Enjoy the River Safely

- Wear your life jacket. Make sure your child wears a life jacket!
- Use alcohol responsibly. Many river accidents involve alcohol.
- Wear sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat to prevent sunburn. Water reflects the rays of the sun giving you a double dose of ultraviolet light.
- Avoid trees that have fallen in the river. They can catch and overturn your vessel.
- Don't jump from cliffs, bridges, or trees.
- Protect your feet with river shoes, water sandals, or old shoes. Fish hooks, glass, and rocks can injure your feet.
- Bring your own drinking water. Treat river water before drinking to avoid giardiasis, a serious stomach irritant.
- Blastomycosis is a fungal infection that is commonly contracted by dogs and sometimes by humans. Avoid digging in moist soils.
- Check for ticks often and know the symptoms of Lyme disease. Deer ticks are common along the Riverway and some carry the bacteria that cause the disease.
- Know how to identify poison ivy and avoid contact.

deer tick

wood tick

poison ivy

National Park Service
St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

Namekagon River Map 2: Hayward Landing to Trego

great blue heron

As you float the Namekagon River, you will likely encounter the majestic and elegant great blue heron. This blue-gray bird is often seen along the shoreline, where it stalks unsuspecting prey by standing or walking on its long, thin legs against the current. The heron uses its sharp beak to spear fish, frogs, snakes, dragonflies, mice, and other animals and then slides the meal headfirst down its throat. You may also see a heron flying over the river, slowly flapping its six-foot wingspan, neck tucked into an S-shape and legs trailing behind. A memorable sight!

Discover clean water, lush landscapes, and quiet solitude along the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, a national park that with your help protects 255 miles of wild and scenic river corridor.

Top Riverway Regulations

- Approved life jackets for each person are required on your vessel. Children under 13 are required to wear a life jacket.
- Please do not bring glass containers to the Riverway. Broken glass cuts bare feet.
- Disposing human waste into the river is prohibited.
- Jumping from cliffs, bridges, or trees is illegal and dangerous.
- Open campfires are allowed only in metal fire rings. Campfires must be out and cold before you leave the area.
- The cutting of live vegetation is strictly prohibited. Dead and down wood may be collected for campfires from shoreline areas, but not from islands.
- Possession of firewood that originates more than 10 miles from the Riverway is prohibited.
- Individual campsites accommodate a maximum of 8 people and 3 tents. Group sites accommodate a maximum of 16 people and 6 tents.
- Littering is not allowed. Carry out all trash.
- It is illegal to shoot or possess fireworks on lands and waters within the Riverway.
- Collecting freshwater mussels, mussel shells, wildflowers, and historical artifacts is prohibited.
- Quiet hours are 10:00 pm to 6:00 am.

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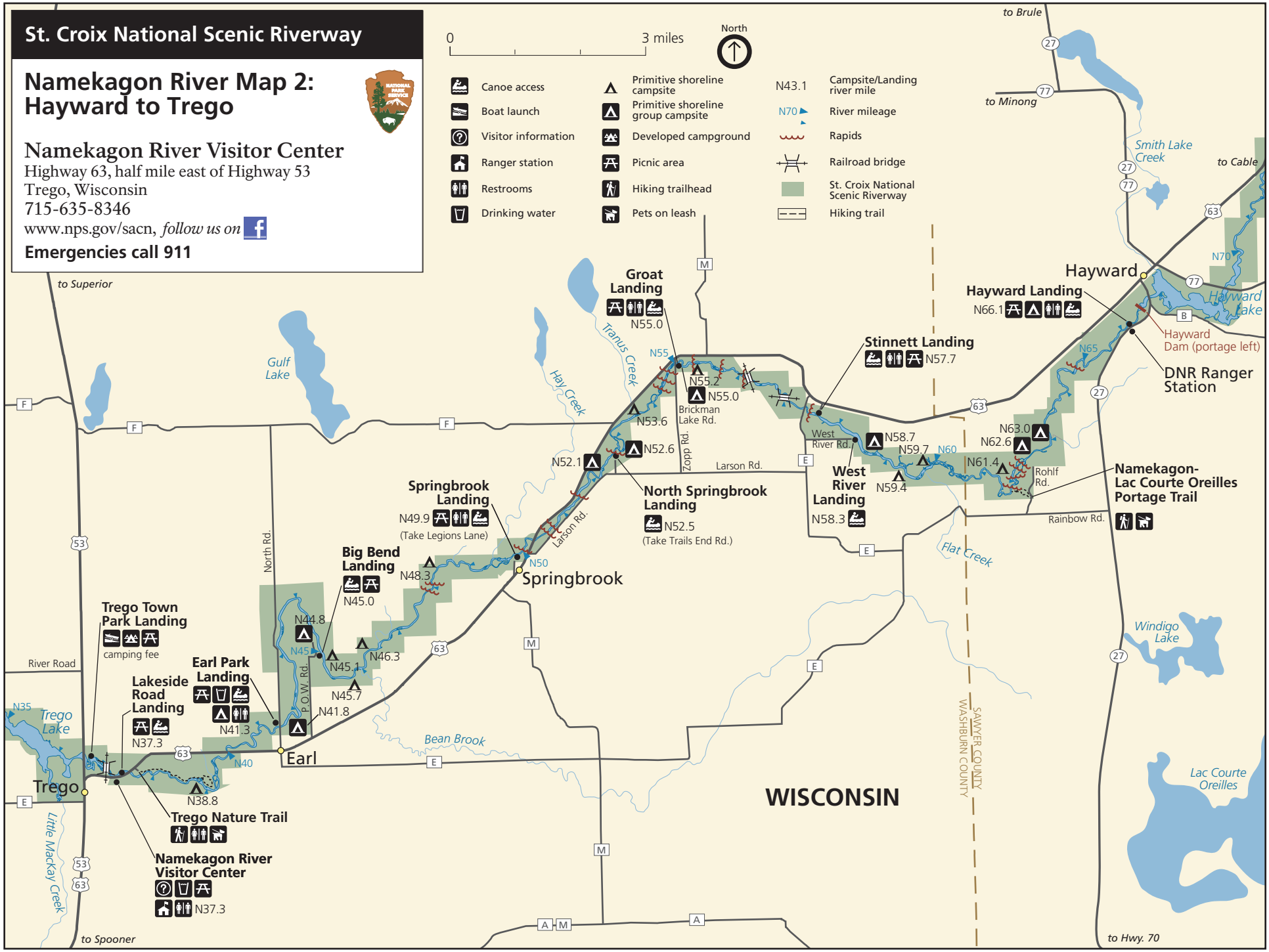

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