

## MAY 2020

**Due to our efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19, many spring and summer events have been cancelled. But we can still visit our parks and thankfully, Minnesota has a lot of them. For more parks, check out the Minnesota DNR website**

**Wildflowers** are still blooming. The Three Rivers Park District comprises twenty parks in four counties (Hennepin, Carver, Wright and Scott). Visit any of these parks to photograph wildflowers.

**Cannon River Rendezvous** (<https://www.exploreminnesota.com/event/cannon-river-fur-trade-rendezvous/4387>) Cannon Falls, MN. A fur trade re-enactment of pre-1840s frontier life. Usually held on Memorial Weekend, check the website for updates.

**Virginia bluebells** blanket the forest floor along the Wildflower Trail in early May at Carley State Park ([https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state\\_parks/park.html?id=spk00130#homepage](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/park.html?id=spk00130#homepage)) south of Plainview and along the west bank of the Zumbro River, south of Zumbro Falls. This park is a little over two hours southeast of the Cities.

**Afton State Park** ([https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state\\_parks/park.html?id=spk00100#homepage](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/park.html?id=spk00100#homepage)), located about 40 miles southeast of the Twin Cities, contains 1,700 acres of floodplain forests, oak savanna, prairie grasslands, oak woodland and the St. Croix River. The St. Croix River Valley is a natural flyway and provides a corridor for migrant birds, especially raptors. In May the oaks are blooming, providing an abundance of food for migrating warblers, kinglets, flycatchers and vireos. The park is open from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m.

**Fort Snelling State Park** ([https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state\\_parks/park.html?id=spk00154#homepage](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/park.html?id=spk00154#homepage)) is located near MSP airport and has nearly 3,000 acres at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers. There are lakes, marshes, shore and woodland habitat attracting over 244 species of birds. There are lots of opportunities to photograph deer if you got in the early morning or stay near dusk. The park is open from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. This park often experiences flooding in the spring, so check their website to see what is open.

**Greenleaf Lake SRA** ([https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state\\_parks/greenleaf\\_lake/index.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/greenleaf_lake/index.html)), located about 75 miles from the Twin Cities, consists of Greenleaf and Sioux Lakes. Although small (385 acres) it is a great place to photograph waterfowl, including wood ducks, mergansers and mallards. Nonbreeding American white pelicans can be seen in the summer months.

**Lake Maria State Park** ([https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state\\_parks/park.html?id=spk00217#homepage](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/park.html?id=spk00217#homepage)) about 40 minutes on I94W, is a large, 1,600 acre parks of woodland terrain with small lakes, marshes and prairie grasslands. With 14 miles of hiking trails there is lots to explore. A total of 29 species of warblers have been listed in this park and 19 species of waterfowl.