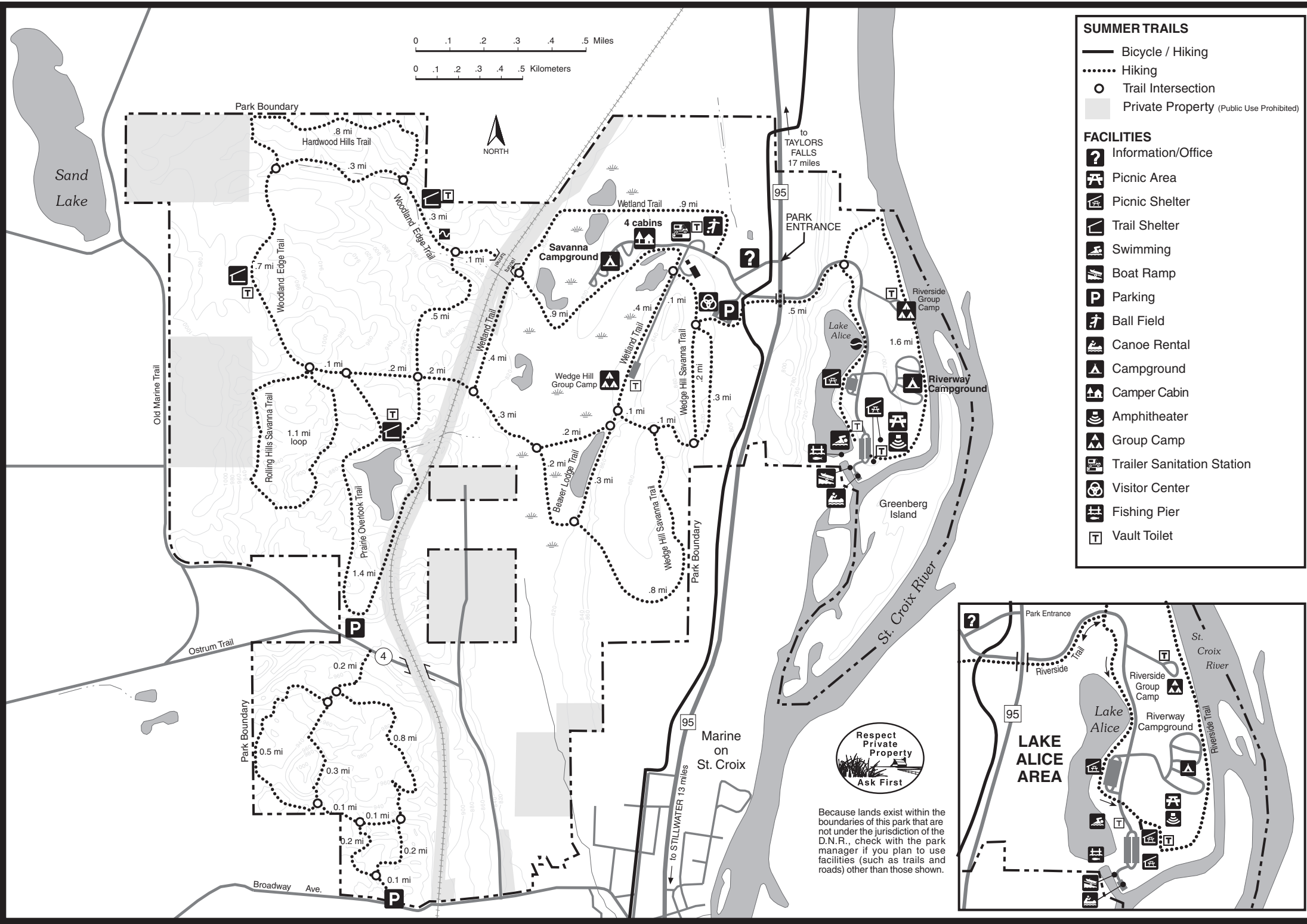


WILLIAM O'BRIEN STATE PARK

FACILITIES AND FEATURES

- Visitor center with wood stove and displays
- 2 semi-modern campgrounds with a total of 114 sites (71 with electrical hookup)
- 4 camper cabins
- Showers, flush toilets, and trailer sanitation facility
- Riverside group campground (capacity 50)
- Wedge Hill group campground (capacity 35/ group site)
- Picnic grounds with 3 picnic shelters, and modern restrooms
- Swimming beach
- Lake and river fishing
- Boat launching ramp
- Canoe/Kayak/Paddleboard rental (summer)
- 16 miles of hiking trails
- Year-round interpretive program
- Firewood and ice for sale at park office





WILLIAM O'BRIEN STATE PARK

FOR MORE INFORMATION
William O'Brien State Park
16821 O'Brien Trail North
Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047
(651) 433-0500

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

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

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

mndnr.gov/stateparks

For camping reservations, call 866-857-2757

WILLIAM O'BRIEN STATE PARK is located on the St. Croix River in Washington County on Highway 95, two miles north of Marine-on-St. Croix, the oldest logging settlement in the state. Highway map index: Z-24 or K-16.

William O'Brien State Park offers visitors a variety of recreational opportunities within an hour's drive of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Camping, hiking, fishing and swimming are favorite summer activities. Exceptional cross-country skiing and camping are wintertime specialties. Fall leaf colors, spring wildflowers, and bird-watching keep people coming back the rest of the year.

GEOLOGY: Sandstone outcrops formed millions of years ago by inland seas are found along the St. Croix River. Glacial activity played a major role in developing the picturesque valley. As the huge glaciers lumbered south, they scoured the sandstone and deposited soil and rocks of various sizes. As large masses of ice melted, the tremendous volume of released water cut through the soft sandstone, creating the St. Croix and landscaping the wide, boulder-strewn valley.

HISTORY: Dakota and Ojibwe Indian tribes utilized the resources of the valley for centuries. Eventually, the land, rich in fur-bearing animals, wild game and useful plants, was dominated by the Ojibwe. European trappers entered the area in the 1600s to engage in the lucrative fur-trade industry. Trappers were followed by lumberjacks in 1839 seeking to harvest the "endless stands" of white pine to provide building material for an expanding nation. Numerous sawmills were established along the St. Croix. The industry flourished in the mid-1800s until the valley was cleared of white pine. William O'Brien, a lumber baron, bought much of the land once owned by the lumber companies.

In 1945, Alice O'Brien, daughter of William O'Brien, donated 180 acres to be developed as a state park in memory of her father. In 1958, David Greenberg donated Greenberg Island in memory of his parents. Accessible

only by canoe, the island has become a haven for wildlife and wildflowers. Today, the park totals 1,753 acres.

WILDLIFE: The variety of natural communities – the St. Croix River floodplain, oak savannas, upland prairie, hardwood forests, wetlands, lakes and rolling meadows - provide habitat for diverse wildlife populations.

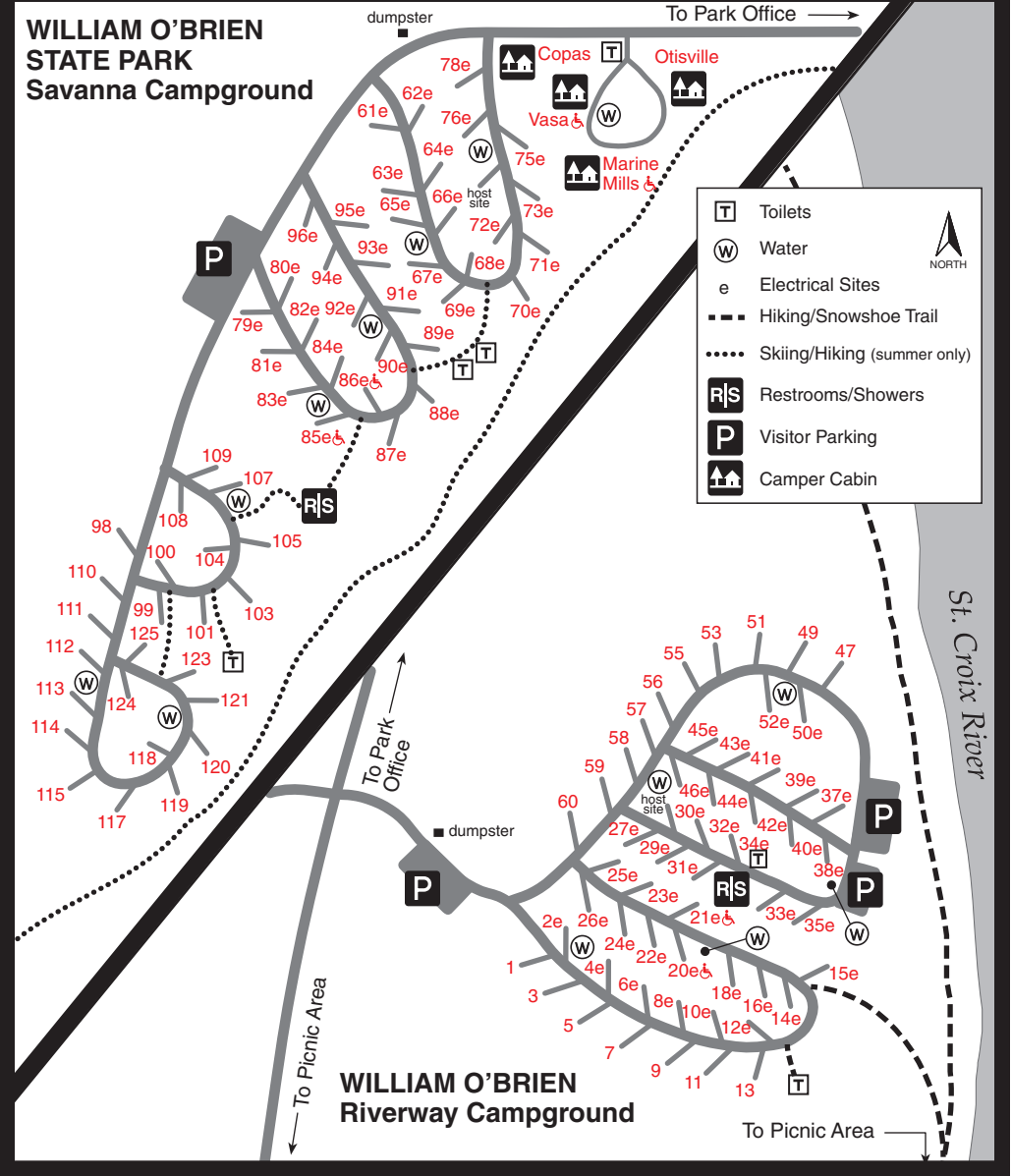
Park visitors can fish the St. Croix River for northern pike, walleye, bass, and brook trout. Numerous springs and streams flowing through heavily-wooded valleys and ravines provide excellent wildlife habitat.

Raccoon, mink, beaver, and woodchuck are prevalent. Upland meadows and woods foster white-tail deer and fox. Birdwatchers frequently spot bald eagles, red-shouldered hawks, woodpeckers, bluebirds, orioles, herons and a variety of warblers.

PADDLING: One of the best canoeing rivers in the nation, the St. Croix offers pristine scenery just minutes from a major metropolitan area. Please check the park website for information on canoe and kayak rentals, shuttle service, and recreation opportunities both within and outside the park.

SWIMMING BEACH: Visitors can jump right in or just cool their feet at the Lake Alice Beach. Some choose to simply sunbathe on the sandy shore. Swimming is not permitted in the river because of currents. For safety reasons, air mattresses and flotation devices are only allowed inside the roped area.

PICNIC AREA: Visit William O'Brien for a day; bring a picnic lunch to the large picnic area, conveniently located near the swimming beach, boat launch and river. Relax in the shade of a basswood tree and enjoy the surroundings. There are three picnic shelters. All are available for advanced reservations.



INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS: William O'Brien interpretive programs offer many activities relating to the natural and cultural features of the area through hikes, demonstrations, canoe floats, bike tours, slide shows, movies, ski tours and special events.

The Visitor Center contains displays regarding the natural and cultural features of the park. A naturalist is available year-round

to answer questions and share information. Interpretive program schedules are posted on bulletin boards throughout the park.

This information is available in alternative format upon request.

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