

Milwaukee Urban Water Trail is a project of **Milwaukee Riverkeeper**, a science-based advocacy organization working for swimmable, fishable rivers throughout the Milwaukee River Basin. We envision a future in which people from all walks of life can enjoy the healthy waterways of the Milwaukee River Basin. Milwaukee Riverkeeper advocates for compliance with environmental laws and is a licensed member of the Waterkeeper Alliance, a global network of grassroots leaders protecting everyone's right to clean water.



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MILWAUKEE'S RIVERS – PAST AND PRESENT

Milwaukee's rivers have always been important cultural, economic, and natural pathways. Native Americans used these water routes for trade and transportation, and sustained themselves with the fish, wildlife, wild rice, and other plants harvested from the rivers and associated wetlands. Traders, trappers, missionaries, and French explorers used the rivers for exploration and trade. As European settlers moved into the Milwaukee area, the local rivers quickly became the main commercial and shipping arteries of the young community, and were heavily used for transporting wheat, lumber, coal, and other products. Over time, roads, railways, and air transport gradually replaced rivers as the major transportation routes for most goods. Milwaukee, Grafton, and other cities gradually turned their backs on the rivers, which had become severely polluted. Buildings that had once opened out to the river now looked to the streets.

Over recent decades, people are once again embracing their rivers. This change in perception is the result of improved water quality, a surge in building and redevelopment along riverfronts, increased interest in recreation, and improved public access. The rivers are now used largely for recreation — from the more natural reaches upstream meandering through parkland and natural areas enjoyed for their beauty and wildlife, to the more urban portions welcoming boaters to dock along the RiverWalk to enjoy a local beer, dinner, or entertainment. While Native Americans, traders, and trappers are rarely seen on our rivers today, modern day explorers can be found in canoes and kayaks seeking tranquility, relaxation, and a natural connection to the past in the midst of an increasingly busy world.

WATER TRAILS – MAKING CONNECTIONS

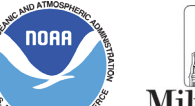
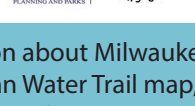
Water trails are liquid “pathways” that are being developed in communities across the country. They enable non-motorized boaters to find legal and safe access points, resting sites, and nearby cultural, historical, recreational, and natural attractions. Water trails connect people with places, both natural and human-made, connect past to present, and bring the boater into contact with the rivers, lakes, and surrounding lands from a unique perspective. These connections help provide “a sense of place” within our watersheds, promote stewardship, provide a unique perspective and vantage point, and bring us together as a community.

MILWAUKEE URBAN WATER TRAIL

People increasingly recognize that they don't need to travel long distances to go canoeing or kayaking, but can enjoy the rivers right in their own backyards. The Milwaukee Urban Water Trail is a cooperative effort to help the citizens and visitors of the Greater Milwaukee Area gain safe and legal access to the Milwaukee, Menomonee, and Kinnick-

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Project Supporters:



For more information about Milwaukee Riverkeeper, to download the Milwaukee Urban Water Trail map, or to make a donation please visit us online or follow us on social media:

www.milwaukee-riverkeeper.org



innic Rivers with their canoes, kayaks, and other small non-motorized boats. This second edition of the Milwaukee Urban Water Trail map now connects a large natural stretch of the Milwaukee River and its tributaries in Ozaukee County to the more urban stretches of our rivers in Milwaukee County. This map also connects our three rivers to access points along Lake Michigan, which includes launches that are part of the Lake Michigan Water Trail as well as some newly acquired lakefront parks in Ozaukee County.

The Milwaukee Urban Water Trail builds on a series of efforts to bring life back to the rivers of the Milwaukee River Basin by improving access, water quality, fisheries, and wildlife habitat. The underlying goal of the Water Trail is to encourage people to enjoy their rivers in a responsible way that protects our natural and cultural resources. Water trail explorers are encouraged to respect these resources and the private landowners and communities that care for them.

NATURAL ATTRACTIONS

Our local rivers flow through lands that are both privately and publicly owned, with most of the latter protected by the Milwaukee County Parks system, by the Ozaukee County Park System, and other municipal parks. These parks provide a scenic backdrop along much of the water trail, as well as provide excellent opportunities for bird watching and wildlife viewing. It is common to see kingfishers, herons, egrets, mallards, osprey, eagles, and migratory birds, as well as the occasional river otter, beaver, mink, deer, coyote, turtle, and frog, among others. Due to improving water quality and river restoration projects such as the removal of 8 major dams and dozens of smaller barriers, over 40 species of fish can now be found throughout much of the water trail area. The DNR is reintroducing sturgeon, walleye, and other native fish that once thrived in our rivers, and fishing opportunities now abound, especially near Waubesa County Park, and below Thiensville Dam and Fish Passage, Kletzsch Park Falls, and Estabrook Falls on the Milwaukee River and along the lower Menomonee River in Three Bridges Park. The water trail flows adjacent to the Ozaukee Interurban Trail, the Milwaukee County Parks' Oak Leaf Trail, and the Beer Line Trail, which provide quality hiking and biking opportunities that could be combined with a paddle trip. The Lake Michigan access sites allow paddlers to explore beaches, natural areas, and new parks along Southeast Wisconsin's beautiful lakefront in Milwaukee and Ozaukee County, while also providing a connection between river and lakefront access sites.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ATTRACTIONS

Although Milwaukee and its natural harbor began as a Great Lakes port in 1835, many settlers, fur traders, and immigrants were drawn to Milwaukee and other adjacent communities by the access

Milwaukee Urban Water Trail

Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties



Canoe and Kayak Guide

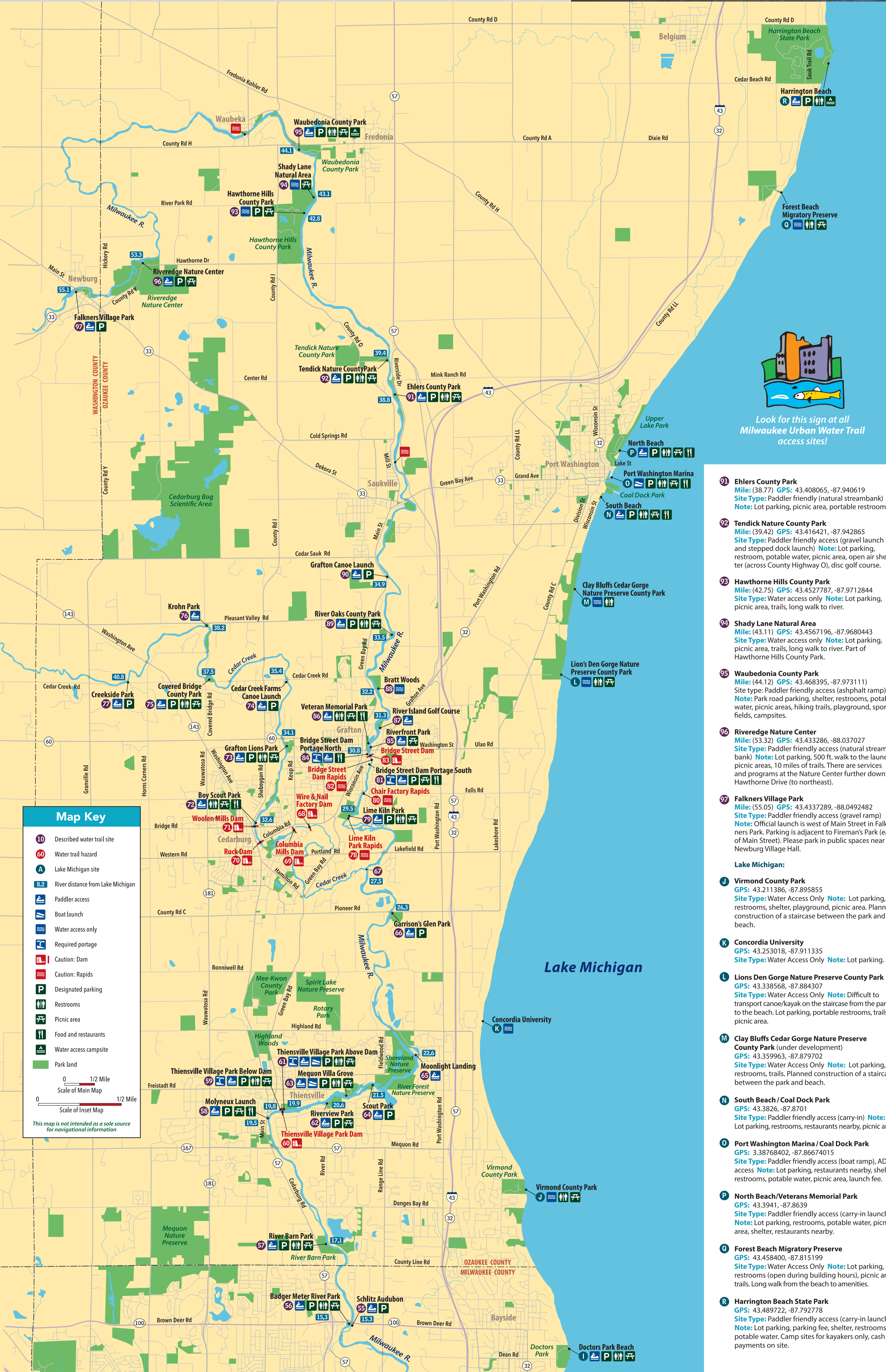
that Milwaukee's three rivers provided into the interior “wilderness” by canoe. Although the wilderness is largely gone, paddlers can still find connections to our natural and human past along every stretch and around every corner of the Milwaukee Urban Water Trail. Boating by Jones Island, now the location of a sewage treatment plant and the Port of Milwaukee, we are reminded of a marsh island settled by largely Kaszube and German immigrants who made their living by fishing Lake Michigan. Floating through the Third Ward and Downtown Milwaukee, we are reminded of a past where shipping and commercial vessels lined our shores, teaming with wheat, lumber, coal and other supplies. Paddling upstream of the former North Avenue Dam, we can envision a lake that was once a popular recreational area lined with swimming schools, passenger ferries, boat liverys, rowing clubs, and even a theme park! As we pass the old Schlitz Brewery Dam, we remember a time when ice was harvested for a booming beer industry, and ice wars were in the news. Meandering through Thiensville, Cedarburg, Grafton, Saukville, Waubesa, and Newburg reminds us of a time when our rivers were used to convert wheat to flour, mussel shells to buttons, trees to lumber, and wool to textiles. Paddling through Grafton reminds us of a furniture manufacturer, the Wisconsin Chair Company, which started a recording studio and produced records (for phonographs the company also produced), supporting a burgeoning blues music industry with nationally significant artists.

Today, paddlers pass by cultural and tourist attractions that include: a vibrant downtown Milwaukee, the Milwaukee RiverWalk, the Pabst Theater, the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, the Urban Ecology Center, the picturesque downtown of Mequon/Thiensville, the historic City of Cedarburg and Village of Grafton, and the Riveredge Nature Center along the Milwaukee River; the Harley Davidson Museum, Potawatomi Bingo Casino, and Miller Park Stadium on the lower Menomonee River; and scenic boat marinas and industries along the Kinnickinnic River.

For more information about the water trail, please visit the Milwaukee Riverkeeper website at: www.milwaukee-riverkeeper.org



Edgar Daniel



Look for this sign at all Milwaukee Urban Water Trail access sites!

- 21 Ehlers County Park**
Mile: (38.77) **GPS:** 43.408065, -87.940619
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (natural streambank)
Note: Lot parking, picnic area, portable restrooms.
- 22 Tendick Nature County Park**
Mile: (39.42) **GPS:** 43.416421, -87.942865
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (gravel launch and stepped dock launch) **Note:** Lot parking, restroom, potable water, picnic area, open air shelter (across County Highway O), disc golf course.
- 23 Hawthorne Hills County Park**
Mile: (42.75) **GPS:** 43.4567196, -87.9680443
Site Type: Water access only **Note:** Lot parking, picnic area, trails, long walk to river. Part of Hawthorne Hills County Park.
- 24 Shady Lane Natural Area**
Mile: (43.11) **GPS:** 43.4567196, -87.9680443
Site Type: Water access only **Note:** Lot parking, picnic area, trails, long walk to river. Part of Hawthorne Hills County Park.
- 25 Waubesa County Park**
Mile: (44.12) **GPS:** 43.468395, -87.973111
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (asphalt ramp) **Note:** Park road parking, shelter, restrooms, potable water, picnic area, hiking trails, playground, sports fields, campsites.
- 26 Riveredge Nature Center**
Mile: (53.32) **GPS:** 43.433286, -88.037027
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (natural streambank) **Note:** Lot parking, 500 ft. walk to the launch, picnic areas, 10 miles of trails. There are services and programs at the Nature Center further down Hawthorne Drive (to northeast).
- 27 Falkners Village Park**
Mile: (55.05) **GPS:** 43.4337289, -88.0492482
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (natural streambank) **Note:** Official launch is west of Main Street in Falkners Park. Parking is adjacent to Fireman's Park (east of Main Street). Please park in public spaces near Newburg Village Hall.
- 28 Lime Kiln Park Rapids**
Mile: (59.48) **GPS:** 43.316407, -87.9488289
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (natural streambank) **Note:** Steep descent down to river on natural bank, adjacent lot parking, picnic area, restaurants nearby. Long portage to upstream access (approx. 1200 ft.).
- 29 Bridge Street Dam Portage South**
Mile: (60.79) **GPS:** 43.3192417, -87.9497784
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (natural streambank) **Note:** Street parking, restaurant nearby. 1200 ft. portage to downstream access. Take out very close to dam, along riverwalk, and adjacent to Milwaukee Ale House Grafton. Better to take out upstream at Veterans Memorial Park.
- 30 Riverfront Park**
Mile: (60.93) **GPS:** 43.320878, -87.948943
Site Type: Public access (concrete ramp) **Note:** Access is at end of Ridgeway Ct., on river left (east bank) across from Veterans Memorial Park. Street parking, picnic area.
- 31 Veterans Memorial Park**
Mile: (60.93) **GPS:** 43.321686, -87.949554
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (ADA accessible pier) **Note:** Street parking, shelter, restaurants nearby, potable water, picnic area, restrooms, playground.
- 32 River Island Golf Course**
Mile: (61.33) **GPS:** 43.325632, -87.945426
Site Type: Public access (natural streambank) **Note:** Street parking.
- 33 Bratt Woods**
Mile: (62.24) **GPS:** 43.3351613, -87.9463559
Site Type: Water access only **Note:** Site accessible from land via Interurban Trail east of Hwy O (after Trail bridge), 600 ft. portage from road. Or from East Cedar Creek Road.
- 34 River Oaks County Park**
Mile: (63.52) **GPS:** 43.3485236, -87.9414649
Site Type: Public access (natural streambank) **Note:** Lot parking, picnic area, portable restrooms.
- 35 Grafton Canoe Launch**
Mile: (64.85) **GPS:** 43.363021, -87.943117
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (stepped dock launch for canoes and kayaks) **Note:** Lot parking.
- 36 Harrison Beach State Park**
Mile: (65.97) **GPS:** 43.379272, -87.792778
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (carry-in launch) **Note:** Lot parking, parking fee, shelter, restrooms, potable water. Camp sites for kayakers only, cash payments on site.
- 37 Forest Beach Migratory Preserve**
Mile: (66.40) **GPS:** 43.379272, -87.792778
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms (open during building hours), picnic area, trails. Long walk from the beach to amenities.
- 38 North Beach/Veterans Memorial Park**
Mile: (67.41) **GPS:** 43.3941, -87.8639
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (carry-in launch) **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, potable water, picnic area, shelter, restaurants nearby.
- 39 Port Washington Marina/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (68.40) **GPS:** 43.3876402, -87.8664015
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (boat ramp), ADA access **Note:** Lot parking, restaurants nearby, shelter, restrooms, potable water, picnic area, launch fee.
- 40 Concordia University**
Mile: (69.41) **GPS:** 43.253018, -87.911335
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking.
- 41 Lions Den Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (70.42) **GPS:** 43.338568, -87.884307
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Difficult to transport canoe/kayak on the staircase from the park to the beach. Lot parking, portable restrooms, trails, picnic area.
- 42 Clay Bluffs Cedar Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (71.43) **GPS:** 43.359963, -87.879702
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, trails, Planned construction of a staircase between the park and beach.
- 43 South Beach/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (72.44) **GPS:** 43.3826, -87.8701
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (carry-in) **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, restaurants nearby, picnic area.
- 44 Port Washington Marina/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (73.45) **GPS:** 43.3876402, -87.8664015
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (boat ramp), ADA access **Note:** Lot parking, restaurants nearby, shelter, restrooms, potable water, picnic area, launch fee.
- 45 Concordia University**
Mile: (74.46) **GPS:** 43.253018, -87.911335
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking.
- 46 Lions Den Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (75.47) **GPS:** 43.338568, -87.884307
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Difficult to transport canoe/kayak on the staircase from the park to the beach. Lot parking, portable restrooms, trails, picnic area.
- 47 Clay Bluffs Cedar Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (76.48) **GPS:** 43.359963, -87.879702
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, trails, Planned construction of a staircase between the park and beach.
- 48 South Beach/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (77.49) **GPS:** 43.3826, -87.8701
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (carry-in) **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, restaurants nearby, picnic area.
- 49 Port Washington Marina/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (78.50) **GPS:** 43.3876402, -87.8664015
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (boat ramp), ADA access **Note:** Lot parking, restaurants nearby, shelter, restrooms, potable water, picnic area, launch fee.
- 50 Concordia University**
Mile: (79.51) **GPS:** 43.253018, -87.911335
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking.
- 51 Lions Den Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (80.52) **GPS:** 43.338568, -87.884307
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Difficult to transport canoe/kayak on the staircase from the park to the beach. Lot parking, portable restrooms, trails, picnic area.
- 52 Clay Bluffs Cedar Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (81.53) **GPS:** 43.359963, -87.879702
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, trails, Planned construction of a staircase between the park and beach.
- 53 South Beach/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (82.54) **GPS:** 43.3826, -87.8701
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (carry-in) **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, restaurants nearby, picnic area.
- 54 Port Washington Marina/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (83.55) **GPS:** 43.3876402, -87.8664015
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (boat ramp), ADA access **Note:** Lot parking, restaurants nearby, shelter, restrooms, potable water, picnic area, launch fee.
- 55 Concordia University**
Mile: (84.56) **GPS:** 43.253018, -87.911335
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking.
- 56 Lions Den Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (85.57) **GPS:** 43.338568, -87.884307
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Difficult to transport canoe/kayak on the staircase from the park to the beach. Lot parking, portable restrooms, trails, picnic area.
- 57 Clay Bluffs Cedar Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (86.58) **GPS:** 43.359963, -87.879702
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, trails, Planned construction of a staircase between the park and beach.
- 58 South Beach/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (87.59) **GPS:** 43.3826, -87.8701
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (carry-in) **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, restaurants nearby, picnic area.
- 59 Port Washington Marina/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (88.60) **GPS:** 43.3876402, -87.8664015
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (boat ramp), ADA access **Note:** Lot parking, restaurants nearby, shelter, restrooms, potable water, picnic area, launch fee.
- 60 Concordia University**
Mile: (89.61) **GPS:** 43.253018, -87.911335
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking.
- 61 Lions Den Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (90.62) **GPS:** 43.338568, -87.884307
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Difficult to transport canoe/kayak on the staircase from the park to the beach. Lot parking, portable restrooms, trails, picnic area.
- 62 Clay Bluffs Cedar Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (91.63) **GPS:** 43.359963, -87.879702
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, trails, Planned construction of a staircase between the park and beach.
- 63 South Beach/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (92.64) **GPS:** 43.3826, -87.8701
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (carry-in) **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, restaurants nearby, picnic area.
- 64 Port Washington Marina/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (93.65) **GPS:** 43.3876402, -87.8664015
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (boat ramp), ADA access **Note:** Lot parking, restaurants nearby, shelter, restrooms, potable water, picnic area, launch fee.
- 65 Concordia University**
Mile: (94.66) **GPS:** 43.253018, -87.911335
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking.
- 66 Lions Den Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (95.67) **GPS:** 43.338568, -87.884307
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Difficult to transport canoe/kayak on the staircase from the park to the beach. Lot parking, portable restrooms, trails, picnic area.
- 67 Clay Bluffs Cedar Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (96.68) **GPS:** 43.359963, -87.879702
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, trails, Planned construction of a staircase between the park and beach.
- 68 South Beach/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (97.69) **GPS:** 43.3826, -87.8701
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (carry-in) **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, restaurants nearby, picnic area.
- 69 Port Washington Marina/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (98.70) **GPS:** 43.3876402, -87.8664015
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (boat ramp), ADA access **Note:** Lot parking, restaurants nearby, shelter, restrooms, potable water, picnic area, launch fee.
- 70 Concordia University**
Mile: (99.71) **GPS:** 43.253018, -87.911335
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking.
- 71 Lions Den Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (100.72) **GPS:** 43.338568, -87.884307
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Difficult to transport canoe/kayak on the staircase from the park to the beach. Lot parking, portable restrooms, trails, picnic area.
- 72 Clay Bluffs Cedar Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (101.73) **GPS:** 43.359963, -87.879702
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, trails, Planned construction of a staircase between the park and beach.
- 73 South Beach/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (102.74) **GPS:** 43.3826, -87.8701
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (carry-in) **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, restaurants nearby, picnic area.
- 74 Port Washington Marina/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (103.75) **GPS:** 43.3876402, -87.8664015
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (boat ramp), ADA access **Note:** Lot parking, restaurants nearby, shelter, restrooms, potable water, picnic area, launch fee.
- 75 Concordia University**
Mile: (104.76) **GPS:** 43.253018, -87.911335
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking.
- 76 Lions Den Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (105.77) **GPS:** 43.338568, -87.884307
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Difficult to transport canoe/kayak on the staircase from the park to the beach. Lot parking, portable restrooms, trails, picnic area.
- 77 Clay Bluffs Cedar Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (106.78) **GPS:** 43.359963, -87.879702
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, trails, Planned construction of a staircase between the park and beach.
- 78 South Beach/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (107.79) **GPS:** 43.3826, -87.8701
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (carry-in) **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, restaurants nearby, picnic area.
- 79 Port Washington Marina/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (108.80) **GPS:** 43.3876402, -87.8664015
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (boat ramp), ADA access **Note:** Lot parking, restaurants nearby, shelter, restrooms, potable water, picnic area, launch fee.
- 80 Concordia University**
Mile: (109.81) **GPS:** 43.253018, -87.911335
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking.
- 81 Lions Den Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (110.82) **GPS:** 43.338568, -87.884307
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Difficult to transport canoe/kayak on the staircase from the park to the beach. Lot parking, portable restrooms, trails, picnic area.
- 82 Clay Bluffs Cedar Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (111.83) **GPS:** 43.359963, -87.879702
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, trails, Planned construction of a staircase between the park and beach.
- 83 South Beach/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (112.84) **GPS:** 43.3826, -87.8701
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (carry-in) **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, restaurants nearby, picnic area.
- 84 Port Washington Marina/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (113.85) **GPS:** 43.3876402, -87.8664015
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (boat ramp), ADA access **Note:** Lot parking, restaurants nearby, shelter, restrooms, potable water, picnic area, launch fee.
- 85 Concordia University**
Mile: (114.86) **GPS:** 43.253018, -87.911335
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking.
- 86 Lions Den Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (115.87) **GPS:** 43.338568, -87.884307
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Difficult to transport canoe/kayak on the staircase from the park to the beach. Lot parking, portable restrooms, trails, picnic area.
- 87 Clay Bluffs Cedar Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (116.88) **GPS:** 43.359963, -87.879702
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, trails, Planned construction of a staircase between the park and beach.
- 88 South Beach/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (117.89) **GPS:** 43.3826, -87.8701
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (carry-in) **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, restaurants nearby, picnic area.
- 89 Port Washington Marina/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (118.90) **GPS:** 43.3876402, -87.8664015
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (boat ramp), ADA access **Note:** Lot parking, restaurants nearby, shelter, restrooms, potable water, picnic area, launch fee.
- 90 Concordia University**
Mile: (119.91) **GPS:** 43.253018, -87.911335
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking.
- 91 Lions Den Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (120.92) **GPS:** 43.338568, -87.884307
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Difficult to transport canoe/kayak on the staircase from the park to the beach. Lot parking, portable restrooms, trails, picnic area.
- 92 Clay Bluffs Cedar Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (121.93) **GPS:** 43.359963, -87.879702
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, trails, Planned construction of a staircase between the park and beach.
- 93 South Beach/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (122.94) **GPS:** 43.3826, -87.8701
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (carry-in) **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, restaurants nearby, picnic area.
- 94 Port Washington Marina/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (123.95) **GPS:** 43.3876402, -87.8664015
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (boat ramp), ADA access **Note:** Lot parking, restaurants nearby, shelter, restrooms, potable water, picnic area, launch fee.
- 95 Concordia University**
Mile: (124.96) **GPS:** 43.253018, -87.911335
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking.
- 96 Lions Den Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (125.97) **GPS:** 43.338568, -87.884307
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Difficult to transport canoe/kayak on the staircase from the park to the beach. Lot parking, portable restrooms, trails, picnic area.
- 97 Clay Bluffs Cedar Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (126.98) **GPS:** 43.359963, -87.879702
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, trails, Planned construction of a staircase between the park and beach.
- 98 South Beach/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (127.99) **GPS:** 43.3826, -87.8701
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (carry-in) **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, restaurants nearby, picnic area.
- 99 Port Washington Marina/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (128.00) **GPS:** 43.3876402, -87.8664015
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (boat ramp), ADA access **Note:** Lot parking, restaurants nearby, shelter, restrooms, potable water, picnic area, launch fee.
- 100 Concordia University**
Mile: (129.01) **GPS:** 43.253018, -87.911335
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking.
- 101 Lions Den Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (130.02) **GPS:** 43.338568, -87.884307
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Difficult to transport canoe/kayak on the staircase from the park to the beach. Lot parking, portable restrooms, trails, picnic area.
- 102 Clay Bluffs Cedar Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (131.03) **GPS:** 43.359963, -87.879702
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, trails, Planned construction of a staircase between the park and beach.
- 103 South Beach/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (132.04) **GPS:** 43.3826, -87.8701
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (carry-in) **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, restaurants nearby, picnic area.
- 104 Port Washington Marina/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (133.05) **GPS:** 43.3876402, -87.8664015
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (boat ramp), ADA access **Note:** Lot parking, restaurants nearby, shelter, restrooms, potable water, picnic area, launch fee.
- 105 Concordia University**
Mile: (134.06) **GPS:** 43.253018, -87.911335
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking.
- 106 Lions Den Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (135.07) **GPS:** 43.338568, -87.884307
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Difficult to transport canoe/kayak on the staircase from the park to the beach. Lot parking, portable restrooms, trails, picnic area.
- 107 Clay Bluffs Cedar Gorge Nature Preserve County Park**
Mile: (136.08) **GPS:** 43.359963, -87.879702
Site Type: Water Access Only **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, trails, Planned construction of a staircase between the park and beach.
- 108 South Beach/Coal Dock Park**
Mile: (137.09) **GPS:** 43.3826, -87.8701
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (carry-in) **Note**

Planning for a Safe Trip

Although the Milwaukee Urban Water Trail is not as remote as many popular water trail routes, the power and unpredictability of the Milwaukee, Menomonee, and Kinnickinnic Rivers and Cedar Creek should never be underestimated! It is important to plan ahead before launching. Be aware of water levels, potential hazards, and required and recommended portages before you head out!

Water Levels and Hazards

Water levels and flow can vary greatly with rainfall, affecting safety both on the land and water. Higher water generally increases level of difficulty due to low bridges, snags, strainers (under-water trees), concealed boulders, low hanging trees, natural and

man-made constrictions, and other hazards. Paddling in high water should be avoided. There are two required portages on the Milwaukee River: the falls in Kletzsch Park and Estabrook Park (downstream of the dam). Additionally, several remaining dams require portaging, including the Bridge Street Dam in Grafton, the Thiensville Dam, 4 dams along Cedar Creek, and the Estabrook Dam (slated for removal in 2018). In addition, several areas adjacent to historic dam removal sites, such as the former Chair Factory Dam, Waubeka Button Factory Dam, Saukville Dam, Lime Kiln Dam, and North Avenue Dam, can have big rapids and fast moving water that can be challenging for inexperienced paddlers.

For water trail updates, information on water conditions, and advisories, visit the Milwaukee Riverkeeper website at:

www.milwaukeekeeper.org. To report hazards or obstructions on the rivers, call us at (414) 287-0207.

Leave No Trace

The Milwaukee Urban Water Trail promotes the following elements of the national Leave No Trace Code of Outdoor Ethics that promotes the responsible use and enjoyment of the outdoors:

- Plan ahead and prepare;
- Travel on durable surfaces to minimize disturbance of natural areas;
- Dispose of waste properly;
- Leave what you find (unless its garbage!);
- Respect wildlife; and
- Be considerate of others and protect the quality of their experience!

For more information about Leave No Trace visit: www.Int.org.

Please remember to always respect private property and publicly owned property along the water trail. Please only park in designated parking areas and parking lots. If there is no parking explicitly denoted on the map, please use street parking and comply with posted parking restrictions.

General Safety Tips

- Always wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD) – a PFD is legally required for each person onboard and can save your life!
- Don't be left up the creek without a paddle – always bring an extra paddle along.
- Consider seeking formal boating instruction, attend a boating safety class, and practice paddling and rescue skills.
- Dress appropriately for the weather and anticipate weather changes, especially when paddling in cold water. Bring extra dry clothes, stored in a waterproof bag.
- Wear brightly colored clothing to improve your visibility to other boaters, and consider buying a brightly colored boat if you are planning on buying one!
- Review your exit points and portages before launching and be aware of hazards.
- When paddling along the inner harbor and Milwaukee River Estuary, exercise extreme caution, stay to the side, wear your PFD, and stay in marked channels to ensure your safety and minimize conflicts with motorized boats.
- Bring water and safety equipment, including a first aid kit, sunscreen, rain gear, extra lashing line, and dry bags or storage containers.
- Avoid contact with contaminated sediments, especially down stream of Estabrook Park and downstream of the Wire & Nail Pond Dam on Cedar Creek. PCB levels are high in these areas and pose a potential threat to human health.
- Do not paddle under the influence! Breweries are “take-out” and not “put-in” access points!

In case of emergency, please call 911 or contact the U.S. Coast Guard on VHF-FM Radio Channel 16 or call your nearest Coast Guard Unit.

For more information on safety, please visit the Milwaukee Riverkeeper water trail website at: www.milwaukeekeeper.org. For real-time flow levels check the USGS website at: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/wi/nwis/rt>



Eddee Channel

Lake Michigan:

- A Bender Park Beach**
GPS: 43.0679326, -87.8394911
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (boat ramp or carry-in launch) **Note:** Lot parking, shelter, restrooms, potable water, electrical outlets.
- B Grant Park Beach**
GPS: 42.90761263, -87.84083907
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (carry-in launch) **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, potable water, electrical outlets.
- C Sheridan Park**
GPS: 42.95908583, -87.84473887
Site Type: Public access (carry-in launch) **Note:** Lot parking up a steep bluff from the beach. Shelter, restrooms, and outlets present but availability depends on previous reservations.
- D Bayview Park**
GPS: 42.98404711, -87.86455102
Site Type: Public access (carry-in launch) **Note:** Street parking up a steep bluff from the beach, water fountain.
- E South Shore Park**
GPS: 42.99642992, -87.8822101
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (boat ramp or carry-in access at beach) **Note:** Lot parking, shelter, restrooms, potable water, launch fee.
- F Lakeshore State Park**
GPS: 43.03151526, -87.89609386
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (beach), ADA access **Note:** Lot parking, picnic area, lengthy carry-in.
- G McKinley Marina**
GPS: 43.05330619, -87.8816333
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (boat ramp or carry-in at beach) **Note:** Lot parking, restrooms, potable water.
- H Bradford Beach**
GPS: 43.06193742, -87.87229796
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (carry-in launch) **Note:** Lot parking, shelter, restrooms, potable water. Summer access: launch to the north of the swimming beach.
- I Doctors Park Beach**
GPS: 43.171731, -87.88093695
Site Type: Public access (carry-in launch) **Note:** Lot parking, restroom, picnic area. Difficult and lengthy climb to parking.



Look for this sign at all Milwaukee Urban Water Trail access sites!

Lake Michigan

Route Description

Please be respectful of both private and public property by landing only at designated sites described in this route description. Mileage figures (0.00) refer to miles from the confluence of the Milwaukee and Kinnickinnic Rivers.

- 1 Confluence – Milwaukee and Kinnickinnic Rivers**
Mile: (0.28) **GPS:** 43.0249178, -87.9026198
- 2 Skipper Buds Marina /Barnacle Buds**
Mile: (1.43) **GPS:** 43.102, -87.905
Site Type: Water access only **Note:** Restaurant.
- 3 Milwaukee County River Front Launch Site**
Mile: (0.43) **GPS:** 43.0250258, -87.9049744
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (low pier) **Note:** Located on Bruce Street. Parking lot directly next to launch, benches, launch fee.
- 4 Erie Street Pier**
Mile: (0.36) **GPS:** 43.027212, -87.903429
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (low pier) **Note:** Pier is at “stub end” of Erie Street. Adjacent to restaurants, street parking, public benches.
- 5 Marine Terminal Lofts**
Mile: (0.69) **GPS:** 43.029386, -87.905795
Site Type: Public access (pier) **Note:** Street parking, nearby restaurants.
- 6 Waterfront Condos**
Mile: (0.93) **GPS:** 43.03089807, -87.90990592
Site Type: Public access (pier) **Note:** Street parking. Take the stairs down from the Water Street Bridge, and be careful of the “dolphin” at the end of the pier! Restaurants nearby.
- 7 Screaming Tuna**
Mile: (0.94) **GPS:** 43.030945, -87.911083
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (pier) **Note:** Street parking, restaurants nearby, at corner of seawall.
- 8 Confluence – Milwaukee and Menomonee Rivers**
Mile: (0.95) **GPS:** 43.0321647, -87.9108596
- 9 Harley Davidson Museum**
Mile: (1.2) **GPS:** 43.030573, -87.915785
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (pier with retrofit) **Note:** Street and lot parking, restaurant and museum adjacent, restrooms and water available to customers.
- 10 Burnham Canal**
Mile: (2.12) **GPS:** 43.0263888, -87.9310124
Site Type: Water access only **Note:** Historical shipping hub, the Burnham canal is currently home to several industries, and is a popular location for fishing and bird watching.
- 11 Twisted Fisherman**
Mile: (3.4) **GPS:** 43.031965, -87.926077
Site Type: Public access (pier) **Note:** Street parking, restaurant.
- 12 Ember Lane**
Mile: (1.83) **GPS:** 43.032942, -87.929127
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (pier with retrofit) **Note:** Street parking and can park in KGBM lot.
- 13 Three Bridges Park-North Bank (S. 33rd Ct.)**
Mile: (3.4) **GPS:** 43.026236, -87.954832
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (natural stream-bank) **Note:** Parking at dead end circle, restaurants nearby, launch accessible by stairs.
- 14 Three Bridges Park-South Bank (S. 33rd Ct.)**
Mile: (3.4) **GPS:** 43.025907, -87.955059
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (canoe ramp) **Note:** Parking at dead end circle, nearby restaurants, ADA accessible trail crosses pedestrian bridge and curves down to river.
- 15 Stormwater Park-North Bank (37th Street)**
Mile: (3.6) **GPS:** 43.0619072, -87.95941663
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (canoe ramp) **Note:** ADA accessible, street parking (except during Brewer’s Games), picnic areas, access to the Hank Aaron State Trail and Urban Ecology Center Menomonee Valley.
- 16 Chicago Street**
Mile: (1.1) **GPS:** 43.03260217, -87.91010759
Site Type: Public access (pier) **Note:** Street parking, nearby restaurants.
- 17 Milwaukee Ale House/Bufallo Street**
Mile: (1.16) **GPS:** 43.03373065, -87.90985432
Site Type: Public access (piers at both locations) **Note:** Street parking, restaurant, restrooms and water available to customers. Both the piers at the Milwaukee Ale House and at Buffalo Street are high. Easier to offload boats at end of Buffalo Street. Milwaukee Ale House piers are largely water access only.
- 18 RiverWalk Park (St. Paul Ave.)**
Mile: (1.23) **GPS:** 43.06190742, -87.87229796
Site Type: Paddler friendly (low pier) **Note:** Street parking, shelter, adjacent to the Milwaukee Public Market. Must cross under RiverWalk supports, which can be challenging depending on water levels (limbo sometimes required).
- 19 Plankinton Alley – Wisconsin**
Mile: (1.57) **GPS:** 43.039526, -87.910986
Site Type: Public access (pier) **Note:** Street parking, nearby restaurants, Drop off available at end of alley behind Riverside Theater.

- 20 Mason Street**
Mile: (1.58) **GPS:** 43.03979204, -87.9103442
Site Type: Public access (pier) **Note:** Street parking, nearby restaurants.
- 21 Rock Bottom Brewery**
Mile: (1.59) **GPS:** 43.03984643, -87.91119107
Site Type: Public access (low pier) **Note:** Lot or street parking, restaurant, difficult to load or enter at this site.
- 22 Plankinton Alley – Wells**
Mile: (1.69) **GPS:** 43.0409196, -87.9121896
Site Type: Water access only (high pier) **Note:** Street parking, drop off available in alley north of Wells St., nearby restaurants.
- 23 Pere Marquette Park**
Mile: (1.79) **GPS:** 43.020534, -87.9132648
Site Type: Public access (pier) **Note:** Street parking, shelter, picnic area.
- 24 The Harp Irish Pub**
Mile: (2.0) **GPS:** 43.045513, -87.912971
Site Type: Public access (pier) **Note:** Street parking can be difficult, high pier, restrooms and water available to Harp customers.
- 25 Schlitz Park**
Mile: (2.31) **GPS:** 43.04935883, -87.91075965
Site Type: Public access (pier) **Note:** Street parking only (please do not park in lot). Seasonal kayak rental.
- 26 Trostel Square Condos**
Mile: (2.63) **GPS:** 43.05297629, -87.90680848
Site Type: Public access (piers) **Note:** Public access piers are signed by condo, and located at stub end of terminus of streets within the development.
- 27 Lakefront Brewery**
Mile: (2.78) **GPS:** 43.0544733, -87.90483316
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (pier with retrofit) **Note:** Drop-off boats and park in the street. Water, food, and restrooms are available to customers.
- 28 Milwaukee Rowing Club Boathouse**
Mile: (2.99) **GPS:** 43.05636746, -87.90163676
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (low pier) **Note:** Street parking. Please give rowers priority for launching and taking out. Remember to close the safety gate!
- 29 Kiwanis Landing**
Mile: (3.22) **GPS:** 43.057388, -87.89694
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (canoe ramp and stairs) **Note:** Street parking, nearby restaurants.
- 30 North Avenue Rapids Downstream Portage**
Mile: (3.36) **GPS:** 43.058024, -87.894580
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (natural stream-bank with stone toe) **Note:** If you don't want to run the rapids, you can put in again after rapids on river right. Closest parking is on river right (west bank) and approx. 650 ft. uphill on Riverboat Road. You can also put in at Kiwanis Landing further downstream. Distance from upstream portage is 1000 ft.

- 31 Former North Avenue Dam**
Mile: (3.36) **GPS:** 43.05787808, -87.89451277
Site Type: **Hazard** **Note:** Former dam. River is runnable but dam pilings still exist and support a pedestrian bridge.
- 32 North Avenue Rapids**
Mile: (3.53) **GPS:** 43.06030551, -87.89373063
Site Type: **Hazard** **Note:** Rapids can be dangerous during very high or very low water.
- 33 North Avenue Rapids Upstream Portage**
Mile: (3.6) **GPS:** 43.06052908, -87.8933565
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (natural stream-bank with stone toe) **Note:** If you don't want to run the rapids, you can take out on river right (natural streambank) and walk downstream approx. 1000 ft. to downstream access points.
- 34 Riverside Park (Urban Ecology Center)**
Mile: (4.1) **GPS:** 43.06739422, -87.89480066
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (concrete ramp) **Note:** Lot parking is approx. 1000 ft. from the launch. Restrooms and water available at the Urban Ecology Center during business hours.
- 35 Schlitz Brewery Ice Dam Rapids**
Mile: (4.5) **GPS:** 43.07398546, -87.89258988
Site Type: **Hazard** **Note:** Rapids can be tricky in very low water.
- 36 Schlitz Brewery Ice Dam**
Mile: (4.5) **GPS:** 43.07394822, -87.89258394
Site Type: **Hazard** **Note:** Old timber ice dam still present and visible during lower water levels. Easier to pass over on river right (west bank) during low water.
- 37 Hubbard Park**
Mile: (5.2) **GPS:** 43.0830633, -87.89191301
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (natural stream-bank) **Note:** Drop off boats at circle drive and park in lot. Hubbard Park Lodge and Bear Garden provide access to food, shelter, and restrooms.
- 38 Riffle Near Capitol Drive**
Mile: (5.59) **GPS:** 43.08790041, -87.89709459
Site Type: **Hazard** **Note:** Rapids.
- 39 Riffle near Estabrook Park**
Mile: (5.98) **GPS:** 43.09276939, -87.90117593
Site Type: **Hazard** **Note:** Rapids.
- 40 Riffle Near Estabrook Park**
Mile: (6.28) **GPS:** 43.096527, -87.90260369
Site Type: **Hazard** **Note:** Rapids.
- 41 Estabrook Falls Downstream Portage**
Mile: (6.63) **GPS:** 43.09921795, -87.90818728
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (natural stream-bank) **Note:** Put in on river right downstream falls, 320 ft. portage to upstream access.
- 42 Estabrook Falls**
Mile: (6.64) **GPS:** 43.09951573, -87.9081789
Site Type: **Hazard** **Note:** Falls.

- 43 Estabrook Falls Upstream Portage**
Mile: (8.36) **GPS:** 43.09956691, -87.9090193
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (natural stream-bank) **Note:** Exit on river right to portage falls, 320 ft. portage to downstream access.
- 44 Estabrook Dam Downstream Access**
Mile: (6.89) **GPS:** 43.10136101, -87.9108059
Site Type: **Hazard** **Note:** Paddler access (natural stream-bank on river left) **Note:** Lot parking, picnic area. 950 ft. portage to upstream access.
- 45 Estabrook Rapids**
Mile: (6.89) **GPS:** 43.10131861, -87.91134412
Site Type: **Hazard** **Note:** Rapids below Dam.
- 46 Estabrook Dam**
Mile: (6.97) **GPS:** 43.10215952, -87.9121787
Site Type: **Hazard** **Note:** Dam proposed to be removed in 2018.
- 47 Estabrook Dam Upstream Access**
Mile: (7.03) **GPS:** 43.1022495, -87.91347016
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (stairs and stream-bank) **Note:** There are multiple take-outs including natural stairs and streambank upstream on river left, with a 950 ft. portage to downstream access. Lot parking, picnic area.
- 48 Lincoln Park Access**
Mile: (8.06) **GPS:** 43.107417, -87.928382
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (natural ramp) **Note:** Street parking. Blatz Pavilion and restrooms nearby.
- 49 Confluence – Milwaukee River and Lincoln Creek**
Mile: (8.19) **GPS:** 43.10904, -87.9298
- 50 Apple Blossom Lane Launch**
Mile: (9.43) **GPS:** 43.12549196, -87.91714537
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (boat ramp) **Note:** Limited street parking.
- 51 Kletzsch Park Falls Downstream**
Mile: (10.36) **GPS:** 43.13306312, -87.92860112
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (natural stream-bank) **Note:** Street parking, picnic area, 380 ft. portage to upstream access.
- 52 Kletzsch Falls**
Mile: (10.4) **GPS:** 43.13348958, -87.92835483
Site Type: **Hazard** **Note:** Falls.
- 53 Kletzsch Park Falls Upstream**
Mile: (10.4) **GPS:** 43.13358274, -87.92872349
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (stairs) **Note:** Take-out is immediately upstream of the falls on river right-can be slippery. Street parking, picnic area. 380 ft. portage to downstream access.
- 54 Kletzsch Park Sluiceway**
Mile: (10.81) **GPS:** 43.13917483, -87.92557352
Site Type: Paddler friendly access (natural stream-bank with retrofit) **Note:** Lot parking, shelter, picnic area. Sluiceway is often filled with aquatic vegetation but is navigable!

