

DAY TRIP CHECKLIST

South Dakota law requires that non-motorized boats over 12 feet long, including canoes and kayaks, be licensed in South Dakota or another state.

The registration decal must be shown on each side of the bow. Paddlers are encouraged but not required to display license numbers on their watercraft for easier identification, to provide more theft protection and to operate in other states that require affixed license numbers.

Every person in the watercraft must have a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal floatation device that fits properly, is readily available, and is in good and serviceable condition.

- Paddles, plus an extra
- Waterproof maps
- Bailing bucket or sponge
- Ropes for bow and stern
- Long-sleeved shirt, long pants for each person
- Change of clothes
- High energy snacks/food
- Water (fill containers before arriving at the launch site as there may not be water available)
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen lotion - 15 SPF or higher
- Insect repellent
- Matches
- Rain gear
- Trash bags
- First-Aid kit
- Toilet articles
- Flashlight
- Pocket knife
- Optional:
 - Camera (in waterproof case)
 - Binoculars
 - Fishing equipment
 - Swimsuit
 - Bandana (multiple uses)



Big Sioux River

Canoe/Kayak Map

Useful Websites:

For SD state park information -
www.sd.GFP.info/Parks

For road maps - www.sddot.com/PE/data

For current water conditions -
<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/sd/nwis/rt>

For more information, please contact:

Big Sioux Recreation Area
410 Park Avenue
Brandon, SD 57005
(605) 582-7243 between 8-4:30, M-F

OR

Newton Hills State Park
28771 482nd Avenue
Canton, SD 57013
(605) 987-2263 between 8-4:30, M-F

For more information on canoe trails or additional brochures, please write:

Division of Parks and Recreation
Department of Game, Fish and Parks
523 E East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 773-3391
Email: parkinfo@gfp.state.sd.us

This brochure is a cooperative effort with the SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks, the SD Department of Health, City of Sioux Falls, the Lyon and Sioux County Conservation Boards (Iowa) and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

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Big Sioux River

Canoe/Kayak Map



*South Dakota Department of
Game, Fish and Parks*



The Big Sioux River is one of the most popular canoeing/kayaking rivers in South Dakota. It is a river with a slow current that meanders past rocks more than a billion years old, as well as early American Indian encampments, sites of old mills, rolling hills and excellent parks. Whitetail deer, turtles, waterfowl and numerous songbirds can be seen when paddling down the river.

Although many South Dakota rivers get too shallow for boating in the summer, the Big Sioux River averages a depth of two to five feet through autumn. The river may appear harmless, but care must be taken to be safe on the water.

LOWHEAD DAMS

Warning: Dams are not signed. Use extreme caution. Surface currents below dams can draw a canoe or kayak back toward the water coming over the dam, swamping the watercraft. Paddlers can then be trapped at the base of the dam in a deadly underwater whirlpool. **ALWAYS** portage around lowhead dams.

PRIVATE PROPERTY

Most of the land adjacent to the river is private property. On other than public land, landowner permission is needed to be on the land. Eleven public access points are listed on this map. More public access sites may be added in the future.

DAY TRIPS

It can take several days to canoe the 62 miles between Sioux Falls and Oak Ridge Public Water Access south of Fairview. However, trips as short as several hours are possible between some of the access points. Wind speed, wind direction and water depth can cause great variations in floating times. A half-day trip under some conditions may take a full day under others.

Trip plans must also take paddlers' strength and endurance into account. Good planning will mean that you reach your destination before sunset. The Big Sioux Recreation Area and Newton Hills State Park have canoe launch sites and nearby camping facilities.

BASIC SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

- Be competent swimmers and have appropriate personal flotation devices for each person.
- Don't overload with either passengers or gear. Store gear in waterproof containers.
- Boating alone is not recommended. If you go alone, let someone know your launch and take-out points as well as your estimated arrival time.
- Go the speed of the slowest watercraft so all stay together.
- Fasten all ropes so there is no danger of being entangled if you overturn.
- Stop, get out of your watercraft and look over all danger spots from shore. If in doubt, carry your vessel around the difficulty.
- Do not try to run lowhead dams. You can be trapped underwater in the re-circulating current at the base of the dam.
- Beware of overhanging trees, logjams, brush piles and other obstacles that the water flows through rather than around. You can be pinned against them, possibly under the water, by the force of the current. Plan far ahead and pass them on the safe side. If it looks like you are going to bump into the obstruction, do not push away with your paddle as that is a quick way to capsize.
- If you overturn, stay on the upstream side of your vessel so that you will not be crushed between it and a rock or log. In most cases, stay with the canoe since it won't sink. Don't try to stand in a fast current. Float downstream on your back, feet first, with your toes out of the water. This will keep you from getting your feet caught on the bottom.
- If others spill, go after the paddlers. Rescue watercraft and equipment only after the people are safe and recovery of the items can be done safely.
- Cold water can be paralyzing to both mind and body. Be



sure to have more than one watercraft on the river when canoeing in the spring or late fall. If you capsize, get out of the water quickly and put on dry clothes. Do not lose your life trying to save your watercraft or equipment.

- Car top racks must be strong and securely attached to the vehicle. Each end of the vessel must be attached to the vehicle.

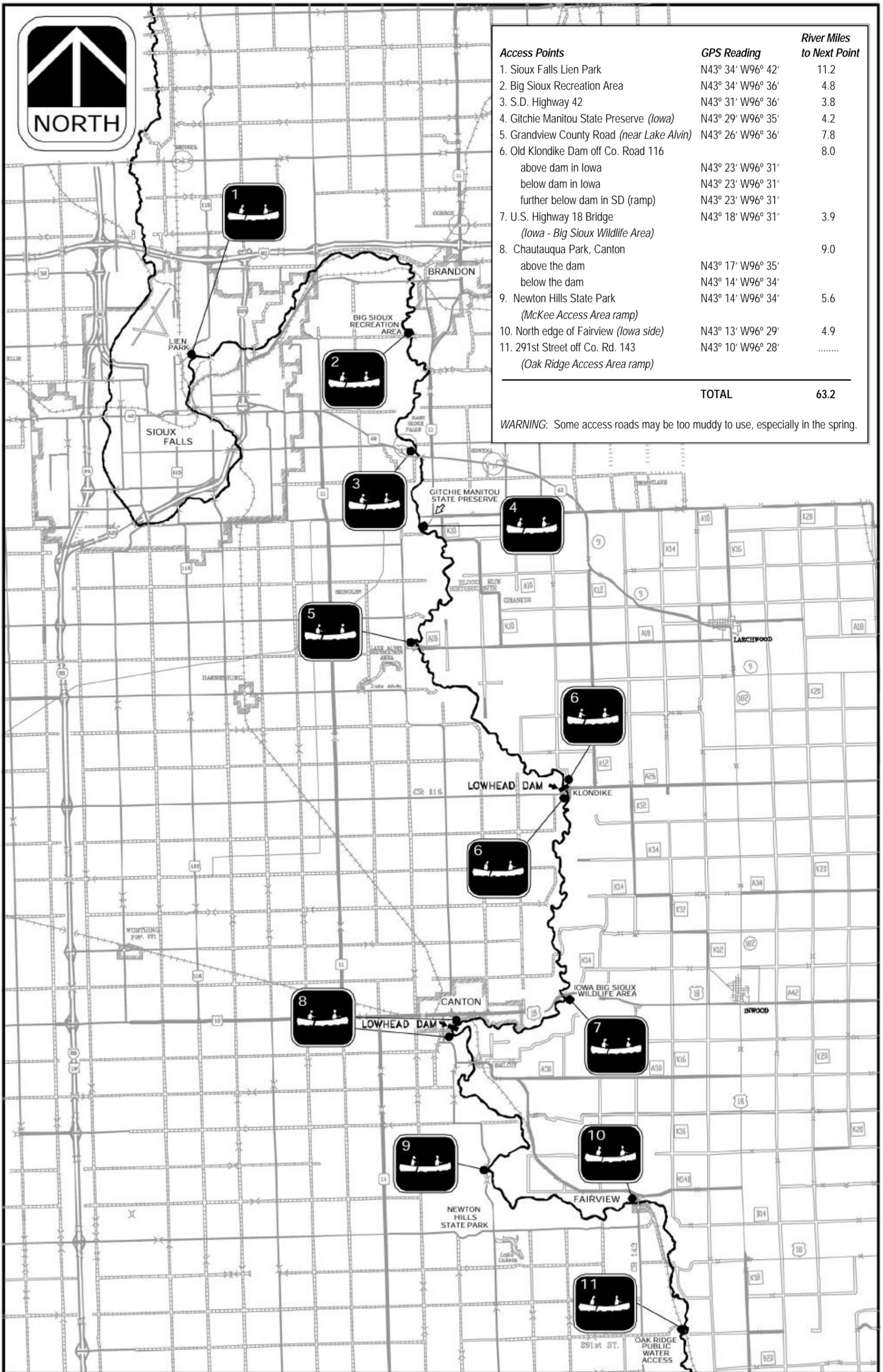
The SD Department of Health recommends that you bring the following:

- Water - drink plenty of water before, during and after hiking
- Insect repellent - protect yourself from the bites of ticks and mosquitoes
- Sunscreen of 15 SPF or higher - protect your skin from the sun's rays
- Small first aid kit - be prepared for emergencies
- Healthy snacks - high energy foods (granola, fruits and energy bars)
- Appropriate clothing and footwear - weather conditions can change quickly

LOW IMPACT

One of the key reasons why most people paddle is to experience the beauty of the outdoors. To help protect the environment, please adhere to the following principles:

- Carry In/Carry Out - Leave no garbage, yours or other people's, in the water or on the land.
- Camp 200 feet or more away from the water.
- Cut no living trees or pick any plants.
- Use a camping stove instead of having an open fire. Leave no flame unattended.
- When the need arises, bury your human waste at least six inches deep, one hundred feet or more from the water. Carry out your toilet paper.
- Try not to disturb wildlife.
- Leave the site as you found it. Carry out all garbage - yours and other items you find - and deposit in your home garbage can.



Access Points	GPS Reading	River Miles to Next Point
1. Sioux Falls Lien Park	N43° 34' W96° 42'	11.2
2. Big Sioux Recreation Area	N43° 34' W96° 36'	4.8
3. S.D. Highway 42	N43° 31' W96° 36'	3.8
4. Gitchie Manitou State Preserve (Iowa)	N43° 29' W96° 35'	4.2
5. Grandview County Road (near Lake Alvin)	N43° 26' W96° 36'	7.8
6. Old Klondike Dam off Co. Road 116		8.0
above dam in Iowa	N43° 23' W96° 31'	
below dam in Iowa	N43° 23' W96° 31'	
further below dam in SD (ramp)	N43° 23' W96° 31'	
7. U.S. Highway 18 Bridge (Iowa - Big Sioux Wildlife Area)	N43° 18' W96° 31'	3.9
8. Chautauqua Park, Canton		9.0
above the dam	N43° 17' W96° 35'	
below the dam	N43° 14' W96° 34'	
9. Newton Hills State Park (McKee Access Area ramp)	N43° 14' W96° 34'	5.6
10. North edge of Fairview (Iowa side)	N43° 13' W96° 29'	4.9
11. 291st Street off Co. Rd. 143 (Oak Ridge Access Area ramp)	N43° 10' W96° 28'
TOTAL		63.2

WARNING: Some access roads may be too muddy to use, especially in the spring.