



MAPLEWOOD STATE PARK

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Maplewood State Park
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Pelican Rapids, MN 56572-7723
(218) 863-8383

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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

MAPLEWOOD STATE PARK is located seven miles east of Pelican Rapids, Minnesota, on State Highway 108 in Otter Tail County. Highway map index: C-11

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: On a series of high hills, Maplewood State Park provides a respite from the intensively farmed lands that surround it. The tree-

covered hills provide striking vistas of small, clear lakes nestled in deep valleys. The park, established in 1963 by legislative action, provides a public recreational area of about 9,000 acres. Its many attractions offer people a variety of recreational opportunities throughout the year.

WILDLIFE: Maplewood is located in the transition area between the state's eastern forests and western prairies. It contains plants and animals found in both. Thirteen plant communities support nearly 150 species of breeding birds, 40 kinds of mammals, and 25 kinds of reptiles and amphibians. The park is known for its large hardwood trees.

The hardwood forest includes trees such as sugar maple, basswood, American elm, and aspen. Few softwoods are found in this part of the state, but occasionally red cedar and tamarack may be found in the park.

Upland flowers are common, with representatives from both prairie and forest. The forest floor has many striking spring flowers; trillium, bloodroot, and liverwort being common. Prairie species include wild onion, showy milkweed, beardtongue, and prairie rose. Many flower in late summer and fall.

White-tailed deer may be seen throughout the park. Many browse along the park drive. Beaver are active in some lakes; their cuttings and lodges may be seen in several locations. Raccoon, squirrels, rabbits, and chipmunks are also present and often seen. Herons and other large wading birds

are found in summer seeking food in the shallows. Birds of prey can be seen hunting. Their nests are sometimes found in heavily wooded areas.

GEOLOGY: Maplewood lies on a series of hills in the Park Landscape Region near the eastern edge of the level Red River Valley. These hills, part of the Alexandria Moraine, were deposited during the last ice age. Relief is abrupt, with changes of about 300 feet in less than a mile. The highest hills in the park approach 1,600 feet. Lake Lida Basin was probably formed when the last glacier retreated 20,000 years ago and left ice stranded in a valley. The ice melted, exposing the basin and allowed the present lake to form.

HISTORY: Evidence of people in Maplewood dates back about 1,300 years, but man was certainly there earlier. An archaeological site just north of Pelican Rapids shows that man lived in the area at least 6,000 years ago.

Starting in 1967, University of Minnesota archaeologists examined the park and identified several study sites. One site exhibited characteristics typical of both prairie and woodland cultures. A few Late Woodland artifacts were also found showing that the site may have been used periodically until it was settled by modern man.

Most artifacts indicated that the site was occupied during the Middle Woodland Period (1,200 to 900 years ago). Fire hearths, food pits, and post holes were found, along with numerous pieces of pottery and many animal bones. Evidence showed that

the residents were primarily hunters during this period.

Other sites were identified at the same time. One was a temporary campsite with little archaeological evidence. The other had a fire ring constructed from large boulders. This area was not excavated.

Records of modern man in the area began in the mid-1880s when the original land surveys occurred. Township lines were surveyed in the 1850s followed by section surveys in 1870. Original land plats and a county map made in 1874 did not show any dwellings or improvements.

Settlement started shortly after, with Lida and Maplewood townships organized in 1879 and 1880 respectively. In 1890, the two townships had a population of 757 persons. This grew to 1167 by 1900 and then declined slightly after that.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS: Self-guided trails allow visitors to explore and learn about many interesting features in the park. Interpreting signs at points of interest introduce visitors to scenes sometimes missed by the casual observer. A demonstration forest exhibits several types of forest management. Brochures are available for persons desiring more information.

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.
- The park is open year-round. On a daily basis, the park gate 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 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 from park staff. Portable stoves or grills are permitted.
- Daily or annual permits are required for all vehicles entering a state park. They may be purchased at the park headquarters or the Information Center in St. Paul (See "FOR MORE INFORMATION" to left).

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This information is available in alternative format upon request.

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FACILITIES AND FEATURES

- Campgrounds: Sixty-one family campsites are provided in three locations around Grass Lake. Showers and flush toilets are available.
- Swimming Beach. Located on Lake Lida, the area provides a changing house and sanitation building. A nearby picnic area makes this an ideal location for family recreation. No motor boats are allowed in the swimming area.
- Boat Launching Ramps. Two ramps are provided in the park, one on South Lake Lida and one on Beers Lake. Both lakes offer good fishing for walleye, northern, and panfish.
- Lake Lida Group Picnic Area. An excellent view is afforded from this rustic picnic location. Water, pit toilets, and a large parking area.
- Forest Demonstration Area. A self-guiding trail leads visitors through the area where they can identify trees.
- Park Drive. Two way traffic with sharp curves. Drive slowly and watch for parked cars. Many glimpses of wildlife can be expected.
- Overlooks. High hills provide dramatic vistas. Interpretive signs at major points of interest.
- Trails. Multiple-use trails are available throughout the year. Summer trails include 25 miles of hiking trails and 15 miles for horseback riding. For persons returning in the winter, there are 17 miles of ski trails and 14 miles of snowmobile trails. The winter trails are groomed weekly.
- Maplewood Church and Cemetery. These are active-watch service notices.
- Firewood. Purchase at the contact station.
- Laundry, Groceries, Gas. Obtain locally outside the park.

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.



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

SUMMER TRAILS

- Hiking
- - - - Horseback / Hiking
- - - - Interpretive
- - - - Mountain Biking

Trail Distance Reference Points
Distances shown are between reference points

▲ 0.5 miles

Information/Office
Picnic Area
Swimming
Trail Center
Boat Ramp
Campground
Primitive Group Camp
Backpack Campsites
Canoe Camping
Horse Campground
Wildlife Observation

Private Property
Public Use Prohibited

