

# GOOSEBERRY FALLS STATE PARK

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Gooseberry Falls State Park  
3206 Highway 61  
Two Harbors, MN 55616  
(218) 834-3855

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us>

## VISITOR FAVORITES

- Scenic rocky gorge where water plunges over a series of 30-foot waterfalls
- Lake Superior shoreline with well-exposed ancient lava flow
- "Castle in the Park" stone wall & other historic CCC buildings
- Gateway Plaza overlooks and outdoor signs for kids by kids
- River View, Gitchi Gummi & Fifth Falls trails
- Superior Hiking Trail access
- Connection to paved Gitchi Gami bike trail

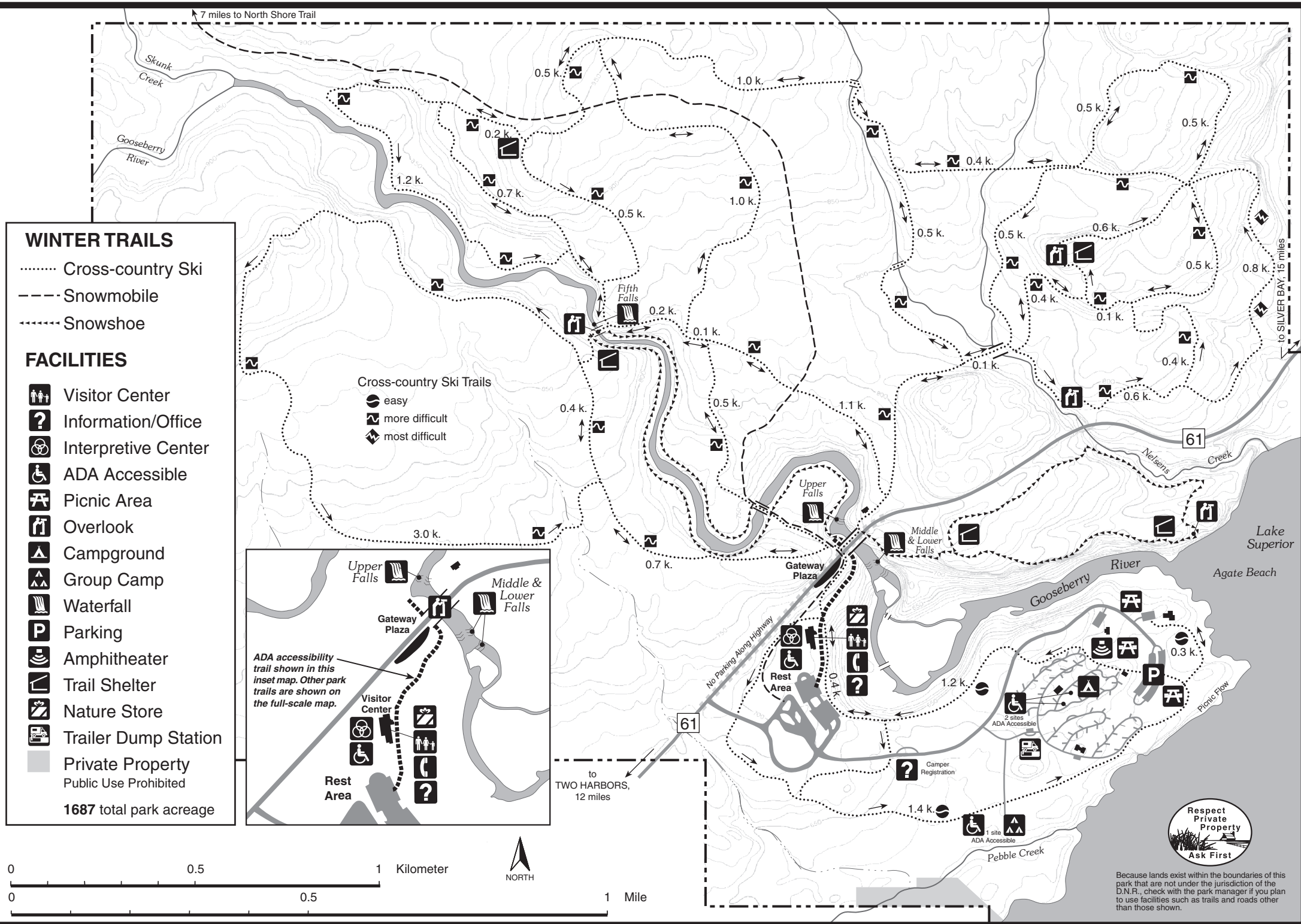
## FACILITIES AND FEATURES

- 1687 total park acreage
- Visitor Center with Nature Store & Trail Center
- 69 semi-modern & 3 group campsites near Lake Superior
- 18 miles of year-round trails
- 3 picnic areas
- Seasonal naturalist program
- Trout fishing

### 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.





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

**GOOSEBERRY FALLS STATE PARK** is located in Minnesota's North Shore Highlands near Two Harbors. Take U.S. Highway 61 northeast from Two Harbors to the park (about 13 miles). Highway map index: N-9.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Rocky Lake Superior shoreline and five waterfalls highlight Gooseberry Falls State Park's landscape. Waterfalls can be viewed near the Highway 61 bridge and in the gorge. Here the Gooseberry River tumbles over the 30-foot Upper Falls into a pool, glides to the two-tiered Middle and Lower Falls, plunging 60 feet to the last pool, and then meanders through a valley to Lake Superior.

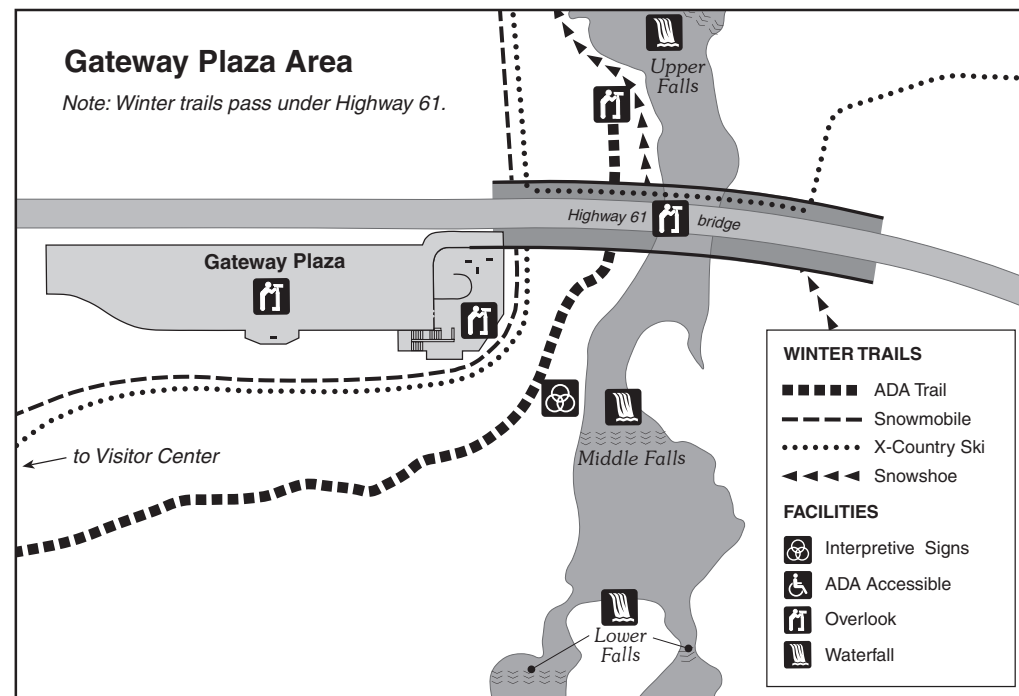
Trails lead along the Gooseberry River, Lake Superior shoreline, and through mixed evergreen, aspen, and birch forests. In the 1890s, the park was covered with gigantic white pines. Along most park trails, visitors find remnants of pine stumps from timber cutting in the region. Some disjunct populations of arctic-alpine plants can be found because the local climate is moderated by Lake Superior (generally temperatures are 10 degrees F warmer in the winter and 10 degrees F cooler in the summer than inland areas of Northeastern Minnesota).

**WILDLIFE:** The park has recorded over 142 species of birds that nest in or visit the park, 46 species of mammals, and ten species of amphibians and reptiles. Of special interest to visitors are white-tailed deer that winter in the park in groups, herring gulls that establish nesting colonies along the lakeshore, several species of Lake Superior salmon and trout, common loons, black bears, gray wolves, and ravens. During fall and spring many migratory birds can be seen because the park is along the North Shore flyway.

**GEOLOGY:** Geologists have determined that about one billion years ago, the earth began to split apart along the area now known as the North Shore. Lava flowed out onto the earth and cooled to form volcanic bedrock. Several lava flows can be seen at the Upper, Middle,

and Lower Falls and south of the Gooseberry River along Lake Superior. (The lava flows are also the "birthplaces" of Lake Superior agates.) About two million years ago, glaciers advanced into the region. As they ground across the area, they changed the landscape dramatically. About 10,000 years ago the last glacier melted back, filling the infant Lake Superior and beginning the erosional process that creates waterfalls. Today, water, wind, and weather continue to shape the North Shore.

**HISTORY:** The area known as Gooseberry Falls State Park is intricately tied to human use of Lake Superior. At different times, the Cree, the Dakotah, and the Ojibwe lived along the North Shore. As early as 1670, the Gooseberry River appeared on explorer maps. The river was either named after French explorer Sieur des Groseilliers or after the Anishinabe Indian name "Shab-on-im-i-kan-i-sibi," both, when translated, refer to gooseberries. In the 1870s, commercial and sport fishermen began to use this area. By the 1890s, logging became the principle use of the land around the Gooseberry River. In 1900, the Nestor Logging Company built its headquarters at the river mouth and a railway, which was used to carry the pine to the lake for rafting to the sawmills. Because of fires and intensive logging pressures, the large pine disappeared by the early 1920s. With the rise of North Shore tourism in the 1920s, there was a concern that the highly scenic North Shore would be accessible to only the rich. As a result, the state legislature authorized preservation of the area around Gooseberry Falls in 1933. The following year, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) began to develop the park. CCC crews built the park's stone and log buildings and the 300-foot long "Castle in the Park" stone retaining



wall. They also laid out the original campground, picnic grounds, and trails. In 1937, the area officially became Gooseberry Falls State Park. The CCC camps closed in 1941, but the park's CCC legacy lives on. In 1996, the new visitor center/wayside rest and Highway 61 bridge opened, designed with ties to the CCC.

## SO EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE PARK...

- The park belongs to all Minnesotans. Treat it with respect and consideration.
- For your safety and the safety of others, please be careful while exploring the falls area and the park.
- Pets must be kept on a leash not longer than six feet.
- Enjoy the animals, but do not approach or feed them.
- Leave rocks and plants where they are. They make up much of the park's beauty. Do not collect them.
- Except for registered campers, the park is closed from 10:00 P.M. until 8:00 A.M. Loud noises or other disturbances are prohibited after 10:00 P.M.

- Park only in designated parking areas.
- Park permits are not required for the visitor center/wayside rest area. However, to drive to other areas in the park, a vehicle permit is required. Permits are available for purchase at visitor center and camper registration office.

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

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