ABOUT THE RECREATION AREA

Big Bog State Recreation Area was established in 2000. It was the result of a grassroots effort to create a sustainable tourist attraction in Waskish, whose economy was devastated when the Red Lake walleye population crashed in the 1990s. The recreation area includes a northern unit and a southern unit totaling 9,121 acres. A 500-square-mile peat bog, the largest in the lower 48 states, is located in the northern unit. The southern unit includes a visitor center, fire tower, campground, winterized camper cabins, a sandy beach and great fishing.

Take a stroll on the Big Bog Boardwalk.

TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS

Big Bog Boardwalk
1 mile one-way
Flat • Boardwalk • Handicap accessible
This is a truly unique experience. Explore the boardwalk for views of orchids, carnivorous plants, mosses and a stunted tamarack and spruce forest. Located 9 miles north of the visitor center on MN Hwy 72.

Old Caribou Camp Trail
1-mile loop
Mostly flat • Packed dirt
Discover the diverse wildlife, trees, lichens and fungi that call Ludlow Island home.

Old Marina Trail
0.3 miles one-way
Mostly flat • Mowed grass
Hike to an observation deck over the Tamarac River. Watch for shorebirds, waterfowl, beavers and orchids. Interpretive panels share the history of the local fish hatchery.

Red Lake Beach Trail
0.3-miles one-way
Mostly flat • Packed dirt
Walk to an observation deck over Upper Red Lake. Look for waterfowl and read interpretive panels.

MORE TO EXPLORE

• Attend naturalist programs.
• Launch your boat or fish from docks along the Tamarac River in the campground. Find handicap accessible fishing piers near the public boat accesses on the north side of the river.
• Rent a canoe, kayak, paddleboard or snowshoes from the visitor center. Checkout a GPS, birding kit, Kids Activity Kit or fishing pole for free.
• Visit during any season! The campground, camper cabins, Big Bog Boardwalk and visitor center are open year-round.

SO EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE REC. AREA...

A full set of STATE PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS is available at mndnr.gov.

RECREATION AREA OPEN
8 a.m.–10 p.m. daily.

VEHICLE PERMITS
Permits required; purchase at visitor center 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 site or from vendors who sell wood approved for this site; no gathering firewood in the park.

CURIOS ABOUT CABINS OR CAMPING?
VISIT MNDNR.GOV/RESERVATIONS OR CALL 866-857-2757

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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