

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Cedar River originates in the Sandhills region of Nebraska and is fed by groundwater springs from the vast Ogallala Aquifer. The river ends at its confluence with the Loup River just below the city of Fullerton. The Cedar River Valley was home to the Pawnee Indians before they were moved from their Nebraska reservation, in 1875, and moved to an Oklahoma reservation.

**SECTION DESCRIBED**

Spalding to Nebraska 14 Bridge, north of Fullerton — 50 miles.

**CHARACTERISTICS**

Typical of most Nebraska rivers, the Cedar is smooth flowing. You will encounter small, low riffles, which indicate submerged objects such as tree branches, sandbars and occasional manmade objects. The Cedar is shallow in summer due to hot, dry weather and crop irrigation. You should expect shallow water between mid-June through mid-September. Be cautious while floating the Cedar River, electric fences cross the river and some fences are close to the water. If the water levels are high the fences may be covered, making them more hazardous. Electric fences may be difficult to spot unless they are marked and most are not.

There are numerous railroad and road bridges that cross the Cedar River. At the water's edge these bridges have a tendency to be choked with driftwood and debris. Exercise caution when approaching these bridges and when in doubt, portage.

This meandering river twists and winds, in horseshoe fashion, nearly doubling back on itself several times, often cutting several miles of channel to make an interesting mile of progress. The river occasionally abandons one of these oxbows to cut a new channel, leaving behind a lake or marsh.

**Recommendation:** Please read the General Canoeing Introduction pages before your trip. They are good review for the avid canoeist and a quick lesson for the novice canoeist, which they might be the difference between an adventure and a nightmare.

**ACCESS SITES AND  
POINTS OF INTEREST**

Take **Nebraska 91** to Spalding. Start at **Riverside Park**, located on the southwest side of town. On the west side of the county

road is a 30-acre lake, camping area, boat ramp, ADA boat dock, picnic area and other park facilities. For canoe launching, there is a walk of 40 to 60 yards from the parking area across a dam to the water.

From Spalding to the **Primrose County bridge** is 14 river miles (4.5-7 hours). There is access on the northeast or downstream side of the bridge. There are no facilities at this location. From the parking area to the water is about a 50-yard portage over rough terrain. This launch site is not used often. The road is about 10 feet above the surrounding land and the rise is steep.

There is a large feedlot near the stretch of the river between Primrose and Cedar Rapids. This stretch may not be desirable on a hot, humid, summer day.

Primrose to **Mel's Landing in Cedar Rapids** is 10.5 river miles (3.5-5 hours). There is a good campsite with a picnic area and latrines on the north edge of town.

About a half mile below Mel's Landing there is a deteriorating dam. Some sections of the dam are underwater. Passage is possible if you stay in the current and keep your canoe straight.

**Cedar Rapids to Belgrade** is 13 river miles (4-6 hours). There are three railroad bridges near Belgrade. The first railroad bridge is about one mile upstream from Belgrade and is passable.

The county road bridge west of Belgrade has access on the left or northeast upstream side of the bridge. There is rock riprap that must be negotiated. Parking is available along the roadside. If you launch from this site, be aware that a second railroad bridge is at times difficult to negotiate because of debris. You may have to portage soon after launching.

If you do launch west of Belgrade, we recommend portaging around the second railroad bridge. Exercise caution. Reenter the river on the downstream side. The riverbank is fairly steep with only a small area to launch. A third railroad bridge is easily passable.

About 1 or 1½ miles below the third railroad bridge there is a county road bridge and a primitive, public campsite. Access is on the left or southeast downstream side of the bridge. This is a much better place to launch your canoe for the trip to Fullerton.

Belgrade to Nebraska 14 Bridge, on the north edge of Fullerton, is 12.5 river miles (4-6 hours). Access is on the right

or southwest upstream side of the bridge. There is a large parking area at this site. When entering and leaving the water use caution, because anglers frequently use set lines in the area. **Trip ends.**

**SCENERY**

Spalding is on the edge of the Sandhills, a unique geological feature of grass-covered sand dunes. The Cedar River mostly extends through an area of hills with moderate to steep slopes, sharp ridge crests, and remnants of the old, nearly level plains eroded by water and wind. Vegetation in the corridor is open woodland along the river and more dense woodland on the ridge crests as you approach Fullerton. Pasture and cropland will be found in the open landscape along the river. Wildlife thrives in this setting.

**COMMUNITY AND  
AREA INFORMATION:**

Spalding: Greeley County Sheriff

(308) 428-2395 daytime

Emergency Number (308) 942-3435  
nights/weekends

Primrose and Cedar Rapids: Boone Co.

Sheriff (402) 395-2144 (Albion)

Cedar Rapids Village Clerk (308) 358-0240

Belgrade and Fullerton: Nance Co. Sheriff  
(308) 536-2452

Fullerton City Clerk (308) 536-2428



**MEDICAL ASSISTANCE:**

Spalding Community Clinic (308) 497-2485

Cedar Rapids Medical Clinic (308) 358-0615

Broadway Medical Clinic (308) 536-2458

(in Fullerton)

Nance County Medical (308) 536-2446

(in Fullerton)

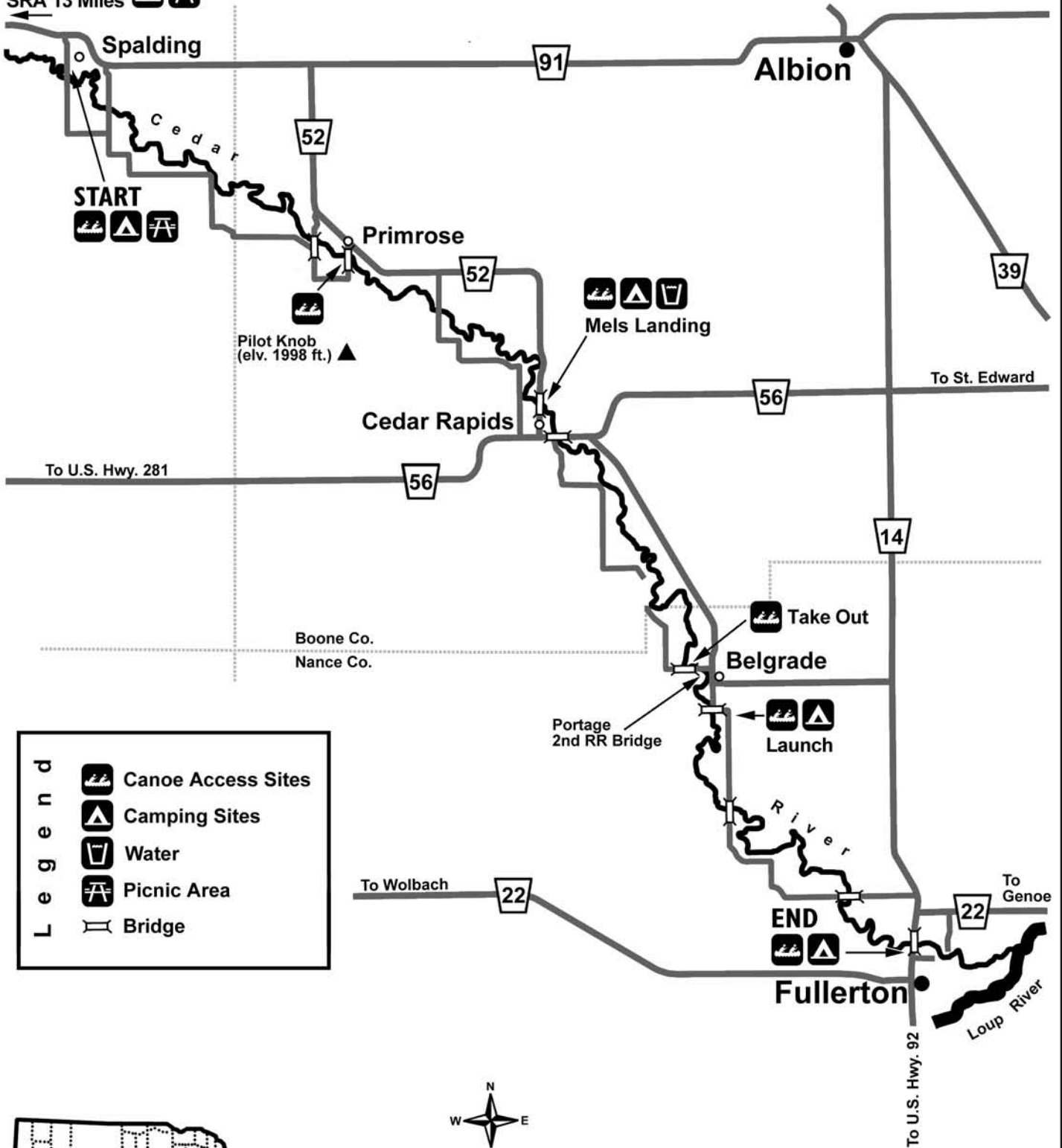
Boone County Health Center (402) 395-2191

(Hospital in Albion)


***Dial 911 to reach emergency  
personnel in the area.***

# C e d a r R i v e r

To Pibel Lake SRA 13 Miles  



**Legend**

-  Canoe Access Sites
-  Camping Sites
-  Water
-  Picnic Area
-  Bridge

