



## Camping

The National Park Service offers a flexible way to experience the St. Croix and Namekagon rivers by providing over a hundred primitive shoreline campsites along the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. Camping regulations vary on different stretches of the Riverway. It is important to know where you are on the Riverway and what camping rules apply.

This publication provides an overview of each area. More information can be found in the Riverway publication: *Camping on the Lower River*, and online at [www.nps.gov/sacn](http://www.nps.gov/sacn). State parks, state forests, and private campgrounds offer camping in a group setting with many amenities. Contact state tourism websites for information: [www.exploreminnesota.com](http://www.exploreminnesota.com) and [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com).



### The Namekagon River and the St. Croix River North of Highway 8

This area of the Riverway is characterized by stretches of unbroken forested scenery, relatively free-flowing clean waters, and in many areas, quiet solitude. Spending a night on the river can be a rewarding way to capture the essence of river life.

#### Primitive Shoreline Campsites

There is no fee to camp at the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, but visitors must camp only at designated campsites. Riverway campsites are accessible by watercraft on a first-come, first-served basis. Many of these campsites are accessible only from the water. Campsites include a metal fire ring, a clearing for tents, and a primitive toilet. There are picnic tables at many of the sites.

If you are a group of more than 16 people or if you want to enjoy riverside camping without paddling, please call the St. Croix River Visitor Center at 715-483-2274.

For locations of all Riverway campsites refer to National Park Service section maps that can be downloaded from the Riverway website at: [www.nps.gov/sacn](http://www.nps.gov/sacn). These maps are also available at many river landings and at visitor centers. Designated campsites are marked with brown and white campsite signs.

#### Camping Stay and Occupancy Limits

There is a three-night limit of stay at campsites. Individual campsites accommodate a maximum of 8 people and 3 tents. Group sites accommodate a maximum of 16 people and 6 tents. All campsites must be occupied on the first night of stay. Equipment left unattended for 24 hours to hold a site will be considered abandoned and park rangers will remove it.

Look for these symbols on maps and signs:

- |  |                                    |  |
|--|------------------------------------|--|
|  | Primitive shoreline campsite       | Maximum occupancy: 8 people and 3 tents  |
|  | Primitive shoreline group campsite | Maximum occupancy: 16 people and 6 tents |

#### Campfires

Open campfires are allowed only in metal campfire rings on this stretch of the Riverway. The cutting of live vegetation is strictly prohibited. Dead and down wood may be collected for campfires from shoreline areas, but not from islands.

To prevent the spread of emerald ash borer, possession of firewood that originates more than 25 miles from the location where it will be used is prohibited.

Campfires must be out and cold before you leave the area. When conditions warrant, campfire bans will be posted on bulletin boards and on the Riverway website.

### Additional Rules for the St. Croix River from Nevers Dam Landing to Highway 8

All rules listed in the above section including campfire rules apply to the area between Nevers Dam Landing south to the hydroelectric dam at St. Croix Falls/Taylor Falls. This area is known as the Indian Head Flowage. Additional primitive shoreline campsites within Wild River State Park are available to reserve for a fee.

Campsite s55.3 is handicapped accessible and may be accessed by foot or wheelchair.

Self-contained vessels may tie up for night anchorage anywhere along the shoreline except at designated campsites and on private property. Passengers on self-contained vessels must use onboard toilet facilities and may not build campfires or erect tents on shore.



## The St. Croix River from Highway 8 to the Soo Line High Bridge

Specific camping regulations are in effect for the St. Croix River from Highway 8 between St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, and Taylors Falls, Minnesota, downriver to the Soo Line High Bridge at river mile 29.5.

### Camping Permits

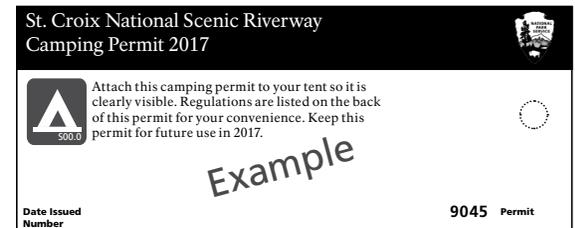
Visitors who plan to camp outside of state parks in this stretch of river must obtain a free National Park Service annual camping permit. The permit is available at:

St. Croix River Visitor Center  
401 North Hamilton Street  
St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin  
715-483-2274

You can download the permit application at: [www.nps.gov/sacn](http://www.nps.gov/sacn).

Park rangers will review camping regulations with you. Your signature confirms that you understand and will comply with the regulations.

The camping permit must be attached to the tent each time you camp so it is clearly visible.



Campers must camp in designated campsites. Campsites are first-come, first-served, and are marked with brown and white camp signs. For locations of all Riverway campsites refer to National Park Service section maps that can be downloaded from the Riverway website at: [www.nps.gov/sacn](http://www.nps.gov/sacn).

### Campsite Capacity and Limit of Stay

As with the upper St. Croix and Namekagon rivers, there is a three-night limit of stay at campsites. Individual campsites accommodate a maximum of 8 people and 3 tents. Group sites accommodate a maximum of 16 people and 6 tents. All campsites must be occupied on the first night of stay. Any equipment will be removed from a site that is unoccupied for 24 hours.

### Eagle's Nest

Groups may also camp at Eagle's Nest, a cluster of individual sites, located south of Franconia Landing. Possession of alcohol is not permitted at Eagle's Nest Campground.

### Human Waste and Trash

Proper disposal of human waste is important. To preserve water quality and protect public health, campers are required to possess and use their own portable camp toilets or use onboard facilities on self-contained boats. Inexpensive portable camp toilets are available for purchase at most outdoor recreation equipment stores. All human waste and trash must be carried out and disposed of properly at the end of your stay. Please do not bring glass containers to the river. Broken glass cuts bare feet.

### Campfires

Open campfires are allowed only in metal campfire rings on this stretch of the Riverway. The cutting of live vegetation is strictly prohibited. Dead and down wood may be collected for campfires from shoreline areas, however, it cannot be collected from islands.

To prevent the spread of emerald ash borer, possession of firewood that originates more than 25 miles from the location where it will be used is prohibited. Campfires must be out and cold before you leave the area.

## Soo Line High Bridge to Boom Site Landing

Camping on this stretch of the St. Croix River is limited to islands only. This area is first-come, first-served.

All visitors and campers must have immediate access (within 250 feet) to a toilet. Floating toilets are available at several locations. If not using these facilities or onboard toilets, visitors must bring and use their own portable toilets.

A site can be occupied by the same individual or group for a maximum of 7 consecutive days.

Park rangers check campsites on a regular basis. Any equipment will be removed from a site that is unoccupied for 24 hours.

The collecting of firewood is prohibited between the Soo Line High Bridge and Boom Site Landing due to the susceptibility of this area to erosion. This rule applies to all islands as well as the Minnesota and Wisconsin shorelines.

To prevent the spread of emerald ash borer, possession of firewood that originates more than 25 miles from the location where it will be used is prohibited. Campfires must be out and cold before you leave the area.

Much of the property along the lower sections of the St. Croix River is privately owned. Please observe the rights of property owners by not trespassing or using facilities without the landowner's permission. Quiet hours are from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am daily.

### For more information:

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway  
401 North Hamilton Street  
St. Croix Falls, WI 54024  
715-483-2274  
[www.nps.gov/sacn](http://www.nps.gov/sacn)