Enjoy the River Safely and Responsibly
Follow these regulations and safety tips.

Boating and Paddling

- Wear your life jacket! Approved life jackets for each person are required on your vessel. (3.7)
- Children under 13 are required to wear a life jacket. (3.7)
- Check river conditions before launching www.nps.gov/sacn/planyourvisit/current-conditions.
- Know your paddling ability. Not all stretches of the Riverway are suitable for beginners.
- Slow-no wake, which is operation of a motorboat at the slowest possible speed necessary to maintain steerage, is in effect.

Campers & Kayakers should paddle near

The Use of personal watercraft is

Open c

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Within 100 feet of

- A downed water skier;
- A person swimming, wading, fishing from shore or floating with the aid of a flotation device;
- A designated launch site; or
- A manually propelled, anchored or drifting vessel; (1.8(b)(4));
- Shore (including the shores of islands) from sandbars located approximately at mile 31.0 to the confluence of the St. Croix and the Mississippi River (32(a); MN 6105.033.2; WI NR 5.33(1)); or
- Whenever the water level reaches or exceeds 683.0 feet mean sea level as measured at the Stillwater gauge. (3.2a; MNS 105.033.2; WINR 5.33(1))

- Use of personal watercraft is prohibited. (Defined in 1.4)
- Towing skiers, tubes, or similar devices is prohibited (3.12):
  1) north of the High Bridge (29.5) at any time,
  2) between Stillwater and the High Bridge after noon on Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, and
  3) between sunset and sunrise river wide.

Camping (2.10):

- Open camping on islands only. Areas suitable for camping are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Camping stay limit is 7 consecutive nights at a campsite.

Campfires & Firewood

- Collection of dead and downed wood from all islands and shorelines is prohibited between the Soo Line High Bridge and Boom Site Landing. (2.1(a)(4))
- The cutting of live vegetation is strictly prohibited.
- To prevent the spread of emerald ash borer, only use firewood that is kiln dried or collected within 25 miles of where it will be used. (2.1(a)(4))
- Campfires must be out and cold before you leave the area.

Fishing

- Dumping or release of live bait is prohibited. (2.3d2)
- Use of live crayfish as bait is prohibited. (2.3d2)
- Help prevent the introduction of invasive species. Never release bait, bait water, or water from live bait wells into the river.

Sanitation and Refuse

- Where a pit toilet is not available, human waste and pet waste must be removed from the park or be buried at least 6 inches underground and a minimum of 100 feet from any water source, high water mark, trail or facility. (2.1b; 2.15a5)
- Portable toilets are required to be possessed and used by campers from Franconia Landing to the Boom Site Landing. Floating toilets may be available between the High Bridge and the Boom Site Landing. (2.14b; 2.15a5)
- Carry out all trash. (2.14a2)
- Littering is not allowed.
- Please do not put trash in toilets.

General

- Collecting live or dead mussels, empty mussel shells, historical artifacts, or wildflowers is prohibited. (2.1 c; ARPA)
- Do not jump or dive from cliffs, trees, swing ropes, or bridges. (3.16)
- Avoid trees that have fallen into the river. They can catch and overturn your vessel.
- Wear sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat to prevent sunburn.
- Use alcohol responsibly.
- Do not bring glass containers to the Riverway. Broken glass cuts bare feet.
- Protect your feet with river shoes or sandals.
- Bring your own drinking water. The water is not safe to drink unless purified.
- Check for ticks.
- Watch for poison ivy.
- Pets must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet. Pet waste must be removed from the park or buried. (See Refuse Section; 2.15a1)
- Possession or shooting of fireworks are prohibited.
- Quiet hours are from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am. (2.10b4)

* For more information and updates due to COVID-19, please see www.nps.gov/sacn.


In This Stretch

- This 4.5 miles of lake-like water is used extensively by powerboats. There is a slow-no wake rule. (See map)
- Paddlers should consider headwinds and that the river current is generally slow when planning trip times.
- Canoers and kayakers should paddle near the shore and head into boat wakes to avoid capsizing.
- The Boom Site Landing and the northern city limits of Stillwater, Minnesota, mark the boundary of the federally managed St. Croix National Scenic Riverway.
Much of the property along this section of the St. Croix River is privately owned. Please observe the rights of the property owners by not trespassing or using facilities without the landowner’s permission.

Camping regulations differ upstream of the High Bridge. See St. Croix Map 9 for more information.

Zebra Mussel Access Control Point
Upstream boat travel past the High Bridge (mile 29.5) is prohibited to prevent the spread of zebra mussels.

Zebra mussel actual size

Personal Watercraft Prohibited
Use of personal watercraft (PWC), such as a Jet Ski®, is prohibited north of Boom Site Landing to the headwaters of both the St. Croix and Namekagon rivers. PWC users may enter the St. Croix River at Boom Site Landing, but must head down the channel formed by buoys and out of the National Park boundaries.

Boating Speed Regulations: Slow-No Wake:
A slow-no wake rule is in effect when within 100 feet of a downed water skier; a person swimming, wading, fishing from shore or floating with the aid of a flotation device; a designated launch site; a manually propelled, anchored or drifting vessel; or whenever the water level reaches or exceeds 683.0 feet at the Stillwater gauge.