

MIDDLE AND SOUTH RACCOON RIVER

Panora to Van Meter

THE MIDDLE AND SOUTH RACCOON rivers are major tributaries of the Raccoon River. The rivers are located along the south terminus of the Wisconsin glacier and boast an abundance of sand, gravel and boulders. The Middle Raccoon River, from Lenon Mill to Redfield, is part of Iowa's Protected Waters Area. It has a number of good access sites and offers canoeists a leisurely get-away-from-it-all atmosphere. The upper reach of the Middle Raccoon is bordered by majestic timber and prairie stream settings and is the most

heavily canoed portion of the river. This reach of the river is also the most "challenging" to canoeists because of numerous riffles and pools, along with some mid-stream boulders and larger snags. Numerous small sandbars along the river provide excellent areas for rest and relaxation.

THE LENON MILL to the Redfield Dam portion of the river is one of central Iowa's premier smallmouth bass stream fisheries, and is home to walleye and channel catfish. Snags located in the bend areas, mid-water boulders and pool areas are the best places to try fishing in this stretch. This area is a designated catch-and-immediate-release area for all black bass, with standard regulations applied to other fish species.

THE ONLY MAJOR OBSTRUCTION to canoeists throughout the entire stretch is



the low-head dam at Redfield. The river below Redfield has an abundance of boulders and, combined with upland and timber areas, provides a scenic and leisurely trip. The Hanging Rock area—a massive outcrop of sandstone—is located near Redfield and has been used as a major landmark for many years. The area just downstream of Hanging Rock was a ford used by wagon trains heading west during the mid-1800s. The confluence of the South and Middle Raccoon rivers is less than a mile downstream. Although the Redfield to Van Meter portion of the river has no permanent obstructions for canoeists, there are several large snag areas that should be noted. One such snag is in the area at the confluence of the South and North Raccoon rivers. This area has large snags with very swift currents flowing into them.

FISHING, PARTICULARLY FOR channel catfish, is a favorite activity along the lower stretch. Walleye and flathead catfish are also found in this area. Anglers would be well-advised to try a variety of lures and tackle. As in most rivers, areas of snags and larger "holes" are the best.

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Distance from Previous Access	Access Name	Location
0 miles	1. Lennon Mills	Panora
2.1 miles	2. Middle Raccoon River PWA--Trent Tract	1-1/2 mi S Panora
3.2 miles	3. Middle Raccoon River Access	2 mi E, 3 mi S Panora
2.4 miles	4. Marlowe Ray Wildlife Area	5 mi S, 1/2 mi E, 1 mi N Panora
8.8 miles	5. Redfield Dam	E edge Redfield
7.2 miles	6. Pleasant Valley Wildlife Area	4 mi W, 2 mi S Adel
4.4 miles	7. Earlham Bridge Access	3 mi W, 3 mi S Adel
8.4 miles	8. Two Rivers Access	N edge Van Meter
	Raccoon River	

