

Recreation Worth Paying For

State parks and trails are highly valued and more popular than ever

The State Parks and Trails System serves millions of outdoor recreation enthusiasts throughout Minnesota every year:

- 10 million state park visitors
- 1 million overnight state park visitors
- 1.8 million state trail visitors
- 300,000 participants in interpretive and skillbuilding programs
- 20,000 cross-country ski pass holders
- 820,000 registered boats
- 200,000 registered snowmobiles
- 290,000 registered off-highway vehicles

State park and trail visitors are highly satisfied

- More than 80% of visitors say they are satisfied or very satisfied
- Over 90% of visitors would recommend visiting the state parks and trails system to a friend or family member

State parks are a major contributor to Minnesota's \$14.4 billion tourism industry

 Within Minnesota's five Tourism Regions, 32 of 50 of the top attractions are state parks.

Top Northeast MN Tourist Attractions Attendance 2,852,055 1. Grand Casino Hinckley 2. Gooseberry Falls State Park 630,269 3. Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center 503,597 4. Tettegouche State Park 390,208 5. Split Rock Lighthouse State Park 327,626 302,052 6. Jay Cooke State Park 7. Spirit Mountain Recreation Area 379,013 8. Temperance River State Park 275,931 9. Voyageurs National Park 253,891 10. BWCA Wilderness 200,000

Since 2012...

overnight state 21%

39% increase in annual state park vehicle permit sales

Our vision is to create unforgettable park, trail, and water recreation experiences that inspire people to pass along the love for the outdoors to current and future generations.



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State Parks

We manage 23 state parks and recreation areas within the northeast region.

The northeast region:

- Serves 4 million state park and recreation area visitors
- Accommodates 108,000 overnight visitors
- Sold 120,000 annual and daily state park permits

The state park system delivers:

- \$89 million in annual state park trip spending in the northeast region
- 3,700 jobs, statewide

A modest park fee increase will help maintain highquality services that Minnesotans have come to expect, and avoid undesirable reductions such as shortened camping seasons.

Water Recreation

We manage 10 state water trails, totaling over 1,200 miles, 986 public water accesses and 59 fishing piers within the northeast region.

Over 172,000 registered boats are used primarily within the northeast region.

The state's recreational boating industry delivers:

- \$5.5 billion in economic impact
- \$602 million in annual retail sales of new boats, engines, and marine accessories
- 29,000 jobs

Water recreation fees are necessary to provide basic maintenance and services at boat launching facilities and state water trails. They also help maintain boat safety and enforcement, and provide aquatic plant management.

State Trails

We manage 9 state trails, totaling 650 developed trail miles, and support 5,100 miles of Grant-in-Aid (GIA) snowmobile trails within the northeast region.

State trails support Minnesota's economy:

- In 2014, the bicycle industry generated \$780 million of economic activity
- An estimated 90 million bicycle trips are made annually for commuting, recreation and other purposes

Snowmobile registration fees are necessary to fund GIA grants for local clubs, as well as provide grooming and maintenance on key state trails.

Cross-country ski fees are necessary to support trail grooming in state parks, as well as fund the local GIA ski trails.

Motorized Recreation

We manage 23 state forest campgrounds and day use areas in the northeast region. There are 2,700 miles of state and Grant-in-Aid (GIA) off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails statewide.

The northeast region serves:

- 69,000 registered OHVs
- 43,000 registered snowmobiles
- 4,800 OHVs and 3,900 snowmobiles from out of state

In Minnesota, off-highway vehicle riding delivers:

- \$919 million in economic impact
- \$86 million in state and local taxes
- 14,000 jobs

ATV registration fees will provide necessary funding for the GIA trail system and local clubs, and also allow DNR to continue to advance trail-riding opportunities in state forests.