

# RED RIVER (R1)

<b>Put-in</b>	Weed Dam Powerhouse, Gresham	<b>Elevation Drop</b>	32 feet
<b>Take-out</b>	Zeimer's Falls	<b>Average Gradient</b>	14.5 feet per mile
<b>Distance</b>	2.2 miles	<b>Minimum Suggested Flow</b>	100 cfs @ Morgan Rd (Morgan WI) (USGS Gage: 04077630)
<b>Approximate Time</b>	1-2 hours	<b>Water Level Info / Phone</b>	See website
<b>Most Difficult Rapids</b>	Class 3-4		

## Paddler's Notes

**Weed Dam Releases:** *There are two power dams on the Red River at Gresham that affect water flow for this segment; the 'Upper Dam' below Upper Red Lake, and the 'Weed Dam' below Lower Red Lake. Since 2004, both dams have operated on a 'run-of-river' basis; which means both dams release with the natural seasonal river flow, while (in this case) maintaining a consistent water level in both lakes/reservoirs.*

*The USGS Gage on the Red River is located approximately 6 miles upstream from Upper Dam and approximately 8 miles above Weed Dam. So while readings from this gage will usually do a good job of indicating stream-flow for the segment R1, waterflows in R1 may be lower than indicated during dry periods when releases are somewhat limited to keep the lakes/reservoirs at desirable levels.*

**Scout the rapids and know your limitations!**

<b>Below 80 cfs</b>	Paddling not recommended.
<b>80 cfs to 150 cfs</b>	Low runnable flow. Some rapids will be scrappy boulder gardens. You may have to portage Monastery Falls at low end of this range.
<b>150 cfs to 250 cfs</b>	Low to medium runnable flow. This is a good range for intermediates looking to develop their skills on several of the rapids and waves.
<b>250 cfs to 500 cfs</b>	Medium runnable flow. Monastery Falls (class III+) and Zeimers Falls (class III) are both producing fun waves.
<b>500 cfs to 800 cfs</b>	High runnable flow. Monastery Falls producing class IV waves. The main drop at Zeimers Falls is 'pushy' class III+.
<b>800 cfs to 1000 cfs</b>	Advanced-level paddlers only. Powerful hydraulics and big waves at Monastery and Zeimers. Exercise caution!
<b>Above 1000 cfs</b>	Rare, unusually high flows. Paddling not recommended.



**A loud horn at Weed Dam will sound at the beginning of a major release!**

- 12.0 Mile Weed Dam Powerhouse Landing @ Gresham River:** A few sets of riffles are located in the first half mile before First Drop. **Shuttle:** The large river-access area is just below the Weed Dam Powerhouse, a large grassy area with plenty of room for trailers. Hand carry access, trailer turnaround, parking.
- 11.6 Mile First Drop (Class 2)** After a sharp left bend, a rock ledge extends out from the right bank which will be submerged in high flows. The river forms a narrow chute in low flows. This is an excellent playspot that may be sticky at medium levels. Several frothy holes develop as water levels increase, deep water at the base of the ledge.
- 11.2 Mile Rock Ledge (Class 1-2)** The river forks around a large rock outcropping. The main channel runs to the right over a small drop while the left forms a narrow chute between exposed rock and the left bank. WW kayakers and canoers will enjoy playing in the chute in high water.

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**10.8 Mile Second Drop (Class 1-2)** The river forks around a tiny island with the main channel going left. There are a couple of drops in rapid succession. The drops create fun surf-waves that offer excellent play opportunities for kayakers in medium to high flows.

**10.7 Mile Monastery Falls (Class 3-4)** After Second Drop, the river widens and calms then bends to the right. You should hear the roar of Monastery Falls from around the bend before you see them. At the start of the Falls, the river constricts into a fast chute that is less than 10 feet wide with a large wave and an occasionally nasty hole near the end. The chute ends over a fast drop with another hole at the bottom that offers seriously fun wave action during medium to high water levels.

Scouting the falls is strongly recommended! Scout or portage on the right bank. Please stay on the exposed rock ledges as the land on either side is privately owned. The Falls will rate as class 3 in low to medium flows, and will become class 4 in high water.

Monastery Falls are named after an Alexian Monastery Novitiate located on the left bank below the falls. The building was gutted by fire years ago, and is no longer in use.

**10.6 Mile Rapids (Class 1)** A short stretch of rapids begins about 100 yards downstream from Monastery Falls. The remains of an old gristmill overlook the rapids from the right bank.

**9.8 Mile Zeimer's Falls (Class 2-3)** The falls begin with a small ledge shortly after a sharp left bend. After the ledge, the river constricts to less than 15 feet wide and runs through a bumpy chute with several drops. This is an enjoyable run that is popular with kayakers who often come and spend an afternoon playing in the waves. The falls end with a short, fun class 3 drop. There are easy access points on the north (river-left) bank, both above and below the falls.

**9.8 Mile Zeimer's Falls Landing** **River:** You can take out on river left, either above or below the falls. **Shuttle:** On Butternut Road, the landing entrance is on the south side of the road about 300 yards west of Cedar Lane. Follow the sand and gravel drive until you see the parking area. The river is down a wide woodchip path. Hand carry access, parking, trailer turnaround.

## Driving Directions (Google Maps)



**Gresham, Weed Dam  
Powerhouse Landing**



**Zeimer's Falls Landing**

## GPS - NAD83 / WGS84

Weed Dam Powerhouse Lndg	44.84168,-88.76063
First Drop	44.84019,-88.75442
Rock Ledge	44.84174,-88.74686
Second Drop	44.84344,-88.73893
Monastery Falls	44.84418,-88.73782
Zeimer's Falls	44.84287,-88.72289