

JUDGE C.R. MAGNEY STATE PARK

FACILITIES AND FEATURES:

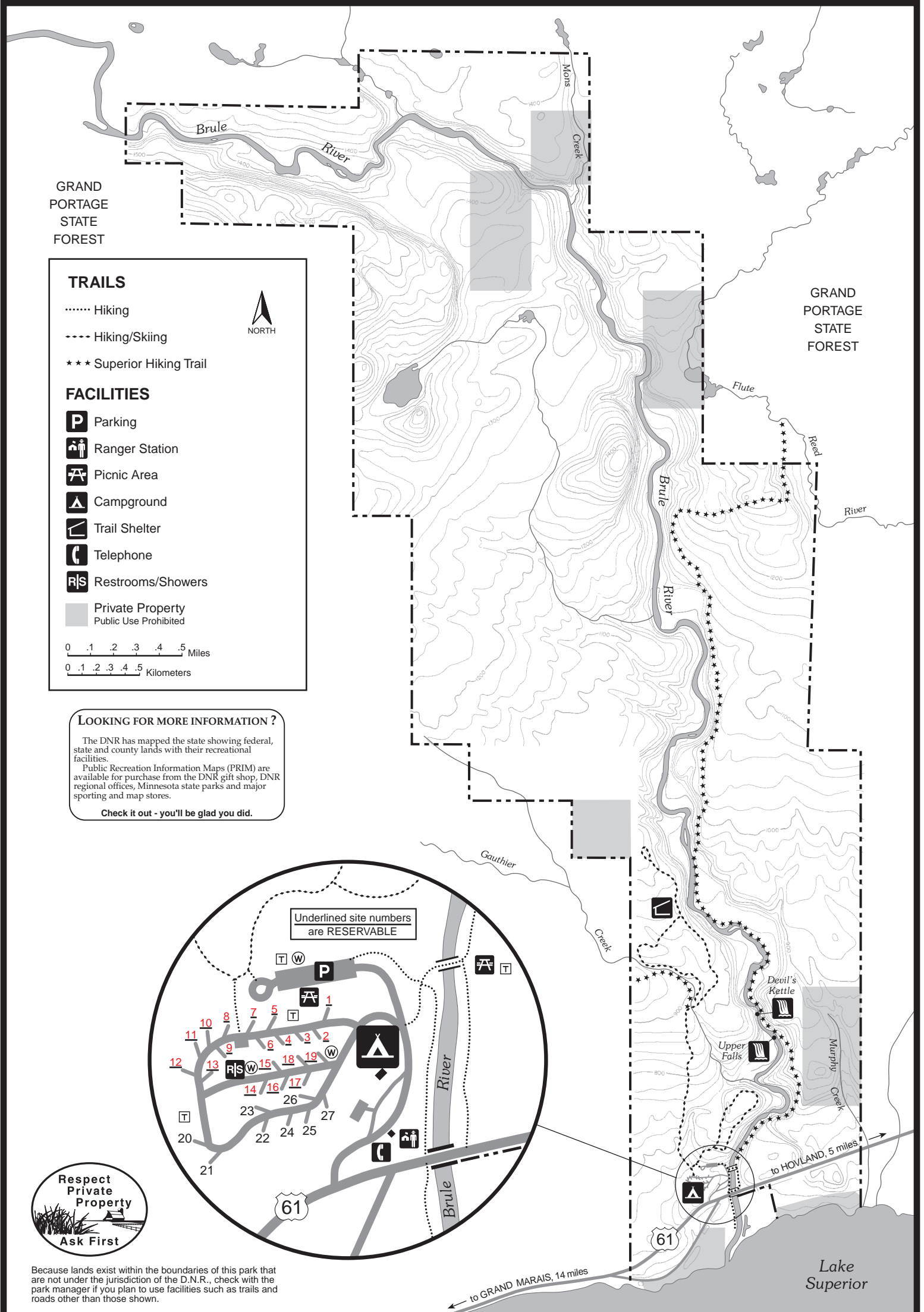
- Semi-modern campground with 27 sites
- Picnic area along the banks of the Brule River
- 9 miles of hiking trail
- 5 miles of ski trail

VISITOR FAVORITES:

- The Devil's Kettle of the Brule River
- Trout fishing
- Hiking
- Birdwatching
- Camping
- Picnicking
- Superior Hiking Trail



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Department of Natural Resources





JUDGE C.R. MAGNEY STATE PARK

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Judge C.R. Magney State Park
4051 East Highway 61
Grand Marais, MN 55604-2150
(218) 387-3039

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

JUDGE C.R. MAGNEY STATE PARK is located in Cook County, 14 miles northeast of Grand Marais on U.S. Highway 61. Highway map index: R-6.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Judge C. R. Magney State Park is located on the Brule River in the Arrowhead Region of northeastern Minnesota. The statutory boundary of the park includes 4,674 acres (445 acres of which are private lands).

The vast open waters of Lake Superior moderate

the area climate. Summers are generally cool; winters are usually mild with abundant snowfall. Rain and fog are common in the spring and early summer. Summertime temperatures rarely exceed 80 degrees Fahrenheit; evenings are usually cool.

The scenic Brule River races through the park, forming whitewater rapids and waterfalls on its way to Lake Superior. Along the lower stretches of the river, within two miles of Lake Superior, are a series of spectacular waterfalls. Here you can find the mysterious Devil's Kettle Falls. Above the Devil's Kettle a jutting rock mass divides the river into two sections. The eastern section drops about 50 feet to a pool below, while the western portion plunges into a huge pothole and, according to local legend, disappears forever.

Judge C. R. Magney State Park offers picnic grounds along the banks of the Brule River, a quiet rustic campground, and miles of spectacular hiking trails.

HISTORY: Visitors will notice numerous concrete foundations in the campground and picnic areas. These are the remains of a transient work camp built here in 1934 by the State of Minnesota. Named after the director of the Division of Forestry in Minnesota at that time, the Grover Conzet Camp provided work and lodging for men displaced during the Depression years. Work in the camp included farming to provide camp food, building fire trails, logging, and implementing public service projects. When the great fire of 1936 burned some 10,000 acres north of Hovland, these men helped fight the fire; later they set up a sawmill at Irish Creek and began to salvage fire-damaged wood. Another camp project established a small tourist park next to the Brule River. The Grover Conzet Camp was phased out with the end of the Great Depression.

In 1957 a 940-acre parcel of forest along the Brule River was set aside as Bois Brule State Park. The park became Judge C. R. Magney State Park in 1963 when the Minnesota State Legislature chose this park as a memorial to the late Judge Magney; special dedication services in September of 1964 formally honored Clarence Magney (1883-1962). He was a lawyer, mayor of Duluth, justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, and a strong advocate of Minnesota State Parks, especially those along the North Shore. With his background and influence, he was instrumental in establishing eleven state parks and way-sides along Lake Superior. His philosophy is best summed up by his statement: "Our state parks are everyone's country estate."

GEOLOGY: The geologic history of the bedrock

exposed along Superior's North Shore began some 1.2 billion years ago. During the mountain-building, volcanic activity of Precambrian time, molten lava poured forth through great fissures that developed in the earth's crust. The northeast limb lava flows (Lutsen to Grand Portage) of the North Shore Volcanic Group are estimated to exceed 21,000 feet in thickness. One particular flow complex, the Brule River rhyolite flow, is thought to be as much as 3,500 feet thick. As these flows accumulated, the land along the rift zone sank to form a great basin, presently occupied by Lake Superior. Long periods of erosion ensued. The local Sawtooth Mountains of the Grand Marais area are the remnants of this ancient mountain range.

During the last ice age glaciers also took their toll on the area landscape. Glacial action in Cook County eroded more earth than it deposited, resulting in many areas of exposed bedrock. Massive ice sheets gouged out basins and scoured the surface of the bedrock. The lakes formed by glacial meltwater had many different levels. Beach deposits can be found many miles inland from Lake Superior's present beaches. Recent studies have identified ancient beach deposits at elevations nearly 800 feet above Lake Superior's present level.

Streams and rivers continue to erode the area as they make their way to Lake Superior. As you explore the Brule River Valley, examine the ancient basalt lava flows exposed near Highway 61 and the older rhyolite flows further upstream. Notice how the erosive forces of nature are still at work changing our environment.

WILDLIFE AND VEGETATION: Sightings of moose, white-tailed deer, black bear and timber wolves occur frequently at Judge Magney. Pine martin, fisher, red fox, otter and coyote also inhabit the undeveloped areas of the park. The woodchuck, snowshoe hare, red squirrel and chipmunk are common residents of the trails and campground. If the animals are not visible, look for signs of their presence such as tracks, antler-scraped trees, dens, scat, chewed twigs and bits of hair or fur.

Birdwatchers will find a bonanza of warblers during the nesting months of May, June and July. Early fall is a good time to observe migrating hawks as they congregate along the shore of Lake Superior. Year-round residents such as the ruffed grouse, nuthatches, woodpeckers, jays and chickadees are always a pleasure to watch.

Wildlife is dependent upon vegetation for food and shelter. The incredible variety of plant com-

munities growing in Magney provides a lush environment for the area wildlife. Elevation variations of over a thousand feet, along with significant temperature and moisture differentials, allow for a diversity of plants not found in most parts of the state. Habitats range from moist, hidden canyons to sunny and dry windswept ridges. The boreal, or northern, forest of the park is dominated by birch and aspen stands. Large white spruce grace the campground and other upland areas. Small black spruce inhabit the swampy lowland, while balsam fir is scattered throughout the park. Although white pine is somewhat scarce, several small but impressive stands do exist. Along the river the white cedar that cling to the canyon walls often appear to be growing out of solid rock. Elderberry, mountain (moose) maple, alder and other shrubs provide good winter browse for deer and moose.

The wildflowers begin their show in early spring with marsh marigold, wood anemone and violet; progress into summer with rose, thimbleberry, moccasin flower, coral root, clintonia, twin-flower, bunch berry, wild sarsaparilla, cow parsnip and fireweed; and continue into autumn with asters and goldenrod. Many of the trees of the park also bloom. These include the mountain ash, pincherry, chokecherry and serviceberry. Although wildflowers may not be picked, edible fruit such as the strawberry, blueberry, raspberry, and thimbleberry may be. Be absolutely certain of the fruit before you eat!

Careful observation of plants and animals will reveal unsuspected relationships. Take time to explore the trails; be sensitive to changes in temperature, moisture and elevation. See how these changes affect the vegetation and in turn the wildlife. Perhaps you may wish to relax under a magnificent white pine on a thick carpet of mosses and needles and marvel at how ferns can survive clinging to the side of a sheer cliff. Maybe you will find yourself admiring the unique beauty of Lake Superior from a high rock hilltop as you watch the sun rise over the misty form of Isle Royale far in the distance. However you decide to spend your time, be open to new things; a limitless number of discoveries are possible in a Minnesota State Park. Your visit may be brief, but memories of your discoveries can last forever.

FISHING: The angler will enjoy fishing for brook and rainbow trout in the Brule or its tributary, Gauthier Creek. The steelhead trout spawning run in the spring and the salmon run in the fall provide excellent fishing opportunities.

NOTE: Special fishing regulations apply to North Shore streams—consult posted fishing regulations for details. A Minnesota fishing license and a state trout stamp are required when fishing in North Shore trout streams.

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).

This information is available in alternative format upon request.

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