



Tettegouche State Park Visitor Center and MnDOT Class 1 Safety Rest Area

Highlights

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Department of Transportation are pleased to present the new Tettegouche State Park Visitor Center and Class 1 Safety Rest Area. The shared facility includes a new building, parking facilities and site amenities to complement the natural setting of the landscape. The new site design improves pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular circulation.

Building and Grounds:

- 11,000-square-foot, fully accessible space (similar in size to the Interpretive Center at Gooseberry Falls State Park) and meets current safety standards.
- Expanded restroom facilities open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- 750-square-foot exhibit space with interpretive panels to help visitors learn about the historical and cultural significance of the area.
- Amphitheater.
- Gift shop, open area picnic shelter, lakeside patio, and enclosed front porch.
- Meeting spaces and multi-purpose room for interpretive programming, as well as community meetings and functions.
- Rain garden and storm water management improvements.

Energy and Landscape Features:

- 24.3 KW photovoltaic array (which is expected to generate 36% of the building's energy needs).
- Energy efficient building design made with sustainable forest products, high efficiency windows, and structural insulated panel (SIP) walls and roof. LED lighting and high-efficiency fixtures are employed throughout the building, parking lots and entrance drive.

Safety and Usage:

- In 1986, Tettegouche became the first combined state park and safety rest area in the state. It was followed by a partnership at Gooseberry Falls State Park in 1996, and then a similar facility at Grand Portage State Park in 2010.
- About 28,000 people visited Tettegouche State Park in 1986 following construction of the original building. More than 332,000 visited in 2012 –nearly 12 times what the original building was designed to accommodate.
- The new building serves as a central office location for three state parks (Tettegouche, Temperance River and George H. Crosby-Manitou), two state forest recreation areas (Finland

and Eckbeck) and two state park waysides (Caribou River and Ray Berglund). It also houses Green View staff who are charged with maintaining the rest area components of the site.

- Based on an August 2000 study, rest area users utilized the facility at the following rates:
 - Motorists traveling by car stayed an average of 45 minutes.
 - Visitors traveling by recreational vehicle stayed an average of 40 minutes.
 - Truck drivers stayed an average of 25 minutes.
- Rest areas on Highway 61 are spaced at 25-mile intervals, which is half the typical spacing interval for MnDOT rest areas, due to the corridor's unique, winding character.

Funding:

- \$7 million project, of which the DNR's portion was approved in the 2008 bonding bill.
- Most of MnDOT's portion was provided by federal Coordinated Border Infrastructure (CBI) funds. The purpose of CBI funding is to improve the safe movement of motor vehicles at or across the land border between the U.S. and Canada and Mexico.

Tettegouche State Park:

- Established in 1975.
- 9,346-acre park that supports an abundant wildlife population.
- 5th most visited of the state's 75 state parks.
- Four waterfalls on the Baptism River, including the highest waterfall entirely inside Minnesota's border.
- Miles of hiking, skiing and snowshoe trails, and scenic overlooks including Shovel Point and Palisade Head. Popular rock climbing and photography destination.
- Popular campground and the historic Tettegouche camp – listed on the National Register of Historic Places.