

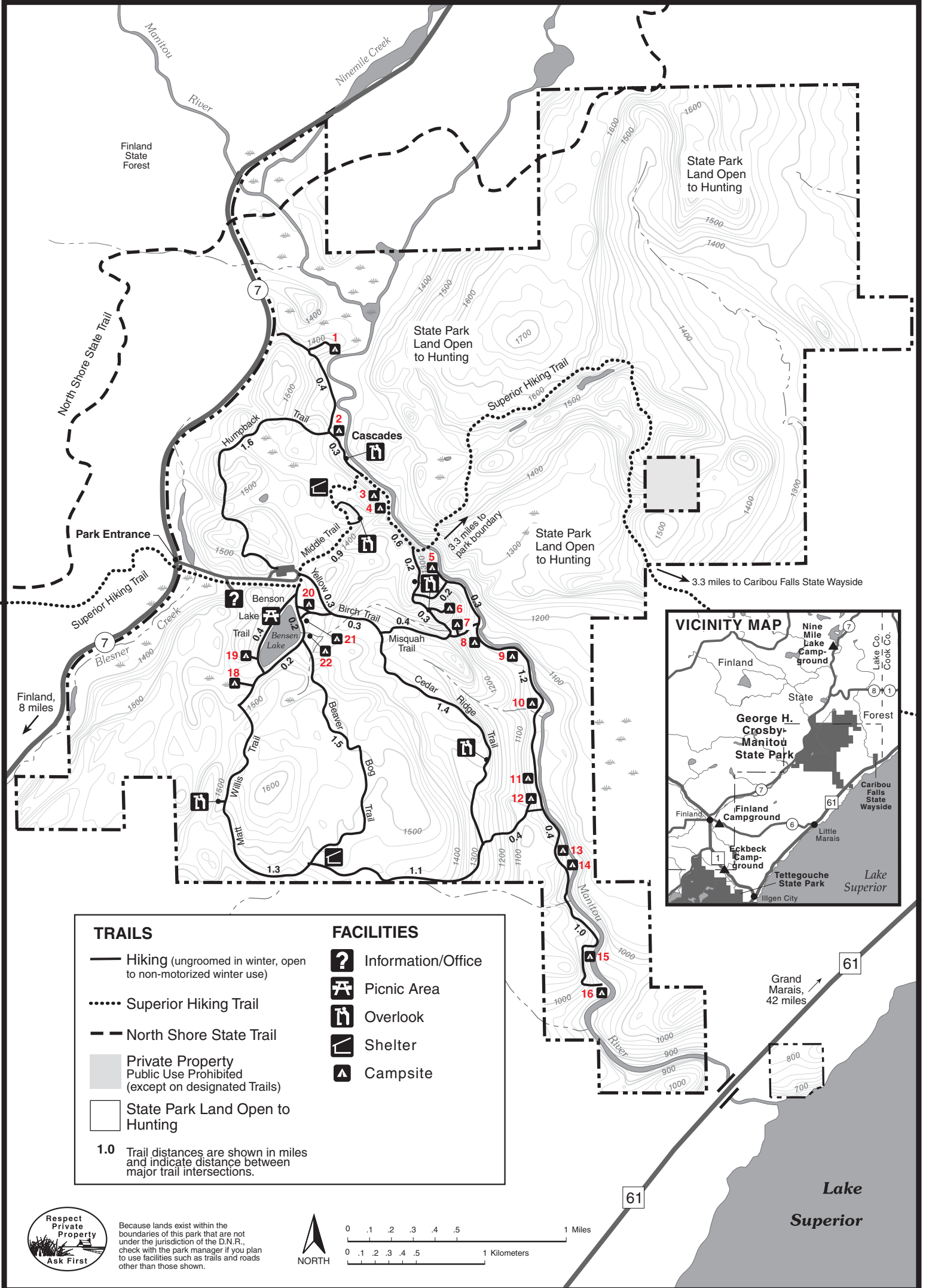
# GEORGE H. CROSBY - MANITOU STATE PARK

## VISITOR FAVORITES

- The cascades on the Manitou River
- View of Lake Superior from the hills
- Hiking trails along the river

## FACILITIES

- 21 backpack campsites along the Manitou River and Bensen Lake
- A walk-in picnic area on the west side of Bensen Lake with pit toilets, but no water
- 23 miles of hiking trails (open, but not groomed in the winter)
- Lake and stream trout fishing





## GEORGE H. CROSBY-MANITOU STATE PARK

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

George H. Crosby Manitou State Park  
c/o Tettegouche State Park  
5702 Highway 61 East  
Silver Bay, MN 55614  
(218) 226-6365

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)

[mndnr.gov/parks](http://mndnr.gov/parks)

**GEORGE H. CROSBY MANITOU STATE PARK** is located On Minnesota's North Shore near Finland. Take State Highway 61 from Duluth to State Highway 1 to Finland. Or take State Highway 1 from Ely to Finland. At Finland, take Lake County Road 7 eight miles to the park entrance. Highway map index: O-8.

The Manitou River cascades through a rugged river valley to Lake Superior. Along the gorge, visitors to George Crosby Manitou State Park can enjoy the river's wild beauty.

For people who enjoy hiking and a place to get away from crowds, this park offers the opportunity of camping in isolated backpack sites along the Manitou River. Park trails lead backpackers into the depths of the park, into the habitat of black bears and timber wolves.

Park trails are rugged, and will test your hiking abilities. For those who wish to use the park only for day hiking, several campgrounds are located within twenty miles of the park.

**GEOLOGY:** In the distant past, volcanoes spewed fiery lava which cooled and built up in thick layers. At the waterfalls and through the gorge where the rock outcrops are present, hikers can see the thickness of the flows. The flows are known as the Keweenawan lava flows and intrusions. Intrusions are hot, molten rock which, under pressure, was forced into fissures in older bedrock and then cooled.

Later, when glaciers crept down from the north, they scraped and dislodged the rock. As they retreated, gradually melting, they left piles of rock and soil, again changing the topography of the park. The last glacier left a large meltwater lake behind the shoreline ridge which drained into Lake Superior. This drainage route is now the Manitou River. Today, the rough, tumbling waters of this river continue to change the shape of the gorge through which they flow.

**WILDLIFE:** The many plant communities in George Crosby Manitou State Park support a variety of wildlife. The prime attractions are white-tailed deer, black bear, timber wolf and moose.

The abundance of wildlife in the park was the outcome of timber harvesting in this region and of settlers who deliberately burned groves of trees to open the land for farming. When the first settlers arrived, the woodland caribou was abundant. But extensive logging of pine destroyed the animal's habitat.

Caribou numbers soon dropped and finally it disappeared from the region.

Logging benefited deer, however. The logged lands sprouted new growth—largely aspen and birch—which provided excellent habitat. As the herd increased and became abundant, the number of timber wolves grew because the white-tailed deer is the main food of the wolf. Over many years, however, the number of both animals has declined.

In the 1920s, moose populations decreased dramatically. Then, in the 1940s, they began to increase again. New conifer growth has allowed moose to make a comeback. Today moose are common in Minnesota's northeastern forest. While hiking, if you come upon a moose, use caution. Though they seldom attack, they are strong and can be dangerous.

Throughout the park, black bears roam. These large lumbering animals usually leave people alone, but when campers leave food around a campsite, bears become bold. If you come upon a bear, use caution. Don't feed it or bother it. Usually this big animal will not have any interest in you.

The park has many different small animals and birds. Two large birds that hikers often see feeding along the trail are the ruffed grouse and spruce grouse. Try walking slowly and quietly toward a bird. Sometimes it is possible to get close enough to see details in its feathers. The easiest way to tell the ruffed and spruce grouse apart is by their tails. If the bird has many bands—white, brown and black—it's a ruffed grouse. The spruce grouse has a dark tail with a single band on the edge.

Along with grouse, the park has snowshoe rabbits, red squirrels, Canadian jays, sharp-shinned hawks, beaver and many other small animals and birds.

### HIKING TIPS:

- Wear durable foot wear.
- During the summer, bugs are present. Wear clothes that protect you. Bring insect repellent.

- Water is available year-round from a hand pump located at the Self-Registration Kiosk. All other water in the park used for drinking must be boiled or treated.
- Nights in the park are cold. Bring a warm sleeping bag.
- All garbage must be packed out. Bring food that is not packaged in cans and bottles.
- Food must be stored away from wildlife. Bring a rope to hang packs from trees or use bear poles where available.
- Use caution if a bear appears. Do not approach it or try to feed it. Bears are wild animals and are unpredictable. Enjoy bears only from a distance.
- Come prepared. Make George Crosby Manitou State Park an enjoyable adventure.

### ABOUT CAMPING:

- Camping registration information is posted at the Self-Registration Kiosk located at the park entrance.
- All campsites are hike-in ranging from 1/4 mile to 4 miles. Campsites have primitive field latrines. Water must be carried in or treated. All campsites are off the trail and are marked with campsite marker.
- Campers are encouraged to arrive early to have sufficient time to hike to campsites in daylight.
- Build fires only in designated fire rings. Dead and down wood may be used for small campfires. Please gather wood away from campsites. Portable stoves and candle lanterns are encouraged.
- All trails begin at the parking lot. Use caution because the trails are rugged. Use switchbacks to prevent erosion on winding trails.
- Leave No Trace. All garbage must be packed out.
- Winter camping is possible, but trails are rugged. All trails can be snowshoed. Some trails are for advanced cross-country skiers. Snow usually remains on the ground from November through April.

- A valid state park vehicle permit is required on all vehicles. Pay permit fees at the Self-Registration Kiosk located at the park entrance.

### SO EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE PARK.

- The park belongs to all Minnesotans. Please treat it with respect and help us to protect it by following the rules.
- The park is open year-round. On a daily basis, the park gate is closed from 10 P.M. to 8 A.M. the following morning except to registered campers.
- Camp only in designated locations.
- The use of firearms, explosives, air guns, slingshots, traps, seines, nets, bows and arrows, and all other weapons is prohibited in state parks.
- Pets must be restrained on a leash no longer than six feet. Pets are not allowed in park buildings.
- Park in designated areas only.
- Motor bikes and other licensed vehicles are allowed only on park roads, not on trails.
- Enjoy park wildlife and plants but please respect them. Do not pick or dig up plants, disturb or feed animals, or scavenge dead wood.
- Build fires only in designated locations—fire rings or fireplaces. Wood is available for purchase from park staff. Portable stoves or grills are permitted.
- Daily or annual permits are required for all vehicles entering a state park. They may be purchased at the park headquarters or the Information Center in St. Paul (see "FOR MORE INFORMATION" to left).

*This information is available in alternative format upon request.*

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