

# St. Croix River Water Trail

## Suggestions

- Snack and drink provisions are available at the IGA market in Solon Springs
- There is wireless Internet access at the library in Solon Springs (across from the bank).
- Watch for windy conditions before crossing Upper St. Croix Lake or the St. Croix Flowage at Gordon.
- Be aware that summer prevailing winds are from the southwest. On windy days it is easier to paddle upstream (with the wind) than downstream.
- The bridge at Cut-Away is new, and put-in/take-out is best accomplished from the downstream side.
- Watch out for the bridge at Old Highway 53 when nearing Gordon. The bridge height is quite low and currents under the bridge can be strong.
- Let someone know about your schedule/trip plan so that if you have problems, they would know when/where to come looking for you. Cell phone service along the water trail is spotty at best.
- The historic Portage Trail and the North Country Trail boardwalk are directly accessible from Palmers Landing at the northeast corner of Upper St. Croix Lake.
- To bypass most of Upper St. Croix Lake, use the southern-most put-in at Prevost Road.
- Crownhart Island on Upper St. Croix Lake is private property.
- To bypass most of the St. Croix Flowage at Gordon, use the Gordon Ranger Station dock.

## Enjoy the Water Trail Safely

- Wear your life jacket! Approved flotation devices for each person are required to be in the canoe or kayak. Children under 13 are required to wear a life jacket.
- Bring your own drinking water. Treat river water before drinking to avoid Giardia, a serious stomach irritant.
- Please don't bring glass containers. Broken glass is a hazard for barefoot visitors.
- Littering is not allowed. Carry out all trash.
- Wear sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat to prevent sunburn. Water reflects the rays of the sun giving you a double dose of ultraviolet light.
- Protect your feet with river shoes, water sandals, or old shoes as fish hooks, glass, and rocks can injure your feet.
- Avoid trees that have fallen in the river. They can catch and overturn your canoe or kayak.
- Don't jump from bridges.
- Check for ticks and know the symptoms of Lyme disease. Deer ticks are common along the river and some carry the bacteria that cause the disease.
- Know how to identify poison ivy and avoid contact. It grows along forest edges and can cause severe itching and rash.
- Disposing human waste into the river is prohibited.
- Collecting freshwater mussels, mussel shells, wildflowers, and historical artifacts is prohibited.
- Build your campfire in a fire ring. Possession of firewood that originates more than 50 miles from the river is prohibited. Campfires must be out and cold before you leave the area.