

Boating Guide is a summary of laws and rules and is available from the Minnesota DNR or a Minnesota county sheriff. Wisconsin regulations can be obtained from the Wisconsin DNR (*addresses are at the end of this guide*).

AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary offers public courses in boating safety and seamanship. They are taught by experienced Auxiliary members and the only charge is for course materials. These courses are usually given in the winter and early spring.

U.S. POWER SQUADRONS

U.S. Power Squadrons is a private, non-profit organization dedicating themselves to boating and boating safety. The Power Squadrons offer free public boating courses. These courses are usually given in the winter and early spring.

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Minnesota's lakes and rivers offer a wealth of canoeing, boating and fishing opportunities.

Public Access/Canoe and Boating Routes

The DNR Canoe and Boating Route Program provides maps for 24 rivers. The free maps show access points, campsites, rest areas and portages. Hazards such as dams and waterfalls are marked, and areas of rapids are shown. A brief description of the river lets canoeists know what to expect along the way.

The DNR also provides a river level reporting service from April 1 to October 31. Reports are updated every Thursday and are available after 2:00 p.m. Canoeists can call the DNR Information Center to find out the condition of the canoe and boating routes at (651) 296-6157 or toll free in Minnesota 1-888-646-6367, TDD: (651) 296-5484 or toll free in Minnesota 1-800-657-3929. The information is also posted on the DNR web site, listed on the next page.

Minnesota DNR accesses are usually open 24 hours a day. No fee is charged for their use, nor is there a fee for any of the accesses shown on the county access maps. Note: State parks as well as many county and regional parks require entrance fees for motor vehicles and may not be open 24 hours a day.

For public access and canoe and boat route maps and brochures contact:

DNR Information Center
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040
(651) 296-6157
or in MN toll free
1-888-646-6367

Telecommunications device
for the deaf: (651) 296-5484
or in MN toll free:
1-800-657-3929

DNR web site: www.mndnr.gov

Adopt-a-River Program

This program encourages Minnesota volunteers to “adopt” a section of a lake, river, wetland or ravine to ensure its long-term health by doing at least one annual trash cleanup.

DNR Trails & Waterways Division
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4052
(651) 259-5666

DNR web site: www.mndnr.gov/adoptriver



Boat and Water Safety Program

One of the boat and water safety program’s primary responsibilities is education. Using brochures, boating courses, pamphlets, billboards, television and radio public service announcements, media interviews and news releases, the public is kept informed of boating safety issues.

DNR Boat and Water Safety Section
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4046
(651) 259-5400

DNR web site: www.mndnr.gov/boating

Division of Enforcement

The Division’s responsibilities on the river include enforcement of fish and wildlife regulations, boating safety laws, water-use regulations and water pollution laws. DNR conservation officers also conduct firearm, snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) safety training programs; enforce snowmobile and ATV laws; and patrol state parks and campgrounds.

DNR Division of Enforcement
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4047
(651) 259-5222

DNR web site: www.mndnr.gov/enforcement

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Wisconsin DNR is also involved with enforcement, boating safety, pollution control, boat licensing, and information and education. For more information about Wisconsin DNR programs contact:

Wisconsin DNR
West Central Region
1300 West Clairemont Avenue
Box 4001
Eau Claire, WI 54702
(715) 839-3700
DNR web site: www.dnr.state.wi.us

VIOLATIONS

Report law violations by calling **911**. Report fish and wildlife violations by calling Minnesota or Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources conservation officers at:

Minnesota 1-800-652-9093
(Turn in Poachers)

Wisconsin 1-800-TIP-WDNR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Department of the Interior, manages a wide range of areas throughout the United States to conserve natural, cultural and recreational resources while providing for their enjoyment today in such a manner that leaves them unimpaired for future generations. The NPS manages two units of the National Park System in and near the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area, the upper 27 miles of the Lower St. Croix National Scenic Riverway (NSR) and the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area along the Mississippi River.

The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area was designated by Congress in 1988. It covers the Mississippi River and adjoining shore areas from the mouth of the Crow River at Dayton to the Goodhue County line southeast of Hastings. The National Park Service provides interpretive and information programs about the Mississippi and cooperates with local and state agencies in managing the river's scenic and recreational characteristics.

Mississippi River
National Park Service
Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
111 E. Kellogg Blvd., Suite 105
St. Paul, MN 55101-1256
(651) 290-4160 www.nps.gov/miss/

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Since 1943, the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee (UMRCC) has been promoting the preservation and wise utilization of the natural and recreational resources of the Upper Mississippi River. Composed of representatives from the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois and Missouri, as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the UMRCC serves as a forum for formulating policies and plans and conducting cooperative studies. For more information contact:

UMRCC
1830 2nd Avenue
Rock Island, IL 61201

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Many of the bottomlands on the Mississippi River lie within the boundaries of Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. Beginning at the mouth of the Chippewa River (River Mile 763.4) and extending 261 miles downriver, the refuge encompasses 200,000 acres of wooded islands, and backwaters.

This refuge is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect habitat of endangered and threatened species, while providing the life requirements for migratory birds, mammals, fish, and other aquatic animal and plant life. Millions of ducks, geese and swans rest and feed here during spring and fall migration. Hundreds of American bald eagles winter along the river where they feed on fish taken from open water areas.

The popularity of such recreation activities as fishing, hunting, wildlife observation, sightseeing, boating, and camping have made this one of the most heavily used National Wildlife Refuges.

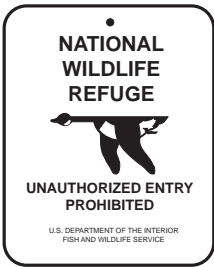
Information, maps and current regulations governing public use are available from:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Upper Mississippi River National
Wildlife and Fish Refuge
51 East 4th Street, Room 101
Winona, MN 55987
(507) 452-4232
TTY 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay)
www.fws.gov/midwest/UpperMississippiRiver

NATIONAL FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE SIGNS

Voluntary closed areas are established in some portions of the refuge to protect nesting and migratory wildlife.

Area behind sign closed to any hunting, trapping or camping during regular duck hunting season. Boaters and other recreation users are encouraged to stay out of these areas during the fall waterfowl hunting season, so birds may rest and feed undisturbed.



Refuge Boundary Sign — Entry For Authorized Activities Only

HELP ON THE RIVER

EMERGENCY AND NON-EMERGENCY

Emergency (illness, injury, accident, etc.) dial **911** on your cell phone or send a distress call on Channel **16** of your marine radio. Remember to give your position and the nature of the emergency and be prepared to stay on the line or have someone stand by the radio.

Non-Emergency (out of fuel, engine failure, etc.) first try to summon help from a passing boat or call one of the marinas in this publication for assistance. Law enforcement craft may not be available to respond in non-emergency situations. If an officer or deputy is able to assist, they may only be able to tow you to the closest safe mooring or marina where you can call for or obtain mechanical assistance.