

TOMAHAWK RIVER (T1)

Put-in	Willow Dam
Take-out	Swamp Lake Road Landing
Distance	12.2 miles
Approximate Time	5-6 hours
Most Difficult Rapids	Class 2

Elevation Drop	44 feet
Average Gradient	3.7 feet per mile
Minimum Suggested Flow	No USGS River Gage
Water Level Info / Phone	WDNR Woodruff Office: 715.356.5211 Wis. Valley Improv. Co. : 715.848.2976

Paddler's Notes

- 21.1 Mile Willow Dam Landing River:** The wide pool below the dam presents a very scenic setting. The river flows through a beautiful landscape that varies between marsh, lush hardwood forest, and mixed pine. Cottages and homes dot the right bank in the first half mile. **Shuttle:** From Highway 51, turn west onto County Y, then turn west onto Willow Dam Road. There are two river accesses below the dam, one on the south side and the other on the north. The north access has a large paved parking area but a long trail to the river. The south access is easier with roadside parking, or you may park at the landing parking area and walk back across the bridge. Hand carry access, trailer turnaround, parking, pit toilets.
- 19.4 Mile Oelhafen Creek** The river flows through several sharp bends and is surrounded by open marsh. The creek forms a slough as it nears the river and enters through two mouths on river left in a right bend.
- 17.9 Mile Bear Creek** The creek enters from river left.
- 17.4 Mile County Y Bridge, Borowski's Landing River:** A short set of riffles precedes the bridge. The Little Rice Resort Landing is about 30 yards below the bridge on river right. A few homes and cottages are located on the right bank shortly after the bridge, then you will see no more development until Halfbreed Rapids. **Shuttle:** On County Y, the landing is south of the bridge at Borowski's Little Rice Resort. The access is part of the resort so you will have to get permission to use it. Paddlers are welcome to land and grab a bite to eat at the resort pub.
- 14.7 Mile Halfbreed Rapids (Class 2)** The river flows into a left bend and then constricts into a right bend and forms a 200+ yard class 2 rapids. These rapids should be scouted (path on left bank) as they will require good boat handling skills in some places. The beginning and end present the greatest difficulty as the river rumbles through several small drops, numerous boulders, and a few tight bends. The river splits around a small island near the end. The easiest route is usually down the right fork.
- At Halfbreed Rapids, the surrounding landscape changes from frequent bog and marsh to a drier, mixed northern forest. Pines, hardwoods and shrubs often overhang high sandy riverbanks.
- 13.8 Mile Swan Creek** As you approach a sharp right bend, you will see a wooden pier with a bench next to the mouth of Swan Creek on river left. The pier is privately owned.
- 13.7 Mile Rocky Acres Drive Landing River:** The access is on the left bank a few yards past the mouth of Swan Creek and a private pier. The river flows through marsh and lowland forest. You will likely see plenty of birdlife throughout this stretch. **Shuttle:** From County Y, turn south onto Rocky Run Road, then turn south onto Rocky Acres Road. The access is marked with a sign. A steep path leads from the road down to the river, be careful of your footing. You may need to rope your canoe or kayak down the slope (30 feet). A trail from the landing leads to a small shaded picnic area with a table (no fire pit). Hand carry access, roadside parking, rustic picnic area.
- 13.4 Mile Rocky Run Creek** The creek enters from river left.
- 12.8 Mile Riffles & Rapids (Class 1)** The river meanders through a series of lazy bends with several sets of riffles and easy rapids.
- 11.3 Mile Johnson Creek** Johnson creek enters from river left. The river runs through a stretch of open grasslands. A succession of long narrow islands follows.

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8.9 Mile Swamp Lake Road Access **River:** The river flows through beautiful north woods scenery. The access is on river right in a left bend and is marked with a large sign that reads, 'Take Out'. The sign is hard to miss. **Shuttle:** From Highway 51, turn west onto Swamp Lake Road, the public access is several hundred yards west of the bridge. Hand carry access, roadside parking, trailer turnaround.

0 mile is at Prairie Rapids Rd Bridge

Driving Directions (Google Maps)



Willow Dam Landing



Rocky Acres Dr Access



Swamp Lake Rd Access

GPS - NAD83 / WGS84

Willow Dam Landing	45.71231,-89.84415
Oelhafen Creek	45.70397,-89.83032
Bear Creek	45.69465,-89.81747
County Y Bridge	45.69278,-89.81195
Halfbreed Rapids	45.69303,-89.77840
Swan Creek	45.68821,-89.76273
Rocky Acres Dr Landing	45.68791,-89.76210
Riffles & Class I Rapids	45.67703,-89.75704
Johnson Creek	45.66795,-89.74457
Swamp Lake Rd Landing	45.64521,-89.71881