

BEFORE YOU GO.

IN EMERGENCY
CALL 9-1-1



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

KNOW THE MO.
BEFORE YOU GO.

the chamber
of commerce
Produced by

THE
MISSOURI
RIVER



RIVER SAFETY

PUBLIC SAFETY FROM THE GREAT FALLS FIRE & RESCUE

- Be cognizant of alcohol consumption while around water
- Be careful diving into shallow water or unfamiliar swimming holes
- Take care swimming in cold rivers, lakes, and streams
- Be aware of swimming ability, or lack thereof
- Always swim with a buddy. Never swim alone.
- Actively supervise children in the water; stay at arm's length, and limit distractions
- Ensure children wear a life jacket that properly fits them
- Be cautious of sudden drop-offs in the river. People who cannot swim or are not strong swimmers have quickly slipped into deeper water and drowned.
- Alcohol or other drugs increase the effects of weather, temperature, and wave action. Stay aware and sober!

ISSUES WE HAVE SEEN IN GREAT FALLS

- Early season swimming in cold water – quickly disables the body's ability to respond effectively
- Attempting to swim across the river and back – distance is farther than most people's ability
- Jumping off bridges and cliffs into shallow water
- Wave runner collisions: too fast, lack of control, alcohol impaired, inexperienced drivers
- Shallow water run-ins with boats and wave runners
- Night time boating with improper lighting
- Floating on novelty-type floats with improper sizing for the user
- Slipping off sand bars into deeper, faster-moving water
- Swimmers with poor ability

GENERAL

- Wear a life jacket
- Swim with a group and stay close together
- Follow boater safety laws
- Pay attention for changing conditions – weather, wind, channels, river depth, and flow
- Do not jump off bridges

RIVER
LOCATIONS



BOAT LAUNCH
POTENTIAL HAZARD
RIVER ACCESS POINT

RIVER
USE RESTRICTIONS

- NO RESTRICTIONS
- NON-MOTORIZED USE ONLY
- NO PUBLIC ACCESS
- NO WAKE ZONE
- DIFFICULT ACCESS - USE CAUTION

SCAN
QR CODE

for information on river rentals,
regulations, boating laws,
safety guidelines and more.

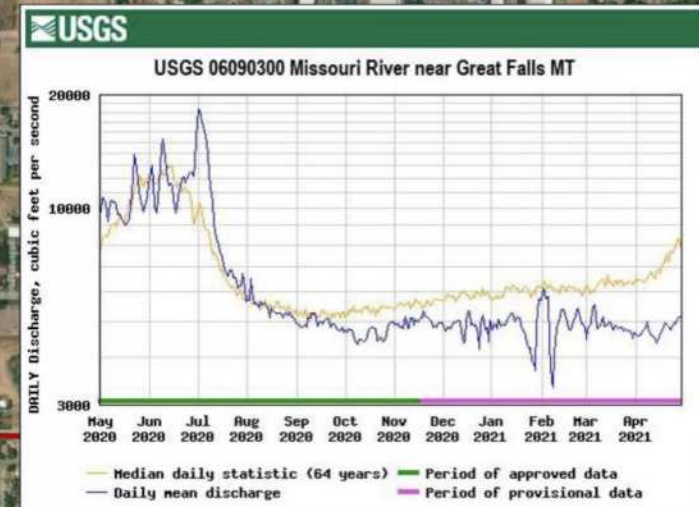
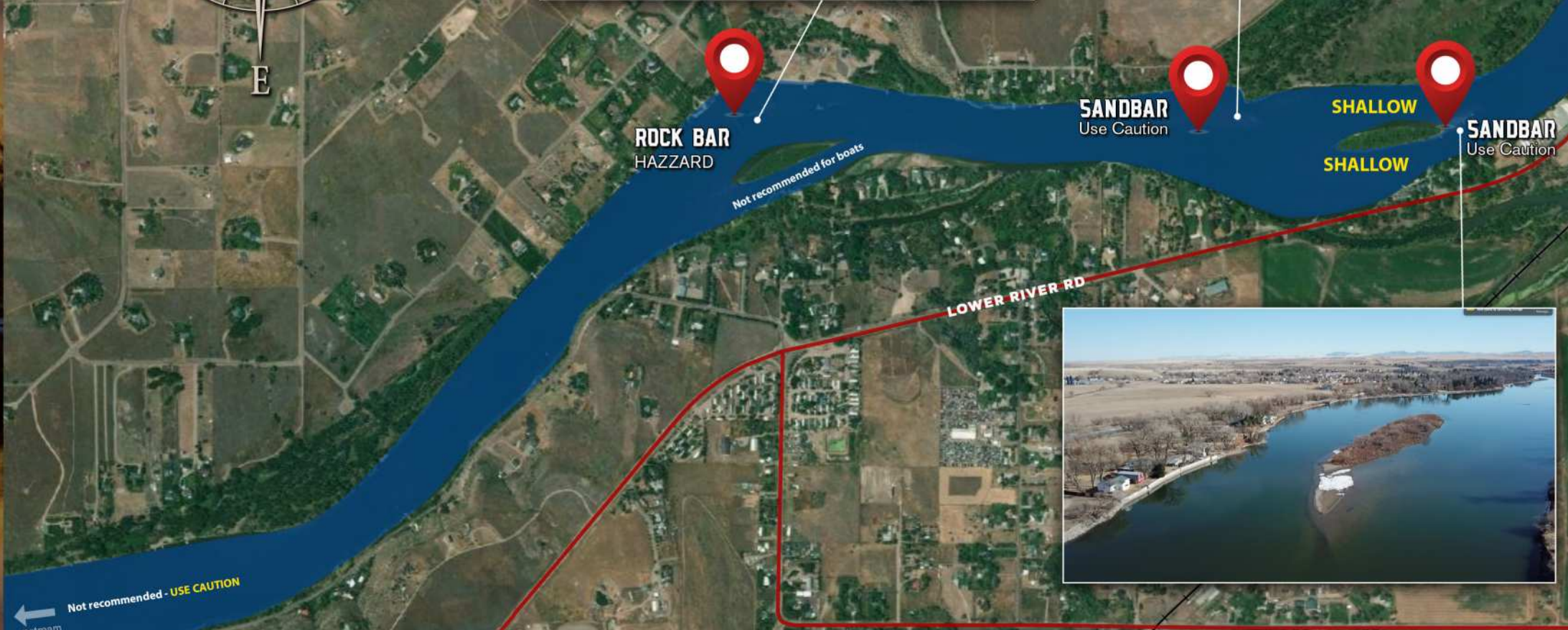
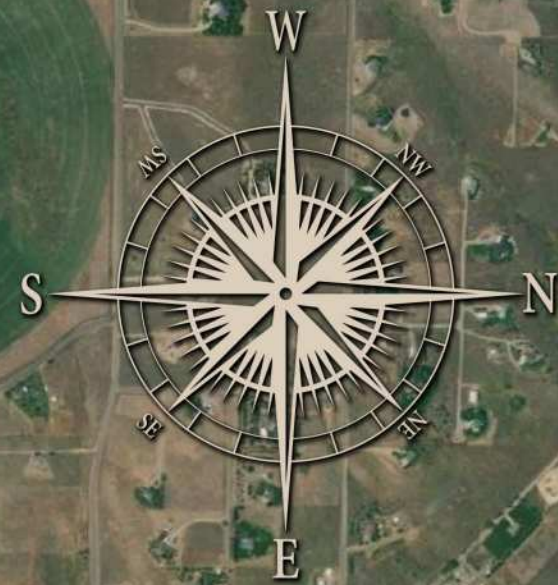


SAFE USE MAP

THE MISSOURI RIVER

The Missouri River through Great Falls has a sandy bottom. Take extra caution when wading past the edge of the river. Even when the top of the water may look smooth, the current is dangerous and can quickly leave you in a compromised and dangerous situation.

- 1. THERE IS NO EXCUSE TO NOT WEAR A LIFE JACKET!**
To meet U.S. Coast Guard requirements, a recreational vessel must have a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket for each person aboard, including kayaks, canoes, rafts & paddleboards.
- 2. Know your launch and take out points BEFORE YOU ENTER THE WATER**
- 3. AVOID PRIVATE LAND.** Riverside property, unless otherwise indicated, is private property. Public restrooms available at Oddfellows Park.



STREAMFLOW	
Streamflow measured by cubic feet per second (CFS), water depth in the river varies through the year. Be alert during high flow periods.	
AVERAGE MONTHLY FLOWS (1953-CURRENT)	
MAY	11,000 CFS
JUNE	13,400 CFS
JULY	8,390 CFS
AUGUST	5,750 CFS
SEPTEMBER	5,450 CFS

FLOAT DISTANCES	
All float distances end at Broadwater Bay	
1 Access Point 1	0.5 miles
2 Access Point 2	1.4 miles
3 Access Point 3	1.7 miles
4 Access Point 4	3.2 miles
5 Access Point 5	1.6 miles
1 White Bear Island to Broadwater Bay	5.3 miles
2 Big Bend to Broadwater Bay	10.2 miles
3 Cottonwood Grove to Broadwater Bay	17.5 miles
4 Ulm to Broadwater Bay	30 miles

A recommended float for novice and intermediate recreationalists is 2-6 hours, or 5-10 miles.

River float times are dependent on type of equipment, time of year, wind, and position in the water. Inside the boundaries of this map, plan for average float time of 2-2.5 miles per hour (e.g. faster in a kayak, slower in a raft).

Know your equipment! Novelty pool floats are not recommended for use on the river. Use equipment intended for purpose on large water.

RIVER LOCATIONS

- BOAT LAUNCH
- POTENTIAL HAZARD
- RIVER ACCESS POINT

RIVER USE RESTRICTIONS

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WARNING

SAND BARS THROUGHOUT THE RIVER MAY CHANGE AND SHIFT THROUGH THE SEASON. USE CAUTION.

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EMERGENCY SERVICES DO NOT RECOVER EQUIPMENT FROM THE WATER. PLEASE CONTACT A LOCAL TOW COMPANY TO RECOVER STRANDED OR STALLED EQUIPMENT.

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