

MCCARTHY BEACH STATE PARK



SUMMER TRAILS

-  Hiking/Horseback
-  Hiking Only
-  Hiking Club
-  **Taconite State Trail**
(Hiking, horseback riding, snowmobiling)
-  **Numbered Intersections**

FACILITIES

-  Ranger Station
 -  Parking
 -  Restroom/Shower
 -  Toilet
 -  Drinking Water
 -  Campground
 -  Group Camp
 -  RV Sanitation Station
 -  Dumpster
 -  Recycle Station
 -  Picnic Shelter
 -  Trail Shelter
 -  Swimming Beach
 -  Trailer Access
 -  Dock
 -  Fishing Pier
 -  Fish Cleaning Shelter
 -  Gate
 -  **Private Property**
public use prohibited

**Stony Brook
Horse Campground**
2 miles

STURGEON RIVER
STATE FOREST

**Beatrice Lake
Campground**
(see inset on back)

*Beatrice
Lake*

GEORGE
WASHINGTON
STATE FOREST

ITASCA CO.
ST. LOUIS CO.

SIDE LAKE CAMPGROUND



*Sturgeon
Lake*

*Sturgeon
Lake*
(walleye,
northern pike,
bass, panfish)

*Side
Lake*
(walleye,
northern pike,
bass, panfish)

**-PARK
ENTRANCE**

Side Lake

e = electric site
 = accessible site
 = EV charging site

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MAP AND GUIDE: MCCARTHY BEACH STATE PARK

7622 MCCARTHY BEACH ROAD
SIDE LAKE, MN 55781
SAINT LOUIS COUNTY
218-274-7200



VISITOR TIPS

- The campground and beach are busy areas with narrow roads. Drivers should slow down and watch for pedestrians and bikes at all times.
- Visit in spring or fall for a quieter park experience.
- Help prevent the spread of invasive species. Clean your boat *before* and *after* you launch.
- In an emergency call 911.
- Equestrians can explore additional miles of connecting trails to the Stony Brook Horse Camp in the nearby George Washington State Forest.
- Have mobility issues? Ask how our Track Chair can help you get the most from your visit.



ONLY HAVE AN HOUR?

- Experience the beach. Soak in the view of Sturgeon Lake, wade in the shallow water, stroll the half-mile sandy shoreline, picnic under shade trees, swim, or just relax.
- Wet a line at the fishing pier on Side Lake. For an adventure, walk to the dock on Pickerel Lake to try for trout (license and trout stamp required). Check out fishing equipment for free from the ranger station.



LOOKING FOR MORE TO EXPLORE DURING YOUR STAY? VISIT [MNDNR.GOV/MCCARTHY](https://mndnr.gov/mccarthy)

ABOUT THE PARK

McCarthy Beach State Park's hilly landscape and lakes have long made it a popular destination. Its pothole lakes were made during the retreat of the last continental glacier 12,000 years ago. The glacier left behind large chunks of ice. The depressions they created filled with water, forming lakes. Many years later, "McCarthy's beach" became a popular picnic and swimming spot for families along the Mesabi Iron Range.

In 1945, the park was established as a living memorial to area servicemen that lost their lives in World War II. Named for former owner John A. McCarthy, the park protects a northern boreal forest with red and white pine, leatherleaf-black spruce lowlands, birch and aspen. More than 175 species of birds visit the area and visitors are treated to sights of loons gliding on the lakes and great blue herons stalking small fish in the shallows.



Spend hours at the park's sugar sand beach.

TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS

Big Hole Loop Trail (Hiking Club Trail)

3-mile loop

Rolling hills • Natural surface

To access trail parking from the ranger station, turn left onto McCarthy Beach Rd. Take a left on Co. Rd. 5 and another left onto Ski Trail Rd (Co. Rd. 501). Continue to the Hiking Club Trail parking lot. The trail features a trout lake (trout stamp required to fish), glacial kettles and red pine forest.

Pickerel Lake Trail

1 mile one-way

Steep terrain • Natural surface

This small trout lake is a favorite destination for anglers and hikers (trout stamp required to fish). The trail goes around part of the lake and then stops before private land. Find a small dock by taking the stairs on a spur trail.

Lake Shore Trail

1.2 miles

Mostly flat • Natural surface

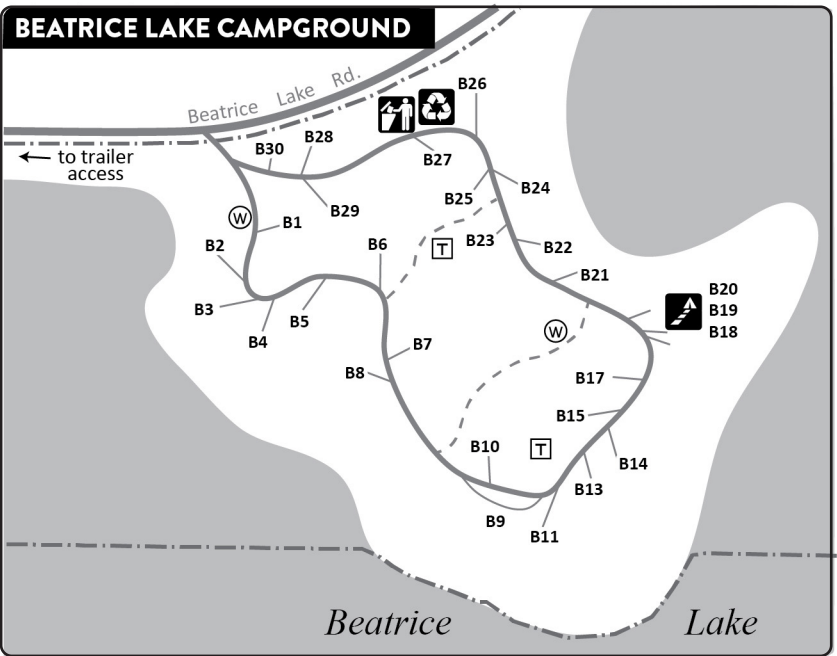
Tall pines tower over a narrow trail that meanders along the lakeshore, beginning in the campground and traveling up to the back bay of Side Lake. Loons and eagles can often be seen in this quiet backwater.

Red Top Loop

5-mile loop

Rolling hills • Natural surface

Take a walk in this less visited area of the park. The trail will reward you with solitude as you walk among old-growth red pines. Access this trail from the Pickerel Lake Trail or Big Hole Loop Trails.



SO EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE PARK...

A FULL SET OF STATE PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS IS AVAILABLE AT THE RANGER STATION OR [MNDNR.GOV](https://mndnr.gov).



PARK OPEN

8 a.m.–10 p.m. daily.



VEHICLE PERMITS

Permits required; purchase at ranger station or entrance kiosk.



PETS WELCOME

Keep on 6-foot leash; pick up after; attend at all times; not allowed in buildings or at beaches.



CAMPGROUND QUIET HOURS

10 p.m.– 8 a.m.; only registered campers may be in campground during quiet hours.



FIREWOOD

Must be purchased at this park or from vendors who sell wood approved for this park; no gathering firewood in the park.

BE OUR GUEST

- Reserve a drive-in campsite near the lake and stay awhile. Choose electric or non-electric. Each site holds a maximum of 6 people, one camping shelter, and one vehicle.
- Enjoy a get-together with family, friends or a scout group in the reservable group camp site.
- Make your reservations by visiting mndnr.gov/reservations.



WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE TACONITE STATE TRAIL? VISIT [MNDNR.GOV/TRAILS](https://mndnr.gov/trails)

? MORE INFORMATION

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Information Center
500 Lafayette Rd. , St. Paul, MN 55155-4040
888-646-6367 or mndnr.gov/parks

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This information may be available in alternative format upon request.

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