

# BEAVER CREEK VALLEY STATE PARK

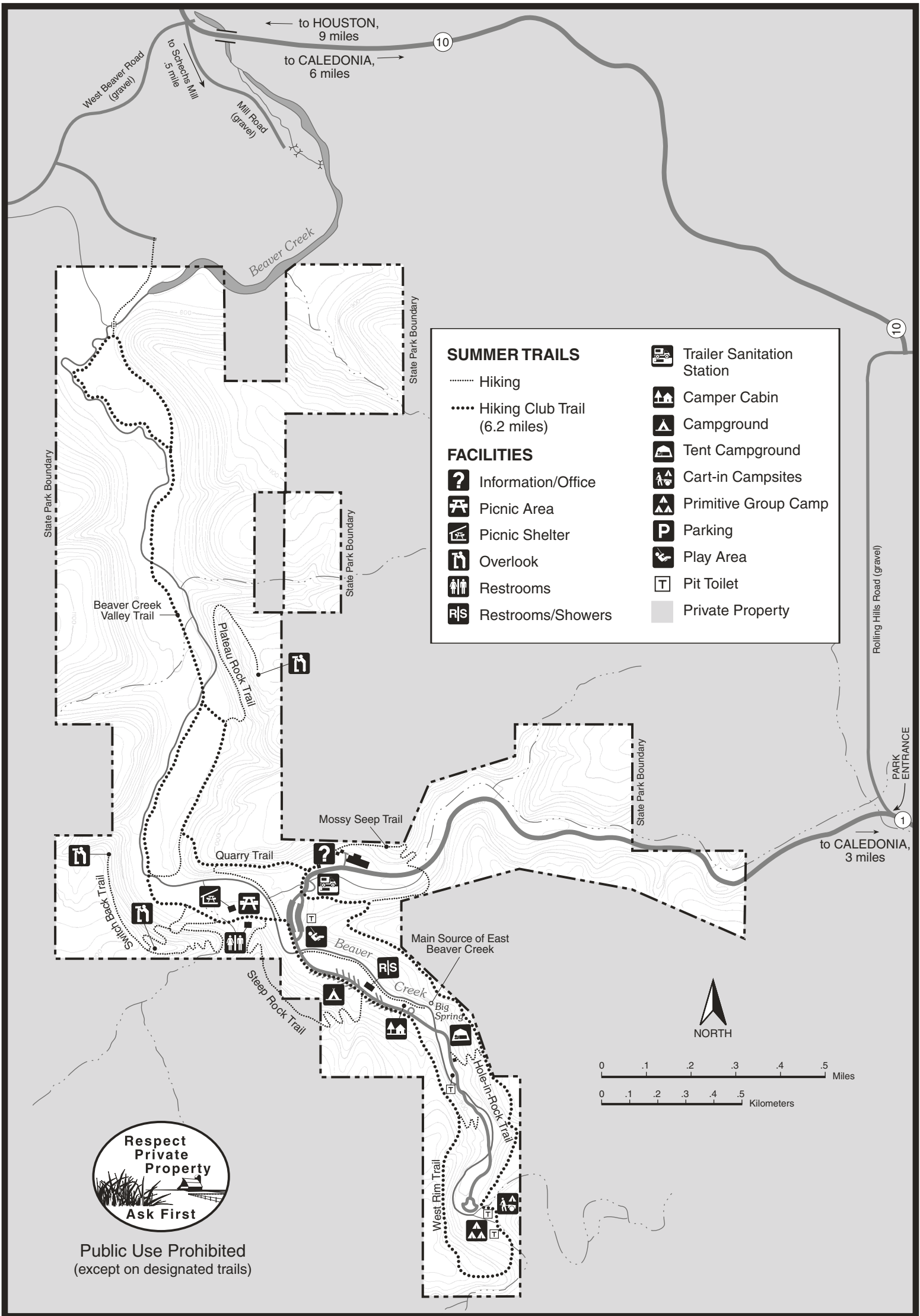
## FACILITIES AND FEATURES

- 26 semi-modern campsites
- Dump station, showers, and vault toilets
- 16 rustic campsites
- 6 cart-in campsites
- 3 primitive group camps (100 total capacity)
- Picnic grounds with fire rings, tables and an enclosed shelter
- 8 miles of hiking trail

### LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION?

The DNR has mapped separate areas of 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.**



Public Use Prohibited (except on designated trails)



# BEAVER CREEK VALLEY STATE PARK

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Beaver Creek Valley State Park  
15954 County Road 1  
Caledonia, MN 55921-8653  
(507) 724-2107

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](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)  
State Parks page: [www.mnstateparks.info](http://www.mnstateparks.info)

**BEAVER CREEK VALLEY STATE PARK** is located in Houston County in southeastern Minnesota. It is five miles west of Caledonia on County Road 1 off State Highway 76. Highway map index: O-21.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Beaver Creek Valley State Park is a nature lover's paradise where watercress grows in the crystalline purity of spring-fed East Beaver Creek, even in the midst of winter. Anglers find peaceful delight in luring trout from quiet pools beneath rugged limestone bluffs. Campers are lulled to sleep by the hoot of nocturnal owls and the murmuring stream after a day exploring virgin hardwood forests, prairie areas with native grasses and wildflowers and a diverse wildlife preserve.

**GEOLOGY:** Beaver Creek Valley State Park is situated in one of the most interesting geologic areas in Minnesota – the “driftless area”. It covers 10,000 square miles in adjoining parts of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois. The area was untouched by most recent glacial advances. However, as the glaciers receded, torrents of meltwater poured into streams and rivers, carving deep rugged valleys with tremendous erosive power.

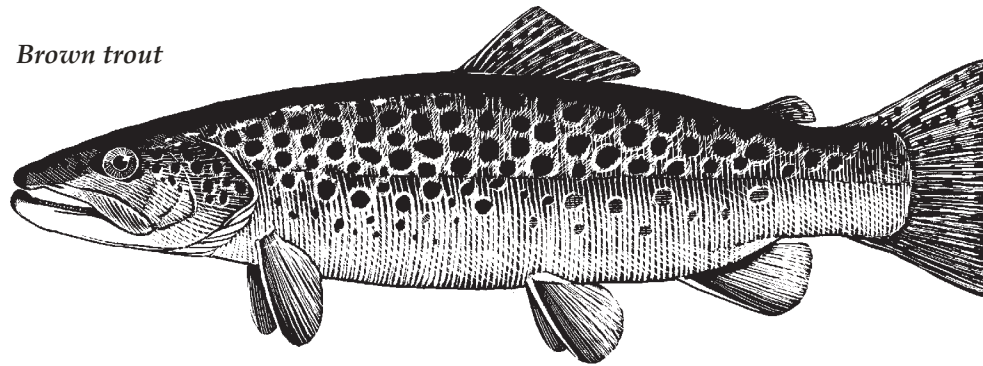
The valley walls of the park rise as much as 250 feet above Beaver Creek. These rocky walls are made up of a layer of sandstone sandwiched between two layers of dolomite, a sedimentary rock similar to limestone. They were deposited by inland seas between 450 and 500 million years ago.

Fresh water springs are common along the valley walls in the vicinity of the park. Examples are those on East Beaver Creek near the campground and picnic shelter building. The numerous springs are attributed to the two porous layers of rock – oneota dolomite and Jordan sandstone which are near or at the surface. The porous nature of these two rock layers permits subsurface water to percolate through and appear on the surface as a spring.

**HISTORY:** Areas in the park were used by Native Americans. Stone tools have been found and preliminary archaeological surveys have reported a village site. Other areas of the valley were home-steaded by settlers and there are remains of an old home site in the park.

**VEGETATION:** The vegetation prior to European settlement was similar to what is in the park today. In the valley grew lowland hardwoods – willow, boxelder, cottonwood and elm. Northern hardwoods – maple, walnut, basswood and oaks – were found on the slopes and on the flat areas above the valley.

*Brown trout*



The park has an abundance of rare plant species and plays an important role in their protection and perpetuation. There are also small areas of native prairie especially on south and west facing slopes.

**WILDLIFE:** This great diversity of plant species also contributes to a great diversity in wildlife. Some of the animals found in the park are deer, raccoon, muskrat, mink, badger, red and grey fox and occasionally beaver and turkey. Birding is especially good with several species found in southern Minnesota that do not occur in the rest of the state.

Another interesting animal in the park

is the timber rattlesnake. While the snake lives in the park it is seldom seen. They are not numerous and are little or no threat to park visitors. If one should be encountered, leave it alone – do not attempt to capture it or kill it. If it is in the campground or picnic ground please contact park staff immediately. All wildlife including snakes are protected in state parks.

Through Beaver Creek Valley runs one of the best trout streams in southeastern Minnesota. Major trout stream habitat work has encouraged very good natural reproduction and the development of

trophy brown trout (16" and greater). They are all natural trout, not stocked, and are a great challenge to the avid trout angler.

There is a potential for flash flooding in the park after heavy rain. Contact the park manager for specific instructions if evacuation of the campground seems necessary.

## 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 is closed from 10

P.M. to 8 A.M. the following morning except to registered campers. Loud noises and other disturbances are not allowed after 10 P.M in the campground.

- 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).

*This information is available in alternative format upon request.*

“Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is available to all individuals regardless of race, color, creed or religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, age or disability. Discrimination inquires should be sent to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4031; or the Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.”

© 4/2010 by State of Minnesota,  
Department of Natural Resources

