

MANITOWISH RIVER (MA1)

Put-in Highway 51 Landing
Take-out Murray's Landing
Distance 20.7 miles
Approximate Time Multi-day Trip
Most Difficult Rapids Riffles

Elevation Drop 17 feet
Average Gradient 0.8 feet per mile
Minimum Suggested Flow No USGS Gage
Water Level Info / Phone Hawk's Nest Outfitters
 715.543.8585

Paddlers Notes

15.8 Mile Highway 51 Access River: The river flows over a sandy, rocky riverbed in the first mile and can be scrappy during dry spells. A stretch of riffles is downstream, within sight of the put-in and extends beyond the right bend. The current slows after the riffles. **Shuttle:** On Highway 51, south of Manitowish. There are two usable access points, but the best is south of the bridge. A nice gravel pull-through sits next to the river providing easy access. Hand carry access, trailer turnaround.

15.0 Mile Benson Lake The lake is small, shallow, and scenic with several cottages and homes on the north and west shores beneath tall stands of red and white pines.

13.5 Mile Circle Lily Creek Access River: The landing is on the right bank after a left bend, beneath a stand of red and white pines. Downstream, the river flows past open marsh and bog forest. **Shuttle:** From Highway 51, turn west onto Manitowish River Road. It is approximately 0.8 miles to the shaded access area on the left side of the road, across from Hawk's Nest Outfitters. Hand carry access, trailer turnaround. Sodas and refreshments are available at Hawks Nest.

11.4 Mile Highway 51 Wayside Park & Access River: After a straight stretch, the river flows through an s-turn and narrows. The landing is on river right across from a concrete abutment on the left bank. For the first half-mile after the landing, the right bank is steeply sloped with a lush forest of pine, aspen, birch, and maple. Marsh grass, spruce, and mixed pines cover the more open left bank. **Shuttle:** On highway 51, between Manitowish Waters and Manitowish, the wayside is on the south side of the road. Trailer access ramp, trailer turnaround, rustic toilet, picnic area with picnic tables, grills, and water.

Gradually the river basin widens and settles into open marsh. Occasionally the forest borders the river but reeds and tall grass usually cover the banks. The river flows through frequent, sharp bends with periodic sloughs branching off from the main channel.

8.0 Mile Highway 47 Bridge Access River: After several miles, the river once again nears Highway 51 on the right bank and you will approach two bridges that cross over the river. The first is an old railroad bridge now part of an ATV trail system. The second bridge is Highway 47. The landing is immediately downstream of the second bridge, on the right bank. **Shuttle:** The bridge is just a few yards south of the Highways 47 and 51 intersection. The access is north of the bridge, downstream (west) side. A path leads from the road-side down to the river. Hand carry access, roadside parking.

After the Highway 47 Bridge, a few homes and cottages are on the right bank in the first mile or so. Thereafter, the river becomes more remote, and wild than the previous eight miles, flowing through marsh and lowland forest all the way to the Flambeau Flowage. This section has even more twists and bends than the previous section, with a large number of sloughs offering excellent opportunities for exploring. Five overnight canoe campsites are located in this section. The beautiful, open landscape makes wildlife viewing easy and fun.

0.0 Mile Bear River The Bear River enters from river left. The confluence marks the end of the Manitowish River and the beginning of the Flambeau River North Fork.

(+ 1.7 Mile) Turtle Flambeau Flowage The river widens and slows as it enters the Turtle Flambeau Flowage. Stick close to the right shore.

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(+ 4.9 Mile) **Murray's Landing** **River:** Tall marsh grasses dominate both sides of the waterway as the river flows through northeast end of the Flowage. The landing will be easy to spot on river right. A wide gravel ramp marks the landing. **Shuttle:** On Highway 51, west of Manitowish, turn west onto Murrays Landing Road. The landing is 5.5 miles from the highway intersection. Trailer access ramp, trailer turnaround, parking area, pit toilets.

(+ 4.9 Mile) Mileage on Flambeau River North Fork from Bear River Confluence.

Driving Directions (Google Maps)



Highway 51 Access



Cricle Lily Creek Access



Highway 51 Wayside Access



Highway 47 Access



Murray's Landing

GPS - NAD83 / WGS84

Highway 51 Access	46.13627,-89.91125
Benson Lake	46.13203,-89.91745
Circle Lily Creek Access	46.14184,-89.93751
Highway 51 Wayside Access	46.14018,-89.96086
Highway 47 Access	46.13070,-90.01179
Bear River Confluence	46.07612,-90.02959
Murray's Landing	46.08166,-90.07989