Enjoy the River Safely and Responsibly

Regulations

Boating and Paddling (36CFR 3)
- Wear your life jacket! Approved life jackets for each person are required on your vessel.
- Children under 13 are required to wear a life jacket.
- 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;
  - A manually propelled, anchored or drifting vessel; or
  - Whenever the water level reaches or exceeds 683.0 feet mean sea level as measured at the Stillwater gauge. (MN6 105.0330.2; WI NR 5.33(1))
- Slow Speed Zone: from the dam at Taylors Falls to the Arcola Sandbar located approximately at mile 31.0 (see Map 9).
- Slow Speed: operation of a motorboat at a leisurely speed, less than planing speed, whereby the wake or wash created by the motorboat is minimal.
- Use of personal watercraft is prohibited. (Defined in 36CFR 1.4)

Camping (36CFR 2.10)
- Camping is only allowed at designated sites on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Camping stay limit is 3 consecutive nights on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Individual campsites accommodate a maximum of 8 people and 3 tents.
- Group sites accommodate a maximum of 16 people and 6 tents.
- A camping permit is required for visitors camping outside of state parks in the stretch of river between U.S. Highway 8 (SS2.5) and the High Bridge (SS9.5).
- Tents must be occupied on the first night of stay. Equipment left unattended to hold a site will be treated as abandoned.
- Campfires and Firewood (36CFR 2.1)
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - Campfires must be out and cold before you leave the area.
- Fishing (36CFR 2.3)
  - Dumping or release of live bait is prohibited.
  - Use of live crayfish as bait is prohibited.
  - Help prevent the introduction of invasive species. Never release bait, bait water, or water from live bait wells into the river.
- Sanitation and Refuse (36CFR 2.14)
  - Portable toilets are required to be possessed and used by campers from Franconia Landing to the Boom Site Landing. Public toilets are at Eagle’s Nest Landing and Osceola Landing.
  - Carry out all trash.
  - 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.
  - Littering is not allowed.
  - Please do not put trash in toilets.

Resource Protection (36CFR 2.1)
- Collecting live or dead mussels, empty mussel shells, historical artifacts, or wildflowers is prohibited.

General
- Pets must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet. Pet waste must be removed from the park or buried. (36CFR 2.15(a)(1))
- Possession or shooting of fireworks are prohibited. (36CFR 2.38(b))
- Quiet hours are from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am. (36CFR 2.10(b)(4))
- Do not jump or dive from cliffs, trees, swing ropes, or bridges. (36CFR 1.5)
- Alcohol is prohibited at Osceola Landing and Eagle’s Nest camp site (36CFR 1.5)

Safety Tips
- 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.
- 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. River water is not safe to drink unless purified.
- Check for ticks.
- Watch for poison ivy.

For COVID-19 updates, see www.nps.gov/sacn.

Campsites are distributed along this scenic stretch of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. The river begins in Minnesota with the Osceola camp site and continues west to the Boom Camp Site at Wisconsin Dells. Be sure to check the campground information before you arrive. Many campsites are near the water and provide excellent fishing. Numerous species of wildlife can be spotted as the river winds through this stretch of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway.

St. Croix River Map 8: Highway 8 to Osceola Landing

Watching the rivalry between osprey and bald eagles can be spectacular. Eagle bullies steal fish and nest sites from the slightly smaller osprey. The osprey manage well enough to be considered common on this stretch of river.

In This Stretch
- A 1.3 mile portage through Taylors Falls, Minnesota, to the next access downstream in Minnesota Interstate State Park is required around the hydroelectric dam.
- The river just below the hydroelectric dam is not navigable by watercraft as there is no public access and water levels can be unpredictable.
- A camping permit is required in this area. www.nps.gov/sacn/planyourvisit/camping.htm
- Stay to the right as you approach the Highway 243 bridge. Osceola Landing is located just beyond it on the Minnesota side of the river.
- ALERT: Osceola Landing will be under construction through 2022. For information, please see: www.nps.gov/sacn or call 715-483-2274.
For Current River Conditions
Visit www.nps.gov/sacn/planyourvisit/current-conditions.htm
Call 715-483-2274

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

St. Croix River Map 8:
Highway 8 to Osceola Landing

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

www.nps.gov/sacn  www.facebook.com/StCroixNSR/

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

Boating Speed Regulations:
Slow Speed:
The area south of the hydroelectric dam in Taylors Falls/St. Croix Falls to the Arcola Sandbar at approximately mile 31.0 is a slow speed zone. Slow speed is operation of a motorboat at a leisurely speed, whereby the wake or wash created is minimal.

Slow-No Wake:
In addition, 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; and whenever the water level reaches or exceeds 683.0 feet at the Stillwater gauge.

Map updated 2022