

MONTREAL RIVER (MO1)

Put-in Access at Saxon Falls Powerhouse
Take-out Highway 122 Landing
Distance 3.2 miles
Approximate Time 2+ hours
Most Difficult Rapids Class 2 - 4

Elevation Drop 168 feet
Average Gradient 52.5 feet per mile
Minimum Suggested Flow 250 cfs (from Excel Energy)
Water Level Info / Phone Excel Energy hotline
715.893.2213

Paddlers' Notes

It is strongly recommended that you DO NOT paddle the Montreal River Canyon solo!

3.9 Mile Access at Saxon Falls Powerhouse **River:** After the steel footbridge, you will paddle through a stretch of class 1 rapids that continues around a left bend. The easy rapids occur intermittently for some distance downstream. The current after the powerhouse and footbridge varies with release and water levels from moderately quick to very fast. **Shuttle:** On County Highway B, turn north on to Saxon Falls Road. As you near the landing, a sign at an intersection reads 'boat landing' and points to the right, ignore this and continue straight ahead down a curved decline. The parking area is at the end of the road. There is a steel stairway down to the river that is fenced off with 'no trespassing' signs and a gate that is usually locked. There is a 'trail' down a very steep slope along the right side of the staircase, about 125 vertical feet down to the landing. The footing is treacherous so you should attach a rope to your boat and lower it down ahead of you. Once you are down to the riverbank, you can put-in above or below the steel footbridge. Parking, trailer turnaround, hand carry access.

3.6 Mile Rapids (Class 2-4) The first significant rapids occur where the river constricts into a small s-turn. The river rushes over a pair of ledges which together drop about 3 feet. When the river is running these drops can produce class 3 waves. After the drops, the river widens and slows for a short distance before entering into the first of several long stretches of exciting and challenging rapids and ledges. The river drops more than 73 feet over the next 1.4 miles.

The whitewater continues for the next 1.8 miles to the end of the canyon Many of the rapids and ledges occur where steep canyon walls rise sharply above the river. In some places, you will not be able to land and scout a route.

The water levels can vary widely from 250 cfs all the way up to 1700 cfs. These variances are due to seasonal events such as: snow melt in spring, heavy rain, ... and dam releases. You should call the hotline before attempting the run!

1.8 Mile Canyon Ends The Montreal River Canyon gradually gives way to low, sloping wooded banks. The river widens and becomes shallower with several long stretches of class 1 and 2 boulder gardens. During lower water conditions gravel bars appear where you can land your kayak or canoe and rest. Within approximately half a mile, the high banks give way to lowland forest and marsh as you enter the Superior Falls Flowage. Several islands appear and you will likely see more wildlife than in the canyon. Eagles and other bird life are common.

0.7 Mile Highway 122 Landing **River:** The river is calm and slow as you approach the Highway 122 Bridge. The roadside access is before the bridge on the left bank. **Do not paddle past the orange buoys!** **Shuttle:** The river access is located at the southeast corner of the Highway 122 Bridge. Park at the scenic overlook a few hundred yards north of the bridge on the Michigan side. Hand carry access, parking, trailer turnaround.

Superior Falls North of the dam (**downstream**), the river flows through an very scenic gorge and tumbles over several falls. There are numerous trails that lead to several scenic overlooks with awesome views of the final cascade. Do not enter the water to wade or swim period! When there is a dam release, the water rises dramatically and you will have very little time to react.

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Driving Directions (Google Maps)



Powerhouse, River Access



Highway 122 Bridge Landing

GPS - NAD83 / WGS84

Powerhouse, River Access	46.53658,-90.37957
Class III Rapids	46.53488,-90.38429
Highway 122 Landing	46.55675,-90.41437