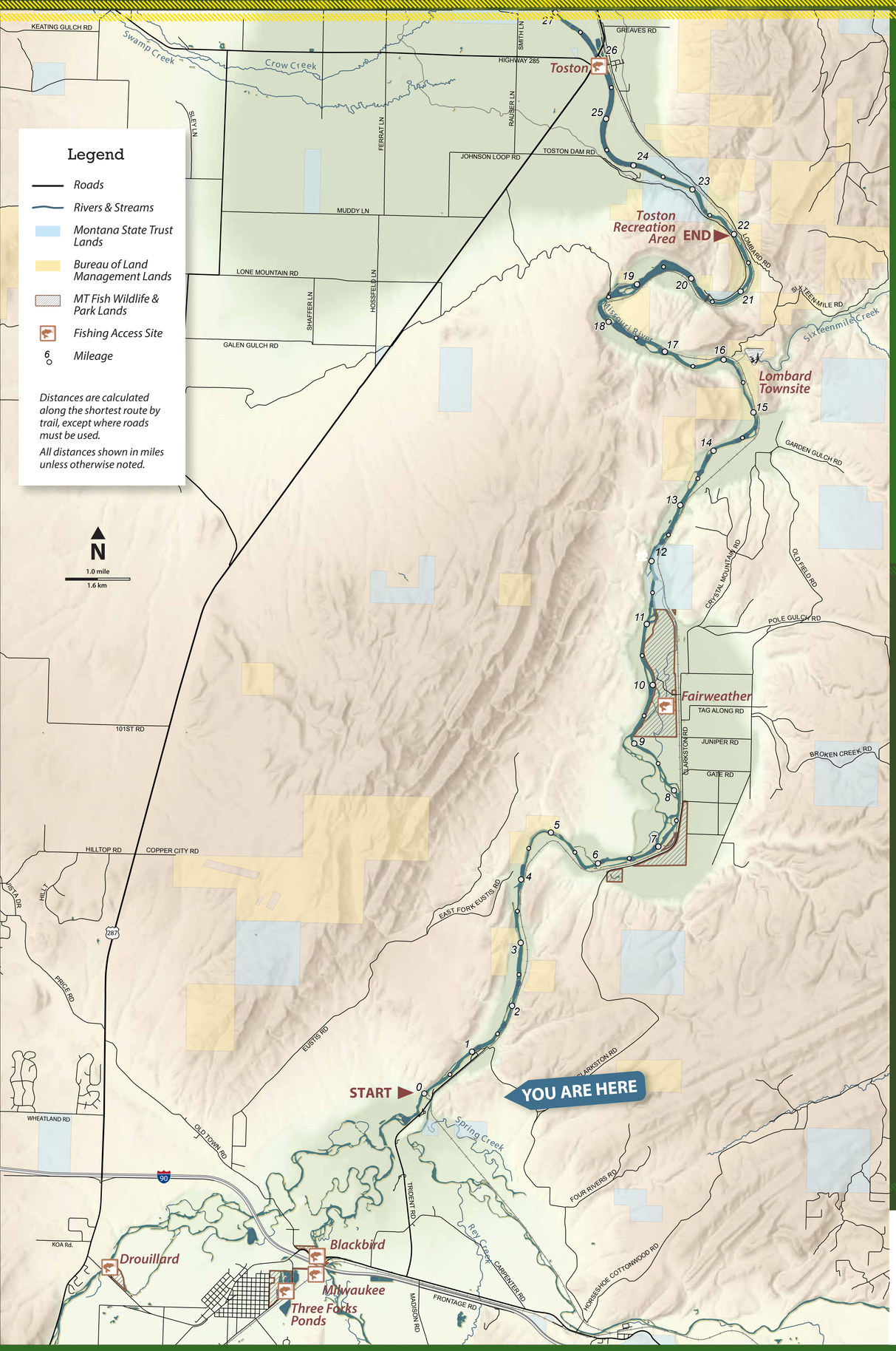
GALLATIN VALLEY LAND TRUST
TRAILS & CONSERVATION

welcome to

# Missouri River Paddlers' Trail




## Water Safety & Etiquette

### EVERYONE *please*

- *Know the forecast before you launch and be prepared for changing conditions, afternoon headwinds are common.*
- *Wear your Personal Floatation Device.*
- *Bring water, snacks, sun protection, and a map of the area.*
- *Leave No Trace: Pack it in, Pack it out.*
- *Carry out or bury human waste in catholes 6-8in deep, 200 yards from water.*
- *CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY all watercraft before and after floating to avoid transporting aquatic invasive species.*

### DOG OWNERS *please*

- *Keep dogs under voice and sight command in designated off-leash areas.*
- *Pick up after your dog and dispose of waste properly.*
- *Avoid encounters with wildlife.*

*NOTE: The Montana Stream Access Law states the public may use rivers and streams for recreational purposes up to the ordinary high-water mark. Recreationists have the right to use rivers and streams for water-related activites, but are not allowed to enter posted lands bordering those streams or to cross private lands to gain access to streams.*

**The Missouri Headwaters Paddlers' Trail** is a recreational water route that begins at the Missouri River Boat Launch in Headwaters State Park. This historical confluence was an important trading crossroads for indigenous tribes and a camp on the Corps of Discovery's expedition where Lewis & Clark stopped, naming the three tributaries: the Gallatin, Jefferson, and Madison Rivers. Just beyond their convergence, the Missouri River exits Headwaters State Park flowing lazily through sagebrush prarie, lush farmland and steep rock formations for the next 22 miles to the takeout at the Toston Dam Recreation Area. Trophy brown trout call this braided river channel home, and birdwatchers will delight in a variety of species, including cliff swallows, eagles, pelicans, blue herons, and osprey. The Fairweather Fishing Access at river mile 11 marks the trail's halfway point and paddlers looking for a shorter adventure can exit there, or continue 11 miles onward to the take-out at the Toston Dam Recreation Area. The Missouri flows another 2300 miles before reaching the Mississippi river, making it America's longest river.

**Gallatin Valley Land Trust** connects people, communities, and open lands through conservation of working farms and ranches, healthy rivers, and wildlife habitat, and the creation of trails in the Montana headwaters of the Missouri and Upper Yellowstone River basins. GVLT received a generous grant from the Montana Association of Conservation Districts to develop the paddlers' trail and we have partnered with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to educate users about keeping our waterways clean and free from aquatic invasive species.

Partners:

DTM CONSULTING MAPPING SPECIALISTS

GVLT TRAILS & CONSERVATION

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

MOLLY STRATTON Artist. Designer.

Kiosk #22

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