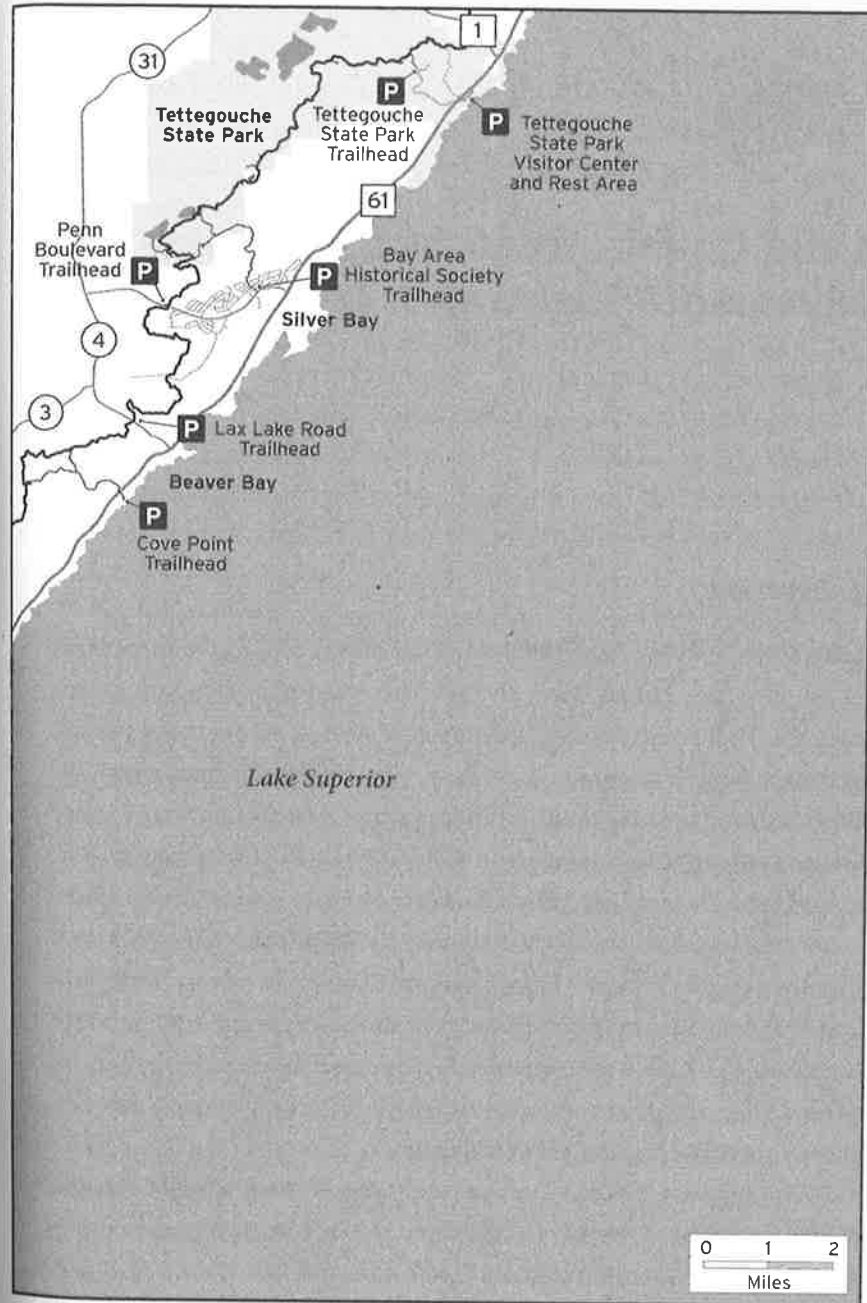
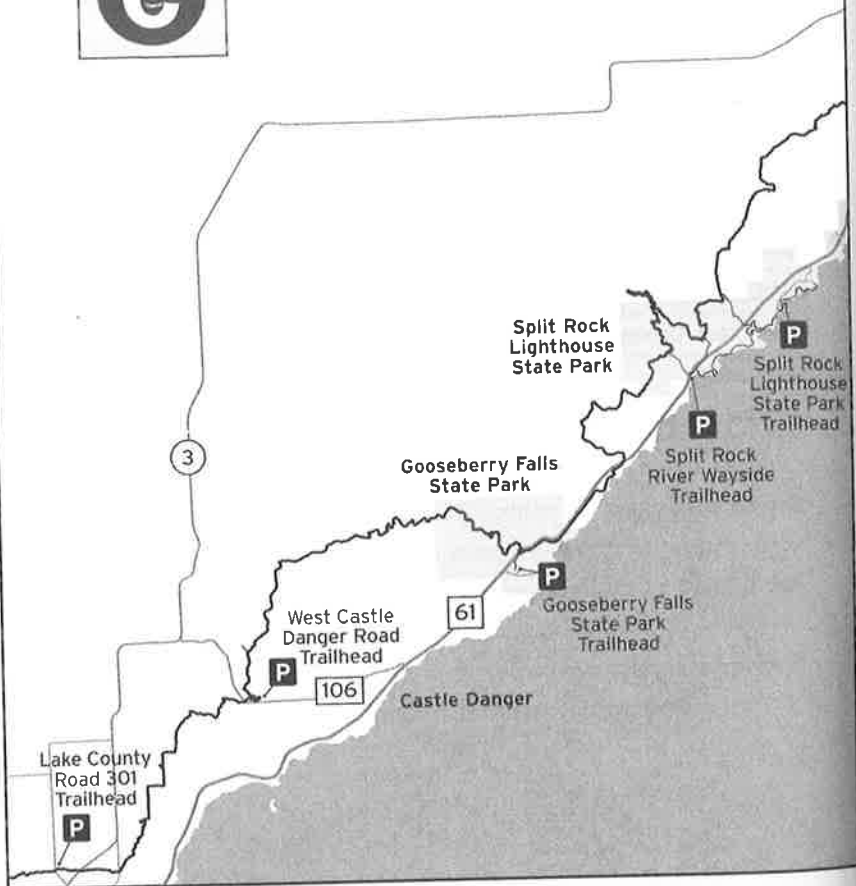




# Lake County Road 301 Trailhead to Minnesota Highway 1 Trailhead





## 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 Bread-loaf 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
<b>Lake County Road 301 Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>6.0</b>
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
<b>West Castle Danger Road Trailhead</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## 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

- I **Crow Creek Valley Overlook.** This 0.1-mile spur trail offers an inland vista of the gorgeous Crow Creek Valley.
- I **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
<b>West Castle Danger Road Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>8.9</b>
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
<b>Gooseberry Falls State Park Visitor Center Trailhead</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## 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

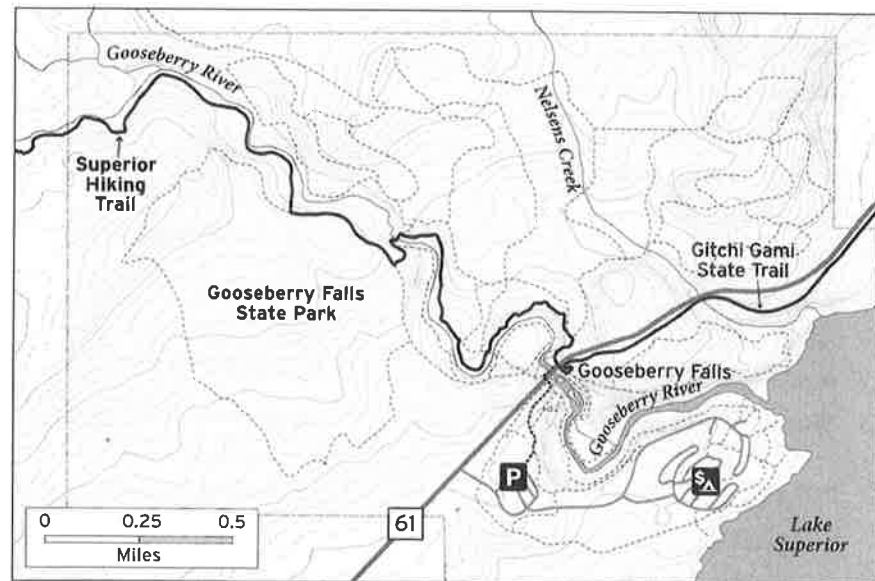
**Total distance:** 6.1 miles (Additional 0.2-mile spur trail from Gooseberry Falls State Park Visitor Center Trailhead; additional 0.5-mile spur trail to Split Rock River Wayside Trailhead)

**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
<b>Gooseberry Falls State Park Visitor Center</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>6.8</b>
<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
<b>Split Rock River Wayside Trailhead</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## 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

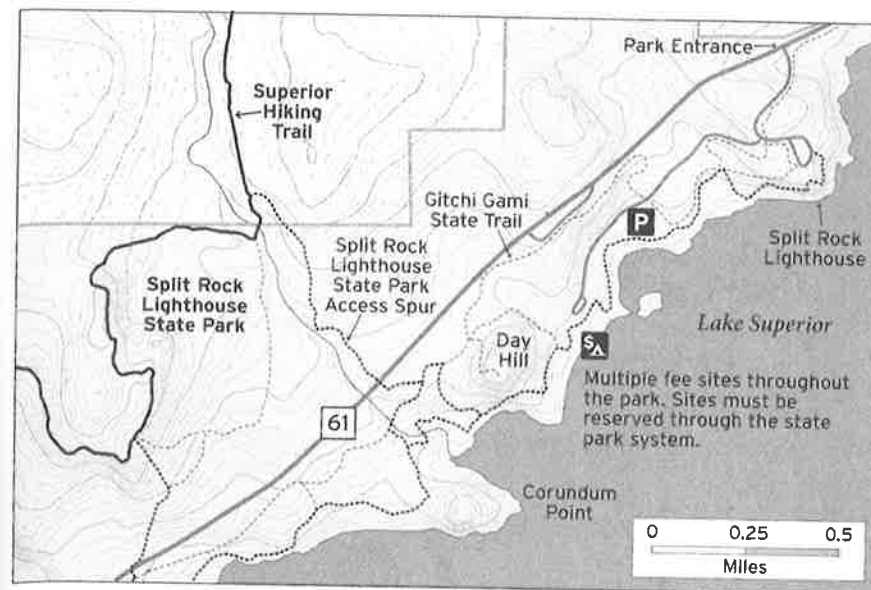
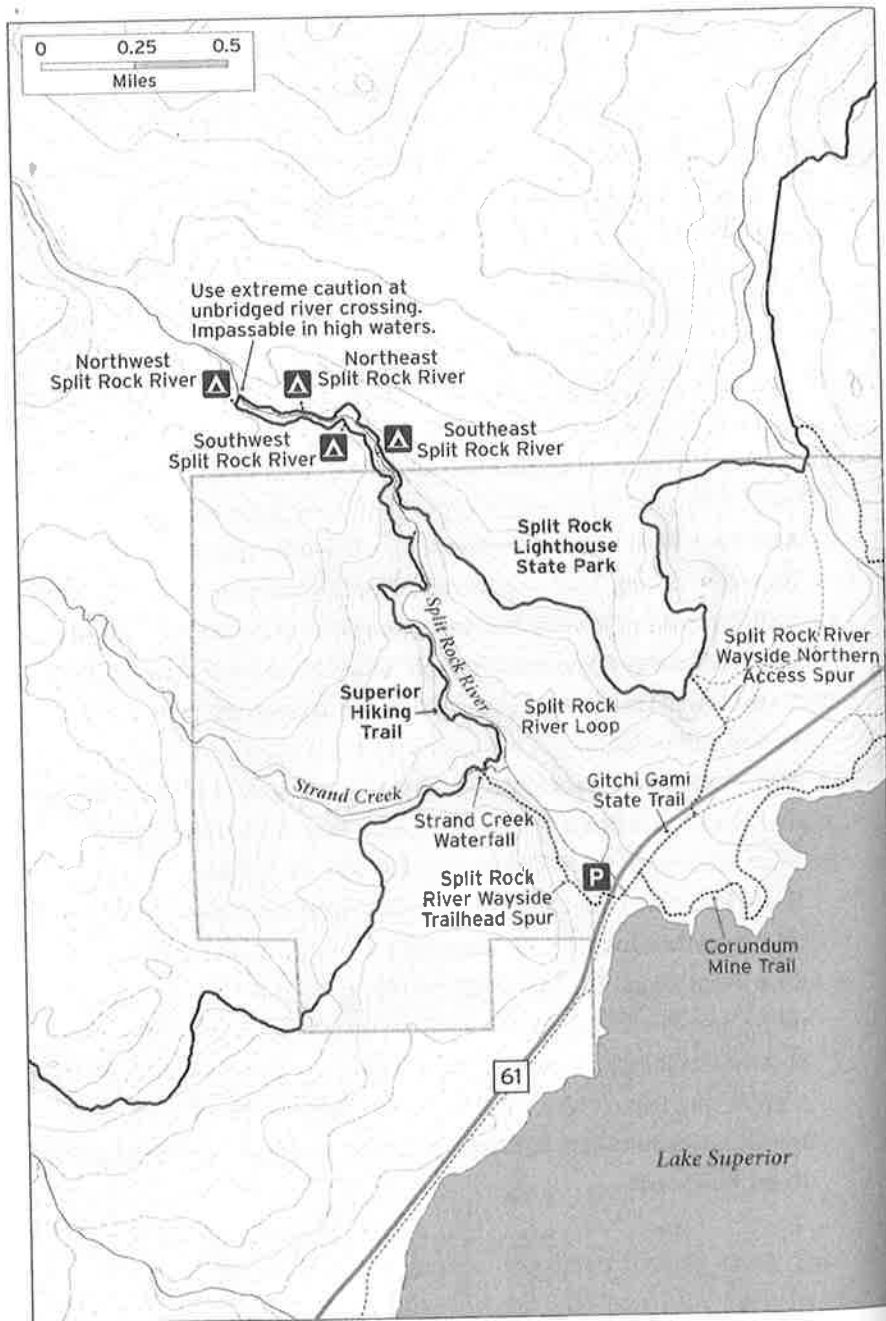
**Hazards and concerns:** Poor condition of tread, particularly along Split Rock River Loop. A natural, unbridged crossing of the Split Rock River. Steep, rocky terrain.

**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

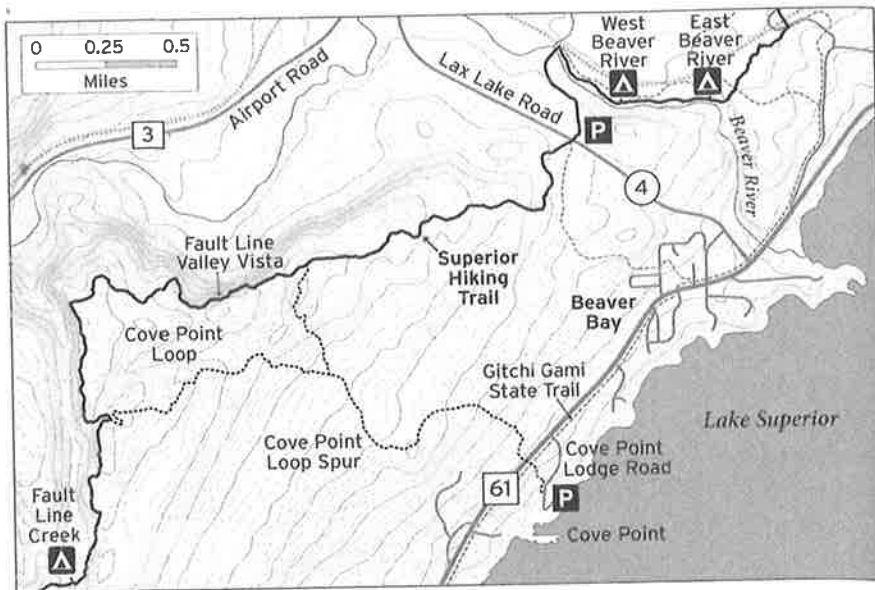
##### ▲ Northeast Split Rock River Campsite

**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

▲ **Chaplins 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
<b>Split Rock River Wayside Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>14.2</b>
<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
<b>Lake Lake Road Trailhead</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>


## 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
<b>Lax Lake Road Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>4.3</b>
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
<b>Penn Boulevard Trailhead</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## ■ 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.

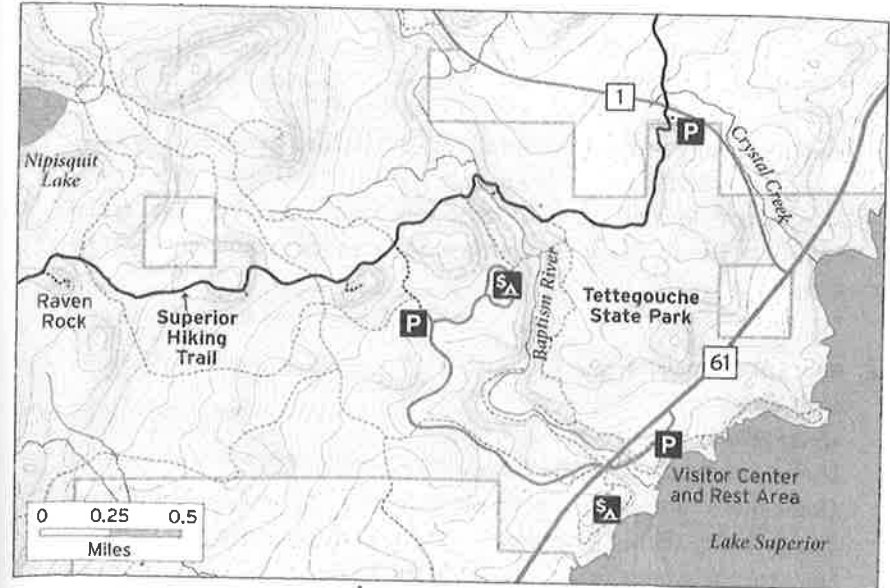
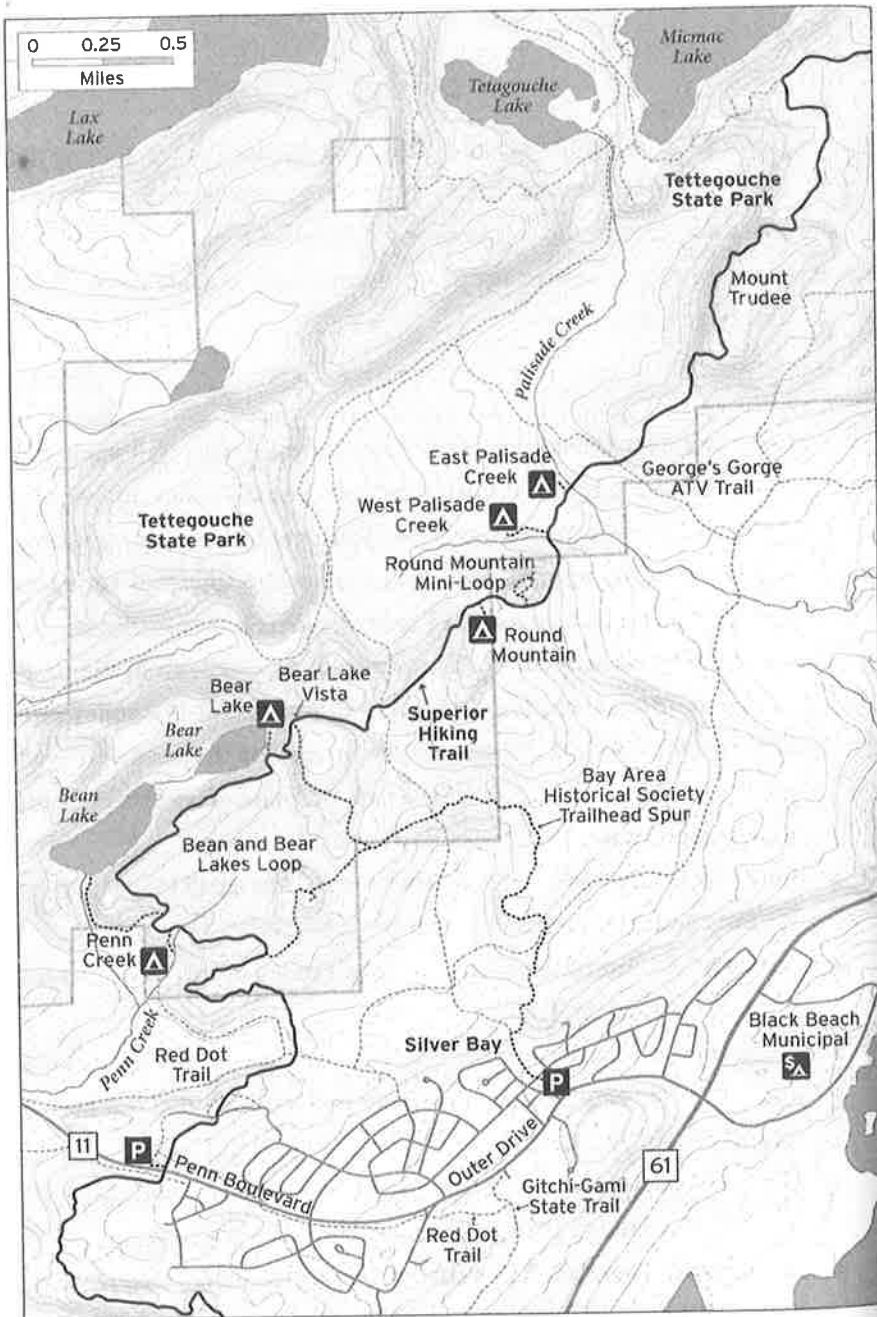
**Synopsis:** Climbing steadily from the trailhead, the SHT gains and loses elevation en route to vistas of Silver Bay and Bean and Bear Lakes. The Trail winds through the backcountry of Tettegouche State Park,

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

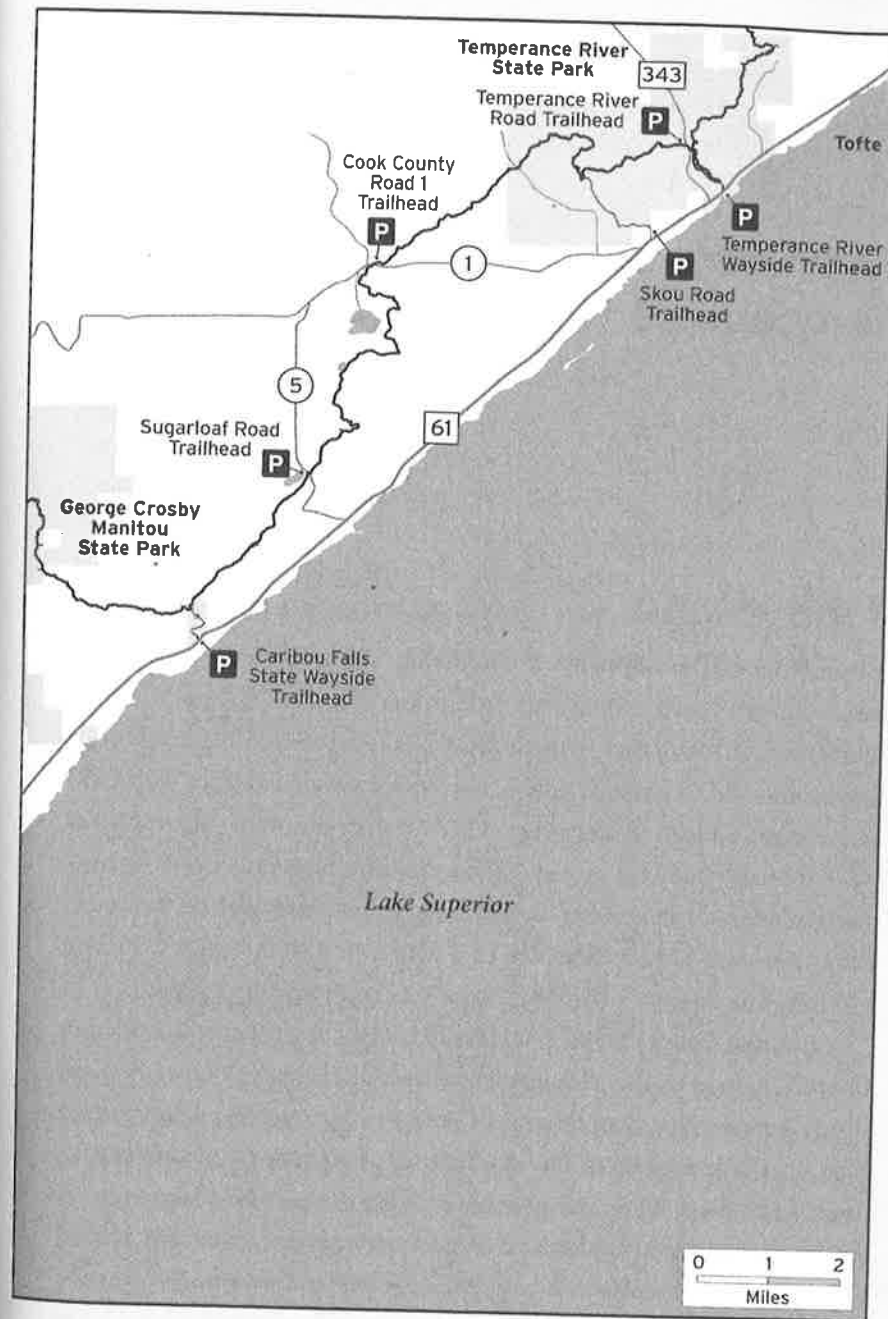
**Water source:** East Palisade Creek, a small but reliable creek. Large campsite is the best option for group use in this area.

0.6, 0.1 ⊕ ⊕ 8.0, 8.0

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
<b>Penn Boulevard Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>10.7</b>
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
<b>Minnesota Highway 1 Trailhead</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>



# Minnesota Highway 1 Trailhead to Temperance River Wayside Trailhead





## Minnesota Highway 1 Trailhead to Temperance River Wayside Trailhead

### Overview

From **Minnesota Highway 1 Trailhead**, the Superior Hiking Trail heads north toward a spur trail to Fantasia Overlook. The Trail winds along rock outcroppings with views of Lake Superior. Near Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center, the Trail comes to a view of Wolf Lake and distant education buildings. The forest in this area was impacted by a dramatic 2009 ice storm: bent trees from here into Cook County are reminders of that event. Sawmill Dome provides one of the most-beloved panoramas of the entire Trail with a view of the nearby Section 13 cliffs. The descent to County Road 6 is exceptionally rugged.

The **Lake County Road 6 Trailhead** leads to the spectacular Section 13 cliffs, named by the climbers who often utilize its rock faces. A wide, sturdy boardwalk across Sawmill Creek Pond provides a safe crossing over a major beaver dam. The Trail passes an impressive glacial erratic, dropped in place when the glaciers receded thousands of years ago. A low, wet area around Leskinen Creek has an impressive amount of mud before the Trail climbs to a wooded ridgeline and eventually over the East Branch of the Baptism River. A spur trail connects to the Lake County Road 7 Trailhead.

From the **Lake County Road 7 Trailhead**, a spur trail connects to the main Superior Hiking Trail before crossing Lake County Road 7 and continuing north. After crossing Egge Creek on a small bridge, the Trail passes Egge Lake and travels through dense forest to Sonju Lake. A boardwalk leads to Lilly's Island—a small collection of trees and rocks that, depending on the lake level, look more or less like an island. The Trail travels over rooty, rocky but fairly level terrain before crossing the East Branch of the Baptism River.


**Sonju Lake Road Trailhead** is connected to the Superior Hiking Trail by a short spur trail. The Trail here heads generally east on its way to George Crosby Manitou State Park. Many cedar roots make for challenging footing, but the Trail is fairly level as it follows the East Branch of the Baptism River and crosses Blesener Creek. When the Trail crosses Lake County Road 7 again, a roadwalk on the narrow, dirt Benson Lake Road brings the Trail into the state park.

From **George Crosby Manitou State Park Trailhead**, the Superior Hiking Trail is easy to miss among other park trails in the vicinity. The route through the park is exceptionally challenging; the Trail here is a tangle of roots and rocks with magnificent elevation change. The Superior Hiking Trail drops down into the stunning Manitou River Valley and crosses the river on a bridge. One of the most dramatic ascents of the entire Trail follows, leading steeply to Horseshoe Ridge with views of Lake Superior and the Manitou River Valley. The Trail descends toward Caribou River, crossing its gorge on an impressive bridge. A spur trail leads east to Caribou Falls.

At **Caribou Falls State Wayside Trailhead**, a spur trail heads to a stairway which leads to the base of Caribou Falls. The spur trail continues uphill to the main Superior Hiking Trail. The Trail continues from the Caribou River where forest succession is on display as bent birch die off. The majority of the land in this section is privately owned; as always, treat the land with respect and stay on the Trail. The southernmost power line crossing marks the boundary between Lake and Cook Counties. A unique covered bridge spans Crystal Creek, and near the adjacent campsite is an abandoned mine. A pine plantation carpets the flat, fairly level way to Sugarloaf Road.

**Sugarloaf Road Trailhead** starts one of the gentler sections of the Superior Hiking Trail. The Trail crosses Sugarloaf Creek and the ever-shrinking Sugarloaf Pond (visible from the adjacent campsite). Ruffy Lake, formerly known as Alfred's Pond, is a perfect place to sit on a bench and appreciate the unique plants and animals of the area. After a steep ascent and descent, the Trail comes to an A-frame bridge over Dyer's Creek and follows Two Island River, crossing abandoned railroad tracks and Cook County Road 1 before reaching the next trailhead.

From **Cook County Road 1 Trailhead**, the Superior Hiking Trail slowly rises through deep woods to a couple openings with Lake Superior views, including Tower Overlook. A descent to unbridged Fredenberg Creek is followed by Boney's Meadow before arriving at the tumbling Cross River. The Trail follows the river, at times over many rocks, to a large bridge. Just north of the bridge is a spur trail downhill to Skou Road Trailhead.

From **Skou Road Trailhead**, a long spur trail ascends ski and hiking trails to reach the main Superior Hiking Trail. The route toward Temperance River State Park meanders through a pine forest until the final, dramatic descent to Temperance River Road. The Superior Hiking Trail follows the scenic Temperance River downstream to a short spur trail to Highway 61 and the Temperance River Wayside Trailhead. 

## ■ Minnesota Highway 1 Trailhead to Lake County Road 6 Trailhead

### BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

**Directions and GPS Waypoints:** At MN-61 milepost 59.3, turn north on MN-1, go 0.8 miles to parking lot on left. GPS: 47.354927, -91.195618

**Facilities:** None

**Size:** Small

**Overnight parking:** Allowed

**Winter access:** No

**Special notes:** This small parking lot may be full during peak times. An alternative parking lot is available within Tettegouche State Park with a state park permit.

### SECTION SNAPSHOT

**Trail Atlas maps:** D-1, D-2

**Total distance:** 7.0 miles

**Elevation change:** There is significant elevation change in this area with some level stretches interspersed.

**SHT campsites:** Two

**Hazards and concerns:** There are rock ledges and steep terrain with rocks and roots. Use caution when crossing Highway 1.

**Synopsis:** Highlights include many views from rock outcroppings and the deep Finland forest. Fantasia Overlook and Sawmill Dome are noteworthy vistas.

**Pro tip:** Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center is a gracious landowner that allows the Superior Hiking Trail across its unique property. Please respect private property here by staying on the Trail and avoiding Wolf Ridge ELC's private infrastructure.

SPUR TRAILS

- **Fantasia Overlook.** A 0.4-mile spur trail leads to a gorgeous inland overlook.
- **Picnic Rock.** It's just 0.1 miles to this overlook—a great addition to any trip on this section.

CAMPSITES

▲ **West Kennedy Creek Campsite**

**Size:** Medium

**Water source:** Kennedy Creek, unreliable in dry conditions  
Campsite is located on private property. Please follow the posted campsite rules and do not trespass outside the bounds of the campsite.

8.1, 8.0 ↻ ↻ 0.0, 6.1

▲ **East Kennedy Creek Campsite**

**Size:** Medium

**Water source:** Kennedy Creek, unreliable in dry conditions  
Campsite is located on private property. Please follow the posted campsite rules and do not trespass outside the bounds of the campsite.

8.0, 0.0 ↻ ↻ 6.1, 9.8

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
<b>Minnesota Highway 1 Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>7.0</b>
<i>Spur from Minnesota Highway 1 Trailhead</i>	0.0	7.0
Minnesota Highway 1 crossing, power line corridor	0.0	7.0
Crystal Creek bridge	0.1	6.9
<i>Spur to Fantasia Overlook</i>	1.0	6.0
Short ATV trail junction	1.3	5.7
West Kennedy Creek Campsite	2.3	4.7
East Kennedy Creek Campsite	2.3	4.7
Power line corridor	3.1	3.9
Lime Squeezer	3.9	3.1
Sawmill Dome Vista	5.5	1.5
<i>Spur to Picnic Rock</i>	5.7	1.3
Lake County Road 6 crossing, roadwalk west end	6.8	0.2
Lake County Road 6 roadwalk east end	7.0	0.0
<b>Lake County Road 6 Trailhead</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## ■ Lake County Road 6 Trailhead to Lake County Road 7 Trailhead

### BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

**Directions and GPS Waypoints:** At MN-61 milepost 65.3, turn west on Lake Co. Rd. 6, go 2.3 miles to parking lot on right. GPS: 47.411691, -91.154728

**Facilities:** None

**Size:** Medium

**Overnight parking:** Allowed

**Winter access:** Yes

**Special notes:** Trailhead is shared with rock climbers and backcountry skiers. 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 map:** D-2

**Total distance:** 7.2 miles (Additional 0.3-mile spur trail to Lake County Road 7 Trailhead)

**Elevation change:** There are several climbs on this stretch, most notably the climb to the Section 13 cliffs.

**SHT campsites:** Two

**Hazards and concerns:** Cliff edges, rocky terrain, and significant mud near Leskinen Creek

**Synopsis:** Trail climbs to inspiring views at the Section 13 cliffs, descends steeply to Sawmill Creek Pond, passes a large glacial erratic, and winds through a low, wet area before ascending a ridge and descending to the East Branch of the Baptism River.

**Pro tip:** The low-lying parts of this section are an opportunity to view unique plants and even spot signs of moose.

### SPUR TRAIL

■ **Section 13 Loop.** The loop, in the process of being rehabilitated as of this writing, will someday provide more vistas of the Section 13 area. Spur trail was infrequently maintained for many years in the aftermath of a dramatic ice storm.

### CAMPSITES

#### ▲ Section 13 Campsite

**Size:** Medium

**Water source:** None. Nearest source is 0.5 miles north at a small creek. Small campsite has an upper and lower portion. Unsuitable for large groups. This heavily-used site has a history of attracting animals; please take extra care to protect your food and pack out what you bring in to keep the site clean.

6.1, 6.1 ⊕ ⊕ 3.7, 8.3

#### ▲ Leskinen Creek Campsite

**Size:** Medium

**Water source:** Small, shallow creek just north of the campsite. Campsite is located in prime bear habitat; please take extra caution to protect your food and pack out what you bring in to keep the site clean.

9.8, 3.7 ⊕ ⊕ 4.6, 4.8

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
<b>Lake County Road 6 Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>7.5</b>
Sawmill Creek bridge	0.3	7.2
Short spur to vista	1.2	6.3
Section 13 Vista	1.4	6.1
Section 13 Campsite	1.4	6.1
Spur to Section 13 Loop	1.8	5.7
Sawmill Creek Pond boardwalk, register	2.9	4.6
Glacial erratic	3.8	3.7
Park Hill Road crossing	4.3	3.2
Leskinen Creek Campsite	5.1	2.4
Mickleson Road crossing	6.6	0.9
East Branch Baptism River bridge	7.1	0.4
Spur to Lake County Road 7 Trailhead	7.2	0.3
<b>Lake County Road 7 Trailhead</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## Lake County Road 7 Trailhead to Sonju Lake Road Trailhead

### BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

**Directions and GPS Waypoints:** At MN-61 milepost 59.3, turn north on MN-1, go 6.0 miles to Lake Co. Rd. 7. Turn northeast, go 1.3 miles to parking lot on right. GPS: 47.429502, -91.228446

**Facilities:** Toilet, kiosk

**Size:** Large

**Overnight parking:** Allowed

**Winter access:** Yes

**Special notes:** This trailhead is shared with North Shore State Trail users.

### SECTION SNAPSHOT

**Trail Atlas maps:** D-2, D-3

**Total distance:** 7.3 miles (Additional 0.3-mile spur trail from Lake County Road 7 Trailhead)

**Elevation change:** A rolling section of trail with no major climbs

**SHT campsites:** Four

**Hazards and concerns:** Multiple crossings of logging roads and the North Shore State Trail in the area

**Synopsis:** This section highlights the beauty of several streams and Egge and Sonju lakes. Though remote, and with lots of roots to navigate, this section has comparatively little elevation change, making it one of the easier sections of the SHT.

**Pro tip:** The lakes in this section are popular destinations, particularly on weekends.

### SPUR TRAILS

- **Egge Creek.** A little-used and infrequently-maintained spur trail follows Egge Creek 100 feet to the North Shore State Trail. Spur trail can be used to create a loop with the NSST.
- **Lilly's Island.** No trip to Sonju Lake is complete without venturing out to Lilly's Island, just 130 feet off the main SHT. A trail register on the island invites reflection.

### SPUR TRAILS, continued

- **Sonju Lake Road Trailhead.** A 250-foot spur trail leads to Sonju Lake Road Trailhead.

### CAMPSITES

#### ▲ South Egge Lake Campsite

**Size:** Medium

**Water source:** Egge Lake, with better water access at nearby Egge Creek 0.2 miles south

Campsite offers easy access to Egge Lake.

8.3, 4.6 ⊕ ⊕ 0.2, 3.2

#### ▲ North Egge Lake Campsite

**Size:** Medium

**Water source:** Egge Lake

Campsite offers easy access to Egge Lake with slightly less traffic at this site compared to its neighbor.

4.8, 0.2 ⊕ ⊕ 3.0, 3.3

#### ▲ South Sonju Lake Campsite

**Size:** Large

**Water source:** Sonju Lake, with better water access from nearby Lilly's Island

Large campsite is the best option for group use on this section.

3.2, 3.0 ⊕ ⊕ 0.3, 2.1

#### ▲ North Sonju Lake Campsite

**Size:** Medium

**Water source:** Sonju Lake. Can be challenging to get water at this site's lake access without stirring up mud.

Sloped campsite offers few usable tent pads.

3.3, 0.3 ⊕ ⊕ 1.8, 2.4

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
<b>Lake County Road 7 Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>7.6</b>
<i>Spur from Lake County Road 7 Trailhead</i>	0.3	7.3
Lake County Road 7 crossing, roadwalk west end	0.5	7.1
Lake County Road 7 roadwalk east end	0.7	6.9
North Shore State Trail crossing	0.9	6.7
North Shore State Trail crossing	1.3	6.3
<i>Spur to North Shore State Trail</i>	2.6	5.0
Egge Creek bridge	2.6	5.0
South Egge Lake Campsite	2.8	4.8
North Egge Lake Campsite	3.0	4.6
South Sonju Lake Campsite	6.0	1.6
<i>Spur to Lilly's Island, register</i>	6.0	1.6
North Sonju Lake Campsite	6.3	1.3
East Branch Baptism bridge	7.6	0.0
<i>Spur to Sonju Lake Road Trailhead</i>	7.6	0.0
<b>Sonju Lake Road Trailhead</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## ■ Sonju Lake Road Trailhead to George Crosby Manitou State Park Trailhead

### BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

**Directions and GPS Waypoints:** At MN-61 milepost 59.3, turn north on MN-1, go 6.0 miles to Lake Co. Rd. 7. Turn northeast, go 6.7 miles to Sonju Lake Rd. Slight turn west, go 2.4 miles to parking lot on left. GPS: 47.483322, -91.177956

**Facilities:** None

**Size:** Small

**Overnight parking:** Allowed

**Winter access:** No

**Special notes:** Sonju Lake Road is a narrow forest road with many curves and frequent logging truck traffic. Use extreme caution, especially when icy.

### SECTION SNAPSHOT

**Trail Atlas maps:** D-3, D-4

**Total distance:** 4.0 miles

**Elevation change:** Minimal

**SHT campsites:** Three

**Hazards and concerns:** Many roots and rocks cover this section. Use caution on the Benson Lake Road roadwalk.

**Synopsis:** Highlighting the cedar habitat along the East Branch of the Baptism River, this section is a fairly flat forest walk with one overlook toward the north end.

**Pro tip:** For those who like to bike on gravel roads, this is a great section to self-shuttle between trailheads.

### CAMPSITES

#### ▲ East Branch Baptism River Campsite

**Size:** Small

**Water source:** East Branch Baptism River

Small site with little privacy from the Trail has access to the river which, in season, swarms with dragonflies.

2.1, 1.8 ☺ ☹ 0.6, 2.6

Sonju Lake Road Trailhead | George Crosby Manitou State Park Trailhead

▲ **Blesener Creek Campsite**

**Size:** Small

☉ **Water source:** East Branch Baptism River or Blesener Creek

Small campsite among cedars. Uniquely situated between two water bodies. Campsite is not far from the North Shore State Trail crossing and NSST infrastructure, including a shelter and an outhouse.  
2.4, 0.6 ⊕ ⊕ 2.0, 7.0

▲ **Aspen Knob Campsite**

**Size:** Small

**Water source:** Small creek just north of campsite

Campsite is not far from rural roads and homesteads; some noise from these places should be expected.

2.6, 2.0 ⊕ ⊕ 5.0, 7.8

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
<b>Sonju Lake Road Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<i>Spur from Sonju Lake Road Trailhead</i>	0.0	4.0
East Branch Baptism River Campsite	0.5	3.5
Blesener Creek Campsite	1.1	2.9
North Shore State Trail crossing, nearby shelter	1.3	2.7
Sonju Lake Road crossing	2.3	1.7
Blesner Lake Road crossing	3.1	0.9
Aspen Knob Campsite	3.2	0.8
Vista	3.4	0.6
Lake County Road 7 crossing	3.5	0.5
Benson Lake Road roadwalk west end	3.5	0.5
<i>Spur to water pump</i>	3.8	0.2
Benson Lake Road roadwalk east end	4.0	0.0
<b>George Crosby Manitou State Park Trailhead</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

■ **George Crosby Manitou State Park Trailhead to Caribou Falls State Wayside Trailhead**

BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

**Directions and GPS Waypoints:** At MN-61 milepost 59.3, turn north on MN-1, go 6.0 miles to Lake Co. Rd. 7. Turn northeast, go 7.8 miles to entrance of George Crosby Manitou State Park. Turn east, go 0.5 miles to parking lot on left. GPS: 47.478642, -91.112585

**Facilities:** Toilet, nearby water, kiosk, state park fee campsites

**Size:** Large

**Overnight parking:** Allowed

**Winter access:** Yes, at the entrance kiosk. The main parking lot is unplowed in the winter, but there is a plowed parking area about 0.3 miles west of the trailhead.

**Special notes:** State park permit required for day use and overnight parking.

SECTION SNAPSHOT

**Trail Atlas maps:** D-4, D-5

**Total distance:** 7.0 miles (Additional 0.7-mile spur trail to Caribou Falls State Wayside Trailhead)

**Elevation change:** Area is known for its steep elevation changes, often cited as one of the hardest sections. The most challenging parts of the section are on the southwestern side; the northeastern third of the section is significantly less challenging.

**SHT campsites:** Two

**Hazards and concerns:** Expect to encounter rugged terrain, steep drop-offs, and remoteness.

**Synopsis:** Trail wanders through George Crosby Manitou State Park on state park trails before crossing the rushing Manitou River and climbing steeply to Horseshoe Ridge. The Trail has many overlooks before it descends toward Caribou River.

**Pro tip:** Not only one of the hardest but also one of the longest shuttles of any section, there is no quick way to drive between this section's trailheads.

## SPUR TRAILS

- **George Crosby Manitou State Park Trails.** Part of this section intersects with several trails within the extensive George Crosby Manitou State Park network. Countless loops can be created by studying a state park map.
- **Overlooked Overlook.** A 0.1-mile spur trail leads to a modest view, but efforts to reclaim the full, now-overgrown route to the real Overlooked Overlook are underway.
- **Caribou Falls State Wayside Trailhead.** A 0.7-mile spur trail leads downhill 0.2 miles to the base of Caribou Falls and an additional 0.5 miles to the trailhead.

## CAMPSITES

**Special note:** The Superior Hiking Trail passes by a few backpack-in campsites managed by the state park. These campsites require reservations and payment in advance, unlike the campsites managed by the SHTA. There is unlikely to be any cell reception within the park, so plan accordingly.

### ▲ Horseshoe Ridge Campsite

**Size:** Medium

**Water source:** An unreliable stream near the campsite

Campsite is not suitable for large groups. Please consider reserving a campsite within George Crosby Manitou State Park.

7.0, 5.0 ⊕ ⊕ 2.8, 2.9

### ▲ West Caribou River Campsite

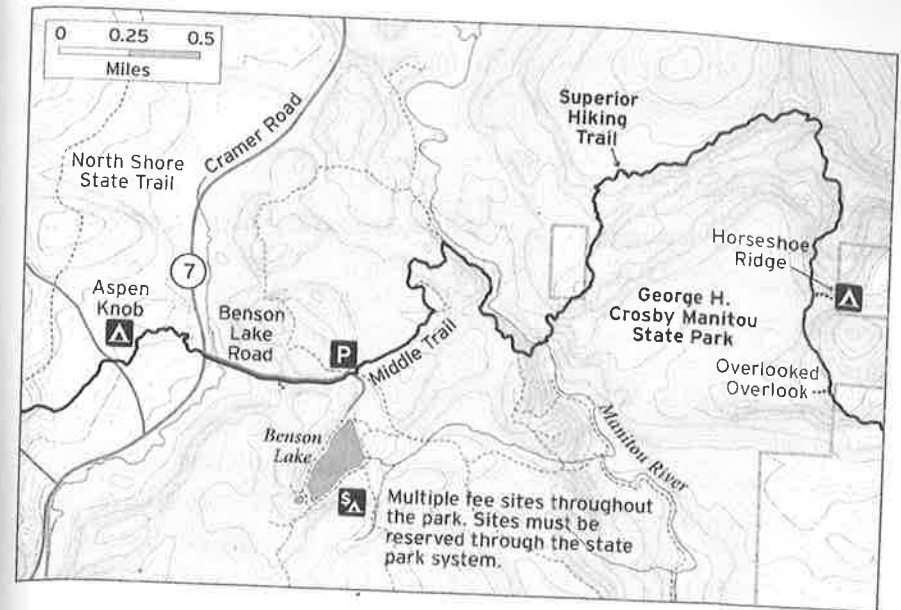
**Size:** Small

**Water source:** Caribou River

Small campsite sits on a rise above the river.

Campsite is not suitable for large groups. Please consider reserving a campsite within George Crosby Manitou State Park.

7.8, 2.8 ⊕ ⊕ 0.1, 1.5



MILEAGE	MILEAGE	
	Northbound	Southbound
<b>George Crosby Manitou State Park Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>7.7</b>
Day-use shelter	0.7	7.0
State park campsite 3, fee and reservation required	1.0	6.7
State park campsite 4, fee and reservation required	1.1	6.6
State park bridge	1.2	6.5
Manitou River bridge	1.6	6.1
Manitou River Valley Vista	1.9	5.8
Horseshoe Ridge Vista	3.5	4.2
Horseshoe Ridge Campsite	4.1	3.6
Spur to Overlooked Overlook	4.4	3.3
Bob Silver Logging Road crossing (private road)	5.9	1.8
Pork Bay Trail sign	6.3	1.4
West Caribou River Campsite	6.9	0.8
Spur to Caribou Falls and Caribou Falls State Wayside Trailhead	7.0	0.7
Spur to Caribou Falls	7.2	0.5
<b>Caribou Falls State Wayside Trailhead</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## Caribou Falls State Wayside Trailhead to Sugarloaf Road Trailhead

### BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

**Directions and GPS Waypoints:** At MN-61 milepost 70.5 on north side of highway. GPS: 47.464308, -91.030424

**Facilities:** Toilet

**Size:** Large

**Overnight parking:** No

**Winter access:** Unlikely

**Special notes:** Trailhead is near the border of Lake and Cook counties, located in a curve on Highway 61. Use caution!

### SECTION SNAPSHOT

**Trail Atlas map:** D-5

**Total distance:** 2.9 miles (Additional 0.7-mile spur trail from Caribou Falls State Wayside Trailhead)

**Elevation change:** The majority of elevation change on this section is on the spur trail from Caribou Falls State Wayside Trailhead.

**SHT campsites:** Two

**Hazards and concerns:** Steep drop-offs near the Caribou River

**Synopsis:** Rolling section with views of Lake Superior through the trees. The Trail crosses Crystal Creek and heads through a pine plantation.

**Pro tip:** Spur trail to Crystal Creek Campsite is worth the extra steps, even for those not camping there.

### SPUR TRAIL

**Caribou Falls State Wayside Trailhead.** A 0.7-mile spur trail leads uphill 0.5 miles to the base of Caribou Falls and an additional 0.2 miles to the Superior Hiking Trail.

### CAMPSITES

#### ▲ East Caribou River Campsite

**Size:** Large

**Water source:** Caribou River

Large campsite is the best option for group use in the area. Note that although this campsite is close to the trailhead, overnight parking is not allowed at Caribou Falls State Wayside Trailhead.

2.9, 0.1 ⊕ ⊕ 1.4, 3.6

#### ▲ Crystal Creek Campsite

**Size:** Medium

**Water source:** Crystal Creek

Campsite is on a 0.2-mile spur trail and located on private property. Please follow the posted campsite rules and do not trespass outside the bounds of the campsite. Campsite is adjacent to an old mine.

1.5, 1.4 ⊕ ⊕ 2.6, 6.0

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
<b>Caribou Falls State Wayside Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>3.6</b>
Spur to Caribou Falls	0.5	3.1
Spur from Caribou Falls and Caribou Falls Wayside Trailhead	0.7	2.9
Register	0.7	2.9
East Caribou River Campsite	0.7	2.9
Power line corridor, Lake/Cook County border	1.5	2.1
Spur to Crystal Creek Campsite	2.1	1.5
Crystal Creek covered bridge	2.2	1.4
Power line corridor	2.8	0.8
High Ridge Drive crossing (private road)	3.5	0.1
<b>Sugarloaf Road Trailhead</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>1.0</b>

## ■ Sugarloaf Road Trailhead to Cook County Road 1 Trailhead

### ▼ BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

**Directions and GPS Waypoints:** At MN-61 milepost 73.3, turn north on Sugarloaf Rd., go 1.5 miles to parking lot on left. GPS: 47.498036, -90.997808

**Facilities:** None

**Size:** Medium

**Overnight parking:** Allowed

**Winter access:** Unlikely

**Special notes:** Trailhead is adjacent to many parcels of private land.

### SECTION SNAPSHOT

**Trail Atlas maps:** D-5, D-6

**Total distance:** 5.6 miles

**Elevation change:** A couple of smaller climbs on this section but fairly gentle overall

**SHT campsites:** Two

**Hazards and concerns:** A few short steep areas and noteworthy mud

**Synopsis:** Cross Sugarloaf Creek near Sugarloaf Pond, and venture along the shores of Ruffy Lake on this fairly flat section. On the north end, Dyers Creek and Two Island River are highlights.

**Pro tip:** Parts of this section are best enjoyed during dry periods or when the ground is frozen.

### CAMPSITES

#### ▲ Sugarloaf Pond Campsite

**Size:** Medium

**Water source:** Sugarloaf Pond, often stagnant and shallow and can be hard to access

Campsite has scrubby surroundings, which means a wide sky for stargazing.

3.6, 2.6 ⊕ ⊕ 3.4, 6.3

#### ▲ Dyers Creek Campsite

**Size:** Medium

**Water source:** Dyers Creek or Two Island River

Campsite features a unique location between two water bodies.

6.0, 3.4 ⊕ ⊕ 2.9, 4.7

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
<b>Sugarloaf Road Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>5.6</b>
Sugarloaf Creek bridge	0.1	5.5
Sugarloaf Pond Campsite	0.9	4.7
<i>Spur to Ruffy Lake benches</i>	2.4	3.2
Dyers Creek bridge	4.3	1.3
Dyers Creek Campsite	4.3	1.3
Dyers Lake Road roadwalk, railroad crossing	5.1	0.5
Power line corridor	5.3	0.3
Cook County Road 1 crossing	5.4	0.2
Two Island River bridge	5.5	0.1
<b>Cook County Road 1 Trailhead</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## ■ Cook County Road 1 Trailhead to Skou Road Trailhead

### BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

**Directions and GPS Waypoints:** At MN-61 milepost 79.1, turn northwest on Cook Co. Rd. 1, go 3.6 miles to parking lot on right. GPS: 47.539859, -90.975425

**Facilities:** None

**Size:** Small

**Overnight parking:** Allowed

**Winter access:** No

**Special notes:** A short driveway leads to the lot. Please park with care so as not to block anyone else in, and use the space as efficiently as possible.

### SECTION SNAPSHOT

**Trail Atlas maps:** D-6, D-7

**Total distance:** 4.9 miles (Additional 1.4-mile spur trail to Skou Road Trailhead)

**Elevation change:** This section fluctuates in elevation, but climbs are generally short.

**SHT campsites:** Five

**Hazards and concerns:** A few rugged climbs and unsure footing near the Cross River, an unbridged crossing at Fredenberg Creek, and steep drop-offs at overlooks

**Synopsis:** Climbing slowly but steadily through deciduous forest, the Superior Hiking Trail reaches Tower Overlook, descends to Fredenberg Creek and Boney's Meadow, and follows the banks of the Cross River.

**Pro tip:** Trail along the Cross River is surprisingly rugged, with lots of rocks and some steep areas.

### SPUR TRAILS

- **Skou Road Trailhead.** From the main SHT, this spur trail descends 1.4 miles on a mix of hiking and ski trails. Several intersections are marked by Temperance River State Park maps. Two ski shelters are along this route.
- **Temperance River State Park Trails.** Part of this section intersects with several trails within the Temperance River State Park network. Countless loops can be created by studying a state park map. Use caution, as many winter trails are not passible when the ground is not frozen.

### CAMPSITES

#### ▲ Fredenberg Creek Campsite

**Size:** Large

**Water source:** Fredenberg Creek, unreliable only in extremely dry conditions

This large campsite is the best option for group use in the area.  
6.3, 2.9 ⊕ ⊕ 1.8, 2.6

#### ▲ The Falls Campsite

**Size:** Small

**Water source:** Cross River

Campsite is on a knob above a small waterfall. If heading south, it is not recommended to rely on space being available at this site.  
4.7, 1.8 ⊕ ⊕ 0.8, 1.4

#### ▲ The Ledge Campsite

**Size:** Small

**Water source:** Cross River

Campsite is, appropriately, on a skinny ledge above the river.  
2.6, 0.8 ⊕ ⊕ 0.6, 0.7

CAMPSITES, continued

▲ **North Cross River Campsite**

**Size:** Small

**Water source:** Cross River

Campsite is adjacent to South Cross River Campsite.

1.4, 0.6 ⊕ ⊕ 0.1, 9.0

▲ **South Cross River Campsite**

**Size:** Medium


**Water source:** Cross River

Campsite is next to the bridge over Cross River and North Cross River Campsite.

0.7, 0.1 ⊕ ⊕ 8.9, 11.1

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
<b>Cook County Road 1 Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>6.3</b>
Tower Overlook	1.4	4.9
Fredenberg Creek crossing	1.6	4.7
Fredenberg Creek Campsite	1.6	4.7
Boney's Meadow	2.5	3.8
Gasco Road crossing	2.6	3.7
The Falls Campsite	3.4	2.9
The Ledge Campsite	4.2	2.1
North Cross River Campsite	4.8	1.5
South Cross River Campsite	4.9	1.4
Cross River bridge	4.9	1.4
Spur to Skou Road Trailhead	4.9	1.4
Ski trail shelter	5.6	0.7
Ski trail shelter	6.0	0.3
<b>Skou Road Trailhead</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## Inland to Finland

With a glance at a map of the Superior Hiking Trail, the Finland area stands out due to its wide western swing inland, far away from Lake Superior. The Trail as we know it today was not the route intended by the initial trailbuilders. Originally, the hope was to route the Superior Hiking Trail northeast from the Section 13 cliffs toward George Crosby Manitou State Park in a somewhat straight line. However, permission was not obtained from private landowners to travel along that proposed route. To avoid private lands as much as possible, the original trailbuilders created a longer but extraordinarily scenic path on the route we now enjoy. This western piece of the Superior Hiking Trail leads to two lovely lakes—it is hard to imagine the Trail without Egge and Sonju Lakes. The Section 13 Loop is a remnant of the initially-proposed route. When landowner permissions were not secured, a piece of recently-constructed Trail became a dead-end. Trailbuilders didn't want to lose the good work they'd done in the area, so they turned the dead-end into a short loop. 

## ■ Skou Road Trailhead to Temperance River Wayside Trailhead

### BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

**Directions and GPS waypoints:** At MN-61 milepost 78.9, turn north on Skou Rd., go 0.1 miles to parking lot on right. GPS: 47.547501, -90.895069

**Facilities:** None

**Size:** Small

**Overnight parking:** Allowed. Overnight parking is also allowed at nearby Temperance River Road Trailhead (At MN-61 milepost 80.2, turn north on Temperance River Rd., go 0.9 miles to parking lot on left. GPS: 47.564292, -90.88413).

**Winter access:** No

**Special notes:** Several trail intersections near the trailhead. Watch for signage to stay on the right path.

### SECTION SNAPSHOT

**Trail Atlas map:** D-7

**Total distance:** 2.7 miles (Additional 1.4-mile spur trail from Skou Road, additional 0.2-mile spur trail to Temperance River Wayside Trailhead)

**Elevation change:** Spur trail from Skou Road Trailhead ascends steadily. On the main Superior Hiking Trail, the descent from the ridge to Temperance River Road is among the steepest on the entire Trail.

**SHT campsites:** None

**Hazards and concerns:** Steep, eroding trail near Temperance River Road.

**Synopsis:** A rolling, fairly easy ridgewalk with occasional glimpses of Lake Superior and Taconite Harbor descends quickly to the banks of the Temperance River, which the Trail follows into the heart of Temperance River State Park.

**Pro tip:** Temperance River State Park is often very busy, but the elevation change between the ridgeline and Temperance River Road keeps visitor numbers down in this area.

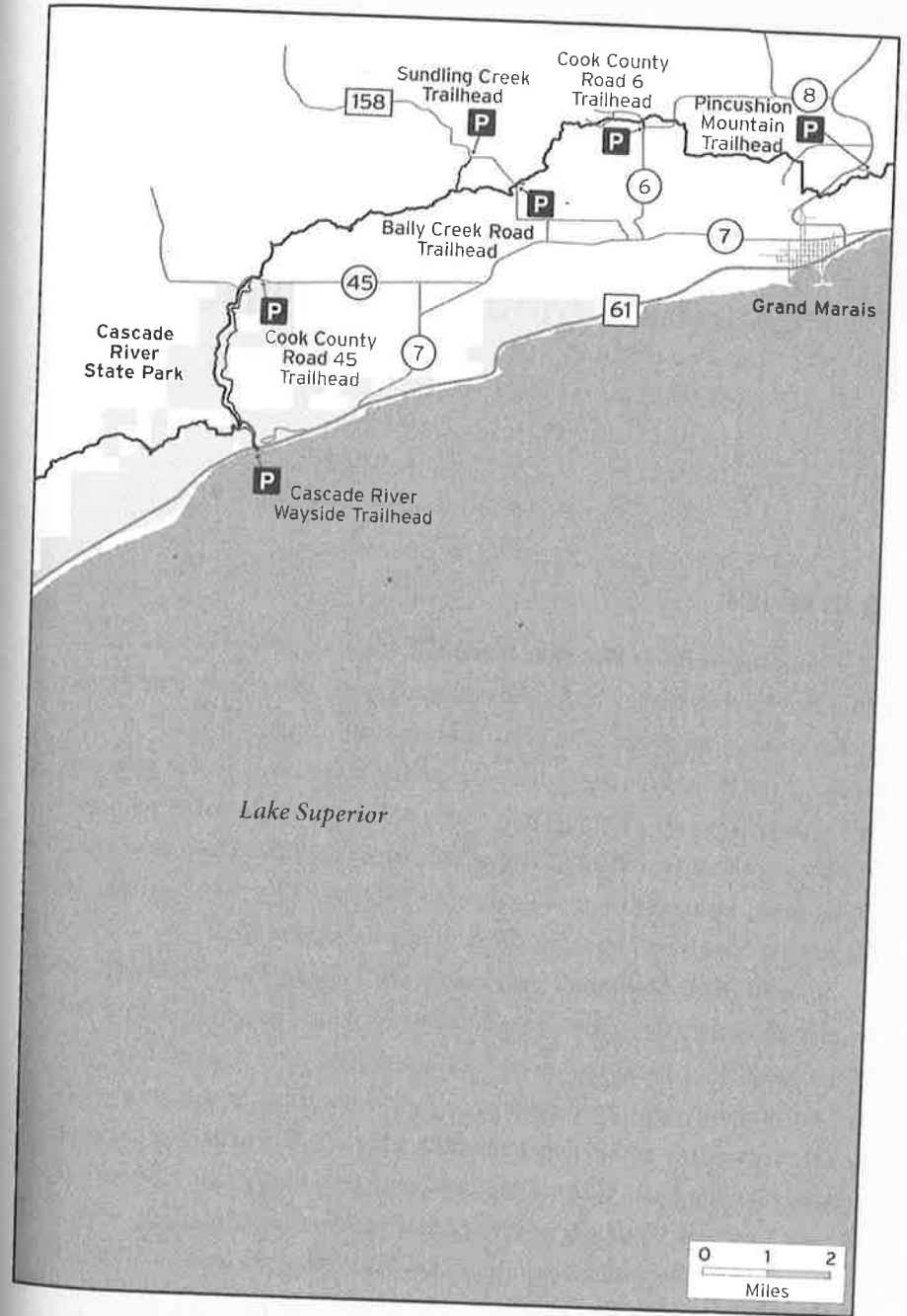
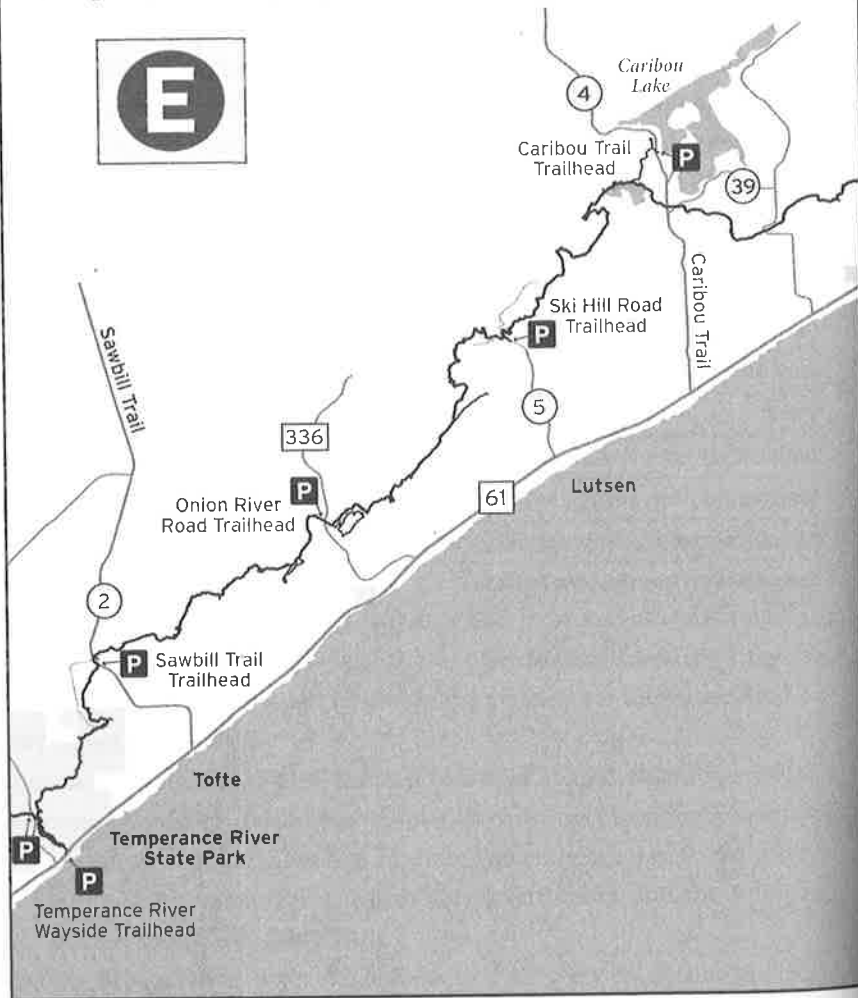
### SPUR TRAILS

- **Temperance River Wayside Trailhead.** This 0.2-mile spur leads to Highway 61 and the Temperance River Wayside Trailhead.
- **Temperance River State Park Trails.** Part of this section intersects with several trails within the Temperance River State Park trail network. Countless loops can be created by studying a state park map. Use caution, as many winter trails are only passable when the ground is frozen.

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
<b>Skou Road Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>4.3</b>
<i>Ski trail shelter</i>	0.3	4.0
<i>Ski trail shelter</i>	0.7	3.6
<i>Spur from Skou Road Trailhead</i>	1.4	2.9
Vista	2.4	1.9
Temperance River Road Trailhead	3.3	1.0
Temperance River bridge	4.1	0.2
<i>Spur to Temperance River Wayside Trailhead</i>	4.1	0.2
<b>Temperance River Wayside Trailhead</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>



## Temperance River Wayside Trailhead to Pincushion Mountain Trailhead





## Temperance River Wayside Trailhead to Pincushion Mountain Trailhead

### Overview

At **Temperance River Wayside Trailhead**, a spur trail leads to the main Superior Hiking Trail, which follows Temperance River State Park trails along a stunning gorge. The Trail continues upstream along the banks of the river. A steady climb leads to perhaps the most iconic peak of the entire Superior Hiking Trail: Carlton Peak. This massive geologic formation rises dramatically above the landscape. The steep spur trail to its peak, and another to neighboring Ted Tofte Overlook, are not to be missed. The Trail descends fairly gently to Sawbill Trail.

**Sawbill Trail Trailhead**, also called the Britton Peak Trailhead, is part of the original section of the Superior Hiking Trail, built before the Superior Hiking Trail had been conceptualized. This section has rolling terrain with spur trails leading to overlooks. A rocky spur trail with stone steps leads to Britton Peak and affords a breathtaking view of nearby Carlton Peak. Cedar Overlook provides a view of Lake Superior. Serene Leveaux Pond sits in the shadow of Leveaux Mountain, where spur trails lead to two short loops. The Trail descends gently to Onion River toward Onion River Road.

**Onion River Road Trailhead**, also called Oberg Mountain Trailhead,

is one of the Superior Hiking Trail's most popular trailheads. This is due to the proximity of the Oberg Mountain Loop, which features panoramic views in every direction. The Superior Hiking Trail passes the spur for the loop and continues on rolling terrain past Rollins Creek to a steep climb up the spine of Moose Mountain. The Trail here offers occasional glimpses of the surrounding landscape. A spur trail at the north end of the long ridge leads to the Lutsen Mountains ski area gondola. The Trail descends Moose Mountain and ascends Mystery Mountain. Maples thrive here, and their presence makes for a vibrant autumn experience. After descending and crossing the Poplar River on a multi-use trail, the SHT comes to two spur trails leading to Lutsen Mountains and Ski Hill Road Trailhead.

From **Ski Hill Road Trailhead**, the Superior Hiking Trail steadily ascends above the Lutsen Mountains ski area facilities to Glove Overlook before dropping into the Poplar River valley. The Trail leaves the flat stretch along the river and climbs to overlooks, including Poplar River Overlook, which highlights the oxbows of the river below. Nearby, Lake Agnes is another beautiful site with vistas like Hunters Rock. At the north end of the lake, a spur trail heads to White Sky Rock and Caribou Trail Trailhead.

The spur trail from **Caribou Trail Trailhead** leads to White Sky Rock and the junction with the main Superior Hiking Trail at Lake Agnes. Continuing around the north end of the lake, the Superior Hiking Trail crosses Caribou Trail and ascends toward Jonvick Creek. From the creek, the Trail climbs to a long ridge with only one noteworthy elevation change at the unbridged Spruce Creek. Frequent cliff edges offer inland views, followed by a descent to Indian Camp Creek. The Trail takes in Lookout Mountain's vista before dropping to the Cascade River. A spur trail leads to Cascade River Wayside Trailhead.

At **Cascade River Wayside Trailhead**, a spur trail leads to the Cascade River State Park trail network and the main Superior Hiking Trail. The Trail heads down the infamous 96 Steps wooden staircase and continues upstream along the Cascade River over many gnarled cedar roots. The Trail rises high above the river before reaching a short

roadwalk on Cook County Road 45 to cross the Cascade River on a road bridge. The Cascade River Loop spur trail leads downstream on the east side of the river across from Cook County Road 45 Trailhead.

From **Cook County Road 45 Trailhead**, the Superior Hiking Trail climbs above the Cascade River once more. When it turns away from the river, the Trail passes through several open areas with multiple short ascents and descents. The SHT intersects with a spur which leads to Sundling Creek Trailhead. The Superior Hiking Trail descends to Bally Creek Road Trailhead.

**Bally Creek Road Trailhead** heading to Pincushion Mountain Trailhead is one of the Superior Hiking Trail's gentlest sections. After passing Bally Creek Pond, the Superior Hiking Trail arrives at Sundling Creek, where it crosses a boardwalk over a beaver dam. The forest here has an open feeling, especially when passing through the largest stand of red pines along the Trail. The pines' aroma and the needle bed are unique features of this area. Next the Superior Hiking Trail shares the North Shore State Trail for 2.5 miles where the wide path is ideal for wildlife viewing. This section of the multi-use NSST does not feature boardwalks, so conditions may be muddy. The SHT departs from the North Shore State Trail and traverses a steep hill to cross Gunflint Trail and arrive at the Pincushion Mountain Trailhead. ▲▲

## ■ Temperance River Wayside Trailhead to Sawbill Trail Trailhead

### BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

**Directions and GPS Waypoints:** At MN-61 milepost 80.3 on highway.  
GPS: 47.554815, -90.874025

**Facilities:** State park fee campsites

**Size:** Large

**Overnight parking:** No. Overnight parking is allowed within Temperance River State Park with a permit. Check in with state park staff. Overnight parking is also allowed at nearby Temperance River Road Trailhead (At MN-61 milepost 80.2, turn north on Temperance River Rd., go 0.9 miles to parking lot on left. GPS: 47.564292, -90.88413).

**Winter access:** Yes

**Special notes:** Despite its large size, this wayside may be full during peak times.

### SECTION SNAPSHOT

**Trail Atlas map:** E-1

**Total distance:** 4.6 miles (Additional 0.2-mile spur trail from Temperance River Wayside Trailhead)

**Elevation change:** Long, fairly steady climb to Carlton Peak spur trail

**SHT campsites:** None

**Hazards and concerns:** Many rocks and roots. There is steep terrain near Carlton Peak.

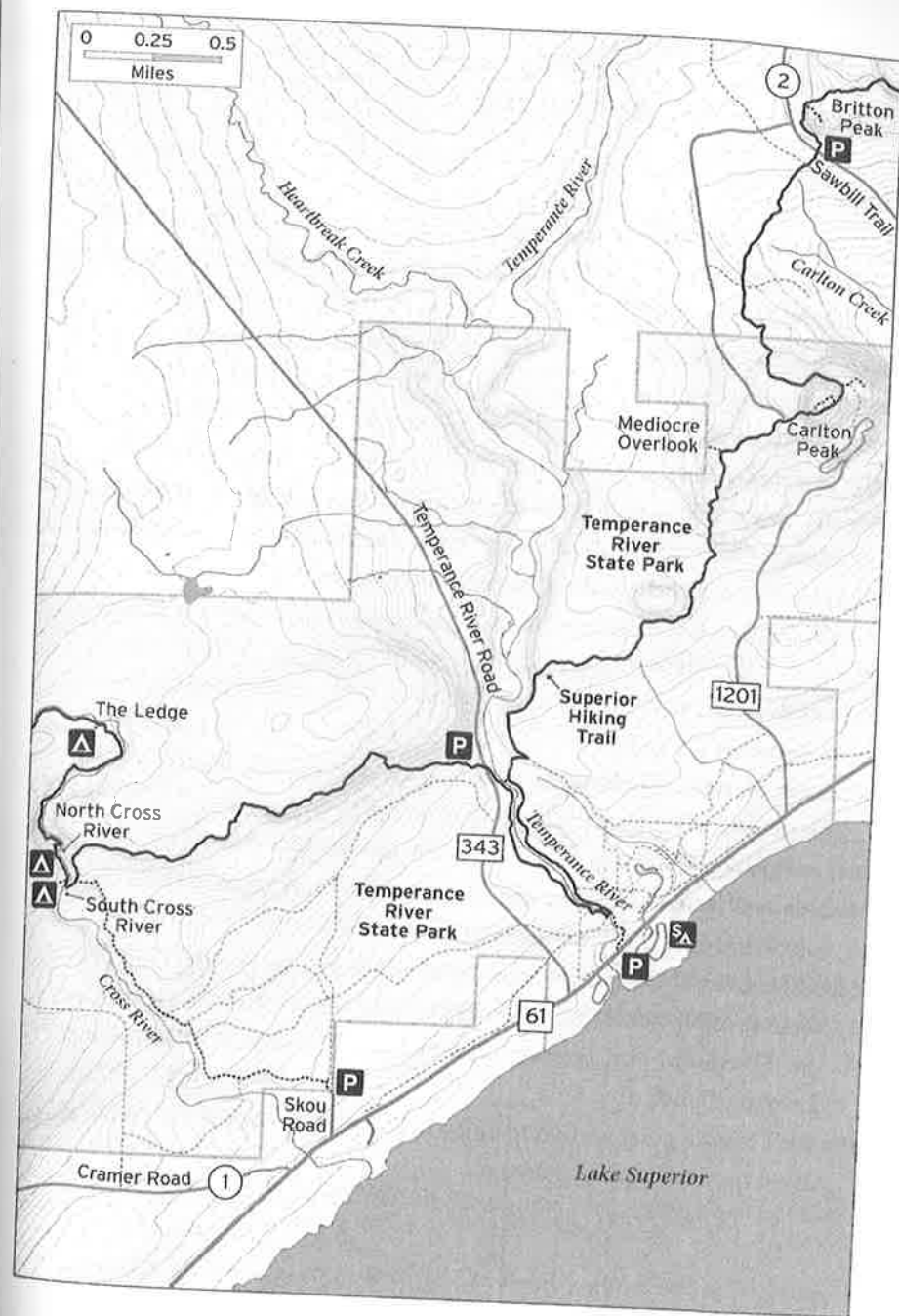
**Synopsis:** Trail follows the scenic Temperance River, climbs Carlton Peak, and offers access to several overlooks before descending to Sawbill Trail.

**Pro tip:** Don't miss the often-overlooked Mediocre Overlook, or the much less mediocre Ted Tofte Overlook.

## SPUR TRAILS

- **Mediocre Overlook.** A short 250-foot spur trail leads to an aptly-named vista. There are better places for a snack break, but this will do in a pinch.
- **Carlton Peak.** Just a short climb 0.1 miles from the main SHT is a breathtaking vista of Lake Superior and inland hills. Remnants of an old fire tower are still visible in the rock.
- **Ted Tofte Overlook.** Though not quite as high as Carlton Peak, Ted Tofte Overlook is just as gorgeous, with lake views and a good view of nearby Britton Peak. This 0.1-mile spur trail connects to a state park trail network leading to an old quarry. Use caution at intersections; the route is well-signed but can be a bit confusing.

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
<b>Temperance River Wayside Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>4.8</b>
<i>Spur from Temperance River Wayside Trailhead</i>	0.2	4.6
Temperance River Vista	1.4	3.4
<i>Spur to Mediocre Overlook</i>	2.8	2.0
<i>Register, spur to Carlton Peak</i>	3.2	1.6
<i>Spur to Ted Tofte Overlook</i>	3.3	1.5
Rock wall	3.4	1.4
Bench	3.8	1.0
Sawbill Trail crossing	4.6	0.2
<b>Sawbill Trail Trailhead</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>



## ■ Sawbill Trail Trailhead to Onion River Road Trailhead

### BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

**Directions and GPS Waypoints:** At MN-61 milepost 82.8, turn north on Sawbill Trail, go 2.7 miles to parking lot on right. GPS: 47.599243, -90.862695

**Facilities:** Toilet, kiosk

**Size:** Large

**Overnight parking:** Allowed

**Winter access:** Yes

**Special notes:** Bikers and skiers share this trailhead. 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:** E-1, E-2

**Total distance:** 5.5 miles

**Elevation change:** Much of the elevation change on this section occurs on the several spur trails leading to vistas.

**SHT campsites:** Four

**Hazards and concerns:** There are multiple crossings of bike trails and, historically, a significant amount of mud.

**Synopsis:** One of the oldest sections of the Superior Hiking Trail, this section offers access to three very scenic vistas—Britton Peak, Cedar Overlook, and Leveaux Mountain—plus several streams and Leveaux Pond.

**Pro tip:** This is a great section to enjoy in late summer when the Trail has dried up from spring snowmelt.

### SPUR TRAILS

- **Britton Peak.** Climbing for 0.1 miles up a variety of structures including many rock steps, the view from Britton Peak offers arguably the best view-to-effort ratio on the Superior Hiking Trail. The vista here showcases nearby Carlton Peak.
- **Cedar Overlook.** The view from this overlook is less impressive than its neighbors, but would be noteworthy in other sections. It's a great spot for solitude, as very few trail users take the time to explore this 450-foot spur trail.
- **Leveaux Mountain Loops.** There are two loops on Leveaux Mountain. The northern loop connects back to the main Superior Hiking Trail after 0.7 miles. The shorter, southern loop adds 0.4 miles and has wide vistas of the peaks to the southwest and views of Lake Superior. The bulk of the effort in either loop is the initial ascent up Leveaux Mountain.

### CAMPSITES

#### ▲ Springdale Creek Campsite

**Size:** Medium

**Water source:** Springdale Creek, unreliable in very dry conditions  
Campsite is on a hill high above the creek. It is very heavily-used due to the long distance between this campsite and the Cross River campsites to the south.

9.0, 8.9 ⊕ ⊕ 2.2, 2.3

#### ▲ West Leveaux Pond Campsite

**Size:** Medium

**Water source:** Leveaux Pond or Leveaux Creek (near East Leveaux Pond Campsite)

Campsite offers a good view of the nearby pond but little privacy from the Trail.

11.1, 2.2 ⊕ ⊕ 0.1, 1.3

CAMPSITES, continued

▲ **East Leveaux Pond Campsite**

**Size:** Small

⚡ **Water source:** Leveaux Pond or nearby Leveaux Creek  
Campsite has nice privacy from the Trail but limited space.  
2.3, 0.1 ⊕ ⊕ 1.2, 3.2

▲ **Onion River Campsite**

**Size:** Large

**Water source:** Onion River

Though large, the campsite is frequently busy during peak times due to its proximity to a road. Campsite features a bear pole for more secure food storage.

1.3, 1.2 ⊕ ⊕ 2.0, 2.0

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
<b>Sawbill Trail Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>5.5</b>
<i>Spur to Britton Peak</i>	0.0	5.5
Springdale Creek bridge	1.6	3.9
Springdale Creek Campsite	1.6	3.9
<i>Spur to Cedar Overlook</i>	2.9	2.6
Leveaux Creek bridge	3.7	1.8
West Leveaux Campsite	3.8	1.7
East Leveaux Campsite	3.9	1.6
<i>Spur to Leveaux Mountain Loop south junction</i>	4.4	1.1
<i>Spur to Leveaux Mountain Loop north junction</i>	4.6	0.9
Onion River bridge	5.0	0.5
Onion River Campsite	5.1	0.4
<b>Onion River Road Trailhead</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>

■ **Onion River Road Trailhead to  
Ski Hill Road Trailhead**

BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

**Directions and GPS Waypoints:** At MN-61 milepost 87.5, turn north-west on Onion River Rd., go 2.2 miles to parking lot on left. GPS: 47.627759, -90.783573

**Facilities:** Toilet, kiosk

**Size:** Large

**Overnight parking:** Allowed

**Winter access:** Yes

**Special notes:** Though large, the trailhead parking lot may be full during peak leaf peeping season.

SECTION SNAPSHOT

**Trail Atlas maps:** E-2, E-3

**Total distance:** 6.5 miles (Additional 0.2-mile spur trail to Ski Hill Road Trailhead)

**Elevation change:** This section has significant climbing to summit Moose and Mystery mountains alongside long and gentle stretches.

**SHT campsites:** Three

**Hazards and concerns:** Significant rocks and roots. Steep climbs often have uneven footing.

**Synopsis:** This section offers access to the scenic Oberg Mountain Loop, climbs Moose Mountain, descends into the headwaters of Rollins Creek, and climbs Mystery Mountain.

CAMPSITES

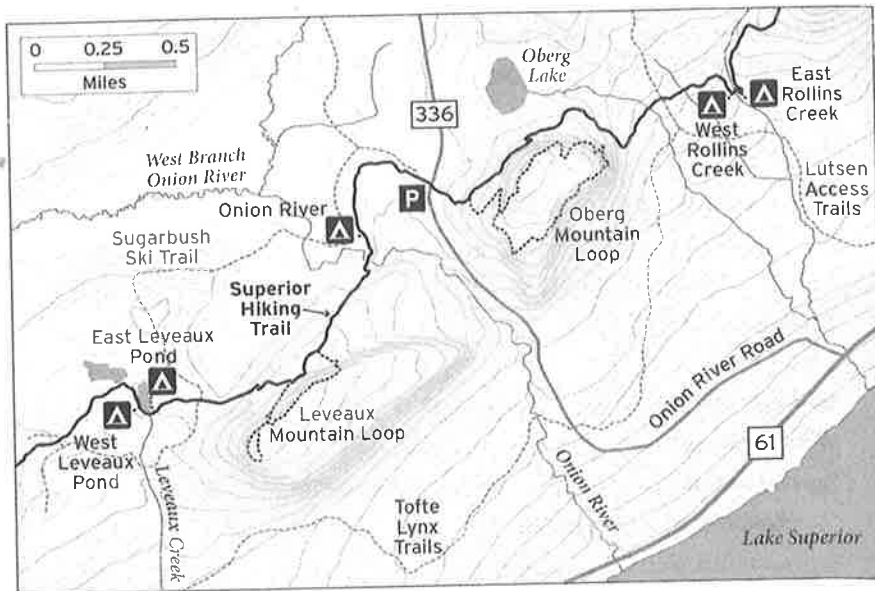
▲ **West Rollins Creek Campsite**

**Size:** Medium

**Water source:** Rollins Creek

Campsite, slightly larger than its neighbor, is in a pleasant wooded area not far from the creek.

3.2, 2.0 ⊕ ⊕ 0.0, 4.4



CAMPsites, continued

▲ **East Rollins Creek Campsite**

**Size:** Small

**Water source:** Rollins Creek

Campsite is situated along the banks of Rollins Creek.

2.0, 0.0 ⊕ ⊕ 4.4, 6.5

▲ **Mystery Mountain Campsite**

**Size:** Large

**No water source.** Nearest source is 0.5 miles north at the Poplar River. Please use extreme caution if you choose to have a fire; carry enough water to thoroughly douse any embers.

Campsite is located in a maple forest with spectacular fall colors.

4.4, 4.4 ⊕ ⊕ 2.1, 2.5

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
<b>Onion River Road Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>6.7</b>
Spur to Oberg Mountain Loop	0.2	6.5
West Rollins Creek Campsite	1.6	5.1
Rollins Creek bridge	1.6	5.1
East Rollins Creek Campsite	1.6	5.1
Ridgetop Vista	2.3	4.4
Spur to Lutsen gondola	3.4	3.3
Vista	5.1	1.6
Mystery Mountain Campsite	6.0	0.7
Poplar River bridge	6.5	0.2
Two spurs to Ski Hill Road Trailhead	6.5	0.2
<b>Ski Hill Road Trailhead</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## The Superior Trail Races

Since 1991, the Superior Hiking Trail has hosted the annual Superior 100 Mile Trail Race, a unique endurance event that pushes participants to traverse some of the finest sections of the Trail. The race is organized by Rocksteady Running, a private racing company that coordinates with the Association and land management agencies to permit the event. It has grown to include races of shorter distances as well as a spring race event. Over the years, these races have attracted thousands of participants from all over the country to experience the joys and challenges of the Trail.

While there are several events that take place on the Superior Hiking Trail each year, the Superior Trail Races stand out for their dedication to giving back to the Trail. Donations and memberships from race organizers and participants have totalled in the tens of thousands of dollars, and many have volunteered with the Association to help with maintenance and trail improvement projects—a few have even joined the Association's Board of Directors. ⚓

## ■ Ski Hill Road Trailhead to Caribou Trail Trailhead

### BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

**Directions and GPS Waypoints:** At MN-61 milepost 90.1, turn north on Ski Hill Rd., go 3.2 miles to parking lot on left. GPS: 47.666161, -90.719028

**Facilities:** None

**Size:** Small

**Overnight parking:** Allowed

**Winter access:** Yes

**Special notes:** There are two parking options in this area. The preferred option is an extremely small trailhead located at the start of the spur trail to the main Superior Hiking Trail. If this parking area is full, additional parking can be found in a nearby lot closer to the core of the Lutsen Mountains ski area complex. Please abide by any posted signs regarding parking.

### SECTION SNAPSHOT

**Trail Atlas map:** E-3

**Total distance:** 5.5 miles (Additional 0.2-mile spur trail from Ski Hill Road Trailhead, 0.9-mile spur trail to Caribou Trail Trailhead)

**Elevation change:** This section has several noteworthy climbs mixed with low-lying flat areas.

**SHT campsites:** Four

**Hazards and concerns:** Several steep, uneven staircases. Use caution when crossing Caribou Trail.

**Synopsis:** This section explores the beauty surrounding Lutsen, from great inland overlooks to time along the Poplar River and Lake Agnes.

**Pro tip:** This section is bookended by two overlooks—Glove Overlook in the south and White Sky Rock in the north. Either one makes a fabulous, quick trip for exceptional views.

### SPUR TRAILS

■ **Caribou Trail Trailhead.** A spur trail leads 0.8 miles to another short spur trail to White Sky Rock and an additional 0.1 miles to the Caribou Trail Trailhead.

### CAMPsites

#### ▲ West Poplar River Campsite

**Size:** Medium

**Water source:** Poplar River

**Sitting** on a hill above the river, this campsite is better suited for hammocks than tents due to its slope.

6.5, 2.1 ⊕ ⊕ 0.4, 3.3

#### ▲ East Poplar River Campsite

**Size:** Small

**Water source:** Poplar River

Campsite is smaller but flatter than its neighbor.

2.5, 0.4 ⊕ ⊕ 2.9, 3.3

#### ▲ West Lake Agnes Campsite

**Size:** Medium

**Water source:** Lake Agnes

**Sitting high** on a hill above Lake Agnes, this campsite is the best option for groups in this area. Campsite features a bear pole for more secure food storage.

3.3, 2.9 ⊕ ⊕ 0.4, 2.7

#### ▲ East Lake Agnes Campsite

**Size:** Medium

**Water source:** Lake Agnes

Overused campsite is in high demand due to its proximity to Lake Agnes. Be prepared to share the campsite with fellow campers; it is among the most used campsites on the Trail. During peak times, consider camping elsewhere to avoid overuse of the site. Campsite features a bear pole for more secure food storage.

3.3, 0.4 ⊕ ⊕ 2.3, 4.5

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
<b>Ski Hill Road Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>6.6</b>
<i>Two spurs from Ski Hill Road Trailhead</i>	0.2	6.4
Lutsen Overlook	0.4	6.2
Lutsen trail crossing	1.3	5.3
Glove Overlook	1.5	5.1
West Poplar River Campsite	1.8	4.8
Snowmobile trail crossing	2.1	4.5
East Poplar River Campsite	2.2	4.4
Poplar River vista	4.5	2.1
Agnes Creek bridge	5.1	1.5
West Lake Agnes Campsite	5.1	1.5
Hunters Rock, register	5.4	1.2
East Lake Agnes Campsite	5.5	1.1
<i>Spur to Caribou Trail Trailhead and White Sky Rock</i>	5.7	0.9
<i>Spur to White Sky Rock</i>	6.5	0.1
<b>Caribou Trail Trailhead</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## ■ Caribou Trail Trailhead to Cascade River Wayside Trailhead

### BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

**Directions and GPS Waypoints:** At MN-61 milepost 92.0, turn north on Caribou Trail, go 4.1 miles to Co. Rd. 94. Turn east, take immediate left to parking lot. GPS: 47.707174, -90.667417

**Facilities:** None

**Size:** Small

**Overnight Parking:** Allowed

**Winter access:** Yes

**Special notes:** This small trailhead may be full during peak times.

### SECTION SNAPSHOT

**Trail Atlas maps:** E-3, E-4, E-5

**Total distance:** 9.5 miles (Additional 0.9-mile spur trail from Caribou Trail Trailhead, 0.4-mile spur trail to Cascade River Wayside Trailhead)

**Elevation change:** This section has several significant climbs, most notably to reach the Spruce Creek ridgeline and in the vicinity of Lookout Mountain.

**SHT campsites:** Three

**Hazards and concerns:** Use caution when crossing Caribou Trail. Be careful on several steep, uneven staircases and slopes. Spruce Creek is unbridged but can generally be crossed except under extremely wet conditions.

**Synopsis:** A long, scenic section follows the northern shoreline of Lake Agnes, crosses Jonvick Creek and then ascends to a long ridge with several views. Spruce Creek and Indian Camp Creek are highlights of this section, as is Lookout Mountain with its dramatic vista. The Trail descends ruggedly to the Cascade River.

**Pro tip:** Few sections are as colorful as this one in autumn.

## SPUR TRAILS

- **Caribou Trail Trailhead.** A spur trail leads 0.1 miles to another spur trail to White Sky Rock and an additional 0.8 miles to the main Superior Hiking Trail.
- **Jerry Evjen's Overlook.** Vista is worth the 60-foot detour.
- **Cascade River State Park Trails.** Part of this section intersects with several trails within the extensive Cascade River State Park network. Countless loops can be created by studying a state park map.
- **Cascade River Wayside Trailhead.** A spur trail follows state park trails 0.4 miles to a state park bridge over the Cascade River and an additional 0.2 miles to the Cascade River Wayside Trailhead.

## CAMPSITES

### ▲ Jonvick Creek Campsite

**Size:** Small

**Water source:** Beaver pond

Small campsite offers access to wildlife viewing at the small beaver pond.

2.7, 2.3 ⊕ ⊕ 2.2, 5.4

### ▲ Spruce Creek Campsite

**Size:** Large

**Water source:** Spruce Creek

Set among cedars and along the banks of Spruce Creek, campsite is lovely but involves a very steep climb to the latrine.

4.5, 2.2 ⊕ ⊕ 3.2, 6.2

### ▲ Camp Creek Campsite

**Size:** Large

**Water source:** Indian Camp Creek

Airy campsite mysteriously has two latrines.

5.4, 3.2 ⊕ ⊕ 3.0, 3.5

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
<b>Caribou Trail Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>11.0</b>
<i>Spur to White Sky Rock</i>	0.1	10.9
<i>Spur from Caribou Trail Trailhead and White Sky Rock</i>	0.9	10.1
Caribou Trail crossing	1.7	9.3
Cook County Road 39 crossing	1.8	9.2
Private benches	2.1	8.9
Jonvick Creek Campsite	3.0	8.0
Boardwalk over beaver dam	3.0	8.0
Hall Road crossing	3.7	7.3
Spruce Creek crossing	5.2	5.8
Spruce Creek Campsite	5.2	5.8
Lutsen Trail east end	6.7	4.3
<i>Spur to Jerry Evjen's Overlook</i>	7.1	3.9
Lutsen (snowmobile) Trail east end	7.2	3.8
Indian Camp Creek bridge	8.4	2.6
Camp Creek Campsite	8.4	2.6
Lookout Mountain, state park campsite 5, fee and reservation required	9.5	1.5
Cascade Creek bridge	10.1	0.9
<i>Spur to Cascade River bridge, Cascade River Loop spur south junction, and Cascade River Wayside Trailhead</i>	10.4	0.6
<i>Bridge over Cascade River, Cascade River Loop spur south junction</i>	10.8	0.2
<b>Cascade River Wayside Trailhead</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## ■ Cascade River Wayside Trailhead to Cook County Road 45 Trailhead

### BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

**Directions and GPS Waypoints:** At MN-61 milepost 99.9 on north side of highway. GPS: 47.706943, -90.524638

**Facilities:** State park fee campsites nearby

**Size:** Medium

**Overnight parking:** No. Overnight parking is allowed within Cascade River State Park with a permit. Check in with state park staff.

**Winter access:** Yes

**Special notes:** Easier access to the main Superior Hiking Trail is available from the parking lot within Cascade River State Park. Permit required for day and overnight parking inside the park.

### SECTION SNAPSHOT

**Trail Atlas map:** E-5

**Total distance:** 3.0 miles (Additional 0.6-mile spur trail from Cascade River Wayside Trailhead)

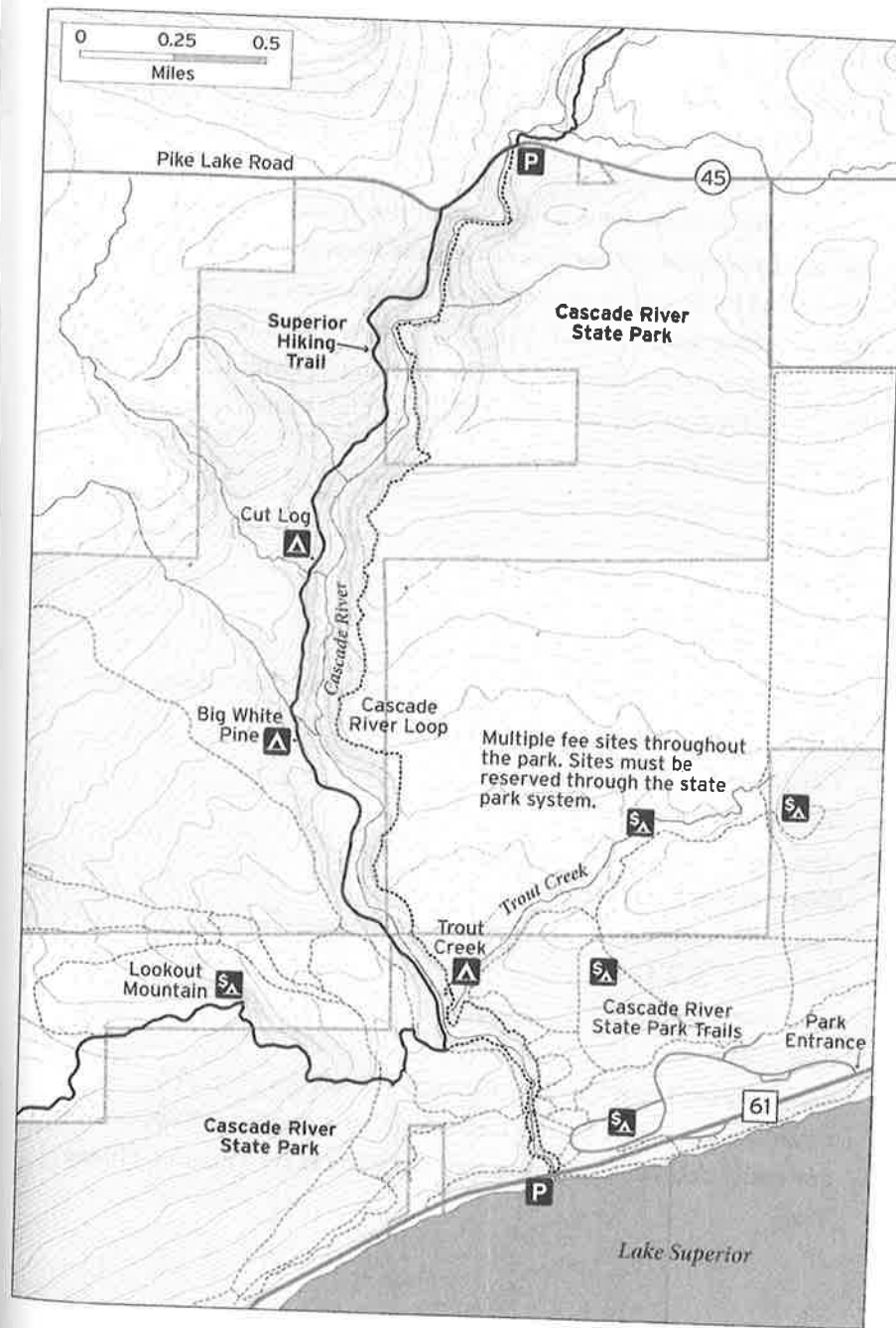
**Elevation change:** This section is surprisingly rugged as it ascends and descends, often steeply, along many drainages around the Cascade River.

**SHT campsites:** Three

**Hazards and concerns:** Be careful on several steep, uneven staircases and slopes, and mindful of a few aging trail structures. Pay attention to your surroundings on the Cook County Road 45 roadwalk.

**Synopsis:** Trail features many viewpoints of scenic waterfalls along the spur to the Cascade River Wayside Trailhead. The main SHT descends the infamous 96 Steps wooden staircase and follows the river closely before climbing from the bottom of the river valley through a stand of maple trees. A short roadwalk along Cook County Road 45 crosses the Cascade River on the way to the trailhead.

**Pro tip:** Combined with the Cascade River Loop Spur, this section is part of the Cascade River Loop.



## SPUR TRAILS

- **Cascade River Wayside Trailhead.** Spur trail follows state park trails 0.2 miles to a state park bridge over the Cascade River and an additional 0.4 miles to the main SHT.
- **Cascade River State Park Trails.** Part of this section intersects with several trails within the extensive Cascade River State Park network. Countless loops can be created by studying a state park map.
- **Cascade River Loop Spur.** A 3.5-mile spur trail makes up the eastern half of the Cascade River Loop. The crossing of Trout Creek is unbridged, but generally easy to cross except after a large rain event or during snowmelt.

## CAMPsites

### ▲ Big White Pine Campsite

**Size:** Small

**Water source:** Cascade River tributary

Campsite sits among many large pines and is busy during peak times.

6.2, 3.0 ⊕ ⊕ 0.5, 2.9

### ▲ Cut Log Campsite

**Size:** Small

**Water source:** Small creek

Campsite is named for the remnants of long-ago logging.

3.5, 0.5 ⊕ ⊕ 2.4, 6.4

### ▲ Trout Creek Campsite

**Size:** Large

**Water source:** Trout Creek or Cascade River

Campsite is located on the Cascade River Loop Spur Trail and is not easily accessible to those traversing the main Superior Hiking Trail.

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
<b>Cascade River Wayside Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>3.6</b>
Bridge over Cascade River, Cascade River Loop spur south junction	0.2	3.4
Spur trail from Cascade River Wayside Trailhead	0.6	3.0
96 Steps	0.6	3.0
Big White Pine Campsite	1.6	2.0
Cut Log Campsite	2.1	1.5
Waterfall vista	3.2	0.4
Cook County Road 45 roadwalk west end	3.3	0.3
Cook County Road 45 roadwalk east end	3.6	0.0
<b>Cook County Road 45 Trailhead</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## Cook County Road 45 Trailhead to Bally Creek Road Trailhead

### BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

**Directions and GPS Waypoints:** At MN-61 milepost 101.7, turn north on Co. Rd. 7, go 2.0 miles to junction with Cook Co. Rd. 44. Continue on Co. Rd. 44 for 0.5 miles. Turn west on Co. Rd. 45, go 2.6 miles to parking lot on right. GPS: 47.746362, -90.523629

**Facilities:** None

**Size:** Medium

**Overnight parking:** Allowed

**Winter access:** No. Nearby winter access is available at the multi-use Sundling Creek Trailhead.

**Special notes:** The Superior Hiking Trail leading south from Cook County Road 45 Trailhead requires a short roadwalk west across the county road bridge. Overnight parking is also available at the Sundling Creek Trailhead (At MN-61 milepost 101.7, turn north on Co. Rd. 7, go 4.3 miles. Turn north on Co. Rd. 48, go 0.3 miles. Turn left on Bally Creek Rd., go 1.9 miles to grassy parking lot on left. GPS: 47.773982, -90.451240)

### SECTION SNAPSHOT

**Trail Atlas maps:** E-5, E-6

**Total distance:** 5.5 miles

**Elevation change:** There are multiple climbs and descents on this section.

**SHT campsites:** Two

**Hazards and concerns:** Due to the forest type and various logging efforts over the years, this section is brushier than surrounding sections.

**Synopsis:** Trail climbs high above the Cascade River before heading away from it over a series of hills.

**Pro tip:** This section typically offers more solitude than the popular Cascade River area to the south.

### SPUR TRAIL

■ **Sundling Creek.** A spur trail leads off the ridge from the main Superior Hiking Trail. In 0.5 miles it comes to Sundling Creek Campsite. After 0.7 miles it arrives at Sundling Creek Trailhead.

### CAMPSITES

#### ▲ North Cascade River Campsite

**Size:** Large

**Water source:** Cascade River

Campsite sits high above the river and has a trail register. 2.9, 2.4 ⊕ ⊕ 4.0, 4.7 .

#### ▲ Sundling Creek Campsite

**Size:** Medium

**Water source:** Sundling Creek

Grassy campsite on a long spur trail 0.5 miles from the main SHT. 6.4, 4.0 ⊕ ⊕ 1.7, 1.9

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
<b>Cook County Road 45 Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>5.5</b>
Minnow Trap Creek bridge	0.1	5.4
North Cascade River Campsite, register	0.9	4.6
Spur to Sundling Creek Campsite and Sundling Creek Trailhead	4.4	1.1
<b>Bally Creek Road Trailhead</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## Bally Creek Road Trailhead to Pincushion Mountain Trailhead

### BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

**Directions and GPS Waypoints:** At MN-61 milepost 101.7, turn north on Cook Co. Rd. 7 and go 4.3 miles. Turn north on Cook Co. Rd. 48, go 0.3 miles. Turn left on Bally Creek Rd, go 1.0 mile to parking lot on left. GPS: 47.767554, -90.436305

**Facilities:** None

**Size:** Small

**Overnight parking:** Allowed

**Winter access:** No. Nearby winter access is available at the multi-use Sundling Creek Trailhead.

**Special notes:** The parking lot is extremely small and located on a road frequented by logging trucks. Please do not park outside the trailhead. Overnight parking is also available at the Cook County Road 6 Trailhead (At MN-61 milepost 101.7, turn north on Cook Co. Rd. 7, go 6.0 miles. Turn north on Cook Co. Rd. 6, go 1.5 miles to pull-through parking lot at intersection with 115F. GPS: 47.781019, -90.392682)

### SECTION SNAPSHOT

**Trail Atlas maps:** E-6, E-7

**Total distance:** 8.2 miles

**Elevation change:** The section is predominantly flat, other than an extremely steep section between a ridge and Pincushion Mountain Trailhead.

**SHT campsites:** Two

**Hazards and concerns:** There is aging boardwalk infrastructure on this section, along with frequent logging activity, a multi-use trail corridor, and steep elevation change south of Pincushion Mountain Trailhead.

**Synopsis:** This fairly flat section features beaver ponds, boardwalks, and red pines.

**Pro tip:** A long wet area along the shared route on the North Shore State Trail is most enjoyable when the ground is frozen.

### SPUR TRAIL

■ **Cook County Road 6 Trailhead.** At the northernmost U.S. Forest Service Road 115F crossing, follow the narrow forest road 0.1 miles south to reach the Cook County Road 6 Trailhead.

### CAMPSITES

#### ▲ South Bally Creek Pond Campsite

**Size:** Medium

**Water source:** Beaver pond, often stagnant in late summer  
Campsite receives heavy use, particularly during peak times, due to its proximity to a road.

4.7, 1.7 ⊕ ⊕ 0.2, 10.8

#### ▲ North Bally Creek Pond Campsite

**Size:** Small

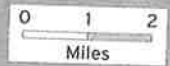
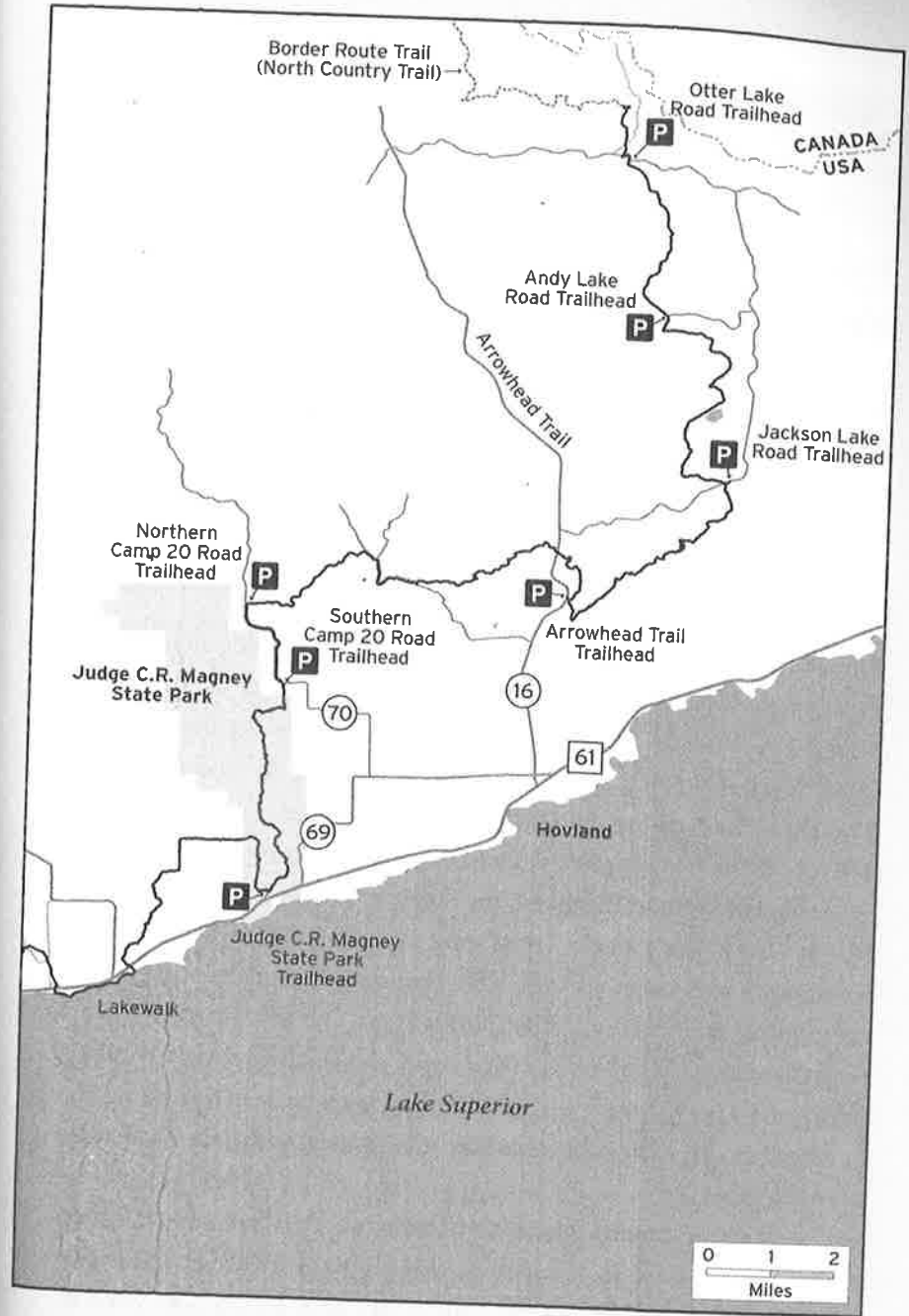
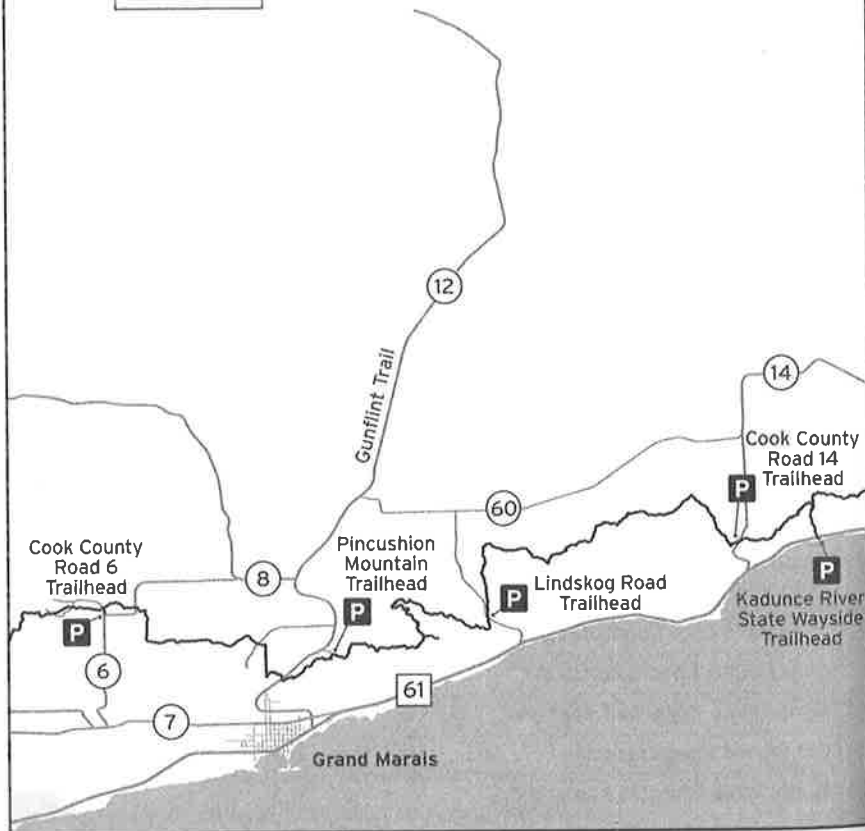
**Water source:** Beaver pond, often stagnant in late summer  
Campsite, more sloped than its neighbor, is a bit farther from the road and receives slightly less traffic.

1.9, 0.2 ⊕ ⊕ 10.6, 10.7

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
<b>Bally Creek Road Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>8.2</b>
South Bally Creek Pond Campsite	0.1	8.1
North Bally Creek Pond Campsite	0.3	7.9
Sundling Creek boardwalk	0.9	7.3
Southernmost USFS 115F crossing	2.1	6.1
Northernmost USFS 115F crossing, spur to Cook County Road 6 Trailhead	3.1	5.1
Cook County Road 6 crossing	3.6	4.6
North Shore State Trail west end	3.8	4.4
Old Ski Hill Road crossing	6.2	2.0
North Shore State Trail east end	6.3	1.9
Gunflint Trail crossing	7.2	1.0
<b>Pincushion Mountain Trailhead</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>



## Pincushion Mountain Trailhead to Northern Terminus





## Pincushion Mountain Trailhead to Northern Terminus

### Overview

**Pincushion Mountain Trailhead** showcases a sustainable footpath to Pincushion Mountain, one of the most beloved peaks of the North Shore. The Superior Hiking Trail descends steeply to the banks of the Devil Track River and to a remarkable bridge over its rushing waters. The Trail climbs above the Devil Track River gorge to a view of Devil Track Falls far below before descending through a pine forest.

At **Lindskog Road Trailhead**, the Superior Hiking Trail climbs along Woods Creek into a maple forest punctuated by rare meadows where wildflowers and vistas abound. The Trail navigates many small drainages, giving this section a roller-coaster feel. This section has rhyolite rock shards making up parts of the tread. Descending toward Kimball Creek, the Trail follows the shoulder of its ridge before crossing two of its branches. An extremely steep but quick ascent brings the Trail away from the creek.

From **Cook County Road 14 Trailhead**, the Trail's rocky tread passes through deep forests with occasional glimpses of Lake Superior before arriving at Stone Creek. This creek, known for many years as Crow Creek, features a sturdy bridge. A twin bridge is located nearby,

crossing the West Fork of the Kadunce River over a narrow, deeply-incised gorge. The gentle path leads to the Kadunce River and a spur trail downhill to Highway 61.

At the **Kadunce River State Wayside Trailhead**, a spur trail leads uphill along the Kadunce River and its gorge. The Superior Hiking Trail continues to follow the river upstream before climbing to a forested knob. Descending, the Trail arrives at the lowest point along the Superior Hiking Trail at the Lakewalk. The route along Lake Superior's shore is flat but very challenging: the small rocks slide around and water levels may necessitate retreating into the nearby scrubby forest. Even so, this intimate lake experience is worth the effort. After leaving the Lakewalk, the Trail crosses Hane Creek and makes a slow ascent into the Little Brule River valley, then follows property lines straight into Judge C.R. Magney State Park.

After departing the **Judge C.R. Magney State Park Trailhead**, the Superior Hiking Trail passes one of the wonders of the North Shore: Devil's Kettle. This famous waterfall on the Brule River can be viewed from several spots. Few state park visitors venture past Devil's Kettle where the SHT continues along the Brule River before climbing away from the river to Bald Hill Vista. A bridge across the Flute Reed River brings the Trail to Southern Camp 20 Trailhead where the longest roadwalk of the Superior Hiking Trail begins, extending 1.7 miles.


From **Northern Camp 20 Road Trailhead**, the Superior Hiking Trail enters a long stretch of low-lying terrain where private lands are dotted with logging activity and replanted areas. This is prime moose habitat. The Trail crosses small tributaries of the Flute Reed River and arrives at rustic Tom Lake Road (a wide trail), which it follows for over a mile. Where a pond has flooded the road, an optional, extremely rugged route bypasses the wet area. The Trail climbs steeply away from Tom Lake Road, past South Carlson Pond, and through a low, brushy area before crossing Arrowhead Trail. The SHT skirts North Carlson Pond and arrives at a spur trail and bridge which lead to Arrowhead Trail Trailhead.

A short spur trail from **Arrowhead Trail Trailhead** descends to a

bridge over Carlson Creek to the junction with the main Superior Hiking Trail. The Trail ascends dramatically to a long ridgeline with many views. The ridge breaks near a pond, then resumes before arriving at another large beaver pond. A steep climb brings the Trail to Hellacious Overlook, a long vista of Lake Superior, Isle Royale, and Farquhar Peak. Heading into a low area before a final climb, the Trail finally descends to Jackson Lake Road.

**Jackson Lake Road Trailhead** is northeast of where the Superior Hiking Trail crosses the road. The Trail gently ascends, reaching a long puncheon (a simple boardwalk) through a cedar swamp, one of the longest structures on the entire Trail. A glacial erratic and Jackson Creek are highlights of this remote area. The Trail ascends to a series of rock outcroppings and arrives at Rosebush Ridge, the highest point on the Superior Hiking Trail at 1,829 feet. While there is no view from this wooded location, a narrow vista with a bench is just a mile north. From there the Trail descends to Andy Lake Road.

**Andy Lake Road Trailhead** begins one of the flattest sections of the Superior Hiking Trail. Open meadows from past and present logging mean an ever-evolving forest and great potential to spot wildlife. As the Trail nears its final trailhead, it shares logging roads.

**Otter Lake Road Trailhead** is the northernmost trailhead for the Superior Hiking Trail and was, for many years, the northern terminus. A much more noteworthy northern terminus is now a mile beyond Otter Lake Road; it is accessible through an out-and-back excursion, much like the Trail's southern terminus. After following Otter Lake Road across the Swamp River, the Superior Hiking Trail shares the Border Route Trail for a climb to 270 Degree Overlook. Here the panorama includes the wilderness of Canada to the north. The Pigeon River, marking the border between Minnesota and Ontario, Canada is mostly hidden by trees, but can be heard if it's not too windy. To the south, the Swamp River curves and distant ridges rise above the flatlands. 

## ■ Pincushion Mountain Trailhead to Lindskog Road Trailhead

### BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

**Directions and GPS Waypoints:** At MN-61 milepost 110.0, turn north on Gunflint Trail, go 2.0 miles. Turn southeast on Pincushion Drive, go 0.25 miles to parking lot. GPS: 47.771035, -90.317319

**Facilities:** Toilet, kiosk

**Size:** Large

**Overnight parking:** Allowed

**Winter access:** Yes

**Special notes:** Multiple trail networks leave from this trailhead. Stay off groomed ski trails in the winter.

### SECTION SNAPSHOT

**Trail Atlas maps:** F-1, F-2

**Total distance:** 4.8 miles

**Elevation change:** Trail is fairly gentle between Pincushion Mountain Trailhead and the spur trail to the summit. North of the spur trail there is significant elevation change down to Devil Track River and up again to the Lindskog Road Trailhead.

**SHT campsites:** Two

**Hazards and concerns:** Rocky spur trail to Pincushion Mountain Overlook, steep terrain and cliff edges

**Synopsis:** The first miles from Pincushion Mountain Trailhead showcase some of the most sustainably-built Superior Hiking Trail. A spur trail leads to the awe-inspiring Pincushion Mountain Overlook. The Trail follows and crosses the Devil Track River, then climbs to several views into the Devil Track gorge.

**Pro tip:** Don't underestimate the difficulty of the northern half of this section—it's much harder than the southern half!

## SPUR TRAIL

- **Pincushion Mountain Overlook.** A 0.25-mile spur trail leads up and over a rock face to amazing views of Lake Superior, Grand Marais, the Sawtooth Mountains, and Wildflower Hill.

## CAMPSITES

### ▲ West Devil Track River Campsite

**Size:** Large

**Water source:** Devil Track River

Campsite is located next to the A-frame bridge over the river. This large site is the best option for group use in this section.

10.8, 10.6 ⊕ ⊕ 0.1, 2.6

### ▲ East Devil Track River Campsite

**Size:** Small

**Water source:** Devil Track River

Small campsite sits on a narrow ledge above the river.

10.7, 0.1 ⊕ ⊕ 2.5, 4.9

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
<b>Pincushion Mountain Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>4.8</b>
<i>Spur to Pincushion Mountain Overlook</i>	1.8	3.0
Ski trail crossing	2.3	2.5
Bench at top of hill	2.4	2.4
West Devil Track Campsite	2.7	2.1
Register, Devil Track River bridge	2.7	2.1
East Devil Track Campsite	2.8	2.0
Spruce Knob	2.9	1.9
Devil Track Falls vista, bench	4.0	0.8
Devil Track Creek bridge	4.5	0.3
<b>Lindskog Road Trailhead</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## ■ Lindskog Road Trailhead to Cook County Road 14 Trailhead

### BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

**Directions and GPS Waypoints:** At MN-61 milepost 113.8, turn north, go 0.8 miles to parking lot on left. GPS: 47.778040, -90.265563

**Facilities:** None

**Size:** Medium

**Overnight parking:** Allowed

**Winter access:** No

**Special notes:** Expect to encounter other users throughout much of the year, and have a backup plan to recreate elsewhere if the parking lot is full. More space can be found at Pincushion Mountain Trailhead.

### SECTION SNAPSHOT

**Trail Atlas maps:** F-2, F-3

**Total distance:** 6.6 miles

**Elevation change:** Dramatic climbs on both ends of this section, plus passing through many drainages, give a feeling of constantly changing elevation.

**SHT campsites:** Four

**Hazards and concerns:** In winter, the route across Wildflower Hill is not clear due to lack of trees to sign. The Trail is steep and eroding near Kimball Creek.

**Synopsis:** This diverse section highlights several scenic creeks and views from Wildflower Hill.

**Pro tip:** The many campsites on this section are a great place to take a break from the climbing and descending.

CAMPSITES

▲ **Woods Creek Campsite**

**Size:** Medium

**Water source:** Woods Creek

Campsite is frequently busy during peak times due to its proximity to a road.

2.6, 2.5 ⊕ ⊕ 2.4, 3.5

▲ **Durfee Creek Campsite**

**Size:** Large

**Water source:** Durfee Creek, located north of the campsite down a significant hill. Southbound trail users should fill up with water before climbing the hill to the campsite.

Campsite sits high above Durfee Creek with a wide range of tent pads to choose from.

4.9, 2.4 ⊕ ⊕ 1.1, 3.6

▲ **Cliff Creek Campsite**

**Size:** Large

**Water source:** Cliff Creek

Campsite is along the banks of the small but scenic creek.

3.5, 1.1 ⊕ ⊕ 2.5, 3.7

▲ **Kimball Creek Campsite**

**Size:** Small

**Water source:** Kimball Creek

Campsite is located near bridges over branches of Kimball Creek.

Campsite is frequently busy during peak times due to its proximity to a road.

3.6, 2.5 ⊕ ⊕ 1.2, 1.5

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
<b>Lindskog Road Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>6.6</b>
Lindskog Road crossing	0.0	6.6
Woods Creek Campsite	0.5	6.1
Wildflower Hill	2.4	4.2
Durfee Creek Campsite	2.9	3.7
Durfee Creek bridge	3.0	3.6
Cliff Creek Campsite	4.0	2.6
Scrub Oak Vista	5.0	1.6
Kimball Creek bridge	6.5	0.1
Kimball Creek Campsite	6.5	0.1
Kimball Creek Trail intersection	6.5	0.1
<b>Cook County Road 14 Trailhead</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## Cook County Road 14 Trailhead to Kadunce River State Wayside Trailhead

### BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

**Directions and GPS Waypoints:** At MN-61 milepost 117.6, turn north, go 0.7 miles to pull-through parking lot on left. GPS: 47.793328, -90.182649

**Facilities:** None

**Size:** Medium

**Overnight parking:** Allowed

**Winter access:** No

**Special notes:** Unique drive-through trailhead requires thoughtful parking. Do not block the road in or out.

### SECTION SNAPSHOT

**Trail Atlas map:** F-3

**Total distance:** 1.7 miles (Additional 0.7-mile spur trail to Kadunce River State Wayside Trailhead)

**Elevation change:** A very gentle section; the spur trail to Kadunce River State Wayside is a prolonged elevation change.

**SHT campsites:** Two

**Hazards and concerns:** Steep gorge near both branches of the Kadunce River

**Synopsis:** A short section features three impressive bridges, including one over the deep, narrow West Fork of the Kadunce River gorge.

**Pro tip:** Several private trails connect to the Superior Hiking Trail in this section. Please pay attention and follow signage to remain on the SHT to avoid trespassing on private property.

### SPUR TRAIL

**Kadunce River State Wayside Trailhead.** A 0.7-mile spur trail connects the Superior Hiking Trail with the Kadunce River State Wayside Trailhead, a parking lot located on the shore of Lake Superior. The spur trail follows spectacular views of this wild North Shore river. Note that on certain maps, this parking area is referred to as the

Kodunce River State Wayside. Local signage favors the Kadunce spelling.

### CAMPSITES

#### ▲ Crow Creek Campsite

**Size:** Medium

**Water source:** Stone Creek, most accessible near the bridge site downstream

Campsite sits along the banks of Stone Creek. This creek was called Crow Creek by the SHTA for years, but recent updates to map data have confirmed that the name of the creek is actually Stone Creek. 3.7, 1.2 ⊕ ⊕ 0.3, 0.8

#### ▲ West Fork Kadunce Campsite

**Size:** Medium

**Water source:** Nearby, but not at site. Campsite is located above a gorge, so water is audible but not accessible. Plan to get water at Stone Creek to the south or from the Kadunce River to the north. This campsite features less privacy than most campsites.

1.5, 0.3 ⊕ ⊕ 0.5, 5.7

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
<b>Cook County Road 14 Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>2.4</b>
Cook County Road 14 crossing	0.0	2.4
Power line corridor	0.2	2.2
Stone Creek bridge	1.1	1.3
Crow Creek Campsite	1.1	1.3
West Fork Kadunce bridge	1.4	1.0
West Fork Kadunce Campsite	1.4	1.0
Kadunce River bridge	1.7	0.7
Spur to Kadunce River Wayside Trailhead	1.7	0.7
<b>Kadunce River Wayside Trailhead</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## ■ Kadunce River State Wayside Trailhead to Judge C.R. Magney State Park Trailhead

### BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

**Directions and GPS Waypoints:** At MN-61 milepost 119 on south side of highway. GPS: 47.794024, -90.154132

**Facilities:** None

**Size:** Medium

**Overnight parking:** No

**Winter access:** Yes

**Special notes:** This trailhead is popular for trail access and Lake Superior access.

### SECTION SNAPSHOT

**Trail Atlas map:** F-4

**Total distance:** 9.1 miles (Additional 0.7-mile spur trail from Kadunce River State Wayside Trailhead)

**Elevation change:** While there are some gentle portions of this section, long stretches involve changing elevation.

**SHT campsites:** Four

**Hazards and concerns:** Use caution at three crossings of Highway 61. The route along Lake Superior may be wet or dangerous in inclement weather.

**Synopsis:** Trail follows the Kadunce River upstream, then ascends to a ridge before dropping down to the Lakewalk along Lake Superior. The Trail ascends to the Little Brule River before crossing into Judge C.R. Magney State Park.

**Pro tip:** The Lakewalk is flat but extremely challenging to walk on, given the millions of tiny rocks that make up the shoreline. The Trail turns north away from the lake just past a small island.

### SPUR TRAILS

- **Kadunce River State Wayside.** A 0.7-mile spur trail connects the main Superior Hiking Trail with the Kadunce River State Wayside, a parking lot located on the shore of Lake Superior. The spur trail follows spectacular views of this wild North Shore river. Note that on certain maps, this parking area is referred to as the Kodunce River State Wayside. Local signage favors the Kadunce spelling.

### CAMPSITES

#### ▲ Kadunce River Campsite

**Size:** Small

**Water source:** Kadunce River

Campsite is nestled in the woods above the Kadunce River.  
0.8, 0.5 ⊕ ⊕ 5.2, 5.6

#### ▲ South Little Brule River Campsite

**Size:** Small

**Water source:** Little Brule River, unreliable during dry conditions

Campsite is the first that northbound trail users encounter.  
5.7, 5.2 ⊕ ⊕ 0.4, 0.4

#### ▲ North Little Brule River Campsite

**Size:** Medium

**Water source:** Little Brule River, unreliable during dry conditions

Campsite is on the bank of a scenic stream.  
5.6, 0.4 ⊕ ⊕ 0.0, 11.7

#### ▲ Northwest Little Brule River Campsite

**Size:** Small

**Water source:** Little Brule River, unreliable during dry conditions

Campsite is the first that southbound hikers encounter after a long stretch without campsites.

0.4, 0.0 ⊕ ⊕ 11.7, 14.5

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
<b>Kadunce River Wayside Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>9.8</b>
<i>Spur from Kadunce River Wayside Trailhead, register</i>	0.7	9.1
Kadunce River Campsite	0.9	8.9
Timber Wolf Creek	2.3	7.5
Kelley's Hill Road crossing	2.6	7.2
Lakewalk west end	3.2	6.6
Lakewalk east end	4.6	5.2
Hane Creek bridge	4.9	4.9
South Little Brule River Campsite	6.1	3.7
North Little Brule River Campsite	6.5	3.3
Northwest Little Brule River Campsite	6.5	3.3
Gauthier Road crossing (private road)	7.0	2.8
<b>Judge C.R. Magney State Park Trailhead</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## ■ Judge C.R. Magney State Park Trailhead to Northern Camp 20 Road Trailhead

### BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

**Directions and GPS Waypoints:** At MN-61 milepost 123.8, turn north into state park, continue on park road to parking lot. GPS: 47.819763, -90.053463

**Facilities:** Toilet, running water, picnic tables, state park fee campsites

**Size:** Large

**Overnight parking:** Allowed. Permit required. Please check in with state park staff.

**Winter access:** The main trailhead is unplowed, but a small parking area is typically plowed near the state park contact station.

**Special notes:** State park permit required for day use and overnight parking. Day use parking is available at Southern Camp 20 Road Trailhead. At MN-61 milepost 124.4, turn north on North Rd., go 2.75 miles. Turn north on Camp 20 Rd., go 1.8 miles to a pull-off on side of Camp 20 Rd. GPS: 47.866692, -90.047911

### SECTION SNAPSHOT

**Trail Atlas maps:** F-4, F-5

**Total distance:** 6.3 miles

**Elevation change:** Significant elevation change down to and up from the Brule River

**SHT campsites:** None. Plan your mileage accordingly; this is the longest stretch without campsites north of the City of Duluth.

**Hazards and concerns:** Many stairs between the trailhead and Devil's Kettle. This section has the longest roadwalk on the Trail. Though rural, it does see truck traffic.

**Synopsis:** The most mysterious waterfall of the North Shore is showcased in this section. The Trail visits Devil's Kettle and continues along the Brule River, climbing to Bald Hill Vista before traversing the longest roadwalk on the Superior Hiking Trail.

**Pro tip:** From Judge C.R. Magney State Park heading north, the SHT takes on a more rugged, wild feel. Cell reception may be unreliable.

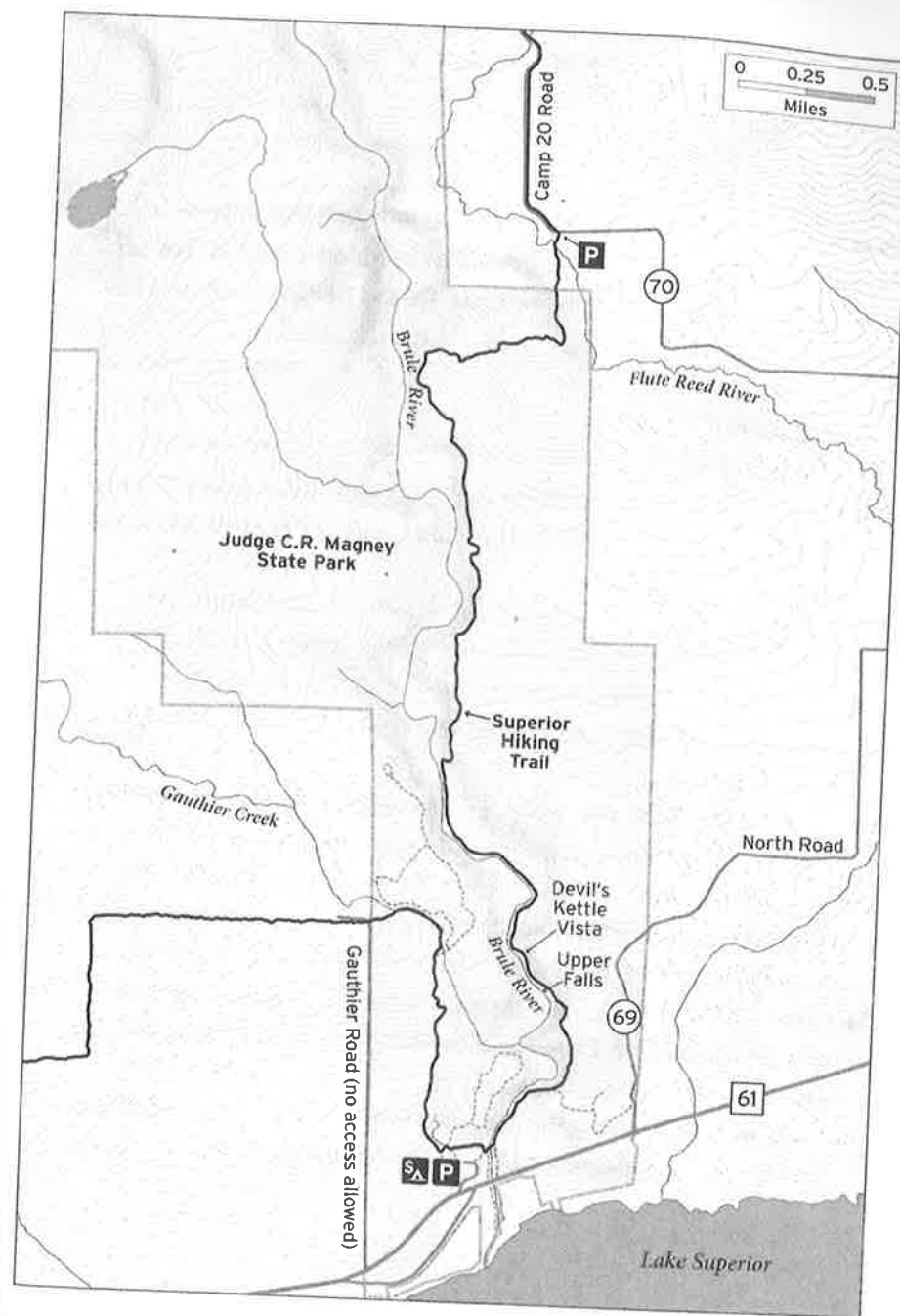
MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
<b>Judge C.R. Magney State Park Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>6.3</b>
Brule River bridge	0.1	6.2
Too many stairs	0.8	5.5
Devil's Kettle	1.0	5.3
Bald Hill Vista	3.9	2.4
Flute Reed River bridge	4.5	1.8
Southern Camp 20 Road Trailhead, south end roadwalk	4.6	1.7
North end roadwalk	6.3	0.0
<b>Northern Camp 20 Road Trailhead</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## The Hovland Gap Story

The Superior Hiking Trail north of Judge C.R. Magney State Park offers exceptionally challenging trail experiences. Given its remote, rugged nature, it was one of the toughest places to find a route for the Trail. It's no surprise that for many years, the Trail north of Judge C.R. Magney State Park barely existed. Much of the route was composed of dead-end trail segments and miles and miles of roadwalk. This area was known as the Hovland Gap.

It took years of effort to close the Hovland Gap by finding suitable terrain for the Superior Hiking Trail and securing permissions from many private landowners in the area. Eventually in the early 2000s, the Trail found its home on the route we know today.

A piece of the Hovland Gap still exists—it's the 1.7-mile dirt roadwalk connecting the northern and southern Camp 20 Road trailheads. And just like the trailbuilders of the past, the Superior Hiking Trail Association is still aspiring to someday close the last substantial gap along the trail corridor. ⚡



## Northern Camp 20 Road Trailhead to Arrowhead Trail Trailhead

### BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

**Directions and GPS Waypoints:** At MN-61 milepost 124.4, turn north on North Rd. and go 2.75 miles. Turn north on Camp 20 Rd. and go 4.75 miles to parking lot on right. GPS: 47.884791, -90.061140

**Facilities:** None

**Size:** Small

**Overnight parking:** Allowed

**Winter access:** No

**Special notes:** Trailhead was for many years called the Cook County Road 70 Trailhead, but its more accurate, current name is Northern Camp 20 Road Trailhead.

### SECTION SNAPSHOT

**Trail Atlas maps:** F-5, F-6

**Total distance:** 7.9 miles (Additional 400-foot spur trail to Arrowhead Trail Trailhead)

**Elevation change:** With the exception of a couple of noteworthy, steep climbs, this section is predominantly gentle and rolling.

**SHT campsites:** Three

**Hazards and concerns:** There may be short, flooded areas in this section, most likely on Tom Lake Road.

**Synopsis:** The Trail meanders through forests in various stages of re-growth, shares Tom Lake Road (a wide, little-used multi-use trail), then ascends to pretty beaver ponds.

**Pro tip:** This area is among the moosiest sections of the Trail. While you may not see one, they are likely to have left a trace of their presence.

### SPUR TRAIL

■ **Arrowhead Trail Trailhead.** A 400-foot spur trail crosses a bridge over Carlson Creek and climbs quickly to the Arrowhead Trail Trailhead.

### CAMPSITES

#### ▲ Hazel Campsite

**Size:** Small

**Water source:** None. Water might be found 0.3 miles north at a small, unreliable stream. Northbound hikers should plan to carry water from one of the Flute Reed River tributary crossings, approximately 2.0 miles south.

Due to the long distance between the Little Brule River campsites and Hazel Campsite, this site often fills up. Those who are able should plan to camp at South Carlson Pond Campsite or North Carlson Pond Campsite to avoid overuse of this campsite.

11.7, 11.7 ⊕ ⊕ 2.8, 4.9

#### ▲ South Carlson Pond Campsite

**Size:** Medium

**Water source:** A large beaver pond

Campsite is located on a small, piney hill above the pond. Users have reported difficulties hanging food bags at this campsite.

14.5, 2.8 ⊕ ⊕ 2.1, 5.8

#### ▲ North Carlson Pond Campsite

**Size:** Medium

**Water source:** A small beaver pond

Campsite is located in the forest above the pond.

4.9, 2.1 ⊕ ⊕ 3.7, 7.0

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
<b>Northern Camp 20 Road Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>7.9</b>
Hazel Campsite	2.1	5.8
Tom Lake Road roadwalk west end	2.4	5.5
Optional rugged trail around flooded area	3.6	4.3
Tom Lake Road roadwalk east end	3.8	4.1
Carlson Creek crossing	4.8	3.1
South Carlson Pond Campsite	4.9	3.0
Arrowhead Trail crossing	6.6	1.3
North Carlson Pond Campsite	7.0	0.9
Spur to Arrowhead Trail Trailhead	7.9	0.0
<b>Arrowhead Trail Trailhead</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## ■ Arrowhead Trail Trailhead to Jackson Lake Road Trailhead

### BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

**Directions and GPS Waypoints:** At MN-61 milepost 128.9, turn north on Arrowhead Trail, go 3.3 miles to parking lot on right. GPS: 47.887656, -89.952394

**Facilities:** None

**Size:** Medium

**Overnight parking:** Allowed

**Winter access:** No

**Special notes:** Please park within the trailhead and not along the road to avoid blocking logging trucks and other traffic on Arrowhead Trail.

### SECTION SNAPSHOT

**Trail Atlas map:** F-6

**Total distance:** 4.7 miles (Additional 400-foot spur from Arrowhead Trail Trailhead, 350-foot spur to Jackson Lake Road Trailhead)

**Elevation change:** Significant, with a long ridge walk

**SHT campsites:** One

**Hazards and concerns:** Steep, rocky terrain and cliff edges

**Synopsis:** Trail climbs to one of the longest and most dramatic ridgelines of the Superior Hiking Trail featuring stunning views, including Hellacious Overlook.

**Pro tip:** For those who enjoy biking on dirt roads, this section is a great one to self-shuttle between trailheads.

### SPUR TRAIL

- **Arrowhead Trail Trailhead.** A 400-foot spur trail drops dramatically to a bridge over Carlson Creek and the junction with the main SHT.
- **Jackson Lake Road Trailhead.** Parking area is located 350 feet north of the trail crossing on Jackson Lake Road. Follow the minimally-traveled, dirt Jackson Lake Road.

## CAMPSITES

### ▲ Caribou Pond Campsite

**Size:** Small

Water source is from an adjacent beaver pond which fluctuates wildly in size.

Campsite is near a recent timber harvest area.

5.8, 3.7 ↻ ↻ 3.3, 8.4

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
<b>Arrowhead Trail Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>4.7</b>
<i>Spur from Arrowhead Trail Trailhead</i>	0.0	4.7
Pond	1.3	3.4
Caribou Pond Campsite	2.8	1.9
Hellacious Overlook	3.5	1.2
<i>Jackson Lake Road crossing or roadwalk east to Jackson Lake Road Trailhead.</i>	4.7	0.0
<b>Jackson Lake Road Trailhead</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## ■ Jackson Lake Road Trailhead to Andy Lake Road Trailhead

### BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

**Directions and GPS Waypoints:** At MN-61 milepost 128.9, turn north on Arrowhead Trail, go 4.5 miles. Turn east on Jackson Lake Rd., go 3.1 miles to parking lot on left. GPS: 47.913831, -89.897988

**Facilities:** None

**Size:** Small

**Overnight parking:** Allowed

**Winter access:** No

**Special notes:** Jackson Lake Road is typically unplowed in the winter.

### SECTION SNAPSHOT

**Trail Atlas maps:** F-6, F-7

**Total distance:** 4.9 miles (Additional 350-foot spur trail from Jackson Lake Road Trailhead)

**Elevation change:** There is substantial elevation change on this section, though much of it is fairly gentle.

**SHT campsites:** One

**Hazards and concerns:** Many rocks and some steep areas

**Synopsis:** Trail explores a cedar swamp on an impressively long and simple boardwalk, winds past a large glacial erratic, and climbs to the highest point of the Superior Hiking Trail at Rosebush Ridge.

**Pro tip:** Don't be discouraged by the lack of a view at Rosebush Ridge—there's a vista just a mile north.

### SPUR TRAIL

■ **Jackson Lake Road Trailhead.** Parking area is located 350 feet north of the trail crossing on Jackson Lake Road. Follow the minimally-traveled, dirt Jackson Lake Road.

## CAMPSITES

### ▲ Jackson Creek Campsite

**Size:** Small

**Water source:** Jackson Creek, located just north of the campsite. In dry conditions, follow the creek north to some shallow pools.

Campsite is small and notoriously rocky and rooty.

7.0, 3.3 ⊖ ⊕ 5.1

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
<b>Jackson Lake Road Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Roadwalk from Jackson Lake Road Trailhead	0.0	4.9
Jackson Creek Campsite	1.4	3.5
Rosebush Ridge, highest elevation of SHT at 1829 ft.	3.6	1.3
Vista, bench	4.6	0.3
<b>Andy Lake Road Trailhead, crossing</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## ■ Andy Lake Road Trailhead to Otter Lake Road Trailhead

### BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

**Directions and GPS Waypoints:** At MN-61 milepost 128.9, turn north on Arrowhead Trail, go 4.5 miles. Turn east on Jackson Lake Rd., go 6.2 miles to turn west on Andy Lake Rd. Go 1.6 miles on Andy Lake Rd. to parking lot on right. GPS: 47.951281, -89.919507

**Facilities:** None

**Size:** Medium

**Overnight parking:** Allowed

**Winter access:** No

**Special notes:** Andy Lake Road is unplowed in the winter. It is a narrow road with little to no room to pull off when another car is coming. Due to these factors, use this trailhead with caution.

### SECTION SNAPSHOT

**Trail Atlas map:** F-7

**Total distance:** 3.3 miles

**Elevation change:** Minimal

**SHT campsites:** One

**Hazards and concerns:** Frequent logging in this area may obscure the route at times.

**Synopsis:** This extremely remote section is one of the flattest, often following logging roads.

**Pro tip:** A low-lying, brushy area near the aptly-named Swamp River boasts one of the best ecosystems for seeing small mammals and mosquitoes.

CAMPSITE

▲ **Andy Creek Campsite**

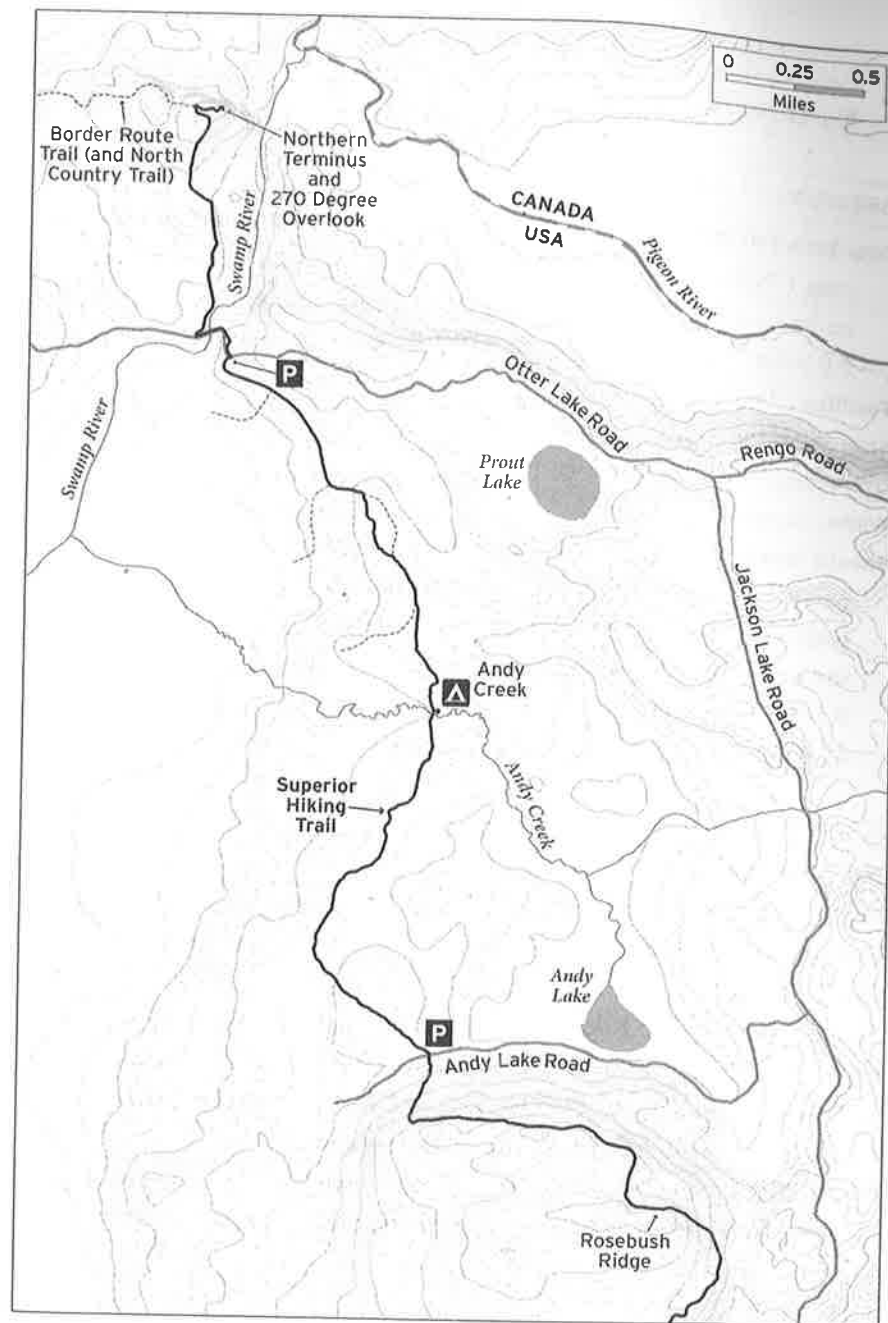
**Size:** Small

**Water source:** Andy Creek, just north of the campsite

Remote area is great for wildlife viewing and listening. Users have reported difficulties hanging food bags and hammocks at this campsite.

8.4, 5.1 ⊕

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
<b>Andy Lake Road Trailhead</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>3.3</b>
Andy Creek Campsite	1.6	1.7
Andy Creek bridge	1.6	1.7
Logging road south end	2.6	0.7
Logging road north end	3.3	0.0
<b>Otter Lake Road Trailhead, register</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>



## ■ Otter Lake Road to Northern Terminus

### BEGINNING TRAILHEAD

**Directions and GPS Waypoints:** **Otter Lake Road Trailhead.** At MN-61 milepost 128.9, turn north on Arrowhead Trail, go 4.5 miles. Turn east on Jackson Lake Rd., go 8.4 miles. Turn west on Otter Lake Rd. Go 2.0 miles to parking lot on left. GPS: 47.986537, -89.933372

**Facilities:** Trail register

**Size:** Medium

**Overnight parking:** Allowed

**Winter access:** No

**Special notes:** Otter Lake Road is unplowed in the winter and often impassable in the spring until road conditions dry out. For long-term parking, please use the Superior Hiking Trail Trailhead and leave the nearby Border Route Trail Trailhead (Continue on Otter Lake Road 0.2 miles to Border Route Trail parking lot on right. GPS: 47.987672, -89.935896) for BRT users.

### SECTION SNAPSHOT

**Trail Atlas map:** F-7

**Total distance:** 1.2 miles one-way (2.4 miles as an out-and-back hike)

**Elevation change:** It is a steady climb to the northern terminus.

**SHT campsites:** None

**Hazards and concerns:** Rocky drop-offs at the northern terminus

**Synopsis:** The first or final mile of the Superior Hiking Trail climbs to the stunning 270 Degree Overlook and its trail register, where trail users can share their memories or aspirations.

**Pro tip:** Most cell reception at the northern terminus originates in Canada, which is in a different time zone than Minnesota.

MILEAGE	Northbound	Southbound
<b>Otter Lake Road Trailhead, register</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Otter Lake Road roadwalk east end	0.0	1.2
Otter Lake Road roadwalk west end, Border Route Trail parking lot	0.2	1.0
Border Route Trail south end	0.2	1.0
Border Route Trail north end	1.1	0.1
<b>270 Degree Overlook, Superior Hiking Trail northern terminus, register</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>



## Campsite Distance Index

CAMPSITE NAME	DISTANCE TO NEXT CAMPSITE		SIZE
	Northbound	Southbound	
Red River Valley Campsite	53.1	N/A	Medium
Bald Eagle Campsite	1.2	53.1	Small
White Pine Campsite	5.5	1.2	Medium
Lone Tree Campsite	3.7	5.5	Small
Heron Pond Campsite	4.0	3.7	Medium
Sucker River Campsite	2.7	4.0	Medium
Fox Farm Pond Campsite	7.3	2.7	Medium
Big Bend Campsite	6.1	7.3	Medium
McCarthy Creek Campsite	1.1	6.1	Small
Ferguson Campsite	5.5	1.1	Small
Stewart River Campsite	4.0	5.5	Medium
Reeves Falls Campsite	5.7	4.0	Small
Silver Creek Campsite	8.4	5.7	Medium
Crow Valley Campsite	3.2	8.4	Medium
West Gooseberry Campsite	0.9	3.2	Medium
East Gooseberry Campsite	0.1	0.9	Small
Middle Gooseberry Campsite	0.8	0.1	Small
Gooseberry Multigroup Campsite	6.2	0.8	Large
Blueberry Hill Campsite	3.9	6.2	Medium

CAMPSITE NAME	DISTANCE TO NEXT CAMPSITE		SIZE
	Northbound	Southbound	
SW Split Rock River Campsite	0.3	3.9	Medium
NW Split Rock River Campsite	0.2	0.3	Medium
NE Split Rock River Campsite	0.3	0.2	Large
SE Split Rock River Campsite	4.6	0.3	Small
Chapins Ridge Campsite	1.7	4.6	Medium
Beaver Pond Campsite	1.4	1.7	Medium
Fault Line Creek Campsite	4.4	1.4	Medium
West Beaver River Campsite	0.3	4.4	Small
East Beaver River Campsite	5.3	0.3	Small
Penn Creek Campsite	1.2	5.3	Large
Bear Lake Campsite	1.2	1.2	Small
Round Mountain Campsite	0.5	1.2	Medium
West Palisade Campsite	0.1	0.5	Medium
East Palisade Campsite	8.0	0.1	Large
West Kennedy Campsite	0.0	8.0	Medium
East Kennedy Campsite	6.1	0.0	Medium
Section 13 Campsite	3.7	6.1	Medium
Leskinen Creek Campsite	4.6	3.7	Medium
South Egge Lake Campsite	0.2	4.6	Medium
North Egge Lake Campsite	3.0	0.2	Medium
South Sonju Lake Campsite	0.3	3.0	Large
North Sonju Lake Campsite	1.8	0.3	Medium
East Branch Baptism River Campsite	0.6	1.8	Small
Blesner Creek Campsite	2.0	0.6	Small
Aspen Knob Campsite	5.0	2.0	Small
Horseshoe Ridge Campsite	2.8	5.0	Medium
West Caribou Campsite	0.1	2.8	Small
East Caribou Campsite	1.4	0.1	Large
Crystal Creek Campsite	2.6	1.4	Medium
Sugarloaf Pond Campsite	3.4	2.6	Medium
Dyers Creek Campsite	2.9	3.4	Medium

CAMPSITE NAME	DISTANCE TO NEXT CAMPSITE		SIZE
	Northbound	Southbound	
Fredenberg Creek Campsite	1.8	2.9	Large
The Falls Campsite	0.8	1.8	Small
The Ledge Campsite	0.6	0.8	Small
North Cross River Campsite	0.1	0.6	Small
South Cross River Campsite	8.9	0.1	Medium
Springdale Creek Campsite	2.2	8.9	Medium
West Leveaux Campsite	0.1	2.2	Medium
East Leveaux Campsite	1.2	0.1	Small
Onion River Campsite	2.0	1.2	Large
West Rollins Creek Campsite	0.0	2.0	Medium
East Rollins Creek Campsite	4.4	0.0	Small
Mystery Mountain Campsite	2.1	4.4	Large
West Poplar Campsite	0.4	2.1	Medium
East Poplar Campsite	2.9	0.4	Small
West Lake Agnes Campsite	0.4	2.9	Medium
East Lake Agnes Campsite	2.3	0.4	Medium
Jonvick Creek Campsite	2.2	2.3	Small
Spruce Creek Campsite	3.2	2.2	Large
Camp Creek Campsite	3.0	3.2	Large
Big White Pine Campsite	0.5	3.0	Small
Cut Log Campsite	2.4	0.5	Small
Trout Creek Campsite			Large
North Cascade River Campsite	4.0	2.4	Large
Sundling Creek Campsite	1.7	4.0	Medium
South Bally Creek Pond Campsite	0.2	1.7	Medium
North Bally Creek Pond Campsite	10.6	0.2	Small
West Devil Track Campsite	0.1	10.6	Large
East Devil Track Campsite	2.5	0.1	Small
Woods Creek Campsite	2.4	2.5	Medium
Durfee Creek Campsite	1.1	2.4	Large
Cliff Creek Campsite	2.5	1.1	Large

CAMPSITE NAME	DISTANCE TO NEXT CAMPSITE		SIZE
	Northbound	Southbound	
Kimball Creek Campsite	1.2	2.5	Small
Crow Creek Campsite	0.3	1.2	Medium
West Fork Kadunce Campsite	0.5	0.3	Medium
Kadunce River Campsite	5.2	0.5	Small
South Little Brule River Campsite	0.4	5.2	Small
North Little Brule Campsite	0.0	0.4	Medium
Northwest Little Brule River Campsite	11.7	0.0	Small
Hazel Campsite	2.8	11.7	Small
South Carlson Pond Campsite	2.1	2.8	Medium
North Carlson Pond Campsite	3.7	2.1	Medium
Caribou Pond Campsite	3.3	3.7	Small
Jackson Creek Campsite	5.1	3.3	Small
Andy Creek Campsite	N/A	5.1	Small



## Trailhead Index

TRAILHEAD NAME	Overnight Parking Allowed	Winter Access
Wild Valley Road Trailhead	●	
Jay Cooke State Park Trailhead	With park permit	●
Grand Portage Trailhead		●
131st Avenue W. Trailhead		
123rd Avenue W. Trailhead		●
Magney Snively Trailhead		●
Spirit Mountain Grand Avenue Chalet Trailhead		●
Spirit Mountain Parking Lot D		●
Waseca Street Trailhead		
Skyline Parkway Trailhead		
Haines Road Trailhead		
N. 24th Avenue W. Trailhead		
Twin Ponds Trailhead		●
Rose Garden Trailhead		●
Hartley Nature Center Trailhead		●
Martin Road Trailhead	●	●
Lismore Road*		
Normanna Road Trailhead	●	●
Western Fox Farm Road Trailhead	●	

TRAILHEAD NAME	Overnight Parking Allowed	Winter Access
Eastern Fox Farm Road Trailhead	●	●
Rossini Road Trailhead	●	
Lake County Demonstration Forest Trailhead	●	●
Reeves Road Trailhead	●	
Lake County Road 301 Trailhead	●	●
W. Castle Danger Road Trailhead	●	
Gooseberry Falls State Park Visitor Center Trailhead		●
Split Rock River Wayside Trailhead		●
Cove Point Lodge Trailhead	●	●
Lax Lake Road Trailhead	●	●
Penn Boulevard Trailhead	●	●
Bay Area Historical Society Trailhead	●	●
Highway 1 Trailhead	●	
Lake County Road 6 Trailhead	●	
Lake County Road 7 Trailhead	●	●
Sonju Lake Road Trailhead	●	
George Crosby Manitou State Park Trailhead	With park permit	●
Caribou Falls State Wayside Trailhead		
Sugarloaf Road Trailhead	●	
Cook County Road 1 Trailhead	●	
Skou Road Trailhead	●	
Temperance River Road Trailhead	●	
Temperance River Wayside Trailhead		●
Sawbill Trail Trailhead	●	●
Onion River Road Trailhead	●	●
Ski Hill Road Trailhead	●	●
Caribou Trail Trailhead	●	●
Cascade River Wayside		●
Cook County Road 45 Trailhead	●	
Sundling Creek Trailhead	●	●

TRAILHEAD NAME	Overnight Parking Allowed	Winter Access
Bally Creek Road Trailhead	●	●
Cook County Road 6 Trailhead	●	●
Pincushion Mountain Trailhead	●	●
Lindskog Road Trailhead	●	
Cook County Road 14 Trailhead	●	
Kadunce River Wayside Trailhead		●
Judge C.R. Magney State Park		
Trailhead	With park permit	Nearby*
Southern Camp 20 Road Trailhead		
Northern Camp 20 Road Trailhead	●	
Arrowhead Trail Trailhead	●	
Jackson Lake Road	●	
Andy Lake Road Trailhead	●	
Otter Lake Road Trailhead	●	

Overnight parking is also available within state parks. Check in with park staff for location of overnight parking lot. A state park pass is required.

Plowing of trailheads may not be consistent. Some roads, primarily in the vicinity of Arrowhead Trail, are unplowed during winter. Check the Trail Conditions page for updates.

\*Main parking lot unplowed, but day use parking available near office.



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SHTA Project Coordination by: Jaron Cramer, Lisa Luokkala, and Jo Swanson.

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