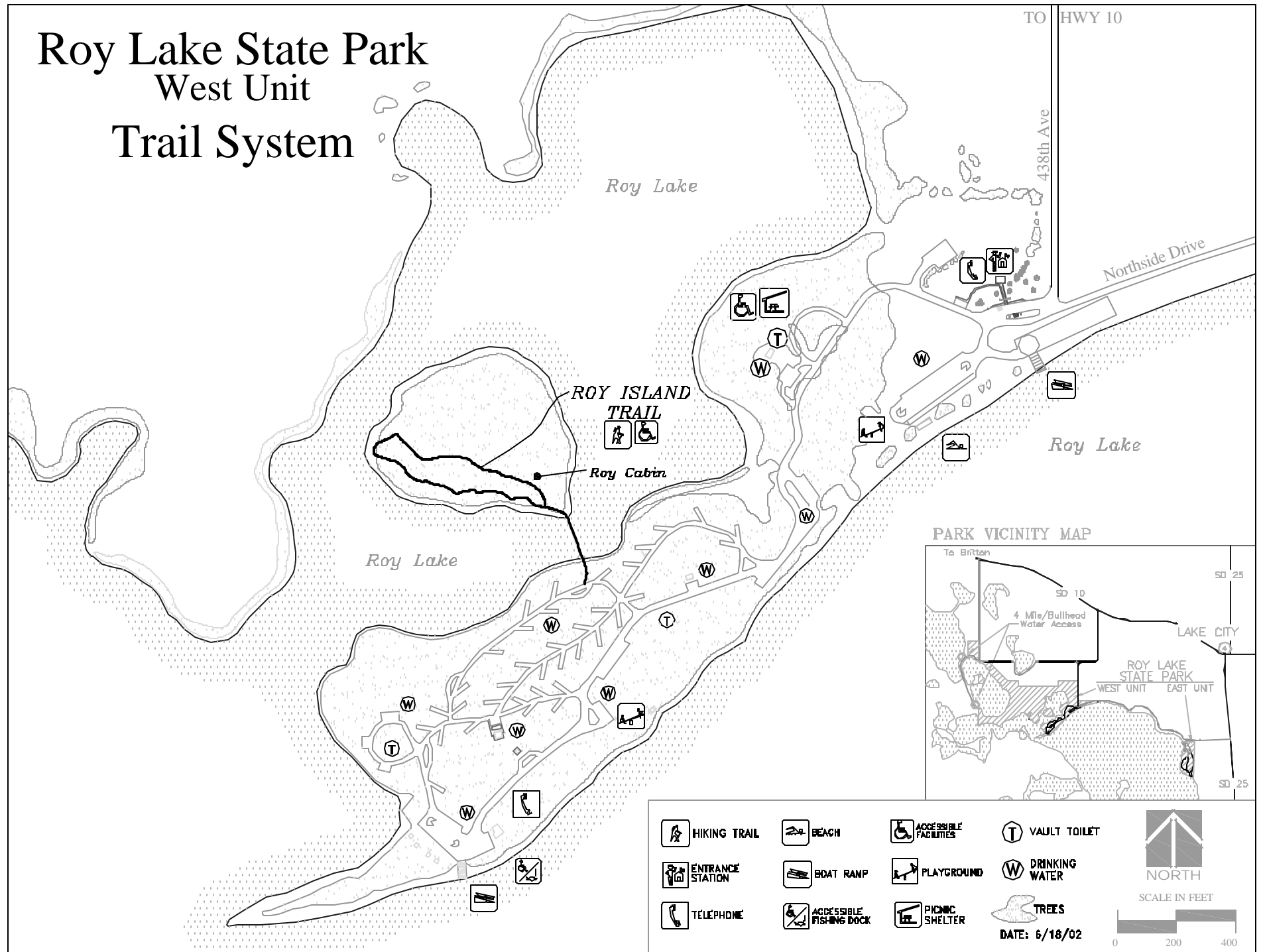


Roy Lake State Park West Unit Trail System



TO HWY 10

438th Ave

Northside Drive

Roy Lake

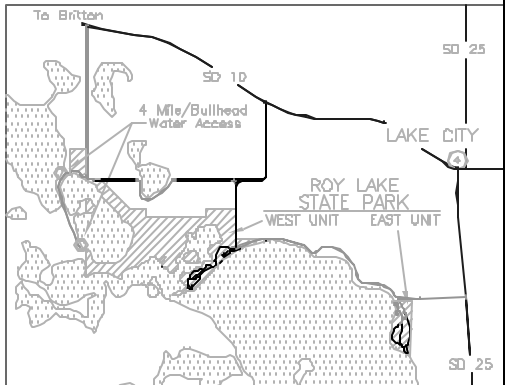
Roy Lake

Roy Lake

ROY ISLAND TRAIL

Roy Cabin

PARK VICINITY MAP



HIKING TRAIL	BEACH	ACCESSIBLE FACILITIES	VAULT TOILET	 NORTH SCALE IN FEET 0 200 400
ENTRANCE STATION	BOAT RAMP	PLAYGROUND	DRINKING WATER	
TELEPHONE	ACCESSIBLE FISHING DOCK	PICNIC SHELTER	TREES DATE: 6/18/02	

Roy Lake State Park

Roy Island Trail

Type of trail: Hiking

Trail surface: gravel and limestone

Rated: Easy and appropriate for all ages

Fee required: Park Entrance License

Length of trail: 1/3 mile

Is this trail accessible to people in wheelchairs or strollers: No

Location of the trailhead: West Roy Lake campground near pad #2

Facilities at or near the trailhead: Campground, water, picnic tables, parking

Facilities along the trail: none

Special considerations: Poison ivy along trail

What lodging opportunities are provided IN the park: Tent camping, electrical and non-electrical campsites, wheelchair accessible campsite, camping cabins, modern cabins, suites

Nearest facilities for purchasing snacks, sunscreen, etc: Convenience store in west area of park

Nearest motels/restaurants OUTSIDE the park: Britton, 15 miles

Nearest Chamber of Commerce:

Britton Chamber of Commerce, 1209 9th St. Britton, SD 57430, (605) 448-5323

Emergency phone numbers:

Ambulance - 911

Sheriff - 911

Fire Department - 911

Do most cell phones work on this trail? Yes

Roy Lake State Park

Roy Island Trail

As you cross the bridge to the island, note the minnows and other tiny fish swimming under the bridge and among the water plants. Also watch for painted turtles that are plentiful in this back bay of Roy Lake. Anglers, especially young anglers, find the bridge to be an excellent fishing spot. During low water years, the entire back bay will become a sea of rushes and cattails.

As you leave the bridge on the island, bear right and note the large excavation to the right of the trail. This excavation is all that remains of a fish cannery operation that processed fish in the late 1800s and early 1900s. They processed mostly northern pike, still a popular game fish in Roy Lake today. As you continue along the trail notice the large variety of trees, shrubs, and other plants. Since there is a considerable amount of poison ivy, do not leave the trail. A good field guide to trees, plants and shrubs is extremely helpful to identify the many plants located along the trail.

When you get to the west end of the island notice the large number of small trees that have been cut off close to the ground. If you look across the water to the west and just slightly to the right, you will notice a large mound of earth and sticks on the west shoreline. This is an extremely large beaver lodge that has been in use for many years. If you hike the trail early in the morning or late in the evening, you will very possibly see beaver swimming. Proceed slowly and quietly because if the beaver observe you first, you will only hear a splash as they slap the water with their tail and disappear from sight. Each fall the beaver harvest the small trees and store them underwater for a winter food supply. Can you see the remnants of last year's food cache? As you proceed back to the bridge, continue to note the large amount of beaver-harvested trees.

Thank you for visiting this trail. We hope you come back frequently. As the seasons change, make note of the new plants you observe and which plants have matured and disappeared. In this type of environment, nature is continuously changing plants throughout the season. Only the trees and shrubs will be there throughout the season but even they change. They develop new leaves in the spring that change color in the autumn.