

# NAMEKAGON RIVER (N5)

<b>Put-in</b>	Fritz Landing	<b>Elevation Drop</b>	59 feet
<b>Take-out</b>	Riverside Landing (St Croix River)	<b>Average Gradient</b>	3.4 feet per mile
<b>Distance</b>	17.5 miles	<b>Minimum Suggested Flow</b>	No USGS River Gage
<b>Approximate Time</b>	8 hours / multi-day	<b>Water Level Info / Phone</b>	Namekagon Visitor Center 715.635.8346
<b>Most Difficult Rapids</b>	Class 1		

## Paddler's Notes

- 13.7 Mile Fritz Landing River:** After the landing, the river winds through a lush lowland forest with numerous wooded islands and narrow channels. **Shuttle:** On Highway 77 west of the Namekagon River Bridge, turn north onto River Landing Road, the landing is at the end. Hand carry access, trailer turnaround, parking, rustic toilets.
- 11.2 Mile McDowell Bridge Landing River:** The river narrows as it winds past gorgeous northwoods scenery, stands of spruce and pine cover steep, sandy banks. The landing is on the right bank at a sandy beach just downstream from the McDowell Bridge. **Shuttle:** On Highway 77, turn north onto River Road, turn east onto Webb Creek Drive. The landing is east of the bridge, on the north side of the road. Hand carry access, trailer turnaround, parking, rustic toilets, picnic table, fire pit.
- 8.5 Mile Webb Creek** The creek enters from river left.
- 6.1 Mile Totogatic River Confluence** The Totogatic River enters from river right. The Namekagon noticeably widens after the confluence.
- 4.8 Mile Namekagon Trail Landing River:** Shortly after a long island, the river bends left and passes under the Namekagon Trail Road Bridge. The landing is immediately downstream of the bridge on the left bank. **Shuttle:** On Highway 77, turn north onto Namekagon Trail, follow the River Access sign at the W Adams Lake Road intersection. This road eventually becomes Namekagon Trail again at the Springbrook Trail Road intersection. Namekagon Trail leads to the landing. The road is narrow, rough and twisty with quite a few intersections. Be sure to pay attention to the road signs (when they are present). The landing is south of the bridge, on the west side of the road. Hand carry access, trailer turnaround, parking, picnic table, fire pit.
- The river becomes wider and deeper as you approach the St Croix confluence, passing through a beautiful wilderness setting. Groves of birch, oak, and pine canopy steep sandy banks.
- 3.4 Mile Rapids (Class 1)** In a sharp left bend, the river constricts into a short wavy rapids. More intermittent riffles and easy rapids continue further downstream.
- 1.6 Mile Dogtown Creek** The creek enters from river left.
- 1.0 Mile Rapids (Class 1)** A series of low hazard rapids begin shortly downstream from a small island and continue until the confluence with the St Croix.
- 0.0 Mile St Croix River Confluence** The Namekagon enters the St Croix. (St Croix Mile: 135.6)
- (134.1) Mile Big Island, Rapids (Class 1)** After series of islands, the river forks around Big Island. Paddlers often miss the much narrower right fork, which is hidden in the lee of another smaller island. 'Big Island' is more than a mile long and a half-mile wide. While both forks are navigable, the much wider left fork has several pitches of fun class 1 rapids which begin right after the the river splits.

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**(131.7) Mile Riverside Landing** **River:** The National Forest Service Landing is easily visible on river right before the Highway 35 Bridge. The free campground here is an excellent spot for multi-day trips, though you will have to deal with highway noise. **Shuttle:** The National Park Service landing is north of the Highway 35 Bridge near Riverside. This landing is part of a wayside park in a beautiful setting overlooking the river. Trailer access ramp, trailer turnaround, parking, picnic area, rustic toilets, group campsite.

**(131.7 Mile)** In paranthesis is St Croix River Mileage.

## Driving Directions (Google Maps)



**Fritz Landing**



**McDowell Bridge Landing**



**Namekagon Trail Landing**



**Riverside Landing**

## GPS - NAD83 / WGS84

Fritz Landing	46.04282,-92.04580
McDowell Bridge Landing	46.05809,-92.06563
Webb Creek	46.06227,-92.08636
Totogatic River Confluence	46.08342,-92.09226
Namekagon Trail Landing	46.08375,-92.11386
Rapids	46.09490,-92.12142
Dogtown Creek	46.08364,-92.15195
Rapids	46.08475,-92.16572
St Croix River Confluence	46.08777,-92.18051
Big Island	46.07908,-92.20681
Big Island Confluence	46.08202,-92.24075
Riverside Landing	46.07650,-92.24559