



RICHARD J. DORER MEMORIAL HARDWOOD STATE FOREST

TRAIL MAP

BRONK UNIT PLOWLINE TRAIL

Minnesota Department
of Natural Resources

*This information is available in
alternative format upon request.*



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30% post-consumer material.



The Leon A. Bronk Management Unit of the R.J.D.M.H.F. is located in east central Winona County near the communities of Goodview, Stockton, and Minnesota City. To reach the unit take U.S. Highway 14 west from Winona to Winona County Highway 23. Go north 2.1 miles to Hillsdale Township Road 6. Go east on 6 1/2 mile to the lower parking lot of the Bronk Management Unit. To reach the trail head of the Plowline Trail from the lower parking lot go up the hill .65 miles to the upper parking lot. From the upper parking lot go north, around the gate, approximately 175 feet. The beginning of the Plowline trail south loop will be on your right.

The Bronk Unit is named for Leon A. Bronk from whom the property was purchased in 1969. This unit is 761 acres in size and straddles the ridge between Stockton Valley and the Mississippi River. The slopes of the ridge rise to a height of 500' above the surrounding valleys providing numerous scenic overlooks.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

The Memorial Hardwood State Forest was established in 1961. Its purpose was to control soil erosion and demonstrate proper forestry techniques while providing recreational opportunities, fish and wildlife habitat, and timber production. The forest was renamed to honor Richard J. Dorer, a leader in the crusade to establish the forest, after his death in 1974. Management activities on the unit include site clean up of two old building sites, proper closure of three old wells, construction of four erosion control structures, road maintenance, and boundary signing. Vegetation management activities include 107 acres of conifer and hardwood plantings, pruning, thinning, and release of black walnut stands and white pine plantations, commercial timber sales, crop leases, and prescribed burns of prairie areas.

RECREATION FACILITIES

The 6.5 mile Plowline Trail, the units' primary recreational feature, is for **non-motorized uses only**. These uses include hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding in the summer and cross-country skiing in the winter.

The trail consists of a south loop and a north loop. Both of these generally follow the edge of the woods, or the plowline, as they go around the ridge. They rise and fall with the terrain so that the trail should be considered to be "more difficult" when rating it for cross-country skiing. There are two spur trails off the north loop which go out to scenic overlooks of Stockton Valley and the Mississippi River Valley. All of the lands on the unit, except those that are leased and posted, are open to public hunting and trapping during established seasons.

STATE FOREST RULES

State forest lands are generally open for all types of outdoor recreation including, hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, and picking fruit and mushrooms. Rules and laws regulate some activities on forest lands. A partial list is included below. A complete list is available from the Department of Natural Resources.

Firewood	-Dead wood may be gathered for campfires on site. Cutting or removing wood or forest products for home or commercial use requires a permit.
Campfires	-Recreational fires of less than 3 feet in diameter, in an area cleared of combustible materials for 5 feet around the fire, do not require a permit. Other open burning is regulated by permit.
Firearms	-Firearms may be discharged in compliance with the law on forest lands that are not posted closed. Firearms must be unloaded and cased while in and within 200 feet of a forest recreation area (campground, day use area, parking area, etc.)
Camping	-Camping on forest lands outside of developed campgrounds is permitted with some conditions. See complete rules.
Personal property	-Personal property may not be left or positioned so as to obstruct use of a road or trail. Personal property left unattended for 14 days shall be deemed abandoned.

Special rules apply in forest campgrounds and day use areas. They are not included here.

TRAILS - Motor vehicle and off road rules

Classified Forest Lands. State forest lands are classified by the commissioner for purposes of motor vehicle use. Motor vehicle use is regulated as follows:

State Forest Lands Classified as Managed:

- Motor vehicles may operate on forest roads and forest trails **unless** they are posted and designated **closed**.

State Forest Lands Classified as Limited:

- Motor vehicles may operate on forest roads, **unless** they are posted and designated **closed**.
- Motor vehicles may operate **ONLY** on forest trails or areas that are **posted and designated open**.

- Exception: Persons lawfully engaged in hunting big game or constructing hunting stands during October, November and December, or trapping during open seasons, may use ATVs off forest trails in a manner consistent with the general operating restrictions. This exception does not apply in the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest.

*Richard J. Dorer State Forest is classified as **LIMITED**.

- **Special Provision** - Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest: Motor vehicles and snowmobiles may operate only on forest roads that are not posted closed and on forest trails that are designated for motorized use. **No motorized travel is allowed off of designated trails under any circumstances.**

State Forest Lands Classified as Closed:

- Motor vehicles and snowmobiles are **not allowed** except:

- * Vehicles licensed for highway use may use forest roads that are not posted or gated closed.
- * Vehicles may operate on frozen public waters where it is not otherwise prohibited.
- * Snowmobiles may operate on designated trails.

General Operating Restrictions

- **anywhere on state forest lands that motor vehicles are allowed.**

- No motor vehicle operation is allowed on designated non-motorized trails, unless also posted open for a motorized use.

- No motor vehicle operation is allowed on or over the beds of lakes, rivers or streams except:

- * when the water body is ice covered.
- * on a bridge, culvert or designated low water crossing.

- Motor vehicles or snowmobiles may not operate on forest lands in a manner that causes erosion or rutting, damages, or destroys trees or growing crops. The rutting provision does not apply on designated motorized trails.

- Motor vehicles or snowmobiles may not operate within the boundaries of an area that is posted and designated as closed to such use.

- Motor vehicles on state forest roads must travel at a reasonable and prudent speed; obey posted speed limits, parking and traffic regulation signs; observe road closures; and may not operate in a manner that causes damage to the road, land or other natural resources.

- No person shall construct unauthorized permanent trails on forest lands.

- **Special Provision** Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest: Motor vehicles and snowmobiles may operate on forest roads that are not posted closed and **ONLY** on forest trails that are designated for motorized use. **No motorized travel is allowed off of designated trails under any circumstances.**

Motorized trails are open for ATV and OHM use from May 1 to November 1.

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS - Trails are generally open to non-motorized uses, but may be limited by postings which must be observed. In the Richard J. Dorer, horses and bicycles may travel only on designated trails.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
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Division of Forestry/Information Center
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040

651-296-6157 (Metro Area)
1-888-MINNDNR (MN Toll Free)

TDD (Telecommunications Device for Deaf)
651-296-5484 (Metro Area)
1-800-657-3929 (MN Toll Free)

Rochester Area Trails and Waterways
2300 Silver Creek Road N.E.
Rochester, MN 55906
(507) 285-7176

Area Forester
Box 279
(corner U.S. 14 and Fremont St.)
Lewiston, MN 55952
(507) 523-2183

EMERGENCY SERVICES - DIAL 911

Winona County Sheriff
Law Enforcement Center
Third & Washington
Winona, MN 55987
(507) 454-6100

Memorial Hospital
855 Mankato
Winona, MN 55987
(507) 454-3650

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