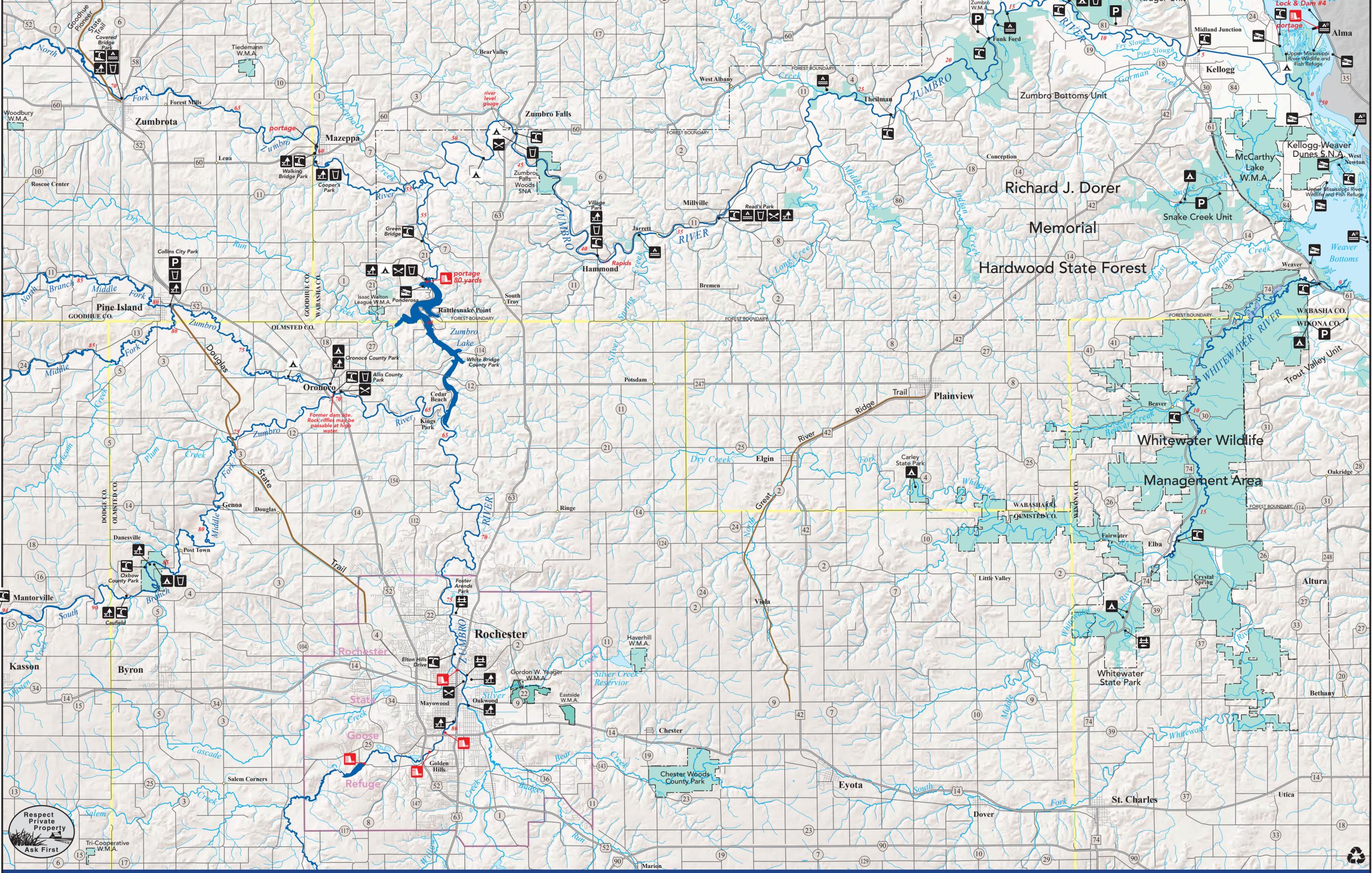


A STATE WATER TRAIL GUIDE TO THE ZUMBRO AND WHITEWATER RIVERS

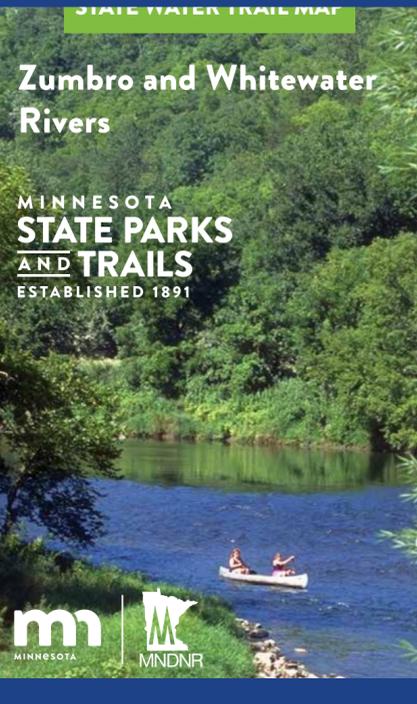
	Carry-in Access		River Mile		Goodhue
	Trailer Access		Rapids		Public lands
	Rest Area		Dam		Out of State land
	Watercraft Campsite		Fishing Pier	W.M.A. = Wildlife Management Area	
	No Facilities Campsite		Parking	0 1 2 3 4 Miles	
	Campground		Drinking Water	0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers	
	Private Campground		Outfitter		



Respect Private Property
Ask First

Tri-Cooperative W.M.A.





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
 1200 Warner Road
 St. Paul, MN 55106
 651-772-7900

Whitewater Wildlife Management Area Office
 Route 2 Box 333
 Altura, MN 55910
 507-932-4133

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

mndnr.gov

THE RIVER

Limestone and sandstone bluffs watch over the Zumbro and Whitewater Rivers as they wind through southeastern Minnesota to the Mississippi. The Zumbro's narrow valley is lined with rocky outcrops for much of its length below the Rochester power dam. From Theilman to the river's mouth the valley widens considerably and farmland stretches away from the banks.

Woods and marshes along the river offer a gentle contrast to the striking bluffs. Trees in the river valley are predominantly elm, box elder, willow and cottonwood, with some walnut.

The most commonly paddled stretches of the Zumbro are on its main stem. Two of the most popular trips are from the Zumbro Lake power dam to Zumbro Falls or from Zumbro Falls to either Hammond or Millville.

The forks and branches of the Zumbro are more difficult to negotiate, particularly in low water conditions, but can provide many good opportunities for those preferring a smaller stream.

Canoeists expecting to drift down the Zumbro may be taken by surprise. At even moderate levels the river has a lively current and travelers must keep a lookout to avoid snags. The French named the Zumbro "Riviere des Embarras", meaning river of difficulties. Snags hindered the canoes of the French fur traders.

Erosion has worn down a small waterfall which was once located just above the town of Zumbro Falls; the falls are now a sandstone rubble bed.

A stretch of mild rapids at Jarrett presents a rocky obstacle course during low water.

The Zumbro is a good fishing river; with catfish, smallmouth bass, walleye and suckers. Wildlife along the river includes deer, fox, grouse, eagles and herons.

The Whitewater River was named by the Native Americans because in the spring it turned a milky white as high water eroded the light-colored clay on its banks. There are no white water rapids.

The designated canoe route meanders through the bottomlands of the Whitewater W.M.A. and the upper part of the Whitewater is a designated trout stream. As such, there are no campsites or rest areas and users should be sensitive to the ecological issues of the river. The river is more suited to observation of wildlife, vegetation and scenery than a boating focused adventure.

LAY OF THE LAND

Southeastern Minnesota's landscape is as picturesque today as it was when early explorers first viewed its steep, rugged bluffs and deep river valleys.

Although this area was not covered by the last glaciers, it was affected by them. Glacial meltwater rushed downstream carving through hundreds of feet of limestone and sandstone. That action resulted in spectacular steep and rugged dolomite cliffs that overlook deep scenic valleys and groves of hardwood.

This area served as a gateway for cultures moving north. The "Mississippian Tradition", a striking example of cultural development, moved northward about A.D. 900 to 1000. They farmed the fertile bottom land and built villages on terraces above the rivers.

In the 1640s, with the onset of European exploration, France claimed this part of the "New World". The newly formed United States, in turn, bought it from France as part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. The native Dakota Indians continued to inhabit the land until the 1852 Treaty of Traverse de Sioux forced their removal.

European emigrants cleared hardwood stands and fields were cultivated. Poor land management led to catastrophic erosion, which gradually led the people of southeastern Minnesota to initiate wiser use of the land.

The state established the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest to assist in restoring the area and promote sustainable land use.

WHITEWATER W.M.A.

The **Whitewater Wildlife Management Area** acquisition began in 1931 after the Rochester Izaak Walton League petitioned that a portion of the Whitewater Valley be preserved. It currently encompasses 27,000 acres, making it the largest tract of public land in southern Minnesota.

Fourteen artificial and natural wetlands within the area attract waterfowl, shorebirds and aquatic furbearers. The deciduous forests provide excellent habitat for deer, wild turkey and ruffed grouse.

Activities permitted on the WMA:
 Hunting or fishing in accordance with state regulations, hiking or cross-country skiing, on or off designated trails and picking fruit or mushrooms for personal use.

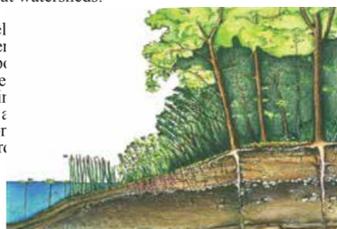
Activities requiring a permit on the WMA:
 Mountain biking, cutting commercial timber or fuelwood for home use, digging ginseng root and hunting raccoon with dogs or trapping.

Activities NOT permitted on the WMA:
 Camping, horseback riding, target shooting, operating snowmobiles or All-Terrain Vehicles, and collecting plants or animals for commercial uses.

SUSTAINABLE ECOSYSTEMS

Outdoor recreation is dependent on a healthy and attractive natural environment. Sustainable outdoor recreation enables people to enjoy the outdoors with out 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 shorel provide filtering out p sediments. He native shorelin communities r provide impor habitat for bir wildlife.



RIVER TOWNS

Genoa: Bears the name of an ancient seaport in northern Italy, the birthplace of Columbus.

Hammond: A railway village, named for Joseph Hammond, the farmer who settled here in 1856 and on whose land the town was platted. It offers a picnic area and carry-in access.

Kellogg: Founded in 1877. Named by officers of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Company in honor of a Milwaukee gentleman who furnished the depot signs. It offers a picnic area, carry-in access, convenience store and gas station.

Mazeppa: Settled in 1855. Named for Ivan Mazeppa, a Cossack chief, commemorated in a poem by Lord Byron. It offers a restaurant, gas station and picnic area.

Millville: Settled in part due to the "fine water power of the Zumbro River, falling 14 feet." It offers a picnic area, carry-in access, campground, gas station and restaurant.

Oronoco: Founded in 1854. Named after the Orinoco River in South America in allusion to the valuable water power from the Zumbro River. It offers a picnic area, carry-in access, campground, gas station, convenience store and restaurant.

Pine Island: Settled in 1855. Derived it's name from tall white pine trees which grew on the south side of the river, extending from Main Street onto the bluff west of the village. It offers a picnic area, grocery store, motel, gas station, restaurant and other businesses. Provides access to the Douglas State Trail.

Rochester: Platted in 1855. Named after Rochester, New York by pioneer settler George Head. The Zumbro River rapids reminded him of those of the Genesee River in New York. Rochester is the home of the world famous Mayo Clinic and Hospitals and the economic center of southeastern Minnesota. Douglas State Trail access is on the northwest side of the city.

Theilman: A railway village, named for Henry Theilman, on whose land this village was platted.

Zumbro Falls: Historically, a railway village at the falls of the Zumbro River, however, the falls no longer exist. The town offers picnic area, campground, carry-in access, restaurant, convenience store and gas station.

Zumbrota: Settled in 1854. It's name is a compound of French and Dakota languages. "Zumbro" is derived from the French and the Dakota suffix "ta", means at or on. The city offers a picnic area, campground, carry-in access, restaurant, motel, gas station and many other businesses.

Elba: This village on the Whitewater River was named after an island in Italy famed for rich iron ore deposits.



NATURAL COMMUNITIES

The Zumbro and Whitewater Rivers flow through a diverse array of natural communities.

Right next to the river, you'll generally see floodplain forest, with American elm, silver maple, cottonwood, black willow and box elder trees. Emergent marshes, with cattails, bulrushes, and other wetland plants, occur in areas with permanent standing water.

Upland areas vary according to landforms, soils, and slope. Rich loamy soils and steep cool north-facing slopes support maple-basswood forest, with carpets of spring wildflowers and bright autumn leaf displays. The driest slopes and sandy areas have oak forests, oak savannas, and prairies. All of these were kept relatively open many years ago by fires, many originating from lightning strikes, and others set by Native Americans. The driest soils and areas that once burned frequently have prairie vegetation.

Oak savannas, which can be recognized by the presence of scattered groves and individual oak trees with wide-spreading branches with prairie vegetation beneath, occur in areas that burned less frequently. The sandy valleys and slopes on the east side of the Whitewater River north of Elba support some of the best black oak and jack pine savannas in southeastern Minnesota. These savannas provide habitat for the state's only population of the endangered Karner blue butterfly. Because we have lost over 99% of the state's savannas and prairies, many of the native plants that grow in these areas are considered rare.

Oak forests, found on soils with intermediate moisture that burned infrequently on the pre-settlement landscape, occur commonly on slopes and terraces along the rivers.

RIVER WILDLIFE

Rare amphibians and reptiles in these river valleys require a variety of different habitats. Wooded floodplains and slopes along the Zumbro River provide food and cover for wood turtles, which also use sandbars and cutbanks for nesting habitat. Blanding's turtles use upland sand prairies and savannas for nesting, but spend much of their time in emergent marshes, where they find food and cover. Pickerel frogs can be seen in marshes. A number of snakes use forests, prairies, and wetlands along the river, including fox snakes, racers, hognose snakes, gopher snakes, and timber rattlers.

The rare birds that can be seen in floodplain forests along these rivers, include red-shouldered hawks, bald eagles, osprey, cerulean warblers, and Acadian flycatchers. Open marshes provide important habitat for sandhill cranes and moorhens.

TRIP PLANNING & USE

For Your Safety:

- Know your skills and capabilities when selecting a route.
- Leave a plan of your trip with a friend or relative.
- Pay attention to weather forecasts.
- Take along a spare paddle.
- Travel with a companion.
- Each person is required to have a personal flotation device.
- Be cautious of river obstructions, such as over hanging and dead trees in the water.
- Approach all dams and hazards with caution.
- The average canoeing speed is two to three miles per hour.

Water Level Conditions: Usually a shallow river, the Zumbro's water level depends largely on the flow at the Rochester power dam. The dam operators generally release water on weekends, raising the level sufficiently for canoeing. The river level may rise dramatically and dangerously after rainstorms, when flash floods are likely to occur. The Whitewater River is also susceptible to rapid flash flooding. *Use caution!* The water level of the Whitewater is usually adequate in the spring and early summer, but by mid to late summer it is more dependent on rainfall. You will encounter logs and snags. Contact the DNR Information Center for the river level information.



Mississippi River: If you are planning

a trip into the Mississippi River, be familiar with navigation on the river and its backwaters. The DNR Information Center can provide a free copy of the Mississippi River Guide.

Shuttling Options: When planning any trip on a river, transportation between the access sites must be arranged.

Vehicle-Take two vehicles. Leave one at the takeout site to transport you and your equipment back to the starting point.

Bicycle-Leave a bicycle secured at the takeout site to allow you to ride back and retrieve your vehicle or bring bike in the canoe.

Outfitters-Several outfitters offer shuttling to and from the access sites, they also provide canoe and accessory rentals, trip planning, and other services. The DNR Information Center can provide a list of outfitters.

Fees: There are no fees required at any of the campsites or accesses provided by the DNR. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Drinking Water: Drinking water is not provided at many of the DNR facilities. Therefore, bring an adequate supply.

Camping: Camping is permitted at designated campsites on state forest lands. There are also private campgrounds available. Flooding requires that campers place canoe and gear high on the river bank. Campsite users are requested to leave the campsite as clean or cleaner than when they arrived. Fires are permitted in a designated fire ring or on the ground in an area cleared of all combustible materials within a five foot radius. Fires should be extinguished before leaving the campsite. Only dead and downed wood may be collected for a fire.

Administration: Over 150 miles of the Zumbro River and 20 miles of the Whitewater River are managed under the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Canoe and Boating Route Program to provide camping, access facilities and maintenance.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

Note: R and L refer to right and left sides of the river when facing downstream.

NORTH FORK of the ZUMBRO RIVER

River Mile	Description
72.5	US Highway 52 bridge.
72.3	165th Avenue bridge.
70.5	City of Zumbrota.
70.2	Remains of railroad trestle.
69.6 (L)	Covered Bridge City Park. Carry-in access, camping, toilets, picnic tables and drinking water. State Highway 58 bridge immediately downstream.
67.2	Old bridge abutments. County Road 4 bridge immediately downstream.
66.2	County Road 10 bridge.
60.7	City of Mazeppa.
60.2	CAUTION: rapids.
60.1	Walking Bridge City Park. Foot bridge, picnic tables, shelters, toilets, drinking water and carry-in access.
60.0	State Highway 60 bridge.
59.9 (L)	Cooper's City Park.
59.7	Old bridge abutments.
55.0	Township road bridge. confluence with Mazeppa Creek, a designated trout stream, downstream on left.
54.8	County Road 7 bridge.
53.5 (R)	Confluence with Zumbro River.

NORTH BRANCH of the MIDDLE FORK of the ZUMBRO RIVER

River Mile	Description
79.6	Township road bridge.
79.1 (L)	Collins City Park. Toilets, picnic tables, shelter and drinking water. City of Pine Island.
79.1	Main Street bridge.
79.1	Trestle; Douglas State Trail bridge. Trail access to park on left. Toilets, picnic tables, shelters, drinking water and fire rings.
79.0 (R)	Confluence with Middle Fork of the Zumbro River.

MIDDLE FORK of the ZUMBRO RIVER

River Mile	Description
84.7	Township road bridge.
83.7(R)	Confluence with Harkcom Creek.
80.7	County Road 3 bridge.
79.8	Township road bridge.
79.1	City of Pine Island
79.1	Trestle; Douglas State Trail bridge. Trail access to park on left. Toilets, picnic tables, shelters, drinking water and fire rings.
79.0 (L)	Confluence with North Branch of the Middle Fork of the Zumbro River.
73.3	County Road 31 bridge.
71.9 (L)	Private Campground; fee charged.
70.4	Oronoco County Park on left. Carry-in access, picnic tables, toilets and campground.
69.9 (L)	City of Oronoco. Caution: twenty foot high dam. Portage 200 yards on left. Ramp access to lake on left at Allis City Park. County Road 18 bridge immediately downstream.
69.8	Oronoco trailer access.
63.8	Lake Zumbro.

SOUTH BRANCH of the MIDDLE FORK of the ZUMBRO RIVER

River Mile	Description
94.5	Mantorville Park / Access
90.3	Township road bridge.
88.8	County Road 5 bridge.
88.0 (R)	Caufield carry-in access and rest area.
86.7	Foot bridge.
85.7	Foot bridge.
84.9 (R)	Oxbow County Park. Campground with fee charged, picnic tables, shelters, toilets, fire rings and drinking water.
87.5	Foot bridge.
84.8	County Road 105 bridge.
83.6	County Road 103 bridge.
78.3	Town of Genoa. County Road 14 bridge.
75.2 (L)	Confluence with Plum Creek.
74.9	Trestle; Douglas State Trail bridge.
74.8	County Road 3 bridge. River gauge on downstream side of bridge: 0.5' to 2' for good canoeing.
70.3	Shady Lake.

ZUMBRO RIVER

River Mile	Description
84.8	Mayowood Lake. County Road 125 bridge.
84.2	Caution: fifteen foot high Mayowood Dam. No established portage.
82.5	Foot bridge.
82.4	County Road 8 bridge. City of Rochester.
81.6	US Highway 52 bridge.
81.1	CAUTION: ten foot high dam. No established portage.
80.4	16th Street SW bridge.
80.2	CAUTION: dam. No established portage.
79.7	US Highway 14 bridge.
79.6 (R)	Soldiers Field City Golf Course. Three foot bridges downstream.
79.3 (L)	Soldiers Field City Park. Picnic tables, shelters, toilets, and drinking water.
79.1	US Highway 63 (South Broadway) bridge.
79.0	4th Street SE bridge. Railroad trestle and foot bridge immediately downstream.
78.9	3rd Avenue SE bridge.
78.2	Confluence with Bear Creek. Mayo Memorial City Park on right. Picnic tables.

ZUMBRO RIVER

continued:

River Mile	Description
78.2	Foot bridge.
78.2	Center Street bridge.
78.1	Railroad trestle.
78.2	Confluence with Silver Creek 7th Stree NE bridge immediately downstream.
78.1	Silver Lake City Park. Picnic tables, shelters, toilets, and drinking water.
77.6	CAUTION: fourteen foot high dam. No established portage. US Highway 63 (North Broadway)) bridge immediately downstream.
77.4	Confluence with Cascade Creek.
77.1 (R)	Elton Hills Drive bridge. Carry-in access downstream on right side.
76.9	Foot bridge.
75.5	37th Street NE bridge.
69.3	County Road 14 (75th Street NW) bridge.
66.5	County Road 121 bridge.
63.7	Lake Zumbro. Confluence of Middle Fork of the Zumbro River.
61.5 (L)	Private trailer access. Powerline crossing.
58.1 (L)	Public trailer access. Private campground.
57.9 (R)	CAUTION: thirty foot high dam. Portage 80 yards on right.
57.9	Private carry-in access. Outfitter. Private campground.
55.8 (L)	County Road 7 bridge, carry-in access river left.
53.5 (L)	Confluence with North Fork of the Zumbro River.
48.2 (L)	Carry-in access and private campground.
47.0 (L)	Confluence with Cold Stream Brook, a designated trout stream.
46.8	Township road bridge.
46.6	City of Zumbro Falls.
46.1 (L)	Carry-in access.
46.2	US Highway 63 bridge.
39.1 (L)	Town of Hammond. Village Park with carry-in access and toilets.
39.0	County Road 11 bridge. City park with drinking water on left immediately downstream.
36.5 (R)	Confluence with Silver Spring Creek. DNR campsite with picnic table, pit toilet and fire ring.
34.0 (L)	Powerline crossing. City of Millville. Read's Park on left with carry-in access, drinking water, toilets and fee campground.
33.7	County Road 2 bridge.
29.3 (R)	Confluence with Long Creek.
28.9	Powerline crossing.
28.7 (R)	Confluence with Middle Creek.
26.0 (L)	DNR campsite with picnic table, pit toilet and fire ring.
26.2 (L)	Confluence with Spring Creek.
23.3	City of Theilman.
23.0 (L)	Carry-in access.
22.8	County Road 4 bridge.
22.7 (R)	Confluence with West Indian Creek.
16.8 (L)	Zumbro Bottoms DNR Forestry Recreation Area (map available). Carry-in access. Funk Ford Trail Bridge downstream on right side.
16.1 (R)	DNR campsite with picnic table, and fire ring.
14.9 (R)	DNR campsite with picnic table, and fire ring.
13.9 (L)	Confluence with Trout Brook.
12.2 (L)	Kruger DNR Forestry Recreation Area (map available). Carry-in access. Across road is campground with fee charged, picnic tables, shelters, toilets and drinking water.
5.5	US Highway 61 bridge.
5.4	City of Kellogg.
5.1 (L)	Railroad trestle. Carry-in access downstream on left past old abutments.
0	Confluence with the Mississippi River. Next available downstream access on Minnesota side is at West Newton. Next available upstream access is above Lock and Dam #4 at Peterson Lake or portaging to Finger Lakes.

WHITEWATER RIVER

River Mile	Description
17.0	City of Elba .
16.6	County Highway 26 bridge. Carry-in access is on the right side, downstream of the bridge. Park on shoulder.
16.2 (R)	Confluence with South Fork of the Whitewater River.
10.6 (L)	Carry-in access. County Highway 30 bridge is 300 feet downstream. CAUTION: rock weirs and rapids downstream of the bridge.
6.4	Rock weir - 2 foot plus drop.
4.2	Rock weir - 2 foot plus drop.
1.7	Powerline crossing.
0.8	Snowmobile bridge. Carry-in access on right side immediately downstream.
0.7	US Highway 61 bridge.
0.7	Railroad trestle.
0.0	Confluence with the Mississippi River. Next available downstream access on Minnesota side is at Minneiska. Next available upstream access is at Weaver.