

# ADIRONDACK WATERWAYS



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**Adirondack Region Information Centers**



**Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism/Lake Placid CVB**  
518-523-2445 or 800-447-5224  
www.lakeplacid.com  
info@lakeplacid.com

**Lewis County Tourism**  
800-724-0242 www.adirondackstughill.com  
info@adirondackstughill.com

**Adirondack Regional Tourism Council**  
Comprehensive travel information for a seven-county region.  
www.VisitAdirondacks.com

**Franklin County Tourism**  
518-483-9470 or 800-709-4895  
www.adirondacklakes.com

**Hamilton County Tourism**  
518-548-3076 or 800-648-5239  
www.adirondackexperience.com  
info@adirondackexperience.com

**Adirondack Coast Visitors and Convention Bureau**  
(Clinton County)  
518-563-1000 or 877-242-6752  
www.goadirondack.com

**St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce**  
315-386-4000 or 877-228-7810  
www.northcountryguide.com

**Warren County Tourism**  
518-761-6366 or 800-365-1050 ext. 908 www.visitlakegeorge.com

**NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation (DEC)**

For trail conditions, backcountry information and permits, fishing and hunting regulations and licenses, contact the DEC offices listed below. Normal office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30am to 4:45pm.

**DEC HEADQUARTERS**  
625 Broadway, Albany, NY  
518-402-8013  
www.dec.state.ny.us

**DEC Region 5**  
Clinton, Franklin, Essex, Hamilton, Warren, Fulton, Saratoga & Washington Counties  
**DEC Region 5 Headquarters:** Ray Brook, 518-897-1200  
**DEC Region 5 Sub-Offices:** Northville, 518-863-4545  
Warrensburg, 518-623-1200

**Park-wide DEC Forest Ranger Emergency Search and Rescue and Forest Fire Hotline: 518-891-0235**

**DEC Region 6**  
St. Lawrence, Lewis, Herkimer, Jefferson & Oneida Counties  
**DEC Region 6 Headquarters:** Watertown, 315-785-2239  
**DEC Region 6 Sub-Offices:** Potsdam, 315-265-3090  
Herkimer, 315-866-6330  
Lowville, 315-376-3521

**Forest Preserve Campgrounds Reservations 800-456-CAMP**  
www.reserveamerica.com

There are more than 3,000 lakes and ponds and 6,000 miles of rivers and streams in the Adirondacks. Paddling ranges from roiling white-water chutes to glassy ponds where deer stop to drink; from a short circuit around a scenic lake to a multi-day river and lake trip.

This is a general guide to locations for paddling opportunities. Once you decide on a location, get yourself a good topographic map and/or guidebook. Special usage regulations may apply along some routes, so refer to the appropriate Department of Environmental Conservation publications or call them for specific information (see left). Much of the lands that border the routes identified in this guide are privately owned. State navigation law allows for paddlers to travel on private lands for short distances to bypass obstacles in the waterway. However, entering private lands for any other reason, including putting in and taking out, is trespassing, unless permission has been granted from the landowner. If you lack experience or gear, knowledgeable guides and outfitters will be happy to make your outing memorable.

**ADIRONDACK GUIDEBOOKS AND MAPS**

**GUIDEBOOKS**

**Adirondack Canoe Waters: North Flow**  
Paul Jamieson and Donald Morris  
**Adirondack Passage: The Cruise of the Canoe Sairy Gamp** Christine Jerome  
**Adirondack Waterfall Guide** Russell Dunn  
**Adirondack Canoe Routes?** William Howard

**Bob Marshal in the Adirondacks** Writings of a Pioneering Wilderness Preservationist. Edited by Phil Brown  
**Canoe and Kayak Guide: East-Central New York State** Edited by Kathie Armstrong and Chet Harvey.

**Canoe Guide to Western and Central New York State** Edited by Mark Freeman.  
**Canoeing the Adirondacks with Nessmuk** The Adirondack Letters of George Washington Sears. George Washington Sears. Dan Brenan, editor.

**Discover the Adirondacks Series** Northern Adirondacks, South Central Adirondacks, West Central Adirondacks, Adirondack High Peaks, Southern Adirondacks, Southeastern Adirondacks, Southwestern Adirondacks, Eastern Adirondacks, Central Adirondacks, Northwestern Adirondacks, Northeastern Adirondacks. Barbara McMartin  
**Fun on Flatwater** An Introduction to Adirondack Canoeing. Barbara McMartin

**Longstreet Highroad Guide to the New York Adirondacks** Phil Brown  
**Quiet Water Canoe, New York** John Hayes and Alex Wilson  
**Reflections from Canoe Country: Paddling the Waters of the Adirondacks and Canada** Christopher Angus

**MAPS**

**Adirondack Canoe Map** Old Forge to Upper Saranac Lake and the Saranac Lakes/Saint Regis Canoe Area. Available at local sporting goods stores. www.adirondackmaps.com

**Adirondack Map Series** Series of five topographic trail maps: Central Mountains, High Peaks Region, Lake George Region, Northwest Lakes, West-Central Wilderness Area. Scale: 1:62,500. Find at area sporting goods stores. www.adirondackmaps.com

**Adirondack Paddler's Map for Canoe & Kayak Travel** Large waterproof topographic map. Includes the Saranac Lakes Chain and headwater ponds, St. Regis Lakes and St. Regis Canoe Area, Osgood River and Rainbow Lake area, Santa Clara Tract (St. Regis River and Madawaska Area), Five Ponds Wilderness and Oswegatchie River, William C. Whitney Wilderness (Little Tupper Lake, Round Lake and Lake Lila), Cranberry Lake Wild Forest, Raquette River (Long Lake to below Tupper Lake), Bog River Flow and Lows Lake. Designated wilderness/wild forest areas, access and boat launch sites, parking, portage trails, campsites, lean-tos and hiking trails. Scale: 1:50,000. www.canoeoutfitters.com

**National Geographic Trails Illustrated Map Series: Adirondack Park** Series of five topographic maps. Trails

are marked with point to point mileage. Designated wilderness and wild forest areas, access and boat launch sites, parking, lean-tos and portage trails. Waterproof. Scale: 1:75,000.  
Map 742: Lake Placid/High Peaks  
Map 743: Lake George/Great Sacandaga  
Map 744: Northville/Raquette Lake  
Map 745: Old Forge/Oswegatchie  
Map 746: Saranac/Paul Smiths

**NY State Atlas and Gazetteer** DeLorme Mapping www.delorme.com

**U.S.G.S. Topographic Maps** Available at area sporting goods stores.

**Northern Forest Canoe Trail Map** Adirondack North Country (west): Fulton Chain of Lakes to Long Lake. Adirondack North Country (central): Long Lake to Saranac River. Adirondack North Country (east): Saranac River to Lake Champlain.

**NFCT Safety Brochures:** The Paddler's Safety Checklist  
Wear It! Life Jackets Matter  
Cold Water Survival

*Universally Accessible Waterways in the Adirondacks*

Recreational opportunities for people with mobility impairments can be found throughout the Adirondacks. Look for universally accessible facilities such as docks, outhouses and viewing platforms at places such as Ausable Marsh (pg. 9), Lampson Falls (pg. 11), Sand Pond-Mud Pond Area on the West Branch Oswegatchie River (pg. 14), Francis Lake (pg. 14) and Moss Lake (pg. 14). Scenic boat tours can be enjoyed on many Adirondack lakes. John Dillon Park, just north of Long Lake, is a state-of-the-art facility (www.dillonpark.org) that does it all. Check with full-service outfitters for more options.

Cover photo:  
John Farrell, JMF Publishing. Inc.

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PO Box 911, Lake Placid NY 12946 • www.VisitAdirondacks.com

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Adirondack Waterways Map Index

How to use the Descriptions & Maps

GET MORE INFORMATION

The descriptions are brief and the maps rudimentary—the information provided here is not intended to be used as a working field guide. The complex nature of the waterways found in the Adirondacks requires that you obtain a good map and guidebook before setting out. The guidebooks and maps will not only help make your outing a safer one, they will also enhance your experience by providing interesting background information on the areas you will be visiting. A list of guidebooks and maps is found on page 19. Area and regional information centers and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) are also good sources of more information (see page 3).

WHITEWATER

Whitewater trips require special skills and equipment. See International Scale of River Difficulty below. It is essential to obtain good maps and guidebooks before venturing out to do any whitewater trips. If you don't have the necessary skills or equipment, consider taking a guided trip with outfitters who provide these services.

WATER LEVELS

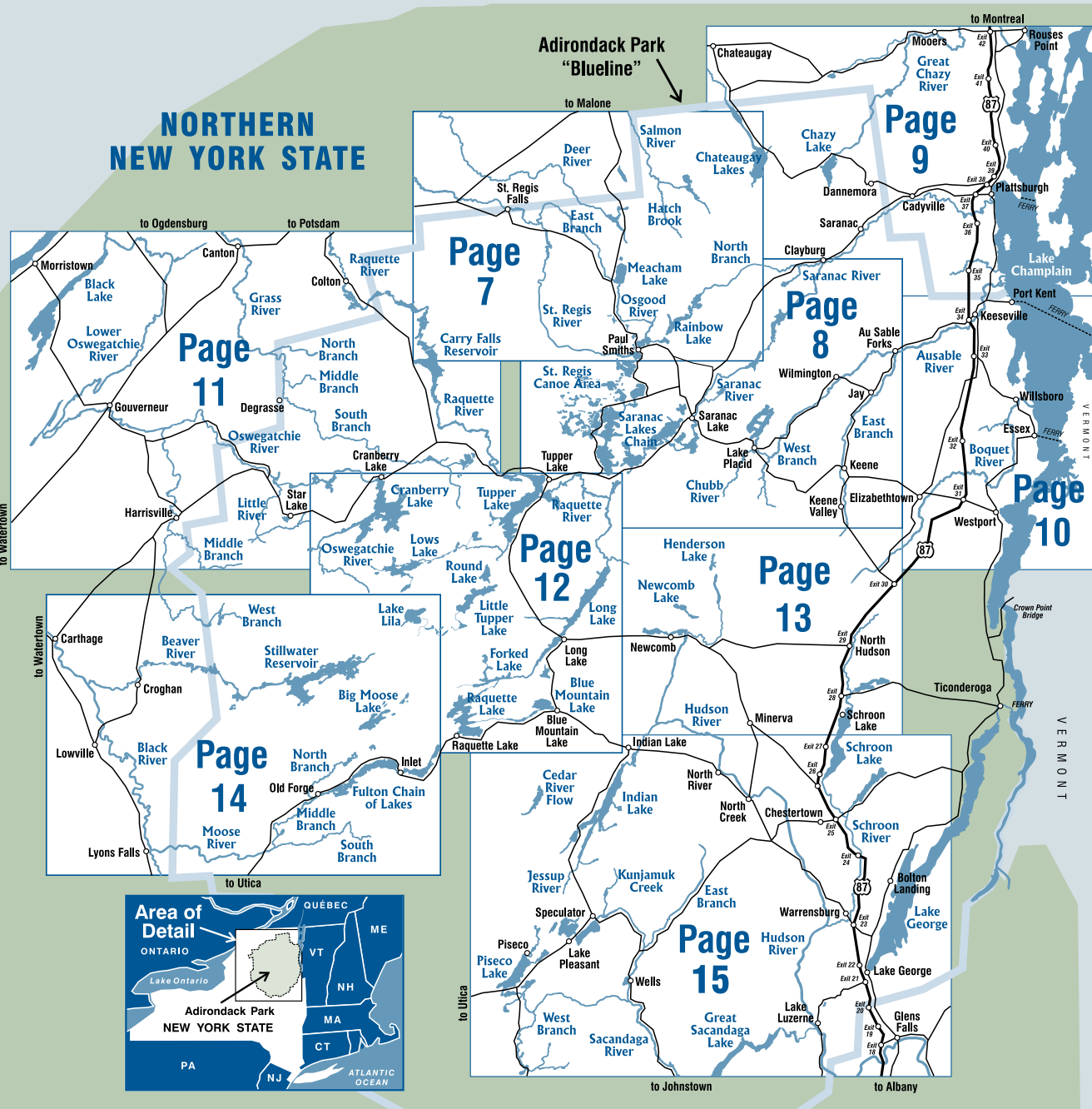
Adequate water levels are essential to running most of the river and whitewater routes in this brochure. Extreme water levels will change the difficulty classification of rivers (see below). Minimum and ideal levels are suggested in guidebooks. Most river routes are best done in the Spring (April to May), Fall or after periods of heavy rain.

**Personal Floatation Devices: New York State Law requires all boats and canoes must carry a U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable Personal Floatation Device (PFD) for each person in the boat. State law also requires that children must be wearing a PFD, and highly recommend that all occupants wear a PFD.**

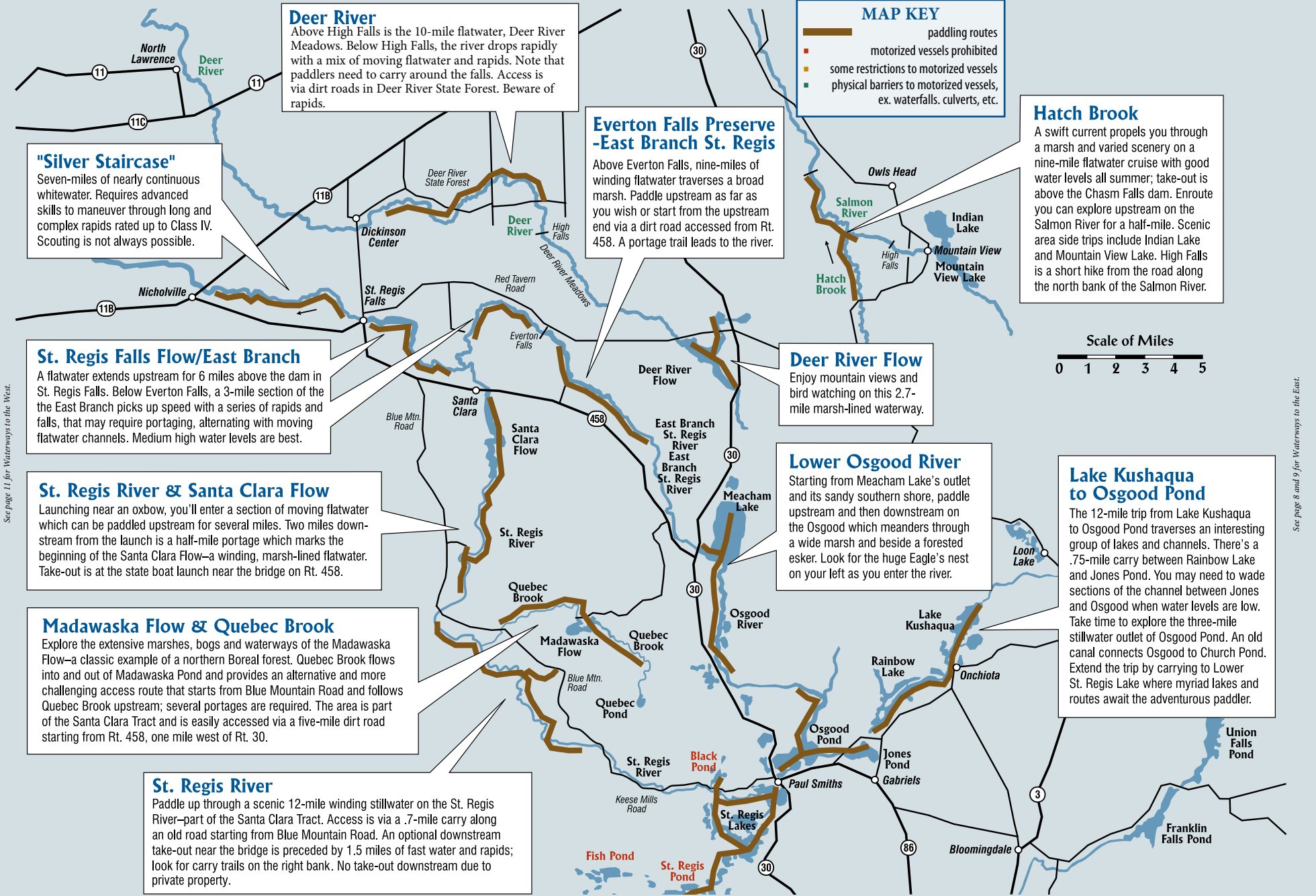
INTERNATIONAL SCALE OF RIVER DIFFICULTY

- Class I. Moving water with a few riffles and small waves. Few or no obstructions.
Class II. Easy rapids with waves up to three feet and wide, clear channels that are obvious without scouting. Some maneuvering is required.
Class III. Rapids with high, irregular waves often capable of swamping an open canoe. Narrow passages that often require complex maneuvering. May require scouting from shore.
Class IV. Long, difficult rapids with constricted passages that often require precise maneuvering in very turbulent waters. Scouting from shore is often necessary, and conditions make rescue difficult. Generally not possible for open canoes. Boaters in covered canoes and kayaks should be able to Eskimo roll.
Class V. Extremely difficult, long, and very violent rapids with highly congested routes which nearly always must be scouted from shore. Rescue conditions are difficult and there is a significant hazard to life in event of a mishap. Ability to Eskimo roll is essential for kayakers and canoes.
Class VI. Difficulties of Class V carried to the extreme of navigability. Nearly impossible and very dangerous. For teams of experts only, after close study and with all precautions taken.

Cold water temperatures below 50 degrees and extended trips in remote areas increase normal difficulty by one class level.



Deer River, Hatch Brook, Lake Kushaqua, Osgood Pond & River, Madawaska Flow & Quebec Brook, Rainbow Lake, St. Regis River

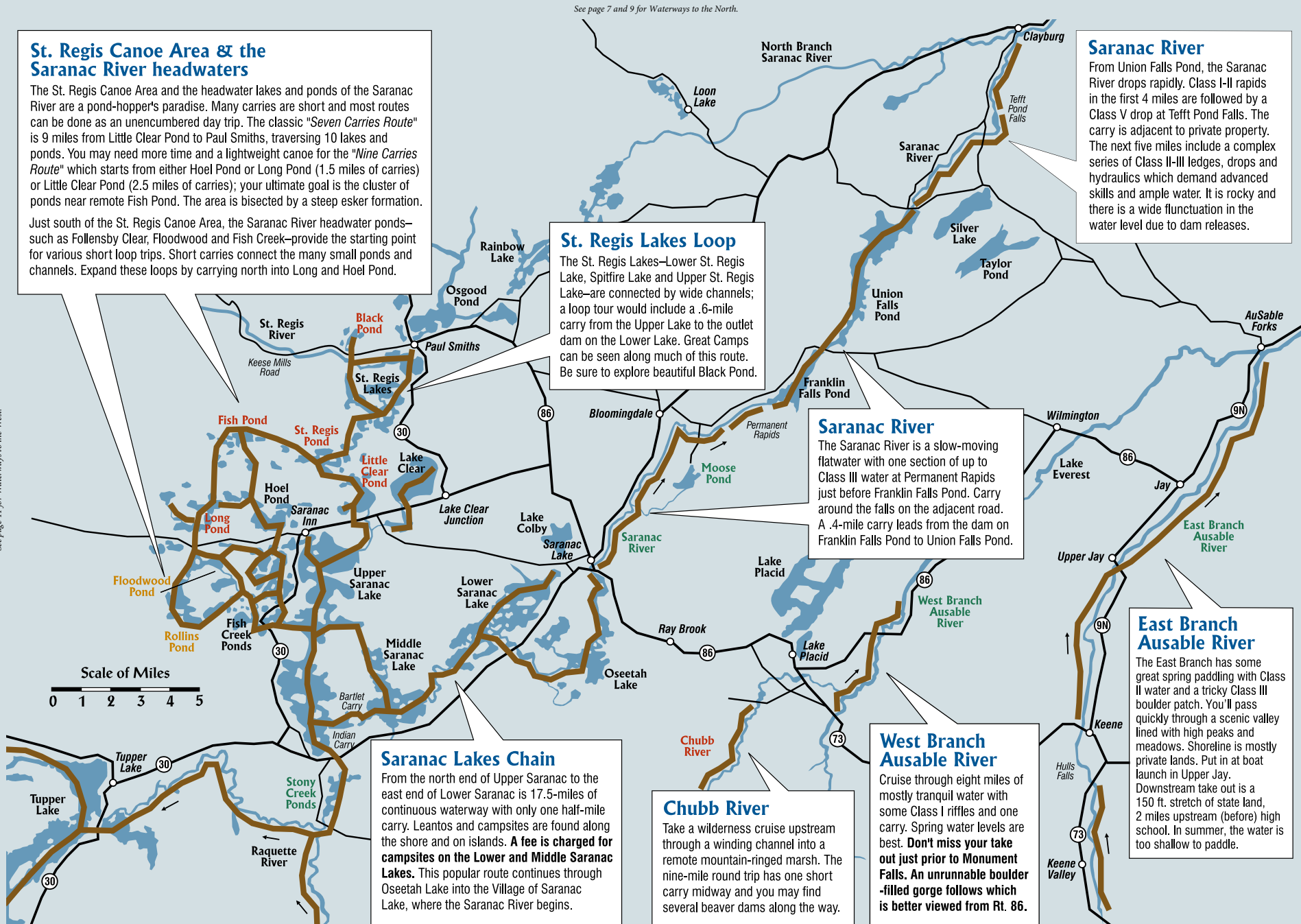


See page 8 for Waterways to the South.

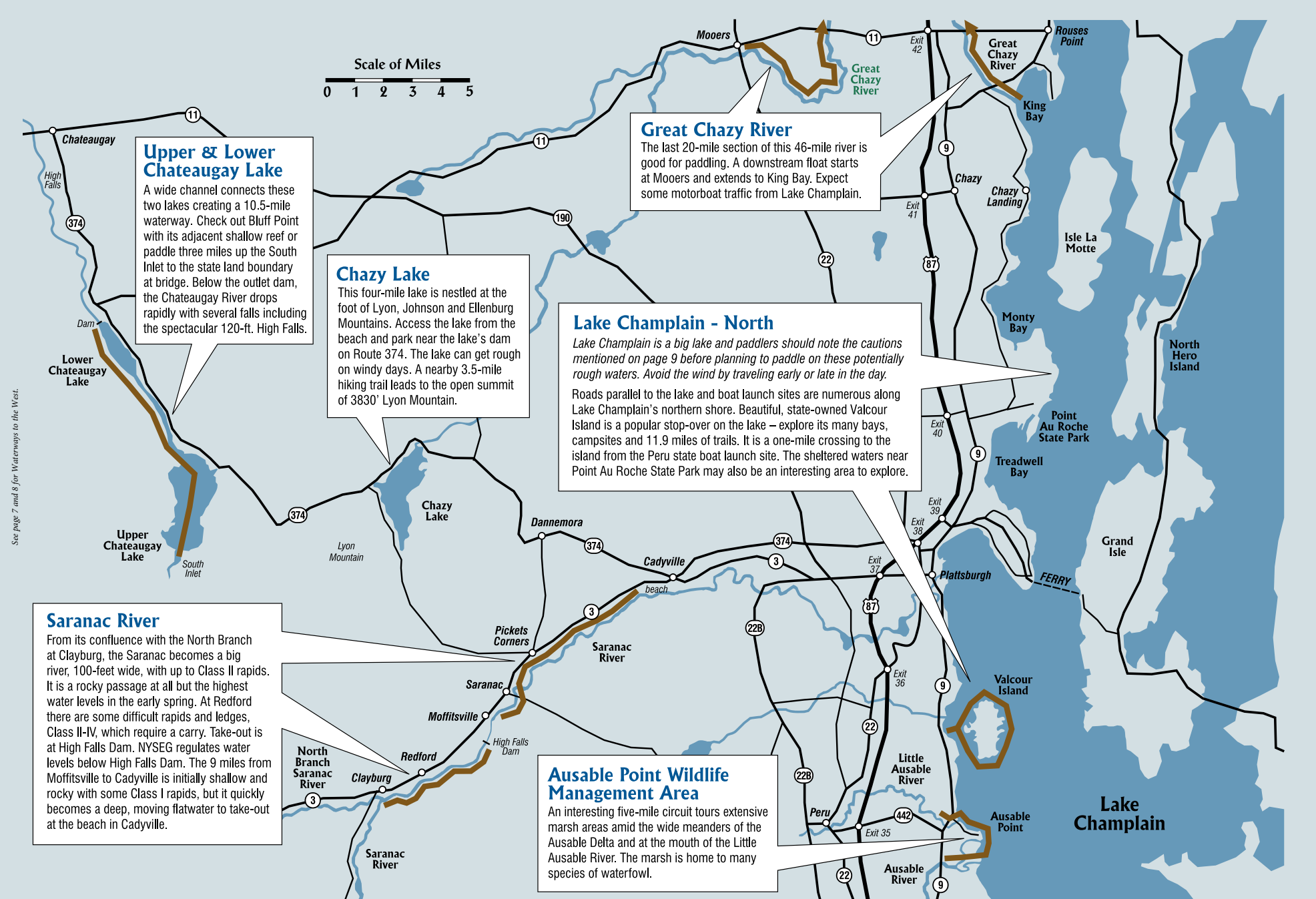
See page 8 and 9 for Waterways to the East.



Ausable River, Chubb River, Saranac Lakes Chain, Saranac River, Saranac River Headwaters, St. Regis Canoe Area, St. Regis Lakes



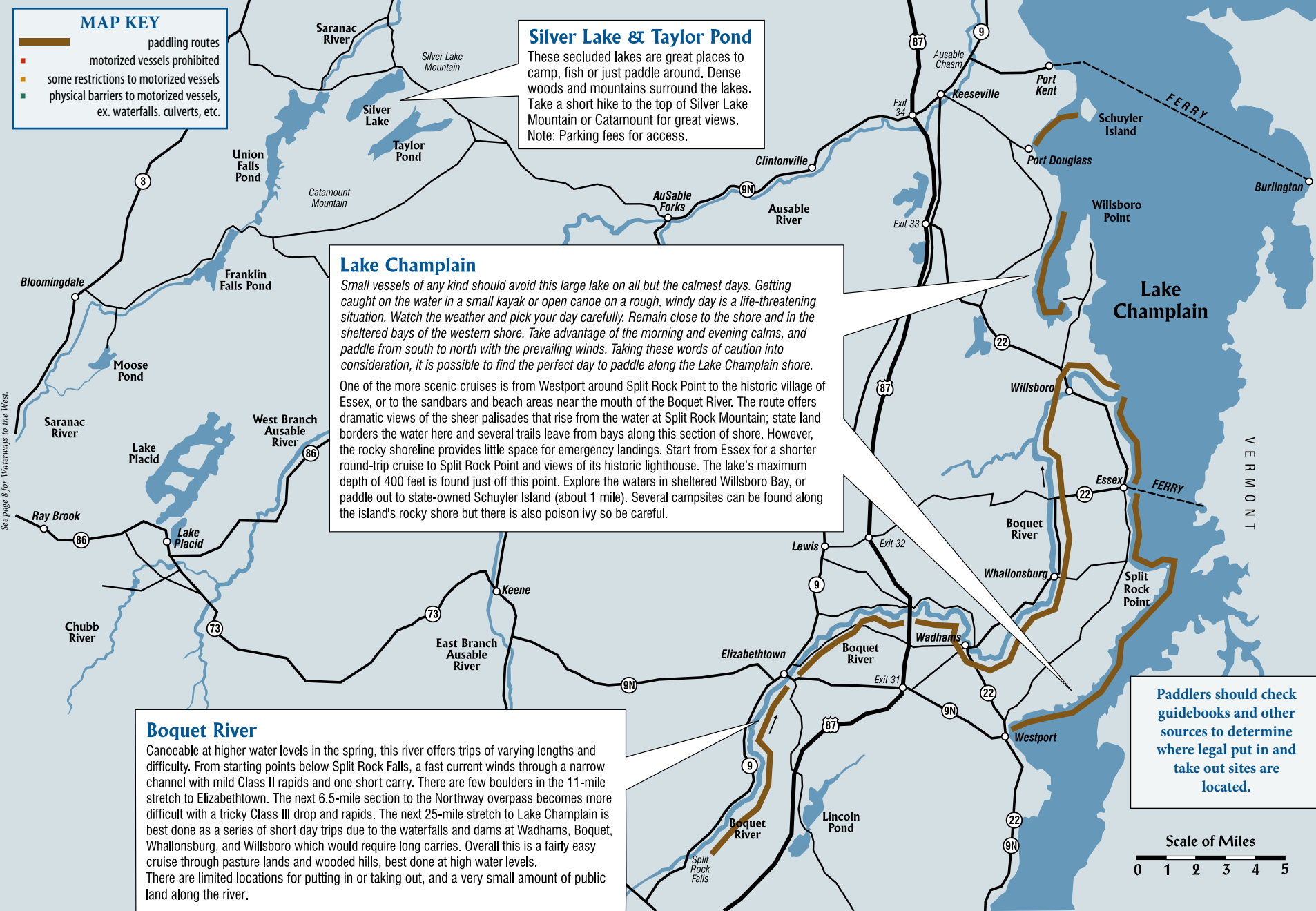
Ausable River, Chateaugay Lakes, Chazy Lake, Great Chazy River, Lake Champlain North, Saranac River





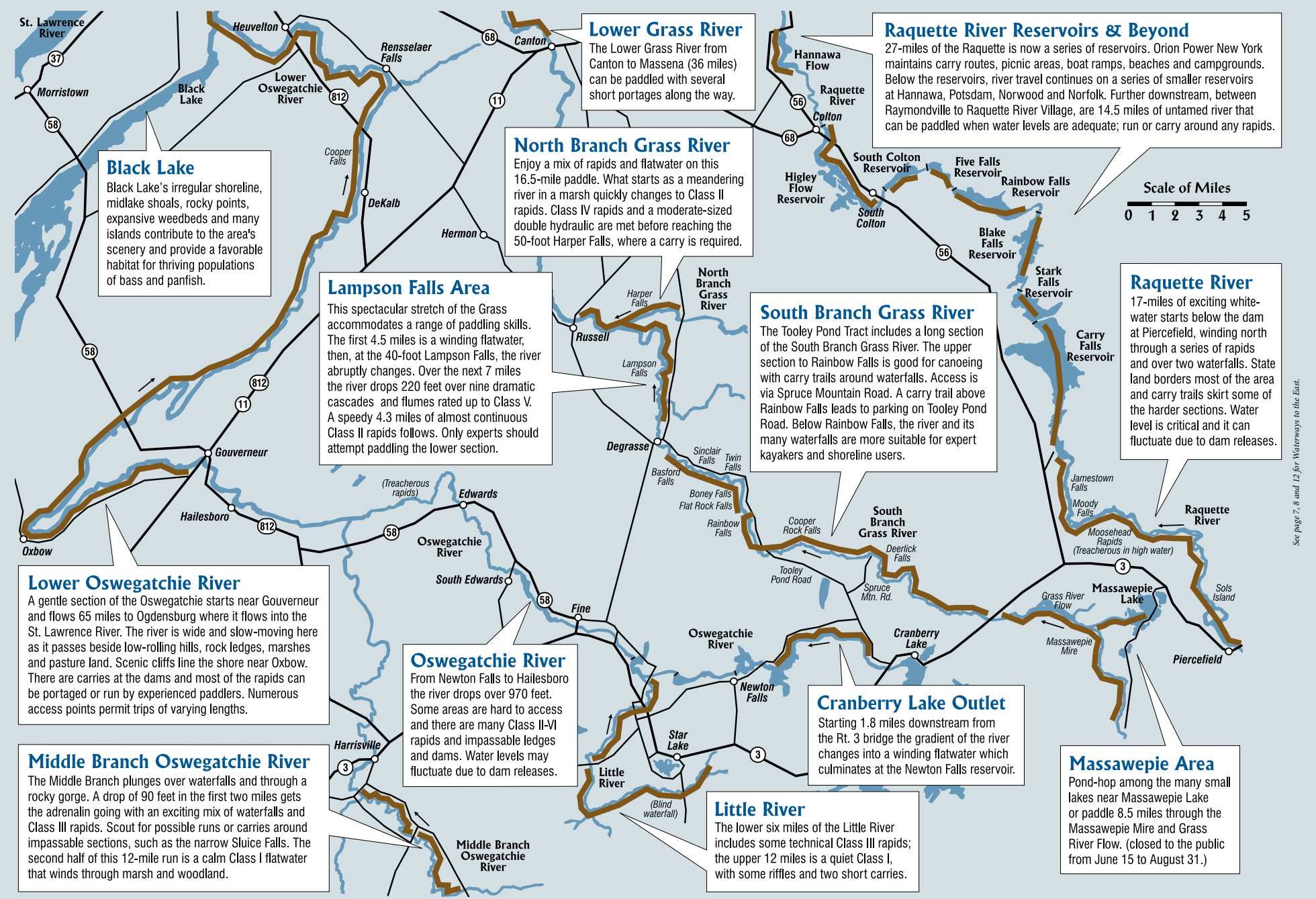
Boquet River, Lake Champlain, Silver Lake, Taylor Pond

See page 9 for Waterways to the North.



See page 13 for Waterways to the South.

Black Lake, Cranberry Lake, Grass River, Little River, Massawepie Area, Oswegatchie River, Raquette River



See page 12 and 14 for Waterways to the South.

See page 8 for Waterways to the West.

See page 7, 8 and 12 for Waterways to the East.



Bog River, Blue Mtn. Lake, Cranberry Lake, Forked Lake, Lake Lila, Long Lake, Lows Lake, Oswegatchie River, Raquette Lake & River, Tupper Lake, Whitney Wilderness

Harris Lake, Henderson Lake, Hudson River, Newcomb Lake, Rich Lake, Schroon River & Lake

See page 7, 8 and 11 for Waterways to the North.

See page 8 for Waterways to the North.

Cranberry Lake

Flows and bays extend in every direction; great for exploration and refuge on windy days. Hiking trails originate from the lakeshore leading to remote ponds and overlooks. There are 46 designated campsites.

Oswegatchie River

Starting at Inlet, you must first paddle upstream on this scenic winding river. Stopping at a campsite along the way may be more enjoyable than staying in the High Falls area, which is often filled to capacity. Above the falls, you will leave the crowds behind as you lift over beaver dams, paddling deeper into a remote wilderness. The 40-mile round-trip paddle takes a minimum of three days—two days up and one day down. Several hiking trails are accessible from points along the river.

Lows Lake & Bog River Flow

Starting from the lower dam, this 11-mile paddle, with one short carry at the upper dam, traverses a beautiful narrow waterway. The wide expanse of Lows Lake opens up at journey's end with marshes to the south and a backdrop of rugged mountains to the north. Islands and bays provide refuge on windy days. 39 designated campsites are found on Lows Lake and along the access channel. For the ambitious, a three-mile carry at the west end of the lake leads to the Upper Oswegatchie River. Your efforts are rewarded with a good dose of wilderness and an 18-mile downstream cruise to your take-out at Inlet.

Tupper Lake

A shallow marsh connects Tupper Lake, Simon and Raquette ponds. State land on Tupper Lake's western shore has a leanto and campsites. Above Bog River Falls you'll find a 2-mile stillwater paddle.

Bog River

The lower Bog has 7 miles of technical Class III water which includes unrunnable drops at 6' Split Rock Falls and the 30' Pat's Falls. High water levels and expert level skills are required.

Raquette River

From Long Lake to Tupper Lake (30 miles) the Raquette meanders between sandy wooded banks with just one carry at Raquette Falls. Traveling with the current, you can easily enjoy some fishing and bird watching. Campsites and leantos are found along the way. Stony Creek Ponds outlet and Indian Carry provides access north to the Saranac Lakes Chain.

Little Tupper Lake & Round Lake

The William C. Whitney Wilderness includes Little Tupper Lake, Round Lake and Rock Pond—which are all connected via channels and have designated campsites. Little Tupper is six miles long and has several islands. Moderate winds can create rough water on these lakes. Anglers will enjoy catch-and-release fishing for native brook trout. A canoe carry route from Rock Pond to Lake Lila links a series of small ponds and carries to Shingle Shanty Brook.

Lake Lila

Lake Lila has 17 campsites, 7 islands, sandy beaches and tall white pines. A .3-mile carry leads from the parking area to the sandy launch site. Climb Frederica Mountain for a panoramic overview of the area. Explore the winding route of Shingle Shanty Brook.

Forked Lake

State land borders the southeast shore, and the east and west end of this 7-mile lake; the rest is privately owned and undeveloped. The downstream route to Long Lake is a mix of flat and fast water and carries.

Long Lake

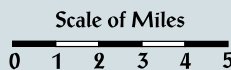
The prevailing winds are usually to your back on this 14-mile "long" lake. Campsites and leantos are found on state land along the eastern shore, north of Long Lake Village.

Blue Mountain Lake

10 islands on this mountain-ringed lake are part of the forest preserve. Explore the islands before heading west to the outlet, under a bridge and into narrow Eagle and Utowana lakes. A half-mile carry at the west end of the lakes leads to the Marion River which flows gently through meadow and marsh to Raquette Lake and routes to the north and south.

Raquette Lake

The many bays of this large lake will provide hours of exploration; keep your eye out for some of the historic Great Camps. Explore the two-mile channel of South Inlet and Browns Tract Inlet where a one-mile carry connects to Eighth Lake on the Fulton Chain. To the north, an easy half-mile carry leads to Forked Lake.

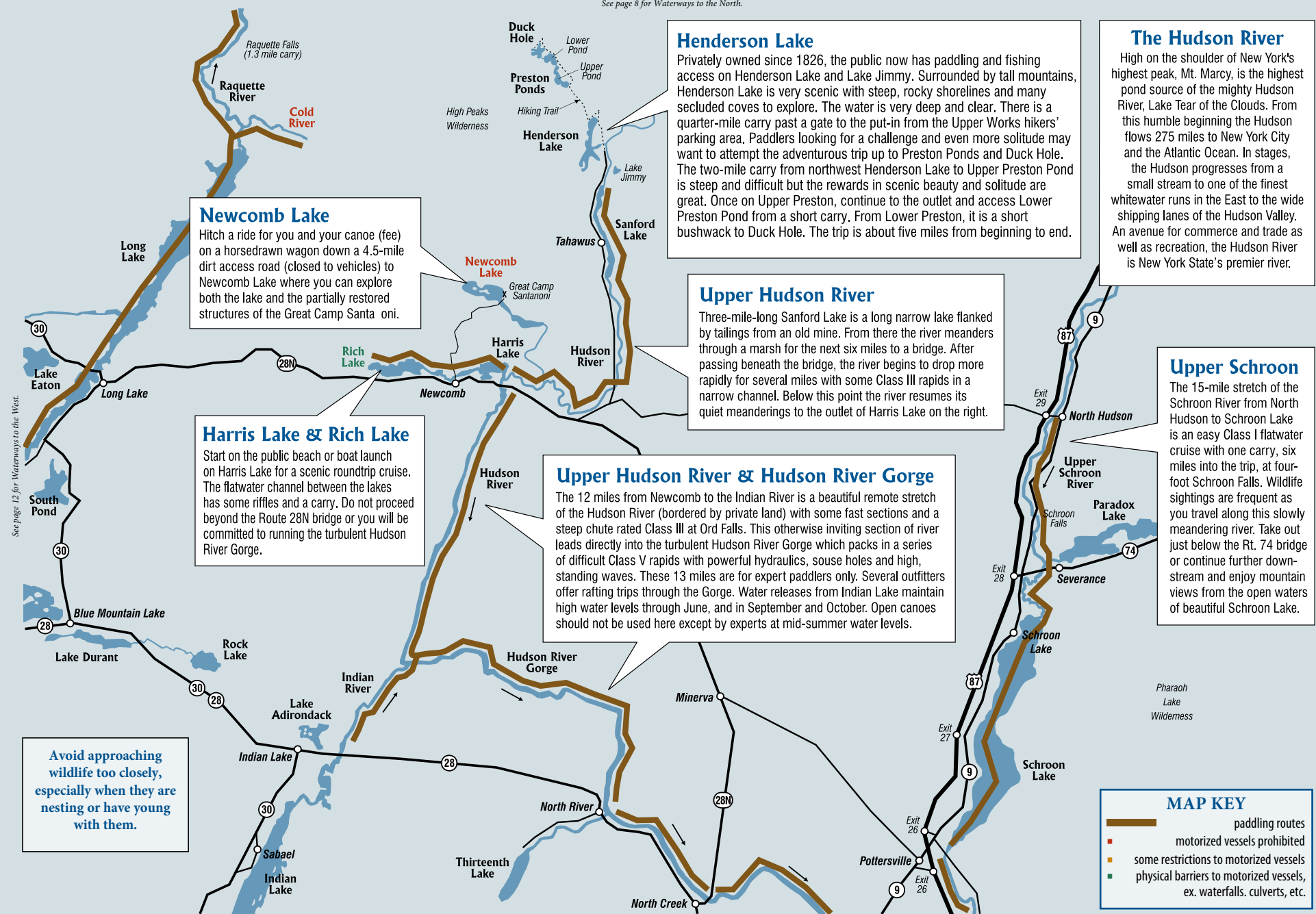


MAP KEY

- padding routes
- motorized vessels prohibited
- some restrictions to motorized vessels
- physical barriers to motorized vessels, ex. waterfalls, culverts, etc.

See page 14 and 15 for Waterways to the South.

See page 15 for Waterways to the South.



See page 12 for Waterways to the West.

See page 8 and 13 for Waterways to the East.

See page 10 for Waterways to the East.

Avoid approaching wildlife too closely, especially when they are nesting or have young with them.

Henderson Lake

Privately owned since 1826, the public now has paddling and fishing access on Henderson Lake and Lake Jimmy. Surrounded by tall mountains, Henderson Lake is very scenic with steep, rocky shorelines and many secluded coves to explore. The water is very deep and clear. There is a quarter-mile carry past a gate to the put-in from the Upper Works hikers' parking area. Paddlers looking for a challenge and even more solitude may want to attempt the adventurous trip up to Preston Ponds and Duck Hole. The two-mile carry from northwest Henderson Lake to Upper Preston Pond is steep and difficult but the rewards in scenic beauty and solitude are great. Once on Upper Preston, continue to the outlet and access Lower Preston Pond from a short carry. From Lower Preston, it is a short bushwack to Duck Hole. The trip is about five miles from beginning to end.

Upper Hudson River

Three-mile-long Sanford Lake is a long narrow lake flanked by tailings from an old mine. From there the river meanders through a marsh for the next six miles to a bridge. After passing beneath the bridge, the river begins to drop more rapidly for several miles with some Class III rapids in a narrow channel. Below this point the river resumes its quiet meanderings to the outlet of Harris Lake on the right.

Upper Hudson River & Hudson River Gorge

The 12 miles from Newcomb to the Indian River is a beautiful remote stretch of the Hudson River (bordered by private land) with some fast sections and a steep chute rated Class III at Ord Falls. This otherwise inviting section of river leads directly into the turbulent Hudson River Gorge which packs in a series of difficult Class V rapids with powerful hydraulics, souse holes and high, standing waves. These 13 miles are for expert paddlers only. Several outfitters offer rafting trips through the Gorge. Water releases from Indian Lake maintain high water levels through June, and in September and October. Open canoes should not be used here except by experts at mid-summer water levels.

Harris Lake & Rich Lake

Start on the public beach or boat launch on Harris Lake for a scenic roundtrip cruise. The flatwater channel between the lakes has some riffles and a carry. Do not proceed beyond the Route 28N bridge or you will be committed to running the turbulent Hudson River Gorge.

Newcomb Lake

Hitch a ride for you and your canoe (fee) on a horsedrawn wagon down a 4.5-mile dirt access road (closed to vehicles) to Newcomb Lake where you can explore both the lake and the partially restored structures of the Great Camp Santa oni.

The Hudson River

High on the shoulder of New York's highest peak, Mt. Marcy, is the highest pond source of the mighty Hudson River, Lake Tear of the Clouds. From this humble beginning the Hudson flows 275 miles to New York City and the Atlantic Ocean. In stages, the Hudson progresses from a small stream to one of the finest whitewater runs in the East to the wide shipping lanes of the Hudson Valley. An avenue for commerce and trade as well as recreation, the Hudson River is New York State's premier river.

Upper Schroon

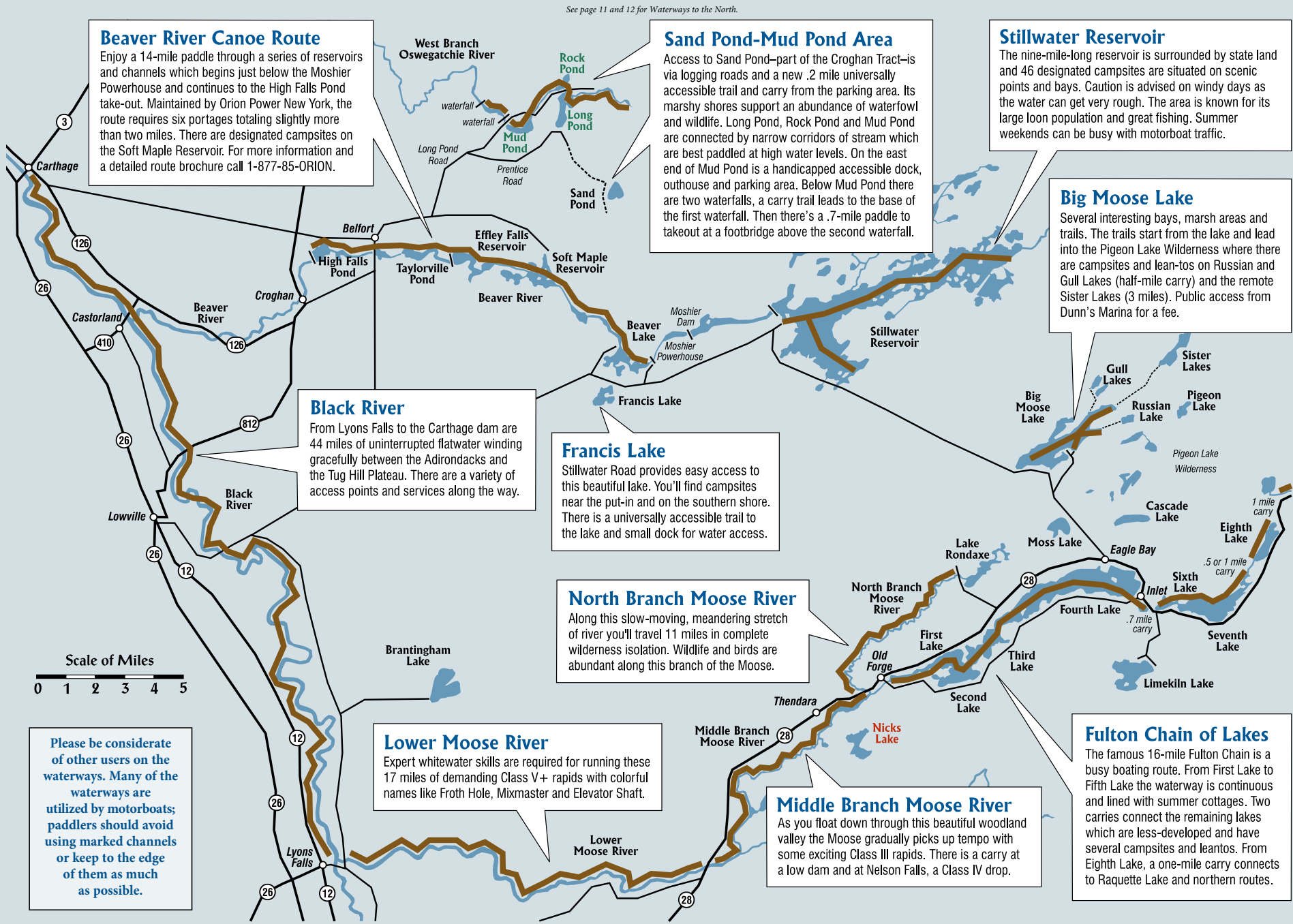
The 15-mile stretch of the Schroon River from North Hudson to Schroon Lake is an easy Class I flatwater cruise with one carry, six miles into the trip, at four-foot Schroon Falls. Wildlife sightings are frequent as you travel along this slowly meandering river. Take out just below the Rt. 74 bridge or continue further downstream and enjoy mountain views from the open waters of beautiful Schroon Lake.

MAP KEY

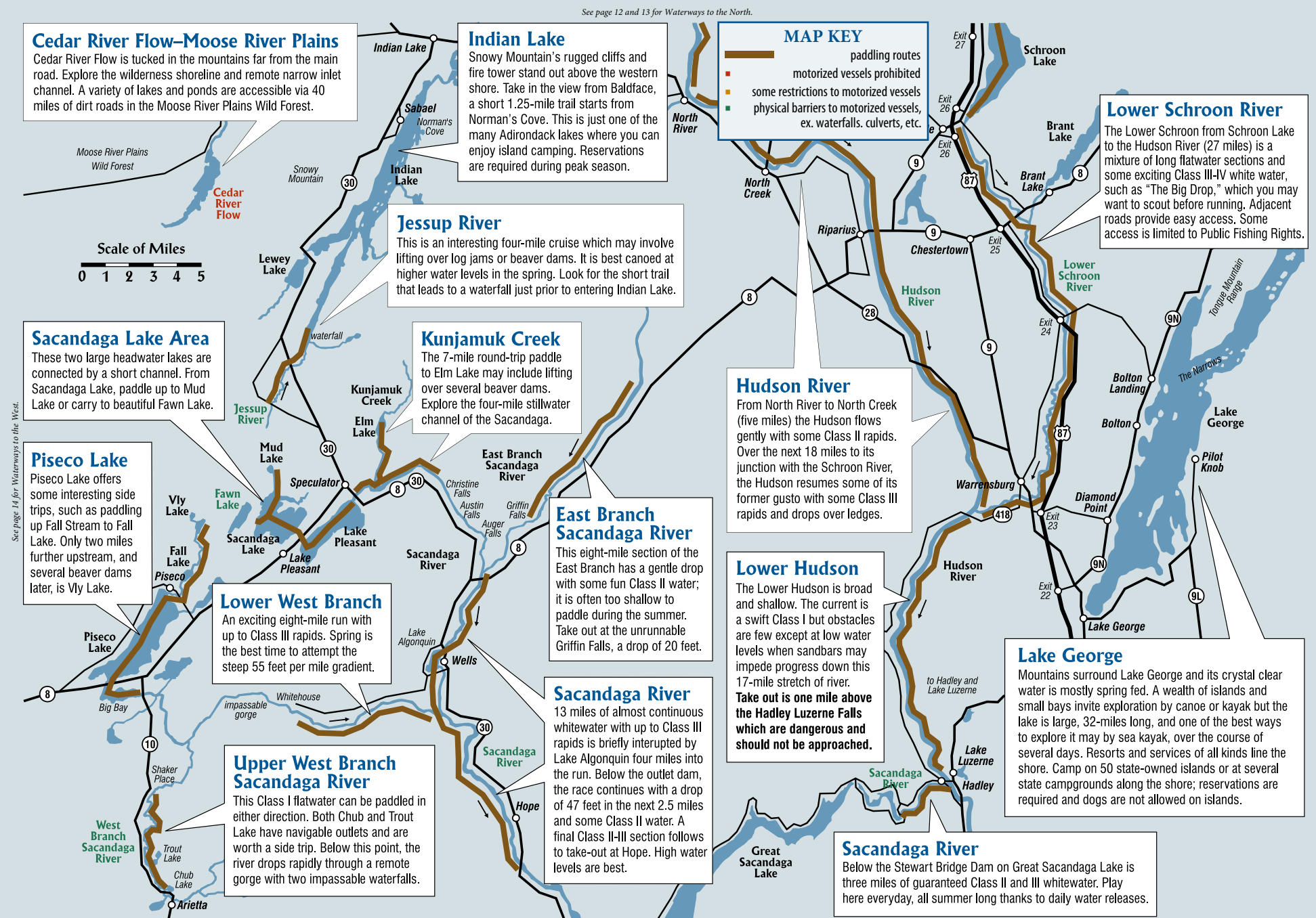
- padding routes
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- physical barriers to motorized vessels, ex. waterfalls, culverts, etc.



Beaver River, Big Moose Lake, Black River, Fulton Chain of Lakes, Francis Lake, Moose River, Moss Lake, Sand Pond-Mud Pond, Stillwater Reservoir



Cedar River, Hudson River, Indian Lake, Jessup River, Kunjamuk Creek, Lake George, Piseco Lake, Sacandaga River, Schroon River





# Enjoy the Power of the River — SAFELY



River systems are wonderful resources. The same rivers used to produce renewable hydropower also provide outstanding recreational opportunities for the public. We all need to share our rivers — safely. Every year in New York State, hundreds of people drown or are hospitalized for injuries that occur in the water\* and 90% of people who drown are not wearing life jackets.

As the owner and operator of 75 hydropower facilities and 50 riverfront recreation areas in New York, Brookfield encourages you to have fun and be safe by wearing a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device.

Whether you are fishing, boating, snowmobiling, or cross country skiing, Brookfield reminds you that dangers exist on water any time of the year, and that conditions can change quickly and without notice. Avoid areas such as dams, intake and water conveyance structures, gates, powerhouses and substations. Use only designated recreation areas, respect all warning signs, buoys, sirens, booms, barriers and fences.

Always check water conditions before you recreate. One source is Waterline: <http://www.h2oline.com> or call 1-800-452-1742 (fishing edition) or 1-800-452-1737 (boaters edition).

**Brookfield** [www.brookfieldpower.com](http://www.brookfieldpower.com)

\* New York State Department of Health Study

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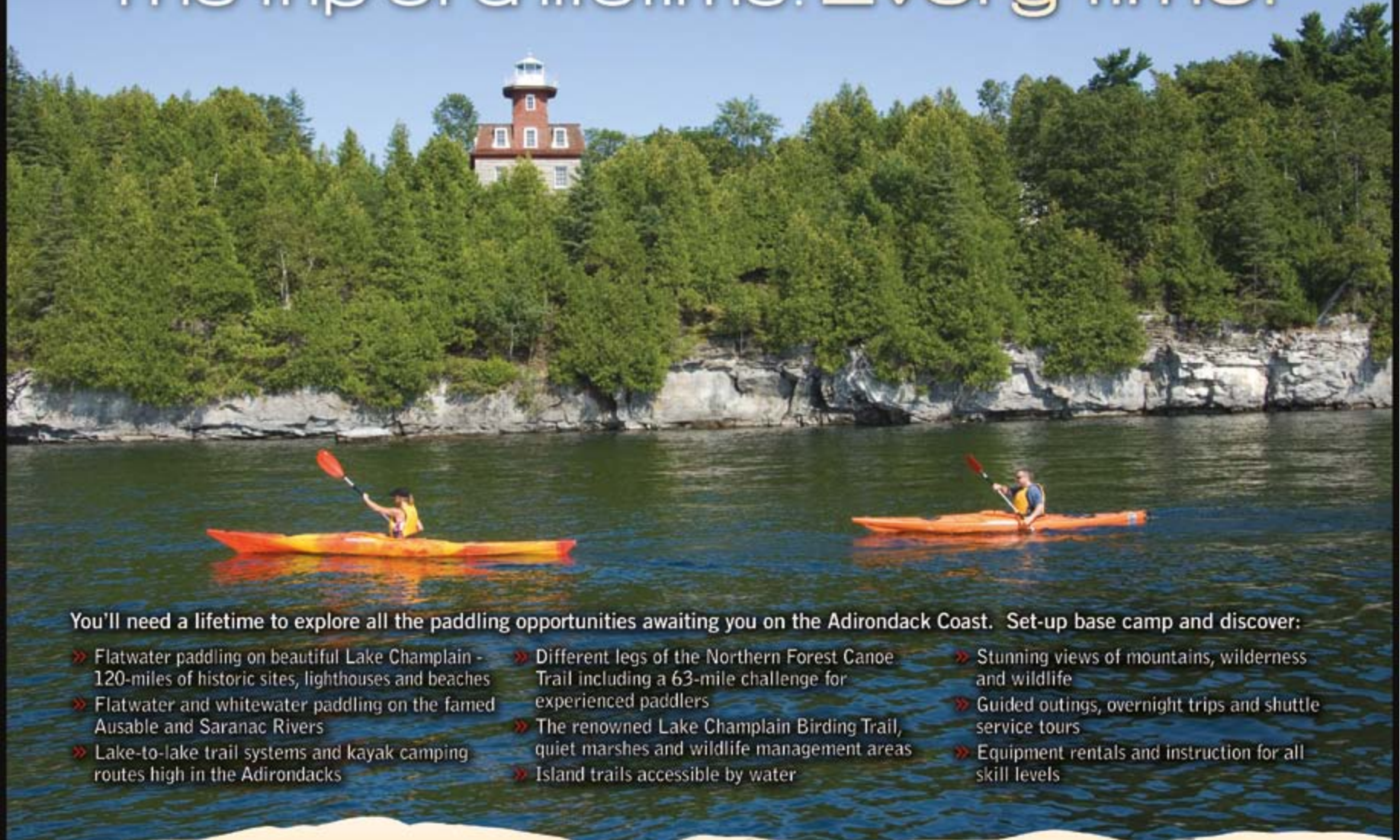
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