

MONTREAL RIVER

Montreal River Canyon
Saxon Falls Powerhouse to Highway 122

River Level Info

Excel Energy hotline (voice-recorded): 715.893.2213

Parking

Saxon Falls Landing	46.53579, -90.38025
Highway 122 Access	46.55595, -90.41626

Wisconsin Trail Guide

- Parking
- Vault Toilets
- River Access & Parking
- Rapids
- (III) Whitewater Difficulty



This map is for general reference purposes only

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Saxon Falls Powerhouse to Highway 122

River Info

Put-in	Saxon Falls Powerhouse
Takeout	Highway 122 Landing
Distance	3.2 miles
Paddle Time	1.5 hours
Difficulty	Class III
Elevation Drop	168 feet
Average Gradient	53 fpm
Min Suggested Flow	400 cfs
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Paddler's Notes

DO NOT paddle the Montreal River Canyon solo!

For most of the summer and fall, the river will run at 250 cfs or lower and be a shallow, bony class II that is barely navigable. During a summer/fall dam release, or right after the snow melt-off (*end of April through early May?*), the character of the river changes dramatically - producing a fantastic class III run for rafting and kayaking at levels around 600 cfs or higher

Many of the most challenging rapids occur where steep canyon walls rise above the river. You won't be able to land and scout during high flows

4.0 mile: Saxon Falls Powerhouse

River From the Powerhouse, Class II rapids form intermittently for the first 0.4 mile above 400 cfs. The whitewater difficulty and speed of the current varies with water levels

Shuttle On County Highway B, turn north on to Saxon Falls Road. As you near the landing, a sign at an intersection reads 'boat landing' and points to the right, ignore this and continue straight ahead. The parking area is at the end of the road. A steel stairway leads down to the river behind a fence. There is a route to the river down the slope along the right side of the stairway, about 125 vertical feet. The footing is tricky so you should attach a rope (200') to your kayak or raft and lower it down ahead of you. Put-in below the steel footbridge that crosses the river
Hand carry access, parking, trailer turnaround

3.6 mile: First Rapids (Class III)

The first significant rapids occur where the river constricts into an s-turn (*left-right*) and rushes over a pair of ledges which together drop about 3 feet. At high flows, this spot will produce big waves and fun holes and the ledges won't be apparent. The ledges become more defined at lower flows (*below 500 cfs*).

Downstream, the river runs through several long stretches of wavy whitewater. The Montreal drops more than 70 feet over the next 1.4 miles

3.1 mile: The Cathedral (Class III)

The river bends sharply to the right at the foot of a sheer wall on river-left. A sticky, diagonal hole forms from river-left, and intermediate paddlers need to be especially wary. It can stop small rafts at flows over 600 cfs and will be scary if you get stuck in the powerful hydraulics.

1.8 mile: Canyon Ends

The Montreal River Canyon gives way to low banks. During lower flows, a large gravel bar forms and you may have to step out and tow for a short distance. At higher river levels this stretch will be a wavy class II. The final mile is riffles and flatwater

1.2 mile: Islands

The river forks around a cluster of islands. The main channel flows down river right

0.8 mile: Highway 122 Landing

River The river is calm and slow as you approach the Highway 122 Bridge. The roadside access is before the bridge on river-left.

Do not paddle past the orange buoys!

Shuttle The landing is at the southeast end of the Highway 122 Bridge (*Wisconsin side*). There is a small area for parking
Hand carry access, parking, trailer turnaround

Superior Falls Scenic Area

The Superior Falls Scenic Area is 0.5 mile north of the bridge on Highway 505/Lake Superior Road (*Michigan*). The river flows over a 55-foot waterfall into a scenic gorge. A small trail system leads to the rocky riverbed above the falls, and to scenic overlooks with awesome views of the main cascade

Other trails lead to an overlook of Lake Superior, and down to a gravel bar on the Lake Superior shoreline at the mouth of the Montreal River. From there, a riverside footpath takes you to the edge of the spill pool in the bowl below the falls. Please do not enter the water to wade or swim!

Locations, Google Maps

Saxon Falls Powerhouse Parking



Highway 122 Landing

