

St. Croix

NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAY
MINNESOTA • WISCONSIN

Along this national scenic riverway, you can enjoy the flavor, romance, and excitement of the first French voyageurs who came through this northern land of forests and lakes almost 300 years ago.

The 200-mile long park traces the boundary of Minnesota and Wisconsin for nearly 80 miles and includes the most primitive portions of the St. Croix River and its northern tributary, the Namekagon. The river scene varies from the extremes of a narrow intimate trout stream to a broad lakelike flowage of almost imperceptible movement. The canoeist can choose between the challenge of swift white water or a relaxing glide over long stretches of calm water.

The living communities of plants and animals stretch along both sides of the rivers, in places almost untouched by human activity. But this is not a wilderness river. Lands outside the boundaries have been altered by agriculture, forestry, highways, and other evidence of human activities.

THE LIVING COMMUNITIES

A scenic riverway such as the St. Croix is strongly influenced by the natural and manmade environment that it traverses. The whole of the Namekagon and the upper reaches of the St. Croix downstream to the northern boundary of Minnesota's St. Croix State Park are in a section of northwest Wisconsin that is mostly second growth woodlands interspersed with swamps and marshes and dotted with hundreds of lakes and small streams.

This area constitutes a large Water-woodland Ecosystem with definable components that are closely interrelated. These are forest-and-brush; swamp-and-marsh; river-and-stream, and lakes.

The lower section of the St. Croix River, from the State Park to St. Croix Falls, has a definite River Ecosystem composed of the riverbed, the waters, the floodplain, the dry islands, banks and borderlands.

Throughout the whole scenic riverway and its adjoining areas in both Minnesota and Wisconsin there is considerable mixing of plant and animal species. Today, the whole area is favored by waterfowl of many kinds, and the lakes and streams abound in fish.

The mixed conifer-hardwood forest adjacent to the riverway supports an abundance of wildlife. Whitetailed deer is the most common large mammal resident. Black bear, coyote, red and gray foxes, and four aquatic fur bearers, the mink,



Great Blue Heron

VISITOR SAFETY

Boaters and canoers: All craft must be equipped with a Coast Guard approved *lifesaving device* for each person aboard. These should always be worn by non-swimmers and by everyone during high-water conditions, or when running rapids. *Do not overload your craft. If you capsize in fast water, stay upstream from your canoe—don't get caught between a swamped canoe and a rock or log! Boaters watch your wake when near canoes; remember your prop when near swimmers.*

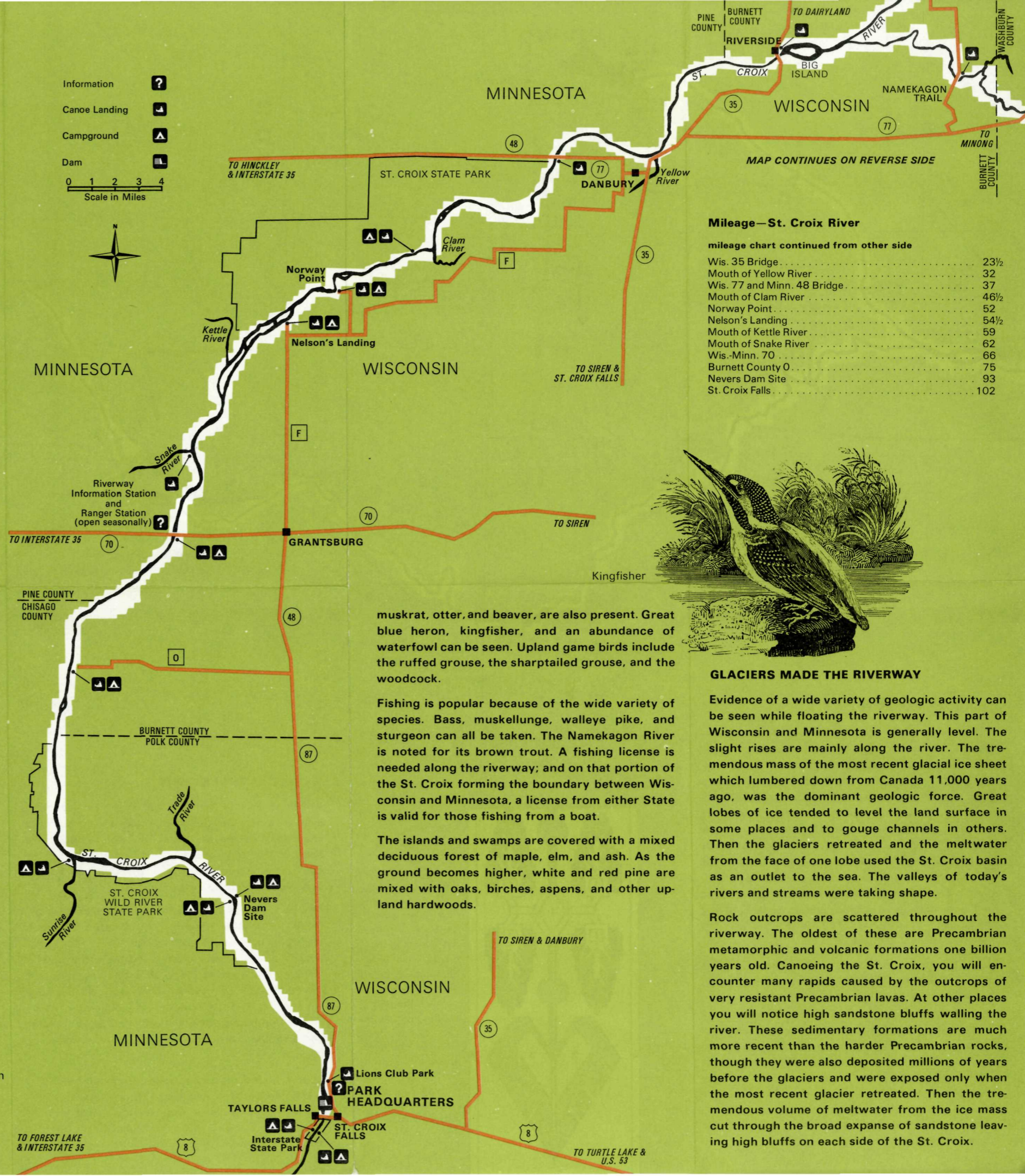
Swimmers: Don't swim alone, at night, or in unfamiliar places; don't dive off bridges, high banks, or into water of unknown depth. Small children should be watched. There are no lifeguards or supervised beaches at the riverway.

Inner tube floaters: Wear a lifesaving device, travel only with others, and navigate rapids feet first.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

National Park Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

- Information ?
 - Canoe Landing ▲
 - Campground ▲
 - Dam ▲
- 0 1 2 3 4
Scale in Miles



Mileage—St. Croix River

mileage chart continued from other side

Wis. 35 Bridge	23½
Mouth of Yellow River	32
Wis. 77 and Minn. 48 Bridge	37
Mouth of Clam River	46½
Norway Point	52
Nelson's Landing	54½
Mouth of Kettle River	59
Mouth of Snake River	62
Wis.-Minn. 70	66
Burnett County O	75
Nevers Dam Site	93
St. Croix Falls	102



Kingfisher

muskrat, otter, and beaver, are also present. Great blue heron, kingfisher, and an abundance of waterfowl can be seen. Upland game birds include the ruffed grouse, the sharptailed grouse, and the woodcock.

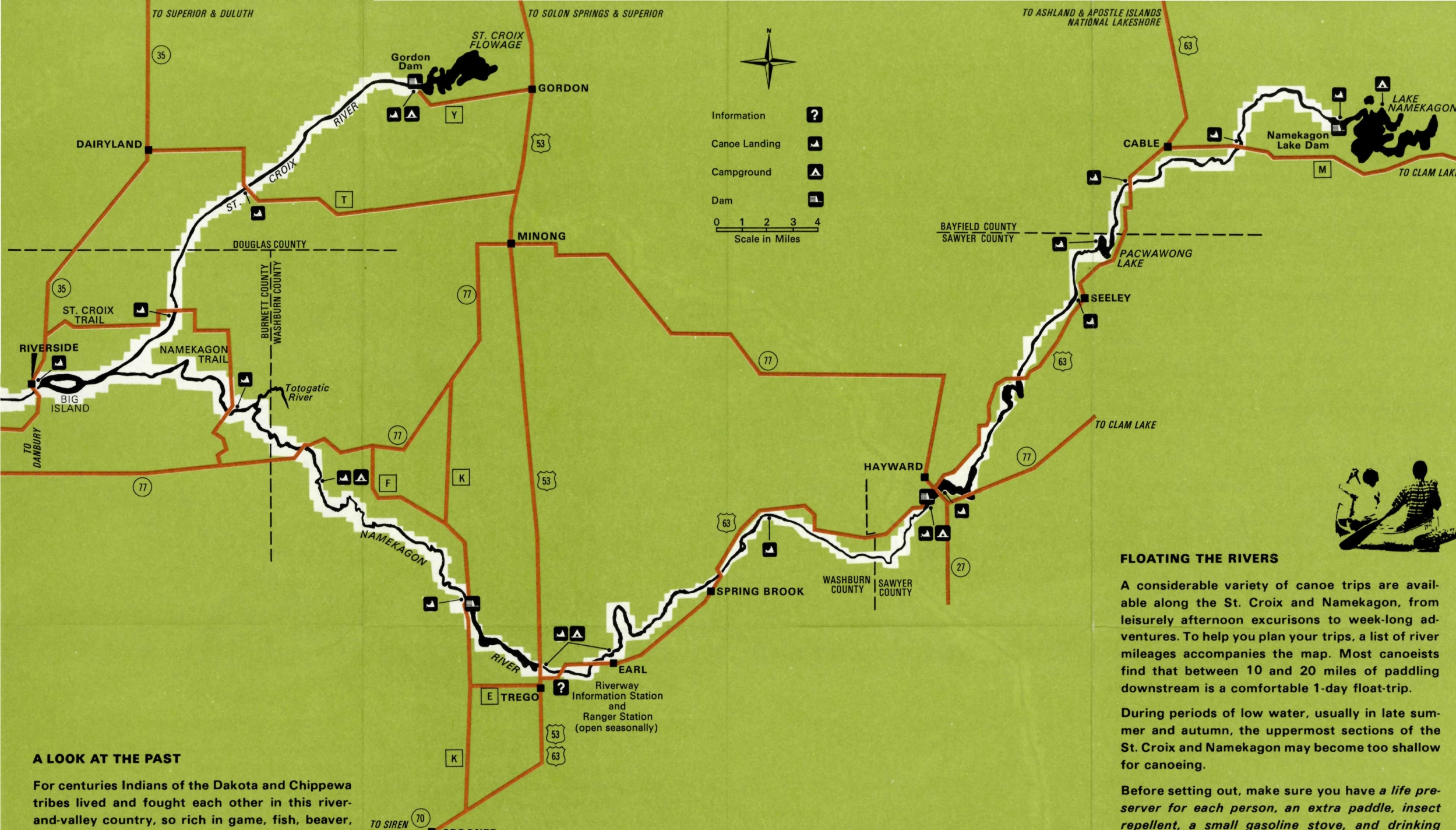
Fishing is popular because of the wide variety of species. Bass, muskellunge, walleye pike, and sturgeon can all be taken. The Namekagon River is noted for its brown trout. A fishing license is needed along the riverway; and on that portion of the St. Croix forming the boundary between Wisconsin and Minnesota, a license from either State is valid for those fishing from a boat.

The islands and swamps are covered with a mixed deciduous forest of maple, elm, and ash. As the ground becomes higher, white and red pine are mixed with oaks, birches, aspens, and other upland hardwoods.

GLACIERS MADE THE RIVERWAY

Evidence of a wide variety of geologic activity can be seen while floating the riverway. This part of Wisconsin and Minnesota is generally level. The slight rises are mainly along the river. The tremendous mass of the most recent glacial ice sheet which lumbered down from Canada 11,000 years ago, was the dominant geologic force. Great lobes of ice tended to level the land surface in some places and to gouge channels in others. Then the glaciers retreated and the meltwater from the face of one lobe used the St. Croix basin as an outlet to the sea. The valleys of today's rivers and streams were taking shape.

Rock outcrops are scattered throughout the riverway. The oldest of these are Precambrian metamorphic and volcanic formations one billion years old. Canoeing the St. Croix, you will encounter many rapids caused by the outcrops of very resistant Precambrian lavas. At other places you will notice high sandstone bluffs walling the river. These sedimentary formations are much more recent than the harder Precambrian rocks, though they were also deposited millions of years before the glaciers and were exposed only when the most recent glacier retreated. Then the tremendous volume of meltwater from the ice mass cut through the broad expanse of sandstone leaving high bluffs on each side of the St. Croix.



Mileage—Namekagon River

Namekagon Lake Dam	0
Bayfield County M	7
U.S. 63 Bridge	13½
Pacwawong Lake Landing	17
Wis. 27 Bridge	32½
Groat Landing	44½
Earl Bridge	58
U.S. 53 Bridge	62½
Washburn County K	67½
Howell Campground	81½
Mouth of the Totogatic River	92½
Namekagon Trail Bridge	93½
St. Croix River	98
Wis. 35 Bridge	101½

Mileage—St. Croix River

Gordon Dam	0
Douglas County T	9½
St. Croix Trail	16½
Mouth of Namekagon River	20
Wis. 35 Bridge	23½

mileage chart continues on other side

ADMINISTRATION

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The Superintendent's address is P.O. Box 708, St. Croix Falls, WI 54024.



FLOATING THE RIVERS

A considerable variety of canoe trips are available along the St. Croix and Namekagon, from leisurely afternoon excursions to week-long adventures. To help you plan your trips, a list of river mileages accompanies the map. Most canoeists find that between 10 and 20 miles of paddling downstream is a comfortable 1-day float-trip.

During periods of low water, usually in late summer and autumn, the uppermost sections of the St. Croix and Namekagon may become too shallow for canoeing.

Before setting out, make sure you have a life preserver for each person, an extra paddle, insect repellent, a small gasoline stove, and drinking water.

Firewood is very scarce in the vicinity of campsites, and the cutting of trees or brush is prohibited. Drinking water is available at only a few places along the rivers.

Remember to carry out whatever you carry in—do NOT bury trash.

Your help in keeping the rivers clean will make your next trip and everyone's more pleasant.

THE NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SYSTEM

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 is designed to preserve, in a natural condition, a nationwide system of free-flowing rivers of high scenic and recreational value. Waterways classified as scenic, such as major sections of the St. Croix and Namekagon must be free of manmade dams and appear from the water to be largely undeveloped.

A LOOK AT THE PAST

For centuries Indians of the Dakota and Chippewa tribes lived and fought each other in this river-and-valley country, so rich in game, fish, beaver, wild rice, and other plant foods. The Chippewa allied themselves with the French, the first European furtrappers to enter the area. From the French the Chippewa obtained guns, and in their ceaseless wars with the Dakota of the Sioux Family, they gained control and pushed their enemies onto the rolling plains of southern Minnesota. Later English traders began to compete for the beaver pelts and had gained control of the rich source of furs by 1763, when France lost Canada to Great Britain.

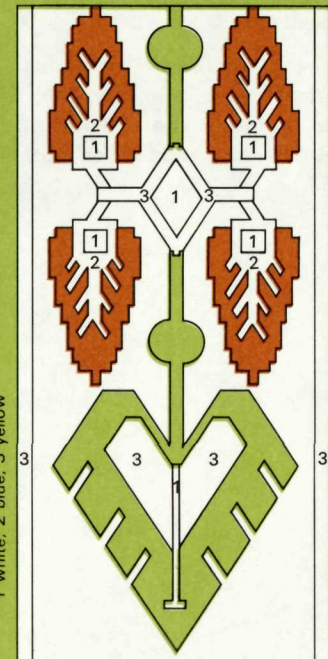
Furs were to remain the dominant export of this region until the early 1800's when settlers began arriving in the St. Croix valley. They soon made logging the principal industry. For 80 years, the forests rang with the sound of their axes and the rivers were crowded with logs floating down to the mills. The high point for lumber production in Wisconsin and Minnesota was reached in 1899, but the boom had tapered off by 1920. Another era had passed. Today, maturing second-growth hardwood forests have reclaimed much of the lands along the rivers.

A LOOK AT THE PRESENT

Although the national scenic riverway has been authorized by Congress, much of the land along the banks of the St. Croix and the Namekagon has not yet been acquired—it remains in private ownership. *Therefore, private dwellings and property rights must be respected.*

The park visitor center and headquarters is at St. Croix Falls, Wis. Riverway information stations are open in season—one on the upper St. Croix River near Grantsburg, Wis., and the other on the Namekagon River at Trego, Wis. The development of additional recreation facilities will require several years. Plans call for the development of canoe launching sites, parking and picnic areas, and a series of primitive campsites accessible only by boat.

Accommodations and supplies are available in the many nearby communities of Minnesota and Wisconsin. Commercial canoe outfitters are located along the riverway. A list of these firms may be obtained from the superintendent.



In all their handicrafts, the Ojibwa used colors of the intermediate (soft) hues of red, yellow, green, and blue. They extracted these vegetal dyes from local plants. Very dark blue and very dark green were used to provide the dark shades, where necessary. Sometimes they harmoniously employed up to twenty-five shades of color in one piece of bead embroidery.

1 white, 2 blue, 3 yellow