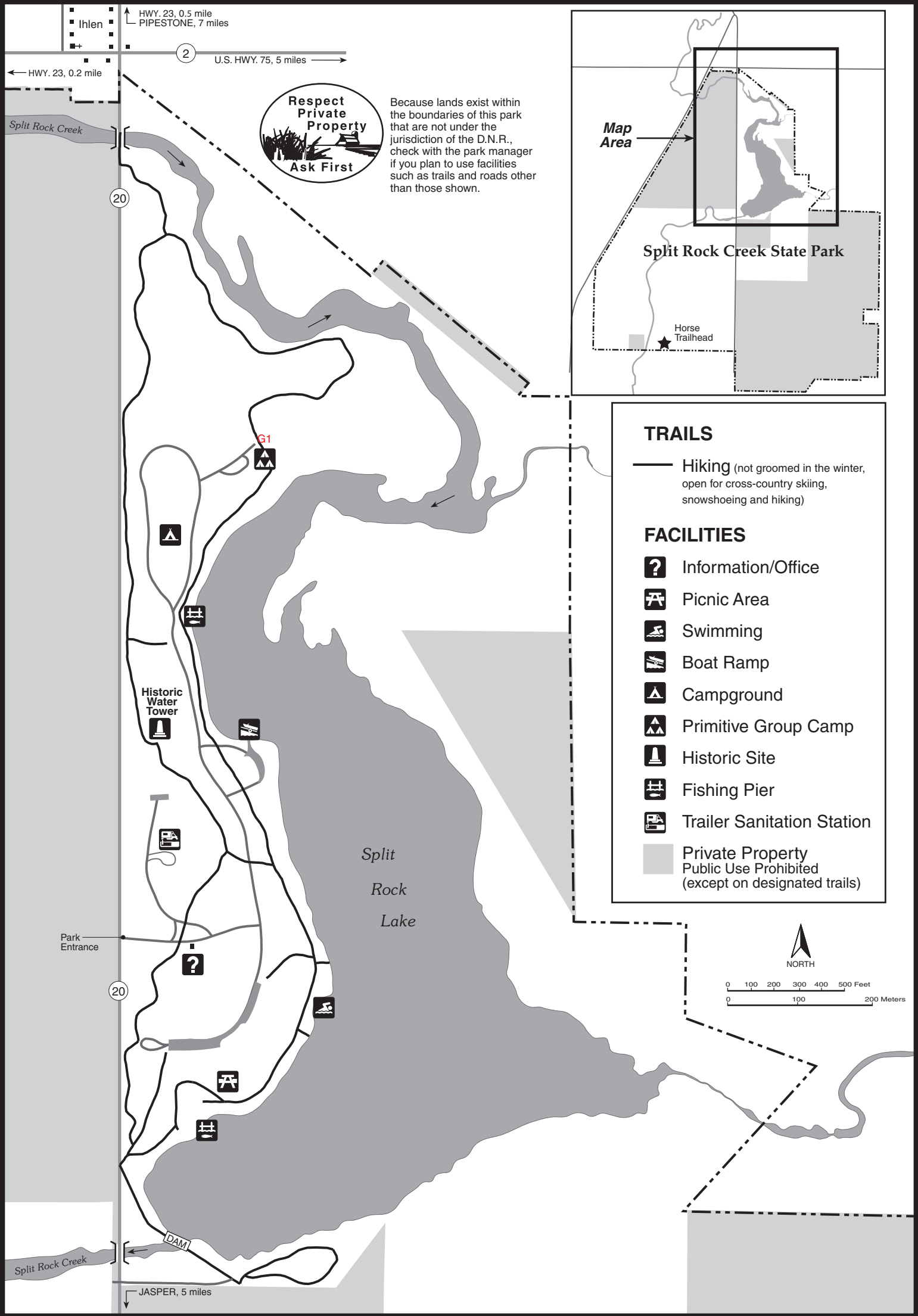


SPLIT ROCK CREEK STATE PARK

VISITOR FAVORITES:

- Fishing
- Swimming beach
- Picnicking and hiking
- Birdwatching
- Camping
- Horseback riding





SPLIT ROCK CREEK STATE PARK

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Split Rock Creek State Park
336 - 50th Avenue
Jasper, MN 56144-3016
(507) 348-7908

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)

mndnr.gov/stateparks

SPLIT ROCK CREEK STATE PARK is located six miles south of Pipestone on State Highway 23. Access to the area is from Pipestone County Road 20. State Highway Map Index: B-20.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Split Rock Creek is one of the most popular recreation sites in Pipestone County. The lake within the

area, Split Rock Lake, provides year-round recreation found nowhere else in the county. Created in 1938 by the construction of a dam on Split Rock Creek, the lake contains sunfish, walleye, and perch. Ice fishing has become a popular sport for local residents. During the summer an excellent swimming beach, picnic ground, and campground provide enjoyable outings for southwestern Minnesota residents as well as for vacationers traveling through the area.

Before becoming a member of the Minnesota State Park system, the 238 acre recreation area was a treeless prairie. Today, the park is a mix of planted trees and native and restored prairies and has grown in size to 947 acres.

A glimpse of the native prairie that settlers saw 150 years ago can still be seen at Split Rock Creek.

Along the west side of the road leading to the campground is a remnant of this prairie, a hillside never furrowed by a plow. Park your car in the parking lot, walk on this hillside, and visualize the sight the first pioneers saw when they traveled by wagon through southwest Minnesota. A prairie like this once covered southwestern Minnesota.

The prairie on this hillside is small, but still holds many species of wildflowers and grasses found in few other places today: mayflower or pasqueflower, the pinkish-purple blazing star, and prairie smoke are examples. Throughout the year as seasons change, the prairie changes its color and appearance as each flower follows its own life plan.

GEOLOGY: The recreation area lies within a small section of Minnesota called the Coteau des Prairies, the only portion of Minnesota drained by the Missouri River Watershed. Its terrain was formed by

three major ice movements during the last glacial period about 10,000 years ago.

Underneath the rich prairie soil lies hard pink bedrock known as Sioux Quartzite. Just outside the park, outcrops of this bedrock are visible. Near Jasper, 3.5 miles to the south, Sioux Quartzite is still quarried to build houses.

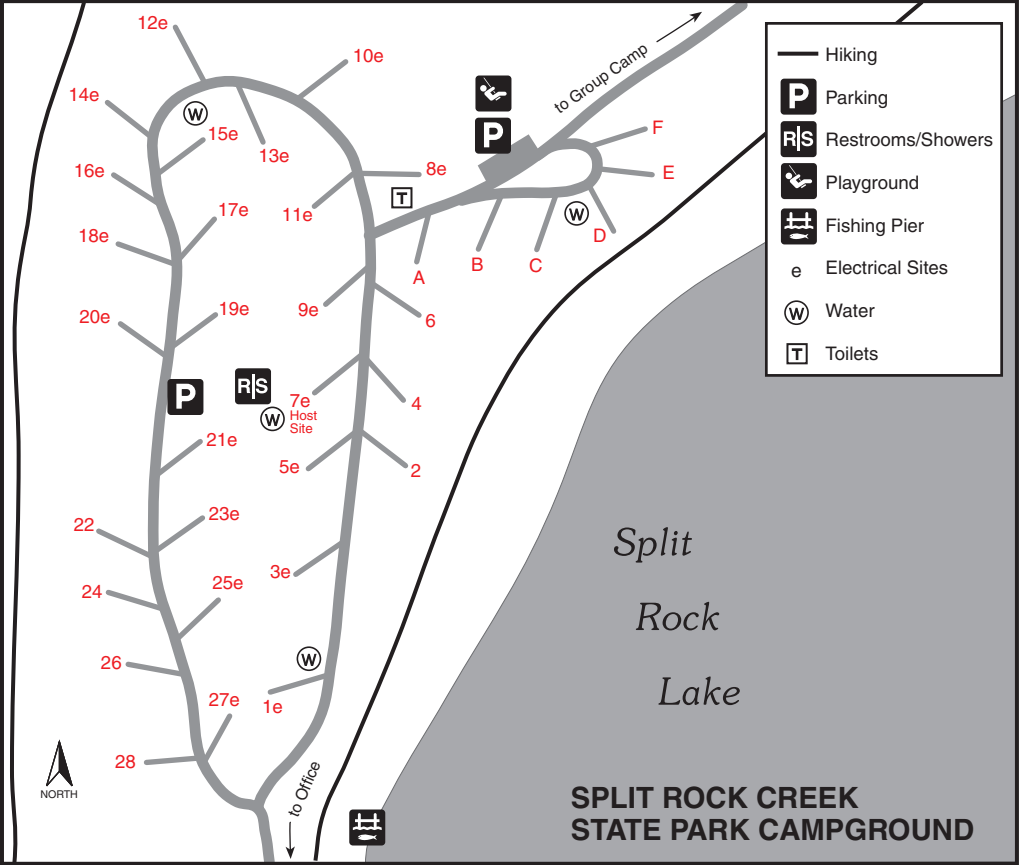
WILDLIFE: Because Split Rock Lake is the only sizable body of water in Pipestone County, it is a haven for waterfowl and other aquatic birds. Birdwatchers have observed almost every species of waterfowl found in the Midwest.

A visit to the recreation area in the spring or fall is the best time to observe the many species of migrating birds including ducks, geese, pelicans and swans which use the area as a rest stop on their flights north or south.

HISTORY: For centuries, the Dakotah Indians and other tribes used the pipestone in the quarry 8.5 miles north of the park to carve their ceremonial peace pipes. Bands of Indians traveled hundreds of miles to the quarry and carried away chunks of rough pipestone to make pipes.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM: During the summer months, visitors interested in the natural or cultural history of the Coteau des Prairies region of Minnesota can attend scheduled programs in the campground. Visitors should also visit the park interpretive center.

- 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 P.M. to 8 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.

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