

EAU CLAIRE RIVER (EC1) (Marathon County)

<p>Put-in Bear Lake Road Bridge</p> <p>Take-out County N Bridge</p> <p>Distance 13.9 miles</p> <p>Approximate Time 6 hours</p> <p>Most Difficult Rapids Class 4</p>	<p>Elevation Drop 168 feet</p> <p>Average Gradient 12.1 feet per mile</p> <p>Minimum Suggested Flow 1.2 feet</p> <p>USGS gage @ County SS Bridge</p> <p>Water Level Info / Phone No Phone Contact</p>
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Paddlers Notes

- 31.0 Mile Bear Lake Road Bridge River:** The river winds through wooded lowlands and farmland. The current is usually slow in the initial stretch until the approach to Master Ledges. **Shuttle:** From Highway 52, turn north onto County Highway Y, turn east onto Bear Lake Road. There are landings off both ends of the bridge. Hand carry access, roadside parking.
- 30.5 Mile Boulder Garden (Class 1), Spring Brook** The river widens and slows as it passes through an easy but often scrappy boulder garden. Spring Brook enters from river left.
- 29.5 Mile Master Ledges (Class 1-2)** A low hazard boulder garden in a s-turn precedes Master Ledges. The Ledges begin with the river plunging over several rocky shelves that extend out into the river from both banks. This is the first drop. A challenging boulder garden follows as the river splits around a large rock shelf with another drop about 150 yards downstream from the first. Riffles and boulders continue all the way down to 3 Rows Falls. The whitewater lasts for nearly 3/4's of a mile and the difficulty of this stretch varies with water levels.
- 28.9 Mile 3 Rows Falls (Class 2)** The rapids begin where the river plunges over a wide ledge that extends out from the right bank. More rapids and another drop shortly follow downstream. The rapids have two drops over 3 feet so be sure to scout and plan your route. After 3 Rows Falls the river flows around several islands until Skulen Creek. After the rapids, the river calms and flows around a number of islands.
- 28.0 Mile Skulen Creek** The wide mouth of Skulen Creek is on river right in a sharp left bend.
- 27.6 Mile Hogarty, Highway 52 Bridge Access River:** The river flows past a varied landscape of farms, meadows, and forests. **Shuttle:** On Highway 52 in Hogarty, the landing is west of the bridge, downstream side. Hand carry access, roadside parking.
- 26.4 Mile Rapids (Class 1), Unnamed Creek** A long stretch of shallow riffles, rapids and boulder gardens run through several bends with trees canopying the river. The creek enters from river left.
- 23.7 Mile Eau Claire Dells County Park, Dam PORTAGE** The river widens and slows as you approach the dam. The Eau Claire Dells County Park picnic area and swimming beach is on the right bank just above the dam. Land anywhere along the grassy bank after the beach but before the dam. The portage trail on the right bank is nearly 400 yards long as it bypasses both the dam and the Dells Rapids.
- For advanced level kayakers, the put-in for the Dells Rapids is easiest about 70 yards below the dam on river right. There is a quiet pool just below a series of shallow ledges. After put-in, you will paddle through an easy boulder garden and some light riffles and then the Dells Rapids begin just before the Highway Y Bridge.
- Camping** A campground is located in the Eau Claire Dells County Park. Part of the Marathon County Park system.
- 23.5 Mile Eau Claire Dells (Class 3)** In the Eau Claire Dells, the river cascades through scenic rock formations (a rhyolite schist) and steep wooded slopes. Pine, maple and hemlock trees canopy dense undergrowth. The Dells features a short, challenging stretch of class 3 rapids which start just upstream of the Highway Y Bridge and rumble for 150 yards below the bridge through several narrow, hazardous, ledges and chutes. This stretch is recommended for advanced level kayakers only and scouting is a must.

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23.5 Mile ...Eau Claire Dells (Class 3)

What makes the Dells Rapids hazardous are the narrow confines and the velocity and force of the water flow - which can vary greatly. At high flows the fast current will occasionally slam you into the rock walls in several places. Running the Dells is like going through a maze, and if you're going to attempt it, be sure to scout from both sides of the river!

Most kayakers who run the Dells, only run the Dells. There are easy access points above and below the rapids with plenty of trails and parking nearby. Most paddlers who run the full segment will portage the Dells Rapids and enjoy the view. The park is a great place to take a break and eat lunch. Bring along a camera and be sure to take some photos.

23.0 Mile Rapids, Footbridge (Class 1-2) A footbridge crosses over the river about a half mile below the County Y Bridge. Riffles and boulder gardens follow the Dells Rapids for a couple of miles. The stretch between County Y and County Z is probably the most scenic portion of the trip outside of the Dells. The river flows past scenic rock formations and beautiful high wooded banks.

21.4 Mile County Z Bridge Access **River:** The landing is on the left bank below the bridge. Downstream, the river flows around numerous islands, past grassy banks, wooded lowlands, and a few houses and farms. **Shuttle:** From Highway 52, west of Hogarty, turn south onto County Q, then turn east onto County Z. The landing is east of the bridge, on the downstream side. Hand carry access, parking.

20.8 Mile Barnard Rapids (Class 2) A half mile past the County Highway Z Bridge, the river splits into two narrow forks around a long island. Both channels have class 2 rapids and are usually navigable. The left channel is the more difficult. Scouting is recommended.

19.0 Mile Badger Road Bridge There is mostly flat-water from Barnard Rapids to the County N Bridge, and you will begin to see more houses and farms along the river.

17.1 Mile County N Bridge Access **River:** As you approach the bridge, the landscape becomes more open with fewer trees. The Eau Claire Dells Road is on the right bank and the take-out is on river right above the bridge. **Shuttle:** From Highway 52, west of Hogarty, turn south onto County Q, turn east onto County N. The landing is west of the bridge, on the upstream side. Hand carry access, parking.

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Driving Directions (Google Maps)



Bear Lake Rd Bridge Access



Hogarty, Hwy 52 Access



Eau Claire Dells Access



County Z Bridge Access



County N Bridge Access

GPS - NAD83 / WGS84

Bear Lake Rd Bridge Access	45.05859,-89.27025
Spring Brook	45.05038,-89.26631
Master Ledges	45.04440,-89.27694
3 Rows Falls	45.03944,-89.28757
Skulen Creek	45.03429,-89.30221
Hogarty, Hwy 52 Access	45.02967,-89.30269
Eau Claire Dells, Dam	45.00351,-89.33251
Rapids & Footbridge	45.00481,-89.34546
County Z Bridge Access	44.98657,-89.36180
Barnard Rapids	44.98136,-89.36863
Badger Rd Bridge	44.96608,-89.39693
County N Bridge Access	44.94391,-89.41920