

# Oconto River O-3

## Highway 141 to North River Road Landing (4.5 miles)

*A pleasant mix of wooded shoreline and developed surroundings, with good fishing*

The next leg of the Oconto includes a pleasant mix of wooded shoreline and developed surroundings. Designated the Lower Oconto River by the DNR, this once-polluted stretch was cleaned up in the 1980s and now supports a thriving population of several species of fish. Most of this stretch flows through relatively undeveloped countryside.

Water levels are largely dependent upon the volume of release from the Machickanee Flowage dam at Stiles. Thanks to new licensing agreements reached in the early 1990s, the owner of the Stiles dam now provides constant “run of the river” releases, which assure stable fish habitat and dependable paddling downstream. Don’t paddle, however, when the river is high and swift. For general information on water conditions, call the DNR office in Oconto Falls (920-846-2980).

The best shuttle route is via highway 141, Stiles Road/North River Road (to county J).

Put in upstream-right at **Machickanee Public Boat Landing** at the highway 141 bridge near the village of Stiles, not far downstream from the dam (locals call the flowage “Stiles Pond”). Excellent parking is provided

The river begins fairly narrow, with good current. The current continues through the stretch, but gets progressively weaker as you get closer to the bay. There are many gentle bends and occasional small islands and riffles in the first couple of miles, and the mud banks are heavily wooded (maple, pine, cedar, etc.). Eagles, gulls, muskrat,

heron, ducks and turtles are common. There are occasional houses from the beginning, but they’re fairly unobtrusive.

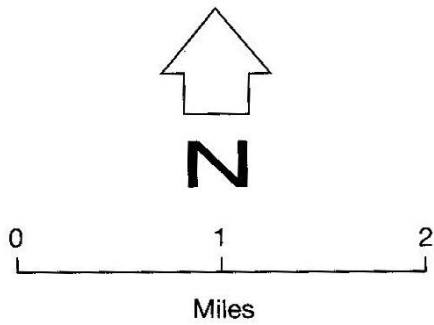
Further downstream, the river straightens somewhat and becomes wider and shallower. Power lines cross overhead just before several islands, followed by the mouth of the Little River on the left (2.6 miles). A bridge crosses the Little River near its mouth.

The county J bridge (3.5 miles) crosses the river not long afterward, with an **access** on the left downstream. Under the bridge a gravel-bar constriction speeds up the flow. Nearby you’ll see the Couillardville Town Hall, named after a pioneer family that settled in the area. A road runs along the river on the right for a while, and more houses come into view.

Downstream from the county J bridge, the **North River Road Landing** is found on the left (good parking).

**Note:** Plan about 45 minutes to shuttle vehicles before you can get on the river.

# OCONTO RIVER O-3



KEY	
Access	●
Mile marker	1▷
Rapids (Class II or higher)	#
Campsite	△
Railroad	—+—
City or village	▣

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