ABOUT THE PARK

Established in 1937, the park protects 1,154 acres of rolling mature hardwood forests and prairie meadows, 1.4 miles of lakeshore, and numerous wetlands. Lake Carlos is the largest and deepest in the Alexandria chain of lakes at 2,520 acres and 163 feet at its deepest. Evidence of early Native Americans within the park reveals that Lake Carlos has been a popular camping location for many generations. Today, enjoy Lake Carlos by swimming at the beach, walking along the shore, watching for wildlife, or angling for an abundance of gamefish. The water, cool breezes, and great campsites are sure to keep people returning for generations to come.

Delight in cool breezes along Lake Carlos.

TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS

Maple-Basswood Trail 1.1 miles one-way
Some hills • Gravel • Packed dirt
This self-guided interpretive trail meanders through mature hardwood trees, intermittent woodland ponds, and an open meadow area. Signs highlight points of interest along the way.

Hidden Lake Trail 1.4-mile loop
Some hills • Gravel • Packed dirt
Start at the beach parking lot and head towards the lake to find the trail south. Sugar maples make this trail a must in the fall. Birders, bring your binoculars and watch for diverse species.

Prairie Pothole and Prairie Ridge Trail 2.8-mile loop
Rolling hills • Gravel • Packed dirt • Mowed grass
Experience 160 acres of tall grass prairie that resource management has restored in this area. Visit in July or August for the best wildflower viewing.

Wetland Overlook Trail 0.6-mile loop
Some hills • Gravel • Packed dirt • Mowed grass
This self-guided interpretive trail leads you past an overlook for Schumacher’s Slough. Bring your binoculars to view waterfowl, shorebirds and beavers.

MORE INFORMATION

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Information Center
500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155-4040
888-646-6367 or mndnr.gov/parks

This information may be available in alternative format upon request.