



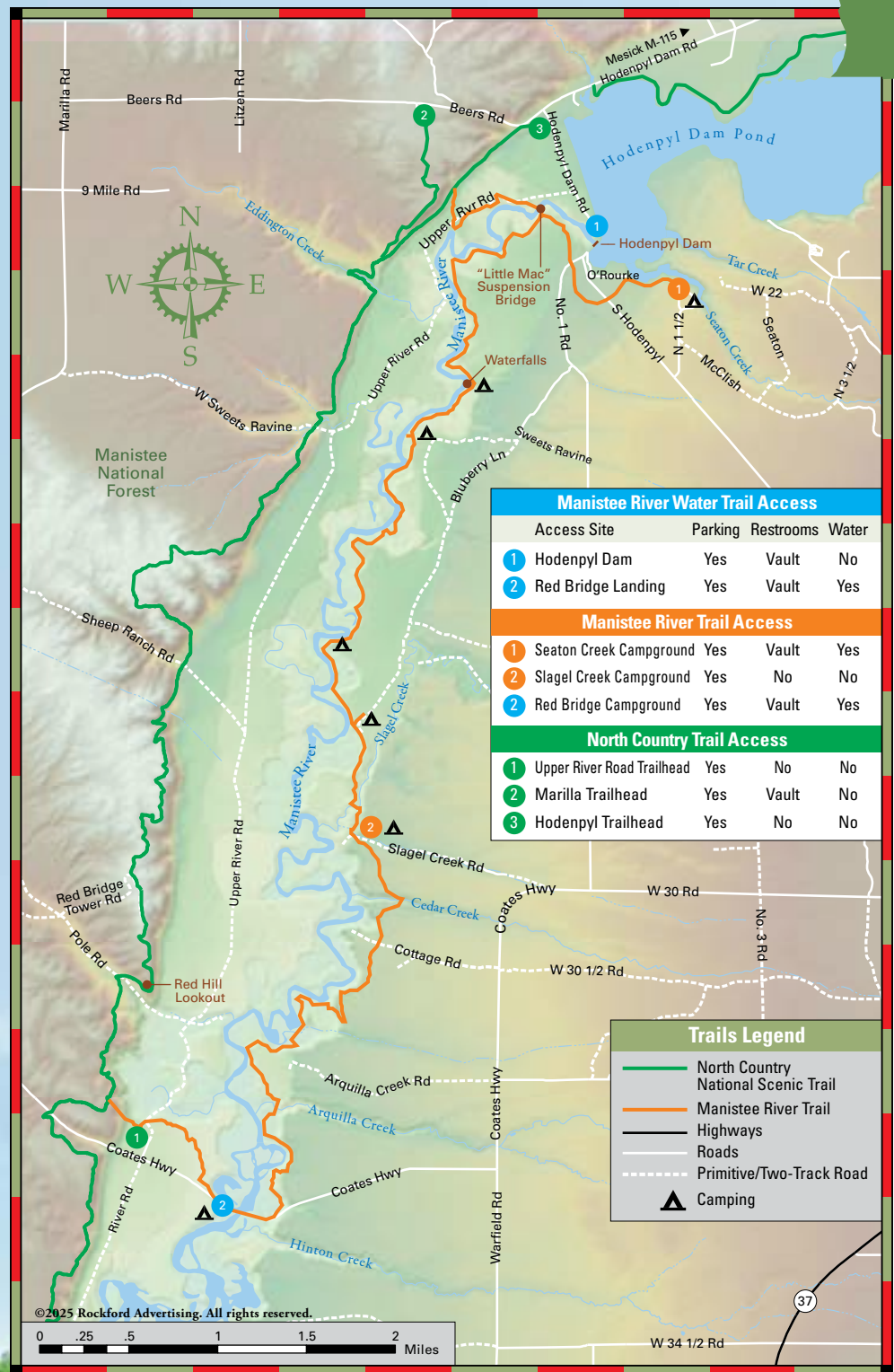
Manistee River Hiking & Water Trail

West of M-37 between M-115 and M-55, the Manistee River runs wild from Hodenpyl Dam to Red Bridge (Coates Hwy) through Manistee National Forest, offering some of the most spectacular hiking, backpacking, paddling and mountain biking in Michigan's lower peninsula.

The **Manistee River Water Trail** begins at the river access site on the west side of Hodenpyl Dam on Hodenpyl Dam Road. To spot your vehicle at Red Bridge, go south on Beers and Marilla roads and east on Coates Highway. The 3-to-4-hour float takes you under the "Little Mac" suspension bridge and through a series of brisk rapids flanked by steep bluffs. You'll see great blue herons, kingfishers, red hooded mergansers and other wildlife along the river's edge.

The **Manistee River Hiking Trail** begins at Seaton Creek Campground and follows the eastern bluff of the river 11-miles to Red Bridge access site and campground. The trail is limited to foot traffic only. You'll discover several nice campsites and panoramic views of the river all along the way. The Manistee River Trail intersects with the North Country Trail on the west side of the river to create a 23-mile hiking loop (great 2-to-3-day backpacking trip) with 1-mile of connecting trails crossing Red Bridge at the south and Little Mac bridge at the north.

The 8.5-mile section of the **North Country Trail** is open to both hiking and mountain biking. This challenging stretch of trail follows a steep ridge with stunning views of the valley and passes through several deep ravines. Camping is permitted along the trail, but somewhat limited due to the rugged terrain.



The "Little Mac" suspension bridge connects the Manistee River Trail to the North Country Trail.