 bridge, carry-in access.
 - 181.9(R) Confluence of Hush Creek.
 - 181.4(R) Hush carry-in access.
 - 175.2(L) County Road 346 trailer access.
 - 172.2 County Road 346 bridge.
 - 164.6(R) Confluence of Partridge River.
 - 164.2 County Road 100 bridge.
 - 151.9 State Highway 4 bridge.
 - 148.1 County Road 108 bridge.
 - 144.5(R) County Road 95 carry-in access, bridge.
 - 141.1(R) Confluence of Embarrass River.
 - 136.0 County Road 957 bridge.
 - 134.4(L) Confluence of Mud Hen Creek.
 - 132.9 US Highway 53 bridge.
 - 129.5 Railroad trestle.
 - 128.7 Powerline crosses.
 - 128.6 Powerline crosses.
 - 127.9(R) Carry-in access, Forbes Dam. Portage on right.
 - 126.9 Powerline crosses.
 - 125.9(L) Carry-in access, County Road 7 bridge.
 - 125.8 Railroad trestle.
 - 124.1(R) Confluence of Elbow River.
 - 123.4 County Road 788 borders the river, no bridge.
 - 122.5-121.2 Class I rapids.
 - 121.0 Powerline crosses.
 - 121.0(R) Watercraft campsite.
 - 120.8(R) Confluence of West Two Rivers.
 - 116.3 County Road 312 bridge.
 - 113.0(R) Carry-in access, County Road 27 bridge.
 - 110.1(L) Watercraft campsite.
 - 107.1(L) Watercraft campsite.
 - 106.5 Railroad trestle.
 - 105.2 County Road 436 bridge.
 - 99.0 (L) Confluence of Stony Creek, long series of class I rapids.
 - 99.0 (L) Watercraft campsite.
 - 98.9 Class I rapids and small island.
 - 98.4 County Road 230 bridge.
 - 98.0 (R) Confluence of East Swan River.
 - 94.2 (L) Carry-in access, County Road 52 bridge.
 - 93.8 (R) Confluence of Sand Creek.
 - 90.8 (L) Watercraft campsite.
 - 90.0 County Road 156 bridge.
 - 89.2 Powerline crosses.
 - 87.1 County Road 133 bridge.
 - 81.3 Powerline crosses.
 - 80.7 County Road 29 bridge.
 - 79.4 (L) Confluence of Whiteface River.
 - 78.5 (R) Carry-in access.
 - 78.0 (L) Watercraft campsite.
 - 75.8 Powerline crosses.
 - 72.9 (R) Trailer access .5 mile up on Floodwood River. River level gauge.
 - 72.8 County Road 8 bridge, City of Floodwood.
 - 72.5 (R) Confluence of Floodwood River.

Route Description of the Whiteface River (not a designated water trail)

- NOTE:** (R) and (L) represent right and left banks of the river when facing downstream.
- * Whiteface has no recreational management, users should be aware that area is primitive with no formal facilities.**
- RIVER MILE**
- 66.0 Enter Whiteface Reservoir, there is a trailer access and a campsite at the north end of the reservoir.
 - 66.0 Trailer access.
 - 66.0 Dam. Short portage left around dam.
 - 64.9 Highway 53 bridge, City of Cotton.
 - 59.9(L) Confluence of Gimlet Creek.
 - 53.5(L) Confluence of Palo Creek.
 - 50.5 County Road 52 bridge.
 - 48.8 Railroad trestle.
 - 47.1(L) Confluence of Bug Creek.
 - 40.5 County Road 52 bridge.
 - 38.8 Powerline crosses.
 - 38.2 Highway 53 bridge, City of Cotton.
 - 36.5(R) Confluence of Paleface River.
 - 34.5 County Road 52 bridge.
 - 31.5(R) Confluence of Deadman's Creek.
 - 30.5 Powerline crosses.
 - 29.5(L) Confluence of Jenkins Creek.
 - 27.5 County Road 7 bridge.
 - 27.5 Railroad trestle.
 - 26.5 Railroad trestle.
 - 26.2 Class I rapids.
 - 26.0(R) Confluence of Joki Creek.
 - 23.0 County Road 29 bridge.
 - 15.5(L) Confluence of Little Whiteface River.
 - 13.0 County Road 133 bridge.
 - 9.5 Powerline crosses.
 - 8.2 County Road 5 bridge.
 - 6.2 (L) Confluence of Otter Creek.
 - 4 (L) Confluence of Spider Creek.
 - 0 Whiteface enters the St. Louis River at River Mile 78.5.



Upper St. Louis River

MINNESOTA
**STATE PARKS
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The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

This information is available in alternative format upon request.

Minnesota State Parks and Trails Regional Unit:

1201 East Highway 2 Grand Rapids, MN 55744
(218) 999-7923

Online water trail information and maps can be found at mndnr.gov/watertrails

DNR Information Center

The DNR's Information Center is available to provide free publications of facilities and services as well as answers questions pertaining to DNR recreational opportunities in Minnesota.

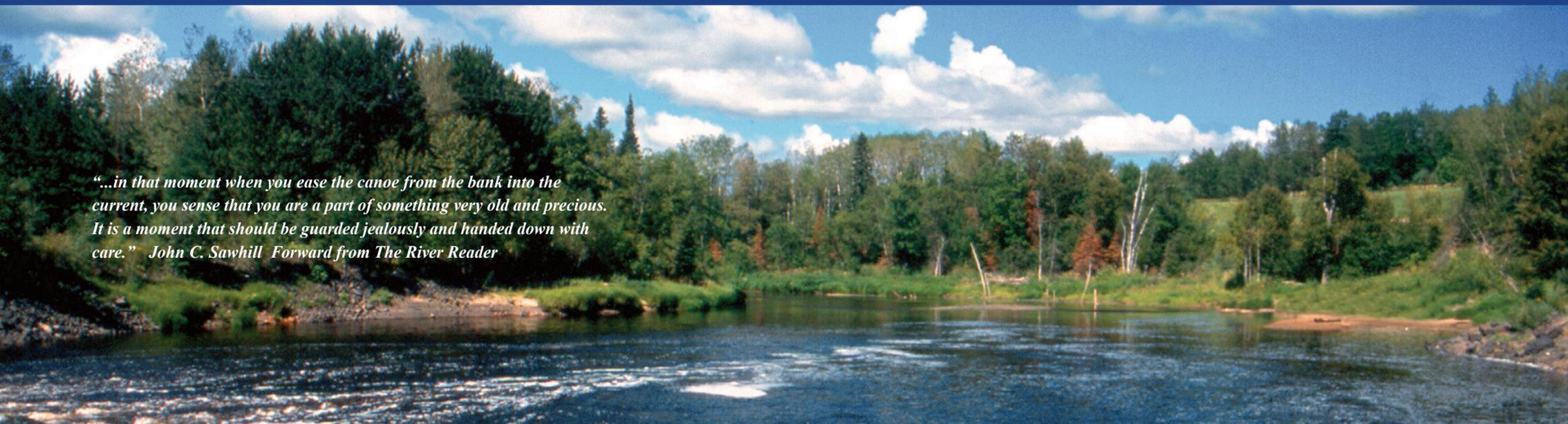
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040
651-296-6157 Metro Area
1-888-646-6367 MN Toll-Free
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Organizations working to protect the river system:
-St. Louis River Citizens Action Committee (218) 733-9520
-St. Louis Riverwatch (218) 879-0789

All photos: Holly Sandbo

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A STATE WATER TRAIL GUIDE TO THE UPPER ST. LOUIS RIVER (Includes the Whiteface River)



"...in that moment when you ease the canoe from the bank into the current, you sense that you are a part of something very old and precious. It is a moment that should be guarded jealously and handed down with care." John C. Sawhill Forward from The River Reader

The Upper St. Louis and Whiteface Rivers (Seven Beaver Lake to Floodwood)



History

The streams and rivers of northern Minnesota are the result of glacial activity thousands of years ago. Because northern Minnesota rivers flow through bog areas, the water is often coffee-colored. This comes from the tannic acid in the bog plants.

Since the receding of the glaciers more than 10,000 years ago, humans have lived in and used the natural resources of the St. Louis watershed. Artifacts of the Paleo-Indians have been collected and extensively studied. Pieces of stone, pottery, and even some copper tools have been preserved.

The St. Louis River was an important link between Lake Superior and trading posts on the Mississippi River and Vermilion Lake. The rivers were also important to the fur trade and logging industries.

Today, the river is increasingly important as a place of remote beauty, a sanctuary for many species of wildlife, and a source of recreation.

St. Louis River

The St. Louis River watershed is one of the largest in Minnesota and is the largest that feeds Lake Superior. The river's uppermost section flows through remote, forested areas, bluffs, and wooded hills. The middle section is characterized by the flat bed of the now dry glacial Lake Upham, woods, and wetlands. For the most part, the river is wild and forested. There are a few farms, homes, and small towns.

Like the Whiteface, the upper St. Louis supports unique wildlife and fish, and offers wonderful opportunities to canoe and kayak

through beautiful stands of aspen, birch, maple, red and white pine, spruce and fir.

Whiteface River

The Whiteface River, a major tributary of the St. Louis River, is about 60 miles long, and is narrow (rarely exceeding 50 feet wide). The banks are mostly undeveloped with fir, spruce, aspen, birch, river maple, and pine forests, though there are a few farms.

Due to the river's remoteness, paddlers may see gray (timber) wolves, black bear, moose, beaver, turtles, otters, white-tailed deer, great blue herons, and osprey, as well as songbirds.

Fishing

Fishing can be good with northern pike, walleye, smallmouth bass, channel catfish, and sunfish found in these rivers. Because the river system has such a good fish population, it is necessary to know the health hazards of eating fish.

Mercury contamination is a problem in the entire watershed. Keep the smaller fish for eating. Release the larger, older fish which have a higher concentration of contamination. Eat smaller portions when you do eat bigger fish.

People, especially women of childbearing age and children should strictly adhere to these guidelines. Complete information is available from the Minnesota Department of health, 1-800-627-3529.



Turtles

The Whiteface and St. Louis are home to four species of turtles. The painted turtle is the most common. More rare are the snapping, Blanding's and wood turtles. Due to their rarity, the most important thing to remember about turtles and all wildlife is to leave them alone.

Crucial to the long-term survival of turtles is a safe nesting place. These species require sandy,

sun-warmed banks or bars, elevated above water, and relatively free of vegetation. Please be cautious and limit use around possible turtle nesting areas. Damage could occur if nesting areas are disturbed.



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Rating Whitewater

Rivers and rapids are rated according to the International Scale of River Difficulty. Ratings are estimates based on observations at low or moderate water levels or on secondhand reports. The following three classes are found on the Upper St. Louis and Whiteface rivers.

CLASS I. Easy rapids with small waves and few obstructions.
CLASS II. Rapids with waves up to three feet high. Some maneuvering is required.
CLASS III. Difficult rapids with high, irregular waves capable of swamping an open canoe. Narrow chutes may require extensive maneuvering. Usually considered the limit for an experienced paddler in an open canoe.

**The following classes are not found on these rivers, but are here for your reference.*

CLASS IV. Long, turbulent rapids with high, irregular waves, constricted passages, and blind drops. Decked canoes and kayaks only; open canoes should be portaged.
CLASS V. Long, violent rapids with complex routes and steep drops or waterfalls. Hazard to life in the event of a mishap. Runnable only by experts in decked boats.
CLASS VI. Cannot be attempted without great risk to life.

Enjoy!

It will be delightful for you to use all of your senses during your journey. The spring peepers will never pause in their shrill calling as you slip by them. Listen for the evening calls of owls or the screech of nesting raptors. Listen closely in June and July to

Planning a Safe River Trip

A successful river trip is safe. To enjoy a safe journey, you should be prepared by acquainting yourself with your route. Choose a distance that is comfortable for you. Water levels can speed up or slow down your trip. Get information about water levels from the regional DNR office, DNR website, or DNR Information Center. Protect the water and shorelands and leave nothing behind you except footprints. Remember that much of the shorelands are privately owned.

Trip Planning

- Travel with a companion or group. Plan your trip with a map before you depart and advise someone of your plans, including planned departure and arrival times.
- Most people paddle two to three river miles per hour.
- Bring a first-aid kit that includes waterproof matches.
- Be cautious of river obstructions, such as overhanging and dead trees in the water.
- You must pack out all trash.
- Leave only footprints; take only photographs!

Boating Information

- Wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device that state law requires to be on board the craft.
- Bring an extra paddle.
- Not all portions of this water trail are suitable for motor use.
- Register your watercraft. All watercraft more than 9 feet in length, including nonmotorized canoes and kayaks, must be registered in Minnesota or your state of residence.

Rest Areas and Camping Sites

- Public rest areas are available along the route to rest, picnic and explore.

- Camp only in designated campsites, which are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Bring drinking water. It is only available at a limited number of rest areas. Drinking river water is not recommended, but if you do it must be treated.
- Respect 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.



WEST OF HWY 52 BRIDGE, WHITEFACE RIVER; HOLLY SANDBO

Sustainable Ecosystems

Outdoor recreation is dependent on a healthy and attractive natural environment. Sustainable outdoor recreation enables people to enjoy the outdoors without negative impacts on the environment.

Communities working together can improve water resources by promoting environmentally sensitive land-use practices along rivers and throughout watersheds. Natural shoreline buffers improve water quality by filtering out pollutants and sediments.

Healthy and diverse native shoreline plant communities are attractive and provide important habitat for birds and wildlife.

