

# Lower Wisconsin River, segment 1

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**Put-in** Sauk Prairie Canoe Landing  
**Take-out** Pecks' Landing, Spring Green  
**Distance** 20.1 miles  
**Approximate Time** varies, full day / multi-day trip  
**Most Difficult Rapids** flat-water

**Elevation Drop** 31 feet  
**Average Gradient** 1.5 feet per mile  
**Minimum Suggested Flow** contact local outfitter  
**Water Level Info / Phone** contact local outfitter

## Paddlers Notes

- Put - in** **Sauk Prairie Canoe Landing** **River:** Sandy shores and shallow waters normally best describe the initial stretch which flows through the Mazomanie Sand Barrens, a State Wildlife Area which is part of the LWSR. As you put-in, look across the river to the solitary trees on the opposite shore, there is often a few bald eagles perched in the branches. **Shuttle:** On Highway 12 west of Sauk City, turn south onto Lueders Rd. Continue south on Lueders Rd as it becomes a narrow lane at the Phillips St intersection, and follow this winding lane until you reach the landing entrance. Hand carry access, trailer turnaround, parking area, pit toilets.
- 1.5 Miles** **Town of Mazomanie Canoe Landing** **River:** As the river flows through a long right bend the landing will be on river left in the left channel of a small sandy island. The landing is a sloping ramp next to a small pier. Several sandy islands are downriver along with the steep wooded slopes of Ferry Bluff, which is visible in the distance. **Shuttle:** On Highway Y north of Mazomanie, the landing is on the north side of the road where the highway borders the river. The parking area is on the opposite side (south) of the road from the landing. Trailer ramp, trailer turnaround, parking area, pit toilets, shaded picnic area.
- 4.0 Miles** **Ferry Bluff / Canoe Landing** **River:** The unmistakable heights of Ferry Bluff, on river right, will be visible from far upriver. The mouth of Honey Creek flows into the Wisconsin River at the base of the bluff, where the landing is a short paddle upstream. **Shuttle:** On Highway 60, turn south onto Ferry Bluff Rd which ends at the landing area. A scenic trail leads from the parking area to the top of Cactus Bluff. Hand carry access, trailer turnaround, parking area.
- 4.9 Miles** **Twin Islands** This stretch of the river is usually heavily populated with sandbars from early summer through fall. Mazomanie Bottomlands State Natural Area occupies the left shore for the next few miles.
- 6.4 Miles** **Grape Island, Otter Island** A small, narrow, unnavigable channel on river left marks the beginning of Grape Island, a long wooded island which begins with dense forest and ends in a huge sandy beach. Most paddlers won't realize the left shore is an island until the large beach appears on river left. Fronting this beach is Otter Island, which lies in the center of the river and often has a long sandbar 'tail'. Numerous sandbars and several wooded islands dominate this stretch.
- 10.2 Miles** **Arena Canoe Landing** **River:** Several long, narrow wooded islands span the river just above Arena Canoe Landing, which is on river left. This is a very scenic area with steep wooded hills and bluffs beyond the right bank. There are two sandy beaches at the landing, the first is the canoe access. **Shuttle:** On Highway 14 east of Arena, turn north onto Village Edge Road. Shortly after road bends west, turn north onto River Rd which ends at the landing. Separate launch areas for canoes and motor craft. Hand carry access (canoe launch), trailer turnaround, parking area.
- 10.2 Miles** **Cedar Island** Bottomland forest surrounds the river. The entrance to the narrow channel that forms Cedar Island is on river left shortly below Arena Landing. This small waterway flows through swamp forest and is navigable, but you should only attempt it if you have at least a quart of mosquito repellent !
- 17.5 Miles** **Railroad Bridge** The long span of the Wisconsin Western Railroad Bridge crosses the river. Several small wooded islands are right of the main channel in the lee of the bridge. The Highway 14 Bridge is visible downriver.
- 18.0 Miles** **Highway 14 Boat Landing** **River:** The landing is on river left, almost under the highway bridge. The current is deceptively fast through here. There are 2 boat ramps next to each other, in succession. The river is shallower and slower at the 2nd ramp, where a sandy beach is also located, land or launch your canoe here. Dense forest surrounds the river and several small, sandy, wooded islands are downriver from the bridge. **Shuttle:** On Highway 14 south of the bridge, the landing entrance is on the east side of the road. Trailer ramps, trailer turnaround, parking area.

- 19.7 Miles**     **Tower Hill State Park Canoe Landing**     **River:** Dense forest covers the banks as a steep wooded ridge on river left forces the river into a sharp right bend. The wide mouth of Mill Creek is on river left some distance before you approach the ridge. The State Park Canoe Landing is a short paddle up the slow flowing creek. The Highway 23 Bridge is visible downriver from the creek mouth. Recommend using this landing if you're camping in the State Park, otherwise consider using Peck's Landing a short ways downriver.     **Shuttle:** On Highway C, turn into Tower Hill State Park. Stop and check in at the main office, then follow the road signs to the landing. Parking area is a short walk from the landing along with the restrooms. \$ Fee Area! The landing is part of Tower Hill State Park which offers camping, hiking trails, picnic area and a historical site that is worth visiting.
- 20.1 Miles**     **Spring Green, Pecks' Landing**     **River:** The landing is on river right, just upriver from the Highway 23 Bridge. The Frank Loyd Wright Visitor Center can be seen through the trees overlooking the river on the opposite bank. A sandbar often extends out from the north bank, just above the landing. Land anywhere on the wide sandy beach.     **Shuttle:** On Highway 23, the landing entrance is north of the bridge. This is another excellent, developed landing. Hand carry access, trailer turnaround, parking area, pit toilets, shaded picnic area.