

ZUMBRO AND WHITEWATER RIVER STATE WATER TRAILS







MINNESOTA STATE PARKS AND TRAILS



ABOUT THE WATER TRAIL

Limestone and sandstone bluffs overlook the Zumbro and Whitewater rivers as they wind through southeastern Minnesota to the Mississippi River. The Zumbro flows through a valley hemmed in by cliffs for much of its path. From Theilman to the river's mouth, the valley widens with farmland beyond the banks.

Paddlers expecting to drift down the Zumbro may be taken by surprise. The river has a lively current even at moderate levels, so be sure to avoid snags. Other hazards include logs, dams and flash floods.

Be aware that there are no campsites or rest areas in the ecologically sensitive Whitewater Wildlife Management Area of the Whitewater River.



Paddle beneath the hills and cliffs of the Zumbro River.

-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. State and national forests do 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.
- Follow the rules for firewood. State forests allow you to gather dead wood for a fire, but state parks do not.

- RECOMMENDED DAY TRIP —

Zumbro Falls to Hammond

- Put-in location: River mile 46
- Take-out location: River mile 39
- Length: **7** river miles

Expect a lively current with easy riffles. The highway follows the river here. As you travel downriver, the valley grows deeper with limestone cliffs and tall hilltops. Bring your fishing gear for some excellent fishing. mndnr.gov/watertrails/recommended

- EXPLORE ON SHORE-

Kruger Forest Management Area

Location: River mile 12

Hike on multi-use trails, camp (fee required) or eniov picnic tables not far from the water in this unit of the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest.

mndnr.gov/state forests

Zumbro Bottoms Management Unit (North)

Location: River mile **15**

You'll find multi-use trails and several canoe-in campsites (fee required) in this unit of the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest. mndnr.gov/state forests

- 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.

mndnr.gov/invasives/aquatic

Buffer Protection

they reach waterways. mndnr.gov/buffers





CONTACTS

DNR REGION 3 HEADQUARTERS 3555 9th Street NW, Suite 350 Rochester, MN 55901 (507) 206-2847

DNR INFORMATION CENTER

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

Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest: **Kruger Forest and Zumbro Bottoms Management Units** C/O Frontenac State Park Frontenac, MN 55026 (651) 345-3401

MEDICAL

Olmsted Medical Clinic 20 2nd Ave NE Plainview. MN 55992 (507) 534-3885

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 911

- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.
- The Minnesota buffer law establishes new vegetation buffers along rivers, streams and ditches to help filter out chemicals and sediment before

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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