

LAKE LOUISE STATE PARK

FACILITIES AND FEATURES

- 22 semi-modern campsites; 11 with electricity
- Primitive pioneer group camps – 2 sites, capacity of 60
- Horse campground – 6 sites, capacity of 36
- Trailer sanitation station
- Picnic ground with 30 sites and shelter building
- 11.6 miles of hiking trails
- 9.7 miles of horse trails
- 10 miles of bike trail

VISITOR

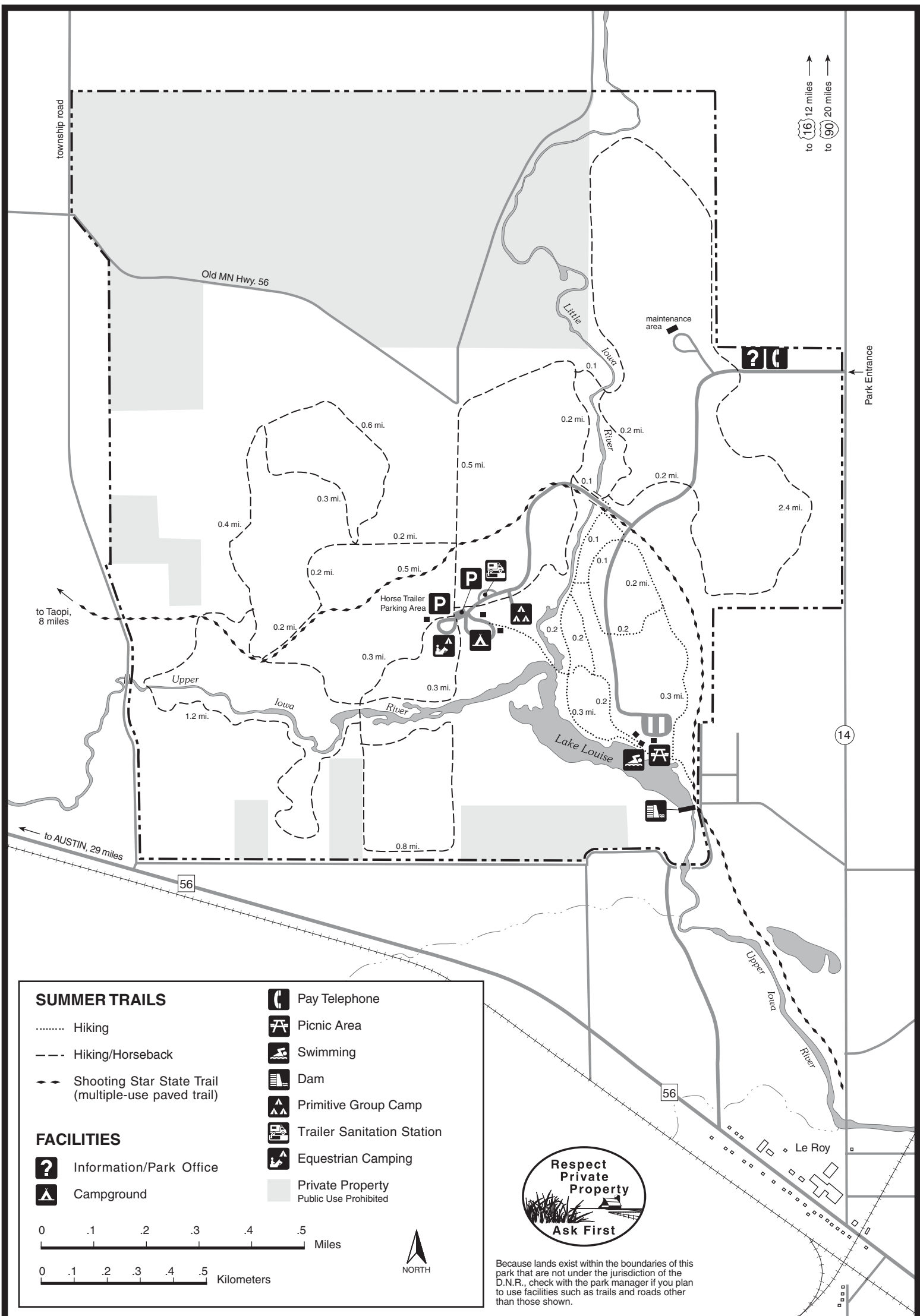
FAVORITES

- Lake Louise
- Lake and stream fishing
- Spring and summer wildflowers
- Bird watching
- White-tailed deer
- Swimming
- Horseback riding
- Picnic grounds overlooking Lake Louise
- Shooting Star State Trail

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.

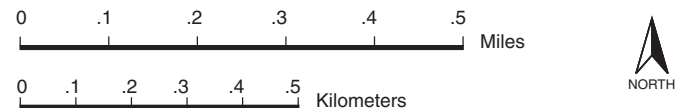


SUMMER TRAILS

- Hiking
- Hiking/Horseback
- Shooting Star State Trail (multiple-use paved trail)

FACILITIES

- ? Information/Park Office
- ▲ Campground
- ☎ Pay Telephone
- ☎ Picnic Area
- 🏊 Swimming
- 🏰 Dam
- ⛺ Primitive Group Camp
- 🚻 Trailer Sanitation Station
- 🐎 Equestrian Camping
- ⚡ Private Property Public Use Prohibited



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.



LAKE LOUISE STATE PARK

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Lake Louise State Park
 c/o Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park
 21071 County 118
 Preston, MN 55965
 (507) 352-5111

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
 State Parks page: www.mnstateparks.info

LAKE LOUISE STATE PARK is located in southeastern Minnesota near the Iowa border. The park is located in Mower County, 1.5 miles north of LeRoy on County Road 14. Highway map index: L-21.

Lake Louise State Park is often referred to as an "oasis" in the rich farmland of southeastern Minnesota. Many species of wildlife are attracted by the diverse habitat

of hardwood forest and field areas found in the park.

The 1,168-acre park contains two spring-fed streams (the Upper Iowa and Little Iowa rivers) which join in the park, a dam and impoundment where a grist mill was located in the late 1800s, and scattered stands of hardwoods.

HISTORY: Lake Louise State Park is the site of Minnesota's oldest, continuous-use recreation area. Shortly after the area was surveyed in 1853, the town of LeRoy was platted, and the Upper Iowa River dammed to provide power for a grist mill. Soon after the railroad came through, but it passed south of the original townsite. Out of economic necessity LeRoy was moved to its present location to be close to the tracks. Shortly after this the grist mill was abandoned the Hambrecht family – who owned the land along the mill pond – gave several acres to the village as a recreation area. At that time the site was known as Wildwood Park. The mill pond was named after a member of the Hambrecht family and still bears her name, "Louise."

In 1962 the city of LeRoy donated Wildwood Park – about 70 acres – to the state to form the nucleus of Lake Louise State Park. Today the statutory boundary encompasses 1,168 acres.

GEOLOGY: In the distant past Lake Louise State Park was only lightly glaciated by the first two of the four major ice ages. As a result its underlying limestone bedrock is close to the surface and is covered by a very thin deposit of glacial material. The meager extent of this covering can be noted in several places where the underlying limestone has been dissolved away by percolating rainwater causing it to collapse. When this occurs the thin layer of glacial material also collapses into the void creating a sinkhole of slightly different character than those commonly found further to the east in Minnesota's blufflands. Several of these

resulting depressions can be seen along the park trails. Despite these few rather interesting depressions, the park's terrain is relatively level and ideal for the novice biker, cross-country skier or horseback rider.

VEGETATION: Prior to European settlement, park vegetation consisted mostly of prairie and oak savanna. Some woodlands developed where they were protected from fire by streams.

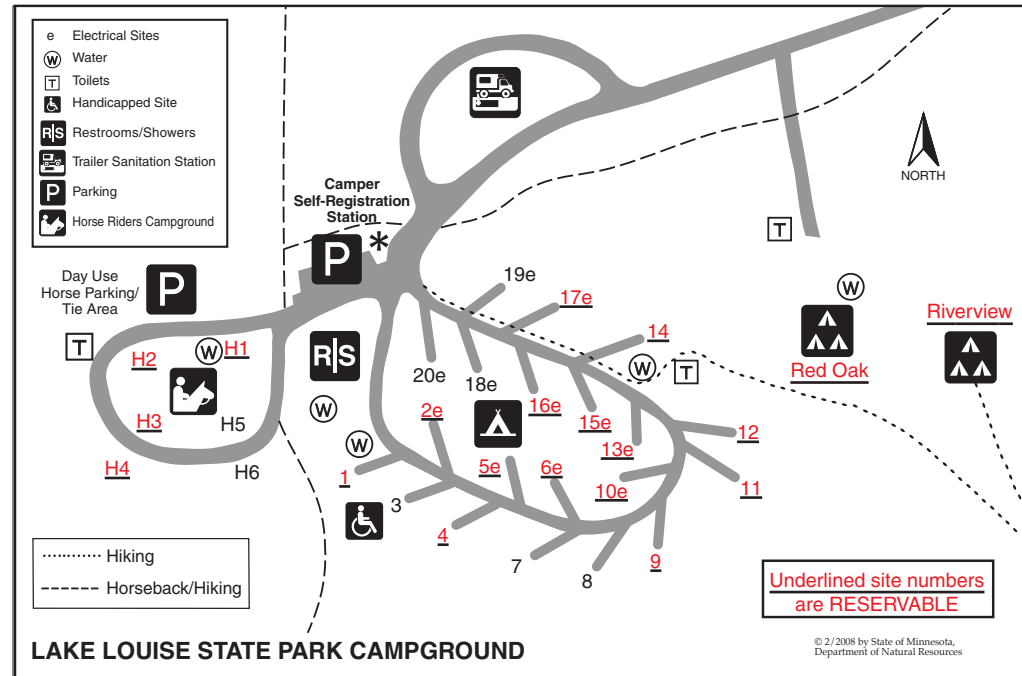
Today, most of the park consists of patches of hardwood forest and old fields. Small remnants of prairie and oak savanna can still be seen. Park staff are working to restore these original plant communities through replanting and use of prescribed fire.

Among the many flowering plants that grow in the park is Nodding Wild Onion (*Allium cernuum*), a state threatened species. Another notable plant here is Shooting Star (*Dodecatheon meadia*), a key prairie indicator. The beauty of both woodland and prairie wildflower displays during spring and summer is a major attraction for park visitors.

WILDLIFE: The park is located in the midst of an intensely-farmed agricultural area with little remaining native habitat. Many species of wildlife are attracted to the food and cover found in the forested and old-field areas of the park. The combination of wetlands, rivers, lake, old fields and wooded areas provides ideal habitat for many species of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.

The park has become a traditional wintering area for whitetail deer, with viewing of these animals a major visitor attraction during winter months. Old fields found in the park provide excellent viewing areas for bird watching.

SO EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE PARK... The park belongs to all Minnesotans. **Please treat it with respect and help us to protect it by following the rules:**



LAKE LOUISE STATE PARK CAMPGROUND

- On a daily basis, the park is closed from 10:00 P.M. to 8:00 A.M. the following morning except to registered campers.
- Camp only in designated locations.
- The use of firearms, explosives, air guns, slingshots, traps, seines, nets, bows and arrows, and all other weapons is prohibited in the state parks.
- Pets must be restrained on a leash no longer than six feet. Pets are not allowed in park buildings.
- Park in designated areas only.
- Motor bikes and other licensed vehicles are allowed only on park roads, not on trails.
- Enjoy park wildlife and plants but please respect them. Do not pick or dig up plants, disturb or feed animals, or scavenge dead wood.
- Build fires only in designated locations – fire rings or fireplaces. Wood is available for purchase at certain times from park staff. Portable stoves or grills are permitted.

Horseback Riders: You can help ensure the future of riding at Lake Louise State Park.

- Ride only on designated horse trails.
- Avoid shortcutting at corners.
- Leave beverage containers at camp or pack them out in saddle bags.
- Avoid riding on the roads.
- Save precious shade trees – use hitching rails or tie horses away from trees.

Daily or annual permits are required for all vehicles entering a state park. Here at Lake Louise, vehicle permits can only be purchased through Self-Registration. Go to park office and follow the Self-Registration instructions.

This information is available in alternative format upon request.

"Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is available to all individuals regardless of race, color, creed or religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, age or disability. Discrimination inquires should be sent to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4031; or the Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240."