



Explore the St. Croix River Valley
BENCH by BENCH

***Did you know the
St. Croix River is a
National Park?***

**Explore the Art Bench Trail while doing
these fun art & nature activities:**

Write a Haiku Poem

Sit quietly on an art bench.
What do you hear and see?
Write a three-line haiku
poem about how this makes
you feel. Use 5 syllables in
the first line, 7 in the second,
and 5 in the last.



Play Animal Charades

What animals live in the
St. Croix River Valley? Look
at the art benches to help
you come up with ideas.
Remember, insects, reptiles,
birds, and amphibians are
animals, too! Play a game
of charades with your family
and friends, taking turns
acting out different animals.



Tell a River Story

Each art bench tells a story about a place in the St. Croix River Valley. Look for clues in the shapes, materials, and other



details you discover on the benches. Think about where the bench is located, too. Using words or pictures, share your own story about a place on the river you know and love. Where does the water come from? Where does it go?

Make a Texture Rubbing

Touch the art benches to find different textures. Place a piece of paper on top of each and gently rub the surface with the side of a crayon or colored pencil. Do the same with textures you find in nature. Combine rubbings on the same paper. What about them is similar? How are they unique?



Get Out and Check In!

We encourage you and your family to get outside this summer and visit the Art Bench Trail. Do these art & nature activities and post pictures of your experiences using the hashtag **#artbenchtrail**. Have fun creating!

Settlers' Rest

Marine on St. Croix, Minnesota

Minnesota Historical Society's Marine Mill Site Park - Dedicated 2009

Designed and constructed by 4th and 5th graders from Marine Elementary School, their families and other community members, with artist Karron Nottingham.

Directions from Stillwater, Minnesota:

Hwy 95 north 12 miles, turn right on Maple Street, right on Judd Street. Go one block to Marine Mill Site Park. Bench is to the right of the main path at the entrance to the park.



Couldn't Have Done It Alone

Stillwater, Minnesota

Pioneer Park - Dedicated 2018

Designed and created by Stillwater Middle School students, working with art teacher Megan Beadle and artist Julia Kaemmer. Final design concept and construction by artist Allen Christian.

Directions from downtown Stillwater, Minnesota:

From Main Street go West on Myrtle Street for one block. Turn right on Second Street go up about five blocks on the right is Pioneer Park. Bench is on the path near the playground.



Kindness is Key

Bayport, Minnesota

Croixdale Senior Living Center, 750 MN Highway 95 - Dedicated 2006

This bench is the result of several intergenerational storytelling gatherings involving local Girl Scout troops, residents of Croixdale, and artist Judy Sell.

Directions from Stillwater, Minnesota:

Highway 95 south 3 miles to Croixdale, on right side of road, across from the Andersen Windows manufacturing plant. Bench is on the patio to left of front doors.



Junior Girl Scout Nature Bench

Carpenter Nature Center, Minnesota

Carpenter Nature Center - Dedicated 2011

Six Junior Girl Scouts participated in nature programs and volunteered at Carpenter Nature Center, and worked with artist Estela de Paola de Lerma to incorporate their experiences into this bench.

Directions from Afton, Minnesota:

County Road 21 / St. Croix Trail south 10 miles. Turn left into Carpenter Nature Center. Bench is across from the Visitor Center.



The Butterfly Bench

Prescott, Wisconsin

Freedom Park - Dedicated 2008

Sixty community members, including volunteers from Friends of Freedom Park, youth from the Helping Hands 4-H, and teens from Prescott High School's Ecology Club, created this bench with artist John Turula.

Directions from downtown Prescott, Wisconsin:

Hwy 35 / Broad St. / Jefferson St. 1 mile south; look for Great River Road Visitor Center / Freedom Park signs. Turn right onto Monroe Street. Bench is in the butterfly garden.



TRAIL MAP



Rock & River

St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin

Gaylord Nelson Park - Dedicated 2011

Nine summer school students ages 9 to 12 designed this bench with local artist James Shoop, Franconia Sculpture Park staff, teacher Amy Klein, and National Park Service Ranger Dale Cox.

Directions from the South:

Hwy 35 north into downtown St. Croix Falls. Turn right on Washington Street / Hwy 87 & left on Massachusetts Street. Bench is on path by St. Croix National Scenic Riverway Visitor Center.



TogetherNESS

Osceola, Wisconsin

Mill Pond Park - Dedicated 2014

Twelve K-12 students designed this bench with artist David Markson during a four-week summer school class organized around the question, "How was the river shaped and how has the river shaped us?"

Directions from the South:

Hwy 35 north into Osceola's downtown business district. Mill Pond Park is on right side of street. Turn right onto First Avenue. Bench is on the main path along Osceola Creek.



Two-River Rest

Somerset, Wisconsin

Larry Forrest Memorial Park - Dedicated 2008

Thirty-eight special-education students from Somerset Elementary and High School worked with local craftsman Bruce Martell to design and create this stone and tile bench.

Directions from the North:

County Road I past entrance to Somerset Schools, under railroad overpass. Turn right on Forrest Drive. Bench is between pond with fountain and baseball field.



Houlton Hawk Landing

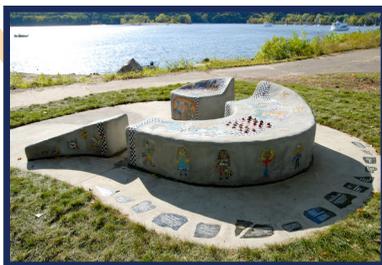
Houlton, Wisconsin

St. Croix River Crossing Trailhead Park - Dedicated 2019

Designed by sixty-two 4th and 5th graders from Houlton Elementary School with architect John Kalmon and Dan Shimon from Willow River Company.

Directions from Stillwater, Minnesota:

Take exit for Hwy 35. Go west to Hawk Street. Turn right. Trailhead Park is on your right. Bench is in the northwest portion of the Park. Follow the mowed paths.



The River Bench

Hudson, Wisconsin

Lakefront Park - Dedicated 2006

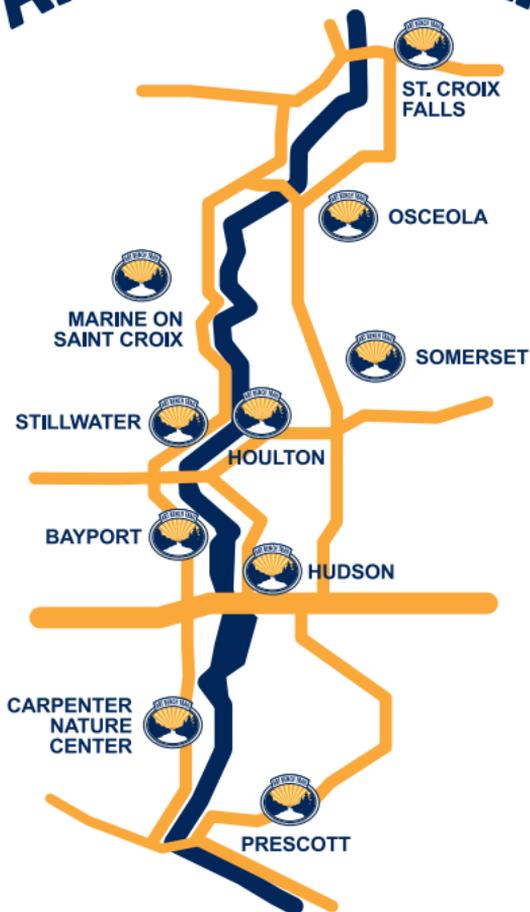
Sixty children from Hudson's Destination Imagination program and their parents contributed more than 1,000 hours to this project, working with artist Lynn Jermal.

Directions from I-94:

Take WI Exit 1. Turn left on Buckeye Street (first light). Turn left on First Street. Bench is between playground and boat launch.



the ART BENCH TRAIL



artbenchtrail.org



Photography by Steven Johnson