

La Crosse County has its own boat patrol out on the Mississippi during the summer and early fall...but the city of La Crosse hasn't operated its own patrol boat for many years.

They'll have one this weekend, though. The La Crosse police showed off their patrol boat for reporters this morning, along the levee at Riverside Park. Assistant chief Rob Abraham says the boat is intended to improve the river-watch that already happens on weekend nights.

Abraham says the city will continue to rely on the sheriff's department boat for many patrols, because it's 'cost-prohibitive' for the city to have its own patrol boat full-time. Police also will increase their bicycle patrol during the opening weekend of the fest.