

Naturalist Programs Available at Wild River State Park



Program	Description	Recommended Grade Level	Program Length	Recommended Group Size*
Prairie Restoration: Seed Collecting	<i>ACTIVITY: (Fall)</i> Learn about prairie restoration through short sit-down program and hands-on collection. Meet at the Visitor Center.	All ages	90 minutes	1-2 Classes at a time
Prairie Restoration: Seed Sowing	<i>ACTIVITY: (Spring)</i> Learn another piece to prairie restoration through a short program and hands-on sowing. Meet at the Visitor Center.	All ages	90 minutes	1-2 Classes at a time
Snakes Alive!	<i>SIT-DOWN PROGRAM:</i> Discover the lives of Minnesota snakes with our live resident snakes. Meet at the Visitor Center.	All ages	45 minutes	1 Class at a time
Minnesota Mammals	<i>SIT-DOWN PROGRAM:</i> Learn about common animal characteristics while taking a look at their bones and furs. Meeting location varies.	All Ages	45 minutes	1-2 Classes at a time
Just Take a Hike!	<i>WALK:</i> Walk one of the many trails and talk about a variety of cultural and natural history topics along the way. Meeting location varies.	All Ages	60 minutes	1 Class at a time
Snowshoeing	<i>ACTIVITY (Winter):</i> We have enough snowshoes for about 30 people on this 1-mile walk through the snow. Meet at Visitor Center	All Ages	60 minutes	Roughly 30 people at a time
Little Life: Under the Microscope	<i>SIT-DOWN PROGRAM:</i> Dive into the hidden life of the natural world under a video microscope. Various topics available. Meet at Visitor Center.	4 th grade and older	45 minutes	1 Class at a time
Tree ID / Fall Color Science	<i>TALK & WALK:</i> Learn to ID common trees, the art of changing color, and the parts that make up a tree. Meeting location varies.	4 th grade and older	45 minutes	1 Class at a time

Program	Description	Recommended Grade Level	Program Length	Recommended Group Size*
Rock On! Geology	<i>SIT-DOWN PROGRAM & ACTIVITY:</i> Reenact the formation of the St. Croix Valley to explore glaciers, climate change, erosion factors, and rock ID. Meet at Visitor Center	4 rd grade and older	45 minutes	1 Class at a time
Seine Net Fishing	<i>ACTIVITY:</i> Learn river ecology and fish ID while using a 20-foot seine net. <i>Note: In and near water.</i> Meet at the Boat Landing.	4 th grade and older	60 minutes	1 Class at a time
Geocaching	<i>ACTIVITY:</i> Learn how to use a GPS unit through the sport of Geocaching. 12 GPS units available to use. Meet at Visitor Center.	4 th grade and older	60 minutes	1 Class at a time
Maple Syruping	<i>WALK-ABOUT DEMONSTRATION:</i> Learn the basics of hibernation, science behind snowflake, and more through several hands-on experiments. Meet at the Visitor Center	4 rd grade and older	60 minutes	1-2 Classes at a time
Wildflower Walk	<i>WALK (Spring):</i> Discover the life and adaptations of Minnesota wildflowers on this fun identification walk. Meeting location varies.	4 th grade and older	30-60 minutes	1 Class at a time
Sandbar Stop! Fishing	<i>ACTIVITY:</i> 12 fishing poles are available for smaller groups to learn the basics of fish ID and fishing. Meet at Picnic Shelter	4 th grade and older	90 minutes	12 fishing poles available
Orienteering	<i>ACTIVITY:</i> Learn the basics of a compass and orienteering on a fun beginners puzzle course. Meet at the Visitor Center	4 rd grade and older	60 minutes	1 Class at a time
Snow Science	<i>SIT-DOWN PROGRAM:</i> Learn the basics of hibernation, science behind snowflake, and more through several hands-on experiments. Meet at the Visitor Center	4 rd grade and older	45 minutes	1 Class at a time
Watersheds and Wetlands	<i>SIT-DOWN PROGRAM & ACTIVITY:</i> Explore Minnesota's watersheds by participating in experiments and hands-on activities. Meeting location varies.	4 th grade and Older	45 minutes	1-2 Classes at a time

Program	Description	Recommended Grade Level	Program Length	Recommended Group Size*
The Great Migration	<i>SIT-DOWN PROGRAM & ACTIVITY:</i> Learn about migration and play the role during a fun human board game. Meeting location varies.	3 th – 8 th grade	45 minutes	1 Class at a time
The St. Croix: River of Logs	<i>WALK/ACTIVITY:</i> See what the St. Croix looked like 100 years ago and reenact a lumberman's life on this 0.6 mile walk to Nevers Dam. Meet at the Picnic Shelter.	3 rd grade and older	60 minutes	1 Class at a time
Birding for Beginners	<i>SIT-DOWN PROGRAM & ACTIVITY:</i> Learn tips and tricks to identifying birds and go on a short walk <i>or</i> make binoculars <i>or</i> hands-on adaptation activities (dependant on age group). Meet at Visitor Center	3 rd grade and older	45-90 minutes	1 Class at a time
River Study	<i>ACTIVITY:</i> Grab a net and dig in the river to see what you can come up with! We'll talk river ecology and watersheds. <i>Note: In and near water.</i> Meet at Boat Landing	3 rd grade and older	60 minutes	1 Class at a time
Animal Olympics	<i>ACTIVITY:</i> Flap your wings like a hummingbird and jump like a deer on this Olympic course testing 8 of your wildlife adaptations. Meeting location varies.	Kindergarten – 4 th grade	45 minutes	1 Class at a time
Toadally Frogs	<i>SIT-DOWN PROGRAM:</i> Discover the unique characteristics of Minnesota's frogs and toads as we imitate their sounds and create our own frog opera! Meeting location varies.	Kindergarten – 4 rd grade	30 minutes	1-2 Classes at a time
Who-o-o Goes There? Creatures of the Night	<i>SIT-DOWN PROGRAM:</i> We'll turn the lights off and explore the nocturnal adaptations of the wild through a variety of fun activities. Meet at Visitor Center	Kindergarten – 4 th grade	45 minutes	1 Class at a time
Scavenger Hunts	<i>ACTIVITY:</i> Various topics available: Tree ID, Insects, Digital Photography, Meet at Visitor Center	Kindergarten – 4 th grade	60 minutes	1 Class at a time
Busy Beavers!	<i>SIT-DOWN PROGRAM:</i> Take the Beaver Quiz to see how much you know about these rodents! Meeting location varies.	Kindergarten – 4 th grade	30 minutes	1-2 Classes at a time

Program	Description	Recommended Grade Level	Program Length	Recommended Group Size*
Track Detectives	<i>SIT-DOWN PROGRAM:</i> Learn how to identify the tracks of, and walk like, animals of Wild River State Park! Meeting location varies.	Kindergarten – 4 th grade	30 minutes	1-2 Classes at a time
Loonie Loons!	<i>SIT-DOWN PROGRAM:</i> Discover the life of loons as we page through a Minnesota-written book that describes all of their unique, unknown features. Meeting location varies.	Kindergarten – 3 rd grade	30 minutes	1-2 Classes at a time
Clues of the Forest	<i>SIT-DOWN PROGRAM:</i> Who has been leaving clues outside the Visitor Center? Play a game similar to “Blue’s Clues” and learn about various clues animals leave behind. Winter and summer versions available Meet at Visitor Center	Kindergarten – 3 rd grade	30 minutes	1-2 Classes at a time
Scavenging by Senses	<i>WALK:</i> Through various activities along a short walk, we’ll use our five senses like so many animals. Meeting location varies.	Kindergarten – 3 rd grade	60 minutes	1 Class at a time
Butterflies & Dragonflies	<i>SIT-DOWN PROGRAM & ACTIVITY:</i> Discuss the lives of butterflies and dragonflies, life cycles, and metamorphosis. 12 nets are available for optional hands-on activity. Meet at Visitor Center	Kindergarten – 3 rd grade	30-60 minutes	1-2 Classes at a time
Where for Winter?	<i>SIT-DOWN PROGRAM:</i> Explore the various ways animals prepare for winter by migrating, hibernating, or stocking fat reserves! Meeting location varies.	Kindergarten – 3 rd grade	30 minutes	1-2 Classes at a time

*Group Size: This is the size recommended per session (roughly 20-30 students). Larger groups can be accommodated by rotating stations throughout the day.



WILD RIVER STATE PARK

FACILITIES AND FEATURES

- Information station/gift shop
- 96 semi-modern campsites
- Guest house (6 capacity)
- 6 camping cabins
- Modern shower buildings
- 34 electrical sites
- Trailer dump station
- 9 primitive group campsites (18 people per site)
- Horse campground (20 campsites)
- Amphitheater (300 capacity)
- 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
- 7 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
- Self-guided trails
- Building architecture
- Canoeing
- Wildflowers, deer, birds
- Logging era outdoor exhibit
- Naturalist programs
- Guest house/Camping cabins
- Geocaching opportunities

LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION?

The DNSP has mapped the state showing local, state and county trails with their recreational facilities. Recreation Information Maps (RIMs) are available for purchase from the DNSP, 841 stop, DNSP regional offices, Minnesota state parks and major sporting and map stores.

Check it out...you'll be glad you did.

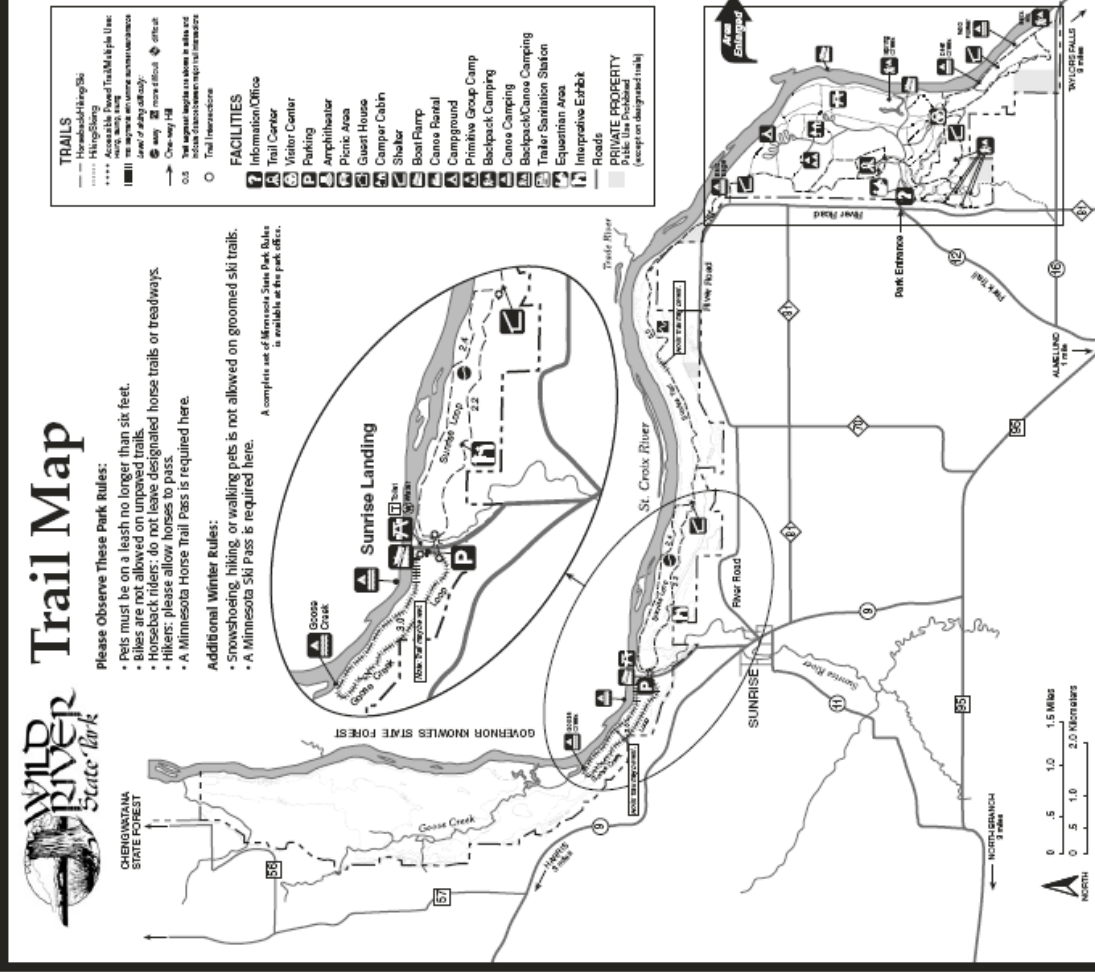
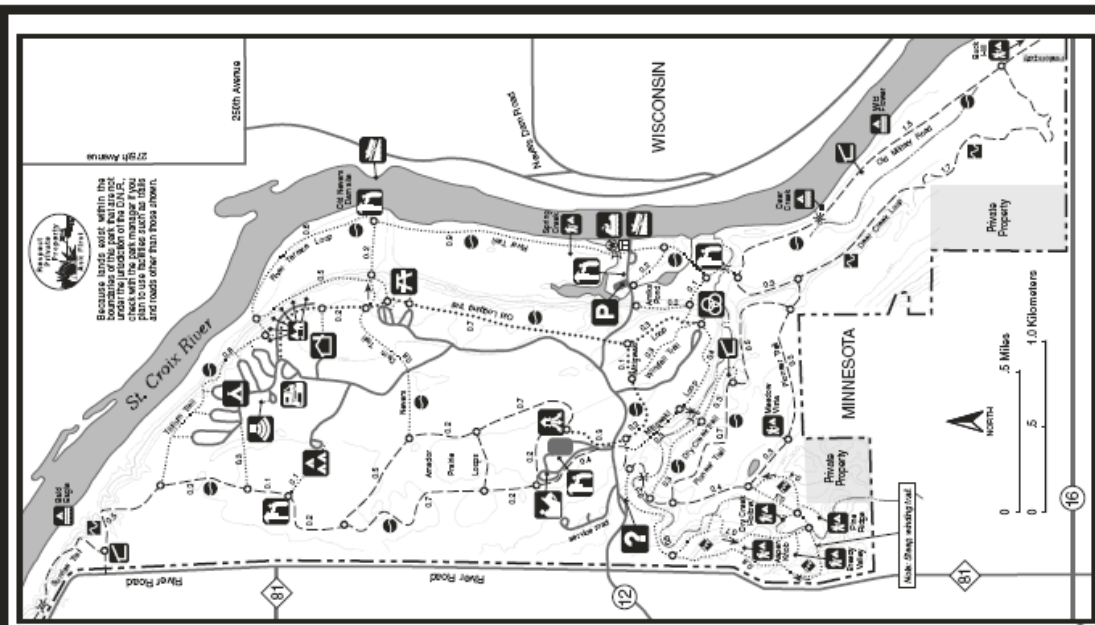
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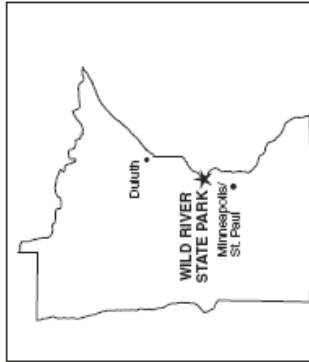


Trail Map

- 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**
- Hiking/Skiing
 - Accessible Paved Trail/Multi-Use
 - Multi-Use
 - Equestrian
 - Canoeing
 - Horseback Riding
 - Snowshoeing
 - One-way Hike
 - Trail Intersection
- 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 (except designated trails)





WILD RIVER STATE PARK

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Wild River State Park
39797 Park Trail
Center City, MN 55012
(651) 583-2125 Headquarters
(651) 583-2925 Visitor Center

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)

DNR Web Site: www.dnr.state.mn.us
State Parks Page: www.mnstateparks.info

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 Millie 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.

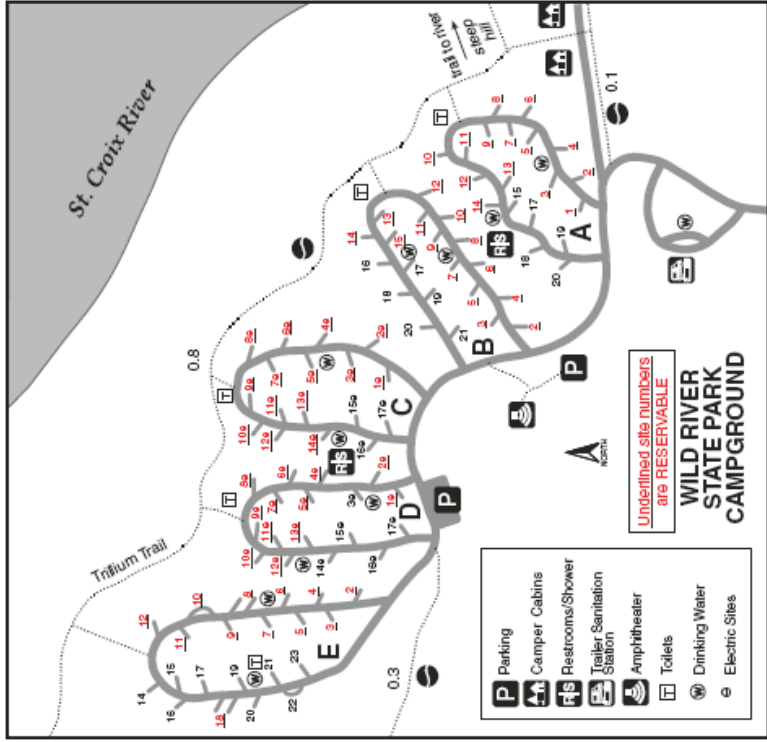
CANOEING: Canoeists will enjoy the primitive beauty of the St. Croix River Valley. Sightings of bald eagles, great blue herons and white-tailed deer are common. Red-shouldered hawks and ospreys may also be seen. River users should exercise caution. High water levels during the spring and after heavy 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: Amuk'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 ATV's, 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, dogs or 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.

*Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is available to all individuals regardless of race, color, creed or religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, age or disability. Discrimination inquiries should be sent to The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155-4031; or the Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.



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NA-0000-00

Form Date: July 1, 2009

FREE VEHICLE PERMIT FORM
Disabled Veteran, Military Personnel on Leave,
K-12 School Sanctioned Activities

Applicant Name (First, M.I., Last)	Drivers License Number
Address (No. & Street, Box, City, State, Zip), Phone #, and School Name (if applicable)	
Applicant Signature	Date (Month, Day, Year)

1. Active Duty or within 90 Days Following Active Duty:

The person listed on this form is exempt from the requirement of a state park permit after providing proof that they are serving in active military in any branch or unit of the United States armed forces and is stationed outside Minnesota, during the period of active service and for 90 days immediately thereafter by providing park staff with a copy of their current military orders.

Daily Permit

Or

2. Disabled Veteran

The person listed on this form is a Veteran with a total (100%) and permanent service connected disability (as determined by the US Department of Veterans Affairs).

Regular Annual Permit *(Issued to vehicles owned by Veteran)*

Motorcycle Annual Permit *(Issued to motorcycles owned by Veteran)*

Daily Permit *(Issued to any vehicle not owned by the Veteran, but being used to transport the Veteran into a Minnesota state park or recreation area.)*

Or

3. K-12 School Sanctioned Activities

The vehicle is transporting K-12 students to a state park for school-sanctioned activities.

Daily Permit

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE - FOR DNR USE ONLY

Permit Number	Issued at: (Park Location)	Signature of Employee Issuing Permit	Date Issued
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Retain in park files for audit purposes.