

# CAMDEN STATE PARK

## FACILITIES AND FEATURES

- 80 semi-modern campsites (34 with electric hook-up)
  - Dump station, flush toilets and showers
  - Primitive group camp (50 capacity)
  - 3 picnic grounds, two with a shelter
  - Spring-filled swimming pond
  - 14.8 miles of hiking trails
  - 10.2 miles of horseback trail
  - 4.2 miles of bike riding trail
  - 5.0 miles of ski trails
  - 1.4 miles of skate ski trails
  - 7.6 miles of snowmobile trails
  - Horse riders' campground
- ## VISITOR FAVORITES
- Dakota Valley Trail
  - Maple-basswood forest
  - Bubbling clear springs
  - Swimming beach
  - Trout fishing
  - Brawner Lake
  - Winter warming house
  - Bluebirds
  - Souvenir items

### LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION?

The DNR has mapped the state showing federal, state and county lands with their recreational facilities. Public Recreation Information Maps (PRIM) are available for purchase from the DNR gift shop, DNR regional offices, Minnesota state parks and major sporting and map stores.

Check it out - you'll be glad you did.

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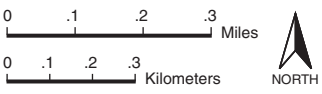


## SUMMER TRAILS

- ..... Hiking
- - - Horseback/Hiking
- .... Mountain Bike/Horseback/Hiking
- \*\*\*\* Hiking/Biking
- 0.5 Trail distances shown in miles.

## FACILITIES

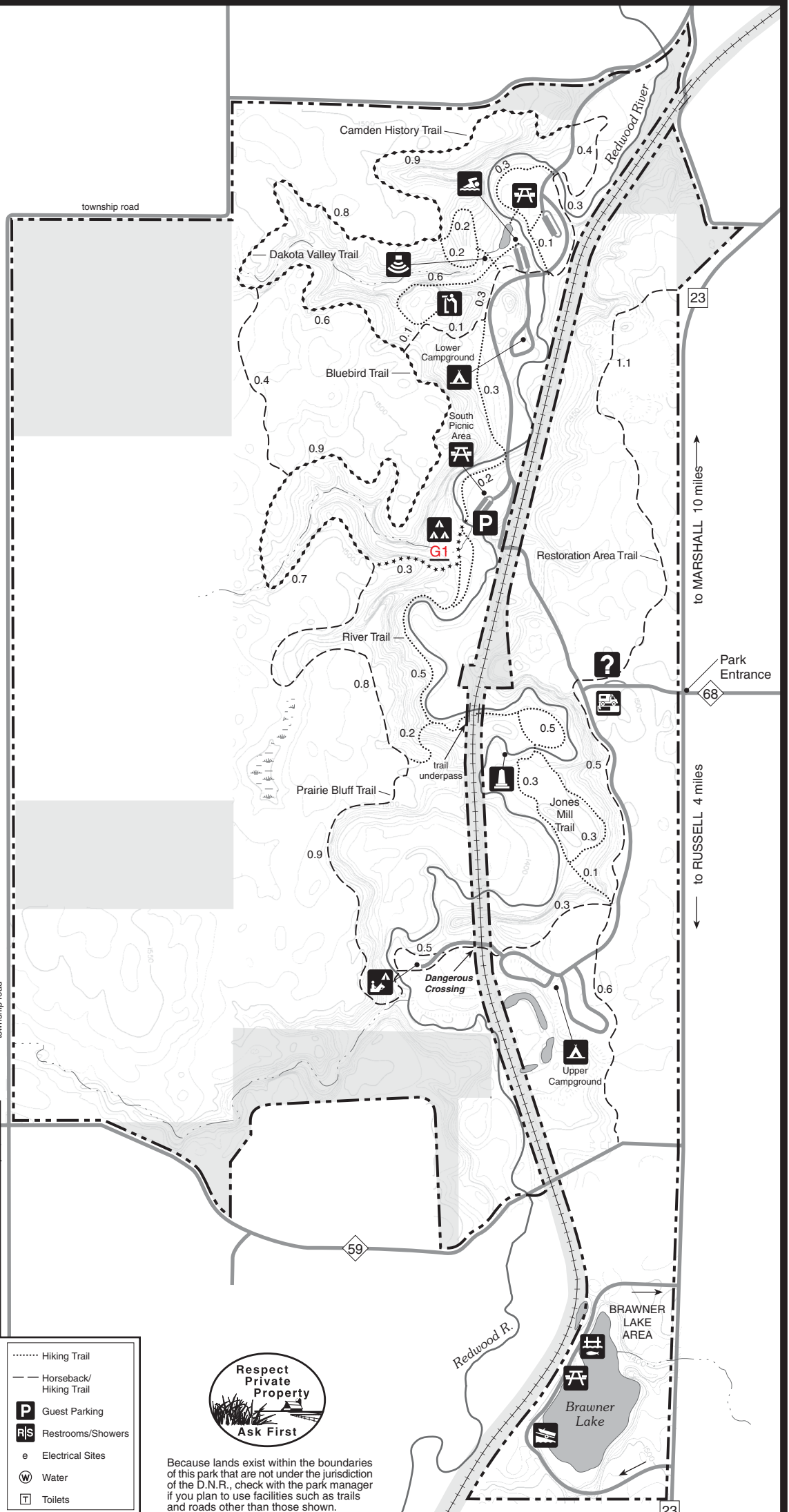
- Information/Office
- Picnic Area
- Overlook
- Historic Site
- Parking
- Campground
- Primitive Group Camp
- Equestrian Camping
- Swimming
- Amphitheater
- Boat Ramp
- Fishing Pier
- Trailer Dump Station
- Private Property
- Public Use Prohibited (except on designated trails)



**NOTE: SEASONAL FOOTBRIDGES**  
Some footbridges on trails crossing the Redwood River may not be in place due to seasonal periods of high water. Check at the Park Office for current conditions.

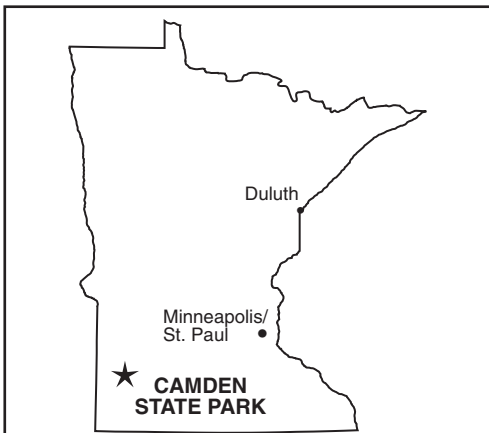
### CAMDEN LOWER CAMPGROUND

Underlined site numbers are RESERVABLE



Because lands exist within the boundaries of this park that are not under the jurisdiction of the D.N.R., check with the park manager if you plan to use facilities such as trails and roads other than those shown.

- ..... Hiking Trail
- - - Horseback/Hiking Trail
- Guest Parking
- Restrooms/Showers
- Electrical Sites
- Water
- Toilets



## CAMDEN STATE PARK

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Camden State Park  
1897 County Road 68  
Lynd, MN 56157-1149  
(507) 865-4530

Department of Natural Resources  
Information Center  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040

(651) 296-6157 (Metro Area)  
1-888-646-6367 (MN Toll Free)

TDD (Telecommunications  
Device for Deaf)  
(651) 296-5484 (Metro Area)  
1-800-657-3929 (MN Toll Free)

DNR Web Site: [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)  
State Parks page: [www.mnstateparks.info](http://www.mnstateparks.info)

**CAMDEN STATE PARK** is located off Minnesota Highway 23, ten miles southwest of Marshall, Minnesota, in Lyon County. It is ten miles north of U.S. Highway 14. Highway map index: 18-D.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Established in 1935, Camden State Park consists of 2,237 acres. Camden's cool, wooded valley cuts through the open prairie, enabling visitors

to observe plants and animals of woodlands and prairies.

The valley of the Redwood River has long provided a refreshing interlude for weary travelers. This "prairie oasis" supplied Native Americans and pioneers with food, shelter from the harsh prairie sun, free-flowing spring water, and protection from winter gales.

**GEOLOGY:** Camden lies in an area of southwestern Minnesota called the Coteau des Prairie ("highland of the prairie"), a high plateau that rises, at its summit, 900 feet above the land to the north and east.

During the last Ice Age, glaciers covered the shale and sandstone bedrock of this area with layers of mixed rock, gravel, sand and clay, which together are known as till. Where the glaciers ended their advance, or held steady, the till piled up into long, high ridges called moraines. Camden lies atop the Altamont Moraine, the second highest and easternmost moraine in the Coteau.

But not all the topography is a direct result of glacial activity. The Redwood River Valley was formed after the glaciers had receded to the north. Water draining and flowing off the land cut into the till and carved out the narrow valley we see today.

This valley drains a part of the Coteau's eastern slope through the Altamont Moraine. The river has cut 100 to 150 feet down into the surrounding terrain. Two different tills are exposed by the river in the park. The lower till is a blackish color, the upper till a tan color. They are separated by a boulder layer which is visible at the group camp bridge.

**HISTORY:** Abundant in water, plant and animal resources, the valley was home to prehistoric and historic people. Archaeological research revealed that Native Americans have used this valley for as long as 8,000 years for hunting and fishing.

A trading post of the American Fur Company was established in the valley in the middle 1830's. La Framboise, a colorful man of French descent, was hired to trade

with the local Indians from this post, and manage the company's affairs in the Coteau des Prairies region.

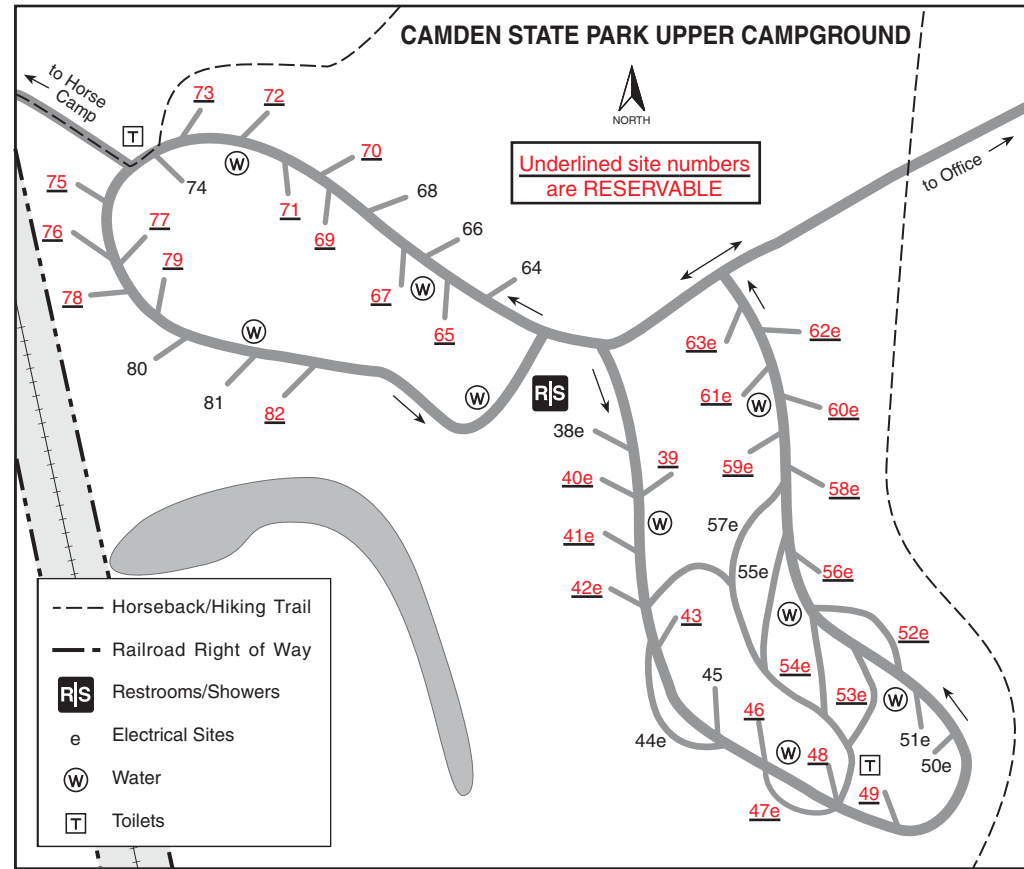
American and European pioneers and settlers began coming into the valley by the late 1840's. These early settlers named their small community in this valley Camden, after their home of Camden, New Jersey. By the late 1880's Camden was thriving. It featured a general store, hotel, blacksmith shop and a sawmill that was later converted to a grist mill. A second grist mill, the Jones Mill, was located approximately one mile upriver from the townsite. The town grew steadily until the railroad decided against placing a depot in Camden. By the early 1930's, the town of Camden was a memory, yet the area was still used by local people for picnics and family gatherings. Known then as Camden Woods, it was from this use that Camden State Park began.

**WILDLIFE AND PLANTS:** Wooded, prairie and wetland habitats have provided a secure haven for many species of wildlife in Camden. As recently as 100 years ago, bison, elk, wolf, prairie chicken and golden eagle were an integral part of life on the Coteau. They are gone now.

Today, mink, raccoon, songbirds, hawks, coyotes and a large winter herd of white-tail deer flourish in the park, bass and bluegill are found in Brawner Lake, and brown trout are stocked in the river twice each year.

Springtime wildflowers—bloodroot, white trillium, and violets—color Camden's woodlands. The prairie, too, comes alive in spring with hillside pasqueflowers and prairie smoke, summer sparkles from purple coneflowers and blazing stars, and autumn glows with goldenrods, asters and gentians.

Autumn brings out the valley's spectacular change of leaf color, usually during the first week of October. Reds, yellows and golds from maples, basswood, ash, cottonwood and hackberry paint the park from end to end.



**TRAIL USERS:** Trails in the park are used by a variety of visitors and not all uses are compatible with each other. For the safety of all visitors, and the protection of the park's resources, bicyclists, snowmobilers and horseback riders are required to stay on trails designated for their use. Horses and snowmobiles are not allowed on park roads unless that portion of road has been designated for that use.

Trailered horses are to be unloaded in the horse camp, and all trailered snowmobiles are to be unloaded in the south picnic parking lot. Please read and obey all signs. Your cooperation is appreciated.

**SO EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE PARK...** This park belongs to all Minnesotans. Please treat it with respect and help us protect it by observing all posted rules and signs. A park rules brochure is available at

the park office. Daily or annual vehicle permits are required on all vehicles entering a state park. Permits may be purchased at the park office or through the Information Center in St. Paul (see "FOR MORE INFORMATION" to left).

*This information is available in alternative format upon request.*

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