Welcome to Myron Grove

Just above Myron Grove you will see more Cretaceous outcroppings. Myron Grove is also known locally as “High Line” because a power line once stretched across this narrow part of the river. The tower still stands 100 yards north of here.

You must choose to navigate north or south of Goat Island, which begins just downstream. The wreck of the North Alabama steamboat and Brooky Bottom lie on the south side, but the northern South Dakota side of Goat Island has less motorboat traffic.

Besides the major landing at Riverside Park in Yankton, other 19th century steamboat landings on the 59-mile stretch of river included St. James, St. Helena, Vermillion, and Ponca.

The North Alabama stern wheel steamboat hit a snag and sank near the head of Goat Island on Oct 27, 1870, one of at least a dozen steamboats lost while navigating the Missouri River between Yankton, SD and Sioux City, IA.

The remains of the North Alabama were exposed in low water years of 1996 and 1934, then rediscovered in March 2004.

University of South Dakota researchers took measurements and studied journals and historical river maps to confirm the boat’s identity, and many of the Water Trail partners worked together to document the wreckage.

Goat Island is undeveloped public land, approximately 3.5 miles long and heavily forested with cottonwood and cedar trees.

View to the southeast across Goat Island

If water is low enough to view the wreck, please do not disturb this historic artifact. Watch for snags and other submerged and semi-submerged hazards along this stretch.

Camping is permitted on Goat Island, but there are no facilities, so please remember to Leave No Trace of your visit to the island.

The Cretaceous Period rock outcrops across the river from Myron Grove are over 65 million years old. They are layers of sedimentary rocks formed at the bottom of the Cretaceous Western Interior Seaway.

Dark Carliole Shale at the bottom of the bluffs is topped by lighter, creamy colored layers of the Niobrara Formation. These rocks contain fossils of ancient marine reptiles such as mosasaurs and plesiosaurs as well as more plentiful smaller fossils of shellfish and bony fish.