

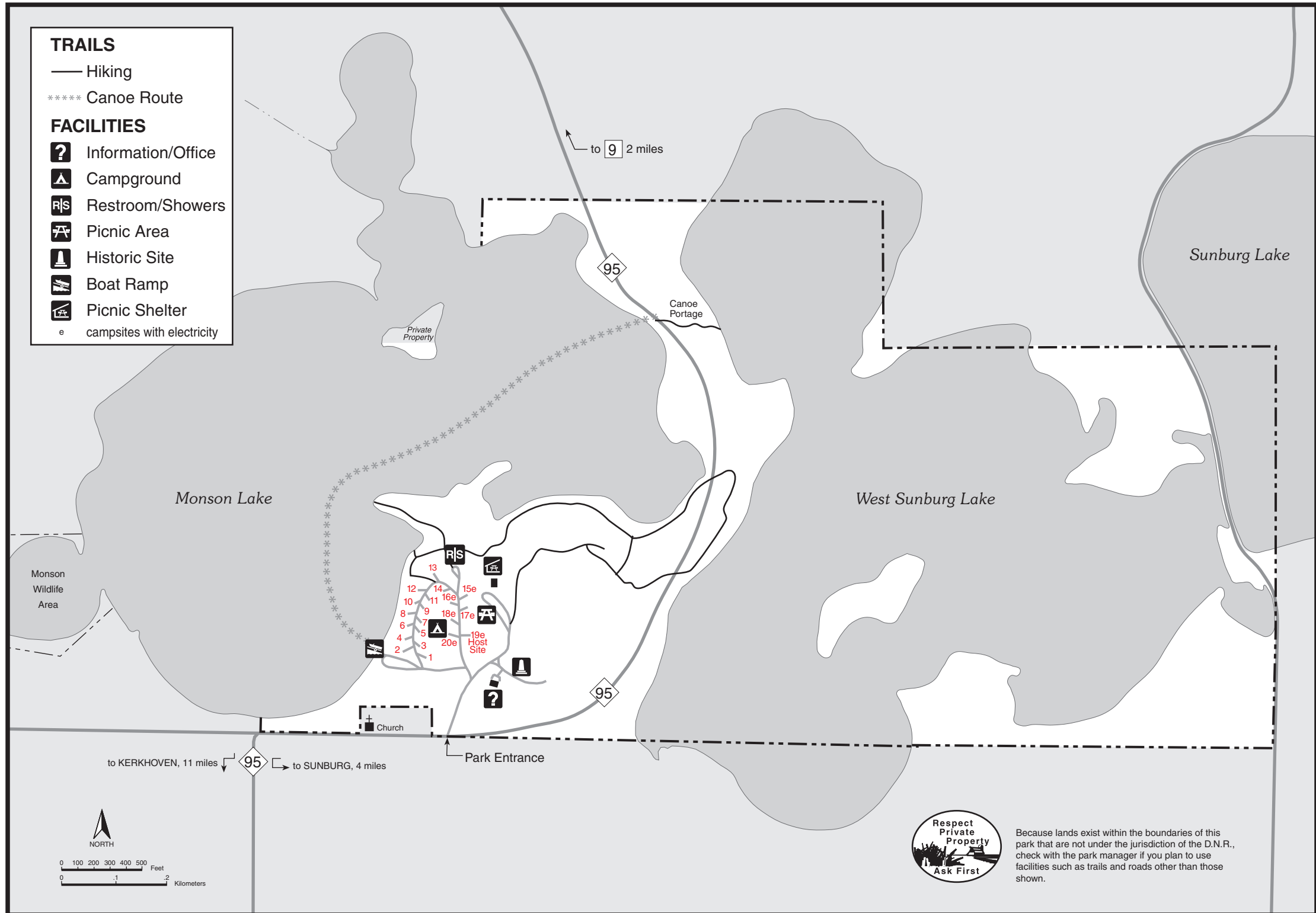
MONSON LAKE STATE PARK

FACILITIES AND FEATURES

- 1 mile hiking trail
- 20 campsites (6 with electricity)
- Boat ramp
- Wooded picnic area
- Stone shelter building
- Toilets
- Lake fishing
- Canoe route
- Historic site

VISITOR FAVORITES

- Excellent fishing
- Hiking
- Birdwatching
- Canoeing





MONSON LAKE STATE PARK

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Monson Lake State Park
1690–15th Street NE
Sunburg, MN 56289-8818
320-354-2055

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/parks

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Monson Lake was the site of one of the first skirmishes between Dakota Indians and early pioneers during the U.S. Dakota Conflict of 1862. The park was set aside in 1923 as a memorial to the Broberg family, early pioneers involved in the conflict.

Small and quiet, the park consists of 346 acres on Monson, Sunburg and West Sunburg lakes. Upland and lowland hardwoods, remnants of prairie, and the shoreline of Monson Lake provide examples of flora and fauna native to these areas.

GEOLOGY: Monson Lake State Park lies within the Alexandria Glacial Moraine Complex, a long and narrow, three to ten mile wide band of rolling hills and lakes. This major glacial geologic area was formed by the Wadena Lobe of ice approximately 30,000 years ago.

This glacial action created beautiful scenery surrounded by flat, fertile farmland. The entire region is heavily covered with glacial till—a mixture of clay, sand, gravel, and boulders. Monson and West Sunburg

Lakes were formed by melting ice blocks in the till.

WILDLIFE: The forests of Monson Lake are predominantly oak, ash, and basswood. Woodland wildflowers grow underneath this canopy. Open spaces in the park provide excellent study areas for plant succession.

The variety of water birds in the park is spectacular—pelicans, a variety of heron, western grebes, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Visitors can watch the nesting habits of the western grebe.

Fishing is an important year-round attraction at Monson Lake. Visitors enjoy catching walleye, northern pike, and several species of panfish. The park is especially noted for “lunker” bass.

The park’s most common mammals are deer, woodchuck, mink, chipmunk, three species of squirrels, and fox.

HISTORY: The Anders P. Broberg and Daniel P. Broberg families, Swedish immigrants, settled in the Monson Lake area during the 1850s. On August 20, 1862, the Brobergs became embroiled in the Dakota Con-

flict. It was on that day, and on this site that Dakota Indians clashed with these early pioneers. Anna Stina Broberg, then 16 years old, and her cousin Peter Broberg, were the only two members of the nearby Broberg families to survive the attack. This story is available at the park office.

Monson Lake’s historic buildings were constructed in the late 1930s by the same Veterans’ Conservation Corps that built the historic buildings at nearby Sibley State Park.

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 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” to left).

This information is available in alternative format upon request.

“The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is an Equal Opportunity Employer.”

MONSON LAKE STATE PARK is located 20 miles northwest of Willmar in Swift County. Access is off State Highway 9, 1-1/2 miles west of Sunburg, via County Road #95. Highway map index: E-15.