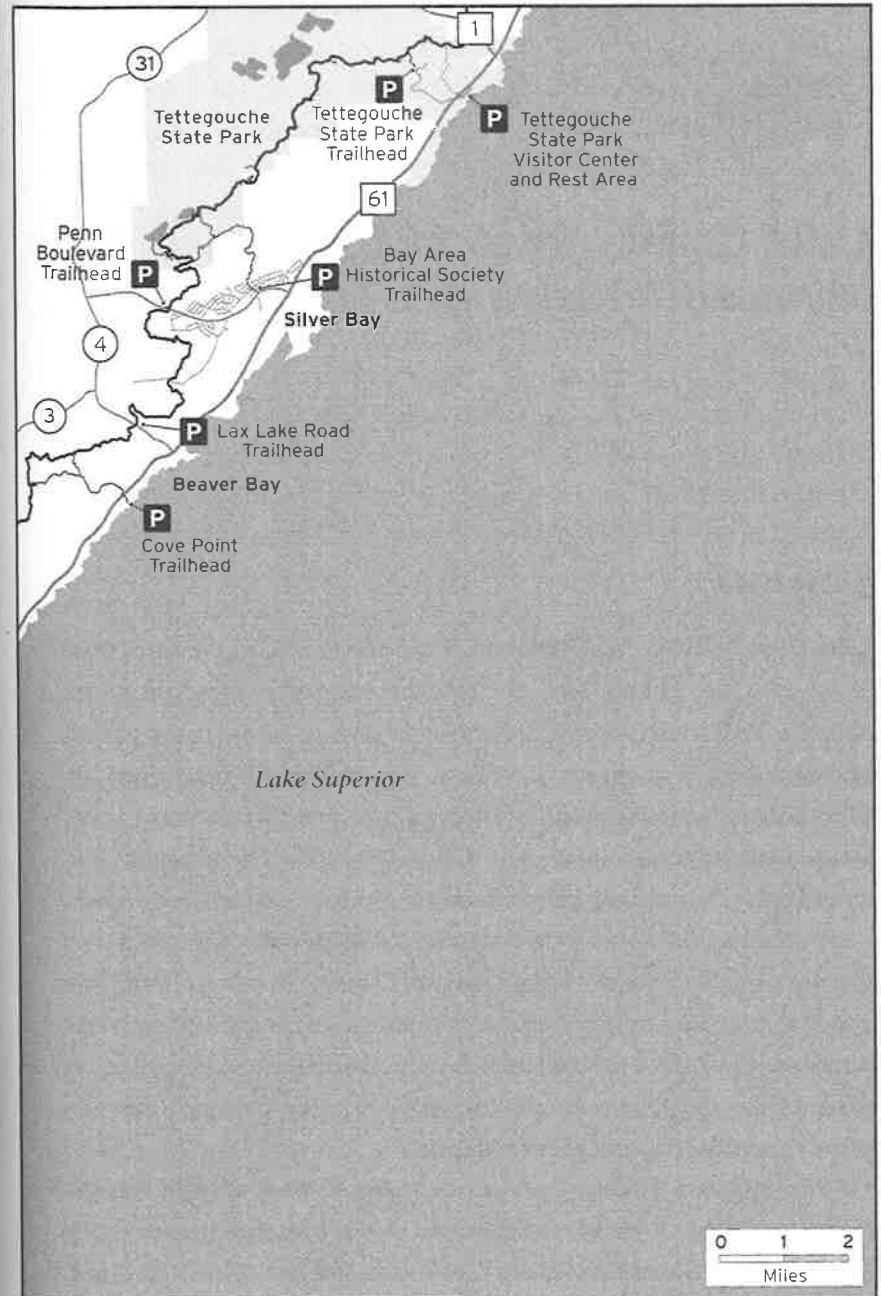
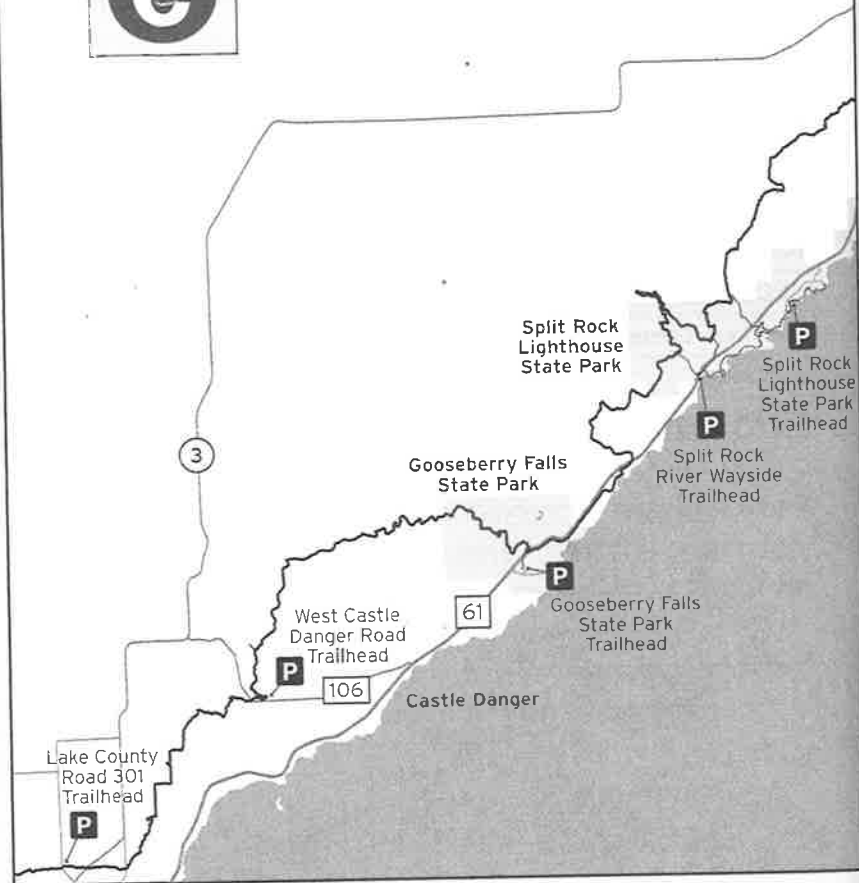




Lake County Road 301 Trailhead to Minnesota Highway 1 Trailhead





Lake County Road 301 Trailhead to Minnesota Highway 1 Trailhead

Overview

Lake County Road 301 Trailhead (Fors Road) was, in the early years of the Superior Hiking Trail, the southern terminus. Heading northeast, the Trail winds through an engaging section across many parcels of private land. Without the generosity of private landowners, views like Pine Ridge Overlook would be inaccessible. Several unbridged water crossings are in this section: Little Wilson Creek, the Encampment River and, after descending from a fantastic overlook, Crow Creek. These water crossings are unnoteworthy trickles for much of the year and usually passable except during snowmelt season or after a large rain event, at which point they become very flashy - running high and fast, but draining within a short period. A steep ascent past a rare poison ivy patch brings the Trail to a crossing of West Castle Danger Road and shortly thereafter, to the next trailhead.

The Superior Hiking Trail passes through **West Castle Danger Road Trailhead**. A rocky, steep ascent to Wolf Rock offers stunning views of Lake Superior and the Crow Creek Valley. Sharp-eyed trail users can see the rock outcropping where the Trail is located south of Crow Creek. A spur trail leads to an inland view while the main Su-


perior Hiking Trail continues through deep forest before popping out at Mike's Rock Vista. The Trail descends to a long stretch along the Gooseberry River, meeting up with the trail network in Gooseberry Falls State Park, a bridge at Fifth Falls, and continuing to a bridge under Highway 61 where a spur trail leads to the heart of Gooseberry Falls State Park and a trailhead.

Gooseberry Falls State Park Visitor Center Trailhead connects to the Superior Hiking Trail with a short spur trail. The current route of the Superior Hiking Trail may soon change in this area (see sidebar *The Gooseberry Gap: A Cautionary Tale*). It currently shares the paved Gitchi-Gami State Trail heading northeast out of Gooseberry Falls State Park until a signed turn across Highway 61 and up Blueberry Hill Road. This dirt road leads to a junction where the Trail heads back into the woods on footpath. The Trail climbs to expansive views from Breadloaf Ridge and eventually enters Split Rock Lighthouse State Park.

Split Rock River Wayside Trailhead is a popular trailhead offering access to Lake Superior. A spur trail connects to the main Superior Hiking Trail near Strand Creek Falls. This area is one of the most well-known places along the Superior Hiking Trail. For the foreseeable future, visitors must hop across rocks or get their feet wet to cross the river along the main Trail (use extreme caution if crossing the river; a bridged crossing near Highway 61 is available when river levels are unsafe). See sidebar *Future of the Split Rock River Loop* for more background on this area. After following the river upstream to the crossing and back downstream, the Trail arrives at a vista of Lake Superior and the valley carved by the Split Rock River. The Trail continues along a ridgeline with glimpses of the Split Rock Lighthouse before meeting up with the historic path of the Merrill Grade logging railroad. The Trail climbs to Chapins Ridge, Christmas Tree Ridge, and Fault Line Ridge, undulating between beaver ponds and rocky outcrops with wide views. At a junction with the Cove Point Loop, views turn inland to Fault Line Valley before a long descent towards Lax Lake Road

From **Lax Lake Road Trailhead**, the Superior Hiking Trail follows a multi-use path across the Beaver River before turning downstream on

a narrow, foot travel-only route. The Beaver River grows more dramatic, offering large rocks on its banks for rest. The Trail passes through old-growth white pine forests and briefly shares the Gitchi-Gami State Trail. Several parcels here are owned by Northshore Mining, and nearby signs of Minnesota's iron industry are a reminder that civilization is near. A steep climb affords nice views from rock outcroppings before descending into the City of Silver Bay.

Penn Boulevard Trailhead in Silver Bay is the gateway to one of the most popular destinations on the Superior Hiking Trail: the Bean and Bear Lakes Loop. The terrain is rocky and rooty entering Tettegouche State Park, with vistas of Silver Bay, inland ponds, and eventually Bean Lake and Bear Lake. Once off the loop portion of this section, there are dramatic inland views of Palisade Valley, Round Mountain, and Mount Trudee. A short spur leads to the worthwhile Round Mountain Mini-Loop. The SHT ascends Mount Trudee, one of the most notable landmarks of the entire Superior Hiking Trail. The Tettegouche State Park trail network offers many opportunities for further exploration and most intersections have an up-to-date map. The Trail enters the core of Tettegouche State Park as it winds towards a bridge over the Baptism River near the High Falls. A final climb meets up with a short spur trail to the Minnesota Highway 1 Trailhead. 

■ Lake County Road 301 Trailhead to West Castle Danger Road Trailhead

BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

Directions and GPS Waypoints: At MN-61 milepost 28.5, turn north on Lake Co. Rd. 3, go 2.0 miles. Turn north on Lake Co. Rd. 301, and go 0.3 miles to parking lot on left. GPS: 47.076349, -91.625132

Facilities: None

Size: Small

Overnight parking: Allowed

Winter access: Yes

Special notes: This trailhead is located on private property. Please use extra care to leave it better than you found it. If the small parking lot is full, do not park along the road—please find another place to recreate.

SECTION SNAPSHOT

Trail Atlas map: C-1

Total distance: 6.0 miles

Elevation change: Relatively minimal, but there are a couple of steep elevation changes, especially near Crow Creek.

SHT campsites: None

Hazards and concerns: This section has cliffs and unbridged water crossings.

Synopsis: A changing climate is apparent in this section, where recent dramatic water events have shaped the terrain and route of the SHT. A couple of stunning overlooks showcase the surrounding landscape.

Pro tip: This section is closed before and during firearms deer hunting season each year by request of private landowners in this section; check the SHT Trail Conditions page for up-to-date information on hunting closures.

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
Lake County Road 301 Trailhead	0.0	6.0
Stream crossing	0.1	5.9
Highway 3 crossing	0.4	5.6
Little Wilson Creek crossing	0.5	5.5
Loop Road crossing	1.1	4.9
Ridgeline Road crossing	1.5	4.5
Pine Ridge Overlook	2.1	3.9
Register, Encampment River crossing	3.4	2.3
Crow Creek crossing	5.7	0.3
Poison ivy area near stairs	5.7	0.3
West Castle Danger Road crossing	5.8	0.2
West Castle Danger Road Trailhead	6.0	0.0

West Castle Danger Road Trailhead to Gooseberry Falls State Park Visitor Center Trailhead

BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

Directions and GPS Waypoints: At MN-61 milepost 36.6, turn west on W. Castle Danger Rd., go 2.4 miles to parking lot on right. GPS: 47.112691, -91.557208

Facilities: None

Size: Small

Overnight parking: Allowed

Winter access: No

Special notes: This is a popular trailhead during peak times. If the small parking lot is full, do not park along the road—please find another place to recreate.

SECTION SNAPSHOT

Trail Atlas maps: C-2, C-3

Total distance: 8.7 miles (Additional 0.2-mile spur trail to Gooseberry Falls State Park Visitor Center Trailhead)

Elevation change: Despite a couple of short but challenging climbs, this section is predominantly gentle, especially where it follows the Gooseberry River.

SHT campsites: Five

Hazards and concerns: This section is rocky in places with poor footing along the banks of the Gooseberry River. There are many state park trail intersections.

Synopsis: This section features stately pine trees near Wolf Rock, several big views of Lake Superior, and a pleasant stretch along the bank of the Gooseberry River.

Pro tip: A reroute in this area is on the horizon, so as always, check for updates before hitting the Trail.

SPUR TRAILS

- **Crow Creek Valley Overlook.** This 0.1-mile spur trail offers an inland vista of the gorgeous Crow Creek Valley.
- **Gooseberry Falls State Park Trails.** Part of this section intersects with several trails within the extensive Gooseberry Falls State Park trail network. Countless loops can be created by studying a state park map.

CAMPSITES

▲ **Crow Valley Campsite**

Size: Medium

Water source: A small creek running through the campsite, unreliable in late season or when especially dry

This campsite is extremely busy due to the long distance between this site and Silver Creek Campsite to the south.

14.1, 8.4 ⊖ ⊕ 3.2, 4.1

▲ **West Gooseberry River Campsite**

Size: Medium

Water source: Gooseberry River

Campsite sits on a knoll above the river.

11.6, 3.2 ⊖ ⊕ 0.9, 1.0

▲ **East Gooseberry River Campsite**

Size: Small

Water source: Gooseberry River

Campsite is very small but offers good access to the river.

4.1, 0.9 ⊖ ⊕ 0.1, 0.9

▲ **Middle Gooseberry River Campsite**

Size: Small

Water source: Gooseberry River

Campsite is very small but offers good access to the river.

1.0, 0.1 ⊖ ⊕ 0.8, 7.0

CAMPSITES, continued

▲ **Gooseberry River Campsite**

Size: Large

Water source: Gooseberry River

Campsite is on a short spur above the river. This site is the best option for group use in this area.

0.9, 0.8 ⊖ ⊕ 6.2, 10.1

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
West Castle Danger Road Trailhead	0.0	8.9
Wolf Rock Vista	0.3	8.6
<i>Spur to Crow Creek Valley Overlook</i>	1.1	7.8
Crow Valley Campsite	1.2	7.7
Mike's Rock Vista	2.8	6.1
Nestor Grade crossing	3.8	5.1
West Gooseberry Campsite	4.4	4.5
East Gooseberry Campsite	5.3	3.5
Middle Gooseberry Campsite	5.4	3.6
Snowmobile trail crossing	5.7	3.3
Gooseberry Campsite	6.2	2.7
State park boundary marker	6.4	2.5
Day-use shelter	6.7	2.2
Fifth Falls bridge	7.7	1.2
<i>Spur to Gooseberry Falls State Park Visitor Center Trailhead</i>	8.7	0.2
Gooseberry Falls State Park Visitor Center Trailhead	8.9	0.0

Gooseberry Falls State Park Visitor Center Trailhead to Split Rock River Wayside Trailhead

BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

Directions and GPS Waypoints: At MN-61 milepost 38.9, turn south, go 0.2 miles to Visitor Center parking lot. GPS: 47.138729, -91.469345

Facilities: Toilet, potable water, visitor center, state park fee campsites

Size: Large

Overnight parking: No. Overnight parking is allowed within Gooseberry Falls State Park. Permit required for overnight parking. Check in with state park staff. The overnight parking area adds nearly a mile on state park trails to reach the visitor center.

Winter access: Yes

Special notes: Gooseberry Falls State Park is one of the most visited state parks in Minnesota. Expect to share the Trail with other visitors throughout the year.

SECTION SNAPSHOT

Trail Atlas maps: C-3, C-4

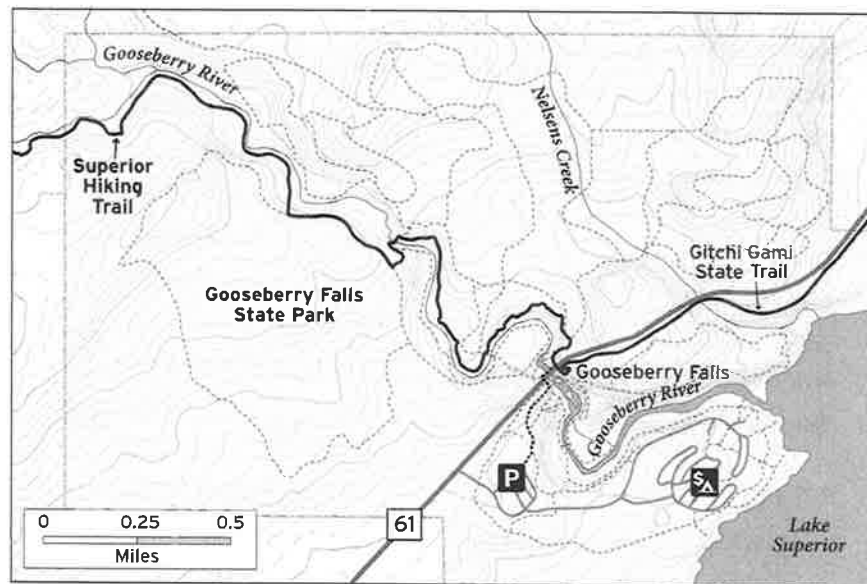
Total distance: 6.1 miles (Additional 0.2-mile spur trail from Gooseberry Falls State Park Visitor Center Trailhead; additional 0.5-mile spur trail to Split Rock River Wayside Trailhead)

Elevation change: This section is one of the flattest as it follows the Gitchi-Gami State Trail and Blueberry Hill Road for most of its miles. One climb along Breadloaf Ridge is the only noteworthy elevation change.

SHT campsites: One

Hazards and concerns: Watch for bike traffic on the Gitchi-Gami State Trail. Use caution when crossing Highway 61 and while navigating the roadwalk along Blueberry Hill Road. Be aware of drop-offs on Breadloaf Ridge.

Synopsis: Beginning gently, Trail follows a detour on the paved Gitchi-Gami State Trail to the dirt Blueberry Hill Road, then enters the woods and ascends to spectacular views from Breadloaf Ridge.



Pro tip: A new route in this area is on the horizon, so as always, check for updates before hitting the Trail.

SPUR TRAIL

■ **Gooseberry Falls State Park Trails.** Part of this section intersects with several trails within the extensive Gooseberry Falls State Park trail network. Countless loops can be created by studying a state park map.

CAMPSITE

▲ Blueberry Hill Campsite

Size: Medium

Water source: Unreliable stream just north of the campsite
The sunny and spacious campsite makes a great place to take a break before or after the Blueberry Hill Road roadwalk.

7.0, 6.2 ↻ ↻ 3.9, 4.2

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
Gooseberry Falls State Park Visitor Center	0.0	6.8
<i>Spur from Gooseberry Falls State Park Visitor Center Trailhead</i>	0.2	6.6
Gitchi-Gami State Trail south end	0.2	6.6
Gitchi-Gami State Trail north end	2.6	4.2
Highway 61 crossing	2.6	4.2
Blueberry Hill roadwalk south end	2.6	4.2
Blueberry Hill Road roadwalk north end	3.8	3.0
Blueberry Hill Campsite	3.9	2.9
Breadloaf Ridge	4.7	2.1
State park boundary marker	5.3	1.5
<i>Spur to Split Rock River Wayside Trailhead</i>	6.3	0.5
Split Rock River Wayside Trailhead	6.8	0.0

The Gooseberry Gap: A Cautionary Tale

The Gooseberry Gap is truly a cautionary tale to all trail users—follow the rules of the Trail. It is paramount that Trail users understand the delicate land ownership behind the Superior Hiking Trail. Here are three lessons to take to heart:

Lesson one, the Superior Hiking Trail Association does not own the 300-mile Trail corridor. The Trail relies on over 240 private and public landowners to grant us access easements for the trail corridor. Each SHT user and their interaction with these landowners reflects on us as a whole trail community.


Lesson two, the Superior Hiking Trail Association must remain in good standing with each public and private landowner along the Trail in order to keep the Trail intact. That means all SHT users must follow the rules of the Trail and practice Leave No Trace principles.

Lesson three, the Superior Hiking Trail Association's access agreement with private or public landowners could be revoked, forcing time-consuming, costly reroutes—some that could negatively impact the beauty, safety, and charm of what we now know the SHT to be today.

In 2015, the Superior Hiking Trail Association lost access to a critical parcel of private property that forced the footpath to temporarily reroute the Superior Hiking Trail on less than desirable roadwalk and the paved multi-use Gitchi-Gami State Trail that runs along Highway 61. The parcel, between Gooseberry Falls State Park and Split Rock River Wayside, was lost because of user error, and it has been a costly one to the Superior Hiking Trail Association.

Since that time, the SHTA has been diligently working to identify a new route that is environmentally sustainable, in accordance with land managers' rules and regulations, and financially feasible to build and maintain. The diminished user experience and safety has had a big impact on this section of the Superior Hiking Trail. Since the "gap" was created, the SHTA has been looking for solutions to fill it.

After careful evaluation by both trail design experts and an environmental consultant, an alternate route has emerged, pushing the route of the SHT farther west toward Skunk Creek. This was the most comprehensive alignment study completed on behalf of the SHTA to date, to ensure the Trail is a sustainable, enjoyable, and cost-effective route on public land.

The SHTA made the mistake of optimistically proclaiming that the new route in this area would open in 2017, and we've learned our lesson. However, we will say this: it's likely that the new route will be opening in the coming years. 

Split Rock River Wayside Trailhead to Lax Lake Road Trailhead

BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

Directions and GPS Waypoints: At MN-61 milepost 43.5 on north side of highway. GPS: 47.265963, -91.309545

Facilities: Kiosk

Size: Large

Overnight parking: No. Overnight parking is allowed within Split Rock Lighthouse State Park near the fee campground parking area. Permit required. Check in with state park staff. The overnight parking area inside the park adds 1.5 miles on state park trails to reach the SHT.

Winter access: Yes

Special notes: Among the most popular trailheads to access the Superior Hiking Trail and the Split Rock River Loop, expect to encounter other users throughout much of the year, and have a backup plan to recreate elsewhere if the parking area is full. An additional parking option is at the Cove Point Trailhead (At MN-61 milepost 50.2, turn south on Cove Point Lodge Rd. Continue 0.1 miles to parking lot on right. GPS: 47.248200, -91.313058) located at Cove Point Lodge accessible via a spur trail.

SECTION SNAPSHOT

Trail Atlas maps: C-4, C-5

Total distance: 13.2 miles (Additional 0.5-mile spur trail from Split Rock River Wayside Trailhead)

Elevation change: Dramatic. There is significant climbing and descending in this section.

SHT campsites: Seven

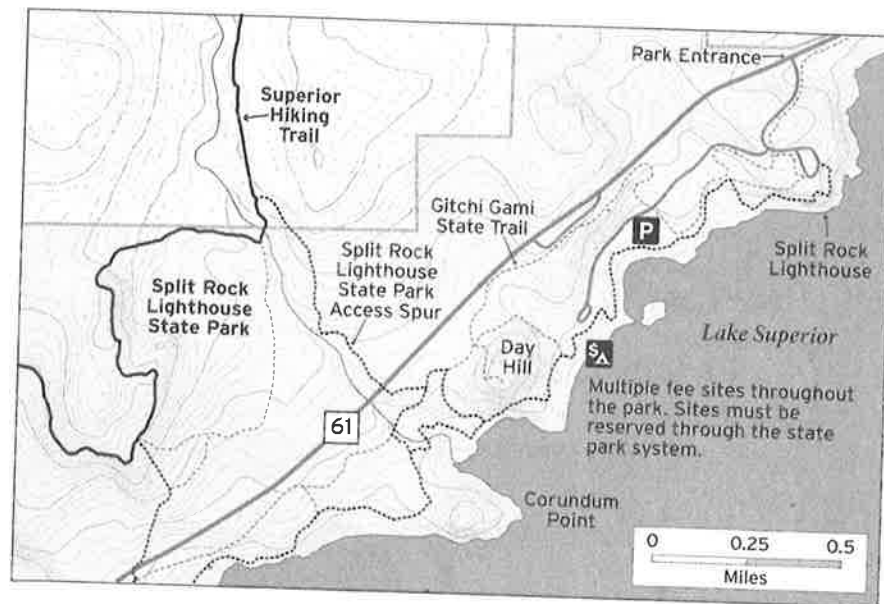
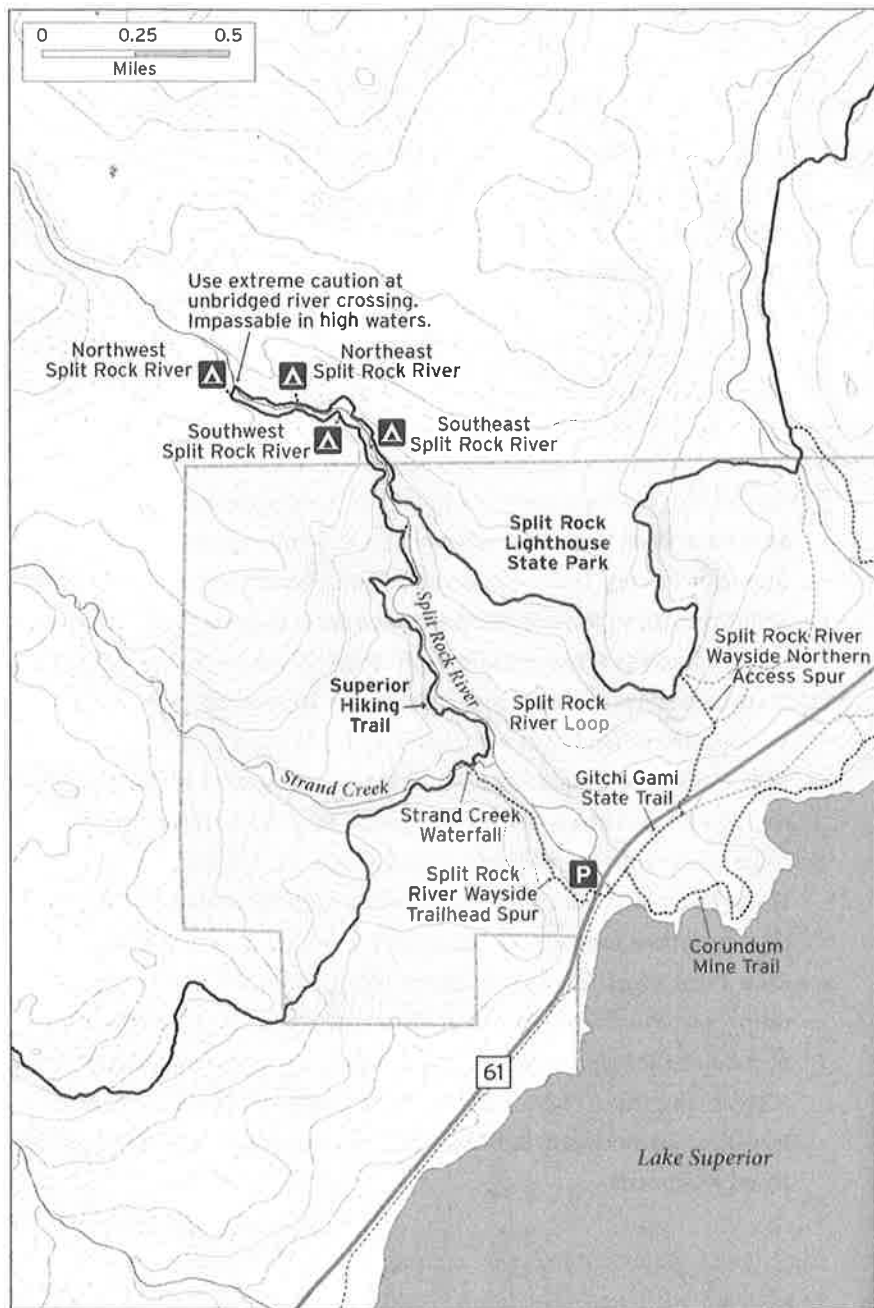
Hazards and concerns: Poor condition of tread, particularly along Split Rock River Loop. A natural, unbridged crossing of the Split Rock River. Steep, rocky terrain.

Synopsis: This section follows the Split Rock River for several miles before climbing to a ridge with views of Lake Superior and Split Rock Lighthouse. Several other overlooks on ridges and rock outcroppings provide lake and inland views.

Pro tip: To avoid the natural crossing of the Split Rock River, a Highway 61 underpass near the wayside leads to the Gitchi-Gami State Trail. Follow this paved trail to another SHT spur trail which accesses the north side of the Split Rock River Loop.

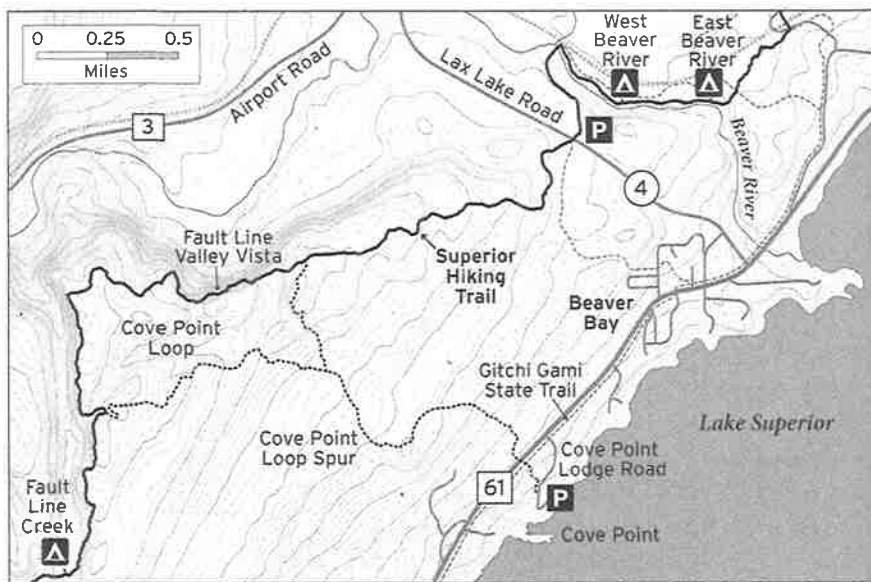
SPUR TRAILS

- **Split Rock River Wayside Trailhead.** The 0.5-mile spur trail leads to the Superior Hiking Trail near Strand Creek Waterfall.
- **Split Rock River Wayside Northern Access.** A 0.7-mile spur trail leads under Highway 61, across the Split Rock River on the paved Gitchi-Gami State Trail, then crosses Highway 61 and ascends to the Superior Hiking Trail.
- **Split Rock Lighthouse State Park Access.** A spur trail follows state park trails and leads either 1.5 miles into Split Rock Lighthouse State Park and its overnight parking lot, or 2.1 miles to the Split Rock River Wayside. This intersection with state park trails means that countless loops can be created by studying a state park map.
- **Cove Point Loop.** Compared to the Split Rock River Loop, the 5.5-mile Cove Point Loop is much less-traveled, yet features great views and no challenging river crossing. This lollipop-style loop makes for a great day trip. It also offers another entry or exit point for those travelling in between the Split Rock River Wayside and Lax Lake Road trailheads.



CAMPSITES

- ▲ **Southwest Split Rock River Campsite**
Size: Medium
Water source: Split Rock River
 Campsite is often heavily used during peak periods.
 10.1, 3.9 ⊕ ⊕ 0.3, 0.5
- ▲ **Northwest Split Rock River Campsite**
Size: Medium
Water source: Split Rock River
 Campsite is near the river crossing.
 4.2, 0.3 ⊕ ⊕ 0.2, 0.5
- ▲ **Northeast Split Rock River Campsite**
Size: Large
Water source: Split Rock River
 Campsite is the best option for groups in this area.
 0.5, 0.2 ⊕ ⊕ 0.3, 4.9



CAMPSITES, continued

▲ **Southeast Split Rock River Campsite**

Size: Small

Water source: Split Rock River

Campsite is located close to the water but cannot accommodate many users.

0.5, 0.3 ⊖ ⊕ 4.6, 6.3

▲ **Chapins Ridge Campsite**

Size: Medium

Water source: A pond 0.2 miles north is the closest option. Please use extreme caution if you choose to have a fire; carry enough water to thoroughly douse any embers.

Campsite is set among large pines on a high ridge.

4.9, 4.6 ⊖ ⊕ 1.7, 3.1

▲ **Beaver Pond Campsite**

Size: Medium

Water source: A stagnant beaver pond

Lower tent pads may be unappealing in wet conditions.

6.3, 1.7 ⊖ ⊕ 1.4, 5.8

▲ **Fault Line Creek Campsite**

Size: Medium

Water source: A small beaver pond or Black Sand Creek
Campsite is adjacent to a mountain bike trail.

3.1, 1.4 ⊖ ⊕ 4.4, 4.7

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
Split Rock River Wayside Trailhead	0.0	14.2
<i>Spur to Split Rock River Wayside Trailhead</i>	0.5	13.7
Strand Creek bridge	0.5	13.7
Register, view of waterfall	0.5	13.7
Split rocks	1.9	12.3
Southwest Split Rock River Campsite	2.0	12.2
Former bridge site	2.1	12.1
Northwest Split Rock River Campsite	2.3	11.9
Former bridge site	2.3	11.9
Northeast Split Rock River Campsite	2.5	11.7
Southeast Split Rock River Campsite	2.8	11.4
State park boundary marker	2.9	11.3
Day-use shelter	4.0	10.2
<i>Northern spur to Split Rock River Wayside Trailhead</i>	4.1	10.1
Vistas	4.5	9.7
Split Rock Creek bridge	5.2	9.0
<i>Spur to Split Rock Lighthouse State Park or Split Rock River Wayside Trailhead</i>	5.3	8.9
Merrill Grade Historic Logging Railroad	5.9	8.3
Chapins Ridge Campsite	7.4	6.8
ATV trail crossing	7.6	6.6
Christmas Tree Ridge	8.1	6.1
Beaver Pond Campsite	9.1	5.1
Vista with bench	9.6	4.6
Fault Line Creek Campsite	10.5	3.7
<i>Cove Point Loop spur, west junction</i>	11.2	3.0
Faultline Valley Vista	12.5	1.7
<i>Cove Point Loop spur, east junction</i>	12.8	1.4
Lax Lake Road crossing	14.2	0.0
Lake Lake Road Trailhead	14.2	0.0


Ongoing Renewal of the Split Rock River Loop

The Split Rock River Loop has long been a tourist destination on the North Shore. Increased traffic, particularly during wet conditions, has worsened the condition of the loop immeasurably. The Trail was placed in an optimal place for scenic quality, but not the ideal location for long-term sustainability. The steep edge of the river bluff has been continually eroding, playing a role in the compromised tread of the SHT here.

To further complicate the loop, its failing bridge was removed for safety reasons in 2016. This was the fourth bridge removed from the site in 25 years, though others were removed by high water and ice. Despite extensive research, no feasible solution for replacing the bridge has yet been found. The location is particularly challenging: with no road access nearer than Highway 61, supplies would require several dozen helicopter trips, a skilled crew willing to camp onsite, and a massive investment of resources.

In 2020, the Superior Hiking Trail Association decided to pause the project for the foreseeable future. While there may be a bridge here again someday, the SHTA refocused on other priorities—including some of the major erosion impacting the Trail along the Split Rock River.

The Split Rock River Loop can still be enjoyed most of the year. Frequent visitors enjoy out-and-back hikes just as much as a loop, and those who feel comfortable and confident in doing so have forded the Split Rock River. For trail users looking to bypass a ford, two spur trails leading from the main SHT to the Gitchi-Gami State Trail bridge near the mouth of the Split Rock River can be connected to avoid the area.

For goal-oriented hikers and runners, the SHTA does not differentiate between those who ford the river at the former bridge site and those who bypass it via the Gitchi-Gami State Trail. 

■ Lax Lake Road Trailhead to Penn Boulevard Trailhead

BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

Directions and GPS Waypoints: At MN-61 milepost 51.1, turn north on Lax Lake Rd., go 0.8 miles to parking lot on right. GPS: 47.265963, -91.309545

Facilities: None

Size: Small

Overnight parking: Allowed

Winter access: Yes

Special notes: Trailhead is largely on private land; please use extra care to leave it better than you found it. Expect to encounter other users throughout much of the year, and have a backup plan to recreate elsewhere if the parking area is full.

SECTION SNAPSHOT

Trail Atlas maps: C-5, C-6

Total distance: 4.3 miles

Elevation change: A mostly-flat walk along the Beaver River leads to more noteworthy elevation change as the Trail traverses hills above Silver Bay.

SHT campsites: Two

Hazards and concerns: Use caution on the multi-use trail between Lax Lake Road and the Beaver River, and be aware of rocky, rooty terrain.

Synopsis: After hugging the gorgeous Beaver River, Trail climbs to expansive views of Lake Superior and Silver Bay.

CAMPSITES

▲ West Beaver River Campsite

Size: Small

Water source: Beaver River

Campsite is extremely heavily-used during peak periods.

5.8, 4.4 ⊕ ⊕ 0.3, 5.6

▲ East Beaver River Campsite

Size: Small

Water source: Beaver River

Campsite features nearby rocks with a view of the river. Campsite is extremely heavily-used during peak periods.

4.7, 0.3 ⊕ ⊕ 5.3, 6.5

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
Lax Lake Road Trailhead	0.0	4.3
Beaver River bridge	0.3	4.0
West Beaver River Campsite	0.7	3.6
East Beaver River Campsite	1.0	3.3
Betzler Road crossing	1.1	3.2
Junction with Gitchi-Gami State Trail through underpass	1.5	2.8
Glacial erratic	1.6	2.7
ATV trail crossing	1.7	2.6
Golf Course Road, service road crossing	2.0	2.3
Silver Bay Vista	2.9	1.4
Penn Boulevard crossing	4.3	0.0
ATV trail crossing, spur to Penn Boulevard Trailhead	4.3	0.0
Penn Boulevard Trailhead	4.3	0.0

■ Penn Boulevard Trailhead to Minnesota Highway 1 Trailhead

BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

Directions and GPS Waypoints: At MN-61 milepost 54.3, turn northwest on Outer Drive, go 1.5 miles to Penn Blvd. Continue straight 0.5 miles on Penn Blvd. to parking lot on right. GPS: 47.291886, -91.298757

Facilities: None

Size: Large

Overnight parking: Allowed

Winter access: Yes

Special notes: Although this is among the largest SHT trailheads, it may be overcrowded during peak times, particularly on weekends in autumn. Expect to encounter other users throughout much of the year, and have a backup plan to recreate elsewhere if the parking area is full. An additional parking option is available at Bay Area Historical Society Trailhead (At MN-61 milepost 54.3, turn northwest on Outer Drive, go 0.5 miles to Bay Area Historical Society parking lot on right. GPS: 47.294977, -91.268692).

SECTION SNAPSHOT

Trail Atlas maps: C-6, C-7

Total distance: 10.7 miles

Elevation change: This section is frequently cited as among the hardest of the Superior Hiking Trail, in large part due to the extensive elevation change.

SHT campsites: Five

Hazards and concerns: Rocky and rooty tread, dramatic cliffs, erosion, state park trail network.

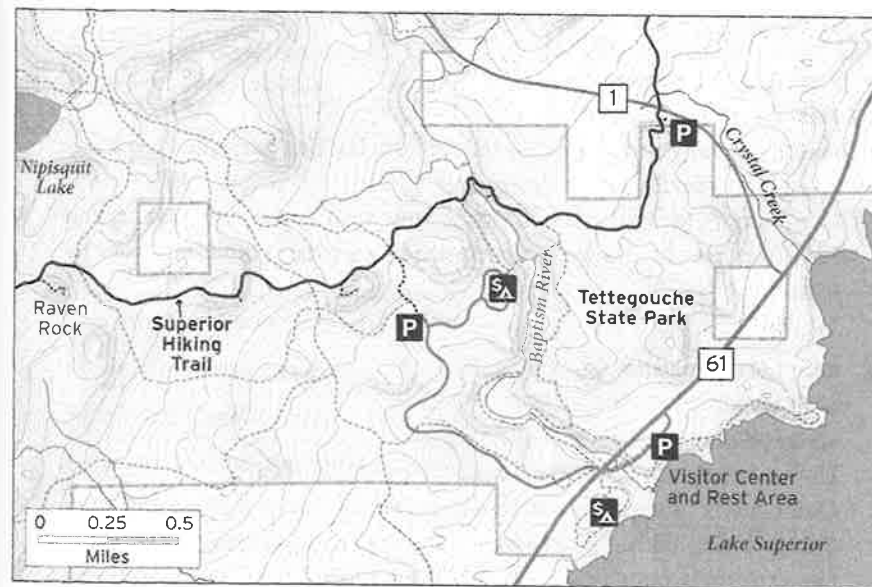
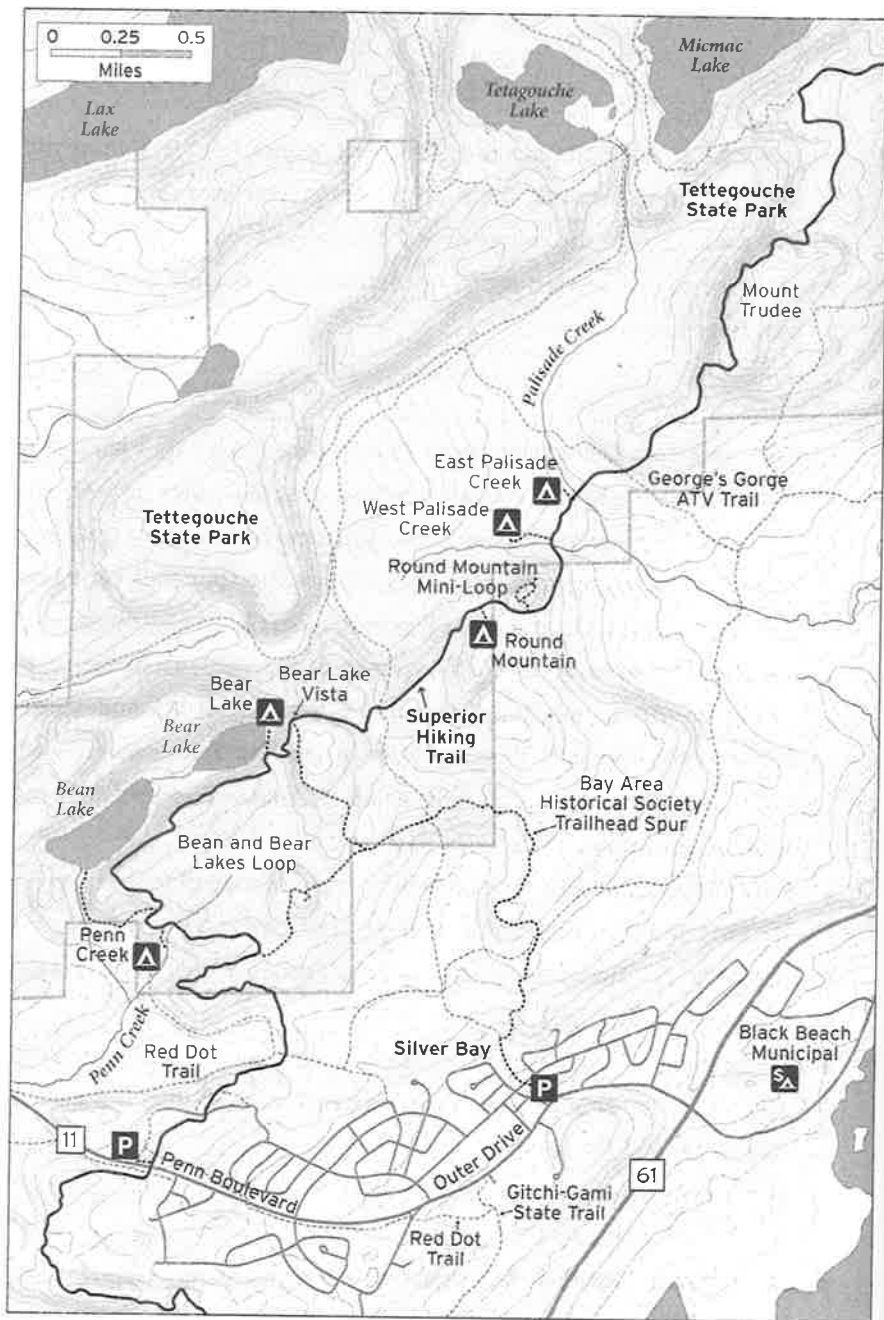
Synopsis: Climbing steadily from the trailhead, the SHT gains and loses elevation en route to vistas of Silver Bay and Bean and Bear Lakes. The Trail winds through the backcountry of Tettegouche State Park,

passing Round Mountain and ascending Mount Trudee. Joining the state park trail network, the SHT passes several spur trails to overlooks and crosses the bridge over the Baptism River.

Pro tip: Use of this section drops off dramatically outside of the Bean and Bear Lakes Loop.

SPUR TRAILS

- **Bean and Bear Lakes Loop Spur.** This 1.2-mile spur trail leads 0.4 miles to Elam's Knob, a small overlook. Just 0.2 miles further, the spur trail encounters the Bay Area Historical Society spur trail (see below). Continuing northeast, in 0.6 miles the spur trail comes to the junction with the main SHT near the Bear Lake Overlook.
- **Bay Area Historical Society.** This spur trail, accessible from the middle of the Bean and Bear Lakes Loop Spur, leads 2.2 miles into downtown Silver Bay. Check a map to see how it can be enjoyed as its own lollipop-loop, or used as an alternate entry or exit point when accessing the vistas near Bean and Bear Lakes.
- **Round Mountain Mini-Loop.** A 0.3-mile roundtrip small loop summits Round Mountain and circles its top.
- **Hawk Hill.** An incredible vista of Mount Trudee is only 0.1 miles off the Superior Hiking Trail.
- **Raven Rock.** A vista located 0.1 miles off the Trail offers a compelling alternative for southbound trail users not wanting to travel all the way to Mount Trudee.
- **Red Pine Overlook.** A beautiful biome exists on this knob 0.1 miles off the Superior Hiking Trail.
- **Tettegouche State Park Trailhead.** A 0.3-mile state park trail leads to parking within Tettegouche State Park. State park permit required to drive or park here. Toilets available nearby as well as fee campsites.



SPUR TRAILS, continued

- **Tettegouche State Park trails.** Part of this section intersects with several trails within the extensive Tettegouche State Park trail network. Countless loops can be created by studying a state park map.

CAMPSITES

▲ **Penn Creek Campsite**

Size: Large

Water source: Penn Creek, unreliable during dry periods. Creek has a hidden waterfall when flowing.

Campsite is located on a 0.1-mile spur trail and is the best option for group use in this area. Campsite has a picnic table and two latrines.

5.6, 5.3 ⊕ ⊕ 1.2, 2.4

▲ **Bear Lake Campsite**

Size: Small

Water source: Bear Lake

Hammock issues reported here.

Campsite is located on a 0.1-mile spur trail. It has a one-night limit due to being within Tettegouche State Park boundaries. Campsite has extremely poor tent pads, yet is the most heavily-used campsite on the Superior Hiking Trail. Make plans to camp elsewhere.

6.5, 1.2 ⊕ ⊕ 1.2, 1.7

▲ **Round Mountain Campsite**

Size: Medium

Water source: Beaver pond, reliable but often stagnant

Campsite offers a good alternative for those wanting to avoid crowds at Bear Lake Campsite. Nearby access to Round Mountain Mini-Loop.

2.4, 1.2 ⊕ ⊕ 0.5, 0.6

▲ **West Palisade Creek Campsite**

Size: Medium

Water source: West Palisade Creek, a small and somewhat reliable creek. If dry, the east branch of the creek is nearby.

Campsite is on a 0.1-mile spur trail in the shadow of Round Mountain. There are views of the surrounding landscape during leaf-off season.

1.7, 0.5 ⊕ ⊕ 0.1, 8.1

▲ **East Palisade Creek Campsite**

Size: Large

Water source: East Palisade Creek, a small but reliable creek

Large campsite is the best option for group use in this area.

0.6, 0.1 ⊕ ⊕ 8.0, 8.0

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
Penn Boulevard Trailhead	0.0	10.7
Spur from Penn Boulevard Trailhead	0.0	10.7
Service road crossing	0.3	10.4
Power line corridor	0.4	10.3
ATV trail crossing	0.7	10.0
Bean and Bear Lakes Loop spur, west junction	1.6	9.1
Spur to Penn Creek Campsite	2.0	8.7
Spur to Bear Lake Campsite	3.2	7.5
Register, Bean and Bear Lakes Loop spur, east junction	3.5	7.2
George's Gorge ATV trail crossing	3.8	6.9
Round Mountain Campsite	4.4	6.3
Spur to Round Mountain mini-loop	4.6	6.1
West Palisade Campsite	4.9	5.8
East Palisade Campsite	5.0	5.7
George's Gorge ATV trail crossing	5.3	5.4
Mount Trudeau	6.5	4.2
Spur to Hawk Hill	7.0	3.7
Spur to Raven Rock	7.6	3.1
The Drainpipe	8.5	2.2
Spur to Red Pine Overlook	9.1	1.6
Spur to Tettegouche State Park Trailhead	9.3	1.4
State park trail to campground	9.5	1.2
Baptism River swinging bridge	9.6	1.1
State park trail to High Falls Lower Vista	9.7	1.0
State park trail to Two Step Falls	9.9	0.8
Spur to Minnesota Highway 1 Trailhead	10.7	0.0
Minnesota Highway 1 Trailhead	10.7	0.0