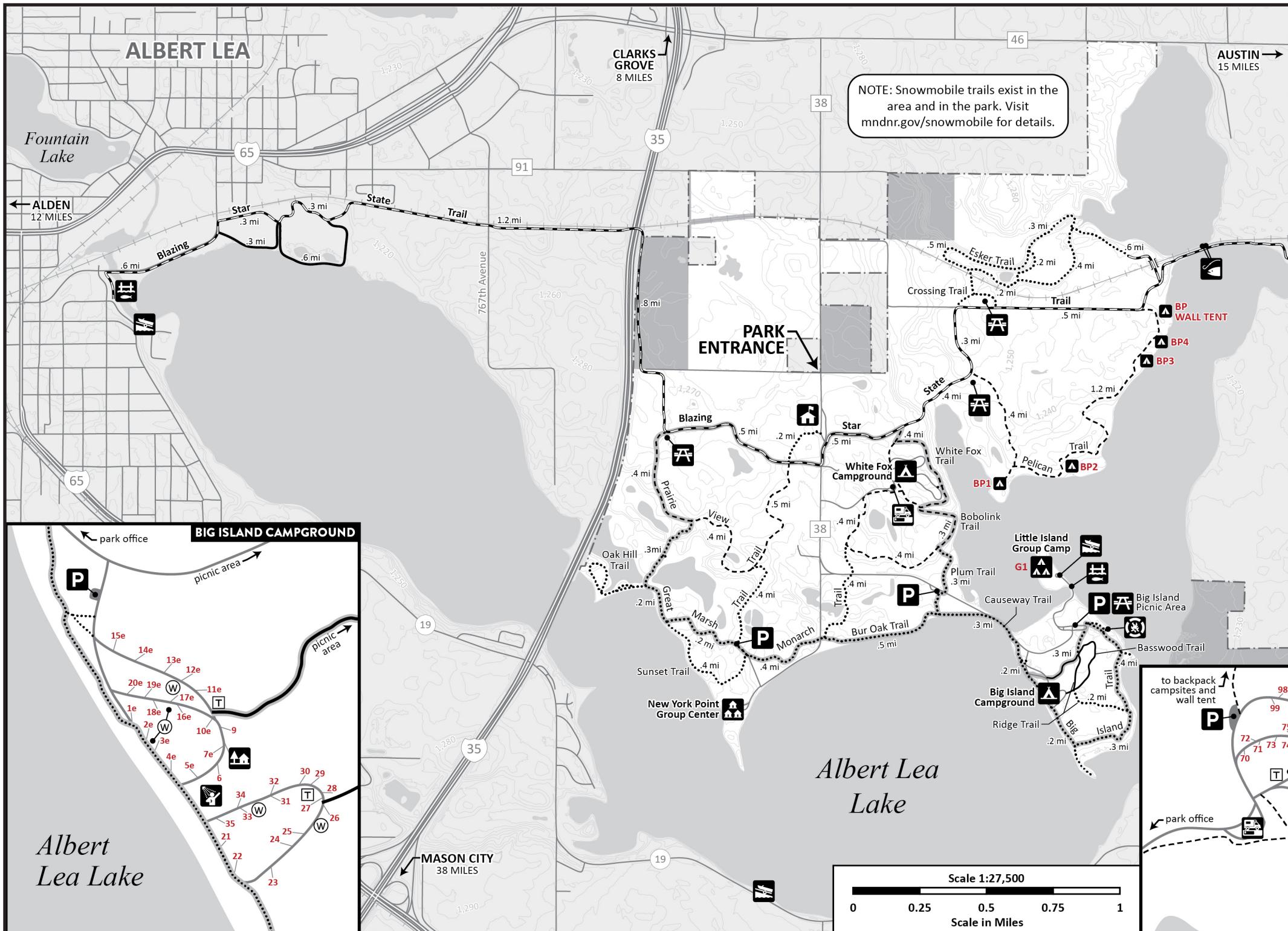


# MYRE-BIG ISLAND STATE PARK



# MAP AND GUIDE: MYRE - BIG ISLAND STATE PARK

19499 780TH AVENUE  
ALBERT LEA, MN 56007  
FREEBORN COUNTY  
507-668-7060



## VISITOR TIPS

- Year-round camping is available.
- Monthly/seasonal campsites are available April-October.
- In an emergency call 911.
- Non-emergency sheriff's number: 507-377-5200



## ONLY HAVE AN HOUR?

- Hike Big Island for abundant spring wildflowers and wildlife. The 116-acre island has trails along the shores and into the shaded maple/basswood forest.
- Bike the Blazing Star State Trail for 3 miles through the park or take the 3-mile section into Albert Lea.
- Find amazing bird watching any time of year. Woodland, prairie and wetland species are all viewable.



LOOKING FOR MORE TO DISCOVER?  
VISIT [MNDNR.GOV/MYRE](http://MNDNR.GOV/MYRE)

## ABOUT THE PARK

Myre-Big Island State Park is an oasis of natural diversity. The park was created in 1947 to protect unique geologic features, plant life and human history. What began with 116 acres on Big Island now encompasses over 1,700 acres of rolling hills, ponds and marshes along the shores of Albert Lea Lake. The oak savanna landscape is surrounded by agricultural land. The area has been used by humans for over 9,000 years. Visit today and discover birding, hiking, biking, canoeing, kayaking, snowshoeing, camping and much more.



The park has something for everyone.

## TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS

### Great Marsh Trail

Rolling hills • Mowed grass

Discover migrating waterfowl, abundant wildlife and wildflowers as you walk along rolling hills through prairie, woodland and marsh. Begins at the Great Marsh parking area.

1.7-mile loop

### Big Island Trail

Mostly flat • Packed dirt

Follow the outermost edges of Big Island's 120 acres. Enjoy the shade of a mature maple/basswood forest and find intersections with other trails on the island.

1.5-mile loop

### Pelican and Esker Trails

Some hills • Packed dirt • Mowed grass

Looking for a longer hike filled with variety? From the park office or White Fox Campground, hike east on the paved Blazing Star State Trail to the Pelican Trail along Albert Lea Lake. Then, follow the uneven Esker Trail over a ridge of sand and gravel left by a glacier long ago.

5 to 6-mile loop

## MORE TO EXPLORE AT THE PARK

- Checkout kids activity kits and birding kits from the ranger station.
- Explore the 2,600-acre Albert Lea Lake by renting canoes, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards from the ranger station.
- Stay awhile at a drive-in campsite (electric or non-electric), backpack campsite or group camp. Or, rent the camper cabin for a cozy getaway. Make a reservation at [mndnr.gov/reservations](http://mndnr.gov/reservations).
- Call the park office to reserve the group center for your next get-together.

## SO EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE PARK...

A full set of STATE PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS is available at [mndnr.gov](http://mndnr.gov).



### PARK OPEN

8 a.m.–10 p.m. daily.



### VEHICLE PERMITS

Permits required; purchase at ranger station or entrance kiosk.



### PETS WELCOME

Keep on 6-foot leash; pick up after; attend at all times; not allowed in buildings or at beaches.



### CAMPGROUND QUIET HOURS

10 p.m.–8 a.m.; only registered campers may be in campground during quiet hours.



### FIREWOOD

Must be purchased at this park or from vendors who sell wood approved for this park; no gathering firewood in the park.



## MORE INFORMATION

### Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

#### Information Center

500 Lafayette Rd. , St. Paul, MN 55155-4040

888-646-6367 or [mndnr.gov/parks](http://mndnr.gov/parks)



WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT  
THE BLAZING STAR STATE TRAIL?  
VISIT [MNDNR.GOV/TRAITS](http://MNDNR.GOV/TRAITS)

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This information may be available in alternative format upon request.