



Paddling Guide to the Namekagon River

Water levels on the Namekagon River depend on the amount of precipitation that falls in the watershed. Water level information and detailed section maps can be obtained at Riverway visitor centers or online at www.nps.gov/sacn. River miles (for example N92.6) correspond to river miles indicated on section maps. Not all landings or facilities are listed here so it is best to use this guide with maps.

River Stretch	Description
Namekagon Dam to Cable Wayside	The river here is narrow and shallow with stretches of rocky rapids. Water levels can be extremely low and impassable during dry conditions, especially near the headwaters. From <u>Phillipi Landing (N88.6)</u> to <u>Cable Wayside (N86.0)</u> water levels tend to be slightly better. The first ten miles of this stretch are very isolated; expect numerous beaver dams, strainers (downed trees), and three low bridges.
Cable Wayside to Phipps Landing	This section may be challenging during times of low water. Downstream from <u>Cable Wayside (N86.0)</u> the river is calm, but shallow and rocky. It is usually possible to get a canoe under the low bridge at <u>Leonard Schoolhouse Road (N84.7)</u> but there is also a portage to the right. A chute at the old <u>Pacwawong Dam site (N82.2)</u> can be canoed during high water or look for a portage to the right. Watch out for strainers. In several places there are many channels around islands. Downstream from <u>Larsen Landing (N77.8)</u> the river is rocky with several small rapids.
Phipps Landing to Hayward Landing	As you enter <u>Phipps Flowage (N74.4)</u> , the river is slow with the channel becoming deep and wide. At the old <u>Phipps Dam site (N72.8)</u> , you can usually run the rapids or look for the sign to portage right. From <u>Trout Run Landing (N72.0)</u> to <u>Hospital Road (N69.8)</u> you may encounter large groups of people on inner tubes. <u>Hayward Lake (N68.0)</u> is large and open, making paddling difficult during a strong headwind. At the end of the lake, you must portage the dam to the left. Be careful as the portage is sometimes slippery.
Hayward Landing to Big Bend Landing	After <u>Hayward Landing (N66.1)</u> the river is rocky and narrow, with a few small rapids, but a few miles downstream the river becomes sandy and slow. Water levels are usually good. Just downstream from <u>Stinnett Landing (N57.7)</u> the river narrows forming a chute. As you continue downstream the river narrows and quickens with many Class I rapids. Watch for the main channel, since smaller channels may become shallow or blocked. Downstream of <u>Springbrook Landing (N49.9)</u> , the river is mostly calm with a few small riffles and rapids.
Big Bend Landing to Lakeside Road Landing	After <u>Big Bend Landing (N45.0)</u> the river widens, slows, becomes sandy, and is an easy paddle. <u>Earl Landing (N41.3)</u> is a popular landing for people on inner tubes on hot summer weekends. Downstream, the river becomes narrow, often breaks into channels, and has a few rapids.
Lakeside Road Landing to County Road K Landing	Shortly after the <u>Lakeside Road Landing (N37.3)</u> the river passes under Highway 53 and then there are five miles of slow paddling through the <u>Trego Flowage (N36.5)</u> . Be aware of wakes from fast moving boats. Once through the flowage there will be a sign for the required portage to the right around the <u>Trego Dam (N31.6)</u> .
County K Landing to Howell Landing	Downstream of <u>County Road K Landing (N31.2)</u> the river is narrow and contains riffles. Islands and sandbars are frequently encountered, however, water levels are usually good. After <u>Whispering Pines Landing (N21.3)</u> the river widens and slows.
Howell Landing to the confluence	Downstream from <u>Howell Landing (N16.9)</u> the river is somewhat rocky until you pass Highway 77, then it becomes sandy. <u>Fritz Landing (N13.7)</u> can be hard to see. Watch for a small island and use the left channel if taking out. The river widens after <u>McDowell Bridge Landing (N11.2)</u> . After <u>Namekagon Trail Landing (N4.8)</u> , 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 <u>Riverside Landing (S131.7)</u> .

Distance Chart for the Namekagon River

Section Map 1: Namekagon Dam to Hayward Landing	6.9	County Road M Landing																							
	7.6	0.7	Cap Creek Landing																						
	10.9	4.0	3.3	Phillipi Bridge Landing																					
	13.5	6.6	5.9	2.6	Cable Wayside Landing																				
	17.0	10.1	9.4	6.1	3.5	Pacwawong Flowage Landing																			
	17.2	10.3	9.6	6.3	3.7	0.2	Thompson Bridge Landing																		
	21.7	14.8	14.1	10.8	8.2	4.7	4.5	Larsen Landing																	
	25.0	18.1	17.4	14.1	11.5	8.0	7.8	3.3	Phipps Landing																
	27.5	20.6	19.9	16.6	14.0	10.5	10.3	5.8	2.5	Trout Run Landing															
	33.4	26.5	25.8	22.5	19.9	16.4	16.2	11.7	8.4	5.9	Hayward Landing														
Section Map 2: Hayward Landing to Trego	41.2	34.3	33.6	30.3	27.7	24.2	24.0	19.5	16.2	13.7	7.8	West River Landing													
	41.8	34.9	34.2	30.9	28.3	24.8	24.6	20.1	16.8	14.3	8.4	0.6	Stinnett Landing												
	44.5	37.6	36.9	33.6	31.0	27.5	27.3	22.8	19.5	17.0	11.1	3.3	2.7	Groat Landing											
	47.0	40.1	39.4	36.1	33.5	30.0	29.8	25.3	22.0	19.5	13.6	5.8	5.2	2.5	North Springbrook Landing										
	49.6	42.7	42.0	38.7	36.1	32.6	32.4	27.9	24.6	22.1	16.2	8.4	7.8	5.1	2.6	Springbrook Landing									
	54.5	47.6	46.9	43.6	41.0	37.5	37.3	32.8	29.5	27.0	21.1	13.3	12.7	10.0	7.5	4.9	Big Bend Landing								
	58.2	51.3	50.6	47.3	44.7	41.2	41.0	36.5	33.2	30.7	24.8	17.0	16.4	13.7	11.2	8.6	3.7	Earl Park Landing							
	62.2	55.3	54.6	51.3	48.7	45.2	45.0	40.5	37.2	34.7	28.8	21.0	20.4	17.7	15.2	12.6	7.7	4.0	Namekagon River Visitor Center & Lakeside Road Landing						
Section Map 3: Trego to Riverside	68.3	61.4	60.7	57.4	54.8	51.3	51.1	46.6	43.3	40.8	34.9	27.1	26.5	23.8	21.3	18.7	13.8	10.1	6.1	County Road K Landing					
	78.2	71.3	70.6	67.3	64.7	61.2	61.0	56.5	53.2	50.7	44.8	37.0	36.4	33.7	31.2	28.6	23.7	20.0	16.0	9.9	Whispering Pines Landing				
	82.6	75.7	75.0	71.7	69.1	65.6	65.4	60.9	57.6	55.1	49.2	41.4	40.8	38.1	35.6	33.0	28.1	24.4	20.4	14.3	4.4	Howell & West Howell Landing			
	85.8	78.9	78.2	74.9	72.3	68.8	68.6	64.1	60.8	58.3	52.4	44.6	44.0	41.3	38.8	36.2	31.3	27.6	23.6	17.5	7.6	3.2	Fritz Landing		
	88.3	81.4	80.7	77.4	74.8	71.3	71.1	66.6	63.3	60.8	54.9	47.1	46.5	43.8	41.3	38.7	33.8	30.1	26.1	20.0	10.1	5.7	2.5	McDowell Bridge Landing	
	94.7	87.8	87.1	83.8	81.2	77.7	77.5	73.0	69.7	67.2	61.3	53.5	52.9	50.2	47.7	45.1	40.2	36.5	32.5	26.4	16.5	12.1	8.9	6.4	Namekagon Trail Landing
	103.3	96.4	95.7	92.4	89.8	86.3	86.1	81.6	78.3	75.8	69.9	62.1	61.5	58.8	56.3	53.7	48.8	45.1	41.1	35.0	25.1	20.7	17.5	15.0	8.6

Directions for Distance Chart Use
 To calculate the distance from one landing to another, start at the landing farthest upstream. Move down the column to the row labeled with the landing you want to end at. For example, to find the distance between Stinnett Landing and Earl Park Landing, move down the Stinnett Landing column to the Earl Park Landing row and you should read 16.4. All distances are in miles.

International Scale of River Difficulty
 Class 1: Moving water with a few riffles and small waves. Few or no obstructions.
 Class 2: Easy rapids with waves up to three feet and wide clear channels that are obvious. Some maneuvering is required.
 Class 3: Rapids with high, irregular waves often capable of swamping an open canoe. Narrow passages often require complex maneuvering. May require scouting from shore.

For more trip planning information:
 Namekagon River Visitor Center
 Highway 63, half mile east of Highway 53
 Trego, WI 54888
 (715) 635-8346

Or visit the Riverway website at: www.nps.gov/sacn

Follow us on 