

ST. CROIX STATE PARK

FACILITIES AND FEATURES

Winter:

- 80 miles of groomed and well-marked snowmobile trails
- Snowmobile trails connect the park with state forests and several communities
- Enclosed shelter with two fireplaces and flush toilets
- 11 miles of ski trails
- 2 modern guest houses accommodating up to 15 people
- Winter camping

Summer:

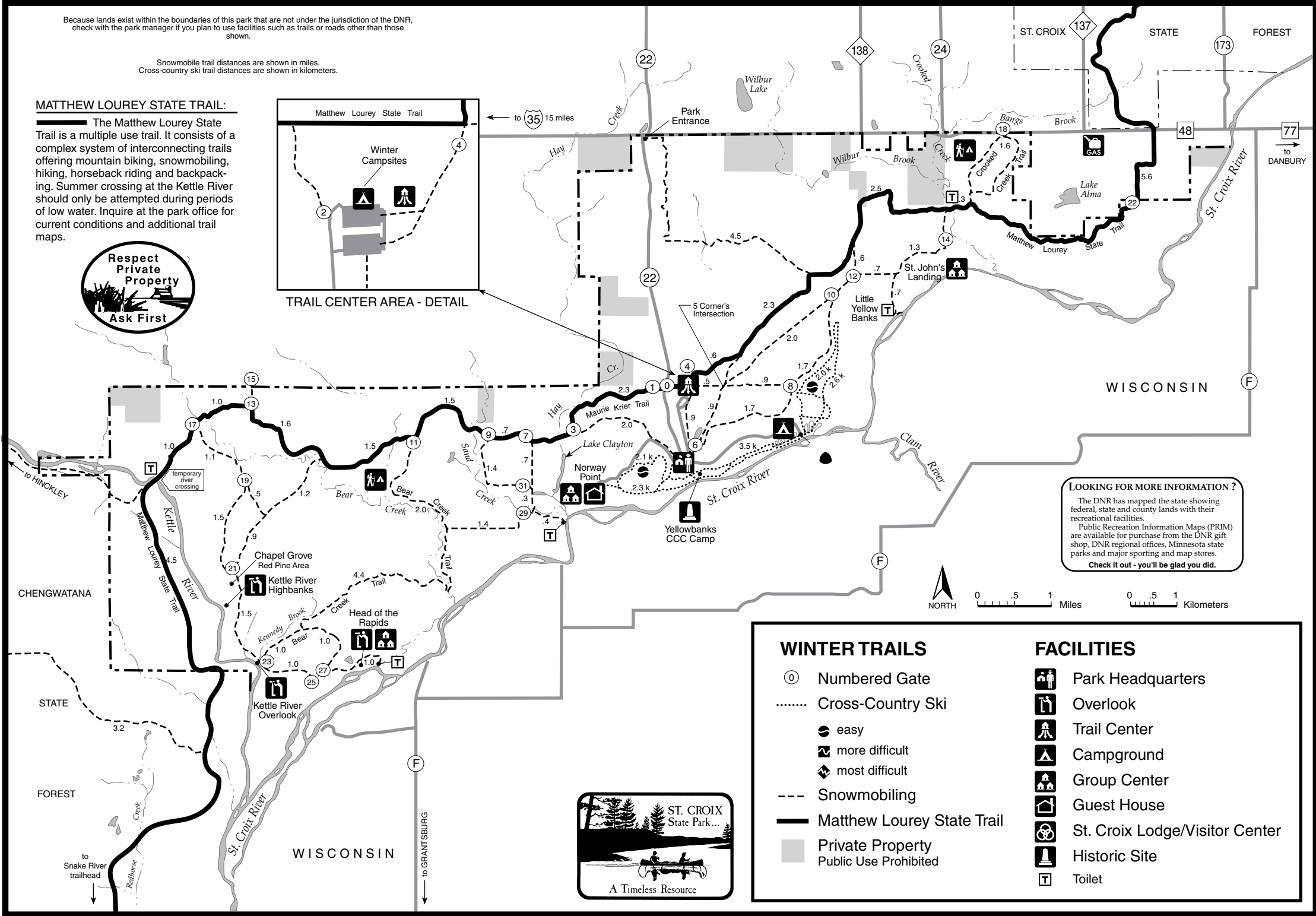
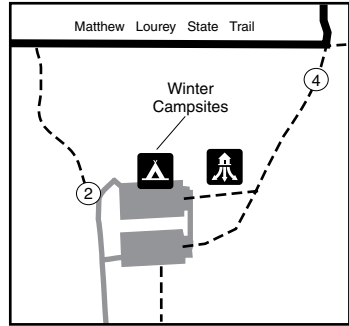
- 215 campsites (69 electric)
- 2 modern group centers
- Primitive tent area for groups
- Horse camp area
- Canoe and backpack campsites
- Picnic ground with enclosed shelter
- Swimming beach and playgrounds
- Hiking, horseback and bicycle trails
- Canoe rental
- 6 housekeeping cabins (seasonal)

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

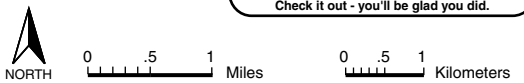
Snowmobile trail distances are shown in miles.
Cross-country ski trail distances are shown in kilometers.

MATTHEW LOUREY STATE TRAIL:

The Matthew Lourey State Trail is a multiple use trail. It consists of a complex system of interconnecting trails offering mountain biking, snowmobiling, hiking, horseback riding and backpacking. Summer crossing at the Kettle River should only be attempted during periods of low water. Inquire at the park office for current conditions and additional trail maps.



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.**



WINTER TRAILS

- ① Numbered Gate
- Cross-Country Ski
- easy
- more difficult
- ◆ most difficult
- Snowmobiling
- Matthew Lourey State Trail
- Private Property
Public Use Prohibited

FACILITIES

- 🏠 Park Headquarters
- 🏠 Overlook
- 🏠 Trail Center
- 🏠 Campground
- 🏠 Group Center
- 🏠 Guest House
- 🏠 St. Croix Lodge/Visitor Center
- 🏠 Historic Site
- 🚻 Toilet





ST. CROIX STATE PARK

FOR MORE INFORMATION

St. Croix State Park
30065 St. Croix Park Road
Hinckley, MN 55037
(320) 384-6591

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)

Web: mndnr.gov

ST. CROIX STATE PARK is 15 miles east of Hinckley on State Highway 48. Park headquarters is on County Road 22 five miles south of the park entrance. Highway map index: L-13.

St. Croix State Park is the largest state park in Minnesota, with over 33,000 acres of forests, meadows, marshes and streams.

GLACIAL GEOLOGY

Thousands of years ago, giant ice flows ground across the face of Minnesota. As they grew and shrank, they scraped up tons of sediment. When the glaciers melted,

the water raced through the St. Croix and Kettle River valleys, scouring the Kettle River down to the sandstone bedrock. After the initial water surge, the Kettle was no longer under pressure from glacial meltwater, and few glacial sediments were deposited. The St. Croix River Valley, however was lined with an abundance of sand, which now lines the valley.

To view the differences between these two rivers, drive out to the west end of the park and see the Kettle River Highbanks and Overlook. Notice the exposed rock of the shallow channel. Take a canoe trip down the St. Croix and see the many sandbars and erosions along the sandy riverbanks.

PLANT COMMUNITIES

St. Croix State Park has a great variety of habitats. Bogs, hardwood forests, stands of pine, meadows, marshes, oak savanna and pine barrens host an impressive diversity of plant life. Recent resource management activities have been restoring the globally imperiled jack pine barrens habitat. Through cutting, mowing, and conducting prescribed burns, the original open landscape is being restored to several hundred acres. Visit the restoration areas along the bike trail and find prairie wildflowers like wood lily, blazing star, and western sunflower.

WILDLIFE

The park provides a refuge for an incredible diversity of species. Some of the most notable are tropical migrant birds like the scarlet tanager and rose-breasted grosbeak, and uncommon species like Blanding's turtles, wood turtles, bullsnakes, and wolves. Also more common species like white-tailed deer, red and gray fox, black bears, and bald eagle. Visitors should keep food stored safely away from raccoons, skunk, fox, and bear.

HUMAN HISTORY

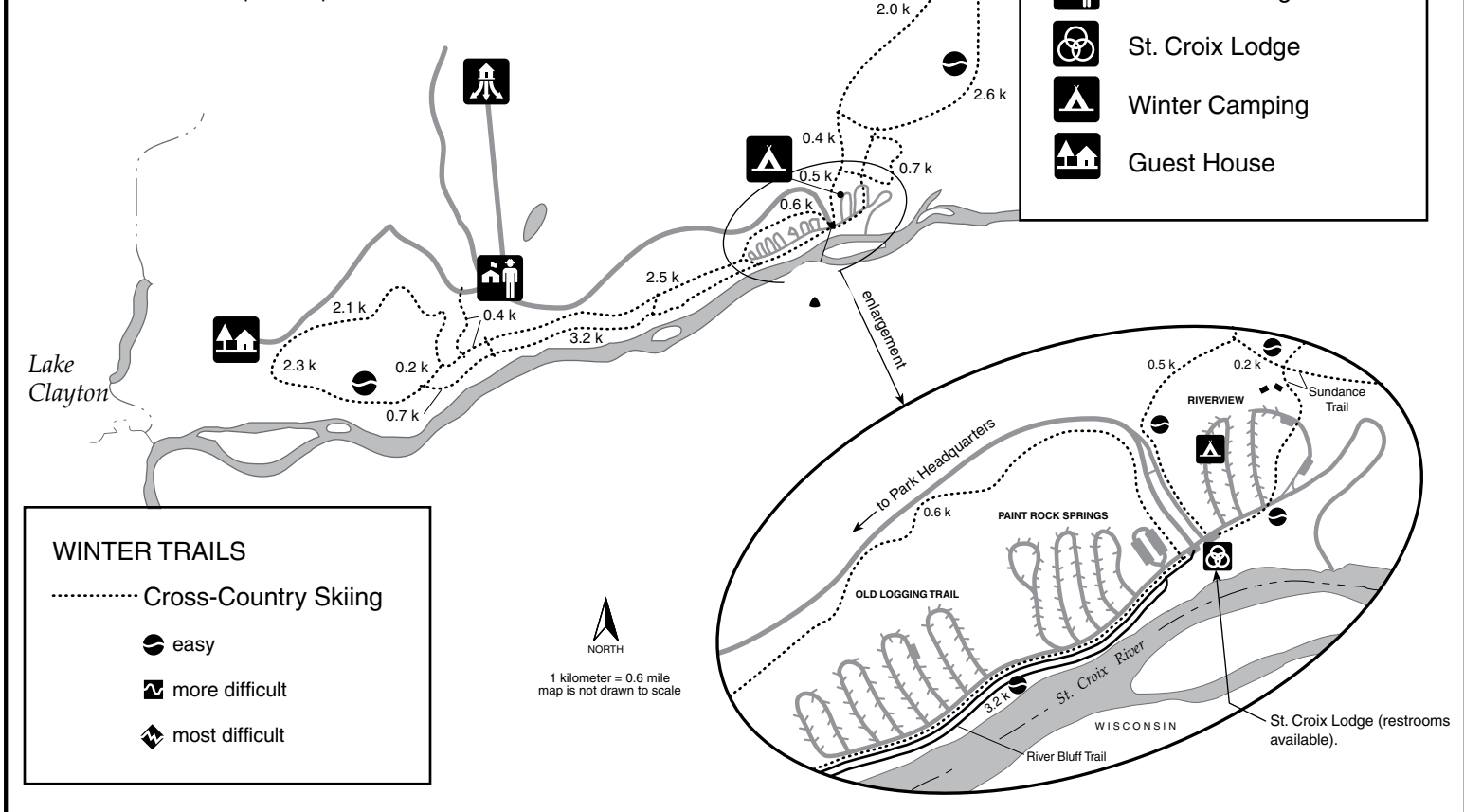
After the glacial period, about 5,000 years ago, Woodland Indians moved into the area. Their descendants, the Dakota, resided here until the 1600s. At this point the Ojibwe Indians migrated from the east and took over the valley. The Ojibwe continued to live here until the 1900s. In the 1600s, French voyageurs arrived, working cooperatively with Indians trading beaver pelts and other furs for trade goods like iron pots, guns, fabric, and other modern conveniences. Trading posts were established along the river, including one here in the park.

Loggers arrived in the mid 1800s to harvest the plentiful red and white pine trees. St. John's Landing logging camp utilized the river to float thousands of logs down the St. Croix River to the mill at Stillwater. Later, logging operations transported logs on railways like the Fleming railroad, whose bed forms the majority of the entrance road.

The newly cleared land was attractive to farmers and immigrants, who settled the area and attempted to make it profitable crop land. Unfortunately, the soil was poor, and with the economic troubles of the Great Depression, most of these farms were failing by the 1930s. The New Deal brought a new hope to the area with the federal government's sub-marginal lands recovery program. This program purchased tax delinquent properties and transformed them into recreational areas. In 1935, 19,000 acres were purchased for between \$3 and \$7 per acre.

St. Croix State Park Winter Trails Map

- Snowshoers may snowshoe anywhere except on groomed trails.
- Please refer to a complete map of St. Croix State Park for snowmobile trails.



Park facilities were constructed by New Deal era work programs designed to give jobs to the unemployed. Hundreds of workers from the Civilian Conservation Corps, Works Progress Administrations, and Veterans Conservation Corps lived, worked, and played here as they built one of the most extensive and unique Recreational Demonstration Areas in the country. Thanks to their lasting legacy, St. Croix RDA is now a National Historic Landmark. In 1942, President Roosevelt turned the RDA, over to the state, and St. Croix became a state park.

THINGS TO DO:

Climb the fire tower. Check out a GPS and find the geocache. Rent a canoe or kayak and see the river. Hop on free WiFi and check your email. Check out a birding kit and go birding. Rent snowshoes and explore. Hike to Kettle River Highbanks. Find wildflowers at Sand Creek Canoe Landing. Watch a hawk at the observation deck. Pick berries. Photograph nature. Ride the bike trail. Discover the hiking club password. Find ruins in the CCC camp. Play volleyball at the beach. Backpack to an

Adirondack shelter. Check out a free fishing kit. Ski 11 miles of trails. Or track a fox. The park has many possibilities for enjoyment!

NATURALIST SERVICES

The interpretive center is open May-October. Programs take place year-round and are posted around the park and online at mndnr.gov/state_parks. Programs include naturalist led hikes, bikes, craft activities, demonstrations, movies, slide shows, campfire programs and much more. Large groups may request programs in advance.

SO EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE PARK...

- The park belongs to all Minnesotans. Treat it with respect and consideration.
- Pets must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet and attended at all times.
- Enjoy the animals, but do not approach or feed them.
- Keep all food, coolers, and trash inside your vehicle.
- Possessing any weapon is prohibited except if legally cased. Fireworks are also prohibited.

- Do not collect rocks and plants. They make up much of the park's beauty.
- Camp only in designated campsites and park only in designated parking areas.
- The park is closed from 10 p.m. – 8 a.m. for day users. Quiet hours are from 10 p.m.-8 a.m. for overnight guests.
- Park entry permits are required for every motor vehicle and can be purchased at park headquarters.

This information is available in alternative format upon request.

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