



MAP AND GUIDE: LAKE CARLOS STATE PARK

2601 COUNTY ROAD 38 NORTHEAST
CARLOS, MN 56319
DOUGLAS COUNTY
320-993-3750



VISITOR TIPS

- Be aware of horseback riders who share the trails.
- Watch for poison ivy and ticks.
- Invasive zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil are in Lake Carlos. Please inspect and clean your watercraft thoroughly.
- Drive slowly in campgrounds, the speed limit is 5 mph.
- In an emergency call 911.
- Non-emergency sheriff's number: 320-762-8151.



ONLY HAVE AN HOUR?

- Follow the main park road to the beach for a picnic, or hike the Hidden Lake Trail for old-growth forest, wildflowers, birds, and even a bald eagle nest.
- Swing by the visitor center to explore exhibits and enjoy activities inside.
- Go paddling or wet a line fishing near the boat access.



LOOKING FOR MORE TO EXPLORE DURING
YOUR STAY? VISIT [MNDNR.GOV/LAKECARLOS](https://mndnr.gov/lakecarlos)

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 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.	1.1 miles one-way
Hidden Lake Trail 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.	1.4-mile loop
Prairie Pothole and Prairie Ridge Trail 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.	2.8-mile loop
Wetland Overlook Trail 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.	0.6-mile loop

MORE TO EXPLORE AT THE PARK

- Join a naturalist program year-round.
- Check out a GPS unit, kid's kit, birding kit or fishing kit from the park office.
- Rent canoes, kayaks or a paddleboat from the park office.
- Reserve a cabin, campsite, group camp, or horse campsite. Visit mndnr.gov/reservations.

SO EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE PARK...

A FULL SET OF STATE PARK RULES AND
REGULATIONS IS AVAILABLE AT [MNDNR.GOV](https://mndnr.gov).



PARK OPEN

8 a.m.–10 p.m. daily.



VEHICLE PERMITS

Permits required; purchase at park office.



PETS WELCOME

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



FIREWOOD

Purchase only from park office or approved vendor; no gathering firewood in the park.



CAMPGROUND QUIET HOURS

10 p.m.–8 a.m.; only registered campers in the park after 10 p.m. Lower campground one camping unit per site.

WINTER

- Ski on groomed trails or rent snowshoes.
- Have fun at the sledding hill (as conditions allow).
- Rent ice fishing equipment at the park office.

? MORE INFORMATION

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

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This information may be available in alternative format upon request.



MINNESOTA

STATE PARKS AND TRAILS