

## #7 Cutting Ice

The 1946 Ice harvest was done just off Tindolph Beach, the only place in town where the land sloped gently enough to allow ice blocks to be pulled from the water. This gas engine mounted on skis drove a 28" circular saw through the ice.

## #8 Soo Line Depot & Division Office

The Soo Line Depot and Division Office, constructed in 1914, served as passenger depot until 1967 and as offices until 1987. When the Canadian Pacific scheduled the depot for demolition in 1993, a "Save the Depot" preservation campaign raised \$500,000. In 1997-1998, the city renovated the depot and remodeled the interior to create a new city hall.

## #9 GFWC Zehlans

### #10 Elks Park

In 1904, the city maintained a skating rink between the Soo Line Railroad Bridge and Third Street. In summer four steam boats, including Ethel, pictured here, traveled between the city and Red Lake.

### #11 Thief River Falls in 1912

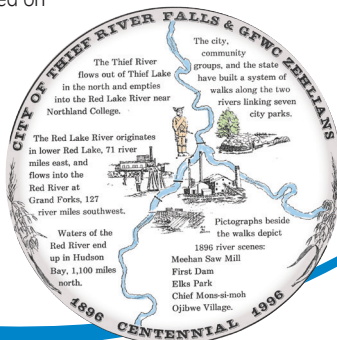
The bridge in the left foreground is the Soo Line Railroad Bridge. The iron bridge at the right is an early First Street Bridge. In the background is the defunct Great Northern Railroad Bridge that served the sawmill. Today pilings for this bridge are still visible in the riverbank and stream bed.

### #12 First Bridge

In 1892 this bridge linked the towns of Red Lake Rapids on the east and Thief River Falls on the west side of the river. This Presbyterian Church, built in 1903, merged with the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1927. It was replaced in 1968. Here, the first Christian worship service in the area was conducted by a missionary in 1844.

### #13 Meehan Saw Mill

In 1892, this mill opened to process pine logs. From left: shavings conveyor, shavings vault, dynamo building and smoke stacks, saw mills, log conveyor, 80 foot high refuse burner. During the long winter months, logs were piled on the ice at Red Lake to await spring thaw. During ice breakup, logs, pictured here, were floated 100 miles down the Red Lake River to this spot. By 1912, this mill ran 20 hours a day during summer, but by 1916, it was vacant.



### #14 First Dam

In 1900 the Fall of the Red Lake River furnished power for the Kretzchmar O. K. Roller Mill, which had a capacity of 85 barrels of flour a day. The Splendid Electric Lighting Plant on the right was the first major city building.

### #15 L.B. Hartz

L.B. Hartz was a prominent businessman in Northwestern Minnesota and Eastern North Dakota opening his first in a chain of Hartz Goods grocery stores in 1925 and the Hartz Wholesale warehouse in 1956. The L.B. Hartz Foundation has provided generous gifts to the region including funds for Hartz Park and the Hartz Pedestrian Bridge.

### #16 Hartz Park

Hartz Park, also known as Lover's Lane, has long been used for outdoors recreation. Secluded picnics were common, like this one in 1939.

### #17 Friendship Park

Friendship Park, now a part of Tourist Park, was established July 3, 1966. Members of the Thief River Falls Veterans of Foreign Wars 2793 and Fort Garry (Manitoba)-Army, Navy, and Air Force Unit 60 built a stone wall and garden in the park to symbolize their friendship. Today the location of the former stone wall is marked with a wooden fence and the garden has been moved to the north in the campground.

### #18 Oakland Park Tuberculosis Sanitarium

The Oakland Park Tuberculosis Sanitarium was built in 1916 by Pennington, Marshall, Roseau, and Red Lake counties. "The San" served as Pennington County's nursing home from 1955 to 1976. It was demolished in 1998 but its nurses' residence still stands.

For more info contact:  
Thief River Falls Parks & Recreation

525 Brooks Ave. N.  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701  
(218) 681-2519

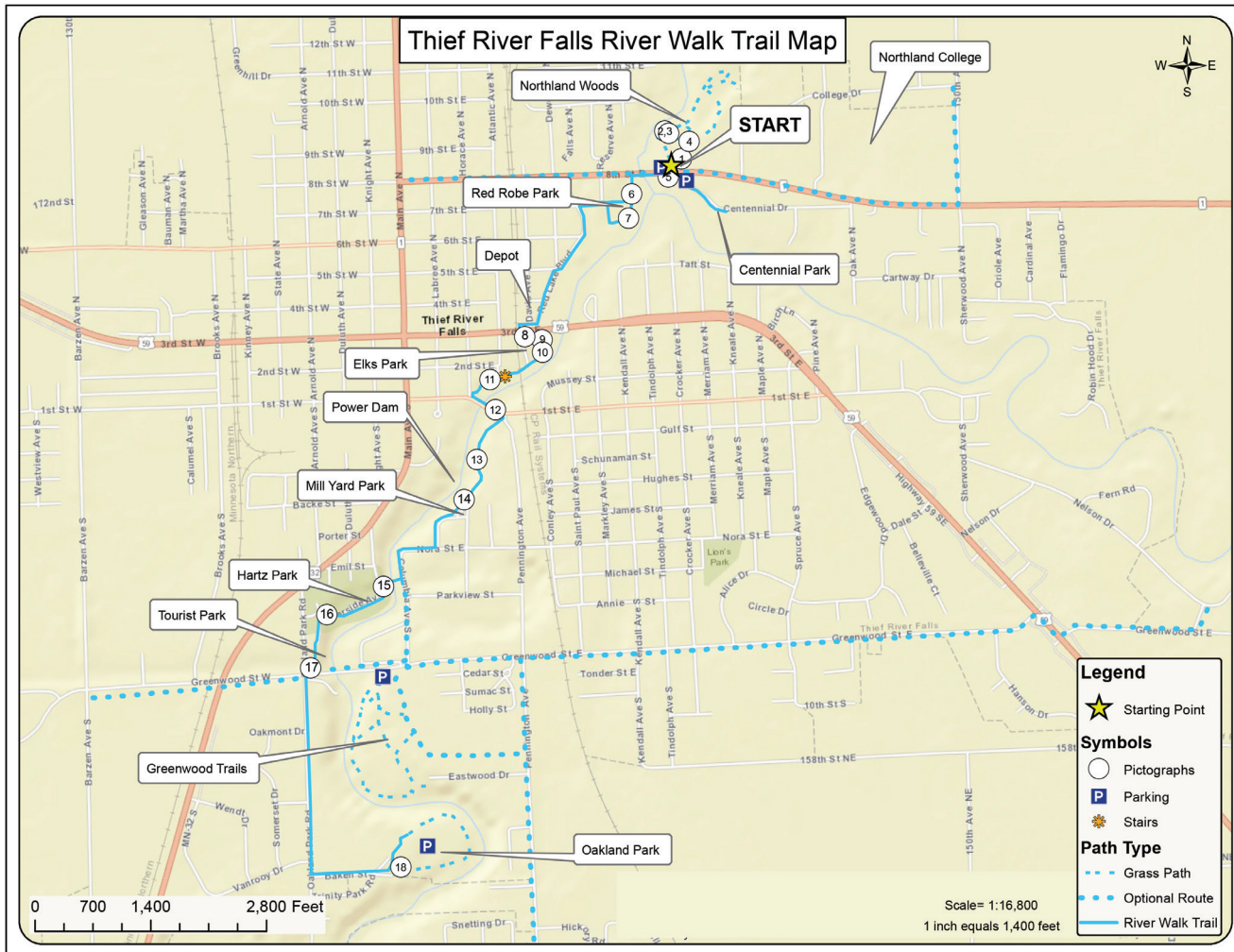
For an electronic map go to  
[www.citytrf.net](http://www.citytrf.net)

• City of Thief River Falls •

# River Walk



Encounter  
**History &  
Nature** on the  
**River Walk**



## A visit to Thief River Falls

would not be complete without a historic walk along the city's two rivers. Various paths take you through nine parks and three forest trails along the Red Lake and Thief Rivers. The River Walk features 18 pictographs that offer a flashback of what each river view was like many years ago. Choose to visit just a few or all of the sites.

## Pictographs:

### #1 GFWC Zehlans

### #2 Indian Village

In this location a band of 43 Ojibwe families lived in bark houses. Their village was called "NE-GID-DAH-MI-TI-GWAY-YUNG" or "where two rivers meet." In 1904, after agitation by Thief River Falls residents, the federal government sold 245,152 acres to settlers and paid the Band part of its value. The government moved the people of NE-GID-DAH-MI-TI-GWAY-YUNG to the Red Lake Reservation.

### #3 Fording Place

A hundred years ago the Thief River was more like a creek than a river, and people waded across here in knee-deep water. After the falls were dammed, the flow was much too great to ford and in 1914 the first Eighth Street Bridge was built.

### #4 Dancing Grounds

This land was never cleared and trees have not grown up during the last century, indicating this was perhaps a dancing ground. The "Snow Shoe Dance," and the "Song of Thanksgiving to the Great Spirit" celebrated the falling of the first snow. The return of snow meant hunters could run on snowshoes while their quarry faltered in deep snow.

### #5 Old Iron Bridge

In 1913, this iron bridge was built on Eighth Street. Ethel Myrin Sanders made the sketch in 1932 and painted the picture in 1976. The Nils Myrin family homesteaded along the east bank of the Thief River in 1904. The southwest corner, which was cut off from their property by the river, is now the city swimming beach. The southeast corner is Centennial Park and the rest is Northland College land.

### #6 Portion of Fur Trade Map (Drawn in 1793 by David Thompson for Northwest Company)

The Red Lake River and Thief River were important to the million dollar Red River fur trade in 1794. Jean Baptiste Perrault wrote in his journal: "Mr. Sayer, Vincent Roi, wintered on la Riviere Voluse (Thief River). We passed a good winter, taking many packs—211 otter and nearly 1,511 tt of beaver."

