

North Loup

CANOE TRAIL



NEBRASKA GAME AND
PARKS COMMISSION

PO Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503
402-471-0641 • www.outdoornebraska.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Pawnee Indians, or Wolf People as they referred to themselves, called the North Loup, and the other Loup rivers, *Its Kari Kitsu*, or "Plenty Potatoes Rivers," because of the abundance of wild edible tubers growing on the banks. The North Loup was once known as Warren's Fork after G.K. Warren who mapped the area.

The North Loup is part of the Loup river system, a basin that covers nearly one-fifth of Nebraska and contains 1,800 miles of streams. The Middle Loup, South Loup, Dismal, Calamus and Cedar rivers are in the Loup system. With the exception of the South Loup, all originate in the Sandhills.

The Sandhills area is a 20,000 square mile grass-stabilized dune area extending 250 miles across Nebraska and described as the largest of this type of area in North America. The hills overlie the Ogallala Aquifer, an underground repository of water extending into Texas. The North Loup is fed from groundwater from the aquifer in the form of springs, which contribute to the constant flow of water even during the typical hot, dry Nebraska summer weather.

The river above Burwell is diverted for irrigation from mid-June through August reducing downstream water levels. The optimum times to canoe the river are spring and fall.

SECTION DESCRIBED

Burwell to Ord — 18½ miles.

CHARACTERISTICS

The first 6½ miles the river is narrow and the canoeing is very good. About 300 yards from the beginning of the trip are two sets of low rapids, followed by another 300 yards of fast water.

For the remainder of your trip, 12 miles downstream from the private camp, the sandstone shelf has turned into sand and silt loam. The river broadens and divides into several braids or shallow channels. Some walking may be required, especially during summer months when irrigation is in full swing, rainfall is minimal, and evaporation is greatest.

Recommendation: Please read the General Canoeing Introduction pages before beginning. They offer a good review for the avid canoeist and a

quick lesson for the novice, and may make the difference between an adventure and a nightmare.

ACCESS SITES AND POINTS OF INTEREST

Your trip begins at **Burwell** at the **Riverside Park**. Burwell can be reached both from **Nebraska 11 and 91**.

For the ¾ of a mile, the river flows over a moderately level sandstone shelf. The first low rapids in the south channel, which drop about 18 to 24 inches, and are fun but a little tricky to negotiate. Rapids occur again a short distance downstream in the left channel. Downstream from the rapids is about 300 yards of fast water before the sandstone shelf ends.

A private camp and access area is located on the north side of the river, just after the second rapids. Many local residents in canoes, and tubes, enjoy repeating the run from Riverside Park to the private camp.

The only potential access between Burwell and Ord is at the **county bridge** near **Elyria** on **Nebraska 11**. This highway leads to historic **Fort Hartsuff**, now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The trip ends at **Ord**, city-owned, **Anderson Island** just south of the **Nebraska 70 bridge** on the east or left side. There is road access to the river's edge from the highway.

SCENERY

The width of the North Loup Valley from Burwell to Ord varies from two to over three miles. It is flanked by low, but impressive, Sandhills bluffs that range up to 300 feet high. They are covered by red cedar mixed with a smattering of burr oak, green ash, and hackberry. Cottonwood and

willow grow along the river. Perennial, mixed short grasses and forbs grow on the hill slopes. Between the river and the base of the hills irrigated cropland dominates. Wildlife common to the area are coyotes, deer, beaver, raccoons, eagles, blue herons, kestrels, and hawks. The river is an excellent fishery for channel catfish.

Historic Fort Hartsuff, near present-day Elyria, was constructed in 1874 to protect the settlers and the Pawnee from Sioux Indian attacks. Restored, it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Call (308) 346-4715.

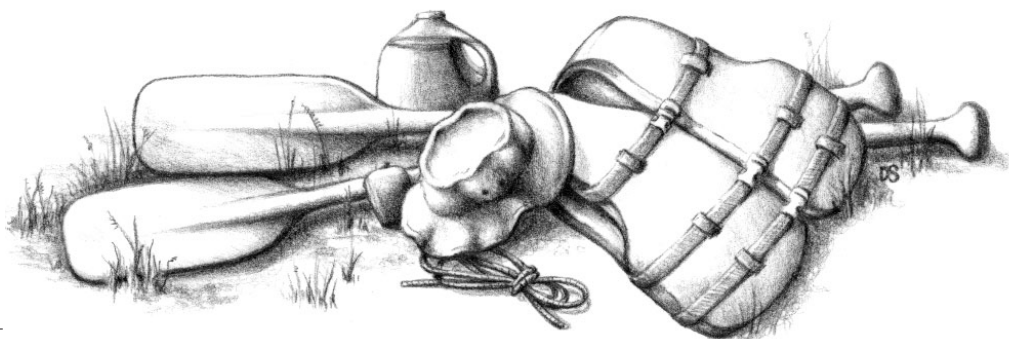
COMMUNITY AND AREA INFORMATION:

Garfield County Sheriff (Burwell)
Non-Emergency (308) 346-5150
Valley County Sheriff (Ord)
Non-Emergency (308) 728-3906
Fort Hartsuff State Historical Park
(308) 346-4715
Calamus Reservoir State Recreation Area
(308) 346-5666
Calamus Fish Hatchery (308) 346-4226

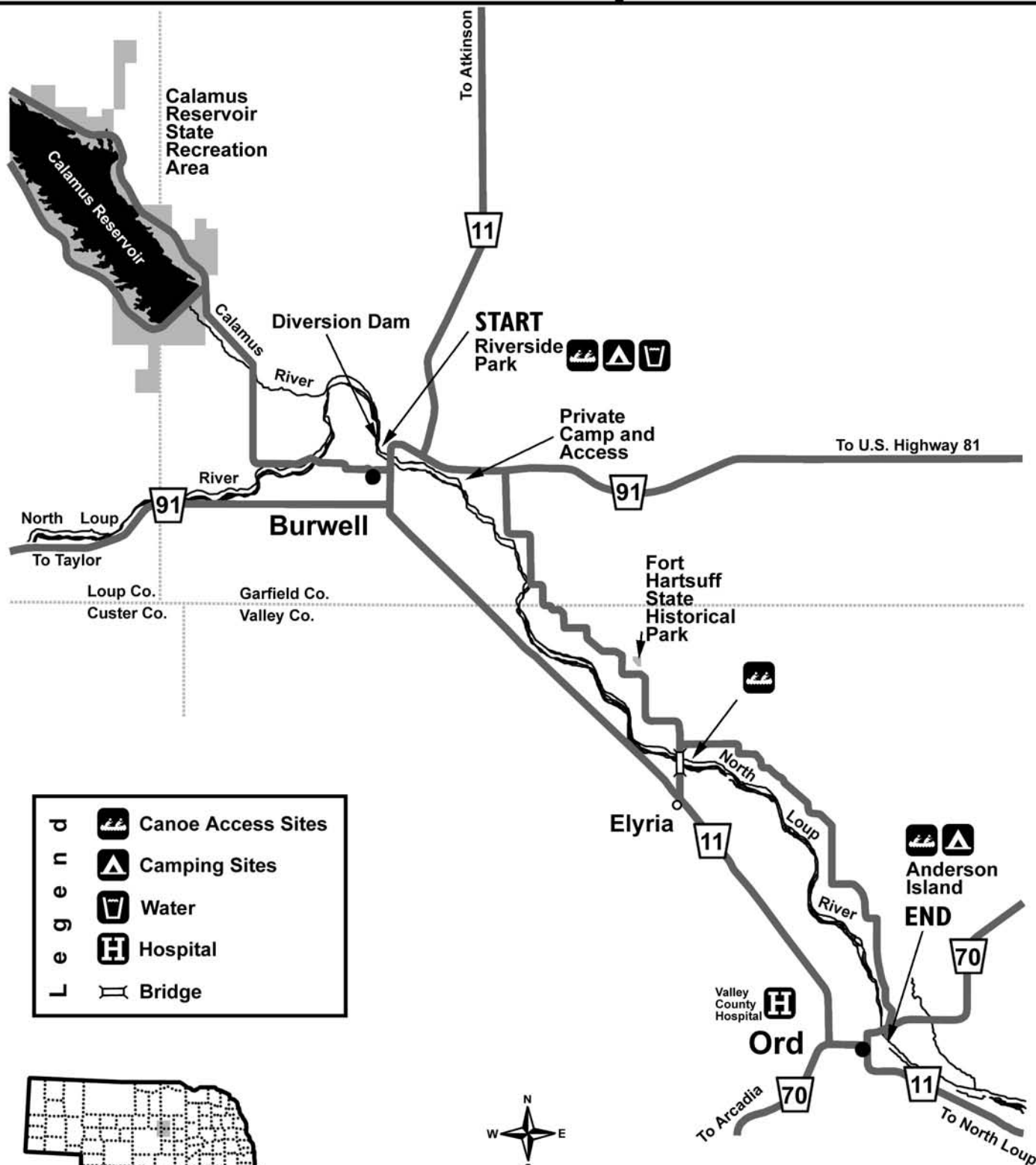
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE:

Burwell Medical Clinic (308) 346-5442
Burwell Family Practice (308) 346-5544
Ord Family Health Center (308) 728-3606
Stevens Medical Clinic (Ord) (308) 728-9916
Valley County Hospital (Ord)
(308) 728-3211

Dial 911 to reach emergency personnel in the area.



North Loup River



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| Canoe Access Sites | |
| Camping Sites | |
| Water | |
| Hospital | |
| Bridge | |

