FOUNDATION

LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

On October 2, 1968, Congress passed Public Law 90-542 that created the Wild and Scenic Rivers System (16 U.S.C. 1271-1287). The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway was one of the first eight rivers to be designated a Wild and Scenic River. The Act stated, "*It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.*"

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act further states that, "*a wild, scenic, or recreational river eligible to be included in the system is a free-flowing stream and the related adjacent land area that possesses one or more of the values referred to (above)... and, if included shall be classified, designated, and administered as one of the following:*

1) Wild river areas — Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

2) Scenic river areas — Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

3) Recreational river areas — Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past."

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

(P.L. 90-542, as amended)
(16 U.S.C. 1271-1287)

[1]An Act
To provide for a National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that,

(a) this Act may be cited as the "Wild and Scenic Rivers Act."

Congressional declaration of policy.

(b) It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Congress declares that the established national policy of dam and other construction at appropriate sections of the rivers of the United States needs to be complemented by a policy that would preserve other selected rivers or sections thereof in their free-flowing condition to protect the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes.

Congressional declaration of purpose.

(c) The purpose of this Act is to implement this policy by instituting a national wild and scenic rivers system, by designating the initial components of that system, and by prescribing the methods by which and standards according to which additional components may be added to the system from time to time.

Composition of system; requirements for State-administered components.

SECTION 2. (a) The national wild and scenic rivers system shall comprise rivers (i) that are authorized for inclusion therein by Act of Congress, or (ii) that are designated as wild, scenic or recreational rivers by or pursuant to an act of the legislature of the State or States through which they flow, that are to be permanently administered as wild, scenic or recreational rivers by an agency or political subdivision of the State or States concerned, that are found by the Secretary of the Interior, upon application of the Governor of the State or the Governors of the States concerned, or a person or persons thereunto duly appointed by him or them, to meet the criteria established in this Act and such criteria supplementary thereto as he may prescribe, and that are approved by him for inclusion in the system, including, upon application of the Governor of the State concerned, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, Maine; that segment of the Wolf River, Wisconsin, which flows through Langlade County; and that segment of the New River in North Carolina extending from its confluence with Dog Creek downstream approximately 26.5 miles to the Virginia State line. Upon receipt of an application under clause (ii) of this subsection, the Secretary shall notify the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and publish such application in the *Federal Register*. Each river designated under clause (ii) shall be administered by the State or political subdivision thereof without

Public Law 90-542 (above) created the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act on October 2, 1968. On that same date, Congress amended the Act by designating St. Croix National Scenic Riverway as one of the first eight rivers of the national wild and scenic rivers system. On October 25, 1972, Congress amended the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and added the Lower St. Croix NSR to the Riverway through Public Law 92-560. Copies of all legislation related to the Riverway's creation will be in Appendix A.

RIVERWAY SUMMARY

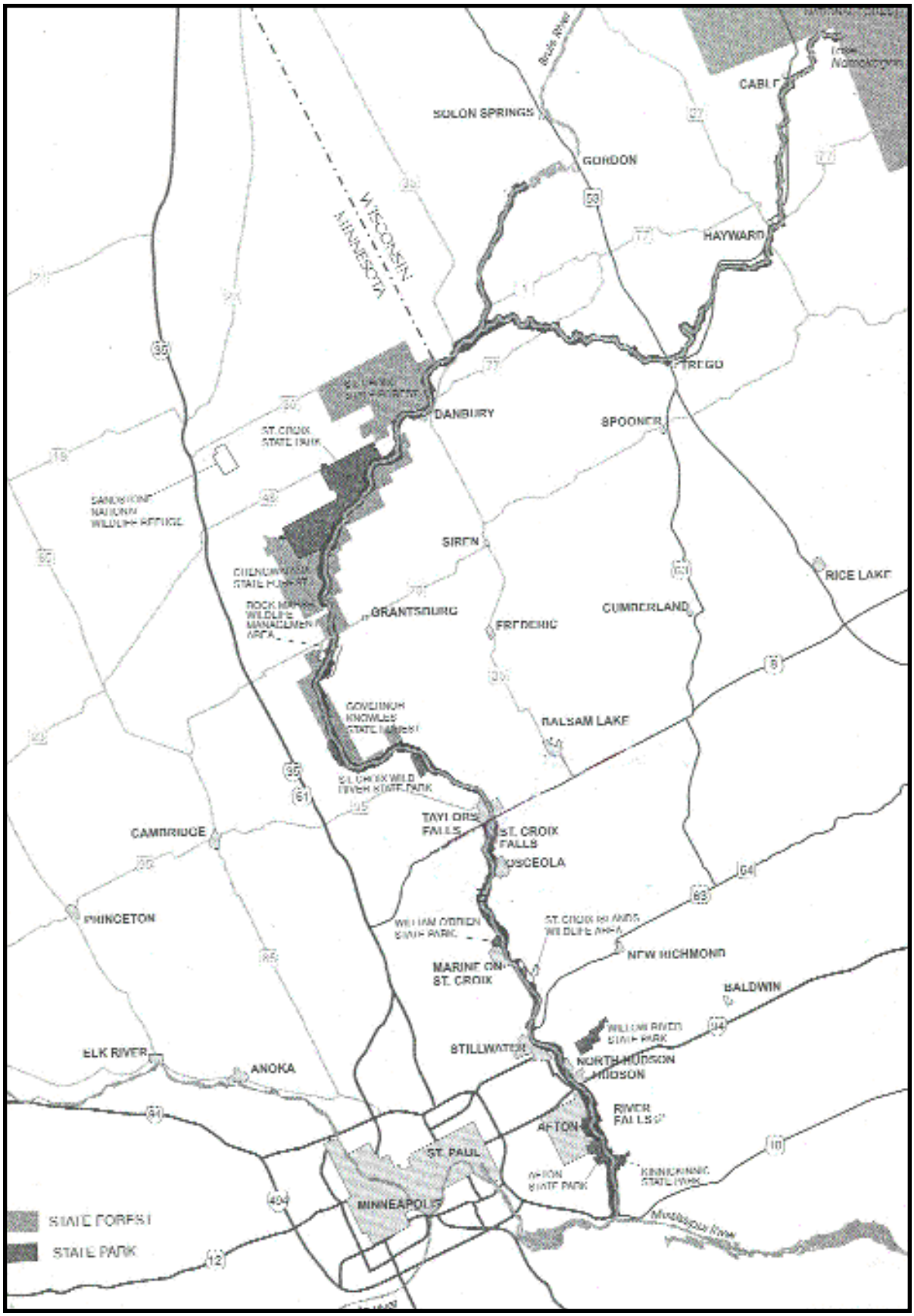
St. Croix National Scenic Riverway (often abbreviated the "Riverway" in this document) –– located in northwest Wisconsin and eastern Minnesota –– is administered by the National Park Service (NPS).

A complex patchwork of ownership occurs within the boundaries of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway which was divided into two management areas at the time of its creation. Minnesota and Wisconsin have the responsibility to manage the Riverway from mile 26.4 downstream to its confluence with the Mississippi. Within this stretch of the Riverway, 282 acres of land are under scenic easements to one of the two states and some land is owned as state parks and boat landings.

The NPS is responsible for managing the St. Croix River from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Boomsite Landing at mile 26.4 upstream to a dam near Gordon, Wisconsin and the entire Namekagon River. The NPS holds title to 25,988 acres (33%) within the current boundaries of this part of the Riverway; 14,448 acres (19%) are privately owned with scenic easements purchased by the NPS that establish conditions for future development of this land; 4,445 acres (6%) within the Riverway boundaries remain in private ownership without restrictions; and 32,781 acres (42%) are other public lands within the boundaries managed by states, counties, or townships.

Due to the complexity of public land ownership, surface water use, and hunting and fishing regulations, the Riverway requires cooperation between the National Park Service, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources throughout the Riverway. This cooperation extends to the provision of recreational opportunities such as camping and hiking in state parks and forests located within the Riverway's boundaries.

Riverway management, administration, interpretation, maintenance, law enforcement, and resource management have staff at park headquarters in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin. Interpretation, law enforcement, and maintenance also work out of district facilities along both rivers.


SOLON SPRINGS
GORDON
CABLE
HAYWARD
WISCONSIN
MINNESOTA
TREGO
DANBURY
SPOONER
ST. CROIX STATE PARK
SIREN
RICE LAKE
CUMBERLAND
GRANTSBURG
FREDERIC
BALSAM LAKE
ST. CROIX WILD RIVER STATE PARK
TAYLORS FALLS
ST. CROIX FALLS
OSCEOLA
CAMBRIDGE
PRINCETON
WILLIAM O'BRIEN STATE PARK
ST. CROIX BLUFFS WILDLIFE AREA
NEW RICHMOND
MARINE ON ST. CROIX
BALDWIN
WILLOW RIVER STATE PARK
STILLWATER
NORTH HUDSON
HUDSON
ELK RIVER
ANOKA
RIVER FALLS
AFTON
ST. PAUL
AFTON STATE PARK
KINNICKINNIC STATE PARK
MINNEAPOLIS
Mississippi River
STATE FOREST
STATE PARK

PURPOSE

Purpose statements tell why this park was set aside as a unit of the national park system and the national wild and scenic rivers system.

The purpose of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway is to:

- Preserve the St. Croix and Namekagon rivers in a natural and relatively free-flowing condition;
- Preserve, enhance, and restore the ecological integrity of the St. Croix and Namekagon rivers;
- Protect and enhance the exceptional natural, scenic, and cultural resources of the Riverway for current and future generations;
- Provide for a diverse range of recreational opportunities along the Riverway without detracting from the exceptional natural, cultural, scenic, and aesthetic resources;
- Provide opportunities for learning and study of the geologic, cultural, ecological, and aesthetic values to further enhance stewardship of the Riverway; and
- Provide an environment that allows the opportunity for peace and solitude.

The Purpose and Significance statements stated in this document derive from two documents: the General Management Plan 1998 (covering St. Croix Falls to the northern Riverway boundaries on the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers) and the Cooperative Management Plan 2001 (covering the St. Croix River from the dam at St. Croix Falls to the mouth of the St. Croix River; this includes both the federal and state management zones). The purpose and significance statements from the General Management Plan can be found in Appendix B, and the purpose and significance statements from the Cooperative Management Plan are in Appendix C.

SIGNIFICANCE

Statements of significance clearly define the most important aspects of the park's resources and values. The following significance statements for St. Croix National Scenic Riverway come from the 1998 General Management Plan for the Upper St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers, the 2001 Cooperative Management Plan for the Lower St. Croix River, and Riverway staff:

- The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway contains an unrivaled combination of exceptional natural, scenic, aesthetic, cultural, and recreational values.
- The St. Croix and Namekagon rivers serve as a protected north-south corridor and refuge for large populations of diverse flora and fauna including federal-listed and state-listed endangered species.
- Riverway resources occur at the convergence of the three major biomes: prairie, deciduous hardwood forest, and coniferous forest.
- A diversity of scenic, geologic, economic, cultural, natural, and recreational resources combine to provide an outstanding and accessible public resource in the Upper Midwest.
- The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway resources exist within close proximity to major urban population centers in the Upper Midwest.
- A wide variety of high-quality recreational experiences can be found along the Riverway that may satisfy visitor expectations from solitude to dynamic social interactions.
- The St. Croix and Namekagon rivers functioned as a traditional transportation corridor between the Great Lakes and Mississippi valley and retain cultural resources (archeological and historical) that reflect thousands of years of human use.
- As one of the original rivers designated under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway serves as a window into the environmental history of the United States and the revolutionary change from river exploitation to river protection.

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway preserves, protects, restores, enhances, and interprets the Riverway's exceptional natural and cultural resources for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

INTERPRETIVE THEMES

Interpretation strives to establish a caring relationship between a person and a place by provoking understanding, appreciation, and multiple perspectives of a given place. The purpose of National Park Service (NPS) interpretation is to offer opportunities for visitors to make their own intellectual and emotional connections to meanings inherent in the park's resources. These connections can help create stewards for the park's resources. NPS interpreters consciously and professionally craft these opportunities to relate broadly to each visitor's experience or background.

Tangible Resources/Intangible Concepts

Tangibles resources are objects, places, events, or people. They have or once had a physical presence. Intangible concepts are emotions, processes, ideas, relationships, and values. Through the intellectual knowledge or emotions that visitors have previously experienced, intangible concepts allow visitors to connect a personal meaning with the park's tangible resources.

For example, the following short list shows some of the park's tangible resources and some intangible concepts that today's visitors may relate to or associate with the tangible resources:

Tangible (Resources)	Intangible (Meanings)
Water…….	Dynamic, health, life, fun, challenge, change
Wetlands ……	Home, survival, dependence, storage, buffer
Wildlife ……..	Survival, balance, family, adaptation, diverse
Forests ……	Relief, survival, beauty, wealth, peace, stability
Fur trade artifacts…...	Cooperation, change, conflict, exploration
Geology/bedrock ……..	Discovery, permanence, origins

This list is not all-inclusive by any means. Riverway educators and park partners will use the tangible/intangible concepts from this list and other sources as they develop educational programs. Riverway educators, park partners, and media specialists will also use the interpretive theme statements on the next two pages when developing their educational programs and interpretive media.

Interpretive Theme Statements

A theme provides organization to cohesively develop a meaningful idea or ideas that will inspire connections. A theme should link a tangible resource to its intangible meanings, thereby making the subject of the presentation relevant to the audience. Visitors will be exposed to the following themes through education programs and interpretive media.

Geology & Hydrology

The St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers reflect the current climate and recent happenings, but the St. Croix Valley reveals and reflects its turbulent past as a glacial outlet.

Powerful geologic forces of volcanism, glaciation, and erosion created visible features in the valley through which the river flows, influencing the plants and animals that live there.

Ecological Crossroads

The Riverway retains qualities of a pristine riverine environment within the complex convergence of three major biomes –– prairie, deciduous hardwood forest, and coniferous forest –– that intersect to create a rich, yet fragile diversity of habitats for plants and animals.

The protected, linear nature of the Riverway provides a refuge and a corridor for movement for a diversity of wildlife including some threatened and endangered species.

The protection of habitat for endangered or threatened species helps to maintain the natural systems on which all flora and fauna depend.

River of Life

The St. Croix and Namekagon are dynamic, resilient floodplain rivers that sustain a variety of life as they drain, interact with, and change the landscape they run through.

Below the water surface there is an enigmatic world that few visitors see or appreciate, dependent on high water quality and bursting with life including species of fish, aquatic insects, and mussels which are both common and rare.

A Fragile Place

Despite past resilience, increasing numbers of exotic species, expanding urban development, and water pollutants increasingly threaten to diminish the quality of the natural and scenic resources the Riverway was established to preserve.

Protecting a river involves care for the entire watershed –– the lands and waters that drain into it –– not just the river alone.

Human Highway and Home

The change in people's relationship to the river valley from harvest and manipulation, toward valuing the river valley's own unique characteristics, is demonstrated in the history of human use and people's current attitude toward these rivers.

The history of these rivers is a regional and international story of a homeland and battleground for American Indians; an outpost for the European fur trade; and the river and valley as a source of wealth, destruction, and homes for the expanding United States and its people.

Many people from the time of glacial retreat through to today's visitors have found their needs for physical, economic, and spiritual survival met through their interaction with the St. Croix and Namekagon rivers.

The Riverway landscape bears witness to the people who came before us through, towns, farms, historic structures, ruins, vegetative changes, and discarded objects.

Wild River Recreation

The Riverway offers opportunities for physical challenges and spiritual renewal through a diversity of recreational activities such as canoeing, boating, fishing, camping, and hiking in a natural and sustainable setting close to a major metropolitan area.

The Riverway includes scenic and varied landscapes, creating a setting to enjoy recreational opportunities while seeking the essence of nature, and solitude and contemplation away from the hectic pace of urban living.

Conservation

People treasured the existing scenic beauty and recreational opportunities of the St. Croix and Namekagon rivers enough to protect them from further development as part of the landmark legislation of the original Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968.

The national environmental and conservation movement to protect special places with significant natural and cultural resources is reflected in the efforts of many individuals and groups to save the St. Croix and Namekagon rivers as places to visit, enjoy, and cherish.

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway is part of the larger National Park System –– areas set aside to preserve, protect and restore this nation's natural and cultural treasures as an inheritance for future generations.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE GOALS

Experience Goals for All Park Visitors

Visitors to St Croix NSR learn about the Riverway at a variety of on-site locations (or before an on-site visit, or without an on-site visit). During their visit, it is expected that all visitors — through interacting with the park's website, signage, facilities, interpretive media, or educational programs — should have the opportunity to:

- Discover their own personal connections to the meanings and significance inherent in the natural and cultural resources of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway.
- Easily find orientation information for planning a trip to the Riverway on the website, at a Riverway visitor center, or in a neighboring community or partner location.
- Safely participate in a variety of recreational activities to experience the river in ways that do not interefere with other visitors, neighbors, or adversely impact the Riverway resources.
- Understand that St. Croix NSR is a unit of the National Park System.
- Understand the regulations that apply to using the Riverway.
- Demonstrate stewardship by experiencing the St. Croix and Namekagon rivers and recreating in a manner that promotes and enhances the natural and cultural resources of the Riverway.
- Enjoy the natural and cultural landscapes of St. Croix Riverway while on the river or enjoying the view from roadways, bridges, or overlooks.
- Purchase publications, maps, and other educational materials that will enhance their experience or increase their knowledge of and connection to the Riverway.
- Find descriptions of river features and the type of experience likely to be found in river segments — from remote, natural experiences to more social, cultural experiences.
- Interact with staff who are professional and courteous, leaving a positive impression of the Riverway and the National Park Service.

Visitor Experience Goals for "Group Types"

When visitors in the "group types" (below and on next page) come to St. Croix NSR, they should also have opportunities to achieve the visitor experience goals listed under the following group types:

Visitor Center Visitors (includes all visitors who go into any of the Riverway's visitor centers) will have opportunities to:

- Access orientation information for their visit.
- View interpretive media that reveals park themes and stories.
- Get a glimpse and insight into the rivers' characteristics and environment if they do not have an opportunity to spend time on the rivers.

River Users (includes all visitors who use the Riverway for fishing, canoeing, boating, and other recreational pursuits) should have the opportunity to:

- Find information on businesses that have National Park Service permits to provide rental or other services to visitors.
- Determine their location while on the rivers through maps and mile markers, enabling them to find campsites and landings.
- Learn about the natural and cultural heritage of specific sites within the Riverway.

River Neighbors (includes local residents from the St. Croix Valley, Northwest Wisconsin, and the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area; and area native tribes) should have the opportunity to:

- Demonstrate that they value having the recreational, natural, and cultural resources of the Riverway as part of their community.
- Recognize that the shared values of natural beauty, outdoor recreation, and cultural pride are the basis for productive relationships between the Riverway and its neighbors.
- Assist Riverway staff to protect and restore resources as volunteers.
- Provide input to Riverway management in shaping management decisions.
- Understand changes in management of Riverway resources that affect their property and use of the rivers.
- Use the Riverway recreational experiences to promote tourism to their communities.

Visitor Experience Goals for "Group Types" (continued)

Organized Groups (includes community organizations, camps, scout groups, specific interest groups) should have the opportunity to:

- Understand the shared values of the National Park Service and their organization.
- Participate in service projects and hands-on experiences to provide greater connection between Riverway resources and the participants.
- Easily find information about the special requirements of bringing a group to visit the Riverway.
- Schedule a program appropriate to interests and age presented by a Riverway educator.

Education Groups (includes curriculum-based programs for classes from Kindergarten through college) should have the opportunity to:

- Participate in curriculum -based education programs presented by park staff either at the Riverway or at an off-site location. Programs will meet Minnesota or Wisconsin state standards for the appropriate grade levels using age-appropriate educational techniques.
- Participate in pre-visit and post-visit activities that enhance connections to meanings and enhance the learning process for the group.
- Participate in service projects and hands-on experiences to help provide greater connection between the resources and the students.
- Participate in teacher-directed programs using materials and training provided by the National Park Service.

"Virtual Visitors" (includes visitors who do not actually experience the park, except through the Riverway's internet website) should have the opportunity to:

- Be provoked to further explore, understand, and care about the resources of the Riverway and perhaps plan a future visit.
- Find answers to their questions about the Riverway or are able to send an email requesting further information.
- Easily navigate the park's website to learn about the Riverway's natural and cultural resources.
- Print photographs, maps, and other information pertaining to the Riverway's resources.
- Find links or information on sites associated with the Riverway.

VISITOR PROFILES

Visitation Figures*, St Croix National Scenic Riverway

Annual Visitation, 1985 - 2004

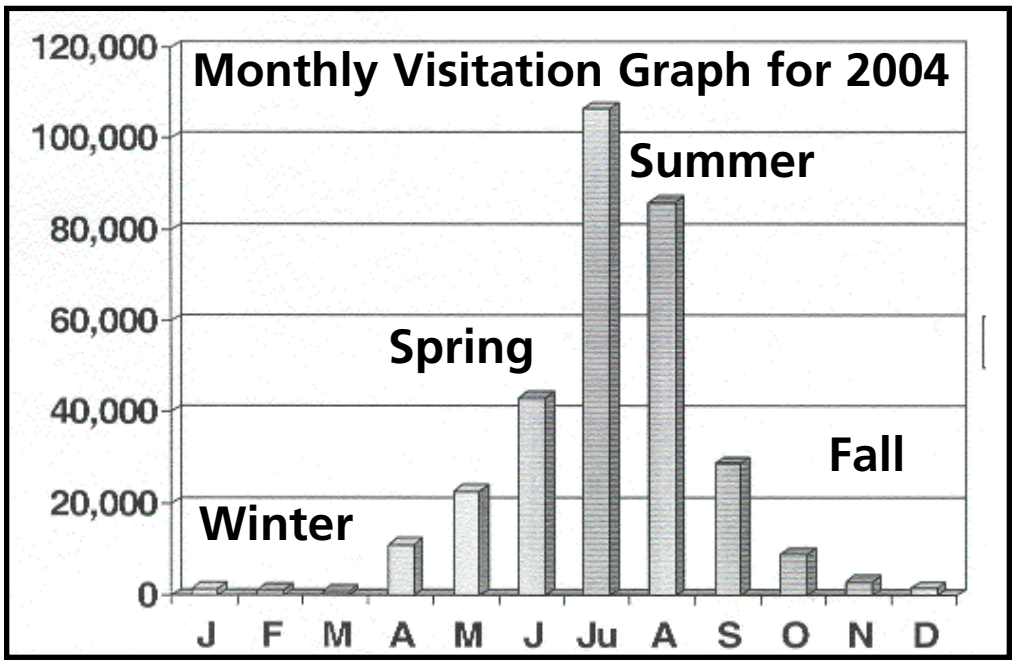
1985: 439,003	1990: 489,274	1995: 458,525	2000: 369,736
1986: 438,772	1991: 448,790	1996: 422,653	2001: 257,903
1987: 625,549	1992: 500,960	1997: 423,622	2002: 279,060
1988: 529,414	1993: 373,518	1998: 452,748	2003: 282,838
1989: 553,779	1994: 424,835	1999: 328,506	2004: 313,904

* These figures are based on computations by the National Park Service Public Use Statistics Office in Denver, Colorado, which estimates monthly and annual visitation statistics based on counts at specific locations within the Riverway. After 1993 it appears that a multiplier was dropped. **Thus the numbers are lower than they should be, but they do accurately reflect trends from 1993 on.** In 2001 the formula for St. Croix Riverway's statistics was changed leading to the significant difference in visitation (see figures above) between 2000 and 2001. Future figures will be correctly multiplied by the National Park Service, but they do not intend to go back and correct previous year figures.

Monthly Visitation, 2004

January	1,467	May	22,634	September	28,689
February	1,077	June	43,078	October	8,048
March	699	July	106,529	November	3,053
April	11,154	August	85,937	December	1,539

Total visitors to St. Croix NSR in 2004 = 313,904



Visitation to the Riverway's Visitor Centers

Namekagon Visitor Center located in Trego, Wisconsin (Open daily Memorial Day through Labor Day; weekends in May and September.)

Annual visitation:

2003: 4,210 (Closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays during summer)

2002: 4,733 (Closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays during summer)

2001: 5,188

2000: 3,898 (Permanent position was vacant part of year)

1999: 6,759

Average annual visitation at NVC over five years (1999-2003) was 4,958

Marshland Center located in Wisconsin where U.S. Hwy 70 crosses the St. Croix River between Pine City, Minnesota and Grantsburg, Wisconsin. (From 1999-2001, open daily Memorial Day through Labor Day, and weekends in May and September. Marshland Center was closed in 2002 to drop-in visitation. It remains open May through September by reservation to groups for educational programs.)

Annual Visitation

2003: 790 (By reservation only for educational groups)

2002: 1,538 (By reservation only for educational groups)

2001: 3,455

2000: 3,547

1999: 4,862

Average annual visitation at MC for five years (1999-2003) was 2,838; For last three years the MC was open to drop-in visitation, 1999-2001, the average annual visitation was 3,955.

St. Croix Visitor Center located in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin. (The only visitor center with year-round visitation, the St. Croix Visitor Center is open daily May 1 through October 15; Monday-Friday the rest of the year. St. Croix VC has been closed since June, 2003 due to mold and will remain closed until new building is completed in 2006.)

Annual visitation

2002: 7,427

2001: 9,361

2000: 11,451

1999: 12,108

1998: 13,421

Average annual visitation at SCVC for five years (1998-2002) was 10,754

Visitor Studies

St. Croix NSR Visitor Study #111 by the Visitor Services Project, Cooperative Park Studies Unit, University of Idaho, summer, 1999

Visitor Use and demographic data from survey:

- 75% were returning visitors, and of those returning visitors, 50% were from Minnesota and 33% were from Wisconsin.
- Over half were traveling in family groups of 2 to 4 people
- Average age of visitors was 42 years, with 21% below 15 years
- Most (75%) spent less than 1 day at the Riverway, with over half of these spending less than 4 hours; 18% spent 2 to 3 days here.
- Top 5 activities during their visits were sightseeing, wildlife viewing, visiting a visitor center, canoeing, and hiking/walking. (When visitors were asked what was the most important activity they participated in on this visit, canoeing was the top answer by a significant number.)
- Top facilities used were parking lots, visitor centers, and bathrooms
- Visitor centers were rated as important and over 50% rated the quality of the visitor centers here as very good
- Maps and brochures were rated as important with over 50% rating what they saw as very good
- Visitor center exhibits were listed as moderately important and less than 50% of the people rated them as very good.
- River section maps were valued as extremely important by 60% of respondents who rated the maps as very good (54%) and good (24%)
- Bulletin boards were considered moderately important by 40% of respondents who rated them as average (37%) and very good (34%)

Visitor Activities during	This Visit	Past Visits
Sightseeing	62%	64%
Viewing Wildlife	51%	62%
Visiting Visitor Center	51%	52%
Canoeing	41%	64%
Walking/hiking	38%	54%
Swimming	30%	40%
Photography	27%	36%
Picnicking	27%	48%
Camping	25%	48%
Fishing	17%	36%
Boating	15%	23%
Floating River (tube)	13%	27%
Nature Study	8%	16%
Kayaking	6%	9%
Viewing Fall Colors	0% (summer survey)	32%

Visitor Studies

Each year, every park of the National Park System gives survey forms to selected visitors during a specified period of time (based on social science criteria) to evaluate visitor satisfaction with that park's facilities, services, and recreational opportunities. These surveys help satisfy the goals of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993.

Data from the 2004 GPRA Visitor Survey Cards

2004 Overall **quality of facilities, services, & recr. opportunities**

Very good: 49%
Good: 45% (94% satisfaction: combined Very Good and Good)
Average: 4%
Poor: 1%
Very Poor: 1%

2004 Specific **ratings: facilities, services, & recr. opportunities**

Category	Approval Ratings				
Park Facilities:	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Visitor Center	56%	38%	6%	0%	0%
Exhibits	41%	48%	10%	0%	0%
Restrooms	32%	31%	26%	5%	7%
Walkways, Trails, Roads	40%	47%	12%	1%	0%
Camp/Picnic Areas	46%	50%	3%	1%	0%
Combined Facilities:	**42%**	**42%**	**12%**	**2%**	**2%**

Visitor Services:	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Employee Assistance	56%	33%	8%	1%	1%
Ranger/Interp Programs	43%	43%	14%	0%	0%
Park Map or Brochure	49%	40%	11%	0%	0%
Commercial Services	36%	38%	21%	2%	2%
Combined Vis. Serv.:	**48%**	**38%**	**13%**	**1%**	**1%**

Recreation Ops.:	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Learning about ...	36%	46%	16%	2%	0%
Outdoor Recreation	64%	30%	5%	0%	0%
Sightseeing	56%	38%	6%	0%	0%
Combined Recr. Ops.:	**53%**	**38%**	**9%**	**0%**	**0%**

Visitor Studies

Overall Data from previous GPRA Visitor Survey Cards

2003 Overall **quality of facilities, services, & recr. opportunities**

Very good: 62%
Good: 32% (94% satisfaction: combined Very Good and Good)
Average: 4%
Poor: 1%
Very Poor: 0%

2002 Overall **quality of facilities, services, & recr. opportunities**

Very good: 59%
Good: 32% (91% satisfaction: combined Very Good and Good)
Average: 8%
Poor: 1%
Very Poor: 0%

Selected visitor comments on the Riverway's significance and general management from 2002 to 2004:

"Too many tubes on the river. It is loud and makes canoeing difficult."

"Love the undeveloped nature along the river."

"A true reflection of the beauty of the midwest."

"Need more supervision on the river."

"It is important for our children to understand and appreciate the outdoors. Parks like this one help educate children and enjoy nature."

"The river quality is excellent. It's a wonderful place for family outings."

"It protects a unique section of Riverway which might have vanished due to development."

"Restoring and preserving natural Riverway"

"It provides a scenic waterway for canoeing, kayaking and tubing. It also allows us to see wildlife in its natural environment."

"Dam"

"It is necessary to keep a few rivers pristine."

"A beautiful river with history important to our area. A chance to be in a bit of wilderness close to urban living."

ISSUES AND INFLUENCES

National and External Influences

NPS Strategic Plan

Within its Strategic Plan of 2002, the National Park Service stated these and other guiding principles to achieve its mission:

Productive Partnerships: Collaborate with federal, state, tribal, and local governments, private organizations, and businesses.

Citizen Involvement: Providing opportunities for citizens to participate in the decisions and actions of the National Park Service.

Heritage Education: Educating park visitors and the general public about their history and common heritage.

Excellent Service: Provide the best possible service to park visitors and partners.

Multi-jurisdictional

Numerous jurisdictions exist within and along the 252-mile Riverway, including two states, 11 counties, national and state forests, and state, county, and city parks. The Riverway itself is divided into a state administered zone and a federally administered zone. The Riverway, states, and counties have worked to enhance cooperation and unified regulations for law enforcement, fire management, and other emergency services. However, the array of government entities and parks challenges the Riverway staff when they try to reach out to gateway communities and potential partners in establishing relationships.

Management of Scenic Easements

There are almost 1,000 scenic easements owned by the federal government on private lands within Riverway boundaries. These easements limit development rights of property owners in areas such as building structures, using property for commercial purposes, and alteration of vegetation and cutting trees. The frequency of sale of these lands and interest in development of these lands is increasing. Coordination with counties for informing the Riverway of land ownership changes is challenging. Communication with owners of scenic easement lands is important because these owners can contribute significantly to the overall management of the Riverway through the choices the owners make in the use of their properties.

State and Federal Zones

Within the Riverway from Stillwater to the Mississippi River, the state Departments of Natural Resources for Minnesota and Wisconsin have primary management responsibility with the NPS as a partner.

Resource Issues

St. Croix NSR's rangers and resource management specialists identify and monitor natural and cultural resources and deal with many resource protection issues. More research is needed on many of these issues. As more information becomes available, the Riverway's interpretive staff can help the public appreciate park resources, understand park protection issues, and garner support for park actions.

Trash/Litter

The Riverway has instituted a "Carry in, Carry out" policy and a ban on glass beverage containers in response to this issue. Interpretation has created media and makes personal contacts in support of this issue.

Invasive Exotic Species

Invasive exotics species on land and in water can cause significant negative impacts on native plants and animals. Exotic species here include zebra mussels, rusty crayfish, spotted knapweed, garlic mustard, purple loosestrife, and Grecian foxglove. New invasive exotic species continue to be found, even while preventive and eradication efforts of known exotics impact the Riverway's staffing and available park funds.

Water Quality

Maintaining a high level of water quality is important for the resources dependent upon it and people using the rivers for recreation. The rivers must continue to be monitored for point and non-point sources of pollution so the Riverway can respond to threats within the watershed. The Riverway is also working on managing human waste sanitation. Riverway visitors need to use the park's sanitation facilities and be aware of proper methods for disposal of human waste. The Riverway needs to determine what facilities can be provided and what policies need to be established to continue to protect water quality. The importance of water quality is incorporated in interpretive media and public and educational outreach.

Historic Cabins

There are currently three federally owned historic cabins (and associated structures) within the Riverway. Additional Riverway properties are being evaluated for historical significance. These properties will be stabilized and/or restored and used for adaptive purposes. Some may be open to the public for educational purposes. The role of interpretation at these sites is likely to be aimed at promoting understanding of historic significance and preventing damage to the properties.

Interpretation Issues

Within St. Croix NSR, the following issues affect the interpretive staff's ability to serve visitors:

Visitors are widely dispersed

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway is not a park with entrance gates, a destination visitor center, and well-defined boundaries. Instead, visitors access the Riverway at more than 60 landings in two states, along 252 miles of the St. Croix and Namekagon rivers. Visitation is spread out along the two rivers with visitors generally traveling to different points along the Riverway without congregating in one place or at one time.

The National Park Service (NPS) does not operate campgrounds along the Riverway but maintains primitive shoreline campsites. Only a small percentage of Riverway visitors stop at NPS visitor centers. Many visitors are familiar with the Riverway and already have the information they need to safely pursue recreation on the river. Others hire businesses to plan and carry out their trip to the Riverway and rarely encounter NPS employees. Convenience of access, large percentage of return visitors, alternative sources of information including the web, familiarity of landscape, lack of difficult rapids, and lack of compelling exhibits are some possible reasons for declining visitation.

The dispersed nature of visitation along the linear Riverway is not optimal for interpretive services such as visitor centers, campfire programs, and conducted exploration activities. Most visitors are on the river for the day, stay at primitive campsites on the river's edge, or stay at nearby state, county, or private campgrounds. Visitors traveling over or along the Riverway on highways, or those not planning on any river recreation, are often those who stop at NPS visitor centers.

Jurisdictional Complexity

Riverway boundaries stretch over a multi-jurisdictional landscape along the border of the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin and include diverse ownership of adjacent public and private lands. Visitors are often confused about land ownership and appropriate recreational uses. The Riverway, the Departments of Natural Resources in both states, and other partners must improve signage to landings and use sites and clearly state their guidelines for recreation.

This complexity also makes it difficult for staff to make connections and build strong relationships with local governments, communities, school districts, and other entities. The number of contacts required to reach all neighbors is huge. The role of NPS educators in the state zone needs to determined.

Seasonal Visitation Fluctuations

Most river use occurs from mid-May through mid-October, with the majority of use between June and mid-August. Heaviest use occurs on weekends, with mid-week use by organized groups increasing. Riverway recreation is nearly non-existent in the winter months and very light during the shoulder seasons of spring and fall. Local school groups visit the Riverway most often in spring and fall.

Campgrounds and Interpretation

The Riverway has no camping areas with more than 10 campsites. Most campsites managed by the NPS are individual primitive shoreline campsites accessible only from the river. Therefore, interpreters have no NPS campgrounds where traditional campfire programs can be presented. Several large automobile campgrounds, with all the amenities, are located in state park and state forest properties adjacent to the Riverway. Large private campgrounds are also located near the Riverway. The role of NPS educators presenting campground programs at public and private campgrounds needs to be clarified.

New Expectations for Programming

Visitors increasingly demand "special programs," rather than the traditional park ranger programs, to attract them to the evening campfire programs. A decline in attendance at state park programs has been documented in the Lower District of the Riverway.

Environmental Education for Schools and Groups

The potential to present environmental education to local schools and youth organizations is tremendous because of the numerous school districts, towns, and cities within a short distasnce of the Riverway. However, many schools cannot afford to bus students to presentations at the Riverway. During spring, summer, and fall, when most current programming occurs because of climate, requests for programs have been denied because staff was not available to present the programs. (In 2003, more than 50 requests could not be met.) Developing education programs is a collateral duty of the district interpretive rangers.

Staffing

Current staff levels do not allow the fulfillment of all program requests that the Riverway receives from schools, organized groups, tourism businesses, and other agencies. The potential for programming is virtually unlimited if staff were available to fulfill requests and provide outreach to local communities. The volunteer program helps with event programming and may help fulfill future requests and increase outreach if volunteers could be found to present or assist with programs. Park staff is increasing its focus on training teachers and leaders to conduct their own programming using the Riverway.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Resource

Relatively free-flowing and unpolluted, the Namekagon and St. Croix rivers flow through some of the most scenic and least developed country in the Upper Midwest. In 1968, Congress established the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway — which includes the Namekagon River — as one of the original eight rivers protected under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. In 1972, the Lower St. Croix NSR was added to the system. Together they form a 252-mile Riverway that offers outdoor enthusiasts a chance to enjoy a variety of recreation opportunities within easy reach of Minneapolis-St. Paul and other metropolitan areas of the Upper Midwest.

On the Upper St. Croix and Namekagon, rocky stretches and low-level rapids can challenge the novice canoeist, although no section of the Riverway is classified as whitewater. The Namekagon River lies entirely in Wisconsin and begins as a narrow trout stream closed in by forest and meanders for much of its 98-mile length, occasionally forming marshes that are popular for waterfowl watching. The lower stretch of this river passes through an area of high sandy banks with many sharp bends. With very little development visible from the river, this stretch offers canoeists a primitive experience in a northwoods setting.

The Riverway's St. Croix River segment begins below the dam near Gordon, Wisconsin and flows for 154 miles to the Mississippi River at Prescott, Wisconsin. A narrow, shallow St. Croix ripples and flows through Wisconsin for its first 25 miles; it then broadens and becomes the border river between Minnesota and Wisconsin. For most of its length it glides through a wide valley with low banks formed by the glaciers that scoured these watersheds thousands of years ago. A dam in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, backs water up 10 miles creating a lake-like "flowage." Above the dam, recreation includes fishing, hunting, inner tubing, canoeing, and picnicking. Small fishing boats troll these waters while larger boats can traverse the flowages. Camping is permitted at primitive shoreline sites.

For about two miles below the St. Croix Falls hydroelectric dam, the river flows through The Dalles, a deep rocky gorge 70 to 100 feet deep in places. It is a place of dramatic scenery bordered by two state parks. Downstream of The Dalles, the St. Croix River widens and shallows as it passes between high, wooded banks. A dam on the Mississippi River creates a lake-like "flowage" on the Lower St. Croix between Prescott and Stillwater providing opportunities for power boating, sail boating, and water skiing. Recreational vehicle areas and developed camp sites are available in state parks or private campgrounds near the Riverway.

Interpretive Facilities and Exhibits

The Riverway has three visitor centers: St. Croix Falls Visitor Center in a remodeled hotel and restaurant; Marshland Center near Pine City, Minnesota in a new structure built in 1990, and Namekagon Visitor Center in Trego, Wisconsin in a remodeled tavern.

St. Croix Visitor Center and Headquarters

The visitor center in the current St. Croix Headquarters building was closed in 2003 due to high mold levels in exhibits, storage rooms, restrooms, and offices. A new visitor center will open when construction of a new Headquarters and Visitor Center is completed in 2006.

The exhibits that existed in the old visitor center were designed by Harpers Ferry Center in 1976 and installed in 1980. Exhibit topics covered orientation, safety, geology, logging, immigration, and the falls of the St. Croix. Objects that were on display included a logging sled and logging, early farming, ice harvesting, and domestic tools. There was also a touch table area. Mounted specimens of birds of prey, three squirrels, and information on identifying eagle, ospreys, and turkey vultures were on the walls. Zebra mussel information and specimens were also displayed. This visitor center also had an information desk, Eastern National sales area, and restrooms. The Riverway film, made in 1984, was shown using a projector in a 30-seat auditorium.

Few of the old exhibits will be re-used in the new visitor center. As there are no plans to reopen the old visitor center prior to the opening of the new facility, the wall mounted exhibits have been loaned to Minnesota Interstate State Park. Any non-park owned display items such as the logging sled will be returned to their owners. Objects owned by the park will be put into collections storage, placed in one of the Riverway's other visitor centers, or loaned to partner agencies.

Marshland Center

The Marshland Center is located on the Minnesota shoreline of the St. Croix River at the Highway 70 crossing between Pine City, Minnesota and Grantsburg, Wisconsin. This facility was built in 1990 and features offices for interpretation and law enforcement, a conference room, storage space, meeting room, and a visitor contact area. The visitor contact area includes an approximately 300-square-foot exhibit room, a 40-seat auditorium with projection room, and an information desk. Public restrooms are separate but across from the center's entry doors.

Since 2002, the Marshland Center has not been open to drop-in visitors. It is open to school groups and youth groups by reservation for orientation and education programs. Community groups and the Riverway staff use the center for meetings and programs, and there is a satellite dish for receiving training broadcasts.

The Marshland Center provides some unstaffed services. Most visitors stop here only to use the restrooms, which are open 24-hours a day. About 15% of the visitors who stop here are looking for Riverway information, 15% are looking for general tourist information, and the remainder are looking for state Department of Natural Resources information. Brochures and maps are available on a large cart that is put outside the doors whenever the staff is not available, and a small brochure rack on the side of the building is available all the time.

The St. Croix hiking trail can be accessed from the center and hikers can walk across the bridge to access the Sandrock Cliffs trail. A sidewalk leads from the Marshland Center to the river where steps lead down the bank to the river where canoeists and kayakers can put in.

Namekagon Visitor Center

The Namekagon Visitor Center opened in the early 1970s. The facility is open on weekends in May and September, and daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Services provided include: a staffed information desk to provide orientation and trip planning assistance; an Eastern National sales area for educational materials; a 17-seat theater with an orientation video and slide presentation; restrooms; and drinking water.

While no overriding central theme is evident in the interior exhibits, the topics of American Indians, the fur trade, logging, animal tracks, fishing, and safety are presented. The centerpiece is a replica birch bark canoe and fur trade accessories. A mounted juvenile bear and two owls are also displayed. Outside the building, native landscape and prairie plants are identified and a display on establishing a prairie is present. The interior exhibits were updated in 2004 to provide more colorful and appropriate images and to correct erroneous text.

Media Conditions

Below and on the following three pages are general descriptions of the existing conditions of the Riverway's interpretive media. Details on the Riverway's media conditions can be accessed through the NPS's Media Inventory Database System (MIDS) via an intranet website.

Audiovisual Programs

Two audiovisual programs are available for viewing at the Riverway's visitor centers. The current 5-minute slide/sound program has outdated photographs, some of which have been replaced with other photographs by staff at the three viewing locations (so there are now three versions). This audiovisual program is a brief orientation to the Riverway. It also has a preservation message and touches on the Ojibwe and Dakota tribes and some of the wildlife along the Riverway. The soundtrack includes incorrect or dated information about wolves and dated language regarding American Indians.

The 12-minute movie that was shown at the St. Croix Falls Visitor Center, and as a video elsewhere, has an overview and historical focus. It demonstrates recreation through a canoe trip and mentions preservation. The movie, although slightly dated, is enjoyed by the public and could be used in the future if it is transferred to DVD.

Neither program provides an orientation to visiting the Riverway, nor do they cover the natural resource themes of the park. Neither program is accessible to visitors with hearing impairments, except by written transcript. The Riverway received funding in 2004 for a new audiovisual program.

Publications

Besides the color NPS unigrid Official Map & Guide brochure (cover is pictured below), the Riverway produces and distributes 19 other free publications. A series of eight River Section maps and checklists –– showing details of river sections, including campsites, landings and areas of rapids — are printed on 8 1/2” x 11" paper and are updated annually. In addition to the section maps, there are 10 brochures published and updated annually. A rack card has been produced, and two posters for businesses along the Riverway are available. A curriculum packet for “Rivers Are Alive,” an education program for 4th grades, has also been developed. A camping management program newsletter was developed for use in 2003. Harpers Ferry Center works with the Riverway staff annually to update the Official Map and Guide.

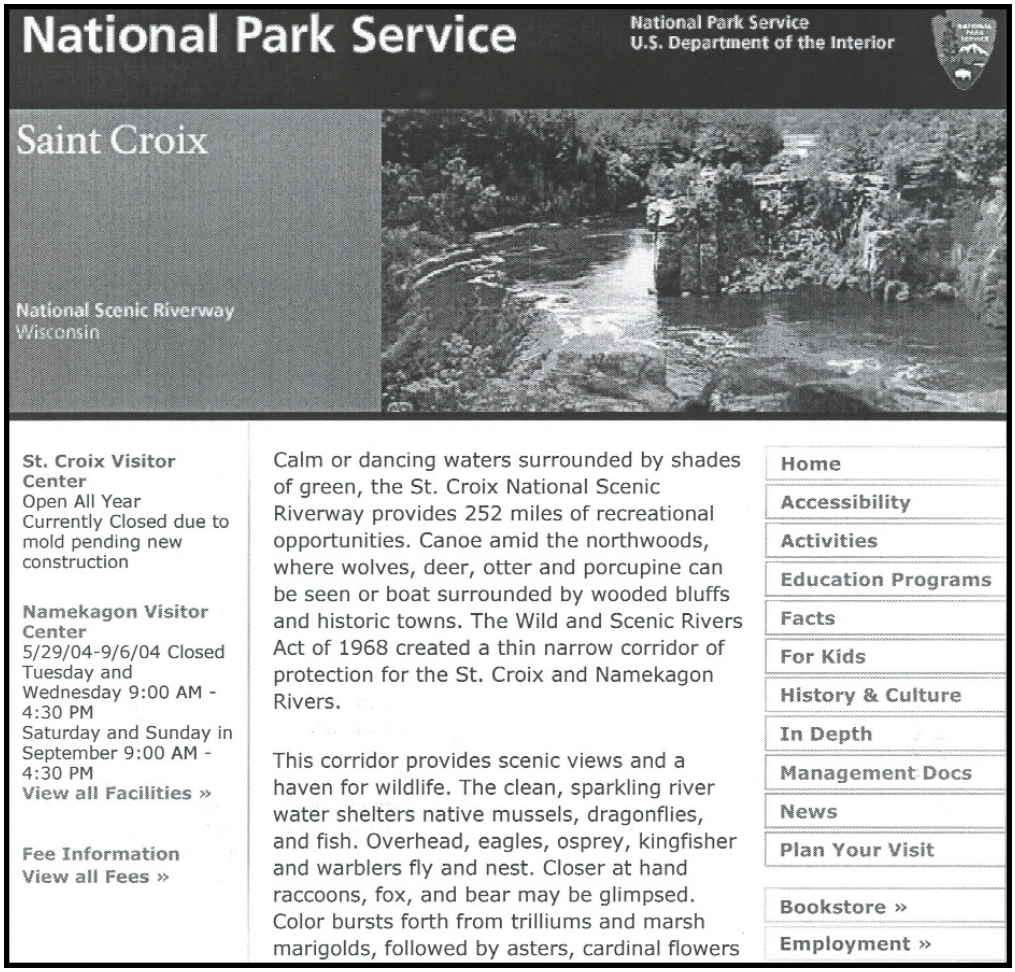
The Riverway has a publications plan with more than 25 ideas for new publications that can be developed including trail maps, site bulletins, newsletters and school curriculum. Several potential partners have been identified for five additional ideas that are not appropriate as NPS publications.

Riverway publications are available to the public on racks located at three visitor centers: the St. Croix Visitor Center, the Namekagon Visitor Center and the Marshland Center. State park and forest offices make publications available as well. Several tourist information centers distribute Riverway publications. Incidental Business Permit holders are required to distribute section maps and display posters. Most Riverway publications are also available as PDF files on the Riverway’s website and can be downloaded.

Website

The National Park Service maintains a website at www.nps.gov. All National Park Service areas are featured on this site with a minimum level of information. For the Riverway, that site is www.nps.gov/sacn. National Park Service areas also have the option of developing an expanded website. The Riverway's current expanded website www.nps.gov/sacn/index.html went on-line in May of 2002. A private contractor was hired to develop a template, navigational system, and some material for the site. The site has visual appeal and the templates function well for adding new material. A current inability to change the navigation system is limiting desired modifications.

The site is maintained using Macromedia Dreamweaver. Copies of Dreamweaver are installed in each district so interpretive staff can update river levels, the calendar, and press releases. The Riverway's webmaster makes all other revisions and additions to the site. The Riverway staff is encouraged to bring ideas and materials to the webmaster for addition. The site has room for improvements and expansion of its current information on trip planning and recreational use, park resources and issues, management, and administration.



Wayside Exhibits

Fifteen (15) three-sided kiosks are installed at the following locations along the Riverway: Namekagon Dam Landing, Phipps Landing, Groat Landing, County K Landing, Howell Landing, McDowell Landing, Namekagon Trail Bridge, Gordon Dam, CCC Bridge Landing, Riverside Landing, Nelsons Landing, Sandrock Cliffs, Highway 70, County O Landing, and Osceola Landing. The kiosks do not comply with the current NPS identity program nor do they include NPS identification. The kiosks are three-sided and some are roofed with a painted wood frame. One side is a glass-cased bulletin board, one is a fiberglass interpretive panel, and the third is a fiberglass map or an additional interpretive panel. The interpretive panels are generic; the four panel types cover the topics of wildlife, the fur trade, logging, and homesteaders. The 32” x 48" panels were created in 1979 through the National Park Service's Harpers Ferry Center (HFC). The generic interpretive panels in use are not compelling or site-specific. Replacement panels have been acquired over the years through HFC and are normally free; in one case the artwork was no longer available and the Riverway paid for replacement artwork. Some of the panels’ maps are outdated which will require funds to update before replacement in the future. The Riverway recently received some funding to begin improving the Riverway’s wayside exhibits.

Because many of the wayside kiosks are positioned over well pumps, they may not always be in convenient locations at some landings. Also, parkwide visitor use patterns indicate some may not be placed at the most appropriate landings. Park staff determined that the kiosks’ bulletin boards were too small so they developed larger, stand-alone bulletin boards for some landings that include NPS identification.

Interpretive Programs

Current Interpretive Staff, Summer 2004

The existing staff of St. Croix NSR's Educational Partnerships Team is:

Position Title	Status	Grade	FTE
Manager	PFT	GS-12	1.00
Cultural Resource and Interpretive Specialist	PFT	GS-11	1.00
Program Assistant	PFT	GS-5	1.00
St. Croix District Interpreter	PFT	GS-9	1.00
Park Ranger	SFT	GS-5	.46
Park Aid	SPT	GS-4	.18
Park Aid	SPT	GS-4	.18
Marshland District Interpreter	PFT	GS-9	1.00
Park Ranger	SPT	GS-5	.18
Park Aid	SPT	GS-4	.15
Namekagon District Interpreter	PFT	GS-9	1.00
Park Aid	SFT	GS-4	.29
Visitor Use Assistant	SPT	GS-3	.29

Total Positions: 13 Total FTEs: 7.73

In 2004, 21 interpretive volunteers donated more than 1,451 hours of time, including a full-time seasonal Student Conservation Association (SCA) employee who split time between operating the Namekagon Visitor Center and assisting the Resource Management Division.

PFT: permanent full time employee
SFT: seasonal (primarily summer) full time employee
SPT: seasonal (primarily summer) part time employee
FTE Full Time Equivalent equals one full time employee

Current Interpretive Programs

With the personnel listed on page 32, the Riverway provides the following programs, many in cooperation with park partners:

Interpretation on the River

Park rangers provide interpretive informal contacts at river access points and on the river with visitors who are canoeing, kayaking, tubing, fishing, boating, or camping. Interactions range from short contacts that provide orientation and safety information to longer contacts that connect the visitors to the natural and cultural resources they are experiencing. Park rangers report that these contacts have high value in enhancing visitor experiences. Most of these interactions take place on summer weekends at highly used landings such as Osceola, Minnesota Interstate State Park, Highway 70, Thayers, Riverside, County Highway K, and Earl. Interactions take place from portable booths at landings, while park rangers are walking through landings, or while park rangers are canoeing or kayaking on the river.

Campfire and other Programs at Partner Campgrounds

Riverway staff present a limited number of programs at public and private campgrounds. Most of these are Saturday evening campfire programs presented in June, July, and August. A few other programs, such as interpretive walks along the potholes trail in Minnesota Interstate State Park, are also offered. Programs are on a range of topics related to the natural and cultural history of Riverway resources. A limited number of programs specifically geared to children are also available. Automobile oriented campgrounds serving Riverway visitors are located within Minnesota and Wisconsin state parks and forests, and county and township parks. The Riverway does not operate automobile campgrounds. Private campgrounds also serve large numbers of visitors to the Riverway. These campgrounds provide a high level of services and serve large numbers of people during the summer season.

Paddleboat and Train Programs

Park rangers present approximately 50 programs each year aboard paddleboats in Taylors Falls, Minnestota, and 10 programs each year aboard the Osceola and St. Croix Valley Railway, which operates between Osceola, Wisconsin and Marine on St. Croix, Minnesota. These programs reach thousands of visitors each year and include interpretation on natural and cultural history themes. Programs are currently not presented on paddleboats operating from Stillwater and Afton, Minnesota, and Hudson, Wisconsin. Programs are also not presented on trains operating from Spooner, Wisconsin or Stillwater, Minnesota.

Special Events

Each year, special events are presented in conjunction with partners. These events are offered at Riverway visitor centers, partner venues, or sites along the rivers. Events in recent years included: A Guided Canoe Trek, sponsored by the St. Croix Watershed Educators; RiverFest, A celebration of the St. Croix River, with St. Croix Falls and Osceola, Wisconsin, and Taylors Falls, Minnesota; Hands on History, a demonstration of historic living skills by volunteers; St. Croix Sojourn, Wolf Awareness Day; Fishing seminars; and a Resource Management Day. These events require significant coordination with partners and large numbers of volunteers. Some special events take place simultaneously at multiple venues. Attendance is heavily dependent on weather.

Curriculum-Based Education for Students

Programs are offered for students from preschool through high school on both natural and cultural history themes. School programs are designed to meet Minnesota and Wisconsin education standards. "Rivers are Alive," a program developed for 4th grade students that examines the interconnectedness of life in the river, is the premier Riverway program. Other popular programs include a winter offering that explores the life of a logger from the 1800s, and service learning programs for grades 4 through 12. Programs are presented at a variety of locations in all three districts of the Riverway.

The geographic focus of school programming is on schools within the St. Croix River watershed and within 30 miles from either the St. Croix or Namekagon River. Not all school districts are served at the same level. Several workshops have been presented to encourage teachers to use Riverway resources and participate in Riverway education activities.

A limited number of programs are presented each year for students at colleges and universities in the region. These programs were developed to inform students about careers in the National Park Service and promote opportunities for employment and internships at St. Croix National Scenic Riverway.

Education and Interpretive Programs for Groups

Many of the same education programs offered to schools are modified for groups using the Riverway. These groups include Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Summer Camps, and other groups that organize trips to the Riverway. Groups make reservations for these programs which are modified to serve the range of ages of each group using the Riverway by altering the presentation styles, logistics, and level of detail, depending on the size and age range of the group. Other programs are adapted from general public campfire programs. Groups are required to make reservations for these programs so staff has time to prepare for them. These programs are presented at Riverway visitor centers, landings, and occasionally when groups drop in at one of the visitor centers. Training workshops are provided to camp staff who are leading trips to the Riverway.

When requested, programs can also be provided at some groups' off-site location away from the Riverway. These programs often focus on Riverway management issues and are presented by education team members and other Riverway staff.

Outreach Presentations

Park staff participates in outreach presentations to reach potential Riverway users and inform them of the Riverway's significance, unique resources, protected status, recreational opportunities, and rules and regulations. Staff assists with trip planning. Their presence enhances the park's visibility and promotes the National Park Service connection. Outreach programs are also a way to recruit potential employees and volunteers.

In recent years, canoeists and kayakers were reached at Canoecopia in Madison, Wisconsin, and the Outdoor Expo in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where an outreach booth and a total of five slide presentations reached thousands of people at these two events. The Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo in Bloomington, Minnesota, featured a booth and presentation for fly fishers. Musky Fest in Hayward, Wisconsin, and county fairs are two other examples of these types of outreach programs that connect new audiences and current users with unique aspects of the Riverway. Each year the Riverway participates in 10 to 15 of these outreach events.

Curatorial Collection

The current collection of 74,767 objects is primarily historical and archeological with a small number of natural objects. The majority of the Riverway's collection is in storage at three locations, one of which is in Lincoln, Nebraska, where the Midwest Archeological Center houses the Riverway's archeological collection of 74,366 objects. These are objects and archives from archeological and compliance surveys conducted by archeologists or para-archeologists on Riverway land. Two smaller storage areas are in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin.

The park staff has begun to assess stored files to determine what should be placed in a Riverway archives. It is estimated that it will take up to four years to go through the material, process the records, and prepare them for storage. When this work is complete, the information about the artifacts and archives will be more accessible to the Riverway staff.

Approximately 90 objects are on exhibit in the Riverway's three visitor centers, with the majority of objects in the St. Croix Falls visitor center. Some objects are on display in cases and some are not. Problems with the objects have occurred with handling, exposure to light, and bugs. Most of the objects on display are from the logging or early settlement time period, and some are natural history mounts.

Research

Basic inventories have been conducted for both natural and cultural resources within the Riverway. For cultural resources, this includes an archeological overview survey, an identification of potentially eligible historic properties, and an administrative and historic resource study. For natural resources, the staff feels they have a fair assessment of wildlife and conditions within the Riverway. Inventories have been undertaken for rare plants, lichens, breeding birds, herons, bald eagles, beaver, mussels, crayfish, frogs, and invertebrates. A monitoring program is in place for many of these same species and research has been carried out on aspects of water quality, mussels, fisheries, and groundwater.