

# BEAR HEAD LAKE STATE PARK

## FACILITIES AND FEATURES

- 73 semi-modern campsites (45 with electricity) with a modern sanitation building
- 4 backpack sites
- One boat-accessible campsite
- Boat access on Bear Head Lake
- Boat access on Eagles Nest Lake #3
- Rustic group camp with a hand-pump and pit-type sanitation units
- Large picnic area with a sandy swimming beach
- Boat, kayak and canoe rentals
- Dump station
- Picnic shelter
- Guest house
- 5 camper cabins
- Snowshoe rental
- Fishing pier and boat docks

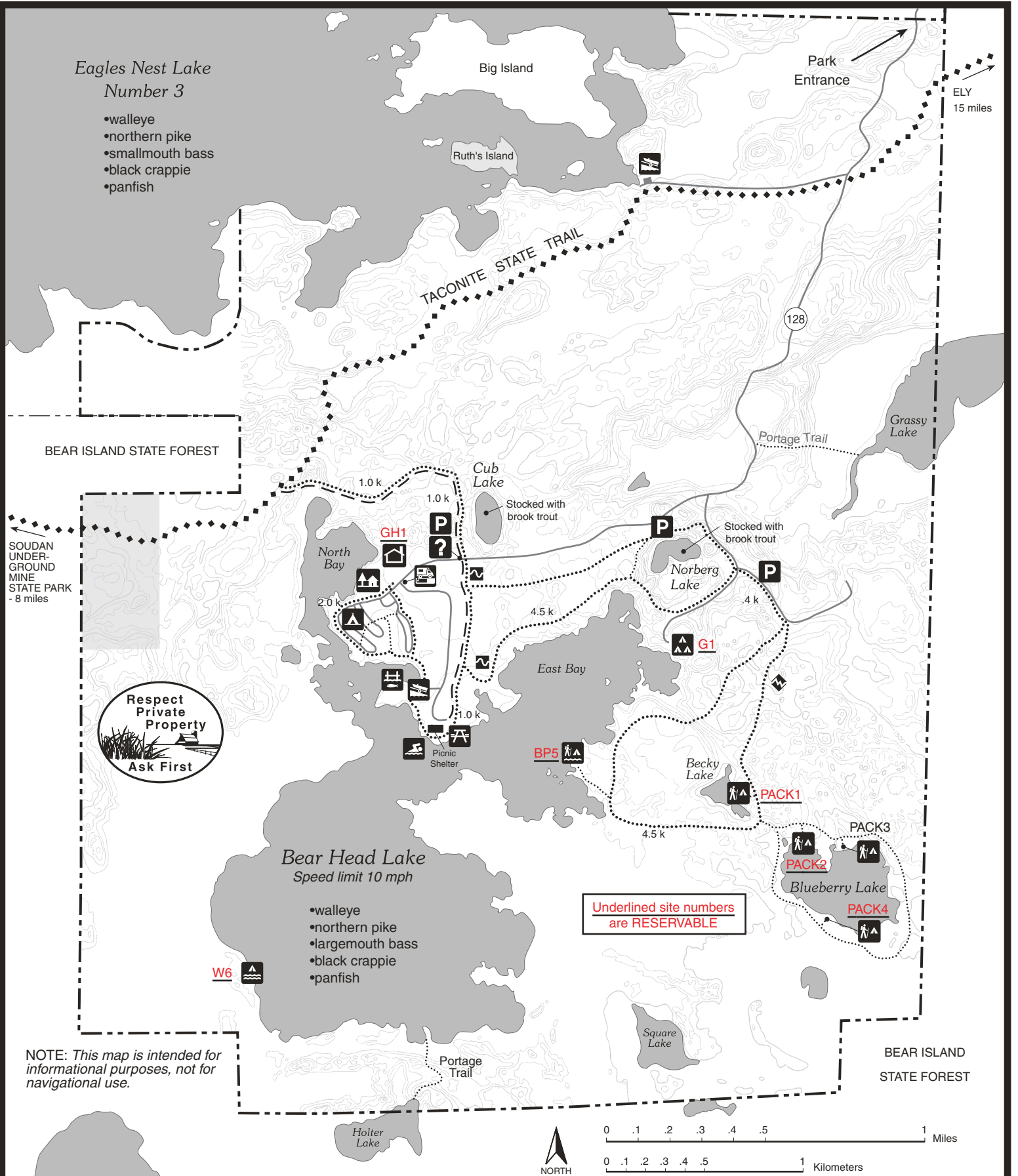
## VISITOR FAVORITES

- Fishing and boating on Bear Head Lake
- Beautiful sand swimming beach
- Snowmobile trails that link with the Taconite State Trail
- Miles of good hiking and skiing trails

## 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!



### Eagles Nest Lake Number 3

- walleye
- northern pike
- smallmouth bass
- black crappie
- panfish

BEAR ISLAND STATE FOREST

SOUDAN UNDERGROUND MINE STATE PARK - 8 miles

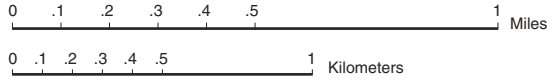
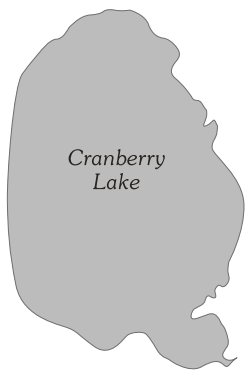


### Bear Head Lake Speed limit 10 mph

- walleye
- northern pike
- largemouth bass
- black crappie
- panfish

Underlined site numbers are RESERVABLE

NOTE: This map is intended for informational purposes, not for navigational use.



### TRAILS

- ◆◆◆ State Trail (multi-use)
- — — Snowmobile
- ..... Hiking/Skiing
  - easy
  - more difficult
  - ◆ most difficult
- ..... Hiking Only

### FACILITIES

- ❓ Information/Office
- ☂ Picnic Area
- 🏊 Swimming
- 🚤 Boat Ramp
- 🏠 Rental House
- 🛥 Fishing Pier
- ⛖ Camping
- 🏠 Camper Cabins
- ⛖ Primitive Group Camp
- 🚤 Watercraft Campsite
- ⛖ Backpack Camping
- 🚤 Watercraft/Backpack Camping
- 🚤 Trailer Sanitation Station
- 🚫 Private Property Public Use Prohibited (Except on designated trails)

Because lands exist within the boundaries of this park that are not under the jurisdiction of the D.N.R., check with the park manager if you plan to use facilities such as trails and roads other than those shown.



# BEAR HEAD LAKE STATE PARK

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Bear Head Lake State Park  
 9301 Bear Head Lake State Park Road  
 Ely, MN 55731  
 (218) 365-7229

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)

**BEAR HEAD LAKE STATE PARK** is located 18 miles east of Tower. Take U.S. Highway 169 east to St. Louis County Highway 128. Take 128 south six miles to the park. Highway map index: M-7.

Bear Head Lake State Park's 4,000-plus acres surround Bear Head Lake. The park also

holds three other fishing lakes. Visitors enjoy boating, swimming, hiking, and fishing in this remote northern park.

**WILDLIFE:** The northern forest that surrounds 674 acre Bear Head Lake is home to a variety of wildlife. Visitors often see white-tailed deer, red squirrel, chipmunk, loon, bald eagle and red fox. Occasionally, grey wolf and black bear are seen.

**GEOLOGY:** Volcanoes and ancient seas produced the bedrock of the Bear Head Lake area. The bedrock—of eby greenstone and giants range granite—was scoured and gouged by glaciers. Today, the area is covered with glacial debris—rock and dirt transported by glaciers from many other places.

Both Eagles Nest and Bear Head Lakes, along with the park's rolling hills, were formed from glacial action. At road cuts and along the lakes, visitors can see many different shapes and sizes of rock left by the glaciers.

**HISTORY:** Starting in 1895, logging was the major activity around Bear Head Lake. In 1907, the Allen and Whittenburg Company built a sawmill on the south side of the lake. The company logged the area for two seasons, then sold out. Next, the Tower Lumber Company purchased the mill. After two years, the company discontinued operations, dismantled the mill, and shipped it back to Tower.

Between 1911 and 1913 several fires swept the area. These fires consumed the forest inside the park boundary. Today, many old, charred pine stumps can still be seen along the park's hiking trails.

After the loggers left, little was recorded about the region's history. At one time a few backwoods cabins were built on the

lake, but what the owners did or where they were from isn't known.

In 1961 the Minnesota legislature created the park.

## SO EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE PARK...

- The park belongs to all Minnesotans. Treat it with respect and consideration.
- Hunting in the park is prohibited.
- Pets must be on a leash no longer than six feet.
- Motorized vehicles may not use park trails.
- Enjoy the animals, but do not approach or feed them.
- Do not collect rocks and plants. They make up much of the park's beauty.
- Park only in designated areas.
- The park is closed from 10:00 P.M. until 8:00 A.M. except in campgrounds. Loud noises or other disturbances are prohibited after 10:00 P.M.
- Park permits are required for every vehicle. Purchase them at park headquarters.
- 10 mph is the speed limit for boats on Bear Head Lake. There are rocks and other hazards in the lake. *Boat operators are responsible for safe navigation.*
- Information on boating, navigation, and water safety is available from park staff.
- Gathering firewood disrupts the forest soil cycle and is not permitted.

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

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