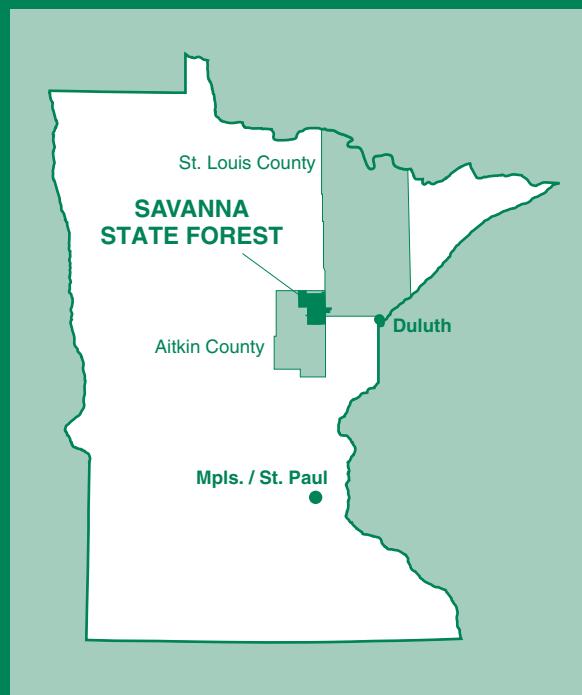


SAVANNA STATE FOREST

TRAIL MAP

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

This information is available in alternative format upon request.



Printed on recycled paper with 30% post-consumer material.



Savanna State Forest is situated in northeastern Aitkin County. To get there take State Highway 65 north from McGregor to County Road 14. Go east on 14 for 6 miles to County Road 36. Then go 3 miles further east to the parking lot. Highway map index J-10.

Savanna State Forest encompasses 218,450 acres of land of which 150,000 are administered by the DNR. It is comprised of a mixture of hilly hardwood terrain and wild grass meadows, and boasts the mighty Mississippi along its western border. Aspen, maple, basswood, and birch comprise 26,750 acres of the State ownership in this forest, with 30,410 acres in black spruce, tamarack, and cedar.

The balance is in pine, balsam fir, white spruce, ash and elm. The forest also claims Savanna Portage, the famous rough swampy six mile portage linking the west Savanna River of the Mississippi River system with the east Savanna River which eventually empties into the Great Lakes.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

It is the policy of the Division of Forestry to protect, develop, and administer the renewable resources of state forests so they are utilized in the combination of uses that will best meet the needs of Minnesota citizens. This requires harmonious and coordinated management of these resources to bring about their maximum productivity as well as providing other public benefits.

Foresters select the timber to be harvested. In some types of timber, such as hardwoods, white pine, and norway pine, individual trees are carefully selected and marked for cutting. Other types of timber, such as aspen and jack pine which cannot reproduce in the shade of other trees, are clear cut (i.e. the entire stand is removed).

RECREATION FACILITIES

The state forest abounds with wildlife, providing homes for white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, numerous species of waterfowl, a variety of songbirds, and many other species. Fishermen will find bass, panfish, walleye, and northern pike in the numerous lakes of which Big Sandy is the most popular. Good river fishing is found in the Mississippi which is part

of the state system of boat and canoe routes. For the winter visitor, there are 80 miles of Grant-in-Aid snowmobile trails and 12 miles of ski touring trails. Ski trails double as hiking trails in the summer, along with 5 more additional miles for a total of 17 miles of hiking trails in the forest.

The ski touring trails are located within the Remote Lake Solitude Area. To maximize the solitude atmosphere, authorized logging equipment and Department of Natural Resources' units are the only motorized vehicles allowed in the area. Harvesting of mature timber is carried out during the summer and fall. Very little logging is permitted during the winter months which prevents disturbance of the snow covered trails, and provides the solitude environment when use is the highest.

Information signs have been placed along the trail to inform hikers, skiers, and snowshoers of the different timber types and provide a better understanding of forestry practices. Three rest areas are also found along the trail and these include a trail shelter, pit toilet, and fire ring. The Hay Lake Campground provides 20 campsites, a swimming beach, hiking and a boat access. The campground is located 5 miles north of McGregor on Highway 65.

Because land exists within the boundaries of Savanna Forest that are not under the jurisdiction of the DNR, check with the area or district forester if you plan to use facilities such as trails and roads other than those shown.

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.

Wood Duck

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 ft. diameter, in an area cleared of combustible materials for 5 ft. 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 **only** on forest roads, **unless** they are posted and designated **closed**.

*Savanna State Forest is classified as **MANAGED**.

- 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, retrieving big game during September, or trapping during open seasons, may use ATVs off forest trails in a manner consistent with the general operating restrictions. This

Wood Ducks

exception does not apply in the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest.

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 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 an unauthorized permanent trail on forest land.

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

Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources
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)

Area Forester
Box 9
Hill City, MN 55748
(218) 697-2476

Aitkin County Sheriff
217 2nd St. NW
Aitkin, MN 56431
(218) 927-2138

Savanna Portage State Park (for rec. sites)
55626 Lake Place
McGregor, MN 55760
(218) 426-3271

EMERGENCY SERVICE - Dial 911

"Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is available to all individuals regardless of race, color, creed or religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, age or disability. Discrimination inquiries should be sent to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4031; or the Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240."

