





## JAY COOKE STATE PARK

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Jay Cooke State Park  
500 East Highway 210  
Carlton, MN 55718  
(218) 384-4610

Department of Natural Resources  
Information Center  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040

(651) 296-6157 (Metro Area)  
1-888-646-63367 (MN Toll Free)

TDD (Telecommunications  
Device for Deaf)  
(651) 296-5484 (Metro Area)  
1-800-657-3929 (MN Toll Free)

DNR Web Site: [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)

**JAY COOKE STATE PARK** is located three miles east of Carlton, Minnesota, on State Trunk Highway 210 in Carlton County. State highway map index: L-10.

The rugged land formations of Jay Cooke State Park enhance the beauty of the hardwood forests. The water-eroded gorge, steep valleys, and massive rock formations are seen throughout the park. In some seasons, the waters of the St. Louis River thunder

over slabs of ancient, exposed rock. At other times, they slow to a gentle trickle. Visitors enjoy the scenic splendor of Jay Cooke State Park during all seasons.

**HISTORY:** When the 13 colonies were developing on the eastern seaboard, French fur trade was thriving in the Jay Cooke area. The Dakota Indians and the French traded for many years. As westward expansion increased, the Ojibway drove the Dakota out to the plains. Shortly after, disputes broke out between the French and the British over fur trapping rights. Eventually the fur trade died down and only a few small settlements remained.

Many years later, the railroads reached northern Minnesota. The "iron horse" brought substantial numbers of immigrant farmers northward. Although much land surrounding the park was cleared, the rough terrain was never successfully cleared for farming.

Jay Cooke State Park was established in 1915 when the St. Louis River Power Company donated 2,350 acres of land. In 1945, the state purchased additional land. Other sections have been added, giving Jay Cooke State Park its present size.

**WILDLIFE:** The promise of food and protection make Jay Cooke State Park an important wintering area for white-tailed deer. Deer, black bear, timber wolf, coyote are among the largest of 46 animals species in the park. The pileated woodpecker, marsh hawk, and great blue heron are just a few of 173 species of birds that nest or feed in the park. Sixteen species of reptiles and amphibians are found in the park—none are poisonous.

Please remember that these animals are wild. Do not approach them.

**GEOLOGY:** The geological make up of Jay Cooke State Park is one of slate, graywacke, and red clay. Streams have exposed the bedrock in many places.

Slate beds were formed from original deposits of mud which compacted into shale. Heat, pressure, and movement converted the deeply buried shale into slate. Underground movement caused the slate and graywacke beds to fold and fracture. Now they are rarely horizontal, but dip to the north or south at various angles.

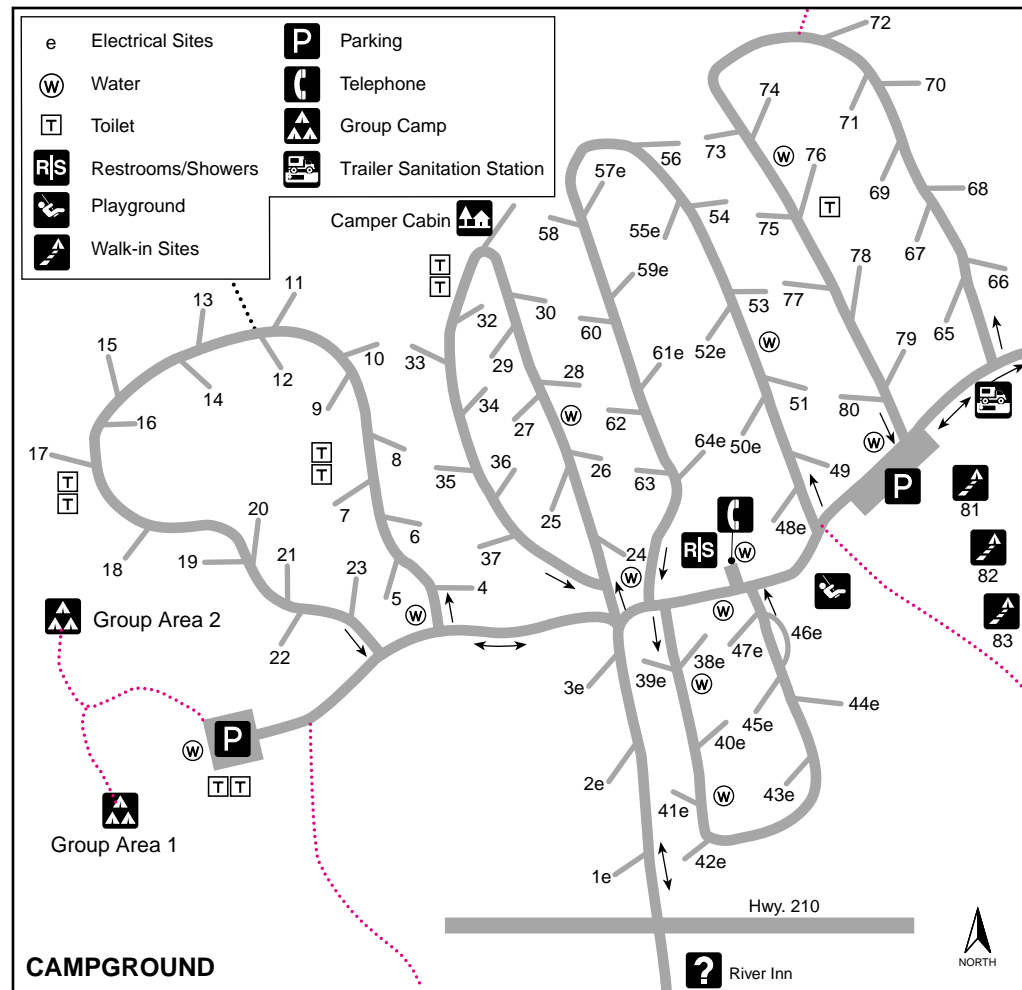
Some time after the original deformation, masses of molten rock forced through fractures in the beds. Upon cooling, these intrusions formed black diabase dikes. Visitors see these dikes in the river bed today.

Near the center of the park, the slate exposures end abruptly, and the river flows in a broad gorge with red clay banks. This red clay was deposited by Glacial Lake Duluth, an ancient lake that once flooded the St. Louis River Valley.

**INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS:** Visitors interested in learning about the natural and human history of the park should check the bulletin boards at the contact station, campgrounds, picnic grounds, and refectory for day and evening programs. In summer, the park naturalist conducts a variety of programs.

### SO EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE PARK ...

- The park belongs to all Minnesotans. Treat it with respect and consideration.
- Hunting in the park is prohibited.
- Pets must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet.
- Motorized vehicles may not use park trails.
- Enjoy the animals, but do not approach or feed them.
- Leave rocks and plants where they are. They make up much of the park's beauty. Do not collect them.
- Information on the use of sanitary facilities, boating, navigation, and water safety is available from the park manager.
- Park only in designated parking areas.
- The park is closed from 10:00 P.M. until



- 8:00 A.M. except in campgrounds and cabin areas. Loud noises or other disturbances are prohibited after 10:00 P.M.
- Camp only in designated areas.
  - Do not gather firewood from the forest floor. Firewood is for sale at the ranger station.
  - Build fires only in fire rings provided.
  - Group permit rates available.
  - Daily or annual permits are required for all vehicles entering a state park. They may be purchased at the park headquarters or the Information Center in St. Paul (see "FOR MORE INFORMATION" to left).

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

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DNR Maps