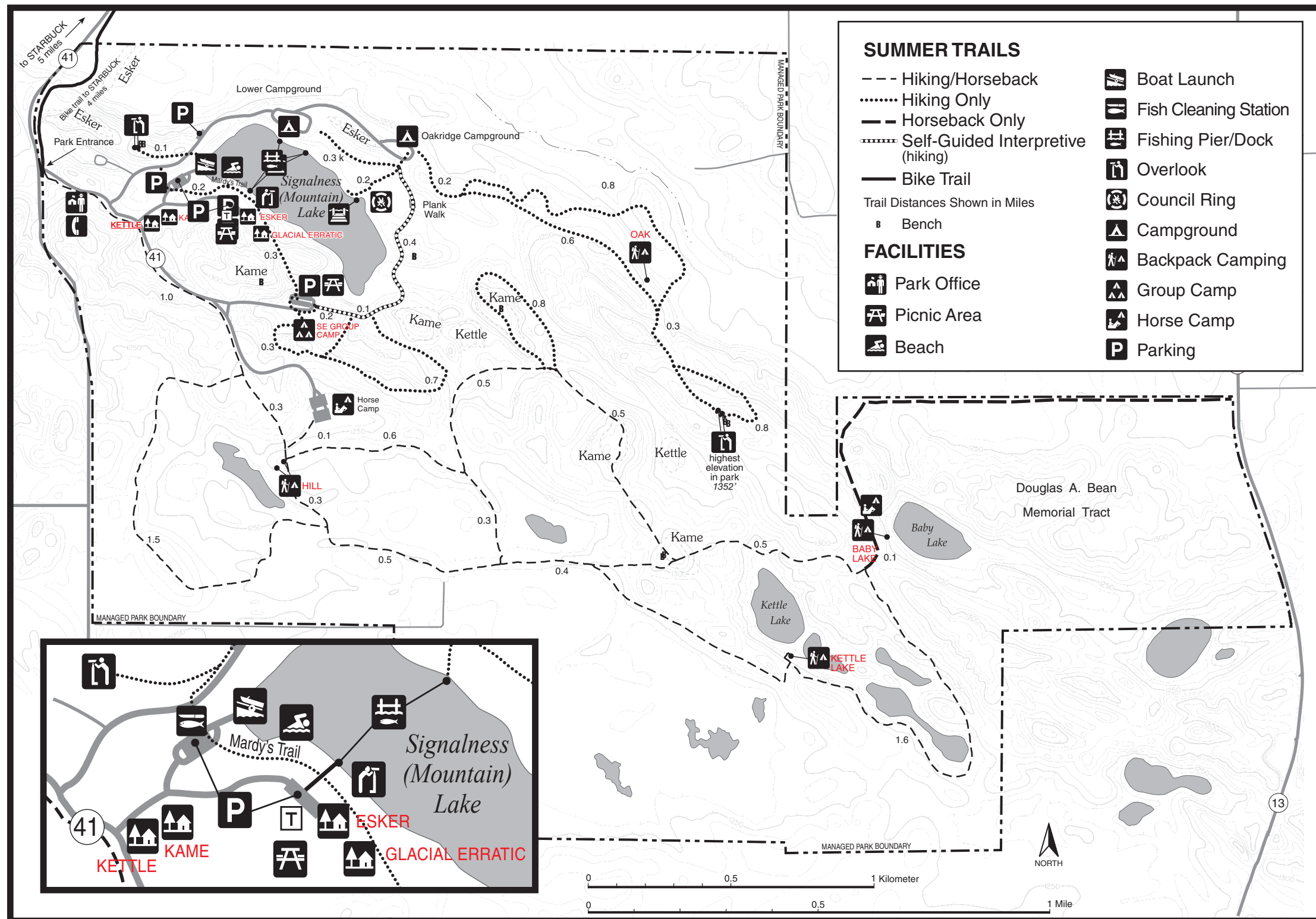



# GLACIAL LAKES STATE PARK

## FACILITIES AND FEATURES

- 37 campsites in the shade of oak woods, 14 electric sites
- 6 Camper Cabins
- Hot showers and modern toilet facilities
- Swimming in a crystal clear lake
- Accessible campground and beach
- Nature trails
- 4 backpack campsites
- 1 group camping area with electricity in the picnic shelter, and 3 electric RV sites
- Camping reservations
- Horseback-riders trailer parking/staging area/camping
- Picnic area below oak covered hills
- Scenic overlook with picnic deck
- Fishing for largemouth bass, panfish and northern pike
- Canoe, kayak, rowboat and paddlboard rentals
- Boat launching ramp and parking
- 9 miles of horseback riding trails





# GLACIAL LAKES STATE PARK

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
Glacial Lakes State Park  
25022 County Road 41  
Starbuck, MN 56381  
(320) 239-2860

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

**GLACIAL LAKES STATE PARK** is located five miles south of Starbuck, Minnesota. Entrance to the park is from Pope County State Aid Highway 41. Highway map index: E-14.

Welcome to Glacial Lakes State Park - a unique segment of soaring hills contrasted by supine valleys which were formed by the last glaciers more than 10,000 years ago. Whether you have but one hour or an unlimited time to be our guest, the Department of Natural Resources staff hopes you will have a memorable experience enjoying the many recreational opportunities waiting for you in the park.

Visitors will find hiking along the ridgetops of the steep hills a popular and exhilarating activity—climaxing a truly spectacular vista of the park.

Following a hike during warm summer days, a swim in the sparkling, clear lake is a popular activity. A swimming beach and a drive-in boat access is available and handicapped accessible. There are several lakes, ponds and marshes within the park’s 1,880 acres. The largest, Singalness Lake, is a 56 acre spring-fed lake. Its entire watershed lies within the park, accounting for the year-round clarity and purity of its water.

Another popular activity of visitors is exploring the colorful, ever-changing native prairie nestled among the oakwoods and marshes. To partake in the magic of prairie life, all you have to do is gaze at a blazing sunrise or sunset, listen to the wind and birds in the tall bluestem grass, watch the seemingly eternal approach of a prairie thunderstorm, and smell its freshness after the rejuvenating rain. Visitors won’t want to miss this excellent opportunity to appreciate the Minnesota prairie.

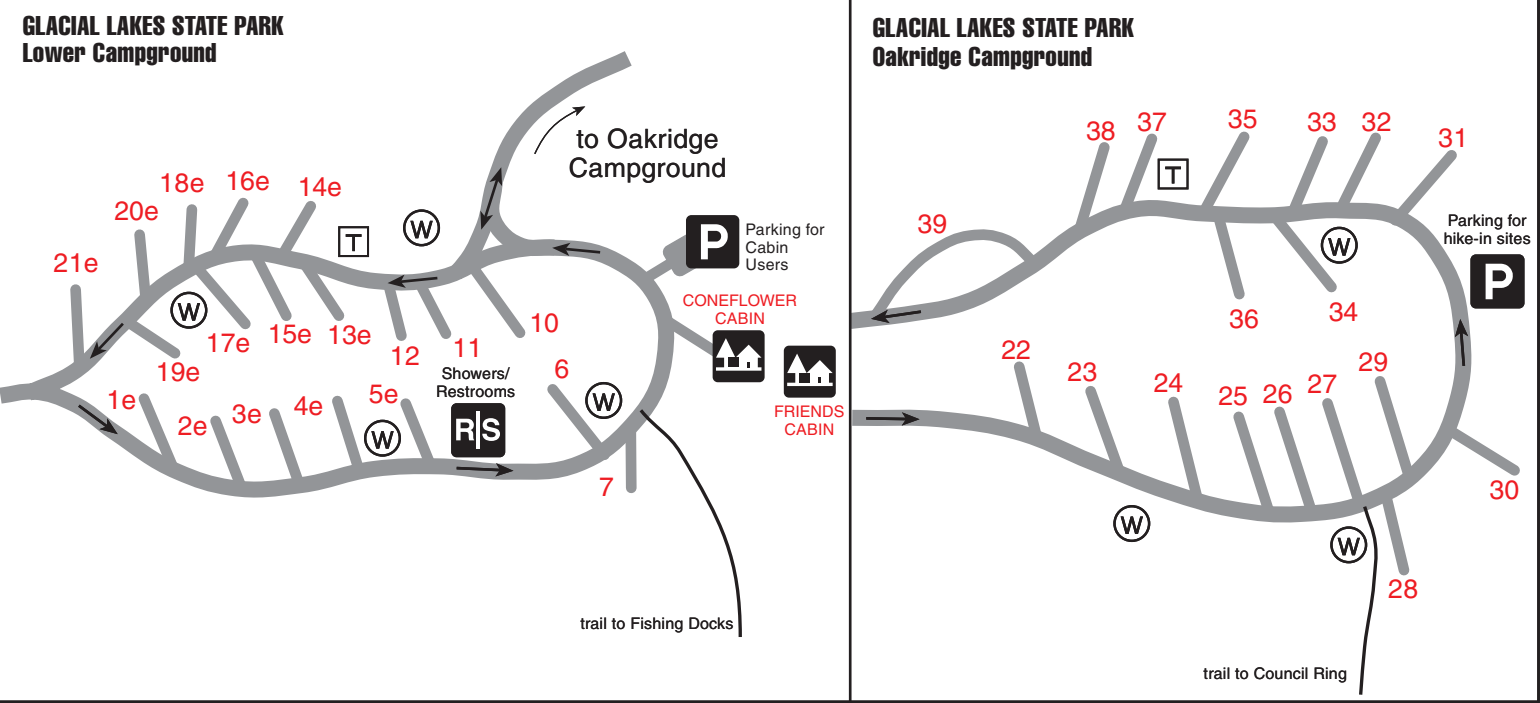
To assist you in exploring the park, interpretive signs are posted throughout the area, and brochures on wildlife and plants are available at the park office. While in the office, you may also inquire about the Interpretive Programs which are occasionally given by park naturalists to give you a better understanding of this exceptional example of Minnesota landscape.

**GEOLOGY OF THE PARK:** Glacial Lakes State Park is located in western Minnesota in a geological area commonly known as the Leaf Hills. This region, a 10 to 19 mile-wide and of glacial hills unlike any other in the state, extends from Detroit Lakes southeasterly to Willmar.

As glacial ice advanced southward, hills and bluffs were sheared off down to the bedrock. When the ice retreated, it deposited the rocks, gravel and dirt once suspended within it. Geologists call this material glacial till and some of the greatest depths of till in Minnesota are found in the park. This glacial action resulted in filling depressions, forming hills and creating the high, steep rolling lands stretching across west-central Minnesota.

Estimates have placed the last glacial ice sheet in Minnesota at approximately 10,000 years ago. Even today we are not sure if we are out of the “last ice age” or are just in a temporary reprieve. In either case, this area, which includes the park, is a fascinating study area for those interested in geology.

Here in Glacial Lakes you can see many typical glacial landscape features such as kames, kettles,



eskers and moraines-geologists’ terms for specific landscape formations.

Kames are conical-shaped hills formed by glacial debris deposited by meltwaters flowing into and down holes in the ice mass.

A kettle is a depression (which usually becomes a lake or marsh) that formed when a block of ice melts after being seperated from the glacier and covered by glacial debris.

An esker is a worm-like ridge that forms beneath a glacier as debris laden meltwater runs under the ice. When the ice melts, the stream bed, formed by the running meltwater, shows up as a winding ridge.

End moraines are areas where the leading or “resting” edge of a glacier “dumped” a load of debris that it carried like a conveyer belt transports material, or where two lobes of advancing ice cross over each other.

An erratic is any boulder carried and deposited by a glacier. The origin of erratics help us learn about movements of the glaciers. For example, rocks have been found here that contain ferrous oxide (iron ore) indicating that there were transported from ore bearing formations in northeastern Minnesota and Canada. Other erratics found in the park contain granite that could have come from the St. Cloud area or

basalt—a dark heavy rock—probably originating from northeast Minnesota.

**PLANT COMMUNITIES AND WILDLIFE:** Glacial Lakes State Park is located at a “cross-roads” between the original prairie land to the west and the central hardwood forests to the east. Fires were once the primary factor controlling the mix of forest and prairie along this “transition zone.”

Only about one-tenth of one percent of the original Minnesota prairie remains. The park preserves a portion of rare native prairie including a wide variety of grasses and forbs such as the big and little bluestem grass, Indiangrass, prairie clover, pasque flowers, coneflower and goldenrods, to name a few. Common prairie shrubs include wolfberry and rose. Check at the park office to see what wildflowers might be in bloom during your visit.

Many species of prairie and woodland birds make their home at Glacial Lakes. You can take the Prairie Woodland Interpretive Trail or visit marshland areas to see a variety of bird and mammal life. A careful observer can see squirrels, deer, beaver, wood ducks, raccoons, pileated woodpeckers and occasionally coyotes.

**FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES:** Glacial Lakes State Park offers a modern campground situated in the shade of an oak woods. Seperate walk-in campsites are available. A group camp with picnic

shelter, electricity, and 3 electric RV sites is available. The swimming beach and picnic area are nestled at the base of oak-covered hills. Good fishing opportunities for largemouth bass, panfish and northern pike are close at hand. Horseback riding trails and campground are available and a horseback riding trip along the ridgetops is an exciting and unusual way to view the rare scenic panorama of the countryside. A trail area is available for unloading. Skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, sledding and camper cabin opportunities are available during the winter.

**SERVICE INFORMATION:**

- Firewood available at park headquarters
- Ice available at park headquarters
- Groceries and gas available in Starbuck
- Fishing licenses sold in Starbuck
- Automobile servicing in Starbuck
- Medical service in Starbuck

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

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