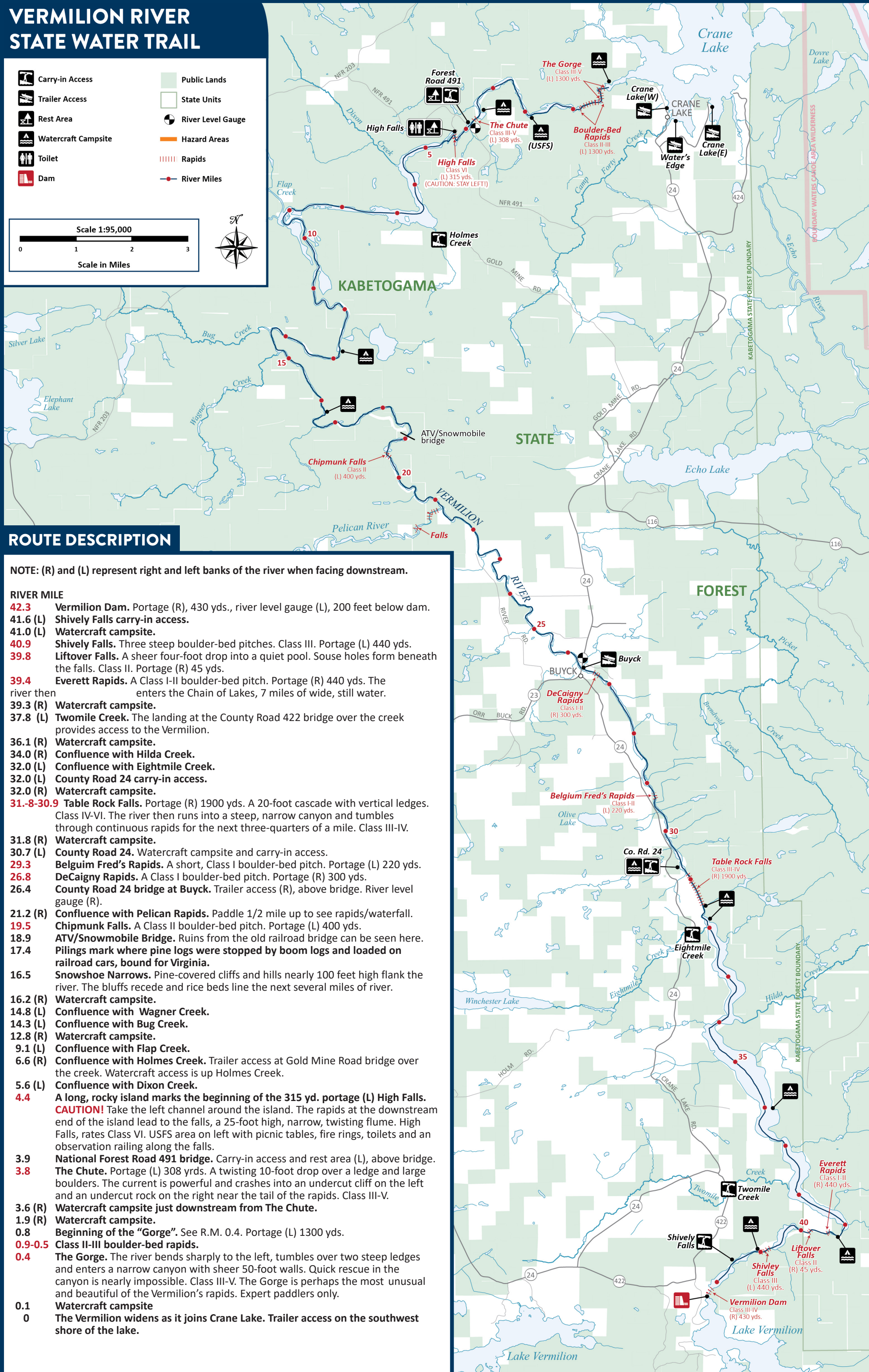
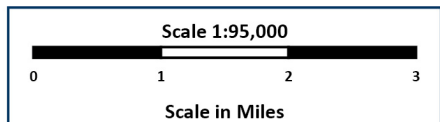
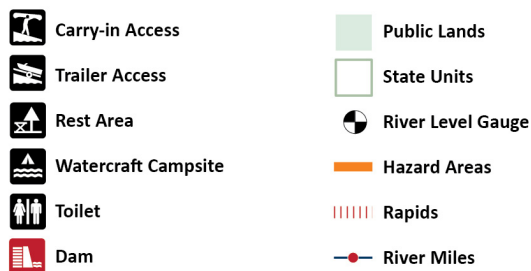


# VERMILION RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL





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**m MINNESOTA**  
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

## ABOUT THE WATER TRAIL

The Vermilion River flows 42 miles north from Lake Vermilion to Crane Lake. Surrounded by the Kabetogama State Forest, the river winds along forests of pine, spruce, fir, aspen and birch. Much of the river appears wild, sometimes passing exposed bedrock and tall bluffs. The most developed areas are resorts and cabins at Vermilion and Crane lakes and the town of Buyck. With few accesses and numerous rapids, this river is best for experienced paddlers.

The Vermilion River gets much of its flow from Vermilion Lake, so it rises and falls slowly. It is usually canoeable well into autumn. Most rapids are runnable if the U.S. Geological Survey gauge below the Vermilion Dam reads above four feet. The middle and lower rapids may be runnable below four feet if heavy rains have swollen the river's tributaries. Quiet sections of the river are runnable below four feet.

Hazards include a dam and Class I-VI rapids. Know where portage locations are. Some of the portages are long, but all are well worn.



Much of this river is surrounded by forest.

## CONTACTS

### DNR NORTHEAST HEADQUARTERS

1201 East Highway 2  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
218-328-8780

### DNR INFORMATION CENTER

500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040  
888-646-6367  
[info.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us)

### SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST

8901 Grand Ave. Place  
Duluth, MN 55808  
218-626-4300

## 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](http://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 or on public land where dispersed camping is allowed. State, county and national forests allow dispersed camping, be sure to check regulations before your trip.
- 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. Plan to pack out your trash.
- Follow the rules for firewood. State forests allow you to gather dead wood for a fire, but state parks do not.

## MEDICAL



### COOK HOSPITAL

10 SE Fifth Street  
Cook, MN 55723  
218-666-5945

### ELY BLOOMENSON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

328 W Conan Street  
Ely, MN 55731  
218-365-3271

**IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911**

## RECOMMENDED DAY TRIP

There are many trip options. Certain sections of this river should only be attempted by experienced paddlers.

- Put-in location: Twomile Creek access near river mile **37.8**
- Take-out location: Eightmile Creek access near river mile **32.0**
- Length: **about 7** river miles

Enjoy a wide, easy stretch of river with no rapids. You'll be surrounded by forests and boglands. Start by paddling downstream on Twomile Creek, then go six miles downriver on the Vermilion River. To reach the takeout, paddle up Eightmile Creek (river left). Those looking for rapids can find them by extending this route up or downriver.

## EXPLORE ON SHORE

### Kabetogama State Forest

The river is nearly completely encompassed within this forest. You'll find several hiking trails, fishing spots, bird watching, picnic areas and camping opportunities. Check regulations for dispersed camping options.

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

### Superior National Forest

Established in 1909, this forest is known for its boreal ecosystem, numerous clean lakes, and a colorful cultural history. Popular recreational activities include fishing, hunting, camping, canoeing, swimming and hiking. Check regulations for dispersed camping options.

[fs.usda.gov/superior](http://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](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)

## 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.

