ABOUT THE PARK

Though Camden State Park was not established until 1935, it has long been a popular place for people to gather. The wooded valley provided shelter from the frequent winds and periodic fires that moved through the surrounding tallgrass prairie. The cold water springs within the river valley’s steep walls keep it cooler and more humid than the surrounding prairie. Most soils and cooler temperatures allow the growth of one of the most westerly examples of a native sugar maple/basswood forest. The park’s diverse habitats also includes tallgrass prairie and wetland complexes. Amid the landscape, visitors will see original Veteran’s Conservation Corps buildings from the 1930s. Discover all the park has to offer as you hike miles of trails, bike, swim, fish and picnic.

TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS

Camden History Trail
Some steep terrain • Packed dirt • Mowed grass
Travel through flood plain forest near the Redwood River and the old Camden Village area. The trail also leads up out of the river valley and along the transition between open prairie and woodland.

Camden Regional Trail
Some hills • Paved
Walk or bicycle to the town of Marshall. Experience a variety of slopes from steep to level. The 3-mile segment within the park boundary is relatively level and provides a compacted shoulder area for horseback riding.

Dakota Valley Trail
Steep terrain • Packed dirt • Mowed grass
Hike up the Dakota Valley to overlook the wooded Redwood River Valley. From the overlook, you may choose to turn around and continue as the trail levels out and weaves along the border of woodland and prairie. As you near the trail’s end, you will again drop into the wooded valley leading to the swimming pond and parking lot.

Prairie Pools Trail
Rolling hills • Packed dirt
Follow rock cairns for markers as you hike through tallgrass prairie to a sitting boulder with a panoramic view of a large wooded valley. The trail segment is only a half-mile long, the starting point is over a mile from the south picnic parking lot. Not for the faint of heart!

Camden Regional Trail
Some hills • Paved
Travel through flood plain forest near the Redwood River and the old Camden Village area. The trail also leads up out of the river valley and along the transition between open prairie and woodland.

Camden History Trail
Some steep terrain • Packed dirt • Mowed grass
Travel through flood plain forest near the Redwood River and the old Camden Village area. The trail also leads up out of the river valley and along the transition between open prairie and woodland.

Prairie Pools Trail
Rolling hills • Packed dirt
Follow rock cairns for markers as you hike through tallgrass prairie to a sitting boulder with a panoramic view of a large restored wetland complex. While the trail segment is only a half-mile long, the starting point is over a mile from the south picnic parking lot. Not for the faint of heart!