ThreeRivers
PARK DISTRICT

homeschool 2012-2013 September – May

For nature-based programming with learning opportunities from history to habitat, bring your home-school group or family to Three Rivers Parks. We offer programs designed for students age 3 and older that let students get up close to the land for a unique and memorable hands-on experience.

Homeschool families and cooperatives are welcome to hire a private naturalist or recreation program. Contact each location for custom programs:

Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park – Visitor Center 763.694.7790

Baker Park Reserve – Baker Near-Wilderness Settlement 763.694.7724

Carver Park Reserve – Lowry Nature Center 763.694.7650

Elm Creek Park Reserve – Eastman Nature Center 763.694.7700

Gale Woods Farm – 763.694.2001

Hyland Lake Park Reserve – Richardson Nature Center 763.694.7676

Hyland Ski & Snowboard Area/Chalet Golf Center – 763.694.7800

The Landing – Minnesota River Heritage Park 763.694.7784

North Mississippi Regional Park –
Kroening Interpretive Center 763.694.7693

Outdoor Recreation School – 763.694.7720

Silverwood Park – 763.694.7707

eNewsletters
For program updates, additions, and reminders, please sign up for our Youth Leader eNewsletter on our website.

Registration Information
Pre-registration is required for all Homeschool programs.

Session Fees (unless otherwise noted)
Half-day: $5/student
Full-day: $10/student
Adults: Free

Ages: 3-16 (unless otherwise noted)
Adults are required to attend with students ages 3-11 except at Gale Woods Farm. Students ages 12-16 may attend unaccompanied with a waiver signed by a parent or guardian. All equipment is provided. Scholarships are available.

Phone registration is available for all programs throughout the year. Online registration is available seasonally. Please use the following online registration schedule:

Fall Programs: September 1-November 30
Registration opens August 3

Winter Programs: December 1-February 28
Registration opens November 3

Spring Programs: March 1-May 31
Registration opens February 3

For more information or to register please call **763.559.6700** or visit **ThreeRiversParks.org**

BAKER NEAR - WILDERNESS SETTLEMENT

▶ NIGHT HIKE AND GEOCACHING

Experience Baker Park at night while on a special nighttime geocaching course. Then switch gears and take a night hike to discover the natural history of nocturnal animals and learn how our senses compare. Bring a sack dinner, warm clothes, and a flashlight or head lamp. Reservations required. $10. Ages: 10-16.
November 19 - Monday
4 p.m.-8:30 p.m., #430323-03

▶ WINTER TREE IDENTIFICATION AND ORIENTEERING

Gain wilderness skills as you learn how to find your way using a map and compass during our orienteering class. Then discover the skill of using a dichotomous key to identify trees without leaves on the Baker tree identification course. Wear warm clothes and bring a sack lunch. Reservations required. $10. Ages: 8-16.
December 11 - Tuesday
10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., #130323-04

▶ WINTER ECOLOGY AND SURVIVAL

What would you do if you were lost in the winter woods? Practice winter survival techniques such as fire building, shelter construction and signaling for help. Also discover winter ecology and uncover survival strategies for plants and animals. Wear warm clothes. Bring a sack lunch. Activities on snowshoes if conditions allow. Reservations required. $10. Ages: 8-16.
January 23 – Wednesday
10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., #130323-05
February 6 – Wednesday
10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., #130323-06

▶ TECHNOLOGY IN NATURE - GPS AND DIGITAL NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

Focus on using technology in nature by discovering the art of nature photography. Students will produce a framed nature photo. Learn how to navigate using the global positioning system (GPS) - find hidden geocaches within Baker Park. All equipment provided. Bring a sack lunch. Reservations required. $10. Ages: 8-16.
March 20 – Wednesday
10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., #230323-10

▶ ARCHERY AND ROCK CLIMBING

See if you can hit a bulls-eye and scale a 25-foot climbing wall. Shoot compound bows at traditional and 3D targets. Participants must have a signed climbing wall waiver. Bring a sack lunch. All equipment provided. Reservations required. $10. Ages: 8-16.
April 17 – Wednesday
10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., #230323-11

CARVER PARK RESERVE

▶ WATER

Water, water, everywhere! It's a home, it's a place to cool off, it's a place to find food, and it is essential for life as we know it. Come explore the world of water: its properties, the many different places we find it, and how it ties into every aspect of life. Join us for one session or all four! Reservations required. $5. Ages: 3-16.
Properties of Water,
September 10 – Monday
10 a.m.-12 p.m., #411323-19

Wetlands, Streams and Ponds,
September 17 – Monday
10 a.m.-12 p.m., #411323-20

Life Under the Water,
September 24 - Monday 3-16.
10 a.m.-12 p.m., #411323-21

Water Food Webs, October 1 - Monday
10 a.m.-12 p.m., #411323-22
Lowry Nature Center

▶ WINTER

As the days get short, the snow begins to fall, and the water turns to ice, winter sets in and affects every aspect of nature. Plants and animals (including people!) have to adapt to survive the changing conditions. Compare snow and ice, learn the truth about hibernation, experience different methods of winter travel, and find out how nature survives Minnesota's toughest season. Join us for one session or all four! Reservations required. $5. Ages: 3-16.
What Is Winter?, January 14 – Monday
10 a.m.-12 p.m., #111323-25

Snow and Ice, January 21 – Monday
10 a.m.-12 p.m., #111323-26

Migrate, Hibernate, Adapt, or Die,
January 28 - Monday
10 a.m.-12 p.m., #111323-27

Winter Fun, February 4 - Monday
10 a.m.-12 p.m., #111323-28
Lowry Nature Center

▶ REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Is a snake really slimy? Do toads actually give you warts? Does being cold-blooded really mean your blood is cold? We'll answer all of these questions and many more as we explore the world of reptiles and amphibians. We'll meet snakes, turtles, toads and salamanders and learn about how they eat, where they live, and how their body is different and similar to ours. Join us for one session or all four! Reservations required. $5. Ages: 3-16.
From Head to Toe , April 15 - Monday
10 a.m.-12 p.m., #211323-20

Frogs, Toads, and Salamanders,
April 22 – Monday
10 a.m.-12 p.m., #211323-21

Turtles, April 29 – Monday
10 a.m.-12 p.m., #211323-22

Snakes, May 6 - Monday
10 a.m.-12 p.m., #211323-23
Lowry Nature Center

COON RAPIDS DAM REGIONAL PARK

▶SKULLS AND MINNESOTA MAMMALS

Learn how to identify and classify some common Minnesota mammals by family and explore a large skull collection. Inquiry-based activities allow students to discover adaptations of mammals and why they have a certain place in the food chain. Reservations required. $5. Ages: 7-16.
December 3 - Monday
9:30 a.m.-12 p.m., #115423-00

ELM CREEK PARK RESERVE

▶FALL TRAM AND CIDER

Board our "Bluebird Express" tractor-drawn tram for an hour-long ride to view fall colors and spectacular park scenery. Crush crisp apples into fresh, tasty cider and learn the history of apple cidering. Reservations required, by phone only; call 763.559.6700. $5. Ages: 3-16.
September 28 - Friday
10 a.m.-12 p.m., #412223-T1
September 28 - Friday
1 p.m.-3 p.m., #412223-T2
Eastman Nature Center

▶WONDERS OF WATER: WATERSHEDS AND CYCLES

This program is first of a series to examine the important role that water plays every day of our lives. Observe the power of water as it shapes the land. Roll the dice and role-play the water cycle in the Incredible Journey game. Conduct water experiments. Meandering Rush Creek illustrates the value of water as a habitat component and a vital natural resource. Reservations required. $5. Ages: 8-18.
October 4 - Thursday
9:30 a.m.-12 p.m., Eastman Nature Center, #412223-T3

▶ARCHERY

Discover a new exciting outdoor skill. Learn about compound bows, range safety, and proper National Archery in the Schools (NASP) shooting techniques. All equipment provided. Reservations required. $7. Ages: 8-17.
October 10 - Wednesday
10 a.m.-12 p.m., Archery Range #421923-00

▶GEOLOGY

Become a geologist for the day. Discover how rocks are formed from minerals and other materials, and identify the three major types of rocks. Learn about minerals in and around our homes. Discover the earth processes that shaped our state, and hike the creek to see the power of erosion. Reservations required. $5. Ages: 3-16.
November 9 – Friday
9:30 a.m.-12 p.m., Eastman Nature Center, #412223-T4

▶CANDLE MAKING

Students will step back in time to learn the art of candle making. Create hand-dipped, hand-rolled, and cookie-cutter candles. Beeswax and soy wax will be used. Adults are required to attend and assist students; younger siblings are not allowed. Reservations required. $10. Ages: 8-18.
November 30 – Friday
1 p.m.-3 p.m., Eastman Nature Center, #412223-T5

▶CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Whether you are a beginner or need to brush up on your technique, this cross-country ski class is for you. Develop sound fundamental skills for a lifetime of winter fun. Lesson will focus on proper equipment fitting and use, classic diagonal glide, as well as techniques for going up and down hills. Ski rentals are available at a reduced rate of $4. Reservations required. $9. Ages: 8-16.
January 16 – Wednesday
10 a.m.-12 p.m., Chalet #122323-00

▶SYRUP AND PANCAKES

Hike through the sugarbush to taste and gather sap, then watch it turn into maple syrup over a fire. Discover the sweet history of maple syruping through artifacts and a presentation. Enjoy sausage and pancakes covered with homemade pure maple syrup. Choose the morning or the afternoon session. Reservations required, by phone only; 763-559-6700. $10. Ages: 3-16.
March 19 - Tuesday
10 a.m.-12 p.m., #212223-T5
March 19 – Tuesday
12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m., #212223-T6
Eastman Nature Center

▶WONDERS OF WATER: POND STUDY

Enter the life of a wetland. Search for turtles and toads, and dip for critters from the boardwalk. Identify water creatures to discover what insects can teach us about water quality and living underwater. See tiny invertebrates larger-than-life with the micro-projector or "critter cam". Construct a food chain, meet and touch live pond predators, and role-play during pond life games. Reservations required. $5. Ages: 8-18.
May 30 - Thursday
9:30 a.m.-12 p.m., Eastman Nature Center, #212223-T4

FISH LAKE REGIONAL PARK

▶WONDERS OF WATER: : ICE, SNOW, AND FISHING

As water freezes, the way that ice and snow forms changes Minnesota'a landscape in drastic and important ways. Examine this process's effects, why it happens, and what plants and animals do to cope. Use molecular models, thermometers, exploded soda cans, and outdoor examples in investigations. Then walk out on the frozen water of Fish Lake and try ice fishing. Reservations required. $5. Ages: 8-18.
January 23 – Wednesday
9:30 a.m.-12 p.m., #115923-00

▶WONDERS OF WATER: LAKE ECOLOGY

Become a hydrologist: use chemistry kits to test lake water and its physical properties. Learn about several types of pollutants and their sources. Discuss pollution's impact on the aquatic ecosystem plus strategies for impact control. Learn to reduce your footprint on the local watershed. Hunt for signs of furred and feathered inhabitants. Play the Mink and Muskrat hunt game. Reservations required. $5. Ages: 8-18.
April 24 – Wednesday
9:30 a.m.-12 p.m., #215923-03

FRENCH REGIONAL PARK

▶SLACKLINING

Try the new adventure sport quickly growing in popularity! Slacklining develops coordination, increases endurance and concentration, tones muscles, and more as participants balance themselves across a two-inch-wide line. Join us and find out why this sport has been coined fun, safe and simply addictive! Reservations required. $5. Ages: 5-17.
October 24 – Wednesday
10 a.m.-12 p.m., #424923-00

▶SNOWSHOEING AND TRACKING

Learn the history of snowshoeing, then strap on a pair to explore the woods around French Park. Be a wildlife detective and discover what winter animals are up to by learning to identify and read the animal track clues. Equipment provided. Reservations required. $5. Ages: 5-16.
January 23 - Wednesday
10 a.m.-12 p.m., Visitor Center, #124823-00

▶ICE FISHING

Learn what equipment is needed to have a successful ice fishing trip. See types of lures and bait. Use an ice auger and experience the warmth of a fish house. Class includes ice and cold weather safety, and emergency response. After instructions, participants will have a hands-on experience fishing from a freshly cut hole in the ice. All equipment provided. Reservations required. $8. Ages: 5-16.
January 30 - Wednesday
10 a.m.-12 p.m., Visitor Center, #124823-01

▶SNOW SHELTERS

Humans have lived in show shelters for thousands of years! Find out the different techniques for building three different snow shelters: igloos, snow caves and quinzhees. Then build your own quinzhee! All equipment provided. Reservations required. $5. Ages: 5-16.
February 13 - Wednesday
10 a.m.-12 p.m., Visitor Center, #124823-02

▶MAPLE SYRUPING

Sap to syrup! Tap a tree, collect the sap, and watch as it's boiled down to maple syrup. Make maple sugar and discover how American Indians and the early settlers used this natural resource to help sustain their way of life. Sample the natural sweetness of French Regional Park! Reservations required. $5. Ages: 5-17.
March 13 – Wednesday
10 a.m.-12 p.m., Visitor Center, #224823-00

▶TEAMBUILDING TREK

Embark on an adventure to test your team-working skills. As you trek through the woods, your group will be presented with a series of physical and mental challenges that could involve such items as hula hoops, logs, ropes and tarps. The difficulty of each task will increase as your team builds cohesiveness and hones its skills. Come prepared to use your imagination and have a lot of fun! Reservations required. $5. Ages: 8-13.
April 17 – Wednesday
10 a.m.-12 p.m., #224923-01

▶GO FISHING

Crappies and sunfish should be biting at this time of year. Learn the basics of fishing on Medicine Lake. Learn about equipment, bait, local fish, and how to catch and release. We provide all the equipment and bait. Reservations required. $5. Ages: 6-17.
May 16 - Wednesday
10 a.m.-12 p.m., Visitor Center, #225123-00

GALE WOODS FARM

▶ HOOFS AND HALTERS
Hoofs and Halters is the Farm's Animal Science program. Program will cover animal husbandry, animal systems and animal breeding. This is a drop-off program. Reservations required. $80. Ages: 10-14.
September 13 – November 8, Thursdays
12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., #437423-10
September 17 – November 5, Mondays
1 p.m.-4 p.m., #437423-15
March 4 – April 29, Mondays
1 p.m.-4p.m., #237423-33
March 7 – May 2, Thursdays
12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., #237423-34

▶ FARM EXPLORERS
Join the Gale Woods farmers for eight weeks of farming fun. In the fall help with the harvest in the gardens and apple orchard, in the spring help prepare the gardens. In both fall and spring care for the farm animals and cook with produce straight from the farm, explore the farm through hikes, wagon rides and games. This is a drop-off class. This curriculum is part of a two-year series rotation. Reservations required. $80. Ages: 6-9.
September 13 – November 8, Thursdays
12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., #437423-09
September 17 – November 5, Mondays
1 p.m.-4 p.m., #437423-14
March 4 – April 29, Mondays
1 p.m.-4 p.m., #237423-31
March 7 – May 2, Thursdays
12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., #237423-32

▶ FARM BIOSCIENCE
Join Gale Woods' farmers in exploring the various biological concepts and ecosystems of the farm. High school and college biology concepts will be covered. Fall curriculum will cover soil, composting, water quality and animal breeding. Spring curriculum will cover plant and animal genetics. This is a drop off program. Reservations required. Ages: 12-16.
September 17 – November 5, Mondays
1 p.m.-4 p.m., #437423-16
March 4 – April 29, Mondays
1 p.m.-4 p.m., #237423-35

▶ FARM DISCOVERY
Join the Gale Woods farmers for farming fun. Learn how the farmers care for the animals and gardens throughout the year. Each month we will care for the animals and cook with farm produce in the education center. This program is designed for the skills and interests of children ages 2 to 4 (toddlers and preschoolers). All children must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult who attends at no charge. Parents may be asked to assist the Farm Educator during the program. Reservations required. $10. Ages: 2-4.
Apples, Apples , September 14 - Friday
1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., #437423-00

Celebrate Harvest, October 12 – Friday
1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., #437423-01

Turkey Time, November 9 – Friday
1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., #437423-02

Maple Syruping, March 8 – Friday
1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., #237423-22

Farm Babies, April 5 – Friday
1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., #237423-23

Let's Get Growing, May 3 – Friday
1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., #237423-24

▶ FARM QUEST
Join the Gale Woods farmers for farming fun. Learn how the farmers care for the animals and gardens throughout the year. Each month we will care for the animals and cook with farm produce in the education center. This program is designed for the skills and interests of children ages 7-11 (1st-5th grade). This is a drop-off program. Reservations required. $10. Ages: 7-11.
Apples, Apples, September 14 - Friday
1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., #437423-06

Celebrate Harvest, October 12 - Friday
1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., #437423-07

Turkey Time, November 9 – Friday
1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., #437423-08

Maple Syruping, March 8 – Friday
1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., #237423-28

Farm Babies, April 5 – Friday
1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., #237423-29

Let's Get Growing, May 3 – Friday
1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., #237423-30

▶ FARM ADVENTURES
Join the Gale Woods farmers for farming fun. Learn how the farmers care for the animals and gardens throughout the year. Each month we will care for the animals and cook with farm produce in the education center. This program is designed for the skills and interests of children ages 4-6 (preschool-kindergarten). This is a drop-off program. Reservations required. $10. Ages: 4-6.
Apples, Apples, September 14 - Friday
1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., #437423-03

Celebrate Harvest, October 12 – Friday
1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., #437423-04

Turkey Time, November 9 – Friday
1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., #437423-05

Maple Syruping, March 8 – Friday
1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., #237423-25

Farm Babies, April 5 - Friday
1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., #237423-26

Let's Get Growing, May 3 - Friday
1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., #237423-27

▶ FOOD SCIENCE
Have you ever thought about the science behind why bread rises and milk curdles? Join Gale Woods Farmers in investigating the science behind these and many more foods. After investigating the science behind foods, spend time caring for the animals and exploring Gale Woods outdoors. This is a drop off program. Reservations required. $40.
January 14 – February 4, Mondays
1 p.m.-4 p.m., #137423-10 (Ages: 10-14)
January 14 – February 4, Mondays
1 p.m.-4 p.m., #137423-09 (Ages: 6-9)

NORTH MISSISSIPPI REGIONAL PARK

▶ PRAIRIE ECOSYSTEMS
On an acre of prairie, there may be a million plant-eating animals! Learn the importance of the prairie to the first people in our state, investigate the diversity of our prairie, and learn how the plants and animals that live in these dry grasslands are able to survive. Reservations required. $5. Ages: 5-15.
September 6 - Thursday
10 a.m.-12 p.m., #416923-01

▶ USING A COMPASS
Discover how a compass works, and learn to use one effectively. Make a compass out of household items, and use your newly-acquired skills to complete a compass course. Reservations required. $5. Ages: 6-16.
October 8 - Monday
10 a.m.-12 p.m., #416923-02

▶ USING A GPS
Try your hand at using a GPS unit! Learn how to follow a pre-marked course, create your own course for others to follow, and participate in the popular sport of geocaching. Reservations required. $5. Ages: 6-16.
October 8 – Monday
12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m., #416923-03

▶ REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS
Meet toads, turtles, and snakes up close. See firsthand how reptiles and amphibians adapt to their surroundings to increase their survival chances. Watch them eat and study their habitats. Venture to the river, ponds, forest, and prairie looking for these animals in the wild. Reservations required. $5. Ages: 6-16.
April 30 – Tuesday
12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m., #216923-00

SILVERWOOD PARK

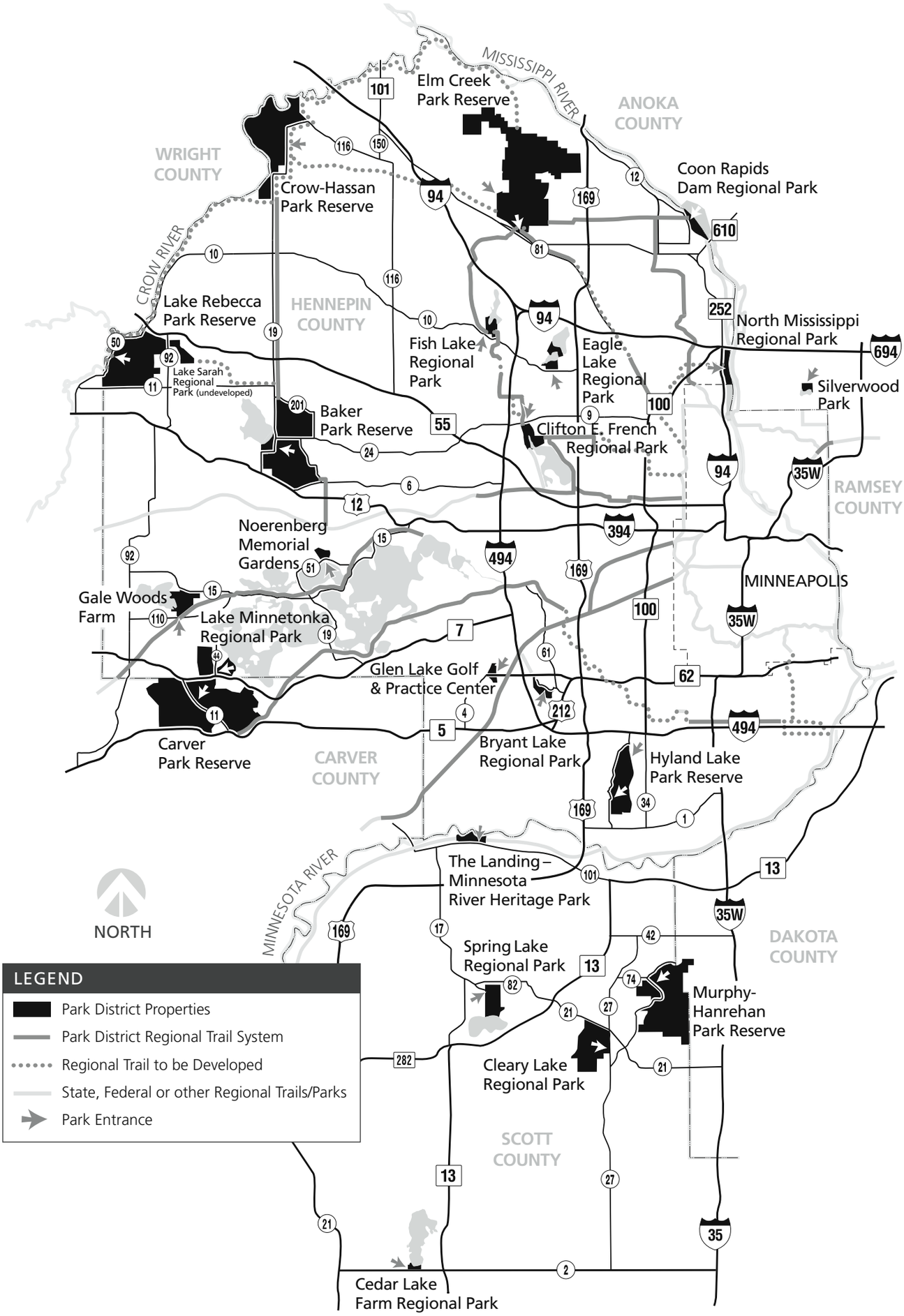
▶ ART ADVENTURES: PHOTOGRAPHY
Use digital cameras to explore and observe the natural world as the season changes. Learn camera basics and discover how to capture light, shadow, color, and form in nature. We "shutter" to think what will happen if you miss this series! Cameras provided. $25 for series. Reservations required. $25. Ages: 5-10.
September 12-26 – Wednesdays
9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., #437823-12

▶ ART ADVENTURES: HARVESTING THE ARTS
Sow your creative seeds and explore nature's bounty using natural materials to sample the arts. This class is a cornucopia of creativity celebrating abundance and artmaking. $25 for series. Reservations required. $25. Ages: 5-10.
October 10-24 – Wednesdays
9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., #437823-14

▶ ART ADVENTURES: PRINT AND PAPER
Try your hand at printmaking and papermaking using found objects from nature and home to create one-of-a-kind art projects. Catch this class while it's hot off the press! Dress for mess. $25 for series. Reservations required. $25. Ages: 5-10.
January 9-23 – Wednesdays
9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., #137823-14

▶ ART ADVENTURES: CLAY
Get fired up and use clay to explore the natural sounds of the outdoors. Learn basic handbuilding and decorating techniques as you find musical inspiration throughout the park. Dress for mess. $25 for series. Reservations required. $25. Ages: 5-10.
March 13-27 – Wednesdays
9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., #237823-16

▶ ART ADVENTURES: BOOKMAKING
Learn the art of bookmaking as you investigate metamorphosis. This class will have you flipping (pages, that is) for more! $25 for series. Reservations required. $25. Ages: 5-10.
May 8-22 – Wednesdays
9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., #237823-17



▶ VOLUNTEER SERVICES PROJECTS – 763.559.6706

Scheduled service projects include Global Youth Service Day in April, Garlic Mustard Pulls in May, Prairie Seed Collection in late August-early October and Beat Back the Buckthorn in October. Scouting service-award projects and individual service project opportunities for youth 16 years of age or older may be available on a limited basis. Call or visit our web site for additional information.

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