

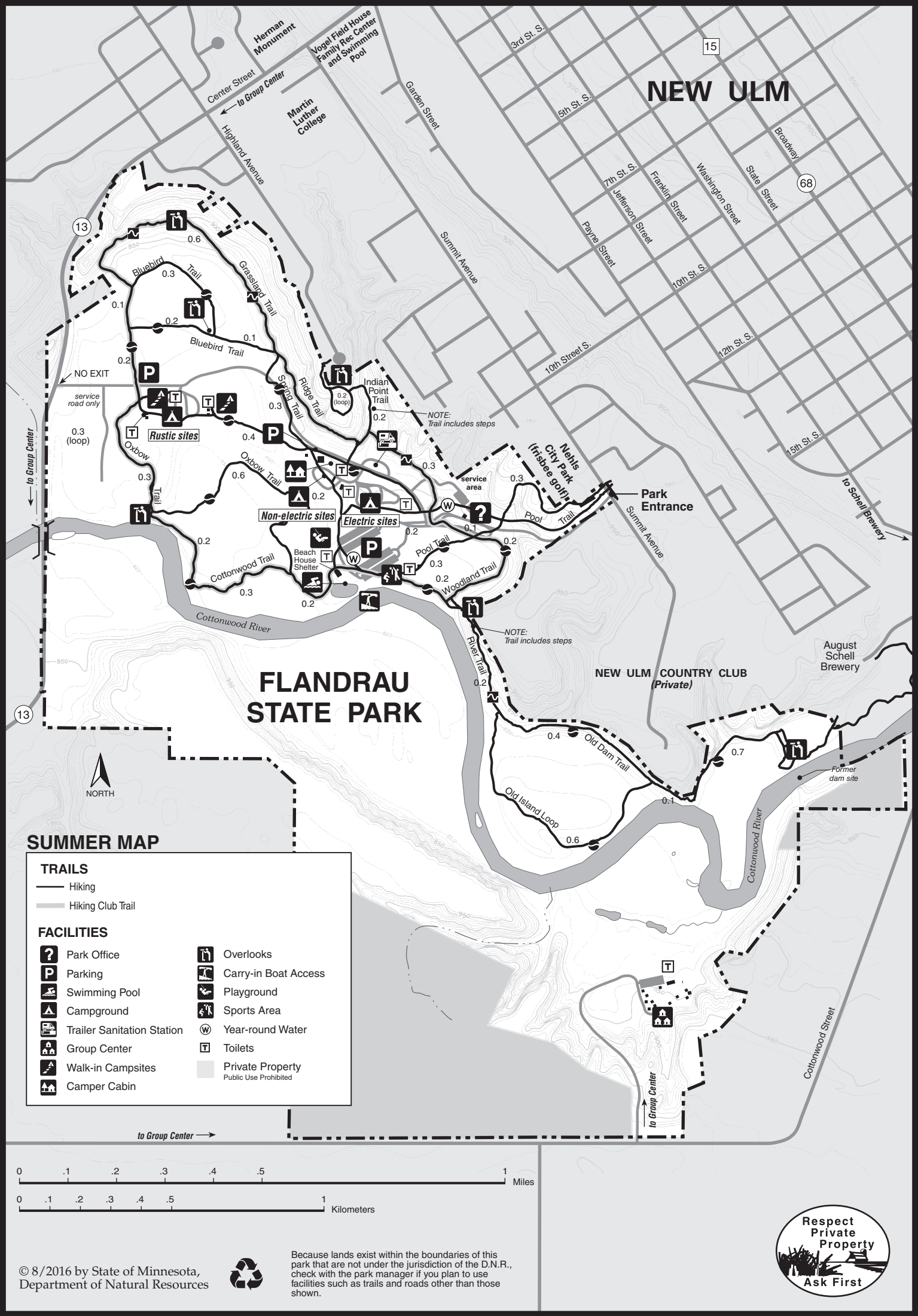
# FLANDRAU STATE PARK

## SUMMER FACILITIES AND FEATURES

- 34 electric semi-modern campsites
- 2 Camper Cabins
- 18 non-electric semi-modern campsites
- 33 rustic drive-in campsites
- 3 rustic walk-in sites
- Dumping station, showers, and flush toilets
- Camping reservations accepted: 1-866-857-2757
- Volleyball
- Horseshoes
- Log play structure
- Modern group center (110 lodging capacity)
- 60 picnic sites with an enclosed beach house shelter
- Swimming pool with sand bottom
- 8 miles of hiking trails
- 6 miles of ski trails
- 2 miles of groomed snowshoe trails

## POINTS OF INTEREST

- Trail overlooks: Indian Point, Grassland, Cottonwood and River Loop
- Swimming pool and beach house
- Historic WPA-era buildings
- Group center





# FLANDRAU STATE PARK

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Flandrau State Park  
1300 Summit Avenue  
New Ulm, MN 56073-3664  
(507) 233-9800

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

**(651) 296-6157 (Metro Area)**  
1-888-646-6367 (MN Toll Free)

TDD (Telecommunications  
Device for Deaf)  
(651) 296-5484 (Metro Area)  
1-800-657-3929 (MN Toll Free)

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

New Ulm Web Site: [newulm.com](http://newulm.com)  
1-888-4NEWULM

and oak shaded bluffs dotted with dry prairie knolls.

**GEOLOGY:** Flandrau lies in a valley cut by the Cottonwood River through 100 to 200 feet of glacial “drift” deposited by glaciers which covered southern Minnesota thousands of years ago.

Underneath this glacial material is sandstone laid down millions of years ago by great seas which once covered North America. Fossilized plant materials and orange-colored iron oxide bands can be seen in the exposed sandstone near the park’s eastern boundary.

**WILDLIFE:** A variety of plant communities provide summer habitat for over 60 species of birds and 25 species of mammals.

Bur oak, eastern red cedar, and aspen thrive on the warm, dry, south-facing bluffs. Nestled amongst the trees are open prairie knolls with big bluestem and Indian grasses, colorful butterfly milkweed, blazing stars, and prairie sunflowers.

Cool, moist shade is abundant under the sugar maple, basswood, and hackberry found on the north facing slopes. Towering cottonwoods dominate portions of the river floodplain while cattails and prairie cord grass grow in many oxbow marshes.

At dusk, visitors can spot deer browsing in the grassy meadows and hear beaver splashing in the river. Raccoon, squirrel, rabbit, mink, coyote, opossum and fox are also found in the park.

Broad-winged hawks nest in the park and can often be seen circling high overhead. Singing on some high branch, indigo buntings and northern orioles claim their territory. Other birds are kingfishers, hummingbirds, bluebirds, and several species of woodpeckers.

**HISTORY:** For hundreds of years, American Indians hunted, fished, and gathered wild plants in the Cottonwood River Valley. No doubt they camped on the river’s prairie bluffs where warm summer breezes kept insects away.

Abundant Indian artifacts, campsites, and petroglyphs, which have been found in the surrounding countryside, give evidence of the river valley’s natural wealth and earliest inhabitants. Today, buffalo bones can still be found in fresh gravel washouts along the river’s banks.

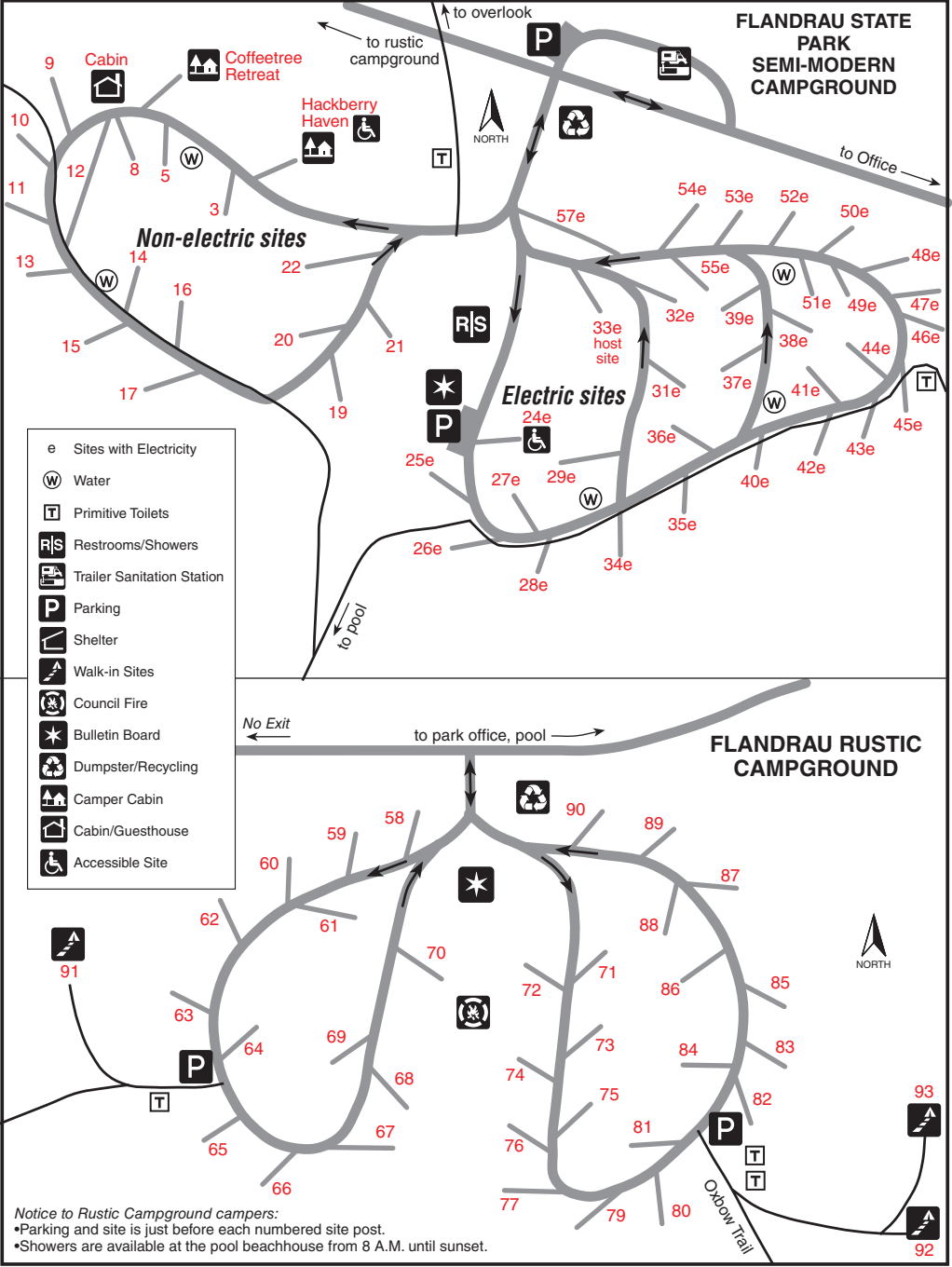
In the mid 1600s to the early 1800s adventurers, fur traders, and explorers came through the Cottonwood River Valley. By the 1830s, the first pioneers and settlers were entering the river valley, clearing and plowing the land for agriculture.

Land was acquired in the 1930s for the creation of a park with a reservoir dam. A beach house, trails, and tree plantings were completed by the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Work Projects Administration from 1935 to 1942. Devastating flood waters destroyed the dam three times, the last in 1969. Since then, the river has been allowed to return to its natural state.

Originally named Cottonwood State Park, it was changed in 1945 to Flandrau State Park to honor Charles E. Flandrau, a prominent lawyer and Indian agent of the Minnesota River country during the 1860s.

**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. the following morning except to registered campers.
- Camp 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 must be personally attended to and quiet at all times. Pets are not allowed in park buildings or in pool area.
- Tight-fitting plastic pants or swim diapers are required on all diaper-age children to enter the pool.
- 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” to left).



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

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