



St Paul Yacht Club
Board Of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, May 13, 7pm ~ 8pm
Google Meet: See SPYC Calendar

Approved by: Bill Tschohl , Andy Ristrom , Tom Surprenant , Andrea Johnson , Diane Scovill , David Nelson , Robert Smekta

Board members present: Bill Tschohl , Troy Janisch , Diane Scovill , Andy Ristrom , Jon Oulman , Andrea Johnson , David Nelson , Robert Smekta Tom Surprenant

Board absent: Greg Jorgensen , Nathan Schumann

Staff present: Kristina Cummings

Attending: Victoria Fritz, Janeice DeLisle, Bruce Johnson, Barb Haake, Mike Guide, Greg Denbleyker, Thomas Marrone, Patrick Burrage, Lee Pfeilsticker; Bruce Kleinhammer, Tom Tapelt, Diana Tapelt, Michele Borne, Plauel Possible (remote), Brett Cummings (remote)

General Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance (7:01)

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Open Comments from the Floor

- We ask that comments be limited to 2 minutes:

- Member (TT) expressed appreciation for Clubhouse railings, 'No Swim' signage, steps to the office and other noticeable improvements; Also inquired about HR consultant activities (update to follow)

- Member (MB) asked about slip availability for Minnesota Yacht Club Festival.

Shared: A 3-day window will be made available for event slips. Club members will be offered slips first; then repeat visitors; then new visitors. We are charging a 7-day rate.

- Member (TM) suggested purchase of a kegerator for the clubhouse - for outside use only; Define requirements. Refer to the amenities committee

4. Flag Officer Reports

- Commodore - Bill Tschohl (Report attached)
- Vice-Commodore - Nathan Schumann (No report)
- Treasurer - Tom Surprenant (Report & financial report attached)



St. Paul Yacht Club

- Secretary - Troy Janisch (No report)

Marina Manager Report Kristina Cummings No Report

- Trained volunteers (such as Denny) can be used with prior approval (See Marina Manager);
- Yard is being cleared. It will be reorganized prior to festival use;
- 22 New boaters this year; (7-8% above budget)
71 transients for festival last year; that many slips will not be available in 2025.

5. Committee Reports

- Amenities - Nathan Schumann (No report)
- Finance Tom Surprenant (Report attached)
- Marketing & Membership - Troy Janisch (No report)

1. 'Shanties on the Shore' – Sing-Along at Sunset

June 30, 7pm, Harriet Island Regional Park - Great Stairs (seating located on the shore of the Mississippi River near the large shelter). Attendees (open to the public) are invited to lead a tune, join the chorus, or simply sit back and enjoy an evening of humble performances and heartfelt harmonies. Kudos to Bonnie Jean MacKay!

2. SPYC River Adventure Guide

Draft complete. Seeking additional tips from members. Summer 'River Adventures' member photo contest will be announced in June. It will begin in July. Kudos to Nate Schuman for suggesting the Guide.
(Seeking volunteers to review and contribute tips)

3. Little Free Library

Weatherproofing is being completed. Installation will be in June. Kudos to Victoria Fritz, our volunteer librarian.
(Will be installed week of 6/16.)

Opportunity: Leverage QR codes to distribute the River Adventure Guide on Dahlgren Dock, and, to share real-time instructions for members and transients (pumpout, etc)

- Operations - Andy Ristrom (Report attached)
- Testing procedures for stray electrical voltage will be put together



St. Paul Yacht Club

- Social Committee - Andrea Johnson (No report)
 - Commodore's Ball 6/28
- Strategic Planning - Bill Tschohl (No report)
 - Yard/Office Property Survey was reviewed. Scaled drawings are being created.
 - Awaiting response to 3M grant application.

6. Old Business

- Dredging

7. New Business

- Letter of Appreciation to St Paul Police for enforcement at Harriet Island during the weekend of 6/7/2025 (Troy)
 - Actions to be taken:
 - Troy will draft a letter of appreciation and route it to the board. ✓
 - Kristina can ask about adding 3 J-barriers ("Jersey barriers") to separate the Gate G parking lot ✓ into two separate lots. As a test prior to the Minnesota Yacht Club Festival.
- Minnesota Yacht Club Planning and Preparation. Standing Committee? (Bill) Bonnie Jean, Diane Scovill
- Lifetime Membership (Bill) Refer to Marketing & Membership for next meeting; (MJ Babcock & Richie Right).
 - Troy will write an update for Friday update ✓
- HR Consulting update
 - Members raised concerns about activities of the HR consultant; lack of communication related to HR consultant needs/activities; and requested opportunities to learn more before actions are taken.

Action to be taken: Board will meet in a closed session with the HR consultant to review the report to the executive committee; a summary of findings and actions to be taken will be shared with members.

8. Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn

Made by: Diane Scovill

Seconded by: Andy Ristrom

Status: Passed

SPYC Finance Committee Meeting Report

June 5, 2025 (Thursday)

Called to order at 4:40 pm

Present: Tom Surprenant, Chair, Brett Cummings, Diane Scoville, Bill Tschohl

Remote Attendance: Bonnie Jean McKay, Staff Representative, Kristina Cummings

Absent: Jon Oulman (traveling)

Budgets and Financials

Tom Surprenant shared a Budget vs. Actuals (cash basis) Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet (as of 06/05) with the committee.

The P&L statement showed fiscal year budget against Cash Actuals up to date of report.

Those in attendance discussed a variety of Actuals numbers, asked Kristina questions about differing Accrual numbers and status of receivables, and after some consideration, it was decided that Tom Surprenant, as Treasurer, would add an Accrual column to financial reports since the Club's accounting is on an accrual basis.

Transient Fees during Festival

There was also discussion about what to charge to slip renters during the Minnesota Yacht Club Music Festival. Brett Cummings and Bill Tschohl felt strongly that revenues were important but Club impressions and potential goodwill were equally important. All others agreed.

After considerable discussion, those in attendance agreed by consensus that a Wednesday to Tuesday single rental at \$10/foot was the best way to go, with boaters able to arrive and depart as they chose during the rental period. This would maximize goodwill, publicize the Club, and also generate revenues.

At Kristina's request, there was also discussion of how to prioritize rental requests, plus other discussion about a timeline to send out emails about the rental opportunity.

Meeting ended at about 5:35 pm.

The Boating Season is Here!

Commodore's Report – June 10, 2025

We have a great boating season here right now! If you've had a chance to get out you've likely seen some great wildlife, beavers, bald eagles, herons, turtles and fish. Heck, if you've even been on the dock cleaning your boat or prepping for the season you've likely seen all that wildlife right here in the marina.

We've spent over a century as a club sharing the camaraderie of like minded boaters getting out on the water and enjoying so much adventure and nature within reach of downtown St. Paul and beyond. Trips to local destinations, while far more common than a trip to the gulf aren't the only adventures ahead for all of us.

Sometimes those adventures are regulatory in nature. In 2010 the SPYC started requesting every boat have a USCG safety inspection. Sometime after that we implemented a refundable inspection fee that was increased to \$200 for its last few years. That was helpful for many boaters to literally have a second set of eyes take a look at their boat and equipment to avoid costly or even dangerous oversights. While the SPYC has retired the refundable safety inspection fee for 2025, it's still highly recommended and you can reach out to anyone on the Coast Guard Auxiliary to schedule time for them to visit your boat. This link will take you to their page where you can schedule a visit. <https://cgaux.org/vsc/>

Another regulatory change that occurred was Sophia's Law which was implemented by the State of Minnesota in 2017 and requires all boats with a cabin enclosure to have operating CO detectors and warning stickers attached. Information on Sophia's law can be found here: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/sophias-law.html>

Those changes were all focused on the boats we use and protecting us and our guests from unexpected dangers. Starting in July of this year we have a new regulation that the state is using to improve operator safety. Starting July 1, 2025 all boat operators for a multitude of boat types and across a wide range of ages as well as situations will need a watercraft operators permit. I would suggest everyone should read the requirements and even obtain a watercraft operators permit. There are some twists that might not be obvious.

An example I found, while most people born after 1987 will not need a watercraft operators permit, there could be situation where you must have one. While operating a boat alone or with guests that are all born before 1987 you'll be just fine. However, if you are out boating and hand off the helm to a guest that was born after 1987 and does not have a watercraft operators permit, then you must have one. A good example is for those of us with kids. In the current situation I only have to be in reach of the controls when my 14 year old son is at the helm of our boat. After July 1st though I MUST have a watercraft operators permit as well as being in reach of the controls when my son is at the helm.

Do read up, whether you get a operators permit is up to you of course, but I'd highly suggest it as the coursework is very in-depth and informative as well

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/education.html>

Safe boating is part of our culture, motto and mission here at the St Paul Yacht Club. If you

eer have any questions do feel free to reach out to anyone on the board or your neighbors. We don't have all the answers, but maybe we can help find answers from knowledgeable people when we don't know ourselves.

I'm going to close this report as I have previously, this just can't be repeated enough.

My theme for the year is simple, but powerful: **"We Can Do It!"** I truly believe that spirit lives in every one of our members. Whether you're interested in lending a hand, learning about operations, or shaping our club's direction, I encourage you to get involved. Join us at a committee meeting, attend a board session, or just reach out with ideas. You'll find all the upcoming events and meetings listed on the [St. Paul Yacht Club Calendar](#).

With each slip that gets filled and each project tackled, we're building more than just a boating season—we're building a legacy.

Here's to shared success,

Bill Tschohl
Commodore
St. Paul Yacht Club
651-335-1719

You can email the entire board at this single address: board@stpaulyachtclub.org

SPYC Profit & Loss Statement
As of 06/10/2025

Note: Actuals shown as Cash without allocating among budgets.

	Total			
	Accrual to Date	Actuals-Cash	FY 2025 Budget	+/- Budget (Cash)
INCOME				
40000 REVENUE	610.45	610.45		610.45
40100 DUES INCOME	500.00	842.13	0.00	842.13
40150 CLUB HOUSE FUND	-1,025.00	-1,234.04	0.00	-1,234.04
40200 SUMMER DOCKAGE MAIN	449,785.50	375,376.35	430,100.00	-54,723.65
40220 SUMMER STORAGE	13,615.00	13,194.77	22,750.00	-9,555.23
40250 DISCOUNTS GIVEN	-7,800.00	-7,090.16	-19,500.00	12,409.84
40300 WINTER STORAGE	1,827.50	19,065.57	199,850.00	-180,784.43
40337 HARBOR MAINTENANCE		2,532.83		2,532.83
40350 UTILITIES- METERED (GAS/ELEC/WATER)	38,904.37	28,529.04	60,000.00	-31,470.96
40351 UTILITIES- COMMON AREA FEES		898.21	5,000.00	-4,101.79
40500 GASOLINE INCOME	5,578.22	5,578.22	75,000.00	-69,421.78
40550 TRANSIENT	2,500.00		9,900.00	-9,900.00
40700 SHIP STORE SALES	21,149.63	27,471.45	10,000.00	17,471.45
40750 MARKUP		116.00		116.00
40800 SERVICES	3,311.78	4,669.04		4,669.04
41000 INITIATION FEES	1,500.00	1,500.00		1,500.00
42000 SAFETY FEES	-200.00	212.93		212.93
42500 YARD INCOME	3,550.00	6,994.90		6,994.90
CLUB HOUSE FUND EXPENSE	-116.20	-116.20		-116.20
SOCIAL FUND	-120.32	40.00		40.00
Total 40000 REVENUE	533,570.93	\$ 479,191.49	\$ 793,100.00	-313,908.51
Discounts given-1			0.00	0.00
Unapplied Cash Payment Income-1		2,435.19	0.00	2,435.19
Total Income	533,570.93	\$ 481,626.68	\$ 793,100.00	-311,473.32
Cost of Goods Sold				
50000 COST OF GOODS SOLD				0.00
50100 COS- GAS	10,446.74	10,446.74	60,000.00	-49,553.26
50300 COS-SHIP STORE	6,745.66	6,165.66	6,000.00	165.66
50400 COS-SALES TAX		0.00	985.00	-985.00

Total Cost of Goods Sold	17,192.40	\$ 16,612.40	\$ 66,985.00	-\$ 50,372.60
GROSS PROFIT	516,378.53	\$ 465,014.28	\$ 726,115.00	-261,100.72
EXPENSES				
60100 MARKETING & PROMOTIONS	2,283.65	2,283.65	5,000.00	-2,716.35
60600 SOCIAL	1,050.98	1,050.98	15,100.00	-14,049.02
60700 SOCIAL GIFTS	616.32	616.32		616.32
60800 CLUB HOUSE EXPENSE			23,500.00	-23,500.00
60850 CLUB MEETINGS			0.00	0.00
60890 MEETING EXPENSE	119.08	119.08	0.00	119.08
61000 BANK FEES/SERVICE CHARGES	2,494.09	2,371.41	2,000.00	371.41
61100 OFFICE SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT	248.53	248.53	5,000.00	-4,751.47
61150 OFFICE SOFTWARE	6,039.14	6,039.14	7,000.00	-960.86
61170 OFFICE/GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE			1,000.00	-1,000.00
62000 MILEAGE -EMPLOYEES			1,000.00	-1,000.00
63000 PAYROLL ADMINISTRATION			750.00	-750.00
63500 PROFESSIONAL FEES	2,387.00	2,387.00	7,500.00	-5,113.00
63600 TRAINING			7,000.00	-7,000.00
64000 HARBOR RENT	40,471.59	40,471.59	43,719.00	-3,247.41
65000 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	28,599.62	28,599.62	25,000.00	3,599.62
65400 SHOP SUPPLIES	6,888.83	6,888.83	5,000.00	1,888.83
65500 DREDGE & MODIFICATIONS	238,170.11	238,170.11	50,000.00	188,170.11
66001 WINTER/WINTERIZING	4,392.05	4,392.05	4,000.00	392.05
66100 SAFETY EQUIPMENT	0.00		1,000.00	-1,000.00
66200 PERMITS, LICENSES			1,500.00	-1,500.00
67000 WAGES & BENEFITS			275,000.00	
67100 GROSS WAGES	18,320.42	18,320.42		18,320.42
67200 PAYROLL TAXES	12,708.80	12,708.80		12,708.80
WORKMAN'S COMP	4,834.00	4,834.00		4,834.00
Total 67000 WAGES & BENEFITS	35,863.22	\$ 35,863.22	\$ 275,000.00	-239,136.78
68000 INTEREST EXPENSE			5,500.00	-5,500.00
68500 LIABILILTY INSURANCE			0.00	0.00
68600 MARINA OPERATING INSURANCE	20,549.56	20,549.56	24,000.00	-3,450.44
69000 UTILITIES	15,852.78	15,852.78	65,000.00	-49,147.22
GAS & ELECTRIC	20,141.13	20,141.13		20,141.13

Total 69000 UTILITIES	35,993.91	\$ 35,993.91	\$ 65,000.00	-29,006.09
69040 METERED UTILITIES			0.00	0.00
70000 OPERATING				0.00
70230 MISCELLANEOUS			13,000.00	-13,000.00
Total 70000 OPERATING		\$ 0.00	\$ 13,000.00	-\$ 13,000.00
70075 BAD DEBTS		-163.00	70,000.00	-70,163.00
Payroll Expenses	-288.06	-288.06		-288.06
Company Contributions	0.00			0.00
Retirement	1,026.56	1,026.56		1,026.56
Total Company Contributions	1,026.56	\$ 1,026.56	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,026.56
Taxes	6,242.21	6,242.21		6,242.21
Wages	34,219.21	34,219.21		34,219.21
Total Payroll Expenses	41,199.92	\$ 41,199.92	\$ 0.00	\$ 41,199.92
QuickBooks Payments Fees	4,091.53	4,091.53	0.00	4,091.53
Total Expenses	471,459.13	\$ 471,173.45	\$ 657,569.00	-\$ 186,395.55
Net Operating Income	44,919.40	-6,159.17	\$ 68,546.00	-74,705.17
Other Income				
90100 INTEREST INCOME			0.00	0.00
90125 FINANCE CHARGE INCOME	5,460.88	7,941.90		7,941.90
Total 90100 INTEREST INCOME	5,460.88	\$ 7,941.90	\$ 0.00	\$ 7,941.90
Late Fee Income	1,775.00	3,681.66		3,681.66
Total Other Income	7,235.88	\$ 11,623.56	\$ 0.00	\$ 11,623.56
Other Expenses				
70100 DEPRECIATION EXPENSE	77,110.00	77,110.00	80,000.00	-2,890.00
Total Other Expenses	77,110.00	\$ 77,110.00	\$ 80,000.00	-2,890.00
Net Other Income/Expenses	-69,874.12	-65,486.44	-80,000.00	14,513.56
NET INCOME	-24,954.72	-71,645.61	-11,454.00	-60,191.61
CHANGES BY BOARD ACTION				
New Expense: Survey			-6,800.00	
New Expense: Purchase Dredging Equipment			-95,000.00	
NET ADJUSTED INCOME			-113,254.00	

SPYC Balance Sheet - As of 06/10/2025

	<u>Total</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
10000 CASH & EQUIVALENTS	500.00
10040 CHEROKEE CHECKING	82,392.26
10700 PETTY CASH	58.94
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 82,951.20
Accounts Receivable	
11200 ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE - TRADE	161,057.91
11520 ACCOUNTS REC SPYCA	200.00
Total Accounts Receivable	\$ 161,257.91
Other Current Assets	
Total Other Current Assets	\$ 28,516.24
Total Current Assets	\$ 272,725.35
Fixed Assets	
Total Fixed (Calital) Assets	\$ 1,014,739.58
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,287,464.93
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Current Liabilities	
20000 UNEARNED REVENUE	0.00
Total 20000 UNEARNED REVENUE	\$ 400.00
20400 DEFERRED REVENUE - SLIP FEES	-2,000.00
20500 KEY DEPOSITS	14,341.39
20600 SLIP DEPOSITS	5,900.88
21000 PAYROLL LIABILITIES	
Total 21000 PAYROLL LIABILITIES	\$ 6,705.82
Minnesota Department of Revenue Payable	2,010.86
SALES TAX	-22.10
Wisconsin Department of Revenue Payable	32.82
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ 27,369.67
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 27,369.67

Long-Term Liabilities	
24215 DREDGING MACHINE LOAN x3181	115,117.02
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$ 115,117.02
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 142,486.69
Total Equity	\$ 1,144,978.24
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITIES	1,287,464.93

Operations Committee Report (June 2025)

One of the 'new' mini dredges has arrived and is working on the 'point' casting material back toward the Harriet island shoreline. The other mini dredge is still on its way here. We will continue using the mini dredge to clean up the point area and then switch back to the mudcat toward the end of the month. Polymer flocculant is on order and should arrive shortly.

A little additional gravel will be added to the geo-bag laydown area to create better drainage away from the lot and toward the river. Geo-bag laydown area will be prepped with poly just before the bags are deployed.

We are looking into moving a few boats to better spread out the electrical loads on the shoreside and Miller docks.

This concludes the ops report.

Thank you,

Andy Ristrom
612.242.4118 cell

St Paul Yacht Club

2025 River Adventure Guide



Contents

Contents.....	2
Introduction.....	4
Mississippi River - Pool 1.....	5
Exploring and Anchoring in Pool 1 (Mile 848–854).....	6
Lock & Dam No. 1 (Mile 847.9).....	6
2025 Hours of Operation:.....	6
How to Lock Through:.....	7
Boater Tips:.....	7
Mississippi River - Pool 2.....	8
Ford Island (Mile 846.5).....	8
Minnehaha Dog Park (Mile 845.5).....	8
Hidden Falls Park and Public Boat Launch (Mile 844.8).....	8
Watergate Marina (Mile 843.5).....	9
Crosby Farm Regional Park (Mile 843.0).....	9
Activities & Amenities.....	9
Tips for Visitors.....	10
Pike Island (Mile 842.0).....	10
Snelling Lake - Minnesota River (Mile 841.5).....	10
Pool and Yacht Club (Mile 840.0).....	11
Pillow Beach & Shepard Rd. Bridge Anchorage (Mile 839.0).....	11
Lilydale Regional Park Boat Launch (Mile 838.5).....	11
Ohio Swing Bridge (Mile 837.0).....	13
Excel Energy Inlet (Mile 836.5).....	13
St Paul Yacht Club Upper Harbor (Mile 835.5).....	13
Gas Dock.....	13
Upper Landing Park (Mile 835.0).....	14
City House (Mile 839.6).....	15
Harriet Island (Miles 839.5–840.5).....	15
Raspberry Island (Mile 839.6).....	16
St Paul Yacht Lower Harbor (Mile 839.8).....	17
Kelly's Landing (Mile 831.5).....	17
River Heights Marina (Mile 830.7).....	18
Sheely's Cut (Mile 826).....	18

Islands Around Mile 826.....	19
1. Sandbar Island.....	19
2. Shrub-Isle.....	19
3. Wooded Refuge Island.....	19
Spring Lake (Mississippi River Mile 829.5).....	20
Lock & Dam No. 2 – Hastings (Mississippi River Mile 815.2).....	20
St. Croix River (Confluence at Mile 811.5).....	21
Prescott, Wisconsin (Mile 811.5).....	22
Point Douglas, Minnesota (Mile 811.5).....	23
Kinnickinnic Sandbar (north of River Mile 811.5).....	23
Afton (St. Croix River Mile 7.5).....	23
Lake St. Croix (St. Croix River Miles 1.0 to 15.4).....	24
Hudson, WI (St. Croix River Mile 2.5).....	25
Stillwater, MN (St. Croix River Mile 15.4).....	25
Mississippi River - Pool 3 (River Mile 797–815).....	26

Introduction

There's nothing quite like the freedom of setting out on the river with the sun above you, the current below, and the day wide open ahead. Whether you're a seasoned river captain or casting off for your first upriver cruise, this *River Adventure Guide* was created to help you discover the beauty, history, and hidden gems of the Mississippi, Minnesota, and St. Croix rivers.

From quiet coves and sandy beaches to vibrant harbors and riverside parks, this region offers something for everyone—fishing, paddling, rafting, anchoring, dining, and docking. Along the way, you'll find spots to stretch your legs, grab a bite, and connect with the river's past.

As thrilling as river exploration can be, the waters in and around St. Paul demand respect. Depths shift, current can be swift, and the landscape changes with the seasons. We encourage all boaters to be **cautious adventurers**—navigate with care, keep your charts handy, monitor VHF channels, and never underestimate the power of the river.

This guide highlights not only destinations but also real experiences and insights from SPYC members who know these waters best. Whether you're seeking serenity or spontaneity, let this be your map, your inspiration, and your reminder to explore boldly—and safely.

We'll see you out there. Stay curious. Stay safe. And most of all—enjoy the ride.

—The St. Paul Yacht Club

Mississippi River - Pool 1

From Ford Dam to the Upper Locks of Minneapolis

Pool 1 stretches from Lock & Dam No. 1 (commonly called Ford Dam) northward to the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock in Minneapolis. This stretch of river offers a blend of urban exploration and natural beauty, flanked by tree-lined bluffs, historic infrastructure, and secluded anchorages.

Navigating Pool 1 requires passing through Lock & Dam No. 1, operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The area is lightly trafficked by barge traffic, making it a peaceful zone for recreational boaters.

Our members share that Pool 1 offers one of the most tranquil stretches of river within the Twin Cities metro area. Explore this upper reach for a serene anchoring experience or a unique view of the Minneapolis skyline.

Exploring and Anchoring in Pool 1 (Mile 848–854)

Members describe Pool 1 as a hidden gem. With minimal boat traffic and plenty of space to explore, the pool is ideal for anchoring out, swimming, or enjoying lunch aboard.

- **Common Anchor Points:** Just upstream from the lock, there are calm coves tucked into the bluffs on both riverbanks.
- **Scenic Views:** Expect panoramic vistas of forested cliffs, birdlife, and the distant outline of downtown Minneapolis.
- **Activities:** Some members bring paddleboards or inflatables for a slow float in the current. Others pack a picnic and anchor for hours of quiet.

Notes from Nate: There are two anchorages that I've been to, but others may have more experience. Make a note of the furthest you can go without having to portage

Navigation Note: Depths are generally stable, but watch for submerged rocks near the eastern shoreline.

Lock & Dam No. 1 (Mile 847.9)

Lock & Dam No. 1, commonly referred to as **Ford Dam**, marks the southern entrance to Pool 1. Operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, this lock is friendly to recreational traffic and a gateway to a tranquil stretch of river leading toward downtown Minneapolis.

Location: 5000 West River Parkway, Minneapolis, MN 55417

Phone: (651) 290-5919

VHF Radio Channel: 14

2025 Hours of Operation:

- **Fridays & Mondays:** 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Last lockage at 7:30 p.m.
- **Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays:** 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Last lockage at 5:30 p.m.
- **Tuesdays – Thursdays:** Closed to recreational traffic
(Open for commercial vessels by appointment only with 24-hour advance notice.)

How to Lock Through:

- **Radio Contact:** Call on **VHF Channel 14** as you approach to request lockage.
- **Signal Cord Option:** If you don't have a radio, pull the **recreation signal cord** located on the lock's guide wall.
- **Arrival Reminder:** Arrive at least **30 minutes before closing** to ensure passage.

Boater Tips:

- Have **lines and fenders ready** before entering the chamber.
- Watch for **strong currents** near the dam structure.
- Be courteous to other boaters waiting for lockage, especially during peak hours.

Lock & Dam No. 1 is more than just a gateway—it's your entrance to a peaceful and scenic part of the Mississippi rarely experienced by the casual boater.

Mississippi River - Pool 2

From Lock & Dam 1 (Mile 847.9) to Lock & Dam 2 (Mile 815.2)

Pool 2 flows through the heart of the Twin Cities and offers a remarkable blend of natural beauty, recreational opportunities, and riverside culture. Whether you're craving sandy beaches, tranquil anchorages, or spots to dock and dine, Pool 2 delivers adventure in every direction.

Ford Island (Mile 846.5)

Location: Near 5000 West River Parkway, Minneapolis, MN 55417

Access: By water only

Hours: Open access; daylight recommended

A wooded island near the base of Lock & Dam 1, Ford Island is a favorite for small-boat anchoring. It offers solitude, birdwatching, and calm water sheltered from the main channel. There are no formal facilities, but many members bring hammocks or paddleboards for a peaceful escape just minutes from the city.

Minnehaha Dog Park (Mile 845.5)

Address: 5399 Minnehaha Park Dr S, Minneapolis, MN 55417

Hours: 6:00 AM – 12:00 AM daily

Access: Via land trail or upstream dinghy landing

This riverside dog park is an adventure for your four-legged crew. Heavily wooded and shaded, it spans several acres with sandy shoreline access to the river. There's even a dog beach! You'll need to land at a nearby cove and hike in.

Hidden Falls Park and Public Boat Launch (Mile 844.8)

Address: 1313 Hidden Falls Dr, Saint Paul, MN 55116

Hours: 6:00 AM – 9:00 PM daily

Access: Closest dock is Watergate Marina or via shoreline anchorage

Tucked into a wooded valley beneath the Highland Park bluffs, this park features picnic shelters, scenic walking trails, and the namesake waterfall just a short hike in. Perfect for families, this is a quiet green escape from city noise with great photo ops.

Watergate Marina (Mile 843.5)

Address: 2500 Crosby Farm Rd, Saint Paul, MN 55116

Phone: (651) 695-3780

VHF Radio Channel: 16

Fuel Dock Hours: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM daily (Call or radio ahead for service)

Fuel Types Available: Gasoline and Diesel

Amenities: Pump-out station, ship's store, restrooms, picnic area

Crosby Farm Regional Park (Mile 843.0)

Address: 2595 Crosby Farm Rd, Saint Paul, MN 55116

Hours: Open daily from sunrise to 10:00 PM

Contact: (651) 266-6400

Nestled along the Mississippi River, Crosby Farm Regional Park is Saint Paul's largest natural park, encompassing approximately 736 acres of floodplain forests, wetlands, and small lakes, including Crosby Lake and Upper Lake. The park offers a serene escape with a variety of recreational opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts.

Activities & Amenities

- **Trails:** Explore 6.7 miles of paved trails suitable for hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing, connecting to Fort Snelling State Park and Hidden Falls Regional Park. [NPS.gov](https://www.nps.gov)
- **Fishing:** Enjoy fishing along the Mississippi River shoreline and in the park's lakes, which serve as nurseries for various fish species during flood seasons. [NPS.gov+1Hilary Bullock+1](https://www.nps.gov+1Hilary+Bullock+1)
- **Picnicking:** Utilize picnic tables, BBQ grills, and a picnic shelter equipped with a fire pit and electricity. The shelter accommodates up to 50 people and can be reserved for events. [Saint Paul Minnesota](https://www.saintpaulmn.gov)
- **Wildlife Observation:** The park is a haven for birdwatchers, especially during spring and fall migrations, with sightings of great egrets, herons, and bald eagles. [NPS.gov](https://www.nps.gov)
- **Boating:** Access the Mississippi River via nearby Watergate Marina, offering opportunities for canoeing and kayaking.

Boaters can dock at Watergate Marina (Mile 843.5) and access the park via a short walk. Alternatively, anchoring near the park's shoreline allows for direct entry to the trails and picnic areas.

Tips for Visitors

- **Seasonal Considerations:** Be aware that trails may be inaccessible during high water conditions. [NPS.gov](https://www.nps.gov)
- **Facilities:** Restroom facilities are available near the picnic shelter. [Saint Paul Minnesota](https://www.saintpaulmn.gov)
- **Regulations:** Note that the possession or consumption of alcohol is prohibited within the park. [Saint Paul Minnesota+1 Saint Paul Minnesota+1](https://www.saintpaulmn.gov+1Saint+Paul+Minnesota+1)

Crosby Farm Regional Park offers a blend of natural beauty and recreational activities, making it a must-visit destination for those seeking adventure along the Mississippi River.

Pike Island (Mile 842.0)

Address: Within Fort Snelling State Park, 101 Snelling Lake Rd, Saint Paul, MN 55111

Hours: 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Access: By water or footbridge

Located at the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers, this island is a quiet sanctuary with wide, flat trails perfect for hiking or biking. A historic Dakota site, Pike Island is rich with cultural significance. There are restrooms and picnic areas on the adjacent park shore.

Snelling Lake - Minnesota River (Mile 841.5)

Address: Fort Snelling State Park

Access: By kayak or small craft only

Hours: 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM

This shallow, spring-fed lake is accessible via a side channel from the Minnesota River. It's a great spot for paddle sports, birding, and picnicking. Motorized access is limited due to shallow entry, so it remains quiet and uncrowded.

Pool and Yacht Club (Mile 840.0)

Address: 1600 Lilydale Rd, Lilydale, MN 55118

Phone: (651) 455-3900

Access: Transient dock access for members and guests

Hours: Dining: Mon–Fri 11 AM–8 PM; Sat 4:30 PM–9 PM

Amenities: Full-service marina, pool, restaurant, fuel dock, clubhouse

One of the premier destinations on Pool 2. YOU MUST BE A MEMBER TO USE ANY OF THE CLUB'S FACILITIES. That said, the Pool & Yacht Club offers excellent dining overlooking the river, clean facilities, and a friendly boater community. It's a perfect evening stop with marina slips available for visiting yachts.

- Members only; use the contact information above to learn more.
- Dock with power and Pool & Yacht Club members can spend the night

Pillow Beach & Shepard Rd. Bridge Anchorage (Mile 839.0)

Access: Anchor near eastern shore, upstream of Shepard Rd Bridge

Hours: Daylight only; no overnight mooring

This sandy shoreline—nicknamed "Pillow Beach" by SPYC members—is a summertime favorite. Calm waters and a wide sandbank make it a great swimming stop or raft-up location. Bring inflatables and beach chairs for a low-key adventure.

- Other side of the river from Pool & Yacht Club
- There are a couple of spots that are good for anchoring for the day

Lilydale Regional Park Boat Launch (Mile 838.5)

Address: 400 Water St, Saint Paul, MN 55107

Hours: Sunrise – 11:00 PM

Amenities: Double-wide ramp, trailer parking, picnic tables, restrooms

Ideal for trailering in or out of Pool 2, this is one of the best-maintained public ramps on the Mississippi. There's a wide beach nearby, and the area is popular with paddleboarders and fishing boats alike.

- Good place to launch tenders and small watercraft no dock

Lilydale Regional Park offers a variety of adventures:

- **Hiking & Biking Trails**

Explore miles of paved and unpaved trails that meander through floodplain forests and along the riverbanks. These trails connect to nearby parks, including Harriet Island and Crosby Farm Regional Park, offering scenic routes for walking, running, and cycling.

- **Paddling & Boating**

Pickerel Lake within the park provides a serene setting for kayaking and canoeing. A designated launch area is available near the picnic shelter parking lot. Seasonal kayak rentals are offered through Mississippi River Paddle Share.

- **Fishing Opportunities**

Anglers can fish for bluegills, crappie, northern pike, and bass in Pickerel Lake, especially before mid-summer when aquatic vegetation becomes dense.

- **Off-Leash Dog Park**

Opened in 2022, the park features a fully fenced dog park with separate areas for large and small dogs. The dog park is located southwest of the DNR boat launch parking lot.

- **Picnicking**

A modern picnic shelter designed by VJAA offers a comfortable spot to relax and enjoy meals. The shelter includes picnic tables, a restroom, bike racks, and a drinking fountain. It's available on a first-come, first-served basis.

- **Birdwatching & Wildlife Viewing**

The park's diverse habitats attract a variety of bird species, making it a prime location for birdwatching. Keep an eye out for bald eagles, herons, and other wildlife as you explore the area.

- **Historic Brickyards**

Discover remnants of the Twin Cities Brick Company, which operated from 1894 to the 1970s. Visitors can view brick kiln ruins and quarries. Note that some areas are closed due to unstable slopes; please respect all posted signs and barriers.

Whether you're seeking a peaceful paddle on Pickerel Lake, a scenic hike through floodplain forests, or a picnic with views of the Mississippi River, Lilydale Regional Park offers a multitude of adventures for outdoor enthusiasts.

Ohio Swing Bridge (Mile 837.0)

Address: 4465 66th Street E, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076

Hours: 6:00 AM – 10:00 PM daily

The Ohio Street Swing Bridge, located just upstream of downtown Saint Paul, is a rare surviving example of early 20th-century movable bridge engineering.

Constructed in 1915, the bridge was originally built to connect Saint Paul's West Side neighborhood to industrial rail lines and warehouses along the riverfront. Designed as a swing bridge to accommodate river traffic, its central span would rotate horizontally to allow towboats and barges to pass. Though long closed to vehicular and rail use, the bridge remains intact and visible from the river, a silent sentinel to the city's industrial past. Today, it serves as a point of interest for boaters and urban explorers alike—its rusting trusses and riveted steelwork evoking a time when river commerce shaped the region's growth.

Boaters navigating the Mississippi River near this location should be aware that the bridge's clearance is fixed, and passage beneath it is subject to the bridge's vertical clearance limitations. It is advisable to consult current navigational charts and local notices to mariners for the most up-to-date information on bridge clearances and any potential restrictions in the area.

Excel Energy Inlet (Mile 836.5)

Address: 199 Kellogg Blvd W, Saint Paul, MN 55102

Hours: Varies by event; typically 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM (Mon–Fri)

This inlet is adjacent to the Xcel Energy Center, this area is notable for its urban riverfront scenery.

- Spring fed
- Only accessible when water is high (need an estimate of river gauge depth to access)

St Paul Yacht Club Upper Harbor (Mile 835.5)

Address: 375 Water St W, Saint Paul, MN 55107

Hours: Gas Dock: 24/7 self-service; Clubhouse: Hours vary

Gas Dock

The St. Paul Yacht Club (SPYC) Gas Dock is a convenient and accessible fueling station located at 375 W Water Street, Saint Paul, MN 55107, along the

Mississippi River. Designed to serve both club members and visiting boaters, the gas dock offers the following features:

Fuel Services

- Fuel Type: 91-octane clear (non-oxygenated, ethanol-free) marine-grade gasoline.
- Availability: Self-service pump accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week via credit card pay-at-the-pump system.
- Pump-Out Station: A self-service pump-out system is also available 24/7 for waste removal.

The gas dock is situated just outside the upper harbor mouth of the SPYC, making it easily accessible for boats navigating the river.

Upper Landing Park (Mile 835.0)

Address: 180 Shepard Rd, Saint Paul, MN 55102

Hours: Open daily from sunrise to 11:00 PM

Contact: Harriet Island Event Office – (651) 266-6400

Nestled along the north bank of the Mississippi River near downtown Saint Paul, Upper Landing Park offers a serene urban oasis with panoramic river views. The park features lush lawns, a riverfront trail ideal for walking and biking, and artistic sculptures that enhance its scenic beauty. Notably, the park includes sculptural mounds that record the heights of major floods over the past 50 years, serving as a poignant reminder of the river's history.

Amenities include:

- River's Edge Trail: A paved pathway perfect for walking, jogging, and cycling, connecting to the broader Mississippi River trail system.
- Open Lawn Areas: Expansive green spaces suitable for picnics, relaxation, and informal gatherings.
- Artistic Installations: Sculptures and mounds that commemorate historical flood events, adding educational value to your visit.

Note: The park does not have restrooms, potable water, or electrical outlets. Amplified music is not permitted due to proximity to residential areas.

- No direct boat access, but can anchor on the sandy spot just across from Harriet Island

City House (Mile 839.6)

Address: 266 Old Shepard Rd, Saint Paul, MN 55102

Hours: Open daily from dawn to dusk

Note: City House does not have a public phone number listed for general inquiries

Perched on piers over the Mississippi River, City House is a restored grain elevator that now serves as a unique park pavilion and interpretive center. Built between 1927 and 1931, it was the first successful grain terminal elevator owned and operated by a farm cooperative in the United States. Today, City House offers expansive views of the river valley and downtown skyline, making it a popular spot for visitors seeking both history and scenery.

Features:

- **Historic Significance:** Listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its role in the farmers' cooperative movement and river shipping history.
- **Dining:** City House is open for casual dining, with seasonal hours of 11am-9pm. They serve a variety of food, including our award-winning Cubano sandwich. They boast gluten-free and vegetarian options. And, serve local craft beer, cider, and wine on tap. Menu changes frequently based on the seasons and availability of ingredients.
- **Scenic Views:** Cantilevered design offers unobstructed vistas of the Mississippi River and downtown Saint Paul.

Harriet Island (Miles 839.5–840.5)

Harriet Island Regional Park is a vibrant urban park that offers a blend of recreational activities, historical significance, and scenic beauty. Once an actual island, it was connected to the mainland in the 1950s but retains its name and charm. The park features expansive green spaces, walking and biking trails, and hosts numerous public events throughout the year.

A centerpiece of the park is the **Clarence W. Wigington Pavilion**, a 5,000-square-foot facility designed by the nation's first African American

municipal architect. The pavilion is available for events and offers a glimpse into the city's architectural heritage.

The park is also home to **Padelford Riverboats**, offering sightseeing and dinner cruises that provide unique views of the Mississippi River and downtown Saint Paul.

- The park is a popular spot for festivals such as the Irish Fair and various 5K runs.
- Picnic areas are available, but it's advisable to bring your own charcoal for grills.
- Parking can be limited during events; consider using public transportation or arriving early.

No on-site fuel or pump-out services; however, these are available at the adjacent St Paul Yacht Club facilities

- **Padelford Riverboats**
<https://riverrides.com>
- **Harriet Island Regional Park**
<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/harriet-island-regional-park>

Raspberry Island (Mile 839.6)

Raspberry Island is a scenic urban oasis nestled in the Mississippi River, offering panoramic views of downtown Saint Paul. Once known as Navy Island during its tenure as a U.S. Navy base (1949–1968), it reclaimed its original name in 1995. The island underwent significant renovations in 2008, introducing landscaped walking paths, river access points, planting beds, benches, and improved lighting. A notable feature is the Schubert Club Bandshell, a glass and steel structure designed by architect James Carpenter, serving as a venue for concerts and events.

The historic Minnesota Boat Club Boathouse, established in 1910 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, remains active on the island's western end.

No on-site fuel or pump-out services; however, these are available at the adjacent St Paul Yacht Club facilities

St Paul Yacht Lower Harbor (Mile 839.8)

The St. Paul Yacht Club Lower Harbor is a well-sheltered marina nestled along the Mississippi River at Harriet Island, directly across from downtown St. Paul. The harbor features over 100 slips, floating docks, and secure gated access. It's a favored stop for boaters seeking a peaceful yet centrally located mooring option.

Surrounded by scenic walking paths and adjacent to Harriet Island Regional Park, the harbor offers convenient access to green space, picnic areas, and summer concerts. A pedestrian bridge connects the area to Raspberry Island and downtown attractions, including restaurants, breweries, museums, and cultural venues.

Operated by the St. Paul Yacht Club, the Lower Harbor is known for its welcoming boating community and frequent member events. Boaters passing through can request overnight accommodations in advance, with club representatives often available to greet and assist visitors.

Kelly's Landing (Mile 831.5)

Kelly's Landing is a laid-back riverfront destination popular with local boaters for its scenic shoreline and social vibe. On sunny weekends, it's common to find a dozen boats rafted together while passengers swim, grill, or relax on floaties. While not a commercial marina or park, its informal nature and proximity to downtown make it a frequent stop for day boaters looking to anchor out.

No formal transient dock. Small beach area often used for anchoring or beaching smaller craft. Use caution and check river depth and current.

- Bring your own grill or picnic setup. There are no formal facilities.
- Be respectful of shoreline vegetation and noise levels — nearby residents appreciate considerate boaters.
- Great spot for sunset views looking north toward the city skyline.
- Cell signal is strong; good spot to take a break and share photos.
- Floaties, picnic gear, Bluetooth speaker (kept at reasonable volume), water shoes

No fuel, water, or restrooms available

River Heights Marina (Mile 830.7)

Address: 4455 66th Street E, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076

Hours: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Phone: (651) 455-4974

Website: riverheightsmarina.com

River Heights Marina is a full-service marina located on the east bank of the Mississippi River in Inver Grove Heights, just south of St. Paul. One of the standout features of River Heights Marina is a dock-and-dine restaurant located just steps from the slips. Boaters can enjoy a meal or drink on the outdoor patio while taking in river views.

Sheely's Cut (Mile 826)

Sheely's Cut is a sharp, man-made channel carved to ease navigation around a tight bend in the Mississippi River near mile marker 826. It straightens the river's flow, reducing the need for risky maneuvering, especially during high-water seasons.

- Offers a safer shortcut through a historically tricky bend.
- A favorite with local destinations boaters and barges, making it a busy yet dynamic section of the river.

Navigation Tips:

- Approach with caution during high flows; stay near the **channeled path**.
- Drift slowly past the entrance before throttling up—gives room for correction.
- If you see breakwaters or temporary logs, reduce throttle and steer accordingly.

What You'll Find:

- Swift current through the cut—ideal timing ensures smooth passage.
- On the south side, enjoy a scenic view of bluffs and mature woodlands.
- Watch north side islands forming in the bend—shifting landforms that provide habitat and interest.

Islands Around Mile 826

Just downstream of Sheely's Cut you'll find a small cluster of riverine islands—dynamic landforms shaped by sediment deposition and annual floods.

These islands provide vital transitional habitat between river and floodplain—supporting fish spawning, bird nesting, and small wildlife corridors.

Tips for Visiting the Islands:

- Land on sandbar edges or gravel banks—avoid trampling vegetation.
- Bring anchor or drift rig; nets and lines great for sampling or relaxing in calm eddies.
- Keep an eye on river levels—some islands can disappear or reappear within days.

1. Sandbar Island

- A low-profile, sandy bar exposed in low water. Perfect for fishing, birding, or a quick picnic stop.
- Shifts frequently—check depth chart in spring.

2. Shrub-Isle

- Higher, with willows and young elm. Offers shelter and feeding grounds for migrating birds.
- A tranquil spot—kayak in and drift quietly to observe turtles and riparian zone critters.

3. Wooded Refuge Island

- Heavily treed, often remains above water even at mid-high river levels.
- Excellent for **wildlife spotting**, especially waterfowl and herons.

Spring Lake (Mississippi River Mile 829.5)

Tucked into the east bank of the Mississippi River just upstream of St. Paul, Spring Lake is a wide, tranquil backwater that feels a world away from the main channel's current and barge traffic. Once a meander of the river, it now forms part of a protected wildlife management area—and offers serene paddling, quiet anchorages, and abundant nature watching.

What You'll Find

- Sheltered waters ideal for anchoring, kayaking, or paddleboarding.
- Wildlife haven—frequent sightings of bald eagles, egrets, and muskrats.
- Low boat traffic, especially on weekdays.
- Access to Spring Lake Park Reserve, which features scenic overlooks, trails, and picnic areas.

Navigation Notes

- Entrance is wide but shallow in low water; deeper along the southern inlet around MM 829.5.
- Most of Spring Lake is no-wake and best explored with quiet watercraft or trolling motors.
- Watch for floating **vegetation** and **submerged logs**, especially in the northern coves.

Lock & Dam No. 2 – Hastings (Mississippi River Mile 815.2)

Lock & Dam No. 2 marks a pivotal navigation point on the Upper Mississippi River. Located in Hastings, Minnesota, about 13 miles downstream from St. Paul, it controls river flow, facilitates barge and recreational traffic, and creates Pool 2, one of the most scenic and ecologically rich stretches of the river.

Passing through the lock isn't just functional—it's a rite of passage for river cruisers. The process is smooth and well-managed, with friendly operators and clear VHF coordination.

What to Expect

- Single lock chamber with a 600-ft length and 110-ft width.
 - Average lift/drop of 12 feet, depending on river level.
 - Well-signed approach with ample room to stage before entering.
 - Minimal commercial congestion compared to downstream locks.
-

Lock-Through Procedure

1. Hail on VHF Channel 14 about ½ mile out: “Lock 2, this is [Your Boat Name] northbound/southbound, one recreational vessel requesting lock-through.”
2. Wait for a horn or light signal: green = enter, red = standby.
3. Fenders out, lines ready. Cleats are on the chamber wall—no need for your own lines.
4. Idle in slowly, tie off midship, and cut engine.
5. Enjoy the lift! (Approx. 10–15 minutes total process.)

Tip: If traffic is light, they’ll often cycle you through quickly. Be courteous and efficient.

St. Croix River (Confluence at Mile 811.5)

Just downstream from the Twin Cities, the St. Croix River joins the Mississippi at Prescott, Wisconsin—a moment where two distinct worlds meet. While the Mississippi carries the pulse of industry and navigation, the St. Croix offers something else entirely: a slow, scenic escape into sandstone bluffs, quiet anchorages, and charming river towns.

Designated as a National Scenic Riverway, the St. Croix is one of the Midwest’s most beloved boating destinations. Protected and preserved, it offers a dramatic contrast to the wide, working waters of the Mississippi.

What You’ll Find:

- No commercial barge traffic beyond the confluence—this is a river for pleasure boats, paddlers, and nature lovers.
- Gorgeous sandstone cliffs, wooded shorelines, and sandy beaches.
- Home to Hudson, Stillwater, and Afton—some of Minnesota and Wisconsin’s most vibrant river towns.

Prescott, Wisconsin (Mile 811.5)

Confluence of the Mississippi & St. Croix Rivers

Prescott sits at the confluence of two mighty rivers, marking the southern gateway to the scenic St. Croix. A historic river town with a lively marina culture, it’s a natural pause point for boaters headed up the St. Croix or returning from a day trip. The waterfront is packed with energy in the summer—think patios, music, and boats stacked three deep.

What You’ll Find:

- Point St. Croix Marina – A full-service marina offering transient slips, fuel, pump-out station, and restrooms.
- Waterfront Bars & Grills – Popular boat-up dining spots like *Muddy Waters* and *The Boat Launch* with riverside patios.
- Downtown Prescott – Just a short walk uphill with coffee shops, local boutiques, and a craft brewery.
- Summer Events – Frequent live music, car shows, and riverfront festivals during peak boating season.

Navigation Notes:

- Access the shoreline just south of the Prescott Highway 10 bridge
- Depth varies—stay mid-channel on approach; anchoring is easiest along the sand and gravel shoreline

- Stronger currents toward the Mississippi side—seek shelter in the eastern pocket of the cove

Point Douglas, Minnesota (Mile 811.5)

Quiet Shoreline at the Edge of Two Rivers

Often overlooked by boaters focused on Prescott, Point Douglas is a peaceful landing nestled on the Minnesota side of the river confluence. It marks the spot where the Mississippi meets the St. Croix and offers a low-key but strategically located stop for launching paddlecraft, stretching your legs, or anchoring for a quiet break. Though it lacks the bustling energy of Prescott, it more than makes up for it with access to trails, nature, and calm waters.

What You'll Find:

- Public boat launch with trailer parking and easy ramp access
- Point Douglas Regional Trail—a scenic path along the river connecting to Hastings
- Calm anchorage on the St. Croix side, shielded from the Mississippi's main current
- Birdwatching and bluff views from the water or trail
- Less traffic and noise than Prescott—ideal for a midday picnic or sunset anchor

Kinnickinnic Sandbar (north of River Mile 811.5)

The Kinnickinnic (“Kinny”) Sandbar is located at approximately Mile 0.3 on the St. Croix River, just north of Mississippi River Mile 811.5, right at the confluence where the Kinnickinnic River joins the St. Croix on the Wisconsin side.

“The Kinny” has been a favorite summer hangout for generations. It’s a perfect mix of river freedom and sandbar simplicity—a place where strangers become friends, kids rule the shoreline, and boaters trade sunscreen for stories.

Afton (St. Croix River Mile 7.5)

Nestled into a quiet cove on the Minnesota side of the St. Croix, Afton is a boater-friendly village known for its hospitality, quaint downtown, and natural

setting. Just a short cruise upriver from Prescott and Hudson, it’s a peaceful lunch stop, overnight anchorage, or shopping break.

Afton seamlessly blends small-town charm with scenic beauty—and the town's layout makes it easy to dock and explore on foot.

What You'll Find:

- Protected harbor with **transient dock access**
- Charming main street just **steps from the water**
- Walkable town with **restaurants, ice cream, shops, and wine bars**
- Nearby **beaches and bluffs** for hiking, lounging, or sunset views

Navigation Notes:

- Afton's marina and public docks are just off the main channel, well-protected from river chop
- Approach slowly—no-wake zones begin well before the harbor
- Water depth is generally good, but check charts if river levels are low
- Transient dockage is limited on busy weekends—call ahead if possible

Lake St. Croix (St. Croix River Miles 1.0 to 15.4)

Stretching roughly 14 miles from Prescott in the south to Stillwater in the north, Lake St. Croix is not technically a lake, but rather a widened, slow-moving stretch of the St. Croix River. Formed by the backwaters of Lock & Dam No. 2, it's broad, scenic, and lined with bluffs, beaches, and small-town destinations.

Whether you're looking to raft up with friends at a sandbar, pull the kids on a tube, anchor off a beach, or just drift.

What You'll Find:

- Wide, open water perfect for sailing, tubing, and wakeboarding
- Easily accessible towns like Hudson, Afton, and Bayport with docks and dining

- Multiple sandbars and swimming spots, especially near the Kinnickinnic and Troy Beaches
- Gorgeous bluff-lined scenery with frequent eagle sightings and river sunsets
- No commercial barge traffic—this is a river for recreation

Hudson, WI (St. Croix River Mile 2.5)

With its bustling marina, lively downtown, and walkable riverfront, Hudson is one of the most popular destinations on the entire St. Croix. Located just 2.5 miles north of Prescott, it offers everything a boater could want: dining, shopping, music, fuel, and even ice cream—just steps from the dock.

It's a perfect stop for a half-day getaway, full-day outing, or overnight adventure, and it's particularly beloved for sunset dining on the water and summer weekend energy.

What You'll Find:

- Full-service marina with transient slips and fuel
- Vibrant downtown just steps from the dock—no hills, no hassle
- Wide variety of restaurants, bars, breweries, and boutiques
- Excellent people-watching, sunsets, and riverfront live music
- Central location for exploring both Lake St. Croix and upriver towns like Afton and Stillwater

Stillwater, MN (St. Croix River Mile 15.4)

Perched at the northern tip of Lake St. Croix, Stillwater is the crown jewel of the river—a town steeped in history, filled with charm, and perfectly tailored to boaters. Once the lumber capital of the Midwest, Stillwater now draws cruisers, day-trippers, and overnight anchorers looking for a blend of walkable streets, riverfront restaurants, artisan shops, and stunning views.

From the water, the iconic lift bridge welcomes you into town, marking both a passage back in time and the northernmost navigable stretch for most recreational boats.

What You'll Find:

- Ample dock space at the riverfront park and marina
- Historic downtown steps from the water with shops, wine bars, and restaurants
- Scenic views of bluffs, brick buildings, and the restored lift bridge
- Great destination for overnight trips, weekend festivals, or romantic dinners
- Easy access to trails, parks, and cultural sites on foot or bike

Navigation Notes:

- The river narrows as you approach Stillwater—slow speeds and high awareness are essential
- Public docks are located directly in front of Lowell Park on the west (Minnesota) side
- Watch for the lift bridge (restored but no longer functional); pass underneath at centerline
- Weekends are busy—tie up early or consider anchoring just south of town and dinghying in

Mississippi River - Pool 3 (River Mile 797–815)

Pool 3 is a serene yet dynamic stretch of the Upper Mississippi, impounded by Lock & Dam 3 near Red Wing, MN, downstream to Lock & Dam 2 at Hastings, MN. Spanning roughly 18 miles, this pool is a key part of the USACE's nine-foot navigation project designed to support commercial barge traffic from Minneapolis–St. Paul to St. Louis