



Paddling Guide to the Namekagon River

Water levels on the Namekagon River depend on the amount of precipitation that falls within the watershed. Water level information and detailed section maps can be obtained from Riverway visitor centers or online at www.nps.gov/sacn. River miles (**for example N92.2**) correspond to the river miles indicated on these maps. Not all facilities are listed here, it is best to use this guide with section maps.

River Stretch	Description
Namekagon Dam to Cable Wayside	The river here is narrow and shallow with stretches of rocky rapids. Water levels can be extremely low and impassable during dry conditions. From Phillipi Landing (N88.6) to Cable Wayside (N86.0) water levels tend to be slightly better. The first ten miles of this stretch are isolated; expect numerous beaver dams, strainers (downed trees), and three low bridges.
Cable Wayside to Phipps Landing	This section may be challenging during times of low water. Downstream from Cable Wayside (N86.0) the river is calm, but shallow and rocky. It is usually possible to get a canoe under the low bridge at Leonard Schoolhouse Road (N84.7) , but there is also a portage to the right. A chute at the old Pacwawong Dam site (N82.2) can be canoed during high water or look for a portage to the right. Watch out for stainers. In several places there are many channels around islands. Downstream from Larsen Landing (N77.8) the river is rocky with several small rapids.
Phipps Landing to Hayward Landing	As you enter Phipps Flowage (N74.4) , the river is slow with the channel becoming deep and wide. At the old Phipps Dam site (N72.8) , you can usually run the rapids or look for the sign to portage right. From Trout Run Landing (N72.0) to Hospital Road (N69.8) you may encounter large groups of people on tubes. Hayward Lake (N68.0) is large and open, making paddling difficult during a strong headwind. At the end of the lake, you must portage (on left) the dam. Be careful as the portage is sometimes slippery.
Hayward Landing to Big Bend Landing	After Hayward Landing (N66.1) the river is rocky and narrow, with a few small rapids, but a few miles downstream the river becomes sandy and slow. Water levels are usually good. Just downstream from Stinnett Landing (N57.7) the river narrows forming a chute. As you continue downstream the river quickens with many Class I rapids. Watch for the main channel, smaller channels may be shallow or blocked. Downstream of Springbrook Landing (N49.9) , the river is mostly calm with a few small riffles and rapids.
Big Bend Landing to Lakeside Road Landing	After Big Bend Landing (N45.0) the river widens, slows, becomes sandy, and is an easy paddle. Earl Park Landing (N41.3) is a popular put-in spot for people on tubes on hot summer days. Downstream, the river becomes narrow, often breaking into channels with a few rapids.
Lakeside Road Landing to County Road K Landing	Shortly after the Lakeside Road Landing (N37.3) the river passes under Highway 53 and then there are five miles of slow paddling through the Trego Flowage (N36.5) . Be aware of wakes from fast moving boats. Once through the flowage there will be a sign for the required portage (on right) around the Trego Dam (N31.6) .
County Road K Landing to Howell Landing	Downstream of County Road K Landing (N31.2) the river is narrow and contains riffles. Islands and sandbars are frequently encountered, however, water levels are usually good. After Whispering Pines Landing (N21.3) the river widens and slows.
Howell Landing to the confluence	Downstream of Howell Landing (N16.9) the river is somewhat rocky until you pass Highway 77, then it becomes sandy. Fritz Landing (N13.7) can be hard to see. Watch for a small island and use the left channel if taking out here. The river widens after McDowell Bridge Landing (N11.2) . After Namekagon Trail Landing (N4.8) the river becomes rockier with riffles and there are several Class I rapids before the confluence. The St. Croix River has a rocky bottom and is shallow, making it challenging during low water conditions. There are more rapids as you approach Riverside Landing (S131.7) .

