

CHIPPEWA RIVER (C1)

Put-in River Road Access below Arpin Dam
Take-out County D Bridge
Distance 9.4 miles
Approximate Time 3-4 hours
Most Difficult Rapids Class 1 (Bellile Falls: Class 2-3)

Elevation Drop 69 feet
Average Gradient 7.3 feet per mile
Minimum Suggested Flow Below Bellile Falls: 400 cfs / 1.5 feet
Water Level Info / Phone WDNR Office at Ladysmith
 715.532.3911

Paddler's Notes

167.4 Mile River Road Access, below Arpin Dam *River:* The River forks around a large, densely wooded island below the dam. Bellile Falls is in the narrow right (west) fork. A class 2 rapids is located just below the access. Shortly after, the whitewater becomes much more difficult. The river widens after the falls, where the east and west forks combine. *Shuttle:* On Old Highway 70, turn south onto River Road. The river access is from a small turnaround about 100 yards south of the public boat landing entrance, which is above the dam. Be careful, the track has some deep ruts. A steep 75 yard-long trail leads down slope from the turnaround to the river.

167.3 Mile Bellile Falls (Class 2-3) The falls feature several sets of class 2-3 rapids whose character can change dramatically depending on water levels. The rapids become scrappy during periods of low volume, in medium flow they are quite manageable for more experienced paddlers with good maneuvering skills. When water levels are high, these rapids become quite sporty (and can be dangerous), producing enormous waves. Scout from along either bank where you can find a place to land.

A rough estimate of the minimum gage height for Bellile Falls is around 1300 cfs @ the USGS Gage near Bruce.

166.5 Mile Powerhouse Access (Birch Lane, end of the canal) *River:* The right channel (Bellile Falls) and the left channel (canal) converge at the put-in. Downstream, the river quietly flows past grassy islands and wooded banks with scattered homes and cottages on river-right. *Shuttle:* On Old Highway 70, turn south onto North Swede Rd. Drive for 0.3 mile and turn right (west) onto Birch Lane. Stay on Birch Lane through the left bend, and all the way to the end of the canal. The river access is below the canal dam. Hand carry access, parking.

165.4 Mile Couderay River Confluence The river enters from the right. Highway 40 can be heard and occasionally seen on the right bank shortly after the confluence.

164.7 Mile Litke Drive Bridge Access *River:* After a shallow right bend and a bluff along the left bank, you will come upon the Litke Road Bridge. The access is river-right just after the bridge. Downstream, are several large islands with some narrow channels that can be fun to explore but be wary of strainers and dead fall. The landscape varies over the next several miles between, farms, forested banks, and scattered homes and cottages. *Shuttle:* A much easier access compared to the first two. On Hwy 40, south of Radisson, turn east onto Litke Drive. The bridge is about a 150 yards from the intersection. The access is west of the bridge, on the downstream side. A short dirt path leads down slope from the road to the river. Hand carry access, roadside parking.

160.0 Mile Blomberg Road Bridge Access *River:* After a long right bend, the river straightens and the Blomberg Road Bridge appears ahead. The access is river left, upstream of the bridge. After the bridge, the river continues to wander through hardwood forest and farmland with a moderate current. *Shuttle:* On Hwy 40, turn east onto W Blomberg Rd and continue to the bridge. Access is on the west end of the bridge, upstream side. Hand carry access, roadside parking.

158.0 Mile County D Bridge Landing *River:* After the Brunet River confluence, you'll see the County Highway D Bridge. The landing is just downstream of the bridge on the left bank. *Shuttle:* On County D, east of Hwy 40, the landing is on the east end of the bridge, downstream side. A dirt jeep track leads down to the river's edge. The track is fairly rutted so be careful if you're backing in. Trailer access ramp, parking.

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Driving Directions (Google Maps)



River Rd Access (upper)



Powerhouse Access (canal)



Litke Drive Bridge Access



Blomberg Rd Bridge Access



County D Bridge Landing

GPS - NAD83 / WGS84

River Road Access (upper)	45.76159,-91.20578
Belille Falls	45.75944,-91.20527
Powerhouse Access (canal)	45.75169,-91.20339
Couderay River Confluence	45.73881,-91.21636
Litke Dr Bridge Access	45.72906,-91.21197
Blomberg Rd Bridge Access	45.68857,-91.19921
County D Landing	45.67133,-91.18153