The mighty Mississippi begins to flow on its winding 2,552-mile journey to the Gulf of Mexico. Facilities include the Mary Gibbs Mississippi Headwaters Center, featuring a gift shop, restrooms, cafe and outdoor interpretive displays.

**Intpretive Programs.** Campfire programs, nature hikes, tours and children's activities are offered weekends and weekdays during the summer and fall, and periodically during winter and spring. Check park information boards, online, or ask for a copy of the current schedule at the office. Join in the fun!

**Pine Ridge Campground.** 155 campsites are available, 105 are electric sites. 4 modern toilet facilities with hot showers available mid-May through early October. In winter, camping is rustic, with pit toilets, and water available at the visitor center. WiFi Available.

**Bear Paw Campground.** 79 campsites are available; 68 are drive-in sites, 35 are electric and 11 are cart-in sites (500 yards or less). 3 modern toilet facilities, 1 with showers. WiFi Available.

**Jacob V. Brower Visitor Center.** Open year-round. Park information, rest-rooms, gift shop and interpretive exhibits. WiFi available in the lobby.

**TRAILER SANITATION STATION.** Located in Bear Paw Campground. Eleven backpack campsites are available year-round with a 1-5 mile hiking distance into the southern half of the park.

**Lake Ozawindib Group Camp.** A primitive camp with changing house is located north of the Lake Itasca boat landing.

**Itasca Sports Rental.** Privately owned and operated. Located across from the Lake Itasca boat landing. Offers a wide selection of rental equipment including; bikes, boats and canoes. Biking and fishing accessories are also available.

**Bike Trail.** A 5.8 mile, paved bicycle trail along the one-way ends at boat ramp.

**Itasca State Park** is located 23 miles north of Park Rapids, Minnesota on U.S Highway 71 in three counties: Clearwater, Hubbard, and Becker. Highway map index: F-9.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** At Itasca State Park, the mighty Mississippi River begins its 2,552-mile journey to the Gulf of Mexico. Established in 1891 to preserve remnant stands of virgin pine and to protect the basin around the Mississippi's source, this 32,800-acre park has become a famous natural and cultural landmark in North America.

**FACILITIES AND FEATURES:** Mississippi Headwaters. Here, 1,475 feet above the ocean, the cabins, one, two, and three bedroom cabins are located in the Douglas Lodge area. Housekeeping cabins are available in Bear Paw Campground.

**Douglas Lodge Dining.** Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served throughout the summer and fall. WiFi is available in the lobby.

**Gift Shops.** The Visitor Center, Headwaters and Forest Inn gift shops carry a broad mix of gifts, souvenirs, books and clothing.

**Picnic Area.** Picnic along Lake Itasca. A picnic shelter is available and can be rented for your exclusive use.

**Wilderness Drive.** This 10-mile, one-way scenic drive heads west from the Headwaters and ends near Douglas Lodge. There are many spectacular sights along the drive.

**Swimming Beach.** The park’s swimming beach and changing house is located north of the Lake Itasca boat landing.

**Lake Itasca Tours.** Join your friends on a narrated naturalist tour of Lake Itasca aboard the privately operated “Chester Charles II” excursion boat. The boat departs from the pier below Douglas Lodge. Tickets are available for purchase at the pier.

**Boating, Canoeing and Biking.** Bring your boat, canoe, or bike or rent one on site. To rent boats for Lake Ozawindib, Elk Lake, Mary Lake, and Lake Itasca, check at the Itasca Sports Rental.

**Itasca Sports Rental.** Privately owned and operated. Located at the Lake Itasca boat landing. Offers a wide selection of rental equipment including; bikes, boats and canoes. Biking and fishing accessories are also available.

**Bike Trail.** A 5.8 mile, paved bicycle trail along the one-way ends at boat ramp.

**Mississippi Headwaters Hostel.** Located across from the boat landing on Main Park Drive. Offers clean, comfortable year-round accommodations. This facility is operated by Hostelling International.

**Historic East Station Cabin.** Two bedrooms, living room, fireplace, bathroom and kitchen.