Climbing Areas (north to south)
*Tourist Rocks/Asphalt Jungle (5.4 - 5.9/10)
*Cosmic Sty (5.10-5.12)
*The Pit Area (5.0-5.9)
  Access through swamp
*Angle Rock (5.6-5.11)
*Minnesota Strip/Overlook Area (5.5-5.12)
  Anchor set up from large paved overlook on River Trail
*Keyhole Area (5.3-5.10)
  Access from small paved overlook on River Trail
*Second Overlook & Delicate Area (5.4-5.10)
  Access at wood deck on River Trail

Bouldering / Climbing Areas
*The Pit (top roping 5.0-5.9)
*Slickslides Area (top roping 5.9-5.12)
*Sizzlefoot Area (top roping 5.8-5.13)
*Boneyards (top roping 5.7-5.11)
*Boonyards (top roping 5.9-5.12)

Hard Basalt
The towering cliffs along the St. Croix River are made of a hard gray rock called basalt formed by ancient lava flows.
Climbing Permits

Climbing areas are restricted by Minnesota State Park Rules (6100.1355 Subp. 8 Rock Climbing), and climbing is allowed by permit only. Permits are free and good for one calendar year.

Individuals may obtain a permit at the Park Office, Visitor Center, or self-pay station near the Visitor Center.

Organized groups need a commercial climbing permit. Organized groups include but are not limited to: schools, camps, and businesses that provide instruction or guiding to climbers. Permits for groups require insurance certification and at least one week’s notice to authorize the permit. Contact the park office to obtain application materials.

Emergencies

You are in Minnesota Interstate State Park – Taylors Falls. Call 911 immediately for serious injuries, and seek a Ranger for assistance. If possible, station a person in the parking lot to lead rescue workers to the accident area. Report accidents and injuries to park staff.

Ethics

Rock climbing in Interstate State Park puts climbers in direct contact with other users. For your safety and the advancement of the sport, practice good climbing ethics:

Chalk
If you have to use chalk, use white only, and clean routes when done.

Plants
Do not remove vegetation from climbs.

Trash
Keep the park clean and pack out trash.

Equipment
Do not leave climbing equipment unattended to reserve climbs. Park policy allows Rangers to move unattended equipment.

Trails
Follow established trails when accessing climbs for your safety and to decrease erosion.

About the Clims

Routes at the park are commonly top-roped, but offer opportunity for short lead climbs. No permanent protection is affixed at Interstate. **Affixing permanent anchors of any type is prohibited.**

Local climbing guides claim a range of 5.0 - 5.13 (YDS rating). The abundance of low range climbs and short approaches offers opportunities to many levels of climber. There are also several bouldering areas on the east side of the asphalt pathway. A guidebook is an extremely helpful tool for locating climbs.

Ancient Rock

Basalt rock creates the unique crack and face route climbs at Interstate State Park. Go back in time, and you will discover that this gray rock had fiery origins. About 1.1 billion years ago, a massive crack, or rift, split the earth’s crust in this area. Immense pools of lava oozed from the rift for many years and hardened into the basalt rock you may climb today.

Parking

A parking lot is available on the park’s northern end (near the Visitor Center). A Minnesota State Park Vehicle Permit is required to be in the park. Purchase daily or annual permits at the Park Office, Visitor Center, or self-pay station.

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