



1600 East Century Avenue, Suite 3
Bismarck, ND 58503-0649
Phone 701-328-5357
Fax 701-328-5363
E-mail parkrec@nd.gov
www.parkrec.nd.gov

ND Legislative Water Topics Policy Committee Briefing Document
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SB 2020 - \$1 Million Grant

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department through Senate Bill 2020 was provided a \$1 Million grant for developing recreation opportunities on sovereign lands in the state. The Department recently retained Houston Engineering, Bismarck, North Dakota to research and evaluate selected sites along the Missouri River for potential enhanced access and use of Sovereign Lands. Information will be gathered for around eleven sites (Phase 1), followed by the selection of a limited number of sites, based on the evaluation, for an advanced more in depth review of access and recreation opportunities (Phase 2).

Sovereign Lands Access Sites: Missouri River – See attached general location map

Phase 1 – Will consider the following:

- Site Location:** City/County/...
- Governing Authority:** ND Game and Fish from water. City/County/other from land.
- Operational Authority:** Local Parks District/Township or County Commission/other
- Access Type:** Roadway and Type (i.e., section line, etc....)
- River Habitat:** North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department
Sand Bar – vegetated or trees
- Distance from Community:** ____ miles
- Potential Uses:** Boating, Sandbar, Fishing etc...
- Governing Regulations:** Sovereign Lands Rules
- Law Enforcement:** Police/Sheriff
- Potential Managing Entity:** City, County, Park District, State Parks

Phase 2 – Will expand on Phase 1 with the following additional items for two selected sites:

- Available Space:** ____ Acres of sandbar, green space, forest, etc.
- Potential Facilities Required:** Roadways, Parking, Fish Cleaning, Docks, Ramp, etc.
- Environmental/Permit Issues:** Limited to readily available public data
- Neighborhood/Zoning:** Agriculture, Farmstead, Rural Residential, Urban
- Specific Site Needs/Issues:** Pros and Cons, NIMBY

The deliverable will be a summary report of the sites researched and a brief evaluation of the potential for these sites, along with an expanded review for development opportunities and recommendations for two selected sites. The next phase will be to consider additional planning needs and potential implementation for these recreational sites. In addition we will be considering the options related to applying for the North Dakota Heritage funds, should the selected sites and facilities qualify.

The proposed Missouri River Day Use Park in south Bismarck also has considerable sovereign lands associated with it and opportunities are being investigating to improve access and use of those areas as part of the planning for this new state park.