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 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. (3.8(b)(4))
- Use of personal watercraft is prohibited. (Defined in 1.4)

Camping (2.10):
- Camping is only allowed at designated sites on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Camping stay limit is 3 consecutive nights at a campsite.
- Individual campsites accommodate a maximum of 8 people and 3 tents. Group sites accommodate a maximum of 16 people and 6 tents.*
- Tents must be occupied on the first night of stay. Equipment left unattended to hold a site will be treated as abandoned.

Campfires & Firewood
- Open campfires are allowed only in metal campfire rings.
- Dead and down wood may be collected for campfires from shoreline areas but not from islands. (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.

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. (2.14b; 2.15a5)
- Carry out all trash. (2.14a2)
- Littering is not allowed.
- Please do not put trash in toilets.

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.

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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 rope, 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.


The Namekagon River is named after an Ojibwe word meaning “place where the sturgeon are.” Look for them resting under overhanging river banks.

In This Stretch
- Downstream of County Road K Landing the river is narrow and contains riffles.
- Downstream of Howell Landing the river is somewhat rocky until you pass Highway 77, then it becomes sandy.
- Fritz Landing can be hard to see. Watch for a small island and use the left channel if taking out there.
- The river widens after McDowell Bridge Landing. After Namekagon Trail Landing 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.
For Current River Conditions
Visit www.nps.gov/sacn/planyourvisit/current-conditions.htm
Call 715-483-2274

Emergencies call 911
See a problem? 1-800-PARKTIP