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.

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.
- 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.
- 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.

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.