



TRAILS 'N TRAVELS

2026 Walking Events in Minnesota State Parks & Trails



*Crow Wing State Park.
Photo by Donna Seline.*

February 28

Afton

Snowshoe

*Postpone date:
March 7*

May 30
C.A. Lindbergh Walk

May 31
Crow Wing Walk



*St. Croix River
Wild River State Park
Photo by Donna Seline.*

August 1
Big Stone Lake Walk

August 2
Lac qui Parle Walk

September 13
Nerstrand Big Woods Walk

October 31
Wild River Guided Walk
and Annual Meeting



The NorthStar Trail Travelers (AVA 601) events are
sanctioned by the AVA in the IVV and are eligible
for credit toward IVV Achievement Awards.

In partnership with



2026 in the state parks with NSTT

Welcome to NSTT's 2026 events in Minnesota State Parks! We encourage you to bring your family and friends along to enjoy walking in our great state parks!

We'll kick off the year at the beginning of the alphabet, going to **Afton State Park on February 28** for our annual snowshoe/walk event. Enjoy several options for winter walking at one of our favorite parks!

Our spring walks will be heading west to **C.A. Lindbergh State Park on Saturday, May 30** and **Crow Wing State Park on Sunday, May 31**. See where Charles Lindbergh landed the Jenny and visit the fur trading and ox cart trail at Crow Wing.

August 1 and 2 we go west to two parks that NSTT has never been to! **August 1** we go to **Big Stone Lake** on the SD/MN border. Big Stone Lake is the source of the Minnesota River and is a small park, which is why we've avoided it in the past. But creative trail scouting will give us our distance! **August 2** we go down to **Lac qui Parle State Park** just northwest of Montevideo. The park is a major migration route for Canada Geese and other waterfowl, and it also has the largest cottonwood tree in Minnesota!



The state's largest cottonwood tree in Lac qui Parle State Park. Photo by Donna Seline.

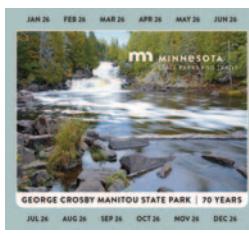
In **September** we're doing something a bit different as the three clubs of Minnesota sponsor a 3-day weekend of events. **LCW** will sponsor events in **Mantorville and Northfield on Friday, September 11**; **TCV** will sponsor events to the **State Capitol and Whitetail Woods Regional Park on Saturday, September 12**; and **NSTT** will sponsor an event at **Nerstrand Big Woods on Sunday, September 13**. Come support volkssporting at this weekend event!

NSTT finishes out the year alphabetically with our annual meeting guided walk at **Wild River State Park on Halloween, October 31**! Besides the three groups (10km, 5km and naturalist walks) we'll hold our famous pot luck lunch followed by a membership meeting and door prizes!

Don't miss NSTT's 2026 events!

State Park Vehicle Permit

A state park vehicle permit is required when you enter any state park. Daily permits cost \$7. An annual permit can be purchased for \$35 and entitles you to an unlimited number of visits to any and all Minnesota State Parks for 12 months after date of purchase. Go to dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/permit.html.



NSTT 2026 Board of Directors

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Afton State Park Winter Fun Snowshoe/Walk

Saturday, February 28

3

Event ID: 131782

Registration: Visitor Center. Register between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and finish by 3 p.m. Naturalist walk will begin at 11 a.m.

Award: Fox Squirrel leather pin.

Cost: Award, \$9; IVV event book credit, \$4; walk only, \$4.

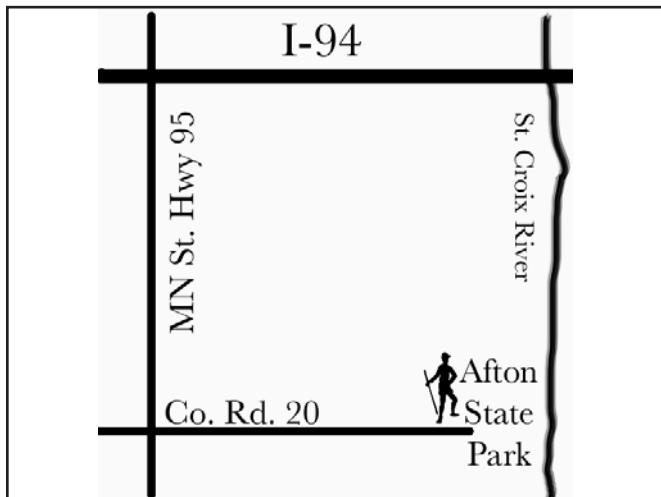


Distance: Sanctioned for

7km. The 4km out and back on the bike trail goes out to the yurts/south camping area. Plowed trail through prairie area with some small hills. The 1Km goes from the Visitor Center out and around the interpretive trail loop and this trail will not be groomed or marked. The naturalist loop will walk around the prairie area for approximately 2km.

For info: Go to nstt.org or call Donna, 612-612-402-5016 or Lynne, 763-780-4567. Contact park at 651-201-6780.

Directions: 6959 Peller Ave S., Hastings, MN 55033
From MSP: East 9 miles on I94 to Manning Ave (MN



95), South 7 miles to 70th St. S, East 3 miles to park. Approx 22 miles from downtown St. Paul. Located in Washington County.

Afton State Park has rental snowshoes available at the office. For those joining the Naturalist Walk, traditional snowshoes will be provided. All others bring your own snowshoes or walk in your winter boots.

This event will be postponed in case of inclement weather. **Postpone date is March 7.** Watch for email alert and the NSTT website for postpone info.

NSTT Corps Program



Does your "best friend" walk with you? Then pick up a K-9 Corps registration book and give your best friend credit for walking too! All Folkswalks count but get rewards only from NSTT.

Receive a bag of gourmet treats at 10 events and an NSTT logo bandana at 25 events!

NSTT Event Participant Picnics We feed our walkers!

Every NSTT event offers a "participant picnic" available to all walkers for a small donation to cover our costs. The menu may vary, but the food is always tasty and usually cooked on a grill! After some events we will also have our famous Hobo Soup Supper potluck! So plan to spend some time visiting and grab a bite to eat, while supporting NSTT events in Minnesota State Parks.



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C.A. Lindbergh/Crow Wing State Parks

Spring Fun Walks

C.A. Lindbergh State Park Saturday, May 30

Event ID 131783

Registration: Lindberg Picnic Shelter. Register between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Finish by 4 p.m.

Award: Pink Trillium leather pin.

Cost: Award, \$9; IVV event book credit, \$4; walk only, \$4. Vehicle permit required, see page 2.

Distance: The event is sanctioned for 10km (6.2 miles) made up of two 5km loops. The trails are generally shady and grassy. One 5km loop has a moderately steep, rocky section. A walking stick is recommended and a walk-around trail for this area will be marked. Trails wind through woods, prairie and along Pike Creek and the Mississippi River. The main Hiking Club loop visits the site where Lindbergh landed his "Jenny" plane. Shorter paths follow Pike Creek or river-front. A quieter Little Elk unit north of the main park adds a small loop amid forest and river views.

For info: Go to nott.org or call Ellie, 218-565-0508, or Mary, 218-340-0548. For park info 218-825-3075.

Directions to the park: 1615 Lindbergh Drive South, Little Falls, MN. From US Hwy. 10, take Hwy. 27 west into Little Falls. Turn left on Lindbergh Dr. S. just past the Mississippi River bridge, go south approximately one mile to the park. Approximately 92 miles from the Cities.

From Brainerd, take Hwy. 371 south. Exit to Little Falls on Hwy 76. In Little Falls go west on Hwy 27, cross the Mississippi River, turn left on Lindbergh Drive S., to the park.



Crow Wing State Park Sunday, May 31

Event ID 131784

Registration: Picnic shelter. Register between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., finish by 3 p.m.

Award: Blackpole Warbler leather pin.

Cost: Award, \$9; IVV event book credit, \$4; walk only, \$4. Vehicle permit required, see page 2.



Distance: The event is sanctioned for 10km (6.2 miles) made up of a 4km and a 6km loop. The trails are shady, level, grassy and stroller friendly. Trails wind through prairie, pine, and hardwood forest at the confluence of the Crow Wing and Mississippi Rivers.

For info: Go to nott.org or call Ellie, 218-565-0508, or Mary, 218-340-0548. For park info 218-825-3075.

Directions to the park: 3124 State Park Rd, Brainerd, MN 56401. From the south, take Hwy 10 W; exit toward MN 371 toward Brainerd, left on N. Koering Rd, continue on State Park Rd (CR 27). Approximately 118 miles from the cities. From Brainerd, 371 S, right on 60th Ave, continue on State Park Rd (CR 27). The distance is approximately 10 miles from Brainerd.

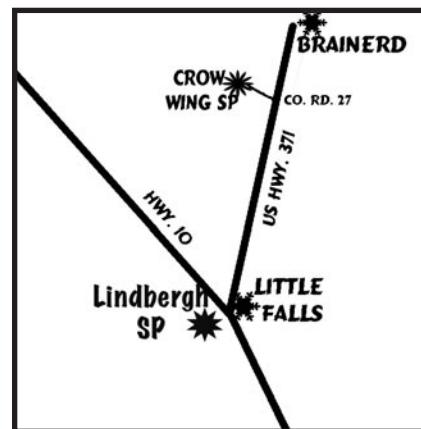
Mosquito/bug nets will be for sale for \$2!

Bugs could be bad so we'll have BUG SPRAY ... but you may want to bring your own as well!

The distance between Charles A. Lindbergh State Park and Crow Wing State Park is 26 miles.

There are hotels available both in Brainerd and Little Falls.

Lindbergh campground offers 59 campsites, 12 of which are electric, and one camper cabin. There is also a seasonal shower building. Crow Wing has 38 drive-in campsites, 15 of which have electrical hookups. A water fill-up and dumping station for trailers are located near the campground.



Big Stone Lake/Lac qui Parle State Parks Summer Fun Walks

5

Big Stone Lake State Park Saturday, August 1

Event ID 131785

Registration: Picnic Area across from park office. Register between 9 a.m.-2 p.m., finish by 4 p.m.

Award: Bobolink leather pin.

Cost: Award, \$9; IVV event book credit, \$4; walk only, \$4. Vehicle permit required, see page 2.



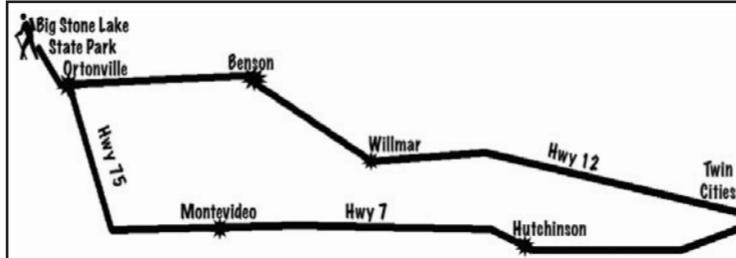
Distance: Sanctioned for 10km, made up of two 5km loops. The Bluebird Trail starts from registration area.

Note: This is a very small park, so to walk a full 10km, you will need to walk the Bluebird Trail twice. The Prairie Trail will go around the Fish Rearing Pond and back to registration for 5km.

For info: Go to nslt.org or contact Peter Cartwright, 612-850-4700. Park telephone: 320-839-3663

Directions to the park: 35889 Meadowbrook State Park Rd., Ortonville, MN 56278. From Twin Cities: go west on State Highway 7, or go west on State Highway 12 to 75 North to Ortonville. The park is about 200 miles from the Twin Cities. Located in Big Stone County.

Distance between parks:
46 miles, about one hour drive.



Lodging information: Idle Spurs Inn, Ortonville, 320-839-2558 or Econo Lodge, Ortonville, 320-839-2414.

Lac qui Parle State Park Sunday, August 2

Event ID 131786

Registration: Open Shelter inside lower Park entrance. Register between 9 a.m.-1 p.m., finish by 3 p.m.

Award: Canada Goose leather pin.

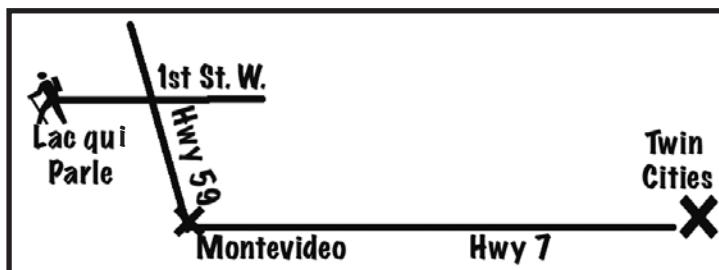
Cost: Award, \$9; IVV event book credit, \$4; walk only, \$4. Vehicle permit required, see page 2.



Distance: Sanctioned for 10km with two 5km loops. Trail 1 follows the Hiking Club Trail around the historic Map Shelter building and includes the River Trail along the Lac qui Parle river. It is flat and mainly mowed grass surface. Trail 2 is an out-and-back along the Beach Trail up to the Boat Launch and back. It is flat and the surface is both gravel and mowed grass. Both trails are stroller friendly.

For info: Peter Cartwright, 612-850-4700. For park info call 320-435-4033.

Directions to the park: 3756 Lac qui Parle Cty. Rd 33, Watson, MN 56295. Travel straight west on State Highway 7 through Montevideo to Hwy. 59 north to Cty. Rd. 33 (1st Street W - MN River Valley Scenic Byway), left to park. It is about 140 miles from the Twin Cities. Located in Lac qui Parle County.



For lodging information, contact Peter, 612-850-4700.

Nerstrand Big Woods State Park

Meander Minnesota Fall Fun Walks

Meander Minnesota September 11-13

The three AVA clubs in Minnesota will be hosting a joint three day event in southeastern Minnesota, September 11-13.

Lake Country Wanderers will be hosting **Friday, September 11**, with a morning walk in the historic town of Mantorville for Marigold Days, and an afternoon walk in Northfield for the "Defeat of Jesse James Days" city-wide celebration. Food will be available at local food trucks.

Twin Cities Volkssport will be hosting **Saturday, September 12** with a morning walk to the **Minnesota State Capitol**, followed by an afternoon walk in **Whitetail Woods Regional Park** in Farmington. There will be a booya dinner, with a bottomless bowl of booya, salad, rolls, and dessert for a suggested donation of \$10.

NorthStar Trail Travelers will be hosting an all day event on **Sunday, September 13** at **Nerstrand Big Woods State Park** in Nerstrand, with a 5km and a 6km route, sanctioned for 11 km. They will have a brat lunch with chips and dessert for a suggested donation of \$6.

Participants must register onsite at each event. The Nerstrand event will also offer its own award pin for an additional fee. All event participants will have an opportunity to purchase a commemorative coaster with the Meander Minnesota dates and logos of the three clubs.

Registration information, directions and lodging suggestions will be emailed out prior to the event.



Booya Soup Dinner
Saturday, September 12 -
Whitetail Woods Regional Park
Suggested donation \$10
Watch for more details!

Nerstrand Big Woods State Park Sunday, September 13

Event ID 131787

Registration: Picnic Shelter (roofed, but open sides). Has toilets, fireplace and electrical outlets. Register between 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; finish by 3 p.m.

Award: Dwarf Trout Lily leather pin.

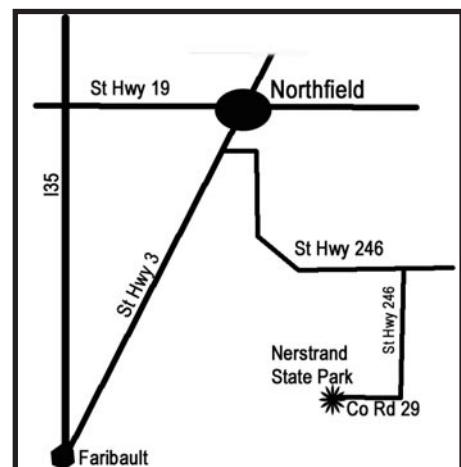


Cost: Award, \$9; IVV event book credit, \$4; walk only, \$4. Vehicle permit required, see page 2.

Distance: Sanctioned for 11km. 6km trail is mainly the Hiking Club Trail with both packed dirt and gravel surfaces and is wooded with moderate hills. It also has a boardwalk and stairs near the waterfalls. No strollers. 5km trail has packed dirt surface, is wooded and flat. Strollers are okay on this trail.

For info: Go to nstt.org or call Peter, 612-850-4700 or Julie, 612-868-9065. For park info call 507-384-6140.

Directions to the park: 9700 170th St. E., Nerstrand. Take I-35 south to St. Hwy. 19 and go east into Northfield. Go south on State Hwy. 3, east on State Hwy 246 to Cty. Rd 29 (170th St. E). Turn right $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to entrance. About 11 miles southeast of Northfield. The park is about 55 miles from the Twin Cities. Located in Rice County.



For camping in Minnesota State Parks go to: reservemn.usedirect.com/MinnesotaWeb/

Reserve early! Campsites fill up fast!

Wild River State Park Guided Walk, Annual Meeting & Potluck Saturday, October 31

7

Event ID 131788

Registration: Register at the Trail Center starting at 9:30 a.m. 10km group will leave at 10 am.; 5km group will leave at 10:30 a.m. and should register by 10:15. Naturalist group will leave at 11 a.m. and should register before 10:45 a.m. Watch for further details closer to event.

Award: Bat on Halloween Pumpkin leather pin.

Cost: Award, \$9; IVV event book credit, \$4; walk only, \$4. Vehicle permit required, see page 2.



Distance: Sanctioned for 10km, made up of two 5km loops.

Short trail walkers will walk from the Trail Center, down the hill to Amik's Pond, and around it, coming back up the hill by the Visitor Center. Trails are a combination of paved and natural, with one long hill both ways.

10km group — This group will start at 10 a.m. and will walk both loops, returning to the Trail Center.

5km group — This group will start at 10:30 and walk down to Amik's Pond and back up by the Visitor Center to the Trail Center.

Naturalist group — This group starts at 11 a.m. with Naturalist Sean Hoppe leading a bat-inspired nature walk on trails near and around the Trail Center for approximately 2km.

This is a guided walk and according to AVA policies, ALL walkers must walk in a group with a group leader. No exceptions can be made as walkers on their own could represent a liability to NSTT and AVA if they are injured on the trail.

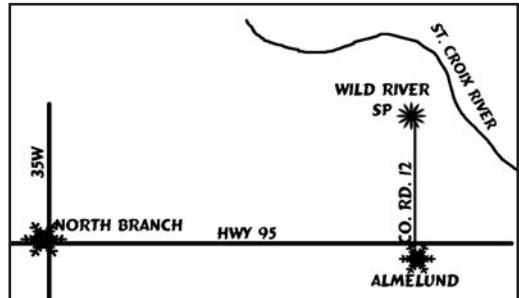
10km walkers will also walk the Old Logging Trail down to the picnic area, down to the river, along River Trail, back to boat launch area, and back up the hill returning to the Trail Center. Except for going up and down the long hill to get to the river area, the trails are relatively level.

Park Naturalist Sean Hoppe will lead a bat-inspired nature walk on trails near the Trail Center for approximately 2km.

For info: Go to nstt.org or call Donna, 612-402-5016 or Lynne, 763-780-4567. For park info 651-583-2125.

Directions to the park: 39797

Park Trail, Center City, MN. From North Branch, drive east to Almelund on Hwy 95 and



turn left on Co. Rd. 12. Follow this road to Wild River State Park.

NSTT will sponsor another Book Swap at the Wild River event! Watch for more details later!

NSTT Annual Meeting

After the walk join us for a potluck lunch, our annual meeting and lots of door prizes!

Bring along a dish to share — appetizers, salads, hot dish, bread, desserts ... whatever ... and your own beverage!

NSTT provides the paper products and eating utensils.

NorthStar Trail Travelers
3951 Russell Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55412

Seal



Only \$12

2026 Awards Banner

This year's award banner to attach your awards to is the Afton State Park Yurt. Don't let your awards lie in a drawer unappreciated for what they represent — your participation in our great walking events.



Order yours now with the order form below.

Name _____

Phone _____

Street Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Email address _____

Make checks payable to NSTT and mail to:

NSTT, c/o 3951 Russell Ave. N.
Minneapolis, MN 55412

Address label



Don't Forget to carry water!

We'll have water available at the registration area but you should bring along your water container and make sure it's full before taking off on the trail.

TCV Traditional weekend events

January 3, Rosedale Mall

June 28, St. Croix River Canoe

August 22, St. Croix River Canoe

A "meet up" is a one-time social walk using some of TCV's Year Round and Seasonal events. Here are meetup event dates.

June 14, TCV, Springbrook Firefly Walk

June 27, Albany Lady Slipper Walk

September 11, Mantorville, Northfield (LCW)

September 12, State Capitol, Whitetail Woods

September 19, Delano Oktoberfest

October 17, West St. Paul, Annual Meeting

November 27, Fort Snelling, Black Friday

LCW-Lake Country Wanderers
763-229-3584

TCV-Twin Cities Volkssports
tcvwalking.com • 651-249-8886