

# WISCONSIN RIVER (LWSR SEGMENT 1)

**Put-in**  
**Take-out**  
**Distance**  
**Approximate Time**  
**Most Difficult Rapids**

Sauk Canoe Landing  
 Peck's Landing at Spring Green  
 20.4 miles  
 varies, full day / multi-day trip  
 flat-water

**Elevation Drop**  
**Average Gradient**  
**Minimum Suggested Flow**  
**Water Level Info / Phone**

31 feet  
 1.5 feet per mile  
 contact local outfitter  
 contact local outfitter

## Paddlers' Notes

### Suggested River Levels for Paddling

*Always check the local weather forecast before paddling on the LWSR. Also, even if the local forecast calls for sunny conditions, talk to a local outfitter about possible river surges before embarking on an overnight trip! Although it may be sunny in the LWSR, any kind of heavy rainfall upriver can result in an unexpected rise in river levels. Although this set of conditions doesn't happen very often, it occasionally does, and is something to be aware of.*



<b>Below 4,000 cfs</b>	Very shallow riverway, many large sandbars. You may have to step out and push several times. Excellent conditions for sandbar camping!
<b>4,000 cfs to 10,000cfs</b>	Normal summer conditions, many medium to large-sized sandbars. Shallow riverway at low end of this range - occasionally, you may have to step out and push. Excellent conditions for sandbar camping!
<b>10,000 cfs to 14,000 cfs</b>	Above normal flow conditions, noticeable undercurrents developing, especially in lee of sandbars and islands. Sandbars are smaller and fewer in number at high end of this range. Usually acceptable conditions for sandbar camping.
<b>14,000 cfs to 17,000 cfs</b>	High flow conditions. Undercurrents above 4 mph develop, especially in lee of sandbars. Sandbars are few in number. Sandbar camping not recommended in this range.
<b>17,000 cfs to 20,000 cfs</b>	High flow conditions with deceptively powerful undercurrents developing. Overnight camping on sandbars and beaches not recommended! Can be a fun day trip however, many small channels open up in lower reaches of the LWSR - be careful of strainers in narrow confines.
<b>Above 20,000 cfs</b>	Paddling not recommended!

**86.1 Mile Sauk 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.

**84.5 Mile Mazomanie 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.

**82.0 Mile Ferry Bluff** The unmistakable heights of Ferry Bluff, on river right, will be visible from far upriver. There is a somewhat strenuous hiking trail to the top of the bluff where you'll be rewarded with outstanding panoramic views of the river and surrounding area. The mouth of Honey Creek flows into the Wisconsin River at the base of the bluff. The landing for the hiking trail is a short, easy paddle up the creek.

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- 80.9 Mile 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.
- 79.2 Mile 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.
- 75.3 Mile Arena 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.
- 75.3 Mile 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 !
- 68.0 Mile 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.
- 67.5 Mile 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.
- 66.2 Mile 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.
- 65.7 Mile Peck's Landing at Spring Green** **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. Ranger Road in the State Forest Campground. Developed landing with gravel ramp. Trailer turnaround, pit toilets, parking, shady picnic area with tables and fire pits, and drinking water.

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### Driving Directions (Google Maps)



**Sauk Canoe Landing**



**Mazomanie Landing**



**Arena Landing**



**Highway 14 Landing**



**Tower Hill SP Canoe Landing**



**Peck's Landing**

### GPS - NAD83 / WGS84

Sauk Canoe Landing	43.25546,-89.74174
Mazomanie Landing	43.23935,-89.75825
Ferry Bluff	43.23835,-89.80853
Twin Islands	43.22701,-89.81848
Grape Islands	43.20795,-89.83409
Otter Island	43.19976,-89.84585
Arena Landing	43.18769,-89.90092
Cedar Island	43.18696,-89.90296
RR Bridge	43.17401,-90.03344
Highway 14 Landing	43.16905,-90.04075
Tower Hill SP Landing	43.14737,-90.05083
Peck's Landing	43.14599,-90.06010