

# LAKE CARLOS STATE PARK

## FACILITIES AND FEATURES

- Two semi-modern campgrounds with a total of 121 campsites (81 with electricity)
- Four year-round Camper Cabins with electricity
- Dump station, showers, flush toilets
- Modern group camp (capacity 60) with cabins, a dining hall, a classroom building, and a sanitation building with showers and flush toilets
- Two primitive group camps with vault toilets, shelter, and water
- Horseback riders campground with running water and pit toilets
- Day use picnic area with tables and fire rings
- Swimming beach with a bathhouse
- Fish cleaning building
- Drive-in water access on Lake Carlos
- Carry-in water access on Hidden Lake
- 14 miles of hiking trail
- 3 miles of self-guided interpretive trail
- 9 miles of horseback riding trail
- 5 miles of cross-country ski trail
- 9 miles of snowmobile trail
- The park has a public telephone. Laundry and lodging facilities, groceries, and other conveniences are available within a short distance of the park.
- Snowshoes available to rent at the park office

Emergency Telephone Numbers:  
 Park: 320-852-7200  
 County Sheriff: 320-762-8151  
 Conservation Officer: 320-762-1046

### LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION ?

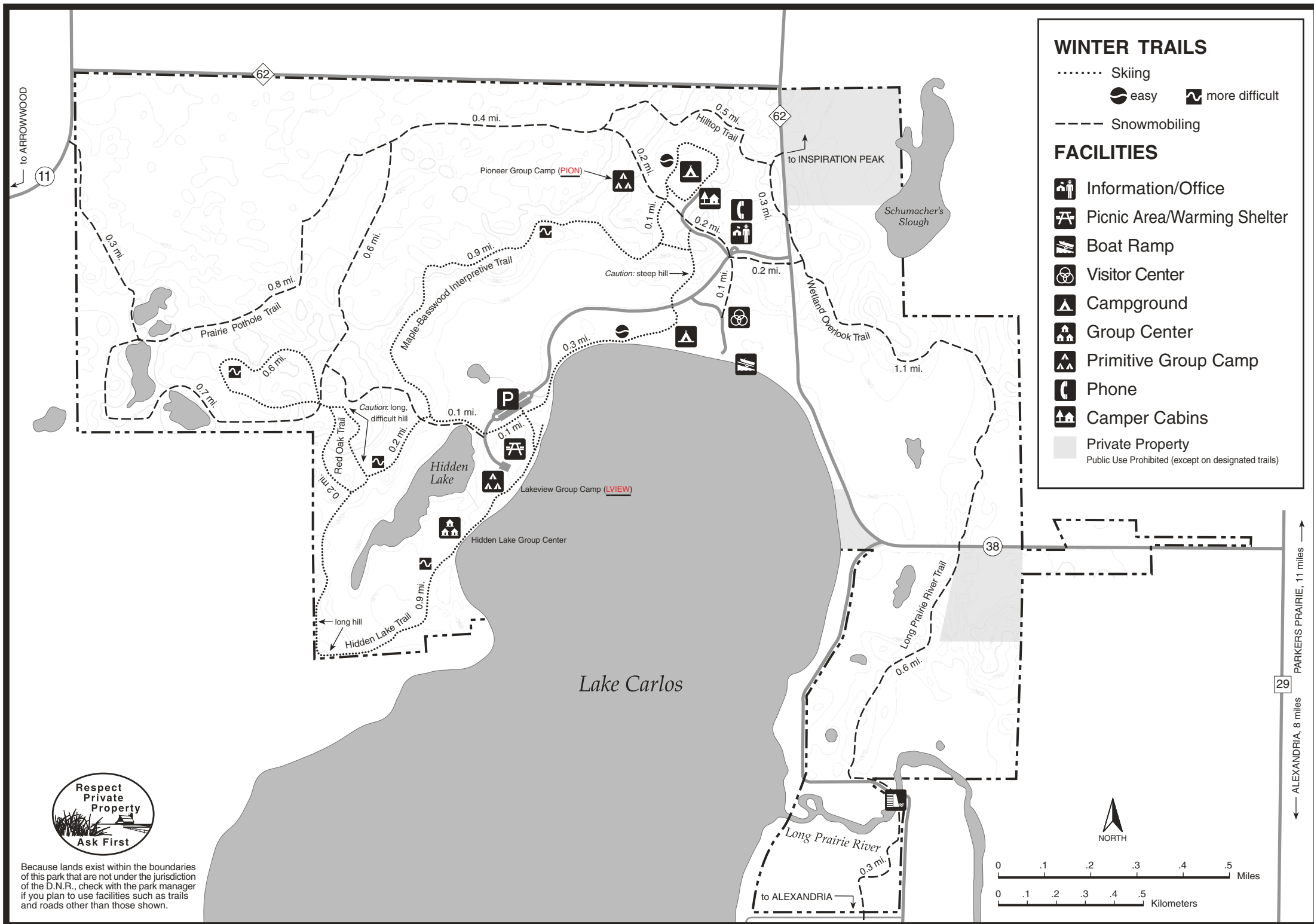
The DNR has mapped the state showing federal, state and county lands with their recreational facilities.

Public Recreation Information Maps (PRIM) are available for purchase from the DNR gift shop, DNR regional offices, Minnesota state parks and major sporting and map stores.

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



Because lands exist within the boundaries of this park that are not under the jurisdiction of the D.N.R., check with the park manager if you plan to use facilities such as trails and roads other than those shown.





# LAKE CARLOS STATE PARK

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Lake Carlos State Park  
2601 County Road 38 NE  
Carlos, MN 56319  
(320) 852-7200

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](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)  
State Parks page: [www.mnstateparks.info](http://www.mnstateparks.info)

**LAKE CARLOS STATE PARK** is located 10 miles north of Alexandria on State Highway 29 in Douglas County. Highway map index: E-13.

Lake Carlos State Park offers visitors a beautiful pastoral setting of steeply rolling, maple-basswood and aspen-oak forested hills, grassy meadows, and a deep, clean lake noted for its abundance of walleye, northern pike, bass, and crappie.

The park's 1236 acres lie within a hardwood transition zone between the prairies to the south-

west and the coniferous forest to the northeast.

The park's glacial moraine topography is dotted with woodland ponds, marshes, wet meadows, and lakes cradled among hills. Visitors can hike or ski from a tamarack bog to a maple-basswood stand, or from open grassland to forested ridges overlooking the lake—all within minutes.

**GEOLOGY:** The landscape is dominated by hills rising 50 to 150 feet. Gravel, sand, and clay are clearly stratified. The layers record the gradual filling of an ancient river valley at the close of the last ice age. Receding glaciers left most of Douglas County blanketed with "drift"—layers of gravel and sand. The gravel is often coarse. It contains pebbles and round stones of all sizes up to a foot in diameter. To examine this glacial drift, visit the gravel pit in the southeast corner of the park. Here boulders up to four feet in diameter lie beneath stratified layers of finer materials.

Retreating glaciers also left huge chunks of broken-off ice. When these blocks melted, they formed the area's lakes. Lake Carlos is 150 feet deep in places. The outlet at the northeast corner is the source of the Long Prairie River.

Although no rock outcrops occur in this area, boulders taken from glacial drift supplied farmers in the area with building blocks for the foundations and walls of their homes and barns. This granite can also be seen in the park's beach house and pump station.

**HISTORY:** Archaeologists believe that ancient people ventured into western Minnesota before the last glacier advanced around 10,000 years ago. Archaeologists have excavated sites dating from 30,000 to 40,000 B.C. in eastern North America. It's likely that nomads passed through this region hunting big game. Although there is no conclusive evidence that early people actually lived here, stones used as projectile points and scrapers have been found in washes and gravel deposits nearby.

After 1000 A.D., people in Minnesota moved toward a more sedentary and agricultural lifestyle. After horses were introduced by Spanish explorers, these people, the Dakota, again developed a nomadic, buffalo-hunting lifestyle. The park campground is located on top of a late-prehistoric Indian campsite which was probably used seasonally.

Over one-hundred years before the voyage of Columbus, Norsemen may have explored the Lake Carlos region. Some people believe they recorded their travels on the Kensington Rune Stone. In November 1898, a farmer near Kensington, Minnesota found this relic as he was clearing timber to plant crops. The inscription, dated 1362, told of an exploration by a party of Swedish and Norwegian Vikings. Some scholars claim the stone was a forgery; others say it is genuine. The Rune

Stone is still a subject of controversy. It is 36 inches long, 5-1/2 inches thick, 230 pounds and is displayed in the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Museum. A replica appears at the National Museum in Washington, D.C.

Early settlers drifted into the area after the signing of the Traverse des Sioux Treaty in 1851. This treaty opened much of central Minnesota to white settlement. Alexander and William Kinkaid settled at the junction between Lake Agnes and Lake Winona, which was to become Alexandria. In 1862 the Dakota War caused most of the settlers to temporarily flee east to Sauk Centre and St. Cloud. Later that year, most moved back into the area.

During the Great Depression, the state purchased the land of the Unumb family 10 miles north of Alexandria and, in 1937, the park was established.

**WILDLIFE:** Diverse aquatic and upland habitats account for the abundance of park wildlife. One-third of Minnesota's 80 mammals and over 150 species of birds inhabit the park whether seasonally or year-round. Visitors often see beaver cuttings around marshes, deer browsing along the forest-meadow edge, loons, grebes, and ducks in the lake and in ponds, and herons competing with bass for minnows in the shallows.

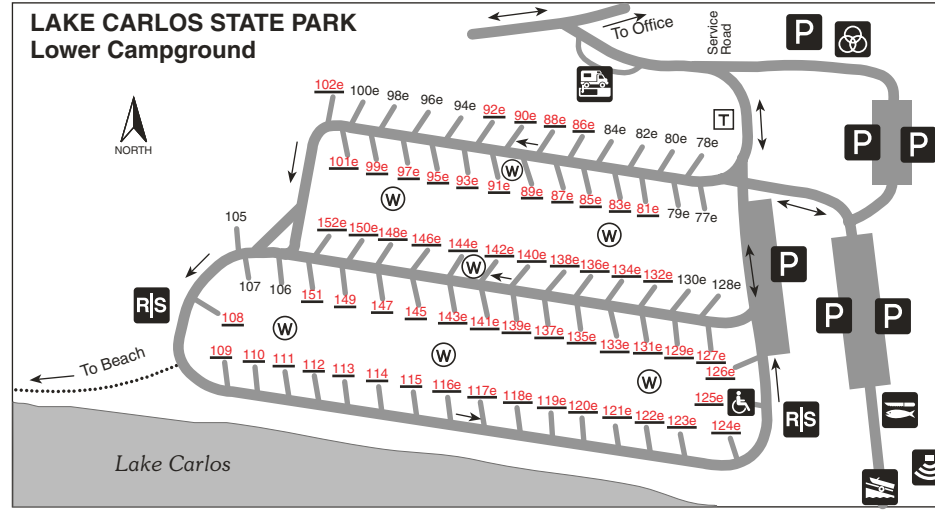
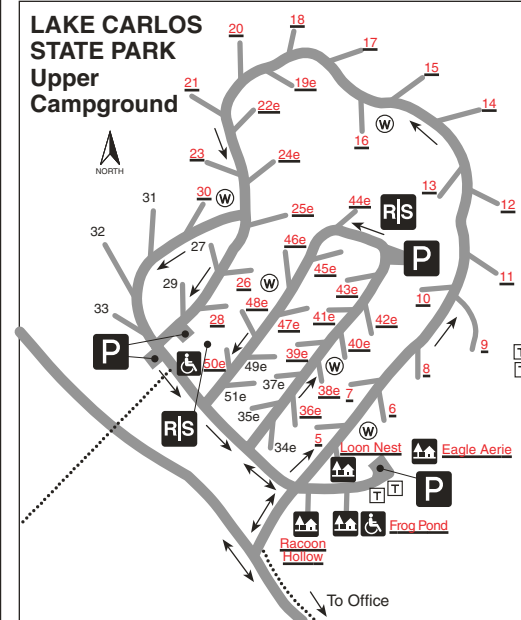
**INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM:** During the summer, both self-guided and naturalist-led activities introduce visitors to the park's unique environment, as well as the cultural and natural history of the area. There are also opportunities in the park to witness plant succession on abandoned farmland. Winter visitors can study survival adaptations of wildlife. This park also has fascinating stories to tell about homesteading traditions and the awesome forces of the Ice Age. Check bulletin boards at the contact station, visitor center, and in the campgrounds for scheduled hikes, children's activities, and evening programs.

### 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 is closed from 10:00 P.M. to 8:00 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.

- Parking
- Restrooms/Showers
- Trailer Sanitation Station
- Interpretive Center
- Boat Ramp
- Fish Cleaning Building
- Amphitheater
- Camper Cabin
- Accessible Site
- Electrical Sites
- Water
- Toilets

Underlined site numbers are RESERVABLE



- 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).

"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."

This information is available in alternative format upon request.

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