WILLIAM O’BRIEN STATE PARK

FACILITIES AND FEATURES

- Visitor center with wood stove and displays
- 2 semi-modern campgrounds with a total of 124 sites (77 with electrical hookup)
- 4 camper cabins
- Showers, flush toilets, and trailer sanitation facility
- Riverside group campground (capacity 50)
- Wedge Hill group campground (capacity 105)
- Picnic grounds with 200 tables, 3 picnic shelters, and modern restrooms
- Swimming beach
- Lake and river fishing
- Boat launching ramp
- Canoe rental (summer)
- 12 miles of hiking trails
- 12 miles of cross-country ski trails (classic & skate)
- Year-round interpretive program
- Winter camping–rustic toilets provided, water available at park office
- Firewood and ice for sale at park office

Please Observe These Park Rules:
- Pets must be on a leash no longer than six feet.
- Bikes are not allowed on trails.
- Motor vehicles are not allowed on trails.
- Snowshoeing, hiking, or walking pets is not allowed on groomed ski trails.
- A Minnesota Ski Pass is required here.

Additional Winter Rules:
- You must have the proper snowmobile registration to use the snowmobile trails.

Please Check with the Park Manager if you plan to use facilities (such as trails and roads) other than those shown.

LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION?

The DNR has mapped the state showing federal, state and county lands with their recreational facilities. To obtain a Recreation Information Map (PRIM), check your local sporting and map stores or visit 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.

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TRAILS
- Bicycle / Hiking
- Skiing / Hiking (summer only)
- Easy
- More difficult
- Most difficult
- Hiking / Snowshoeing
- Trail Intersection
- Private Property

FACILITIES
- Information/Office
- Picnic Area
- Picnic Shelter
- Swimming
- Boat Ramp
- Parking
- Canoe Rental
- Campground
- Amphitheater
- Group Camp
- Trailer Sanitation Station
- Visitor Center
- Fishing Pier
- Toilet
WILLIAM O’BRIEN STATE PARK

FOR MORE INFORMATION
William O’Brien State Park
16821 O’Brien Trail North
Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047
(651) 433-0500

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)

Department of Natural Resources
Information Center
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Department of Natural Resources
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HISTORY: Dakota and Ojibwe Indian tribes utilized the resources of the valley for centuries. Eventually, the land, rich in fur-bearing animals, wild game and useful plants, was dominated by the Ojibwe. European trappers entered the area in the 1600s to engage in the lucrative fur-trade industry. Trappers were followed by lumberjacks in 1839 seeking to harvest the “endless stands” of white pine to provide building material for an expanding nation. Numerous sawmills were established along the St. Croix. The industry flourished in the mid-1800s until the valley was cleared of white pine. William O’Brien, a lumber baron, bought much of the land once owned by the lumber companies.

In 1945, Alice O’Brien, daughter of William O’Brien, donated 180 acres to be developed as a state park in memory of her father. In 1958, David Greenberg donated Greenberg Island in memory of his parents. Accessible only by canoe, the island has become a haven for wildlife and wildflowers. Today, the park totals 1753 acres.

WILDLIFE: The variety of natural communities – the St. Croix River floodplain, oak savannas, upland prairie, hardwood forests, wetlands, lakes and rolling meadows – provides habitat for diverse wildlife populations.

Park visitors can fish the St. Croix River for northern pike, walleye, bass, and brown trout. Numerous springs and streams flowing through heavily-wooded valleys and ravines provide excellent wildlife habitat.

Raccoon, mink, beaver, and woodchuck are prevalent. Upland meadows and woods foster white-tail deer and fox. Birdwatchers frequently spot bald eagles, red-shouldered hawks, woodpeckers, bluebirds, orioles, herons and a variety of warblers.

GEOLOGY: Sandstone outcrops formed millions of years ago by inland seas are found along the St. Croix River. Glacial activity played a major role in developing the picturesque valley. As the huge glaciers lumbered south, they scoured the sandstone and deposited soil and rocks of various sizes. As large masses of ice melted, the tremendous volume of released water cut through the soft sandstone, creating the St. Croix and landscaping the wide, boulder-strewn valley.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS: William O’Brien interpretive programs offer many activities relating to the natural and cultural features of the park. A naturalist is available year-round to answer questions and share information. Interpretive program schedules are posted on bulletin boards throughout the park.

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