

**Fertile Paddling Reaches** (DRAFT-time estimates based on 2mph average speed)

**Reach 1: Township Road (Erickson's) to Polk CoRd 1.** 2.8 miles~1 Hr 25 min. Upstream access from Twp Rd on downstream west side of river. Get off at bridge on Polk Co. 1 on east (left) side of river. Watch for fences across river in this reach.

**Reach 2: Polk CoRd 1 to MN Hwy 32.** 1.9 miles~1 Hr. Riffle/rapids in this reach rocky at low water. Passes under Agassiz Recreation Trail and old bridge—also passes old Fertile mill site and site of oxcart trail river crossing.

**Reach 3: MN Hwy 32 to Nature Center Rd (Summit Ave SW).** 1.3 miles~40 min. Easiest and shortest reach of river. Good beginner's reach. At end go through culverts and come off at shore immediately downstream of culverts on west (left) side—parking nearby.

**Reach 4: Nature Center Rd (Summit Ave SW) to West Mill Rd.** 2 miles~1 Hr. Rockiest reach of river at low flows, esp. towards end of reach. At end go through culverts and come off at landing area just downstream on west (left) side at landing by large parking next to river. Other take-out options also.



*Watch for abundant waterfowl, birds, deer, beaver, otter, mink, and other wildlife. Fishing is also on the rebound!*

**ENJOY!!!**

## Paddler's Checklist

- ◇ Life-jacket (Personal Flotation Device-PDF)
- ◇ Paddle (extra emergency paddle also)
- ◇ Bilge Pump, Bailer, Sponge
- ◇ Clothing: Quick dry synthetic (NOT cotton)
- ◇ Wide-brimmed hat. Helmet option
- ◇ Shoes—secure-not flipflops
- ◇ Water and Food
- ◇ Sunscreen
- ◇ Bug Repellent
- ◇ Sunglasses and glass guards
- ◇ Spare clothes in dry bag
- ◇ Dry bags: clothes, electronics, car keys, food
- ◇ Phone, camera
- ◇ Whistle
- ◇ Rope: safety, rescue--throw, lining, towing,
- ◇ First aid kit with matches
- ◇ Knife
- ◇ Boat repair kit/duct tape
- ◇ Map, GPS unit, compass
- ◇ Transport straps/ropes; car top carrier
- ◇ Notebook and pencil/pen
- ◇ Adventuresome Spirit

Always check river and weather conditions before a trip and notify someone of your trip plans and report to them when done with your trip.

Kayak rentals are available through the City of Fertile (\$10/use—\$6 for AELC members) during regular hours M-F, 8-5. Call 218-945-3136 for more information.

(6/21/20 v.)

# *Sand Hill River*

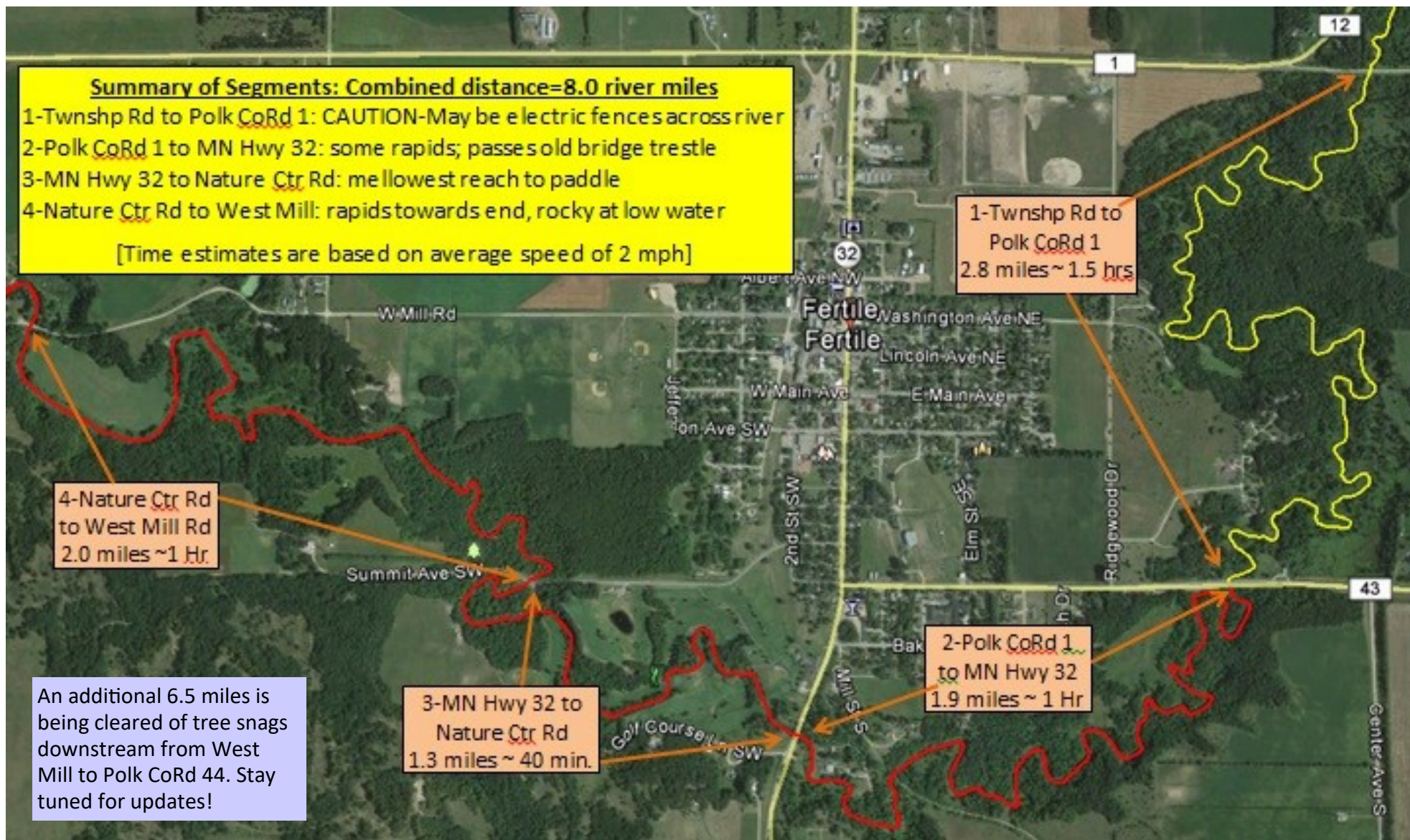
## **Fertile Area River Recreation Guide**



The history of the Sand Hill River in the Fertile area dates back to Minnesota's glacial period as glacial Lake Agassiz drained some 10-12,000 years ago. The unique Fertile Sand Hills were formed as the Sand Hill River left abundant deposits of sand and gravel along this prominent beach ridge of glacial Lake Agassiz. The steeper slopes plus the many springs in this beach ridge area contribute to a steady flow of clear water in this picturesque section of the Sand Hill River. A fun kayak experience awaits all to enjoy!

Follow [Sand Hill River Kayaking](#) on Facebook





**River Conditions: Flow and water level ~ Check on-line at <https://tinyurl.com/shrwd-fertile>**

Water levels are key in assessing what to expect on a paddle trip on the Sand Hill River. Real-time flow and water levels are available on-line from a convenient MnDNR gaging station located just downstream of Fertile, at <https://tinyurl.com/shrwd-fertile>. In general, when water flow is below 30 cubic feet/second (cfs), you'll be scraping bottom and hitting rocks—which will require getting out and dragging through some areas. This is generally not a problem during the warmer summer months, but will take longer and it's hard on boats and paddles. Flows above 250 cfs can pose dangerous conditions for inexperienced paddlers due to potential tree snags—especially when dealing with colder water early and late in the year.