



Little Muskegon River

Baldwin Ranger Station
650 North Michigan
Avenue
Baldwin MI 49304
(231) 745-4631 Voice



The upper 2/3rds of the **Little Muskegon River** could be characterized as a pool and riffle stream. In mid to late summer, low water levels leave many gravel bars barely passable. You should be prepared to step out of your watercraft occasionally to traverse these areas. Earlier in the summer, a continuous float is possible. Occasional intermediate difficult rapids will be encountered, however, most of the trip is a pleasing 2-3 mph float.

The river corridor features steep, eroding banks, and unique scenery. **Please do not climb them.** Climbing these banks creates additional erosion, destroys fish habitat, and lowers the water quality.

Mixed oak, pine, and aspen stands are found on top of these banks. Ash, elm, white pine, and maple stands are nearer the river on dry sites, while cedar-hemlock types occupy the wetter sites. Watch out for over-hanging branches or trees fallen across the river.

As you approach Croton Dam Pond, the river becomes deeper, wider, and slower. Slack water and bullrushes characterize the river near the mouth. Strong predominant westerly winds could present tough paddling conditions across the pond. Larger boats and waterskiers will also be sharing this large body of water.

LOCATION

The Little Muskegon River originates near Mecosta, Michigan. It flows across Mecosta, Montcalm, and Newaygo counties, where it empties into Croton Dam Pond on the Muskegon River.

NATIONAL FOREST ACCESS

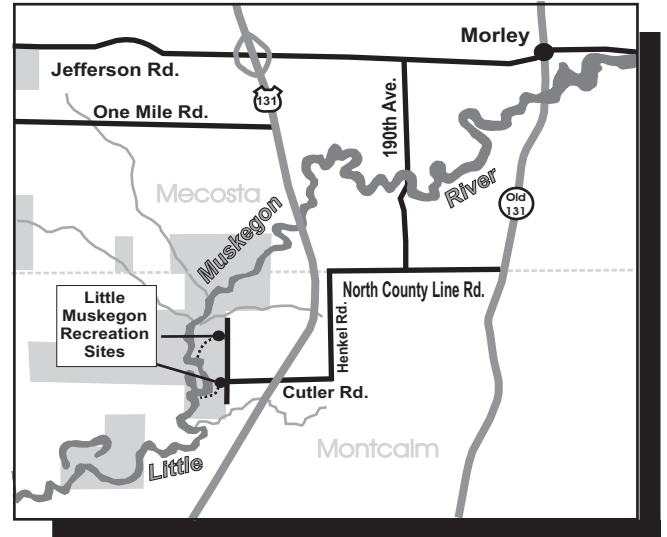
Cutler Road: Take 131 to Jefferson Road exit, then travel east about 1 mile to 190th St. Turn south on 190th St. and go 3 miles to North County Line Road, then west ½ mile to Henkel Rd., and then south approximately ¾ mile to Cutler Rd. Turn west on Cutler and go ¾ mile to a “T” intersection. Turn north ¼ mile to parking area. The launch is carry-in only.

FACILITIES AVAILABLE

There are two recreation sites on the Little Muskegon River. Both have parking areas and are walk-in only. The launch site is beyond the northern-most parking area. There is no camping allowed at either site. There are no toilets and no water is available. There are private campgrounds located at 76th St. and Croton Dam. The Newaygo State Park is located on Hardy Dam Pond.

SEASON

The recommended season is from May 1 to October 1.



CAMPING

No overnight camping is allowed at either site.

CONSIDERATIONS

To help keep the river clean, carry all loose articles in a container tied into your watercraft. Care should be taken to keep the area clean and in the condition it was found, so please pack out what you pack in.

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) are required by law for each watercraft occupant and **must** be worn by children 12 and under at all times.

Much of the shoreline of the river is privately-owned. Please respect the rights of these landowners and use public land to enter and leave the river. Use only public sites for rest stops. State trespassing laws apply.

Please canoe between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. So anglers and other users have a quiet time on the river.

For State Fishing Regulations consult the DNR website: www.dnr.state.mi.us. A permit is required for commercial use of National Forest lands.

FEES

There are no fees or permits required for the non-commercial use of the Little Muskegon River or associated National Forest camping areas.

“USDA” Forest Service is an equal opportunity provider and employer.” This information is available in large print upon request.