



LAKE MARIA STATE PARK

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Lake Maria State Park
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(651) 296-5484 (Metro Area)
1-800-657-3929 (MN Toll Free)

DNR Web Site: www.dnr.state.mn.us

LAKE MARIA STATE PARK (pronounced *ma-rye-uh*) is comprised of 1,580 acres of rolling wooded terrain, dotted with small lakes and woodland marshes. Established in 1963, the park is designed for hikers, backpackers and horseback riders looking for a wilderness experience.

The park is a haven for photographers, birdwatchers, naturalists and anyone interested in the beauty and solitude of this unique state park.

FEATURES OF LAKE MARIA

Wildlife: The forests of Lake Maria contain remnants of Big Woods vegetation and stands of old-growth oak. Along with extensive wetlands this diverse habitat attracts a wide variety of wildlife including: deer, beaver, fox, many species of reptiles, amphibians and over 200 bird species. The park is known for Blanding's turtles, a threatened species in Minnesota. They are found in the ponds and wetlands of the park. Look for the turtle crossing signs and the turtle informational display in the picnic area. Park management activities are designed to protect and enhance the ecosystems of the park and region.

17 Secluded Backpack Sites: A one-half to one mile walk from parking areas, many sites overlook small lakes and ponds. Facilities include a picnic table, fire ring, and primitive toilet facilities.

Two Group Camp Sites: Oak Hill and Whitetail group sites each accommodate up to 50 people. Picnic tables, fire rings, drinking water and toilets are provided. Group sites can be reserved through the central reservation system.

Three Camper Cabins: Log cabins on secluded sites. Sleeps six people. Walk in (or ski) only. No cooking facilities or electricity. Picnic table, fire ring

and primitive toilet provided. Cabins have wood stove heat and are available year-round. Water must be carried in.

Picnic Area: Grills, picnic tables, drinking water, fishing pier, toilet facilities, self-guided interpretive trail.

Boat Launch: Located on Maria Lake for fishing boats and canoes only. Outboard motors over 20 horsepower are prohibited on Maria Lake.

Trail/Interpretive Center: Indoor picnic facilities, toilets, water, interpretive displays, seating for group meetings, wood stove and warming shelter for winter use.

Trails: 14 miles of hiking, six miles of horseback (open May 1 to November 1), 22 kilometers of traditional skiing, 5 kilometers of skate skiing.

From the trail center, four main loops help you plan your outing:

Anderson Loop Trail: This three-mile loop leads you through prairie grasses to the Anderson Hill lookout. The trail returns you to the trail center through oak and maple forest.

Big Woods Loop: 5.5 miles in length. One of the most popular trails in the park. Lookouts, old-growth forest, ponds, marshes and rolling terrain make this a great trail in any season.

Bjorkland Lake Trail (also the Hiking Club Trail): Our most popular trail.

This two-mile loop leads you by meadows, forests and a rest stop overlooking Bjorkland Lake.

Kettle and Kame Trail: The most rugged of our trails and the most challenging ski trail. The trail highlights the kettle and kame landscape carved by glaciers and common to this area. Lakes, observation points and old-growth forest can be found along this trail.

Equipment Rental: Snowshoe rental is available at the park office. Ski rentals are not available in the park.

Fishing: Crappie, bass, bluegill, northern pike, bullhead, perch and carp found in Maria Lake and Bjorkland Lake.

Winter Facilities: Groomed ski trails, winter hiking trail, skating rink and snowshoeing.

Interpretive Programs: A variety of programs are offered throughout the year, a listing is available at the park office. Annual events include maple syruping and candlelight skiing. Call park office for more information.

Self-guided Interpretive Trails: The Zumbrunnen Trail and Forest Shadow Trail explain the natural and cultural history of the park. Each trail is approximately 1/2-mile long.

Bicycling: Biking is prohibited on park trails. Biking is allowed on park roads. Inquire at the park office for

information on nearby bike trails.

VOLUNTEERS

Lake Maria State Park depends on volunteers to help with resource management, interpretation, fund raising, trail and campsite maintenance. If you can help, please stop by the park office or call.

Camping/Cabin Reservations

Lake Maria State Park's camper cabins, backpack, and group campsites can be reserved through the Minnesota State Parks' reservation service at 1-866-857-2757 or online at www.stayatmnparks.com.



This information is available in alternative format upon request.

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