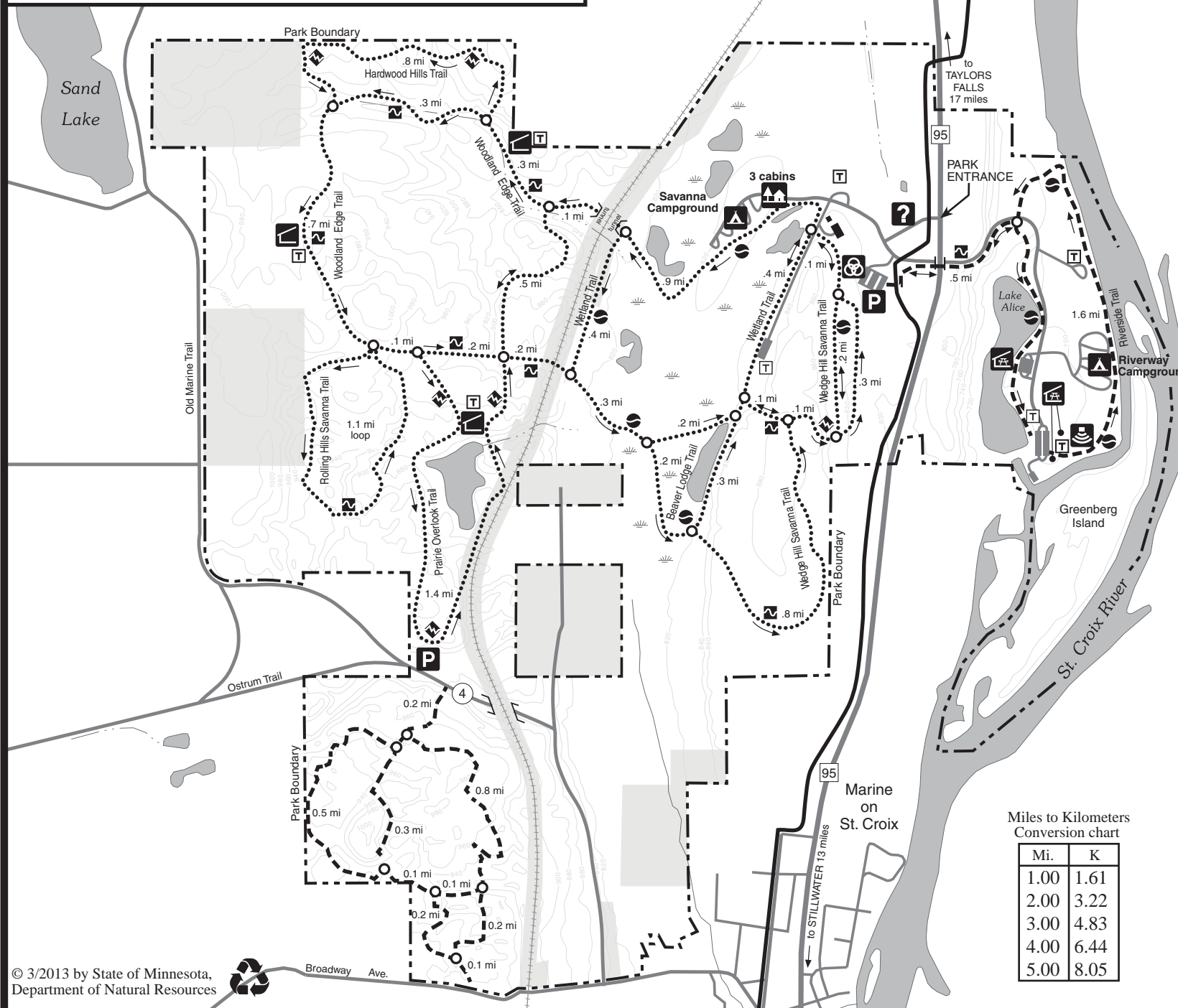


WILLIAM O'BRIEN STATE PARK

Winter Map



WINTER TRAILS

- Hiking/Bicycling
- Skiing
- easy
- ⬢ more difficult
- ⬢ most difficult
- - - - Snowshoeing/Hiking/Skijoring
- Trail Intersection
- Private Property (Public Use Prohibited)

FACILITIES

- Ⓜ Information/Office
- Ⓜ Picnic Shelter
- Ⓜ Trail Shelter
- P Parking
- Ⓜ Campground
- Ⓜ Camper Cabins
- Ⓜ Amphitheater
- Ⓜ Visitor Center
- Ⓜ Vault Toilet

- ### FACILITIES AND FEATURES
- Visitor Center with displays and a wood stove to be used as a warming area
 - 3 camper cabins with heat and electricity
 - 10 miles of cross-country ski trails (classic & skate)
 - Over 5 miles of winter multi-use trails
 - Year round interpretive programs
 - Winter camping – rustic toilets provided, water at park office
 - Firewood available at park office
 - Self-registration for ski passes available at park office

Miles to Kilometers Conversion chart

Mi.	K
1.00	1.61
2.00	3.22
3.00	4.83
4.00	6.44
5.00	8.05



WILLIAM O'BRIEN STATE PARK

FOR MORE INFORMATION

William O'Brien State Park
16821 O'Brien Trail North
Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047
(651) 433-0500

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/stateparks

WILLIAM O'BRIEN STATE PARK

is located on the St. Croix River in Washington County on Hwy. 95, two miles north of Marine-on-St. Croix, the oldest logging settlement in the state. Highway map index: Z-24 or K-16. William O'Brien State Park offers visitors a variety of recreational

opportunities within an hour's drive of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Camping, hiking, fishing and swimming are favorite summer activities. Exceptional cross-country skiing and camping are wintertime specialties. Fall leaf colors, spring wildflowers, and bird-watching keep people coming back the rest of the year.

GEOLOGY: Sandstone outcrops formed millions of years ago by inland seas are found along the St. Croix River. Glacial activity played a major role in developing the picturesque valley. As the huge glaciers lumbered south, they scoured the sandstone and deposited soil and rocks of various sizes.

As large masses of ice melted, the tremendous volume of released water cut through the soft sandstone, creating the St. Croix and landscaping the wide, boulder-strewn valley.

HISTORY: Dakota and Ojibwe Indian tribes utilized the resources of the valley for centuries. Eventually, the land, rich in fur-bearing animals, wild game and useful plants, was dominated by the Ojibwe.

European trappers entered the area in the 1600s to engage in the lucrative fur-trade industry. Trappers were followed by lumberjacks in 1839 seeking to harvest the "endless stands" of white pine to provide building material for an expanding nation. Numerous sawmills were established along the St. Croix.

The industry flourished in the mid-1800s until the valley was cleared of white pine. William O'Brien, a lumber baron, bought much of the land once owned by the lumber companies.

In 1945, Alice O'Brien, daughter of William O'Brien, donated 180 acres to be developed as a state park in memory of her father. In 1958, David Greenberg donated Greenberg Island in memory of his parents. Accessible only by canoe, the island has become a haven for wildlife and wildflowers. Today, the park totals 1753 acres.

WILDLIFE: The variety of natural communities – the St. Croix River floodplain, oak savannas, upland prairie, hardwood forests, wetlands, lakes and rolling meadows – provide habitat for diverse wildlife populations.

Park visitors can fish the St. Croix River for northern pike, walleye, bass, and brown trout. Numerous springs and streams flowing through heavily-wooded valleys and ravines provide excellent wildlife habitat.

Raccoon, mink, beaver, and woodchuck are prevalent. Upland meadows and woods foster white-tail deer and fox. Birdwatchers frequently spot bald eagles, red-shouldered hawks, woodpeckers, bluebirds, orioles, herons and a variety of warblers.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS: William O'Brien interpretive programs offer many activities relating to the natural and cultural features of the area through hikes, demonstrations, canoe floats, bike tours, slide shows, movies, ski tours and special events.

The Visitor Center contains displays regarding the natural and cultural features of the park. A naturalist is available year-round to answer questions and share information. Interpretive program schedules are

posted on bulletin boards throughout the park.

WINTER RECREATION: Opportunities to be outside in the winter time abound at William O'Brien. Skiers will typically find both classic track and a skate ski lane on ten miles of trail. Snowshoeing, hiking, and skijoring are encouraged, and visitors will find the River Trail maintained for their use.

Designated as a multi-use trail, the River Trail is a busy pathway of birders, walkers, and photographers who enjoy the year round sight-seeing opportunities the St. Croix River offers. The Visitor Center is the hub of activity, serving as both trail center and warming house to all wintertime guests.

Visitors who are looking for more of a "back country" experience can strap on their snowshoes and head to the trails located south of County Road 4. Two and a half miles of trail wind throughout rolling prairie and hardwood forest. Parking is available in the parking lot located on County Road 4. Visitors can cross the road and head up the hill to the trail system.

This information is available in alternative format upon request.

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