

# MANITOWISH RIVER (MA4)

<b>Put-in</b>	Highway 51 Landing	<b>Elevation Drop</b>	17 feet
<b>Take-out</b>	Murray's Landing	<b>Average Gradient</b>	0.8 feet per mile
<b>Distance</b>	20.7 miles	<b>Minimum Suggested Flow</b>	No USGS Gage
<b>Approximate Time</b>	Multi-day Trip	<b>Water Level Info / Phone</b>	Hawk's Nest Outfitters
<b>Most Difficult Rapids</b>	Riffles		715.543.8585

## Paddler's Notes

- 15.8 Mile Highway 51 Landing River:** The river flows over a sandy, rocky riverbed in the first mile and can be scrappy during dry spells. A stretch of riffles is within sight of the put-in and extends beyond the right bend. The current slows after the riffles. **Shuttle:** On Highway 51, south of Manitowish. There are two usable access points, but the best is south of the bridge. A nice gravel pull-through sits next to the river providing easy access. Hand carry access, trailer turnaround.
- 15.0 Mile Benson Lake** The lake is small, shallow, and scenic with several cottages and homes on the north and west shores beneath tall red and white pines.
- 13.5 Mile Circle Lily Creek Landing River:** The landing is on the right bank after a left bend, beneath a stand of red and white pines. Downstream, the river flows past open marsh and bog forest. **Shuttle:** From Highway 51, turn west onto Manitowish River Road. It is approximately 0.8 miles to the shaded access area on the left side of the road, across from Hawk's Nest Outfitters. Hand carry access, trailer turnaround. Sodas and refreshments are available at Hawks Nest.
- 11.4 Mile Highway 51 Wayside Park & Landing River:** After a straight stretch, the river flows through an s-turn and narrows. The landing is on river right across from a concrete abutment on the left bank. For the first half-mile after the landing, the right bank is steeply sloped with a lush forest of pine, aspen, birch, and maple. Marsh grass, spruce, and mixed pines cover the more open left bank. **Shuttle:** On highway 51, between Manitowish Waters and Manitowish, the wayside is on the south side of the road. Trailer access ramp, trailer turnaround, rustic toilet, picnic area with picnic tables, grills, and water.
- Gradually the river basin widens and settles into open marsh. Occasionally the forest borders the river but reeds and tall grass usually cover the banks. The river flows through frequent, sharp bends with periodic sloughs branching off from the main channel.
- 8.0 Mile Highway 47 Bridge Landing River:** After several miles, the river once again nears Highway 51 on the right bank and you will approach two bridges that cross over the river. The first is an old railroad bridge now part of an ATV trail system. The second bridge is Highway 47. The landing is immediately downstream of the second bridge, on the right bank. **Shuttle:** The bridge is just a few yards south of the Highways 47 and 51 intersection. The access is north of the bridge, downstream (west) side. A path leads from the road-side down to the river. Hand carry access, roadside parking.
- After the Highway 47 Bridge, a few homes and cottages are on the right bank in the first mile or so. Thereafter, the river becomes more remote, and wild than the previous eight miles, flowing through marsh and lowland forest all the way to the Flambeau Flowage. This section has even more twists and bends than the previous section, with a large number of sloughs offering excellent opportunities for exploring. Five overnight canoe campsites are located in this section.
- 0.0 Mile Bear River** The Bear River enters from river left. The confluence marks the end of the Manitowish River and the beginning of the Flambeau River North Fork.
- (+ 1.7 Mile) Turtle Flambeau Flowage** The riverway widens as it enters the flowage. The main channel is easy to follow as it meanders through open marsh and aquatic plants for the final few miles.

## MANITOWISH RIVER (MA4)

(+ 4.9 Mile) **Murray's Landing** **River:** The landing will be easy to spot on river right. A wide gravel ramp marks the landing. **Shuttle:** On Highway 51, west of Manitowish, turn west onto Murrays Landing Road. The landing is 5.5 miles from the highway intersection. Trailer access ramp, trailer turnaround, parking area, pit toilets.

(+ 4.9 Mile) Mileage in parenthesis is on Flambeau River North Fork and Flambeau Flowage

### Driving Directions (Google Maps)



**Highway 51 Landing**



**Circle Lily Creek Landing**



**Highway 51 Wayside  
Landing**



**Highway 47 Landing**



**Murray's Landing**

### GPS - NAD83 / WGS84

Highway 51 Landing	46.13627,-89.91125
Benson Lake	46.13203,-89.91745
Circle Lily Creek Landing	46.14184,-89.93751
Highway 51 Wayside	46.14018,-89.96086
Highway 47 Landing	46.13070,-90.01179
Bear River Confluence	46.07612,-90.02959
Murray's Landing	46.08166,-90.07989