



ACCESSIBLE OUTDOORS

2018 Bonding Initiative: Bringing Comprehensive Packages of Accessible Recreation to Minnesota State Parks

The problem: Aging infrastructure and non-compliant facilities

- The State of Minnesota is committed to the right of all Minnesotans to equitably enjoy the health and wellness benefits of outdoor recreation, as well as the historic, cultural and natural resources found in our outdoor recreation system.
- The DNR Division of Parks and Trails routinely upgrades our buildings to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards during our renovation and rehabilitation projects.
- While facility renovation and new construction have partially addressed our building accessibility issues, DNR would like to ensure that several state parks are not only ADA compliant but also provide a comprehensive outdoor recreation experience for people with disabilities.
- In addition to buildings and bathrooms, accessibility improvements are also needed in picnic shelters, campsites, trails to outstanding natural features, beaches, amphitheaters, play and parking areas.



Raised thresholds in older buildings don't meet ADA standards.

The proposal: Comprehensively address accessibility at 1-2 parks

- The DNR proposes to bring aging, inaccessible and partially accessible public amenities into compliance with today's ADA standards, so that all key park amenities can be enjoyed by all Minnesotans.
- In addition to renovating bathrooms, showers, campsites, trails and day-use facilities to accommodate all visitors, the project will include developing new, accessible facilities (e.g., yurts or nature play areas) that can accommodate people of all abilities, regardless of age, ability or physical limitation.
- Rather than the current piecemeal approach, the end goal of this project is to have 1-2 state parks that provide accessibility across all aspects of the park:
 - From entrance into the park office,
 - To camping and personal wellness facilities (bathrooms and showers),
 - To naturalist exhibits and programs,
 - To the trails that lead to the park's most amazing natural or cultural features.



Narrow doorways prohibit wheelchairs from entering restroom facilities.

2018 Bonding Request: \$10 million

- Consult with Minnesota Council on Disability (MCOD) on site assessments and design.
- Complete a portfolio of upgrades at William O'Brien State Park and complete plans for a future portfolio project at Ft. Snelling State Park.
- Produce accessible wayfinding, signage, exhibits and promotional materials.

Many parks are in need of accessibility improvements.

Proposed improvements that would make William O'Brien State Park accessible to all Minnesotans:

AREAS

▪ Lake Alice Day-use Area

1. Picnic shelter
2. Bathroom building
3. Amphitheater
4. Rental area
5. Water Access (boat launch)
6. Fishing pier
7. Beach
8. Parking
- Nature play area (TBD)

▪ Interpretive Center

9. Interpretive Exhibits
10. Building renovation

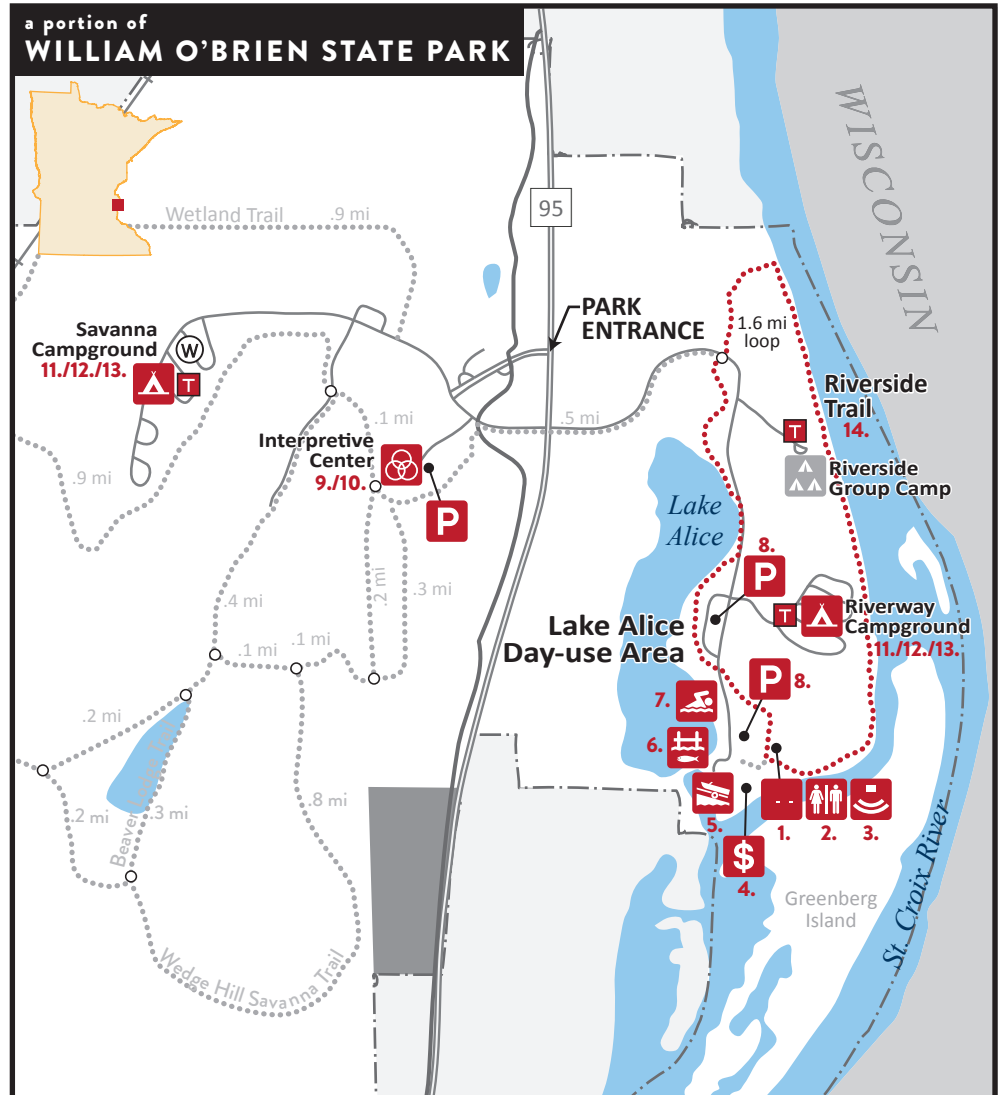
▪ Campgrounds

11. Shower building
12. Campsites
13. Vault toilets

▪ 14. Riverside Trail Loop

PARK-WIDE

- Wayfinding and signage
- Parking and access routes
- Promotional resources



We aspire to provide accessible recreation opportunities to all Minnesotans.



Wheelchair accessible picnic tables



Accessible walkways



Accessible, paved trails



Accessible, unpaved trails