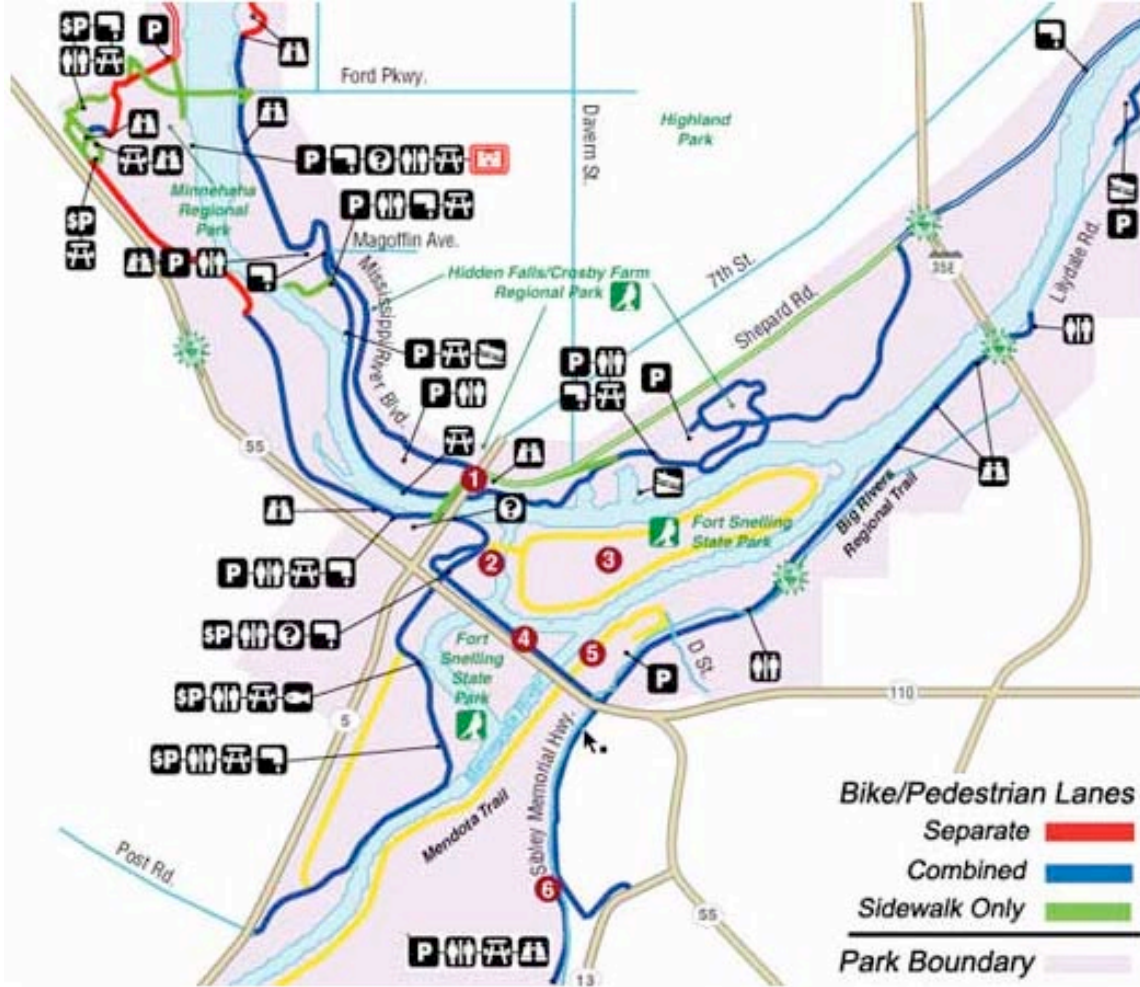




Mississippi National River and Recreation Area

Confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers

Ford Bridge (river mile 848) downstream to Fort Snelling and the 35E bridge (river mile 843.3)



Trail Notes and Gaps:

1. The Highway 5 Bridge connects Fort Snelling State Park with Hidden Falls/Crosby Farm Regional Park. On both sides a short staircase with bike gutters drops down to the walkway. On the Fort Snelling side the staircase is located at the back of a small parking lot between the Historic Fort and the History Center—look for the bike route signs. The Fort Snelling Historic Site and Fort Snelling State Park are two separate attractions.
2. The Historic Fort is located off Highway 55 and the State Park entrance is located off Post Road and Highway 5. A steep path that descends from the Historic Fort's bluffs to the State Park Visitor Center connects the two. There is an entrance fee for the state park and a separate fee to tour the Historic Fort.
3. A 3.2-mile hiking-only trail circles Pike Island, site of treaties with the Dakota that allowed the establishment of Fort Snelling.

4. A half-mile walkway on the Mendota/Highway 55 Bridge connects Fort Snelling State Park with the Big Rivers Regional Trail. On the Fort Snelling side of the bridge a partially paved path leads south from the Historic Fort to the bridge. On the Mendota side of the bridge you must cross Sibley Memorial Highway. A sidewalk veers away from the bridge walkway toward Mendota. You can cross the highway here, or continue a half-mile along Sibley Memorial Highway into Mendota and cross at D Street. Use caution when crossing the highway.

5. The Mendota trail, within Fort Snelling State Park, is a gravel trail accessible only from the Sibley House Historic Site. There is parking south of the site off Sibley Memorial Highway. Follow D Street past the Sibley House and go under the railroad trestle. The 5.8-mile trail follows the Minnesota River, making it a secluded trail with beautiful views of the river and wildlife. At times the trail can be muddy, if not completely washed out. At the southern end the Cedar Avenue Bike Ramp connects this trail to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

6. The trail comes to a "T" near the southern end of the Big Rivers Regional Trail. The path that continues southeast connects to Pilot Knob Road and bikeways throughout Dakota County. The path that continues north travels through Mendota and toward the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers. The path that turns south crosses Sibley Memorial Highway and connects to the southern trailhead/parking lot.