MAP AND GUIDE: WILLIAM O’BRIEN STATE PARK
16821 O’BRIEN TRAIL NORTH
MARINE ON ST. CROIX, MN 55047
WASHINGTON COUNTY
651-539-4980

ABOUT THE PARK
This area has drawn people for centuries, including: Dakota and Ojibwe tribes utilizing local resources; European trappers drawn by the fur-trade industry; and lumberjacks seeking to harvest the “endless stands” of white pine. The era of timber harvesting began in 1839 and flourished until lumber companies had cleared the St. Croix River valley of pines. Local lumber baron William O’Brien bought much of the land owned by the lumber companies. In 1945, his daughter, Alice O’Brien, donated 180 acres to be developed as a state park in his memory. The park now protects 1,880 acres of prairie, oak savanna, river floodplain and hardwood forest.

TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS
Prairie Overlook Trail
Hilly • Mowed grass
Hike up and down rolling oak savanna and prairie habitat. Your reward will be a beautiful view of the St. Croix Valley from the top.

Beaver Lodge Trail
Mostly flat • Mowed grass
Walk in the early evening and you may spot an active beaver lodge along this trail. If you are quiet, you may be lucky enough to see the beavers at work.

Wedge Hill Savanna Trail
Hilly • Mowed grass
Enjoy a walk through a 100-acre prairie filled with 6-foot tall native grasses and prairie flowers.

MORE TO EXPLORE AT THE PARK
• Join a naturalist program.
• Grill out or enjoy a lunch at the picnic area.
• Hike 16 miles of trails.
• Swim at the beach.
• Fish from the fishing pier.
• Bicycle on a 2-mile paved trail.

There are so many ways to discover William O’Brien State Park.

ABOUT THE PARK

VISITOR TIPS
• Bring sunscreen for your canoe trip or time at the beach.
• Wear good hiking shoes.
• Have a great hike, but check for ticks before you leave.
• Help keep our rivers clean. Check your watercraft for aquatic invasives before and after launching.
• In an emergency call 911.
• Non-emergency sheriff number: 651-439-9381.

ONLY HAVE AN HOUR?
• Walk 1.6 miles on the Riverside Trail. This self-guided, accessible trail winds by the St. Croix River, Lake Alice and majestic 100-year-old pine trees.
• Explore the visitor center as you investigate the animals and plants that call the park home.
• Visit Lake Alice for a picnic, a swim at the beach, or to try your luck on the fishing pier.

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

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by contacting info.dnr@state.mn.us, 651-296-6157, or MN Relay 711.