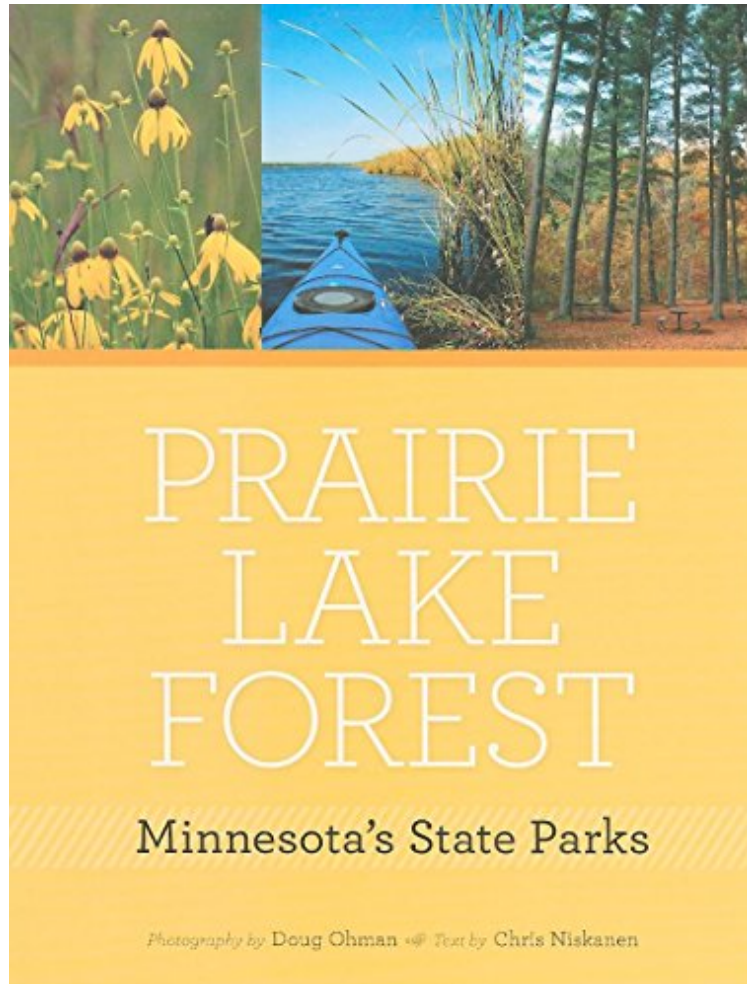


Prairie, Lake, Forest: Minnesota's State Parks

Chris Niskanen

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Chris Niskanen : Prairie, Lake, Forest: Minnesota's State Parks before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Prairie, Lake, Forest: Minnesota's State Parks:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. InspiringBy B. WentPrairie Lake Forest is a culmination of beautiful photography matched with spectacular storytelling. Covering Minnesota's state parks by theme (from paddling, climbing, hiking, scenic displays, etc.), personal accounts of those who know the state parks best are presented by Chris Niskanen with the true spirit of what makes the parks great. Add the beautiful photography of Doug Ohman, and it's as if you're given the backstage tour of the most privaliged areas of the park.This book is a must-have for anybody who enjoys the state parks. Among the personal stories, Niskanen also incorporates side stories with bits of history and park facts. Don't expect this to be a guidebook, but rather a soulful reminder of why people love the Minnesota state park system.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Mothers Day giftBy DavisMy mom loved this book I gave to her as a gift. The photos and narrative are wonderful! I recommend this book to anyone who

lives in Minnesota, and anyone who doesn't!

"We went for a hike. The beach was a tumble of exposed bedrock, some formations looking like model pirate ships in silhouette, but soon the gravel narrowed and an outcrop of jagged rock faced us. The girls scrambled up a well-used trail, and then I saw Grace climbing, hand over hand, up the final short rock wall. I was about to yell my customary warning, but she had summited and Bailey was on her heels. They raised their arms, the Lake Superior wind whipping their hair, and I breathed two words: their Everest."from the text by Chris NiskanenMinnesota is home to prairies and forests, lakes and rivers, bison and gray wolfand a treasured system of state parks. Emblems of natural history, many were created to protect an ecosystem such as the giant hardwood trees at Nerstrand Big Woods, features like the spectacular waterfalls at Gooseberry or limestone caves at Forestville, and historic structures such as the early settlement of Fort Ridgely along the Minnesota River. Recreational opportunities are equally diverse and so are the people who pursue them. Photographer Doug Ohman visited each of Minnesota's sixty-six parks to capture their classic beauty, storied wildlife, and wealth of activities in all seasons. More than two hundred color photographs illustrate sixteen essays by outdoors writer Chris Niskanen, who chronicles the sights, sounds, and experiences of exploring the parks through the eyes of those who know them beststrangers, naturalists, and long-time users. There is the traveling salesman who is also an avid birdwatcher; a couple so excited about their state parks adventures that they worked geocaching into their wedding theme; and daughters on a camping trip to the rocky outcrops of Lake Superior's North Shore, a personal tale recounted by Niskanen. The result is an elegant package of memories for those who frequent the parksand an invitation to all comers to see Minnesota's natural world at its best.

About the AuthorChris Niskanen is outdoors editor for the St. Paul Pioneer Press and also contributes to Minnesota Conservation Volunteer magazine.