

MAP AND GUIDE: AFTON STATE PARK

6959 PELLER AVENUE SOUTH
HASTINGS, MN 55033
WASHINGTON COUNTY
651-201-6780
AFTON.STATEPARK@STATE.MN.US



VISITOR TIPS

- Wear good hiking shoes.
- The campground is backpack-only and is a strenuous ¾-mile hike from the parking lots.
- The swimming beach is a ½-mile walk from parking areas. No lifeguard is on duty.
- River access requires a ½-mile portage. There is no drive-in boat ramp.
- Bicyclists and horseback riders should stay on their designated trails.
- In an emergency call 911.
- Non-emergency sheriff's number: 651-439-9381



ONLY HAVE AN HOUR?

- Check out the visitor center and then walk south on the paved trail behind the building for a 0.4-mile self-guided interpretive trail among restored prairie.
- Hike to one of several scenic overlooks to view the river valley.
- Walk to the beach and enjoy a picnic at the lower picnic area.



LOOKING FOR MORE TO EXPLORE DURING YOUR STAY? VISIT: MNDNR.GOV/AFTON

ABOUT THE PARK

Afton State Park was established in 1969 for visitors to experience unique natural features and enjoy outdoor recreation. Just forty minutes east of the Twin Cities, the park lies along bluffs overlooking the St. Croix River. Here you will see wildflowers and grasses in restored prairies that were once agricultural fields. Below, outcrops of limestone jut from the sides of deep, forested ravines that drop three hundred feet to the river. Make your way down to the water's edge and watch for wildlife. The park's diverse habitats make it a birdwatcher's haven with over 190 species, some of which are rare.



Explore from the top of the park's bluffs to the edge of the river.

TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS

All distances are from the park visitor center.

North River Trail

Flat • Crushed gravel

1.2 miles one-way

Follow the St. Croix River as you head north along a former railroad grade. Pass through floodplain forest and the lower picnic area. Go past two railroad bridges and take the trail to the top of the bluff for scenic overlooks of the river valley.

Prairie Loop

Rolling terrain • Mowed grass • Shared with horseback riders seasonally

2 to 3-mile loop

Circle the park's largest open area and get a good idea of what the prairies looked like 500 years ago. Experience views of the river valley and the Afton Alps Ski Area. Set out on this trail by foot in summer or skis in winter.

Trout Brook Loop

Steep terrain • Packed dirt • Grass • Wooden bridges

5.7-mile loop

Be ready for a workout as you follow Trout Brook through a secluded ravine and then head up over a bluff top. Your effort will be rewarded with solitude and scenery as you hike.

Deer Valley Loop

Steep terrain • Narrow • Packed dirt

3.5-mile loop

Follow an intermittent creek as this narrow foot trail brings you up hills and down ravines. Keep an eye out for wildlife in this wooded habitat. The southernmost trail loop climbs to the top of a bluff and a wide prairie with expansive views.

South River Trail

Flat • Crushed Gravel

2 miles one-way

Encounter long, uninterrupted views of the St. Croix River and golden maple leaves in the fall. Cross country ski this trail in the winter.

MORE TO EXPLORE AT THE PARK

- Join a free naturalist program.
- Find a geocache or navigate an orienteering course.
- Hike ravines carved by glacial meltwater.
- Borrow a GPS, fishing equipment, birding kit or discovery kit.

SO EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE PARK...

A FULL SET OF STATE PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS IS AVAILABLE AT THE PARK OFFICE OR MNDNR.GOV.



PARK OPEN

8 a.m.–10 p.m. daily.



VEHICLE PERMITS

Permits required; purchase at park office or entrance kiosk.



PETS WELCOME

Keep on 6-foot leash; pick up after; attend at all times; not allowed in buildings or swimming beach area.



FIREWOOD

Purchase only from park office or approved vendor; no gathering firewood in the park.



CAMPGROUND QUIET HOURS

10 p.m.–8 a.m.; only registered campers may be in campground during quiet hours.

BE OUR GUEST

Enjoy rustic camping with backpack campsites or a canoe campsite.

Bring a group and stay at one of two spacious group camp sites.

Reserve a camper cabin or yurt for a get-away with family or friends.

Visit mndnr.gov/reservations to make reservations up to a year in advance.



CURIOUS ABOUT THE ST. CROIX RIVER STATE WATER TRAIL? GO TO: MNDNR.GOV/WATERTRAILS



MORE INFORMATION

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Information Center
500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155-4040
888-646-6367 or mndnr.gov/parks

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This information may be available in alternative format upon request.