

MAP AND GUIDE: MCCARTHY BEACH STATE PARK

7622 MCCARTHY BEACH ROAD
SIDE LAKE, MN 55781
SAINT LOUIS COUNTY
218-274-7200



VISITOR TIPS

- The hiking club trail is groomed in the winter for classic cross-country skiing and is not open to hiking.
- Pickerel Lake parking lot is a minimum maintenance roadway. Travel on this roadway can be difficult. Only high clearance, four-wheel drive vehicles are recommended.
- The park maintains select roadways and parking areas during the winter months. Hwy. 5 Ski Trail Rd. lot, picnic area lot and office parking lot are available year-round.
- Snowshoers can go anywhere in the park except groomed ski and snowmobile trails.
- In an emergency call 911.



ONLY HAVE AN HOUR?

- Enjoy pine and lake views by snowshoeing along the Sturgeon Lake shoreline. Too windy? Venture from the Hwy. 5 Ski Trail Road parking lot through pine and hardwood stands.
- Snowmobile to the Ridge Trail log shelter. Pack along some firewood, hot dogs, and marshmallows to roast while enjoying the pineland view overlooking Sturgeon Lake.



LOOKING FOR MORE TO EXPLORE DURING YOUR STAY? VISIT MNDNR.GOV/MCCARTHY

ABOUT THE PARK

McCarthy Beach State Park's hilly landscape and lakes have long made it a popular destination. Its pothole lakes were made during the retreat of the last continental glacier 12,000 years ago. The glacier left behind large chunks of ice. The depressions they created filled with water, forming lakes. Many years later, "McCarthy's beach" became a popular picnic and swimming spot for families along the Mesabi Iron Range.

In 1945, the park was established as a living memorial to area servicemen that lost their lives in World War II. Named for former owner John A. McCarthy, the park protects a northern boreal forest with red and white pine, leatherleaf-black spruce lowlands, birch and aspen. More than 175 species of birds visit the area and visitors are treated to sights of loons gliding on the lakes and great blue herons stalking small fish in the shallows.



Spend hours at the park's sugar sand beach.

WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

Pickerel Lake Trout Fishing

This trout lake is stocked annually with rainbow and splake trout making this a favorite place to winter ice fish. From the parking area, follow the hiking trail north a quarter mile to the access stairs down to the lake shore edge. Reminder that trout stamps are required and anglers should refer to the current MNDNR fishing regulations for seasons and rules. Remember to fill out a creel survey at the kiosk once your fishing excursion is done. This helps provide information and data on the overall health of the fisheries.

Cross-Country Skiing

The campground and Lake Shore Trail offer a nice mixed pine forest and is a great beginners trail for those who want a gentle ski. Park in the small parking area next to the office and walk towards the main road. The trail starts across from the dumpsters.

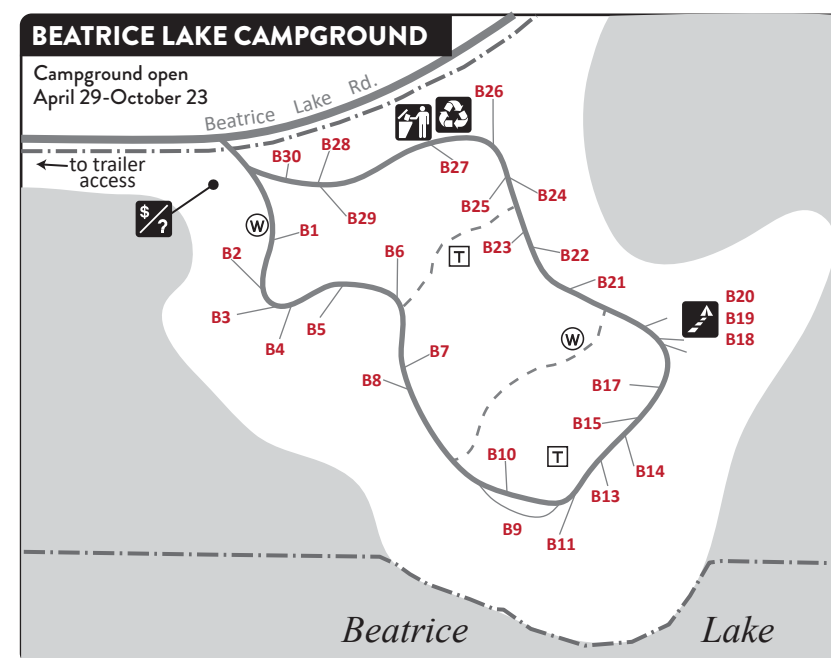
The Big Hole Trail loop is an advanced trail that offers more advanced skiers a backcountry workout with long rolling hillsides in the pines. Park at the Ski Trail Rd. parking area off Hwy. 5. The trail starts off in the corner of the parking lot through the young pine stand. Ski passes are required when cross-country skiing on public lands. Daily and annual ski passes can be purchased at any approved Electronic Licensing Station (ELS) or online.

Snowshoes

Explore the lake shoreline and mixed pine forest stands of the park. Snowshoers can go anywhere in the park, except on groomed ski or snowmobile trails.

Snowmobiles

The Taconite State Trail and Tim Corey Trail, as well as the Ridge Top Trail offer a nice circle loop with other grant-in-aid snowmobile trails in the area. Watch ice conditions on area lakes as slush may be present on top of the ice. Parking available in the picnic area parking lot.



SO EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE PARK...

A FULL SET OF STATE PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS IS AVAILABLE AT THE PARK OFFICE OR MNDNR.GOV.



PARK OPEN
8 a.m.–10 p.m. daily.



VEHICLE PERMITS
Permits required; purchase at park office 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.

BE OUR GUEST

- Reserve a drive-in campsite near the lake and stay awhile. Choose electric or non-electric. Each site holds a maximum of 6 people, one camping shelter, and one vehicle.
- Enjoy a get-together with family, friends or a scout group in the reservable group camp site.
- Make your reservations by visiting mndnr.gov/reservations.



WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE TACONITE STATE TRAIL? VISIT MNDNR.GOV/TRAILS

? 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.