



HAYES LAKE STATE PARK

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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HAYES LAKE STATE PARK is located 22 miles southeast of Roseau on the north fork of the Roseau River. Access to the park is off County State Aid Highway 4. State Highway Map Index E-4.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Located on the western perimeter of vast, sparsely

populated wildlands adjacent to Beltrami Island State Forest, Hayes Lake State Park offers visitors recreational enjoyment and wilderness. Hundreds of square miles of untamed land create a “getting away from it all” feeling. Scenic views are numerous.

The central focus to the park is the lake and north fork of the Roseau River which winds through the park from the southeast to the west. The man-made lake filled to the forest edge, creating spectacular shoreline timber views. Only electric motors are allowed on the lake so visitors can enjoy the scenery and solitude without interruption.

GEOLOGY: Topography within the park and surrounding area took its final shape during the existence of Glacial Lake Agassiz. This lake, receding from large areas of northwestern Minnesota approximately 10,000 years ago, left the landscape essentially flat. The only prominent interruptions of this level landscape are beach ridges and river valleys formed as the ancient lake retreated.

The glacial lake bottom landscape within the park was probably exposed to the erosive forces of wind and water 9,000-11,000 years ago, several thousand years earlier than areas to the northwest. As you view the river from scenic points along the park’s trails, notice how the action of the water over thousands of years has cut, gouged, and eroded a steep V-shaped valley. The very interesting and delicate bog

areas of the park can also be closely related to the geological history of the region. When glacial Lake Agassiz retreated, it left the landscape over large areas flat. Drainage was very poor, but the water table remained high. As a result, hundreds of square miles of land—from the park eastward—developed into muskeg and bog communities. Ask at park headquarters where you can view some rare and fascinating plants which make their home in the bog.

WILDLIFE: Because of the park’s location in the wildlands of this region, visitors have the chance to observe some of Minnesota’s less common wildlife. Black bears are residents of the northern forest and are seen occasionally in the park. Moose, fisher, otter, bobcat, lynx, and timber wolf can be seen in and around the park. Other more common wildlife include: deer, fox, raccoon, porcupine, beaver, mink, and skunk.

There are also many species of birds to see and hear. Early morning and evening are the best time to enjoy the park’s bird life. Along the lakeshore loons, herons, grebes, and other water birds can be observed.

Even though the lake is relatively new there are good populations of northern, crappie and sunfish.

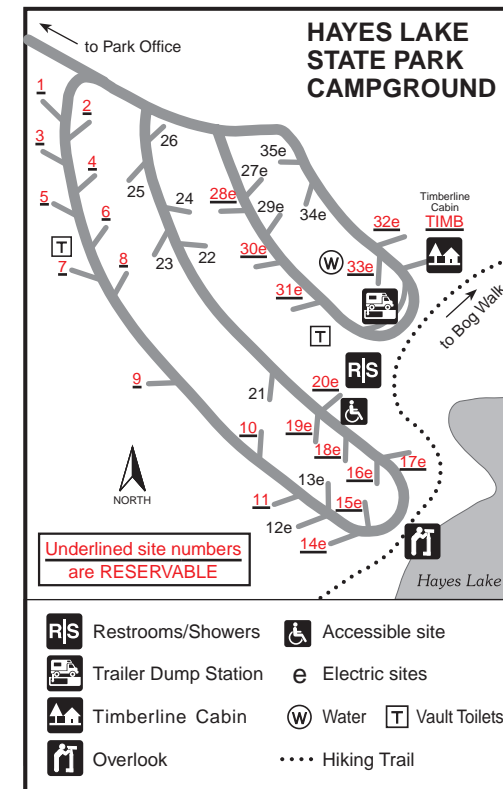
HISTORY: In the early 1900s the first homestead was established in what is the west portion of the park. Family graves of this first homesteader, Alva

Hendershot, can be seen along the trail starting to the northwest of the dam. Farther along the trail past the grave sites, the remains of the original homestead and farm can be seen. Some of the most scenic views of the river and forest can be seen along this trail and near the homestead site.

Although the area was originally suggested for a state park in 1958, the Minnesota State Legislature did not make it official until 1967, because of the need for water related recreation in the area, the initial development was the damming of the river forming the lake. The impoundment was originally advocated by Mr. A. F. Hayes. The Hayes family were early settlers on the land now included in the park. The lake and park were named in honor of Mr. Hayes.

Dedication of the park took place in 1973 after completion of the dam. Park development has continued to date. During the park’s history, it has attracted a variety of recreation and outdoor enthusiasts. With the scarcity of lakes in the area, considerable fishing and swimming activity has focused on Hayes Lake.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM: Visitors interested in the park’s geology, wildlife, history, and plant life should check the information boards located at the campground, picnic area, and park headquarters. Self-guiding trail interpretive brochures, and signs are available to point out interesting natural features of the park.



This information is available in alternative format upon request.

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