



Camping

Three campgrounds in the Black River State Forest have nature trails, water, pit toilets, firewood and picnic facilities. Campgrounds are open year-round but only Castle Mound and Pigeon Creek Campgrounds are plowed in winter.

Castle Mound Campground has 35 reservable sites, 6 of which have electrical outlets. Castle Mound also has showers, flush toilets, handicap accessible facilities, and a sanitary dump station. Campsites may be reserved between May 15th and October 1st through Reserve America at 888-947-2757 or www.reserveamerica.com.

Pigeon Creek Campground has 38 campsites. No electric sites are available at this campground and all campsites are on a first come, first served basis. Handicap accessible facilities are available.

East Fork Campground has 25 campsites, half of which are located on the banks of the East Fork of the Black River. No electricity is available and campsites are first come, first served. A canoe landing is located near the campground entrance.



Additional camping opportunities in the State Forest include:

The horse campground has 12 sites available on a first come, first served basis and all include a picnic table, fire ring, and tethering post. Pit toilets and solar-powered pump for water are available but there is no electricity at this campground.

The forest offers a wilderness camping experience with **backpack camping**. Permits are required and available at the WDNR Black River Falls Service Center or Forest Headquarters. Backpack camping is free but campers must camp at least one mile away from their parked vehicle and 100 feet from any road or trail.

The group camp area is secluded and can accommodate up to 50 people outdoors. Water, pit toilets, picnic tables, cooking grills, a dog kennel, and large fire ring are provided. There is a four-season cabin that sleeps 12 people comfortably. Mattress pads or bed rolls are needed to cushion the wood bunks. This ADA compliant cabin has a stove, refrigerator, gas fireplace, heated floors, and bathroom with a shower. Reservations are required with a two-day minimum on weekends and can be made by contacting Forest Headquarters. Reservation applications may not be submitted more than one year in advance of the date the campsite is to be occupied.

A canoe campsite is located on the Black River south of Black River Falls. This campsite is on the east side of the river and includes a picnic table, fire ring, and iPort-a-Pot. This site is available on a first come, first served basis and is limited to canoers for one night only.

Picnicking

Picnic facilities are located at the Castle Mound, Pigeon Creek, and East Fork Campgrounds and at the Robinson Beach day use area. All have hand pumps for water, picnic tables, grills and pit toilets. Perry Creek Park and Oxbow Pond provide limited picnic facilities. An enclosed shelter located at Castle Mound is available for reservations.

Hiking

There are many opportunities for hiking in the Black River State Forest. There are several different trail systems, 24 miles of which are designated for hiking, biking, and skiing. The Wildcat and Smrekar Trailheads provide parking for trail access. A nature trail at Castle Mound campground is complete with interpretive signs and leads to an extraordinary view from the top of Castle Mound.



An interpretive trail at Pigeon Creek Campground is 1.5 miles long and connects to the 24 miles of hiking/biking/skiing trails in the State Forest. East Fork Campground has a less developed nature trail that runs parallel to the East Fork of the Black River. Perry Creek Park also has a hiking trail along Perry Creek, which is excellent for exploring the sandstone outcropping typical of this region.

Biking

There are 29 miles of biking trails, five of which are located at the Pigeon Creek Campground. This five-mile segment links to the remaining 24 miles of hiking, biking, and skiing trails located northeast of Pigeon Creek Campground.