

# CROW WING STATE PARK

## FACILITIES AND FEATURES

- 61 semi-modern campsites
- Shower facilities
- 12 electric sites
- One primitive group camp, capacity 50, with hand waterpumps and toilets
- One canoe campsite
- A trailer dump station
- Ice and wood sales
- Two picnic areas, 50 tables
- One enclosed picnic shelter
- Fishing on Mississippi and Crow Wing rivers
- Canoe and boat rentals
- 14 miles of hiking trails
- 0.4 mile self-guided interpretive trail

## VISITOR FAVORITES

- Chippewa Lookout
- Historic sites
- Beaulieu House
- White-tailed deer
- Red River Oxcart Trail exhibit
- Visitor orientation exhibit
- Self-guiding trails
- Camper cabin

### TRAILS

- ..... Hiking (not groomed in winter, but open to non-motorized use)
- Hiking/Snowmobiling
- ..... Interpretive Hiking (not groomed in winter)
- Paul Bunyan State Trail (paved)

### FACILITIES

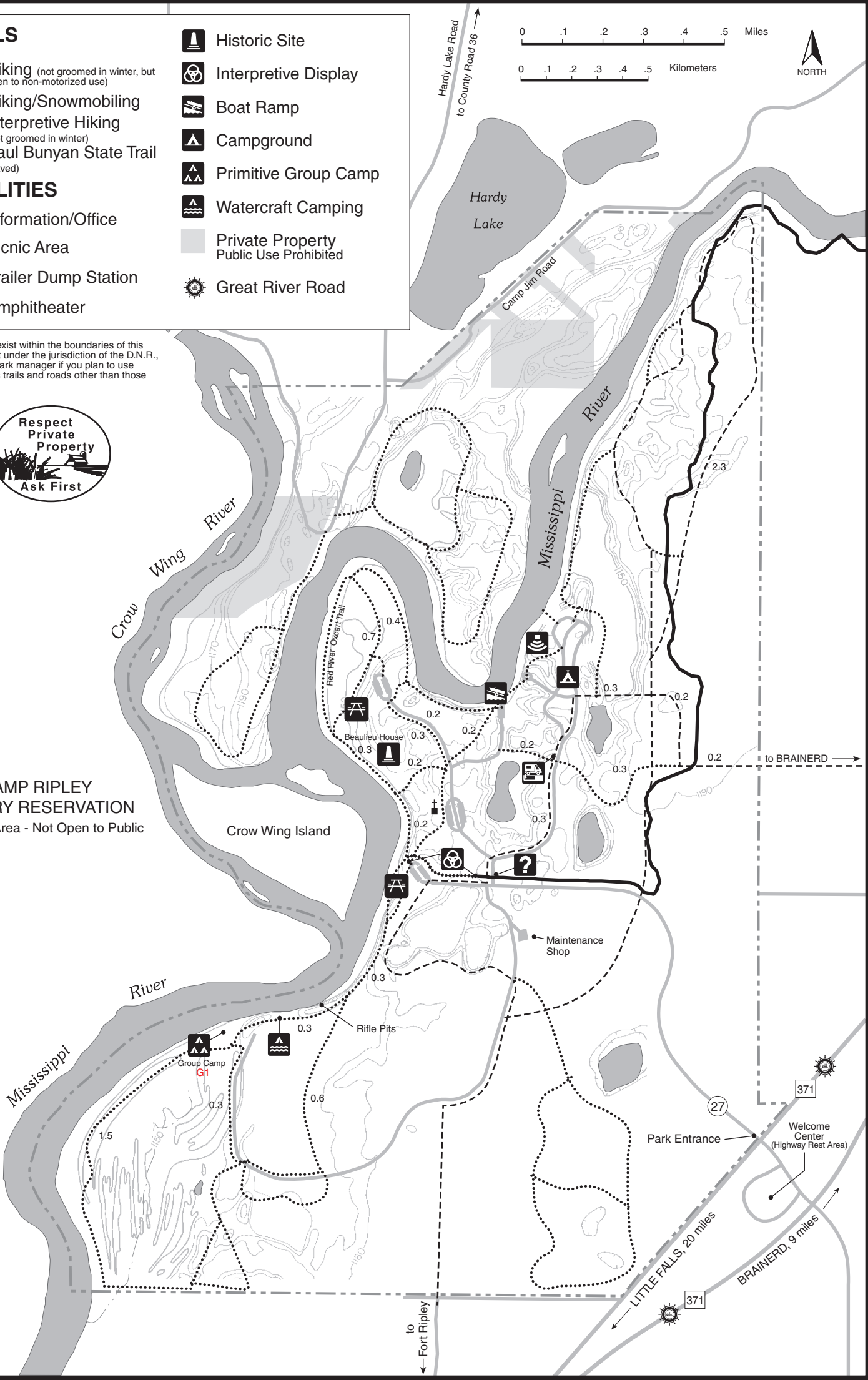
- Information/Office
- Picnic Area
- Trailer Dump Station
- Amphitheater

- Historic Site
- Interpretive Display
- Boat Ramp
- Campground
- Primitive Group Camp
- Watercraft Camping
- Private Property  
Public Use Prohibited
- Great River Road

Because lands exist within the boundaries of this park that are not under the jurisdiction of the D.N.R., check with the park manager if you plan to use facilities such as trails and roads other than those shown.



**CAMP RIPLEY  
MILITARY RESERVATION**  
Restricted Area - Not Open to Public





## CROW WING STATE PARK

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
 Crow Wing State Park  
 3124 State Park Road  
 Brainerd, MN 56401  
 (218) 825-3075

Department of Natural Resources  
 Information Center  
 500 Lafayette Road  
 St. Paul, MN 55155-4040

**(651) 296-6157 (Metro Area)**  
 1-800-766-6000 (MN Toll Free)

[mndnr.gov/parks](http://mndnr.gov/parks)

**CROW WING STATE PARK** is located nine miles south of Brainerd, Minnesota on U.S. Highway #371. Park headquarters is on County #27 one mile west of #371. Highway map index: G-12.

**HISTORY:** According to historian William Warren, here was the scene of a major battle between the Dakota and Ojibwe in the year 1768. Crow Wing was also the home of great Ojibwe leaders,

including *Be-be-sig-aund-dib-way* (Curly Head), *Bug-o-na-ge-shig* (Hole-in-the-Day), and *Song-uk-um-eg* (Strong Ground).

The fur-trade era brought factors and voyageurs from the Northwest and American Fur Companies, with traders establishing posts along area rivers. A branch of the Red River Trail forded the Mississippi at Crow Wing, bringing its thriving oxcart traffic on the heels of the canoe era. Leaders of the territory and state settled here, including the namesakes, later, for several Minnesota counties. Allan Morrison, Crow Wing’s first citizen, established his post below the south mouth of the Crow Wing River in 1823. Soon to follow were Clement H. Beaulieu, Henry M. Rice, C.W. Borup, William Aitkin and John Fairbanks.

Missionaries came and mission churches were built. The cemeteries, with but few graves marked, remind us of the once-thriving community that was Crow Wing. In August 1852, Reverend Father Francis X. Pierz established the Catholic mission, St. Francis of Xavier. The Reverend E. Steele Peake erected an Episcopal mission in 1860. After the burning of his church at Mission Lake, Reverend Ottomar Cloeter established his Lutheran mission at Crow Wing.

By the year 1848, Crow Wing settlement was in a transition from a fur economy to one based on logging. Boom companies and sawmills were new signs of the time, and the voyageur became a lumberjack. Still, this community—some 700 strong at its height—was for over a century the northernmost settlement of Europeans on the Mississippi River. Half of its population was Ojibwe during the territorial and early statehood periods of Minnesota.

With the location of the Mississippi River crossing of the Northern Pacific Railroad to the north, at Brainerd, and the relocation of the local Ojibwe to the White Earth Reservation in 1868, Old Crow Wing became a part of history.

**WILDLIFE:** Crow Wing State Park today possesses a remarkable variety of habitats favorable to wildlife. It is a mosaic which includes prairie remnants, old fields, floodplain and upland forests of pine and oak. This diversity reflects centuries of human interactions with the local landscape. It is also indicative of the natural coming together in this very area of Minnesota’s three biomes of prairie, hardwoods and pine forests. Climatic research indicates that this area has been one of dynamic biological shifts between these biomes for millennia.

What this means for today’s park visitor is an enhanced opportunity to encounter a wide variety of wildlife: white-tailed deer, occasional black bear, coyote, grey and red fox, raccoon, grey, red and fox squirrel, beaver, woodchuck, ruffed grouse, songbirds and waterfowl are all frequently seen in the park. Perhaps this opportunity was not so evident a century-and-a-half ago, before the massive white pines were logged from the area. Wildlife foods and shelters are much more abundant in today’s diversity. The Crow Wing River watershed was the first to be exploited by loggers in central Minnesota.

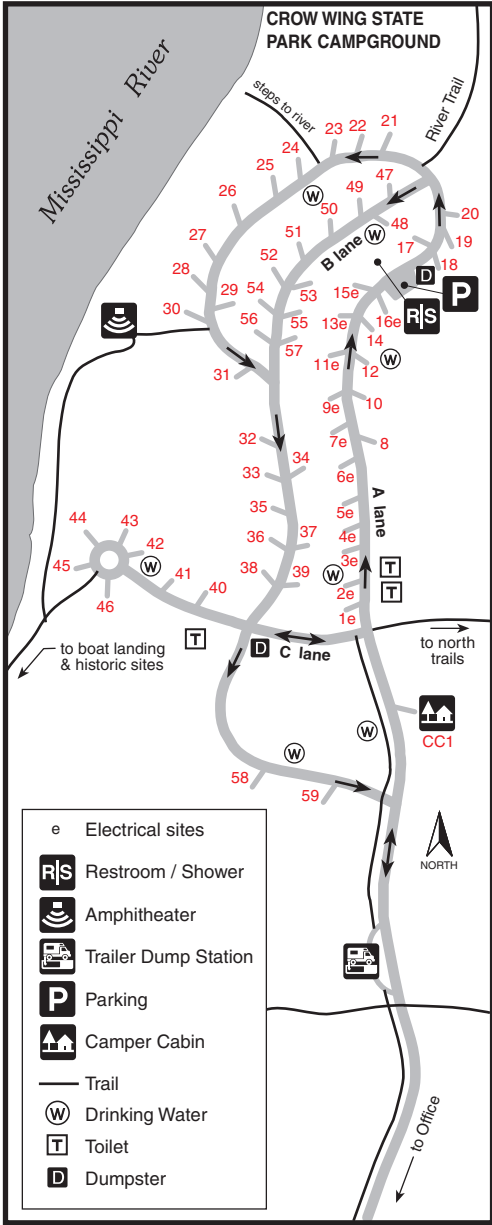
Today, systematic resource management is necessary to maintain Crow Wing State Park’s diversity, to ensure that these splendid opportunities remain healthy for the future. Wildlife populations enjoy state parks as sanctuaries. Only when their populations become too large are they subject to special hunting seasons or other management practices—their product is their very presence for your enjoyment. It is necessary that each state park visitor

help us in this priceless stewardship effort.

**INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM:** During the summer season, hikes, films, talks and demonstrations on the park’s history and ecology are conducted at the amphitheater and other areas. Check bulletin boards or ask at the park office for a current schedule of programs. For a self-guiding introduction to the park, visit the orientation exhibit and walk the “Crossroads Trail”. Both are located across from the Park Office.

**SO EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE PARK . . .**

- The park belongs to all Minnesotans. Please treat it with respect and help us to protect it by following the rules.
- The park is open year-round. On a daily basis, the park gate is closed from 10:00 P.M. to 8:00 A.M. except to registered campers.
- Camp only in designated locations.
- The use of firearms, explosives, air guns, slingshots, traps, seines, nets, bows and arrows, and all other weapons is prohibited in state parks.
- Pets must be restrained on a leash no longer than six feet. Pets are not allowed in park buildings.
- Park in designated areas only.
- Motor bikes and other licensed vehicles are allowed only on park roads, not on trails.
- Enjoy park wildlife and plants but please respect them. Do not pick or dig up plants, disturb or feed animals, or scavenge dead wood.
- Build fires only in designated locations—fire rings or fireplaces. Wood is available for purchase from park staff. Portable stoves or grills are permitted.
- Daily or annual permits are required for all vehicles entering a state park. They may be purchased at the park headquarters or the Information Center in St. Paul (see “FOR MORE INFORMATION” at left).



*This information is available in alternative format upon request.*