

St. Croix Riverway

National Scenic Riverway
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hiking

Established in 1968, the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway is a place of free flowing and unpolluted waters. While most explore the Riverway by water, it can be explored by foot. The National Park Service maintains seven hiking trails along the Riverway. Other trails exist in nearby state parks and state forests. As you hike the trails, take note of the scenery and wildlife. The trails can be enjoyed during all seasons. For more information contact St. Croix National Scenic Riverway headquarters office at (715) 483-3284. Trailguides are available for some trails.

Safety

The difficulty of the trails vary with uneven and unpaved surfaces, stairways, footbridges, and occasionally steep hills.

There may be temporary trail obstructions, such as downed trees. Wet and leaf-covered trails can be slippery.

Weather

Storms can come up rapidly. Lightning is attracted to water so move away from the river and avoid large trees.

Poison Ivy

Areas along the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway have poison ivy. This plant has three large saw-toothed and shiny to dull green leaves on a woody stem. It has clusters of pea sized white berries. The leaves turn red in the fall. It typically grows along forest edges.



Ticks

Both wood ticks and deer ticks are found along the Riverway. Deer ticks can transmit Lyme Disease. Tuck long pants into your socks and learn the symptoms of Lyme Disease.

Biting insects such as mosquitoes, deerflies and horseflies can be annoying. Bring repellent.



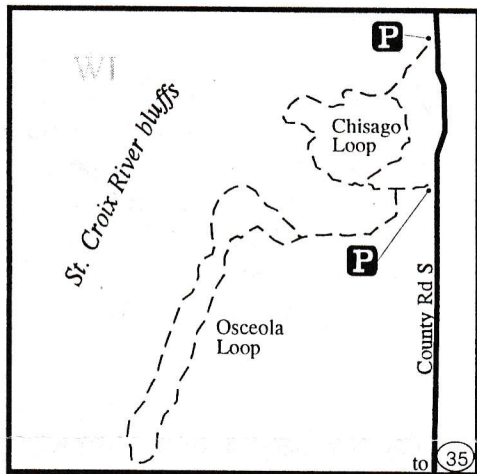
Deer tick



Wood tick

Regulations

Bicycles, ATV's, and motorized vehicles are NOT allowed on park trails. Berry picking for personal use is allowed. Hunting is permitted. Stop at a visitor center or call for more information.



Ridge View Trail

Length: 3 miles, 2 loops

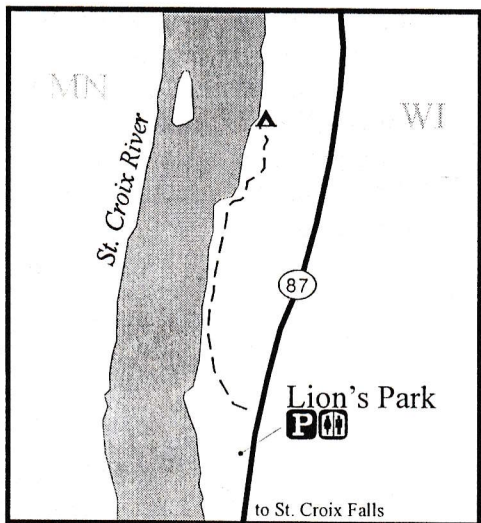
Difficulty: easy hiking, beginner to intermediate skiing

Nearest town: Osceola, WI

The north loop traverses basalt rock outcroppings, the south loop is more level as you hike through pine and deciduous woods. Vistas of backwaters of the St. Croix, called sloughs, are visible from the bluff side of the trail.

Humans have impacted this landscape. An observant eye can find evidence of use by American Indians and former settlers.

This is a great place to see scarlet tanagers, eagles, turkeys, grouse and other forest loving wildlife. Forest plantlife includes marsh marigolds and large maple trees.



Indianhead Flowage Trail

Length: 3/4 mile

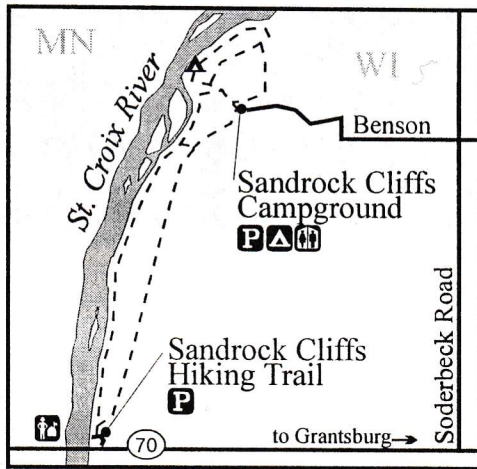
Difficulty: easy hiking. It is a handicapped accessible trail that leads to a handicapped accessible campsite.

Nearest town: St. Croix Falls, WI

This level trail crosses many bridged streams as it winds its way through woods and wetlands to the river. Spring wildflowers create spectacular splashes of color with trilliums, marshmarigolds,

blue flag iris, wild geraniums and more. Summer flowers are subdued by greenery and late-summer raspberries make a nice treat. Migratory songbirds as well as woodland residents can be glimpsed and heard if one walks quietly.

This trail is adjacent to Lion's Club Park, a large picnic area and a boat launch.



Sandrock Cliff Trail

Length: 5 miles, 5 loops

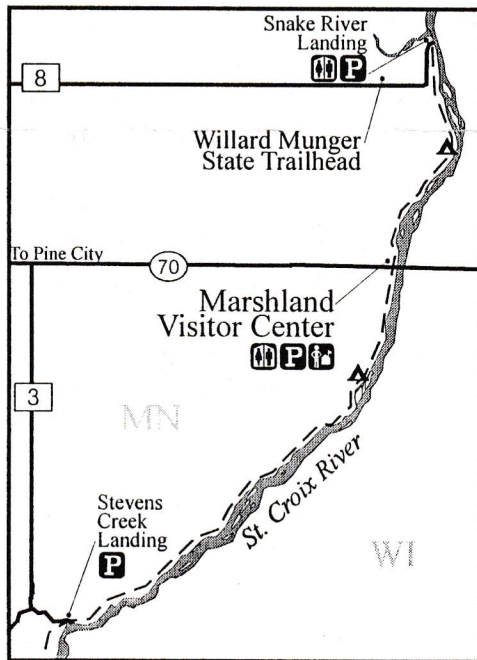
Difficulty: easy hiking, beginner to intermediate skiing

Nearest town: Grantsburg, WI

This loop trail follows the river closely, then turns onto a ridge providing a wide variety of terrain and scenery. The highlight of the trail is the picturesque sandstone cliffs located in a river side

channel. The story of this area begins 600 million years ago when warm Cambrian seas retreated from the region, laying down sediments which later became sandstone. Glacial meltwater carved the ridge into cliffs.

The trail is groomed for cross-country skiing. Trail maps are available at the Marshland Visitor Center.



St. Croix Trail

Length: 14 miles

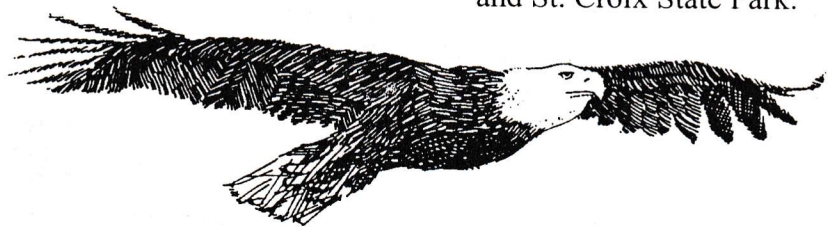
Difficulty: easy

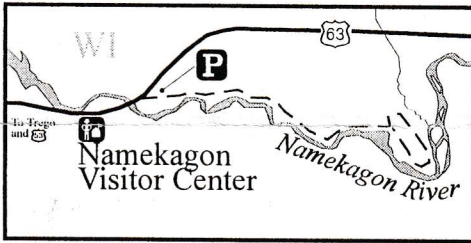
Nearest town: Grantsburg, WI
Pine City, MN

There are several primitive campsites located along this trail. Bridged streams frequently cross the trail and spring wildflowers are abundant in these areas.

Beaver activity is common here and several bald eagle nests are located on this stretch of river.

At the northern end of the trail, (Snake River Landing), you can hike a half mile along the road to the Willard Munger State Trail. The state trail follows a course through Chengwatana State Forest and St. Croix State Park.





Trego Nature Trail

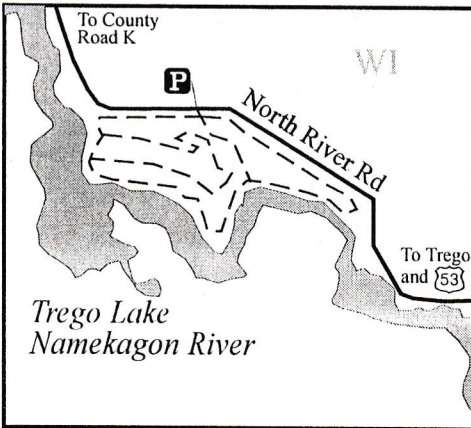
Length: 2.8 miles

Difficulty: easy

Nearest town: Trego, WI

Walk through several forest types and glimpse several beautiful views of the

Namekagon River on this trail. The diversity of life is one of the best features here. Wildlife seen includes deer, fox, otters and bobcats. In winter this trail is an excellent location for snowshoeing with an abundance of animal tracks and otter slides.



Trego Lake Ski Trail

Length: 3.6 miles, 3 loops

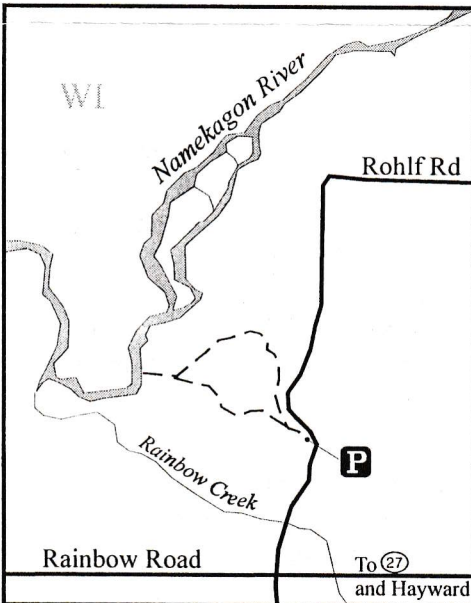
Difficulty: easy hiking, beginner to intermediate skiing

Nearest town: Trego, WI

This trail offers hikers many scenic overlooks of the river. This area has a large population of white-tailed deer and ruffed grouse. Watch the ground for

signs left by these animals as you hike along.

The trail is groomed for classic style cross-country skiing. The hills are moderate and wipe-out areas are provided. The inner loop should be skied after skills have been developed.



Namekagon-Court Oreilles Portage Trail

Length: .8 mile

Difficulty: easy

Nearest town: Hayward, WI

The trail passes through a second growth forest, which has various fungi, plants, wildflowers, and animals. A boardwalk allows hikers to walk through a wetland without damaging the delicate habitat.

The NW section of the historic Namekagon-Court Oreilles Portage Trail was located near the present day trail. The original trail was used by Native Americans, fur traders, and explorers to connect the St. Croix and Chippewa river systems. In 1784, Michel Cadotte operated a winter fur trading post near the trail.