

Upper Kickapoo River Guide

Ontario to La Farge, Wisconsin

Kickapoo Valley Reserve

River Ready

- The Kickapoo River flows North to South; bridges and access points are labeled with numbers from Ontario (Landing 1) to La Farge (Landing 20). Important to know your start and end points.
- State law requires Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) for each person; 13 years old's and younger must wear a PFD.
- Use caution while swimming due to river current, snags and cold water temperatures. Wear strap sandals or tennis shoes to protect feet from sharp objects.
- State Park sticker is required if parking in Wildcat Mountain State Park (WSP); Visitor or Parking permit required at all of the KVR landings – all proceeds are used to take care of the river access sites.
- Seek shelter and high ground if severe weather occurs. Be aware the Kickapoo is susceptible to flash flooding. Check the real-time USGS gauging station for Ontario and La Farge at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis>.
- Designated campsites along the river are limited; consider setting up camp at a designated site prior to getting on the river, reserve a site at WSP, or utilize private or Village campgrounds.
- Bring plenty of drinking water or be prepared to filter or boil water due to naturally occurring bacteria.
- No litter or glass on the river; punishable by \$150 fine. Pack out all trash. Be courteous to fellow paddlers; keep noise to a minimum and ethics to a premium.

More Information



The Kickapoo River is the only river that starts and ends in the Driftless Region and is a great example of the dendritic system with many streams emptying into the main stem. The shallow, gently flowing river is tame enough for the beginner but scenic enough for the advanced paddler as well. The upper stretch of the river from Ontario to La Farge is arguably the most beautiful, if not the most accessible for the public to enjoy.

Local Information:

- Canoe/Kayak rental and shuttle services available: Search "Kickapoo River Canoeing" for more information.
- Village of Ontario <https://ontariowi.com/ontario/>
- Village of La Farge <https://www.lafarge-wisconsin.com/>
- Driftless Wisconsin www.driftlesswisconsin.org
- Naturally Vernon County <http://invernoncounty.com/>

Enjoy your trip!

Kickapoo Valley Reserve
53661 State Hwy 131
La Farge, Wisconsin 54639
608/625-2960
kickapoo.reserve@krm.state.wi.us
kickapoovalley.wi.gov

Wildcat Mountain State Park
E13660 State Hwy 33
Ontario, Wisconsin 54651
608/337-4775
dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/wildcat

Paddler Pick Up

Help keep the Kickapoo River clean!

- 1 Get a mesh bag from canoe livery or boat landing
- 2 Pick up trash as you paddle
- 3 Sort trash at boat landing and hang bag for reuse



<http://kvr.state.wi.us>
(608) 625-2960

NO RIVERBANK CAMPING

Due to flash flood risks and floodplain regulations, designated KVR campsites have been moved out of the flood zone effective January 2020.

Current River accessible sites are: V, W, X, S & M. All will require a hike to higher ground. Camping is allowed at designated campsites only. \$150 Fine for camping outside of a designated site.

Kickapoo Reserve Management Board



EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

Includes Kickapoo River severe condition alerts

54639 **TEXT** 54651
La Farge TO Ontario
888777

For Emergency Dial 911

Standard text messaging rates apply. Opt out at any time

Trail & River Information kickapoovalley.wi.gov



POWERED BY
NIXLE

- Self Registration Station
- Kickapoo Valley Reserve
- Wildcat Mountain State Park

Recommended River Campsites

- ▲ Trail/River Access
- ▲ Vehicle Access

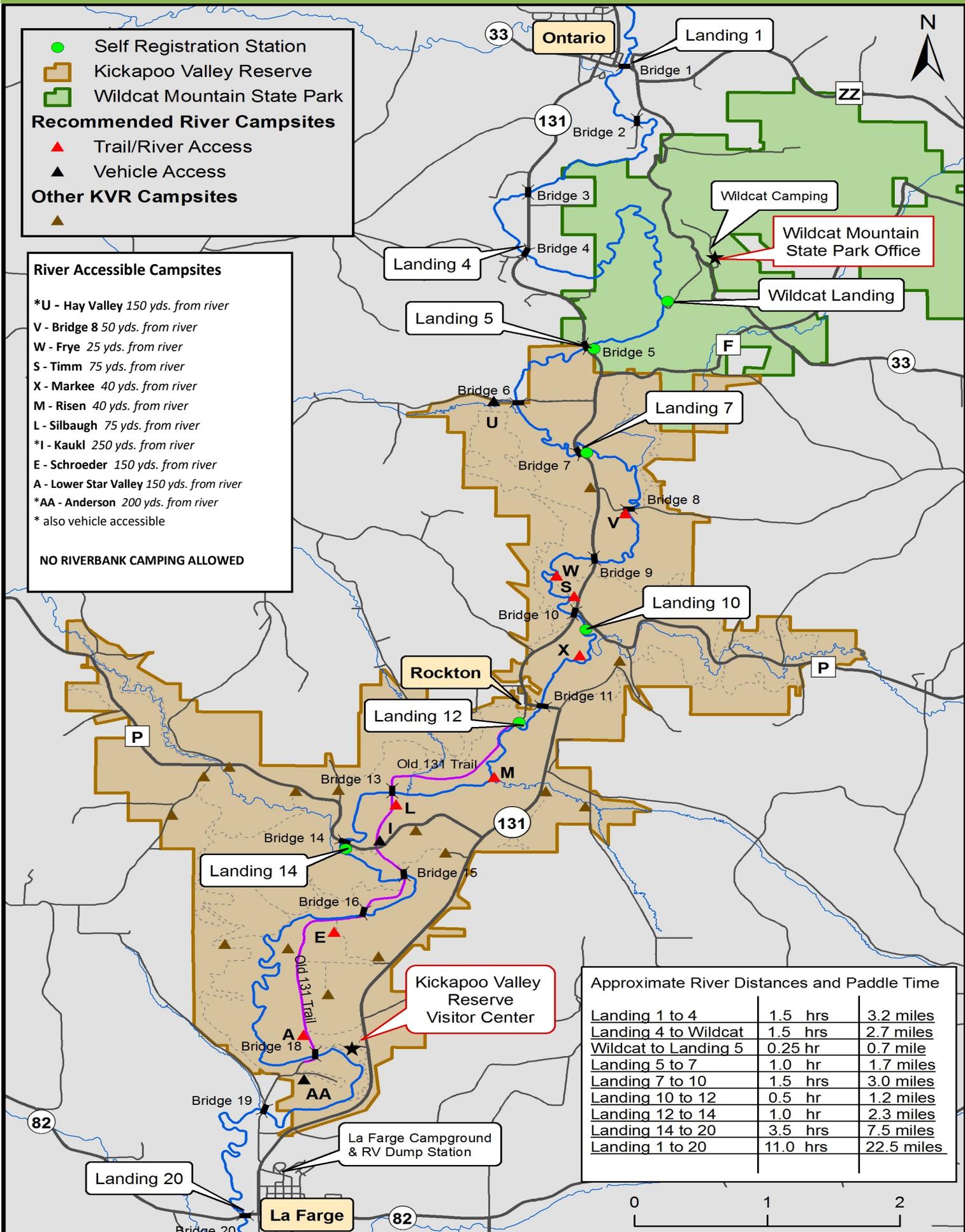
Other KVR Campsites

- ▲

River Accessible Campsites

- *U - Hay Valley 150 yds. from river
- V - Bridge 8 50 yds. from river
- W - Frye 25 yds. from river
- S - Timm 75 yds. from river
- X - Markee 40 yds. from river
- M - Risen 40 yds. from river
- L - Silbaugh 75 yds. from river
- *I - Kaukl 250 yds. from river
- E - Schroeder 150 yds. from river
- A - Lower Star Valley 150 yds. from river
- *AA - Anderson 200 yds. from river
- * also vehicle accessible

NO RIVERBANK CAMPING ALLOWED



Approximate River Distances and Paddle Time

Landing 1 to 4	1.5 hrs	3.2 miles
Landing 4 to Wildcat	1.5 hrs	2.7 miles
Wildcat to Landing 5	0.25 hr	0.7 mile
Landing 5 to 7	1.0 hr	1.7 miles
Landing 7 to 10	1.5 hrs	3.0 miles
Landing 10 to 12	0.5 hr	1.2 miles
Landing 12 to 14	1.0 hr	2.3 miles
Landing 14 to 20	3.5 hrs	7.5 miles
Landing 1 to 20	11.0 hrs	22.5 miles

