

# WILD RIVER STATE PARK

## FACILITIES AND FEATURES

- Information station/gift shop
- 94 semi-modern campsites (34 electrical)
- Guest house (6 capacity)
- 6 camping cabins
- Modern shower buildings
- Trailer dump station
- 9 primitive group campsites (18 people per site)
- 20-site Horse campground (15 electrical)
- Amphitheater
- Wood, ice and souvenir sales
- Cross-country ski and snowshoe rental/concessions
- All-season trail center (reservations accepted 4/15 to 11/15)
- Year-round visitor center
- Picnic area with shelter building (reservations accepted 5/1 to 10/1)
- 4 canoe campsites
- 8 backpack sites
- Sunrise River picnic area
- River accesses (2)
- Hiking/ski trails (35 miles)
- Horse trails (20 miles)
- River fishing
- Canoe rental/shuttle concession

## VISITOR FAVORITES

- McElroy Visitor Center
- Nevers Dam scenic overlook
- Canoeing
- Wildflowers, deer, birds
- Logging era outdoor exhibit
- Naturalist programs
- Guest house/Camping cabins
- Geocaching opportunities



# Trail Map

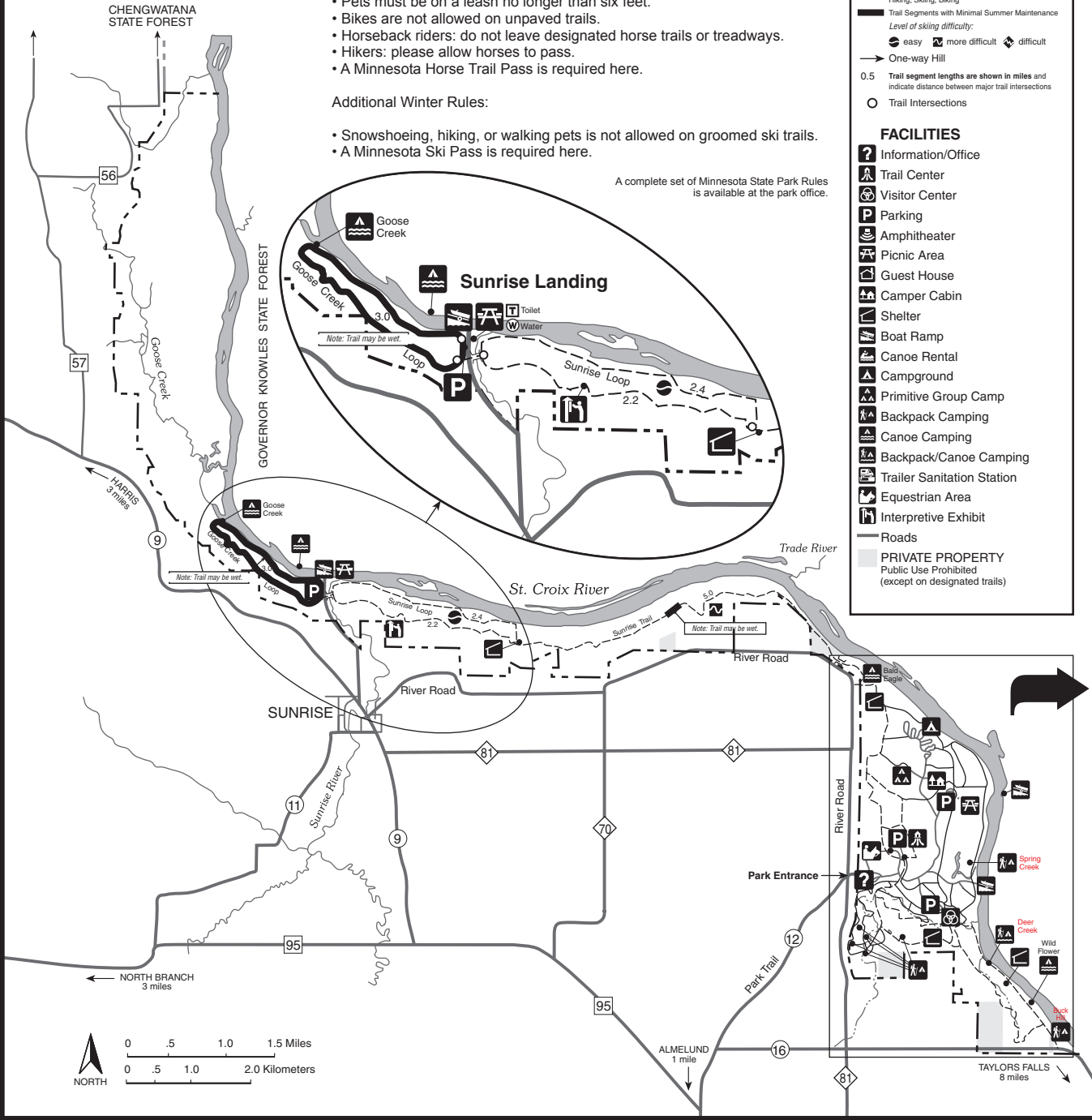
Please Observe These Park Rules:

- Pets must be on a leash no longer than six feet.
- Bikes are not allowed on unpaved trails.
- Horseback riders: do not leave designated horse trails or treadways.
- Hikers: please allow horses to pass.
- A Minnesota Horse Trail Pass is required here.

Additional Winter Rules:

- Snowshoeing, hiking, or walking pets is not allowed on groomed ski trails.
- A Minnesota Ski Pass is required here.

A complete set of Minnesota State Park Rules is available at the park office.



**TRAILS**

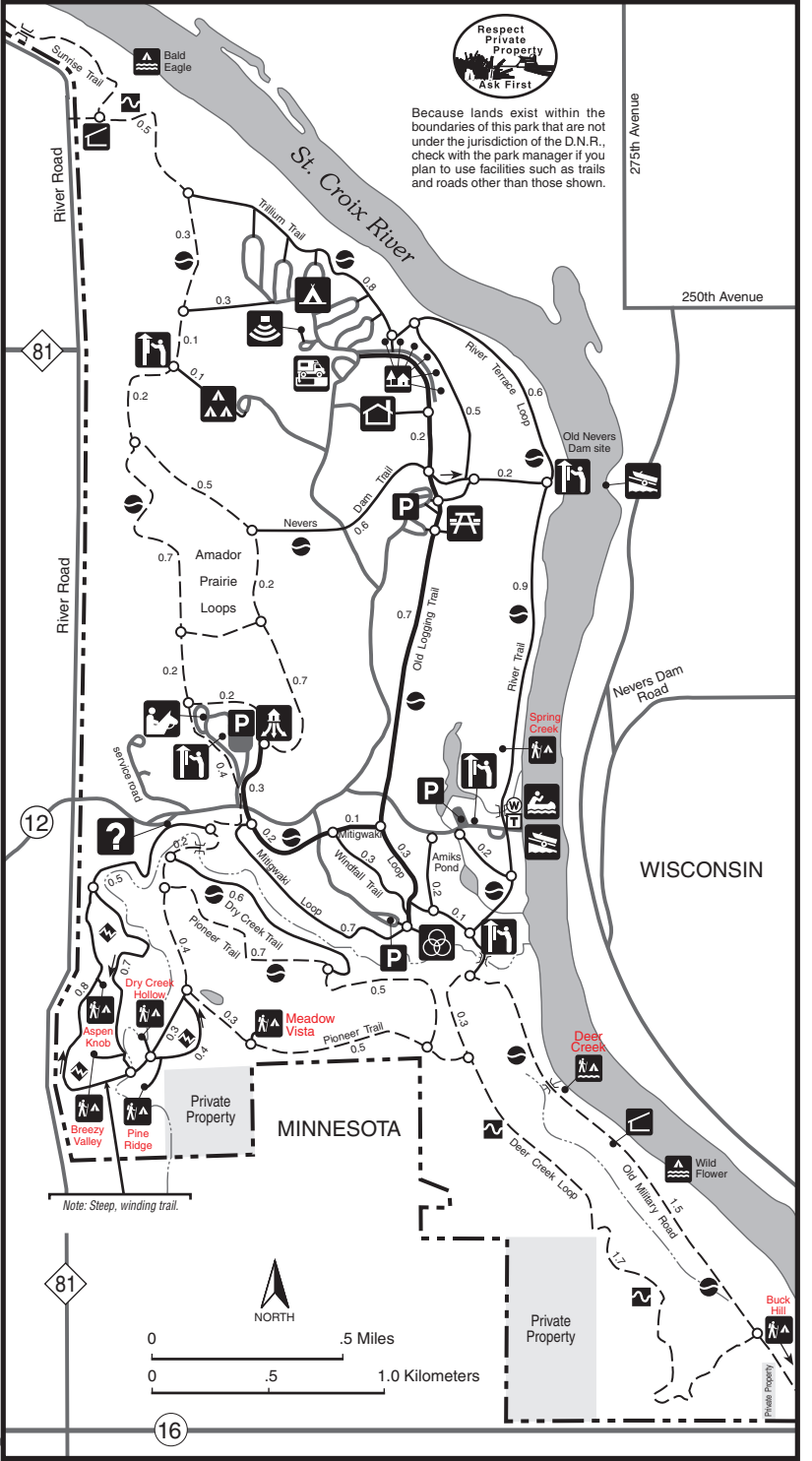
- Horseback/Hiking/Ski
- Hiking/Skiing
- Accessible Paved Trail/Multiple Use: Hiking, Skiing, Biking
- Trail Segments with Minimal Summer Maintenance
- Level of trail difficulty: easy, more difficult, difficult
- One-way Hill
- 0.5 Trail segment lengths are shown in miles and indicate distance between major trail intersections
- Trail Intersections

**FACILITIES**

- ? Information/Office
- Trail Center
- Visitor Center
- Parking
- Amphitheater
- Picnic Area
- Guest House
- Camper Cabin
- Shelter
- Boat Ramp
- Canoe Rental
- Campground
- Primitive Group Camp
- Backpack Camping
- Canoe Camping
- Backpack/Canoe Camping
- Trailer Sanitation Station
- Equestrian Area
- Interpretive Exhibit
- Roads

**PRIVATE PROPERTY**

Public Use Prohibited (except on designated trails)





## WILD RIVER STATE PARK

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Wild River State Park  
39797 Park Trail  
Center City, MN 55012  
(651) 583-2125

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

**WILD RIVER STATE PARK** is located 14 miles east of I-35 (Exit 147) off State Highway 95 and County Road 12. State highway map index: K-14.

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** Wild River is one of the larger state parks in Minnesota. It was established to protect the natural and cultural resources and to provide recreational opportunities along the St. Croix River. The park's name,

"Wild River", is derived from the fact that the St. Croix River was one of the eight rivers originally protected by the U.S. Congress through the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. Wild River was authorized by the legislature in 1973 and was officially opened in October 1978. Nearly 5,000 of the park's 6,803 total acres were donated by Northern States Power Company.

**GEOLOGY:** Wild River's landscape was formed by three major forces. Lava from volcanoes active 1.1 billion years ago formed the area's buried basalt bedrock. Today, this basalt forms the high cliffs of the Dalles of the St. Croix and the river's basin. Over one million years ago, glaciers up to a depth of one mile covered the region. 10,000 years ago the melting of the last glacier formed glacial lakes Duluth and Grantsburg. These lakes supplied the water power to create the present St. Croix Valley. The park lies within the Mille Lacs Uplands ECS Subsection. This region is in the transition zone of pine forest, hardwood forest, and oak savanna.

**HISTORY:** The St. Croix Valley was first occupied by nomadic people 6,000 years ago. For hundreds of years the valley was home for the Dakota and the Ojibwe. Samuel's Fur Post and Connor's Goose Creek Post were active in 1847. After Minnesota became a territory in 1849 a military road was constructed through the park. It was part of a route from St. Paul to Lake Superior and a portion is still evident today. The towns of Sunrise and Amador were founded in the 1850s. The great white pine logging era resulted in the building of Nevers Dam in 1890 which operated until 1912.

**VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE:** The broad sweep of the upper St. Croix River Valley is home for a variety of birds, animals and plant life. The park's second-growth forest and open meadows provide habitat for large numbers of white-tailed deer. Marshes offer both food and protection for ducks, herons and bitterns. The valley is a good hunting ground for raptors like marsh hawks, bald eagles and barred owls.

Wildflowers are abundant throughout the spring and summer months. Prescribed burns are conducted to better manage prairie and oak savanna areas.

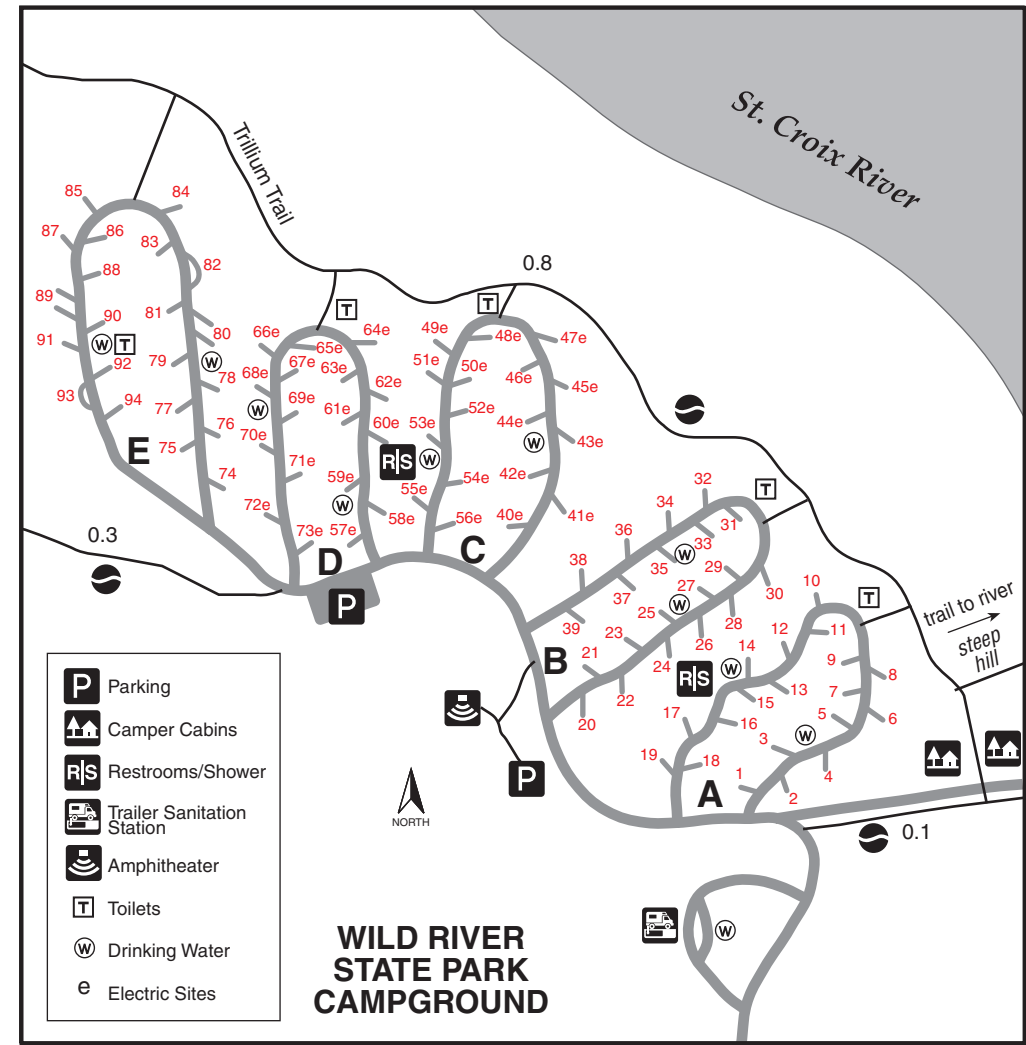
**CANOEING:** Canoeists will enjoy the primitive beauty of the St. Croix River Valley. Sightings of bald eagles, great blue herons and white-tailed deer are common. Red-shouldered hawks and ospreys may also be seen. River users should exercise caution. High water levels during the spring and after heavy rainfall result in swift currents. Anglers will find a variety of fish to test their skills including smallmouth bass, northern, walleye, and catfish.

**TRAILS:** Thirty-five miles of trails are available for hikers and cross-country skiers, including a 2.5 mile handicap-accessible Universal Trail. There are two self-guided trails: Amik's Pond and Windfall. Twenty miles are designated for horseback riding. Most trails are fairly level with few steep grades. Some trails may receive minimum maintenance due to wet conditions. The trails go through diverse habitats that bring you within close range of wildlife.

**INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM:** A year-round naturalist program offers seasonal events such as maple syruping demonstrations, birdwatching, landscaping for wildlife, outdoor hikes, prairie restoration activities, snowshoeing, animal tracking and candlelight skiing. The McElroy Visitor Center overlooking the St. Croix Valley features a unique weather station, ecological and wildlife displays, historical and cultural exhibits, slide programs, and a wildflower garden.

### SO EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE PARK...

- The park belongs to all Minnesotans. Treat it with respect.
- Hunting in the park and possessing any weapons are prohibited, except for legally cased weapons.
- Pets must be kept on a leash not longer than six feet. Clean up pet waste.
- Wheeled vehicles may not use park trails, including ATVs, dirt bikes, and horse drawn wagons.



- Enjoy the animals, but do not approach or feed them.
- Leave rocks and plants where they are. They make up much of the park's beauty. Do not collect them.
- Hikers, snowshoers, dogs and horses are not allowed on groomed ski trails.
- Park and camp only in designated areas.
- All campers must register at the park office.
- Picnickers, backpackers and canoeists should pack out all trash.
- The park is closed from 10:00 P.M. until 8:00 A.M. except for registered overnight guests.

- Loud noises or other disturbances are prohibited after 10:00 P.M.
- Park entry permits are required for every motor vehicle and can be purchased at 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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