



Loup River Water Trail Monroe - Columbus 16 Miles

General Information

The Pawnee Indians, or Wolf People as they referred to themselves, called the Loup rivers its, “Kari Kitsu”, or “Plenty Potatoes Rivers,” because of the abundance of wild edible tubers growing on the banks. The Loup River is part of the Loup River system, a basin that covers nearly one-fifth of Nebraska and contains 1,800 miles of streams. The North Loup, Middle Loup, South Loup, Dismal, Calamus, and Cedar Rivers are all in the Loup system. Except for the South Loup, all originate in the Sandhills. The Sandhills area is a 20,000 square mile grass-stabilized sand dune area extending 250 miles across Nebraska and is described as the largest of this type in North America. The hills overlie the Ogallala Aquifer, an underground repository of water extending into Texas.

Access Sites and Information

Platte County has provided an excellent public point of entry with ample parking space for the Monroe Access Point to the Loup River. Travel south of Monroe on 370th Avenue over the Loup River Bridge and about 1/8th of a mile there is a road/turn to the east, take this turn and follow to the end of the road to where the launch site is located. The signs show designated parking and provide an overview of the water trail downstream to Columbus (which is a 6 to 8 hour float) as well as an upstream Fishing Access Point at George Syas Wildlife Management Area just south of Genoa (which is approximately a 2 to 3 hour float from the George Syas WMA Fishing Access Point to the Monroe Access Point).

Start: 41.461082, -97.599121 / End: 41.418113, -97.367618

The river above Genoa is diverted at times which will affect flows. It will be important, depending on the flow, to stay in or near the main channel, depending on the draft of your canoe or kayak. During low water conditions, shallow draft canoes/kayaks are recommended, otherwise some dragging across low points may occur.

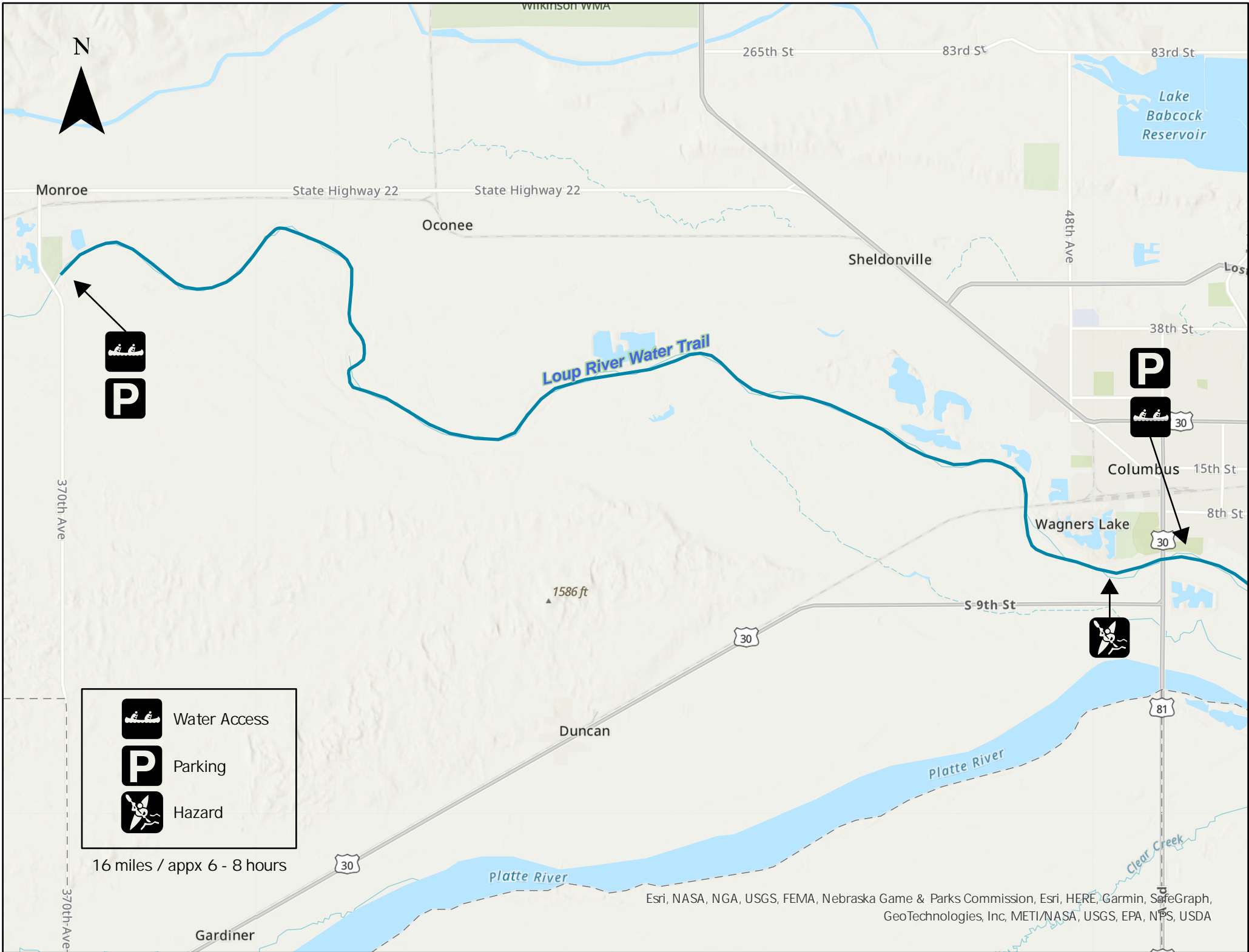
Scenery

For this area of the Loup River, you will travel past tree covered banks – and the river is very wide and shallow, with channels snaking across the sandy bottomed river bed. Throughout the trip, keep your eyes open for beautiful bald eagles, red tailed hawks and other abundant wildlife and plant species. Beavers, deer and at dawn/dusk racoons are common along the river!

Hazards

½ mile before your take out in Columbus there is an I-Beam protruding from the river on the south side, just before the sandbar.

Platte County Sherriff: 816-858-2424
Columbus Community Hospital: 402-564-7118
Dial 911 in emergency



	Water Access
	Parking
	Hazard

16 miles / appx 6 - 8 hours