ABOUT THE PARK

Park trails wind through 1,700 acres of mixed evergreen, aspen and birch forests bordering Lake Superior. You can step along ancient lava flows eroded by water at the Upper, Middle and Lower Falls. The land has a history of drawing people. Early explorers met native residents, fishermen made their living from the lake, logging transformed the landscape in the early 1900s, and tourism expanded in the 1920s. In 1933, the state authorized the preservation of this area and soon the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) arrived to create Gooseberry Falls State Park. View the lasting legacy of these young men in the log and stone features they built here.

VISITOR TIPS

• Trails can be icy. Ice cleats are recommended for hikers.
• Keep trails in good shape. No hikers or dogs on groomed ski trails or snowmobile trails.
• Fat bikes are not allowed on trails. Travel 6 miles north to Split Rock Lighthouse State Park for groomed fat bike trails.
• Drones are not allowed in park.
• River ice is never safe, stay on trails.
• In an emergency call 911 and alert park staff. Non-emergency sheriff’s number: 218-834-8385.

ONLY HAVE AN HOUR?

• Park at the visitor center and walk a short accessible trail to the Upper Falls area. View winter waterfalls or watch ice climbers.
• Drive to the Lakeview Shelter to see ice formations on the lakeshore.

LOOKING FOR MORE TO EXPLORE? VISIT MNDNR.GOV/GOOSEBERRY

TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS

Lakeshore Loop
Groomed classic ski trail • Easy
Travel this beginner-friendly loop from the visitor center, along the lakeshore, and past the Gooseberry River. Stop by the Lakeview Shelter and look over the confluence of the Gooseberry River and Lake Superior.

Interior Ski Trails
Groomed ski trail • More difficult • Moderate hills
Ski north from the visitor center to the Fifth Falls overlook. At the bridge, head west for a skate ski trail loop or travel east for a network of forested ski trails. This area offers plenty of wildlife viewing opportunities.

Fifth Falls Trail
Snowshoe • Hiking • Hilly • Boardwalks
Travel this rugged path up the river to the Fifth Falls and back. Stop to look for caves or view CCC features.

Gitchi Gummi Hiking Trail
Hilly • Boardwalks • Snowshoe • Hiking
Grab your snowshoes and experience incredible views of the Gooseberry River Valley and Lake Superior.

MORE TO EXPLORE AT THE PARK

• Warm up by the fire at the visitor center, check out exhibits, or stop by the gift shop.
• Take your snowshoes off-trail and explore the park.
• Try skate skiing the 2.6-mile loop on the west side of the Gooseberry River.
• Join a naturalist program year-round.