

LITTLE SIOUX RIVER

Spencer to Smithland

THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT MAKE A STREAM attractive to the canoeist. Among them are good fishing and interesting local history. In both of these respects, the Little Sioux, from Spencer to Smithland, is outstanding.

IT IS ONE OF THE TOP-NOTCH catfishing streams in the state, with all the characteristics of a catfish-lover's paradise.

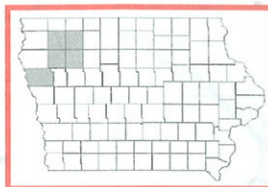
However, walleye and northern pike are concentrated at collection spots like dams and rock riffles during spring movements.

THE STORY OF HUMAN HABITATION in the Little Sioux's valleys goes back to the distant past and is only now becoming imperfectly known. In the time of the early French traders, the river was important in the fur trade and was the route of the plains Indians to the pipestone quarries of Minnesota. Archaeologists have established the existence of the so-called Mill Creek Indian Culture in the valley more than 700 years ago in 1200 A.D. Recent discoveries indicate that humans inhabited the valley long before that — perhaps 4,000 years ago.

THE LITTLE SIOUX VALLEY is also one of geological interest. Marked at

different points are the western limits of three glacial advances of the Wisconsin, the last major glacial period. Pilot Rock, a huge boulder deposited by one of these great ice sheets, is three miles south of Cherokee. This rock has been a trail marker for prairie travelers since prehistoric times and has given the Little Sioux the name of Woven Rock River.

THE RIVER ITSELF IS A TYPICAL prairie stream, sharply meandering, with a sand, mud and gravel bottom and high mud banks throughout most of its course. The rate of fall averages only about two feet per mile, and the current is quite slow. The stream seldom exceeds 100 feet in width.



Canoeing the LITTLE SIOUX RIVER Spencer to Smithland

Distance from Previous Access	Access Name	Location
0 miles	1. West Leach Park	Spencer
12 miles	2. Little Sioux Wildlife Area	1 mi W, 2 mi N Gillett Grove
10 miles	3. Kindlespire Park	5 mi W Webb
7 miles	4. Sioux Rapids City Park	NW edge Sioux Rapids
8.5 miles	5. Linn Grove Dam Park	N edge Linn Grove
12.5 miles	6. Riverside Access	1 mi W Peterson
3 miles	7. Burned Out Bridge	5 mi W, 1 mi N Peterson
2 miles	8. Old Dutch Fred Access	5 mi W, 1 mi S, 1/2 mi E Peterson
6.2 miles	9. Soo Access	4 mi E and 3/4 mi N Larabee
2.1 miles	10. Nelson Area	4 mi E Larabee
1.2 miles	11. Martin Access	4 mi E and 3/4 mi S Larabee
11.1 miles	12. Westcott Park	S side Cherokee
9.4 miles	13. Silver Sioux Rec. Area	6 mi S, 2 mi W, 3/4 mi N Cherokee
1.3 miles	14. Pearse Area	2 mi NE Quimby
3 miles	15. Quimby Bridge	1/2 mi N Quimby
8.8 miles	16. Ranney Knob	1/2 mi W Washta
2.5 miles	17. Washta Area	1 mi S Washta
5.6 miles	18. Walling Access	1/8 mi N Correctionville
2 miles	19. Copeland Park	1 mi W Correctionville
2.9 miles	20. Little Sioux Park Access	1 mi W and 1-1/2 mi S Correctionville
8.2 miles	21. Stahl Park	Anthon
3.4 miles	22. County Bridge Access	1-3/4 S Anthon
9 miles	23. Inkpaduta Access	1-1/2 N and 1 E Smithland
2.5 miles	24. Smithland Access	1/4 E Smithland

