

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway was established to preserve the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers as areas of natural and scenic value and for outdoor recreation.

The Namekagon River: Varies from an intimate cold-water trout stream, closed in by a predominantly coniferous forest, to a wider, slow-moving body of water which flows through marsh and swampland. Due to its narrow and twisting nature, these portions are best navigated by canoe.

Namekagon Dam to Hayward: A canoeist on this segment can expect a two-day trip with a mixture of stream and lake environment, as well as several rapids. Intimate, small, and narrow, best canoeing is May - June.*

Hayward to Trego: A two-day trip; the river is relatively narrow, has a good gradient, some rapids and generally a good water level. The sounds of civilization may be heard in this section.

County K Landing to Riverside: A popular weekend river trip. The river is narrow, with steep sand banks, and provides a "backwoods" setting. A number of campsites are along this stretch.

The St. Croix River: The river changes from narrow, to broad and shallow, to wide and deep, providing many moods and experiences. Upper section: canoes; middle: canoes and small fishing boats; Lower: motorized boats, sailboats, and canoes.

Gordon Dam to Riverside: A two-day trip that can usually only be done in the spring.* Canoeists should have some previous experience with rapids. Campsites are infrequent.

Riverside to Nelson Landing: A two-day trip with good and relatively easy canoeing conditions throughout the season. Will be passing along the shores of St. Croix State Park (MN).

Nelson Landing to Highway 70: A one-day trip along some of the fastest water on the St. Croix. This section contains rapids which, except during periods of high water, are rated at Class I. (Easiest)

Highway 70 to St. Croix Falls: A two to three-day leisurely trip. The river is wide and slow moving. Wild River State Park (MN) is located near Nevers Dam. The dam at St. Croix Falls requires the river traveler to leave the river at Lions Club Park (MN & WI) or National Park Service Headquarters. A 1 1/4 mile portage around the dam exists on the MN side. (Map available at NPS Headquarters.)

Taylor Falls to Apple River: The river is characterized by high bluffs and numerous back channels; there are no rapids. This section provides an excellent one or two-day trip. Canoeing conditions are excellent in the main channel at most water levels; however, back channels may be inaccessible in periods of low water. Power boating is good, but tricky in low water. The area is a "slow speed" zone for powerboats. There are special rules that govern the use of powerboats from Taylor Falls to Stillwater. Pick up a copy at any National Park Service Visitor Center.

Apple River to Prescott: Area is used by motorized boats of varied sizes and sailboats. Water skiing is PROHIBITED Saturdays, Sundays, and on holidays after noon, due to the amount of boat traffic that is encountered. *This area is not recommended for canoeing.*

*Water levels are typically higher in spring, dropping during the summer. Rapids along the Riverway are rated as Class I, but high water makes rapids more dangerous and can raise difficulty to Class II or III. Inquire at NPS Visitor Centers for current conditions.

Average travel time by canoe: three miles/hour or 15 miles/day.

Camping: National Park Service campgrounds are primitive, and only accommodate tent camping. There are State and Private campgrounds in the area which offer RV camping and more facilities. NPS campgrounds are mainly accessible by boat or canoe; there are a few accessible by parking the vehicle and walking equipment in. Stop at one of the NPS Visitor Centers to find out where these are. A camping time limit of one night per site (21 nights per season), **in only designated campsites**, is enforced above Nevers Dam. Downstream from Nevers Dam to Stillwater, regulations are: seven nights per site (30 night per season). Camping is allowed in non-designated areas, except where private development exists or where posted. Due to mixed ownership (Federal, State, & private), we ask that you show consideration and camp in designated sites when possible.

Other accommodations: Motels, cabins and resorts are found in the area. They are located along the Riverway and along nearby lakes and rivers.

To obtain more tourist information:

In Minnesota contact: DNR Information Center, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4040, (612)296-6157, toll free in MN 800-652-9747; **Minnesota Office of Tourism**, 375 Jackson St. 250 Skyway Level, St. Paul, MN 55101, 800-657-3700; or **Local area Chambers of Commerce**.

In Wisconsin contact: DNR Bureau of Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53703, (608)266-2181; **Wisconsin Division of Tourism, Department of Development**, 123 West Washington Ave., P.O. Box 7606, Madison, WI 53707, 1-800-432-TRIP; or **Local area Chambers of Commerce**.

Fishing: Good trout fishing on the Namekagon River above Hayward, WI. Smallmouth bass and muskellunge are often caught above St. Croix Falls, WI; below the dam, a variety of warm water fish may be caught. Either a Minnesota or Wisconsin fishing license is required, depending on where you are fishing. Please observe size and creel limits. Contact State DNR offices for specific fishing regulations. The St. Croix is considered a boundary river and is referred to specifically in both State fishing regulations booklets.

Canoe rentals: Outfitters are located all along the Riverway. Prices vary, but the average is \$16.00-\$20.00 per day. Shuttle services may be charged in addition to the rental fee. Contact any NPS Visitor Center for a listing of outfitters.

CARING FOR YOUR RIVER--

- * Practice low impact use. Leave no evidence presence.
- * Pack out all garbage. There are garbage cans at landings.
- * If toilets are not available, bury human waste 6" deep, 100' from the river and campsites.
- * Keep all soaps (even biodegradable) away from the river.
- * Use a stove. Firewood is scarce and often wet. Dry conditions may prohibit open fires if you do have a fire, use DOWN and DEAD wood only. Keep the fire small, in fire rings provided. Douse well before you leave.
- * Help prevent erosion--stay off sand banks.
- * All mussels/clams and empty shells are protected. Please do not disturb them.

LOOK OUT for...

- * **OVERHANGING** or **DOWNED TREES** - They can overturn a canoe and trap canoers.
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- * **SUNBURN** - Even on cloudy days. of your
- * **TICKS** - Learn symptoms of Lyme Disease.
- * **POISON IVY** - common at wood's edge - (three shiny, large-toothed leaves)
- * **MOSQUITOES** - Bring repellent or netting
- * **SAFETY** - Wear your life preserver.

CAMPING --

- * By canoe...permitted along river. Please use designated sites when possible.
- * A few designated camp sites are larger. Groups of 6 or more should use them. Contact the Park for more information.
- * Many campgrounds have drinking water available. Elsewhere on the river you will need to boil, filter, or treat river water or carry your own.

For more information: Namekagon District (Trego, WI) - 715/635-8346
Marshland District (Hwy 70, MN) - 612/629-2148
Headquarters (St. Croix Falls, WI) -715/483-3284
Lower District (Stillwater, MN) - 612/430-1938