



Photo by Aubrey Maccoux-LeDuc

# Paddling the Pine River

## From Hay to the Bay

Not to be confused with the lower Michigan river, the Pine River passes through the Hiawatha National Forest. The Pine River is generally a slow-moving river. Flowing south to Lake Huron, the river passes through a variety of vegetation, including hay fields, conifer, aspen, and maple forests. You will notice many dying conifer trees due to the spread of Spruce Bud Worm.

Much of the river is fed by groundwater, so flow is fairly steady through the summer. Water temperature is rarely above 60°F. In the spring, snowmelt makes the Pine a faster river with small rapids between Points B and D. As the water level drops throughout the summer, the current slows. Canoes may need to be dragged over a few spots in late summer. Motorized boat use is permitted near the mouth and may be seen a few miles north of the boat launch.

Although no developed sites are available on the canoe route, rustic camping is permitted. Campers should limit their stay to 14 days and follow the “pack in, pack out” policy. Be aware and respectful of private property along the route.

The Pine River is designated a trout stream by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources — type 4, main-stream. Anglers may catch brook or brown trout in the summertime. Steelhead, walleye, and bass may be caught near the river's mouth in spring; salmon may be caught in the fall.

## Canoe/Kayak Safety:

- ◆ Wear a life jacket.
- ◆ Carry a map and compass; know how to use them.
- ◆ If your canoe capsizes, stay with it and hang on.
- ◆ Pack food, bedding, clothing, etc., in waterproof bags and tie them to the canoe.
- ◆ Don't bring glass — broken pieces are hazardous for bare feet and inflatable boats.
- ◆ Weather changes quickly in the Upper Peninsula, so be sure to pack warm clothing.
- ◆ Leave a trip plan with a friend describing your route, destination, and approximate arrival time.
- ◆ When paddling with motor boats, yield to the larger vessel.
- ◆ Be a courteous, considerate paddler.

### Pack It In— Pack It Out

Please do not leave trash for others to carry out.

### Keep the Water Clean

Wash dishes and your body away from the stream. Dispose of waste water away from the stream. Boil or treat water before drinking it.

### Proper Disposal of Human Waste

Stay at least 100ft away from any water body. Dig a small hole 8in deep and fill it in with soil after using.

### If You Must Have a Campfire

Keep it safe and small! Shelter your fire from high winds and keep away from logs, brush, and tree trunks. Clear ground to bare mineral soil. Make sure coals are cold to the touch before leaving. Only you can prevent wildfires!



# Paddling the Pine River

## A: HWY H-40 Bridge

The eastern launch point is on the edge of a residential area with steep hills and little parking. The western launch point is further from town and still lacks good parking; it also has a steep bank. Be considerate of the private land.

## B: Prairie Rd Bridge

There is parking for only two vehicles next to the bridge. The bank is steep. You may also launch just downstream where the river crosses Mackinac Trail (H63). In late summer, canoes may have to be dragged over rocky stretches.

## C: I-75 Bridge

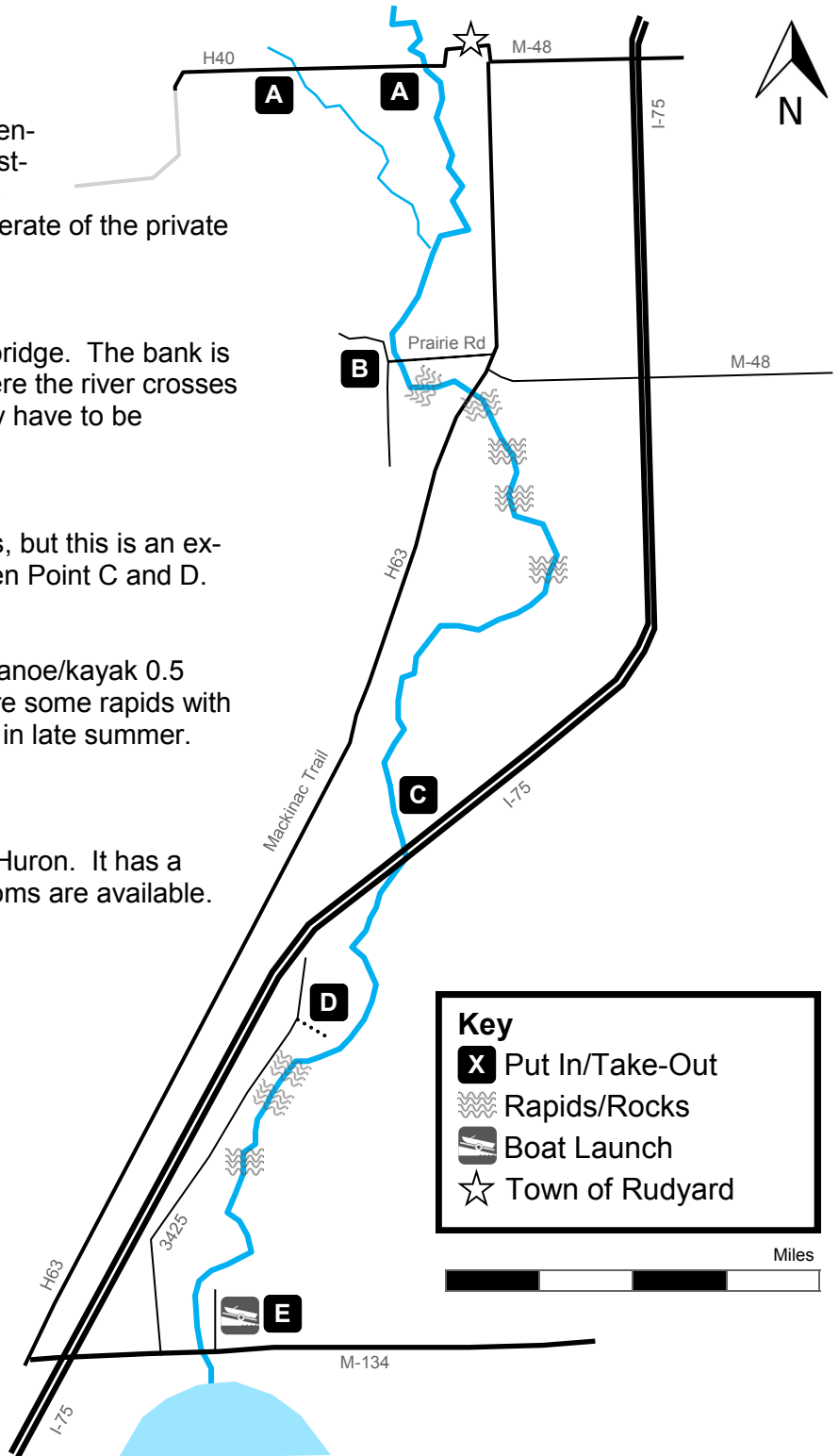
Only emergency stopping is allowed on interstates, but this is an excellent landmark. There are few obstacles between Point C and D.

## D: Closed Rd 3809

Park on Rd 3425 next to the gate. Portage your canoe/kayak 0.5 miles to the Pine River. Downstream from here are some rapids with boulders; canoes may need to be dragged across in late summer. You may encounter motor boats below the rapids.

## E: Pine River Rd Boat Launch

This is the end of the river and beginning of Lake Huron. It has a large boat launch with a large parking lot. Restrooms are available.



### Launch/Take-Out Points

- A: HWY H-40 Bridge
- B: Prairie Rd Bridge
- C: I-75 Bridge (landmark only)
- D: Closed Rd 3809
- E: Pine River Rd Boat Launch

### Time Between Points

A to B	1.5hr
B to C	2.5hr
C to D	1hr
D to E	1.5hr

**Key**

- Put In/Take-Out
- Rapids/Rocks
- Boat Launch
- Town of Rudyard

## Hiawatha National Forest

Online:  
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