

MAP AND GUIDE: AFTON STATE PARK

6959 PELLER AVENUE SOUTH
HASTINGS, MN 55033
WASHINGTON COUNTY
651-436-5391
AFTON.STATEPARK@STATE.MN.US



VISITOR TIPS

- The campground is backpack-only and is a strenuous ¾-mile hike from the parking lots.
- Keep ski trails in great shape. Hiking, snowshoeing, and dogs are not allowed on groomed ski trails.
- Skiers, snowshoers and hikers should stay on their own designated trails.
- Snowshoers may go off trail.
- Trails are occasionally slippery; ice cleats are recommended for hikers.
- In an emergency call 911.
- Non-emergency sheriff's number: 651-439-9381



ONLY HAVE AN HOUR?

- Warm up at the visitor center.
- Enjoy a small, "kid-friendly" sledding hill north of the visitor center.
- Take a hike down to the river and experience the scenic Trout Brook and St. Croix valleys.
- Rent snowshoes from the park office and explore a snowshoe trail.



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 Snowshoe Trail • Flat	1.2 miles one-way
Put on a pair of snowshoes and follow the St. Croix River 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 Ski Trail • Rolling terrain	2 to 3-mile loop
Skiers, circle the park's largest open area and imagine what the prairies looked like when the first European settlers arrived. Encounter views of the river valley and the Afton Alps Ski Area.	
Trout Brook Loop Snowshoe Trail • Steep terrain • Wooden bridges	5.7-mile loop
Be ready for a workout on this ungroomed snowshoe trail. Follow Trout Brook through a secluded ravine and then head up over a bluff top. Your effort will be rewarded with solitude and scenery.	
Deer Valley Loop Snowshoe Trail • Steep terrain • Narrow	3.5-mile loop
Snowshoe this seldom seen portion of the park. Follow an intermittent creek as this narrow 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 Ski Trail • Flat	2 miles one-way
Experience long, uninterrupted views of the St. Croix River on this groomed ski trail. You'll be greeted by snow and ice along the river.	

MORE TO EXPLORE AT THE PARK

- Join a free naturalist program.
- Find a geocache.
- Enjoy a plowed walking trail (1.5 miles).
- Borrow a GPS, 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

Experience winter camping in a backpack campsite.

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

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.

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STATE PARKS AND TRAILS