Big Aspen
SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST  LAURENTIAN RANGER DISTRICT  AURORA, MINNESOTA

Features
- 21 miles of trails
- Beginner and intermediate classic cross-country skiing
- ATV Riding
  (Allowed May 1st through November 20th only. Cross-country travel is prohibited. Off limits to all other motorized vehicles year-round.)
- Mountain biking
- Hiking
- Diversity of plants and wildlife
- Scenic overlooks of Rice River Valley
- Horses allowed.

Location
The Big Aspen Trail System is 11 miles north of Virginia, Minnesota.
- From Virginia, take Highway 53 north for 8 miles to County Road 131.
- Turn right on County Road 131 for 1 mile.
- Turn left on County Road 68 for 0.3 mile.
- Go straight on Pelton Road, County Road 405, for 2 miles. (405 becomes UT 8116)

One parking lot is located here. A second parking lot is located 1.3 miles north on Forest Road #257. That lot and Forest Road #257 are not plowed in the winter.
Description
This trail system travels through a large pine and hardwood forest with areas in the process of regrowth. It uses both old logging roads and abandoned railroad grades from the old Virginia and Rainy Lake Lumber Company. Several scenic vistas make this trail especially popular. The wide treadway is excellent for skiers of all abilities and for mountain bikers, hikers, and ATV riders. (ATV use is allowed from May 1st through November 20th only. Other motor vehicles are not allowed at any time.)

Tips for ATV Riders
- Responsible riders are safe riders. Be sure to wear appropriate protective gear and maintain your machine. Don't take chances that endanger yourself or others.

- Your attitude toward your surroundings and your behavior as a rider affect the attitudes of other outdoor users, landowners and lawmakers. Ride responsibly!

- If you tread lightly on the environment, are courteous to others, respect private property and obey the law, you are contributing to the positive image of recreational motor vehicle activities.

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