

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
12/23/2016

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1089

- 1 A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2015-2017 Biennium		2017-2019 Biennium		2019-2021 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues				\$24,000		\$24,000
Expenditures				\$24,000		\$24,000
Appropriations						

- 1 B. **County, city, school district and township fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

	2015-2017 Biennium	2017-2019 Biennium	2019-2021 Biennium
Counties			
Cities			
School Districts			
Townships			

- 2 A. **Bill and fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

Parks and Recreation seeks the authority to sell advertising in select Parks and Recreation publication to help offset printing costs of the publication.

- B. **Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

Any revenue generated from selling advertising in a Parks and Recreation publication will be used to help offset costs associated with that publication.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

- A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

Estimated revenue will be \$24,000 per biennium. These revenues will be deposited as special funds.

- B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

Any revenue generated will be used to offset costs associated the Parks and Recreation publication.

- C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation or a part of the appropriation is included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

The spending authority needed is included in the executive budget recommendation. Parks and Recreation receives spending authority in order to expend revenues generated to offset operation and maintenance costs.

Name: Matthew Gardner

Agency: Parks and Recreation

Telephone: 701-328-5369

Date Prepared: 12/27/2016

2017 HOUSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

HB 1089

2017 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Political Subdivisions Committee Prairie Room, State Capitol

HB 1089
1/12/2017
26833

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Carmer Hicks

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to advertising sales in parks and recreation publications

Minutes:

1,2,3,

Chairman Klemin: Opened the hearing on HB 1089.

Matthew Gardner, Recreation Division Manager for ND Parks and Recreation Dept. See testimony #1-3

Rep. Johnson: This bill allows you to sell advertising, is there something in the law that does not allow you to sell advertising?

Mr. Gardner: That is correct, we started this process a while ago, we talked to our attorney at the AG's office. He basically told us that nowhere in our code does it allow us to sell advertising.

Rep. Johnson: Is there current statute that disallows you from selling advertising?

Mr. Gardner: No, it does not disallow, just it is not clearly written that we are allowed.

Rep. Johnson: Fargo Park Board has advertising in our brochures. (Unable to hear the rest of Rep. Johnson's question)

Mr. Gardner: What we are hoping to accomplish today is to be able to do the same thing. We would have done that already had our attorney not said we should come before the Legislature for this approval.

Rep. K. Koppelman: How much revenue you do anticipate selling advertising in the two publications?

Mr. Gardner: On the fiscal note we put \$24,000. Our research that we did, we talked to a few companies, I think that is what we are able to do. We would insert a page into those of those documents which would allow us to sell four pages of advertising.

Rep. K. Koppelman: I assume your appropriation can be reduced \$24,000 if this passes?

Mr. Gardner: We have had to reduce our printing budget to meet the demands of our appropriations bill.

Rep. Beadle: Looking at the fiscal note, it says 2017-2019 biennium and 2019-2021 biennium, you anticipate revenue to \$24,000 coming into other funds? You also had expenditures of \$24,000 going into other funds. Am I supposed to interpret that literally the paper is going to cost you \$24,000 to insert it into those books? Otherwise how else do you get that exact same expenditures number?

Mr. Gardner: We went through an exercise to look at things and I will give you some numbers to consider. Our State Park guide we print one per biennium, our distribution is about 20,000. The Discover we print 4 times during a biennium and each printing is 17,700. The Discover we mail to those that are annual pass holders to our state parks, so we mail about 14,000. Our cost with design fees and everything is roughly about \$24,000.

Rep. Beadle: So that is an expenditure you are already incurring based on your current production. So you are getting additional revenue by authorizing of this, does that actually increase your expenditures \$24,000? The way I read this fiscal note the net effect is zero, as opposed to what your telling me if currently you have these expenditures going out that are already on your budget and this is how you off set it? So I don't understand how the fiscal note was put together where we are gaining \$24,000 in expenditures by also passing this?

Mr. Gardner: The way I anticipated filling out the fiscal note was we are going to reduce our printing budget and those other budgets assumed with this publication to meet our obligations in the executive budget. In our mind it's a break even proposition. The ask for advertisers is going to be to offset by what it costs to publish this. Yes, we are assuming the cost now, if we couldn't sell advertising then there would be the chance that we wouldn't be able to do these publications. We had to reduce our budget by that much.

Rep. R.S. Becker: You have similar numbers on surrounding states, the revenue they are generating to publications that you are suggesting. If this goes through do you have expectations that you can make to measure the success, like increased visitors to the parks or additional programs that are able to be offered to park visitors? Do you have a metrics and do you have other state figures for expenditures for publication?

Mr. Gardner: The metrics of out of state that we looked at there are main sponsors. Some of these states have a distribution of hundreds of thousands. For us there is not a fair comparison, but what we did do was a specific research of the company that does SNO-DAK news. Looking at what they could sell advertising for and distribution, our net gain was very little. The revenue was \$840 on a publication that distributes 20,000. We would probably adjust our advertising rates so we weren't turning a profit on it necessarily. The goal is to get the users information. The metrics of the people using our guides, the State Park guide, we roughly give out 20,000 per biennium. It gives a brief outline of what our state parks are and what they can do in our state parks. Some other metrics, we had over a million visitors at our state park so we do get people out there. I feel they want that information.

Rep. Hanson: I have a question on process of selling the advertising, you mentioned in your testimony in your case study for Snowmobile of North Dakota they use a company from Minnesota, who actually solicits the advertising? Is it your plan to use outside agency to solicit the advertising or would it be someone in staff? If it is in staff is there a compensation?

Mr. Gardner: Initially we will look at sourcing it out, we would send out an RFP and find a contractor that would do that work for us. Selling advertising might be out of the scope for our agency.

Rep. K. Koppelman: Who currently designs and prints the publications for you? Do you do it by RFP, is it a different vendor each time or how do you do this now?

Mr. Gardner: It's two fold, for our latest Discover we did an RFP and hired a contractor to do that. Previously the State Park Guide was designed in house.

Rep. K. Koppelman: One of the things I am hopeful you will look at a North Dakota company. We don't do that in law but it is nice to have the business stay in the state if you do find a contractor. You can work with one of two entities or possible three.

Mr. Gardner: We do print quite a few publications. We have utilized state resources, like Central Supply Duplicating, to help with print. We have used Presort to help mail these out. We have had design companies so we would look at it to see what the best thing would be.

Rep. Zubke: The booklet is very nice. You talked about a profit and you are not being driven by that. Is there a reason why you wouldn't want to make a profit if the profit potential is there?

Mr. Gardner: We did not analyze that. When we started this process it was just a cost saving measure. If it's the wishes to generate a profit, we could look at that.

Rep. Longmuir: Your \$24,000 note on the fiscal portion does that include what the cost would be for selling the ads? Or is the \$24,000 a net after you have paid the company to sell your ads?

Mr. Gardner: That's net, not gross. That was an average of the net from quotes we received from a couple of companies.

Rep. Longmuir: It does not include the sales benefit to the company that is selling the advertising, this the net?

Mr. Gardner: That is correct.

Rep. Hanson: If this doesn't pass and your agency off sets the cost that you usually use to print this, do you anticipate not being able to print as many publications? (Unable to hear the entire question).

Mr. Gardner: Yes, we would have to look at reducing publications. All of our state parks have trifold brochures, there are other things we print so we would have to look at our entire information section and see what the priorities are. Would it impact the tourism in our state? I think it would. We circulate 20,000 of the State Park Guides, a lot of that is through the rest areas in the state. So I feel there would be impact.

Rep. K. Koppelman: When you talked to your Deputy Attorney General, I know the Dept of Tourism, the Game and Fish Dept, and others sell advertising in various publications, are there statues that specifically grant them authority to do that? Or are they just doing it because there no prohibition against it?

Mr. Gardner: I would be hesitant to answer that question. I would rather do this right than to have issues later.

Chairman Klemin: When we look at the section of the law that we're adding this new subsection to, we are adding subsection 10 to section 55.08.05. It deals with charges for services that says, the director may provide special services within state parks, state campgrounds, state recreation areas, and preserves and so forth and make rules for the use of those services. So in the 9 subsections ahead of this new one they deal with a variety of things from entrance fees to campground fees to motor vehicle permit fees, and the sale of beer and wine. What this is doing is adding another subsection to this list. Then it goes on to say you may make rules regarding advertisement contracts and charges. In the beginning of this section it says you may provide special services and make rules for the use of those services. On one hand it might be redundant but on the other hand it talks about the rules for the use of those services. This is not really a service within a park or campground. I am wondering if this should be in this particular section or should it be somewhere else?

Mr. Gardner: I leave that up to our attorneys to work through. If there is another section of the Code that would make the most sense, I would definitely get with our attorney and see where else it may better fit.

Chairman Klemin: As I read this new subsection this is not a service you are charging for?

Mr. Gardner: The only thing I could say is we are charging a fee to the advertiser to advertise in a publication.

Chairman Klemin: I don't know if there is any other place that is better.

Vice Chairman Hatlestad: It appears you want to break even; you want to be able to pay for your publication. It probably would increase availability of publications; you could distribute more of these. If we give you the approval to advertise in these two, would you then advertise in every publication you put out and sell advertising to pay for the costs?

Mr. Gardner: I don't know what the future will hold, I think our need now is the two publications in front of you. That would definitely be our case study for our agency. If it didn't work, we would move forward from there.

Vice Chairman Hatlestad: Obviously Parks and Rec is interested in tourism why are you not more active in the tourism for them publishing some of your stuff? Have you had contact with the Tourism Dept?

Mr. Gardner: We do pair up on many initiatives and we do advertise in the travel guide and I believe we have ads in the hunting guide as well.

Rep. R.S. Becker: In your evaluations and research what other states are doing, are any states allowing corporate sponsors? Is that anything that Parks and Rec has looked at to increase revenue?

Mr. Gardner: I think our goal for this time is publications.

Chairman Klemin: No other testimony. Closed the hearing on HB 1089.

Rep. Maragos: Made a motion for do pass.

Rep. R.S. Becker: Seconded the motion.

Rep. Ertelt: Is anyone aware of any administrative rules regarding advertising?

Rep. K. Koppelman: I don't believe there are any. I know there are other state agencies that do sell advertising. But that is why I am not sure the bill is necessary.

Chairman Klemin: We have an Administrative Practice ct that deals with rule making by state agencies and there are a list of public rule making requirements. When it talks about rules they don't have to go through formal rule making procedure that would require a public hearing.

Rep. Guggisberg: Knowing they are in a transition and they don't have a director, I think this is the best way to do this. I think this is a good example of how in Government when you are trying to be innovative in solving problems we have too many barriers in the way.

Rep. Johnson: I don't think they were prohibited and don't understand why Fargo Parks District can advertise yet the state can't. Are we saying to state agencies if it's not in the code go ahead and do it?

Rep. K. Koppelman: Regarding your earlier question, you are correct Parks and Rec is an agency that is excluded from the rule making process outlined in 28.32. Which means the rules they do make don't have the force and effect in law, which could be an issue with something like this. The rules they do make don't have to come before the Administrative Rules committee for overview. But if anyone would ever challenge it, it doesn't carry the force and effect of law. This is legalese that attorneys put into agency statutes but I not sure rules are the term that I would use. I might omit that and just say they can sell advertising.

Chairman Klemin: In most cases when there is a board or an agency that has been created by statute there is usually a section that deals with powers and duties of that board or agency. Section 55-08-01.3 Director of Parks and Recreation Dept powers, it gives a list of the 13 items under the powers list for the department. It seems the clear intention is if it doesn't say you have a power to do something, then you don't have the power to do it. This does not apply to municipal corporations like the city of Fargo or the park boards. It only refers to the State Dept of Parks and Recreation. Whatever local people can do under the authority of their own law is opposite of what happens in the state agencies.

Do pass yes 15. No 0. Absent 0.

Rep. R. S. Becker will carry the bill. `

Date: 1-12-17
 Roll Call Vote: 1

**2017 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1089**

House Political Subdivisions Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
 Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Rep. maragos Seconded By Rep. R. S. Becker

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Klemin	✓		Rep. Guggisberg	✓	
Vice Chairman Hatlestad	✓		Rep. Hanson	✓	
Rep. Beadle	✓				
Rep. Becker	✓				
Rep. Ertelt	✓				
Rep. Johnson	✓				
Rep. Koppelman	✓				
Rep. Longmuir	✓				
Rep. Maragos	✓				
Rep. Pyle	✓				
Rep. Simons	✓				
Rep. Toman	✓				
Rep. Zubke	✓				

Total (Yes) 15 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. R.S. Becker

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1089: Political Subdivisions Committee (Rep. Klemin, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (15 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1089 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2017 SENATE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

HB 1089

2017 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Political Subdivisions Committee Red River Room, State Capitol

HB1089
2/10/2017
Job # 28192

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to advertising sales in parks and recreation publications

Minutes:

Written attachment #1, Matt Gardner

Chairman Burckhard opened the hearing on HB 1089. All senators are present.

Matt Gardner: North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. He introduced the bill and in support of HB1089. Written testimony #1.

Senator Kannianen: As far as the concept in general, I don't have a problem with the bill, but, I am just curious as to why kind or how much advertising would you be looking at because I know some magazines you can't find the articles, and sift through the advertising to get through what the magazine is all about, how many pages, what kinds of ads are you looking at? How much?

Mr. Matt Gardner: We are looking at adding one full page in there, so essentially if you think front and back, would be 4 pages of advertising. Both publications are 16 pages so it would increase to that.

Chairman Burckhard: so when you that is not to break even, so do raise enough revenue to match the cost of publishing this, is that what you're thinking?

Mr. Matt Gardner: Yes, that is correct. It would be publishing, printing and the mailing.

Chairman Burckhard: do you think you will give good response from the C-stores and the rural folks that would want to have in their possession and promote it?

Mr. Matt Gardner: I think so. We've visited with a few folks, while working through this and you know it seemed to be pretty popular. Our parks are very rural in nature, and a lot of those C-stores and small communities that were close too really rely on the park and our visitors, so I think it would be a good relationship, partnership there.

Chairman Burckhard closed the hearing on HB 1089.

**Senator Jordon Kannianen moved a do pass on HB 1089
Senator Diane Larson 2nd.**

Discussion:

Senator Dotzenrod: In the state of ND we have some of our agencies that self- fund like Game and fish, but would these fees self-fund? The Parks are not able to self-fund, they must get some general fund revenue I assume and then they have the fees they charge and then this would be an addition whatever, they've got a fiscal note of \$24,000 which I am sure somebody's wild guess, because I don't know if they can really predict, very well what they are going to be able to generate. It looks like, how close do they come to self-funding. Do they get half, can they raise half through the fees they charge or is it 10%? I would be curious to know that, although it doesn't really affect my vote.

Mr. Matt Gardner: We do get pretty close to half, we generate funds through camping fees, off-highway vehicle and snowmobile registrations, annual pass permits this would just help off-set some of those costs. We do generate about half.

Chairman Burckhard asked for a vote on a Do Pass for HB1089

Roll call vote: 6-0-0

Carrier: Senator Kannianen

Date: 2.10.17
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. H.B. 1089

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar

Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Sen. Kannianen Seconded By Sen. D. Luom

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Randy Burckhard	✓		Senator Jim Dotzenrod	✓	
Vice-Chairman Howard Anderson	✓				
Senator Jordan Kannianen	✓				
Senator Diane Larson	✓				
Senator Judy Lee	✓				

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen. Kannianen

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1089: Political Subdivisions Committee (Sen. Burckhard, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1089 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2017 TESTIMONY

HB 1089

1-12-17

1

HB 1089

HB 1089:

House Political Subdivisions
Prairie Room, 10:00 A.M.
Thursday, January 12, 2017

Mr. Chairman, members of the House Political Subdivisions Committee, my name is Matthew Gardner, Recreation Division Manager for the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. I appear today in support of HB 1089.

As a state agency we are always looking at ways to be more efficient with our processes and our funds. This is especially true now given the current climate. One avenue our agency reviewed as a cost saving measure, without reducing services, is the ability to sell advertising in select Parks and Recreation publications. The Department prints park brochures, maps and other information that is sought by visitors to our parks and recreation areas. We would look to sell advertising in our Discover magazine and State Park Guide. The Discover is a biannual publication that is given to our annual pass holders and park visitors. The State Park Guide is our most popular publication and is distributed at rest areas across the state and other outreach engagements of the Department.

The thought process behind selling advertising in these publications is not to turn a profit but rather break even and save on overall printing costs for the agency but still provide useful informational tools to our visitors. A current case study is Snowmobile North Dakota's publication SNO-DAK. They use a company from Minnesota who solicits for advertising on their behalf and the advertising sales cover their printing and design costs plus turn a small profit. We also conducted some other research and found that many other state's natural resource agencies are selling advertising in publications to offset costs.

Our hope is that small local c-stores along with sporting goods suppliers and RV and boat dealerships would take this opportunity to reach out to their customers and we could still provide these useful publications at little or no cost to the State. For this purpose, I ask for a DO PASS on House Bill 1089.

Mr. Chairman this concludes my remarks; I would be pleased to answer any questions the committee may have.

North Dakota

2

STATE PARKS GUIDE

1-17-17

HB1089

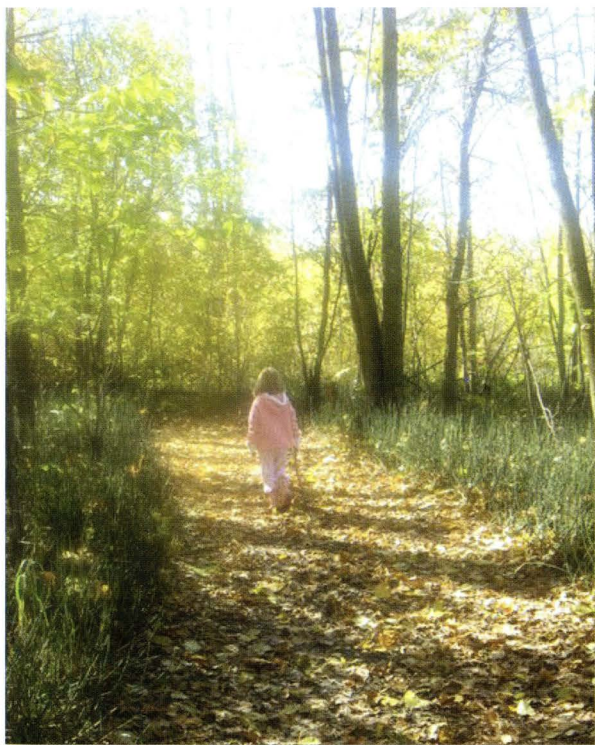
Cover Page

- Beaver Lake
- Cross Ranch
- Fort Abraham Lincoln
- Fort Ransom
- Fort Stevenson
- Grahams Island
- Icelandic
- Lake Metigoshe
- Lake Sakakawea
- Lewis and Clark
- Little Missouri
- Sully Creek
- Turtle River



Play in our backyard

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department invites you to discover the unique beauty and history of North Dakota by visiting its state parks, recreation areas and trails. These areas play an important role in preserving the state's history and the unique natural features defining North Dakota's landscape and heritage.



The history of the state is largely that of the people who inhabited it, and how their natural environment shaped them. Glimpses into the lives of those people—the Native Americans, the trappers, traders and explorers, and the homesteaders and ranchers—can be found in many of North Dakota's state parks. This guide tells you about state parks that preserve priceless Native American sites, areas visited by the Lewis and Clark Expedition, military forts, and ethnic settlements.

Other parks allow you to experience North Dakota's landscape and wildlife. Here you will find exciting recreational opportunities along our lakes and rivers, and unex-

pected wooded valleys, prairie vistas and rugged Badlands.

Whether you are a returning visitor or new to the state...take the time to explore North Dakota's state parks. The parks are open all year round for your enjoyment!

North Dakota State Parks Guide

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department

1600 East Century Avenue, Suite 3, Bismarck, ND 58503, ph. 701-328-5357

E-mail—parkrec@nd.gov Web Site—www.parkrec.nd.gov

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's facilities, programs and employment opportunities are open to all, regardless of age, sex, race, color, disability, religion, national origin or political affiliation. Contact us if you need an accommodation for a disability, or for an alternate format of this publication, at 701-328-5357 or Relay North Dakota TTY Service 800-366-6888.

General Information

Entrance and camping fees

All North Dakota state parks that are developed and maintained charge entrance and user fees year-round, based on the level of services available. In addition, user fees may be charged for other special services, facilities or activities.

Fees must be paid upon entering the park either to a park ranger or by using the park self-registration system.

Reservations

Campsite, cabin, yurt and tipi reservations at North Dakota's state parks can be made online or through the call center, at **800-807-4723**. Check the North Dakota Parks and Recreation website at, **www.parkrec.nd.gov**, for more information.

Interpretive programs and special events

On weekends throughout the summer, most state parks host interpretive programs that are fun for the whole family. These programs highlight historic, natural or recreational features within the parks. In addition, state parks host a variety of special events that include kite festivals, fishing tournaments as well as the ever popular Christmas and Halloween themed weekends. For a complete schedule of events, contact the state park or check the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department website at **www.parkrec.nd.gov**.

Cabins/yurts & group facilities

Ten state parks have cabins available for rent. Camping cabins (no interior bathrooms or cooking facilities) can be found at Beaver Lake, Fort Abraham Lincoln,

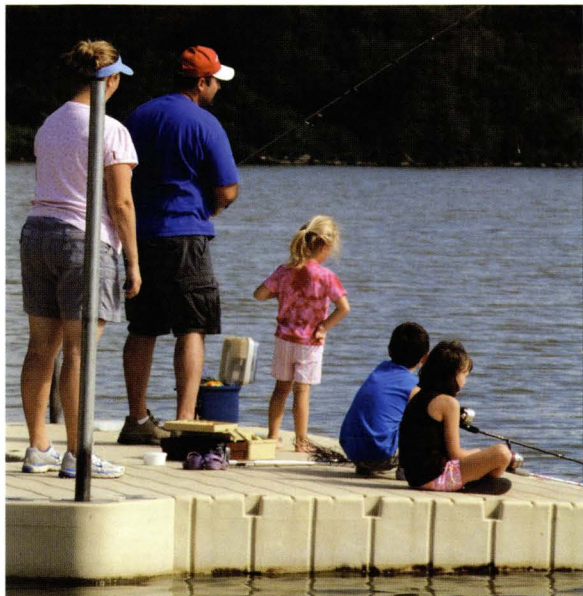
Fort Stevenson, Grahams Island, Icelandic, Lake Sakakawea and Lewis and Clark. Primitive log cabins are available year-round at Cross Ranch, while Lake Metigoshe has family-style cabins with kitchens and bathrooms. Turtle River has 12 duplex sleeping cabin units equipped with bathrooms and bunk beds that can be rented individually or by groups, along with a kitchen and dining hall. Group facilities at Lake Metigoshe include two dorms that sleep a total of 120, kitchen and dining hall.

General rules

- ◆ Campsite and cabin occupancy limited to no more than 14 days in a 30-day period.
- ◆ Must be 18 years of age or older to rent park campsites and facilities.
- ◆ Fires must be contained in designated fire rings and attended by an adult at all times.
- ◆ Campfires may be prohibited based on rangeland fire dangers.
- ◆ No pets allowed inside cabins or indoor facilities.
- ◆ Pets must be kept on a leash and attended at all times.
- ◆ Pet waste must be bagged and disposed of in an appropriate manner.
- ◆ No smoking in park facilities.
- ◆ No game or fish cleaning in or around cabins or group facilities.
- ◆ Contact park for restrictions on alcohol use and insurance requirements for rental of group facilities or shelters.
- ◆ Use of fireworks prohibited.
- ◆ Metal detecting on state property is not allowed.
- ◆ Firearms must be unloaded and stored in a gun case. Discharge of any weapon or projectile within a state park is not permitted.
- ◆ Additional info about facility use policies is available either online or at the park.

Beaver Lake State Park

Located on the west shore of Beaver Lake in south central North Dakota, Beaver Lake State Park provides a relaxing get-away for those wanting to get back to nature.



The gently rolling prairie provides scenic views for leisurely walks. In the summer, the lake attracts visitors for boating, canoeing, water skiing and fishing.

Park guests find plenty to occupy their time, whether it's studying the area's fascinating history; discovering the plentiful natural resource; taking advantage of refreshing water sports; hiking; mountain biking; fishing; or just relaxing in the shade of an American elm.

Nearby Attractions: Slade and Long Lake National Wildlife Refuges •

Whitstone Battlefield State Historic Site • Golfing.

Facilities: 270 acres • Camping • Electrical Hook-ups • Campsite Reservations • Showers and Flush Toilets • Sewage Dump Station • Picnic Shelters • Boat Ramp • Swim Beach • Camping Cabins • Mountain Biking.

Location: Seventeen miles southeast of Napoleon—3850 70th Street SE, Wishek ND 58495, ph. 701-452-2752, email blsp@nd.gov.



Cross Ranch State Park

Cross Ranch State Park is located along some of the last free-flowing and undeveloped stretches of the Missouri River.

A boat ramp and canoe and kayak rentals are available for those wishing to explore this scenic segment of the river, while anglers will find walleye, trout, catfish, salmon, pike and bass in its waters.

An extensive trail system can be explored either on foot or on cross-country skis during the winter months. The trails allow access to a 5,000-acre nature preserve with mixed grass prairie, river bottom forests and woody draws. Campers can use either the park's primitive campground or hike to their camping spot in a back country area.



The park is a favorite of area musicians and hosts the annual Missouri River Bluegrass Festival, a musical extravaganza drawing Bluegrass musicians from around the country.

While Cross Ranch State Park provides only primitive camp sites, the nearby Sanger campground has electrical sites and provides boat access to the Missouri.

Nearby Attractions: Cross Ranch Nature Preserve • Fort Mandan and Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center • Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site • Coal Mine and Power Plant Tours • Fort Clark State Historic Site.



Facilities: 589 acres • Camping • Electrical Hook-ups (Sanger only) • Campsite Reservations • Showers • Sewage Dump Station • Hiking and Cross Country Ski Trails • Cross Country Ski/

Snowshoe Rentals • Boat Ramp • Canoe/Kayak Access and Rentals • Fishing • Year-round Cabins/Yurts • Naturalist and Year-round Outdoor Learning Center Programming • Visitor Center.

Location: 12 miles southeast of Hensler-1403 River Road, Center, ND 58530, ph. 701-794-3731, e-mail crsp@nd.gov

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park is rich in both early Native American and military history.

The visitor center and historic buildings feature exhibits and programs on the early occupation of the area. On-A-Slant Mandan Indian Village with its reconstructed earthlodges depicts the lifestyle of the Mandan, who lived



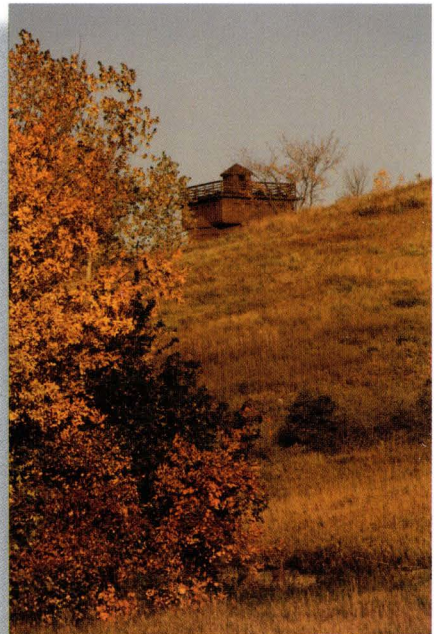
here from 1575-1781. In 1804, the Lewis and Clark Expedition camped nearby and noted their abandoned village in their journals. From 1872 until 1891, the military occupied this site, first under the command of

Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer. The park features a modern campground and picnicking facilities, hiking and biking trails, as well as shoreline access for fishing in the Heart and Missouri rivers.

Facilities: 1,006 acres • Camping • Electrical Hookups • Campsite Reservations • Showers and Flush Toilets • Sewage Dump Station • Hiking, Mountain Biking, Horseback and Paved Interpretive Trails • Historian • Living History • Camping Cabins • Visitor Center and Historic Buildings • Missouri River Natural Area.

Nearby Attractions: Boat Ramps • Golf and Tennis Areas • State Capitol • North Dakota Heritage Center • Riverboat • Trolley • Zoo • Roughrider State OHV Trail

Location: Seven miles south of Mandan on Highway 1806-4480 Fort Lincoln Road, Mandan, ND 58554, ph. 701-667-6340, e-mail falsp@nd.gov.

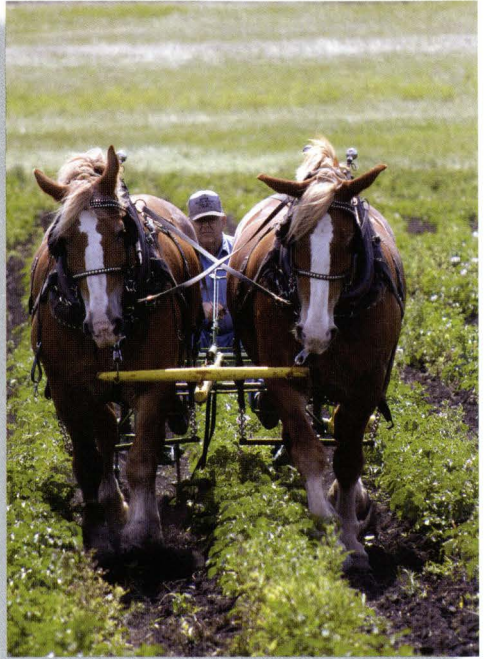


Fort Ransom State Park

Taking its name from an 1860s military fort, Fort Ransom State Park is located in the midst of the scenic and heavily wooded Sheyenne River Valley.

The river provides abundant opportunities for canoeing, fishing and bird watching, while within the park can be found a short segment of the North Country National Scenic Trail. During the summer, picnicking and camping are favorite activities, while cross-country skiing is a popular winter sport. A farmstead within the park is the setting for the annual Sodbuster Days celebration, with demonstrations and exhibits of homesteading life.

Nearby Attractions: Bears Den Mountain Downhill Ski Area • Fort Ransom State Historic Site • Ransom County Historical Museum • Sheyenne Valley State Snowmobile Trail • Sheyenne National Grassland • Sheyenne State Forest • Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway.



Facilities: 947 acres • Camping • Electrical Hook-ups • Campsite Reservations • Showers and Flush Toilets • Sewage Dump Station • Picnic Shelters • Hiking, Horseback, Mountain Biking and Cross-Country Ski Trails • Canoe/Kayak Rentals • Visitor Center • Corral and Primitive Camp Sites.

Location: Two miles north of the community of Fort Ransom—5981 Walt Hjelle Parkway, Fort Ransom ND 58033, ph. 701-973-4331, e-mail frsp@nd.gov.

Fort Stevenson State Park

On the north shore of Lake Sakakawea, this park was named for a late 1800s fort that served as a supply depot for other military posts in the Dakota Territory.



Fort Stevenson State Park is known as the “Walleye Capital” of North Dakota. It’s a favorite spot for sportsmen to experience the great fishing on the lake and is home to the annual Governor’s Cup Walleye Fishing Derby.

Boaters will find excellent facilities, including two marinas — Garrison Bay and de Tro-

briand — with boat ramp access, fishing boat rental and boat and camper storage.

A variety of events are held at the park each year including the Sky Dance Sakakawea Kite Festival; CANDISC Bike Tour; and Beach Party. There is a seasonal naturalist providing education programs

Nearby Attractions: Golf • Tennis • North Dakota Fishing Hall of Fame • Power Plant Tours • Broste Rock Museum • ND Firefighter Museum • Wally the Walleye, ND’s largest walleye.

Facilities:
549 acres •
Camping •
Campsites with Sewer



and Electrical Hookups • Campsite Reservations • Family Cabins • Camping Cabins • Showers and Flush Toilets • Sewage Dump Station • Picnic Shelters • Two Marinas • Slip Rentals • Gas Dock • Fish Cleaning Station • Boat Ramp • Boat Rentals • Canoe/Kayak Rentals • Hiking Trails • Arboretum • Prairie Dog Town • Hiking Trails • Swim Beach • Park Concession • Cross Country Ski Trails

Location: Three miles south of Garrison, ND – 1252A 41st Avenue NW, Garrison, ND 58540, ph. 701-337-5576, e-mail fspp@nd.gov.

Grahams Island State Park

Devils Lake, North Dakota's largest natural lake, is home to Grahams Island State Park, named after the first known white settler in the area, Captain Duncan Graham. The park offers camping and picnicking facilities. There is a boat ramp, with access to the lake for fishing and other water sports, as well as a bait shop and gas facility. The park hosts numerous national and regional fishing tournaments during the year, and offers some of the best fishing in the midwest.



The Sivert Thompson Activities Center is available for rent and is an excellent facility for large group activities. It has seating for up to 180 people and is equipped with a wood-burning fireplace, indoor restroom, catering area and a large patio.

Nearby Attractions: Fort Totten State Historic Site • Sullys Hill National Game Preserve • Camp Grafton • Golf • Native American Crafts • Lake Region Snowmobile Trail • Historic Downtown • Lake Region Heritage Center

Facilities:

1,122 acres •
Camping • Electrical Hookups • Campsite Reservations • Showers and Flush Toilets • Sewage Dump Station • Picnic Shelters • Sivert Thompson Activities Center • Boat Ramp • Bait Shop • Hiking Trails • Playground • Camping Cabins • Fish Cleaning Station



Location: Sixteen miles southwest of the city of Devils Lake – 152 S. Duncan Road, Devils Lake ND 58301, ph. 701-766-4015, e-mail dlsp@nd.gov

Icelandic State Park

Situated on the north shore of Lake Renwick, camping, boating, swimming and fishing for northern pike and other game fish are popular activities at Icelandic State Park.



Within the park are the Pioneer Heritage Center and restored historic buildings, which provide a glimpse of North Dakota's homesteading heritage. An early homestead preserves the state's pioneer spirit.

The park includes the Gunlogson Nature Preserve, the state's first dedicated nature pre-

serve. This is a 200-acre natural wooded area along the Tongue River, providing a sanctuary for plants, birds and wildlife.

Nearby Attractions: Golf Course • Pembina Gorge • Pembina County Historical Museum • Pembina State Museum • Northeast Snowmobile Trail • Frostfire Mountain Ski Resort and Summer Musical • State Scenic Byway

Facilities: 912 acres • Camping • Electrical Hook-ups • Campsite Reservations • Showers and Flush Toilets • Sewage Dump Station • Picnic Shelter • Swim Beach

• Boat Ramp and Courtesy Dock • Fishing Dock • Sledding Hill • Hiking Trails • Paved Bike Path • Groomed Cross-Country Ski Trails • Seasonal Naturalist • Playground • Camping Cabins • Interpretive Center and Historic Buildings

Location: Five miles west of Cavalier on Highway 5 – 13571 Hwy. 5, Cavalier ND 58220, ph. 701-265-4561, e-mail isp@nd.gov.



Lake Metigoshe State Park

Nestled in the scenic Turtle Mountains along the U.S./Canadian border, Lake Metigoshe is one of the most popular year-round vacation spots in North Dakota.

The small lakes within the park provide opportunities for fishing, canoeing, boating and swimming. A multitude of trails attract hikers and mountain bikers. Winter brings snowmobilers, cross-country skiers, sledders and ice fishing enthusiasts. Three year-round cabins with kitchens, gas fireplaces and bathrooms along with a yurt can be rented by the night or week, and group dorms (cap. 120), kitchen and meeting facilities are also available.



Nearby Attractions: International Peace Garden & Music Camp • Camp Metigoshe • Downhill and Cross-Country Ski Areas • Peace Garden State Snowmobile Trail • Golf Courses • Turtle Mountains • J. Clark Salyer and Lords Lake National Wildlife Refuges • Rendezvous Region Scenic Byway.

Facilities: 1,551 acres • Camping • Electrical Hookups • Campsite Reservations • Showers and Flush Toilets • Sewage Dump Station • Picnic Shelters • Swim Beach • Boat Ramp and Fishing Dock • Hiking, Mountain Biking, Snowmobile and Groomed Cross-Country Ski Trails • Sledding Hill • Warming House • Canoe, Kayak, Snowshoe and Cross-Country Ski Rental • Naturalist and Year-round Outdoor Learning Center Programming • Playgrounds • Year-Round Cabins and Yurt Facilities • Group



Dorms, Kitchen and Meeting Facilities

Location: Sixteen miles northeast of Bottineau—#2 Lake Metigoshe State Park, Bottineau ND 58318, ph. 701-263-4651, e-mail lmosp@nd.gov.

Lake Sakakawea State Park

On the south shore of Lake Sakakawea adjacent to Garrison Dam, Lake Sakakawea State Park offers a wide range of water-based recreational activities and facilities.

The park has a full-service marina, including convenience store, fishing guide services, and boat and camper storage. Boat ramps in the park offer deep water access to some of the best fishing on Lake Sakakawea. The park also features modern camping and picnicking facilities. Hikers enjoy a segment of the North Country National



Scenic Trail. Sleeping cabins are available for rent during the camping season.

Nearby Attractions: Garrison Dam and Fish Hatchery • Audubon National Wildlife Refuge • Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site • Coal Mine and Power Plant Tours • Golfing

Facilities: 1,293 acres • Camping • Electrical Hook-ups • Campsite Reservations • Showers and Flush Toilets • Sewage Dump Station • Picnic Shelters • Swim Beach (contact park for status) • Marina • Fish Cleaning Station • Boat Ramps • Hiking Trail • Camping Cabins • Visitor Center



Location: A mile north of Pick City – Box 732, Riverdale, ND 58565, ph. 701-487-3315, e-mail lssp@nd.gov.

Lewis and Clark State Park

The towering buttes and rolling hills to Lake Sakakawea provide a rugged backdrop to this park, situated on one of the upper bays of Lake Sakakawea.

Modern boating facilities, including marina with slip rentals and a boat ramp, are major attractions.

Anglers will find excellent fishing for walleye, sauger and northern pike. Visitors can become acquainted with the natural communities associated with the park by hiking a self-guided nature trail. Camping cabins with air conditioning, a microwave oven and coffee pot are available during the summer months.



There is a swimming area for campers near the cabins and a day-use beach at the south end of the park.

Nearby Attractions: Buffalo Trails Museum • Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site • Fort Buford State Historic Site • Golf Areas



Facilities: 490 acres • Camping • Electrical Hookups • Campsite Reservations • Showers and Flush Toilets • Sewage Dump Station • Picnic Shelters

• Marina • Fishing • Cleaning Station and Boat Ramp • Nature Trail • Camping Cabins.

Location: Nineteen miles southeast of Williston on Highway 1804-4904 119th Road NW, Epping, ND 58843, ph. 701-859-3071, e-mail lscp@nd.gov.

Little Missouri State Park

Little Missouri State Park contains some of the most rugged, picturesque Badlands terrain in the state.

Most of the park is accessible only by horseback or hiking. Numerous wildlife species frequent the park, including mule deer, coyote, fox, bobcat and golden eagle. Horse rentals and a guide service are located adjacent to the park. In addition, cor-



rals and well water are available for those bringing in their own horses to ride the 50 miles of trails. Use of certified weed-free feed is required.



Nearby Attractions: Theodore Roosevelt National Park (North Unit) • Lake Sakakawea • Killdeer Mountains • Killdeer Mountains Round-up Rodeo • Little Missouri State Scenic River (no access from park) • Killdeer Mountain Four Bears Scenic Byway.

Facilities: 4,592 acres • Camping • Electrical Hookups • Campsite/Corral Reservations • Vault Toilets • Picnic Shelters • Hiking and Horseback Trails • Corrals • Shower House.

Location: 17 miles north of Killdeer – c/o Cross Ranch State Park, 1403 River Road, Center, ND 58540, ph. 701-794-3731 or 701-764-5256 email crsp@nd.gov.

Sully Creek State Park

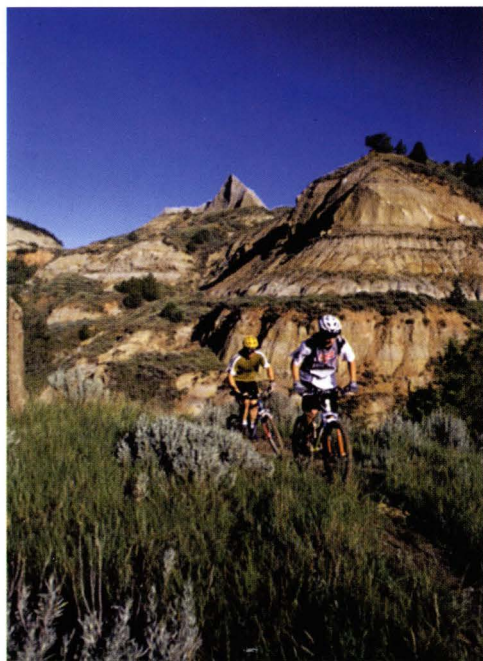
Located in the heart of the North Dakota Badlands, Sully Creek State Park is just minutes away from the historic town of Medora and Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

In the early spring, canoeing/kayaking the Little Missouri River is a popular activity.

Corrals are provided for those bringing in their own horses. Horseback riders, mountain bikers and hikers have access to the 120-mile long Maah Daah Hey Trail, which traverses the Little Missouri National Grassland. Use of certified weed-free feed is required by horseback riders using the trail. For additional trail



restrictions, contact the Dakota Prairie Grasslands, North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department or the National Park Service.



Nearby Attractions: Theodore Roosevelt National Park (South Unit) • Little Missouri National Grassland • Burning Coal Vein • Medora • Chateau de Mores State Historic Site • Little Missouri State Scenic River.

Facilities: 80 acres • Camping • Horse Corrals • Campsite/Corral Reservations • Canoe Access • Maah Daah Hey Trail Access • Shower House • RV Dump.

Location: Two and a half miles south of Medora—c/o Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park, 4480 Fort Lincoln Road, Mandan, ND 58554, ph.701-667-6340 or 701-623-2024 email: falsp@nd.gov.

Turtle River State Park

Constructed in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps, this park is located in a beautiful, wooded valley along the meandering Turtle River. The park features year-round recreational activities, including camping, picnicking, hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing and sledding. Anglers can also practice their fly fishing techniques in the trout-stocked river.



Perfect for weddings, family reunions and other group activities is the spacious Woodland Lodge, with its kitchen and dining hall. Sleeping cabins, equipped with bathrooms and bunkbeds (no cooking inside), can also be rented by groups or individuals during the summer. The upstairs of the Chalet/Warming House is also available to

rent for just about any type of group function. The CCC Memorial Shelter offers a picturesque setting and is popular for wedding and large group picnics.

Nearby Attractions:

Golf Course • Larimore Dam and Recreation Area • University of North Dakota • Grand Forks Air Force Base • Kelly's Slough National Wildlife Reserve • Prairie Chicken Management Area • Oakville Prairie.

Facilities: 784 acres •

Camping • Electrical Hook-ups • Campsite Reservations • Showers and Flush Toilets •

Sewage Dump Station • Hiking, Mountain Biking and Groomed Cross-Country Ski Trails • Paved Nature Trail • Outdoor Learning Center • Naturalist and Year-round Outdoor Learning Center Programming • Sledding Area • Playground • Warming House • Sleeping Cabins • Kitchen and Dining Hall • Visitor Center.

Location: Twenty miles west of Grand Forks on Highway #2 – 3084 Park Ave., Arvilla ND 58214, ph. 701-594-4445, e-mail trsp@nd.gov.



Pembina Gorge Recreation Area

The Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area is being developed in a way new to the state of North Dakota. The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department is implementing a multiuse trail system to accommodate the three classes of Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs): dirt bikes, four wheelers, and side by sides.

The most recent development is a 24-mile looped trail completed in the spring of 2013. It accommodates OHVs up to 60 inches wide.

More traditional, non-motorized trail opportunities are in the works as well. The Tetrault Woods State Forest, located south of Walhalla, is undergoing some trail enhancements which includes a floating bridge across a beaver pond and trail repairs to provide an unforgettable walk through the woods.

Other recreational opportunities in the Pembina Gorge area include hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, bird watching, primitive camping, wildlife viewing and canoeing/kayaking.

Location: OHV Trail is five miles west, a mile north, a mile west of Walhalla; Tetrault Woods is two miles south of Walhalla – 101 5th St. Walhalla, ND, 58282 Phone: 701-549-2444, email pgsra@nd.gov.



Indian Hills Recreation Area

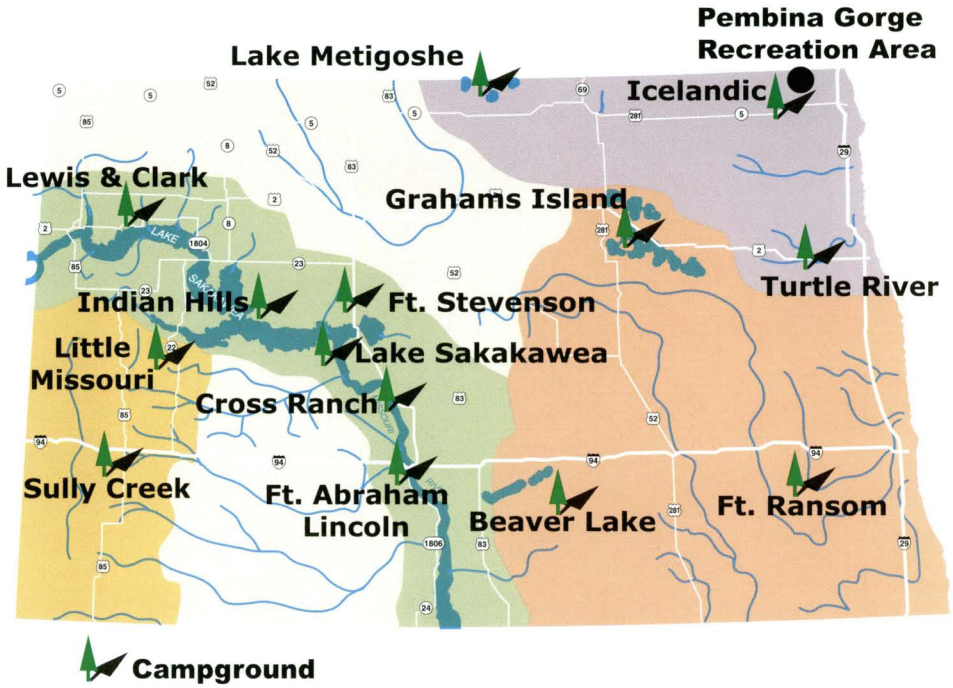
Indian Hills State Recreation Area and Resort is operated by a private leasee. Amenities include camping, modern and primitive cabins, boat ramp, camp store, fishing guide service and hiking, mountain biking and birding trails.

Nearby Attraction: Broste Rock Museum • North Dakota Fishing Hall of Fame • Three Affiliated Tribes Museum • Casino • Golf and Swimming Areas.

Facilities: 80 acres • Camping • Electrical and Water Hookups • Showers • Sewage Dump Station • Fish Cleaning Station • Boat Ramp • Hiking and Biking Trails • Cabins • Picnic Shelter • Gas Dock • Overnight Docking.

Location: Thirty-one miles west of Garrison – 7276 14th Street SE, Garrison, ND 58540, ph. 701-743-4122, e-mail ksorge@btinet.net.

Parks locations and amenities



Park Amenities

	Campsites	Group Campsites	Electricity	Electricity/Sewer hookups	Showers	Dump Station	Overnight Accommodations	Group Complex	Visitor Center	Historic Buildings	Indoor Meeting Facilities	Picnic Shelters	Playground	Swim Beach	Marina	Boat Ramp	Fishing	Canoe/Kayak Rentals	Hiking Trails	Bicycling Trails	Horseback Riding	Winter Activities	Concessions	
Beaver Lake	33	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓				
Cross Ranch	70	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Fort Abraham Lincoln	96	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fort Ransom	36	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fort Stevenson	154	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grahams Island	107	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Icelandic	161	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Lake Metigoshe	130	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Lake Sakakawea	192	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Lewis and Clark	83	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Little Missouri	30	✓	✓		✓	✓						✓							✓	✓	✓			
Sully Creek	38	✓	✓		✓	✓						✓							✓	✓	✓			
Turtle River	100	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Winter Activities

Most of North Dakota's state parks are open all year and provide an assortment of winter activities, including cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, sledding, ice-skating and ice fishing. Many of the parks have cross-country ski trails designed to challenge novice and advanced skiers. Snowshoers, while not allowed on groomed cross-country ski trails within the state parks, can blaze their own trails through undisturbed snow during the winter months.

The state also has 14 snowmobile trails, which cover over 3,400 miles of groomed and ungroomed trails. The snowmobile season runs from December 1 through April 1, providing the trails have a minimum base of four inches of packed snow.

Conditions for both snowmobile and cross-country ski trails are posted on the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department website, www.parkrec.nd.gov, or are available by calling the North Dakota Tourism Division at 1-800-HELLO ND.

Cross Country Skiing	Trail	Miles	Sled	Ice	Notes
			Hill	Fish	
Beaver Lake	•	5		•	
Cross Ranch 701-794-3731	MG	10			Ski/snowshoe rentals
Ft. Lincoln 701-667-6340	•	6.75			
Ft. Ransom 701-973-4331	MG	6.5			Warming house
Ft. Stevenson 701-337-5576	MG	3		•	
Grahams Island 701-766-4015	MG	3	•		
Icelandic 701-265-4561	MG	5	•	•	Interpretive center open
Lake Metigoshe 701-263-4651	MG	8.5	•	•	Ski/snowshoe rentals, warming house
Lake Sakakawea 701-487-3315	•	3	•	•	
Lewis and Clark 701-859-3071	MG	4		•	
Turtle River 701-594-4445	MG	7.5	•		Chalet/warming house

Marked

State Snowmobile Trails	Trail	Miles	Location (Info: 701-328-5357/ www.parkrec.nd.gov)
Northeast (Pembina Gorge)	MG	417.5	Langdon, Walhalla, Cavalier, Edinburgh
Peace Garden	MG	190	Bottineau, Rolla
East Central Valley	MG	202	Casselton, Fargo
Sheyenne Valley	MG	286	Jamestown, LaMoure, Ft. Ransom, Valley City, Oakes
Red River North	MG	151.5	Minto, Grafton
Red River South	MG	193	Grand Forks, Manvel, Fordville
Lake Region	MG	216	Devils Lake
Mayville-Portland	MG	74	Hatton, Portland, Mayville, Hillsboro
Missouri Valley	MG	213	Mandan, Bismarck, Linton
Sno-Trails	MG	351	Minot, Velva, Towner
North Central	MG	180	Rugby, Cando
Southern Valley	MG	136	Wahpeton, Mooreton
Cattrail	MG	103	Hope
Sargent County	MG	90	Gwinner

Groomed

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department
1600 East Century, Suite #3
Bismarck, ND 58503

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HB 1089



FALL/WINTER 2016

RECREATION

Director's Message

One of my favorite pictures from this summer is the one of me standing with the CCC boy at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park. My dad was a CCC boy, and I often think of the adventures he had as a young North Dakota farm boy working on projects on the west coast. I also think of the young men who worked at camps in North Dakota, as CCC boys or part of the WPA, and the projects they completed at Fort Abraham Lincoln, Beaver Lake, Lake Metigoshe and Turtle River State Parks. Those bridges, picnic shelters, rock cairns, and beautiful rock and timber buildings still serve visitors to the parks and stand as a testament to a different time and the hard work of those young men. Thankfully those wonderful facilities have not changed in almost 80 years!

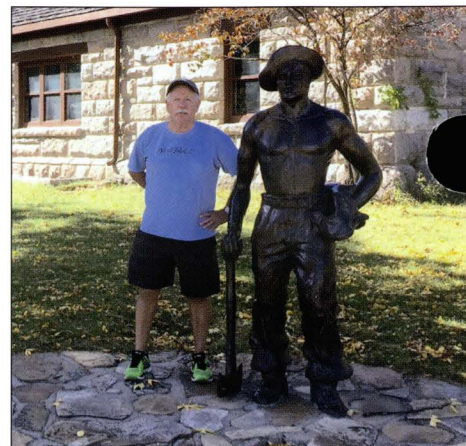
However, changes have occurred at North Dakota state parks over this past year, and I am proud to highlight several of those. Next summer when you visit Grahams Island and Fort Ransom State Parks, you will be greeted by new visitor centers and, in the case of Grahams Island, a new bait shop as well. Beautiful buildings to be sure, but more importantly, they are much needed facilities to better serve the visitors to the parks. Icelandic and Fort Stevenson State Parks will start the next camping season with new comfort stations with family

restrooms, shower facilities and ADA accessibility. Cross Ranch is home to a new 30' yurt, Pretty Point, which joins the two yurts at Fort Ransom State Park in offering unique lodging experiences at our state parks—including indoor bathrooms and a loft for the children or grandchildren. Learn more about these projects in this issue of *Discover*.

Other projects included exterior renovation of the Chalet building at Turtle River State Park—now done inside and out and ready for the sledding and cross-country skiing season. Campsite and road improvements at Lewis and Clark and Fort Abraham Lincoln State Parks have also been completed and will be welcome changes for next year's visitors and campers.

Not all changes are in buildings and other infrastructure projects. One major change in the department was the retirement of Brad Pozarnsky, field manager. Brad's 41-year service to the department, the citizens of North Dakota and the visitors to the parks is one of dedication and passion for the mission of the department. We wish Brad and Arlene the best in their new adventures!

Another major change on the horizon is the operations of the department going forward. With budget concerns taking priority in the 2017 Legislative Session,



NDPRD Director Mark Zimmerman

state agencies will be asked to review their operations and adjust accordingly.

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing first-class services and programs to park visitors. Yes, operations will be tweaked to assure efficiency and continued good service, and all of us look forward to another great year in 2017 at North Dakota state parks.

Keep updated on parks and recreation events, activities and other highlights by checking out the department's website at www.parkrec.nd.gov and the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ndprd.

See you in the great outdoors!

Discover Fall/Winter 2016 Volume 21, Number 2

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Phone: 701.328.5357 email: parkrec@nd.gov
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ON THE COVER: Young hikers experience fall colors along this trail in the Turtle Mountains on National Public Lands Day in September.

2017 State Park Permits Now Available

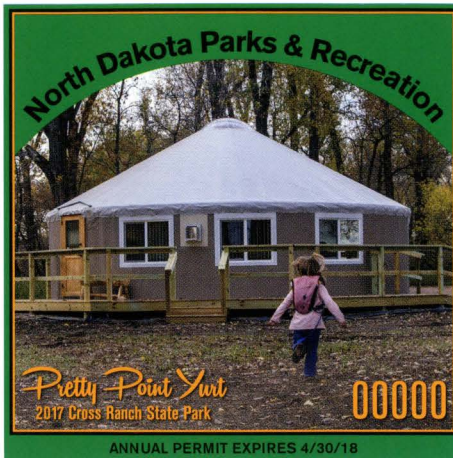
The 2017 North Dakota state parks annual permit was made available for purchase Nov. 7. The annual permit allows unlimited entry into all 13 state parks, as well as provides users with a free subscription to the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's (NDPRD) *Discover* publication.

The 2017 permits are available to purchase online at www.parkrec.nd.gov, toll-free through the Reservation Call Center at 800-807-4723, at NDPRD headquarters in Bismarck or at any North Dakota state park.

100 Percent Reservation System

The 2016 camping season marked the first summer all 13 state parks used the 100 percent reservation system. Reservations at all parks were required at least 24 hours in advance for all campsites, corrals, cabins, yurts and tipis.

The reservation system was very successful, making the camping experience easier for both the parks and campers. Initially piloted at three parks over the last couple of years, it was implemented into all of the state parks for the 2016 season.



Karen Assel, assistant field manager for NDPRD, helped develop and implement the system. "The first year of full 100 percent reservations went well; the system was very efficient," she says. "All campers have an equal opportunity to rent a campsite, those traveling a long distance to the park as well as those living nearby."

NDPRD decided to implement the 100 percent reservation system for many reasons. It allows campers to plan their trip in advance and be guaranteed a campsite, staff are able to plan and better manage the campgrounds, and it

allows for a better flow in and out of the campground, since all campers have paid and know the location of their campsite.

Many other surrounding states have also started taking reservations only. "Not only did the reservation system work great for our parks, it is also keeping up with trends," says Grahams Island State Park's Manager Henry Duray. "Campers have assurance that they have a camping spot and are able to pick their campsite. It also helps the parks to know how many campers to expect and knowing that they have all paid."

Reservations can be made up to 95 days prior to and as little as 24 hours in advance.

Campsite, cabin and yurt reservations can be made by phone to the NDPRD Reservation Call Center at 800-807-4723 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. central standard time. Campsite and cabin reservations can also be made online 24 hours a day at www.parkrec.nd.gov. Reservations for horse campsites and corrals must be made directly with the park. Prices vary on reservations, and full payment is required to confirm all reservations.



Entrance/Permit Fees:

Daily Entrance Fee	\$5
Annual Vehicle Entrance Permit	\$25
Annual Commercial Bus Pass	\$125
Senior Discount (ND residents age 65 and older)	\$20

Disabled Veterans and POWs:
ND veterans with a 50% or greater service-related disability and former POWs are eligible for one free annual permit.

All other ND veterans with service-related disabilities may purchase an annual permit for \$20.

Requires current VA proof of disability or ND DAV/POW license plates.

State Park Improvements and Capital Projects Enhance Visitors' Experiences

With the 2015 Legislature providing a record amount of funding for development in North Dakota state parks, many projects got underway across the state to both enhance existing park facilities and draw additional visitors with new year-round accommodations.

The Chalet at **Turtle River State Park (TRSP)** was recently under construction, first with the completion of an interior remodel. An exterior remodel has now also been completed with new windows and doors, as well as siding. "It has helped the building to look more presentable and inviting, as well as increased efficiencies," says Larry Hagen, park manager.

Hagen notes the improvements have also generated more interest in the building. "The building is available year-round, and the upstairs can be rented for events," he says, noting the building's downstairs is used for winter sledding and a starting point for the park's cross-country ski trails. "The improvements provide a much more appealing facility."

In addition, a new bathroom was recently completed near the park's CCC Memorial Shelter. "It can better accommodate events and is designed to be open later in the season," Hagen notes. "These improvements have been long needed for the park and the people that come to use Turtle River State Park. The facilities are now set up to be more inviting to visitors and events."

Construction on a new yurt at **Cross Ranch State Park (CRSP)** was completed in mid-October. "This yurt is an amazing rental opportunity for visitors," says Eric Lang, park manager. "It is the only rental facility we currently offer in the park that has running water. It provides all of the comforts of home and provides visitors of all outdoor levels the opportunity to stay in comfort."

Lang says the yurt is steps away from miles of groomed cross-country ski trails. "After a chilly day of skiing, you

can warm up with a hot cup of coffee or cocoa, turn on the propane fireplace and gaze over the Missouri River."

CRSP has two log cabins, the John Colter and Art Link cabins, as well as three other yurts available for rent. The park's visitor center is also open seven days a week.

Electricity was recently added to all the park's RV campsites, and five new vault toilets were constructed in the park. Rural water has also been run to the park and will be utilized in the near future. Lang says plans to build another cabin with running water are in the works for 2017.

Construction on two new yurts at **Fort Ransom State Park (FRSP)** was also completed this spring. "These are the first of their kind for the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. These yurts have more amenities and offer a comfortable, year-round experience with forced air conditioning during the summer and a standard home furnace during the winter," says Tyler Modlin, park manager.

He notes the yurts are also the first of their kind in the state parks with double pane windows, as well as dome and door windows. The facilities are ADA compliant, have custom pine tongue and groove walls, and two bedrooms in each. "When you step into our yurts, you're stepping into something that most luxury resorts wish they had," Modlin notes. "The location we put them in is most beneficial for all seasons of users."

Right outside the yurts' front doors is the trail head for the park's trails system. "We can now offer an experience to those that do not have a camper or tent, but still want to enjoy the outdoors in the state park," says Modlin.

Recent capital projects also completed at FRSP include the park's new visitor center. "This building is roughly 3,400 sq. ft. and houses the administration offices, as well as a meeting room, which can be used for educational purposes," Modlin notes.

With additional storage in the building, he says FRSP is now able to provide cross-country ski and snow



The Chalet, Turtle River State Park

shoe rentals and house expanded concessions. “The center section of building also has a fireplace with benches and chairs for people to visit while they warm up during a break from winter activities.”

The park’s old visitor center will now be turned into a full-service rental cabin. Also new to the park is a vault toilet, which provides park users in the modern campground with a closer facility. All of these projects were part of a park master plan that is now completed, adds Modlin.

Grahams Island State Park (GISP) is also looking toward the completion of a new visitor center and bait shop building by the end of November. “The building we have operated currently as the bait shop has been moved a number of times due to flooding,” says Henry Duray, park manager, adding with a recent influx of visitors the original building was too small to use as an entrance, visitor center, and concessions and bait shop. “It was cheaper to build a grand new building, so we went through a planning process with a committee and picked a new location and design.”

A groundbreaking was held in May for the building that will now serve as an entrance facility complete with a visitor center, concessions and bait shop, and administrative offices. “You drive into the park about a mile and there is the new facility,” notes Duray. “It is a one-stop shop and will allow us to have staff in one place to provide services for our visitors.”

Many other improvements have taken place at GISP, including the building of a new full-service campground and the paving of roads, which, Duray notes, ties into the new visitor center. In addition, a new play area, campfire amphitheater and 15,000 trees and shrubs have been added to the park. “We were struggling for so many years to just get ahead of the flooding of Devils Lake, but now we can focus on improvements to the park,” says Duray.

Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center

Since its construction in 1996-1997, the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center has been owned by the state of North Dakota, and for nearly 18 years, the Lewis & Clark Fort Mandan Foundation operated the facility on behalf of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD). On May 1, 2015, NDPRD assumed control of the facility’s operations, including all maintenance and staffing, while the Lewis & Clark Fort Mandan Foundation continued to assist in the promotion and interpretive programming of the facility. “The Foundation oversaw the development of these sites into some of the best along the Lewis & Clark Trail,” says Kevin Kirkey, site supervisor. “The ongoing operation of the site is just like when the Foundation ran it, with the same level of service.”

Below is a list of some of the 2017 events taking place at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center:

- Jan. 1 — First Day Hike: A unique hike through the river bottoms to Fort Mandan
- March 3 — The Inside Tour: An after-hours tour of the Interpretive Center, including the collections room
- April 19 — Middle Missouri History Bee: Teams of 4th grade students compete on their knowledge of North Dakota studies
- April 21 — KNDC Awards Luncheon: Annual luncheon and awards ceremony to recognize winners of the Keep North Dakota Clean contest



Visitor center, Fort Ransom State Park



Entrance facility, Grahams Island State Park

Winter Activities Abound in North Dakota State Parks

The winter months in North Dakota can be long and frigid, but that doesn't mean you have to sit around and wait for spring. Make sure to get out and enjoy one of the many cold weather activities offered at 11 state parks. Below are highlights of the many different winter activities offered at North Dakota state parks.

Snowshoeing and Cross-Country Skiing

Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing are great winter sports that allow a little off-roading. Many of the parks offer miles of groomed and ungroomed trails to go snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, as well as rental equipment.

With more than 10 miles of groomed and ungroomed trails, **Cross Ranch State Park** is a beautiful location to cross country ski along the Missouri River or snowshoe off the beaten path and see almost 600 acres untouched beauty. "The skiing and snowshoeing are snow dependent. We like to have at least 12 inches of snow before we groom the trails, but visitors can ski if there is snow and we haven't groomed the trails yet," says Eric Lang, park manager. Cross-country skis and snowshoes are available to rent for \$15 per pair per day.

Once the snow has fallen and is deep

Winter Trails at North Dakota State Parks

Park	Length	Description
Beaver Lake	5 miles	skiing allowed, no groomed trails
Cross Ranch	10 miles	marked/groomed
Fort Abraham Lincoln	6.75 miles	skiing allowed, no groomed trails
Fort Ransom	6.5 miles	marked/groomed
Fort Stevenson	3 miles	marked/groomed
Grahams Island	3.5 miles	marked/groomed
Icelandic	5 miles	marked/groomed
Lake Metigoshe	8.5 miles	marked/groomed
Lake Sakakawea	3 miles	skiing allowed, no groomed trails
Lewis and Clark	4 miles	skiing allowed, no groomed trails
Turtle River	7.5 miles	marked/groomed

enough, Lake Metigoshe State Park grooms more than eight miles of trails. Visitors are encouraged to explore the park or the forest-lined cross-country ski trail. Skis and snowshoes are also available to rent for \$15 per pair per day.

Turtle River State Park has more than seven miles of trails for winter fun. "We are located in the Turtle River Valley in the Red River Valley. Because of the way the park lays, generally we're a bit out of the wind; the snow lays in the park a bit better," says Larry Hagen, park manager.

Many other parks offer cross-country skiing and snowshoeing trails, including Beaver Lake State Park, Fort Abraham

Lincoln State Park, Fort Ransom State Park, Fort Stevenson State Park, Icelandic State Park, Lake Sakakawea State Park, and Lewis and Clark State Park.

Fat-Tire Biking

Fat tire biking is becoming very popular across the state. These bikes are ideal to be ridden in snow, sand and mud. With the snowy North Dakota winters, it is the perfect sport to take part in outdoors.

Fort Stevenson State Park, located in Garrison, offers groomed trails for snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and fat-tire biking. "What makes us unique is we are one of the few places in North Dakota where you can rent fat-tire bikes," says Chad Trautman, park manager, adding the bikes rent for \$6 per hour or \$25 per day. Fort Stevenson State Park is the only state park that rents fat-tire bikes. The trails are also open to winter bikers at Fort Lincoln State Park.

Sledding

Sledding is a favorite past time for many North Dakotans, and **Lake Metigoshe State Park** has one awesome hill. "Our hill is great! You can really fly down the hill, and if you hit it just right you will end up far out into the lake," says Amy Schimetz, park interpreter.

Located across from the sledding hill is also a warming house. "A lot of families



Cross Ranch State Park



Fort Stevenson State Park

bring a picnic lunch. After sledding, they walk across the parking lot and enjoy cocoa and sandwiches in the warming house," Schimetz notes.

Turtle River State Park also offers a sledding hill and warming house. The park rents out the second story of the Chalet, as well as the Woodland Lodge for meetings and family gatherings.

Ice Fishing

Dress warm, bait your hook and dream of a whopper! Ice fishing is one of the most popular winter activities in North Dakota. People come from all over the country to ice fish in the state. Many state parks have lake or river access and make ice fishing easily accessible.

Head to **Grahams Island State Park**, located on Devils Lake, to do some ice fishing, the park's most popular winter activity. "We keep our boat ramp open year round," says Park Manager Henry Duray. "We are an ideal park to ice fish, with lake access to Devils Lake."

Ice fishing is also very popular at

Beaver Lake State Park, Lake Metigoshe State Park and Fort Stevenson State Park.

Winter Camping and Accommodations

Winter camping can be a fun and, depending on your accommodation, a challenging activity. North Dakota state parks have many different types of accommodations that vary from primitive to modern.

Cozy up in a log cabin at **Cross Ranch State Park**. "The log cabins out here make for an awesome experience, being able to watch a fire in our wood burning stoves and just getting a really cool winter log cabin experience," says Eric Lang, park manager.

Visitors can rent a cabin for \$80 per night. The park also has three yurts for \$65 per night, and a new yurt with running water for \$125 per night. The campground is also open and has the same amenities as the summer months; however, the water is turned off at the dump station and campground.

Lake Metigoshe State Park has three modern cabins, which vary from \$95 to \$115 per night and are available to rent year-round. In addition, the park has a fourth cabin, Cormorant, with electricity but no running water for \$55

per night; a yurt for \$65 per night (heat, but no water); and an osprey, a primitive cabin, for \$55 per night. The osprey has no motorized vehicle access and is only accessible by a two-mile snowshoe or cross-country ski in the winter months, or hike, kayak or canoe in the summer months.

The campground is open year-round at **Grahams Island State Park** and is popular with anglers. Before the ice is thick enough to drive on, or when it is getting too thin, fishermen and women are able to park their ice castle fish houses in the campground. "Anglers can go out and fish for the day, before walking back to their ice castle parked in our campground, on safe ground," notes Duray.

Many state parks have primitive campgrounds available for winter campers. Reservations for cabins and yurts are taken up to one year in advance. Also, those renting cabins/yurts need to bring their own bedding.

To find out more information about winter activities, visit www.parkrec.nd.gov. To check availability and/or make reservations for the cabins or yurts this winter, go to www.parkrec.nd.gov or contact the Reservation Call Center at 800-807-4723.



Grahams Island State Park

Staff Recognition and Changes at NDPRD

Hanson Receives Governor's Award

On Sept. 12, Gov. Jack Dalrymple presented six state employees with the Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Service in recognition of their dedication and contributions to the people of North Dakota. Jesse Hanson, director of the Planning Division for the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) was recognized in the Executive and Administration category.

The award recipients were nominated by their peers and selected by a committee of judges who reviewed and scored the nominations. Nominees were rated on their overall job performance, contributions to their department, commitment to customer service, working relationship with fellow workers and involvement in their community.



Vanguard Award Presented to Gardner

The North Country Trail Association presented its 2016 Vanguard Award to Matthew Gardner, NDPRD recreation division manager, at the association's conference in Fargo in September. This award is presented to a legislator or other public official whose leadership, actions and advocacy have substantially benefited the North Country Trail over a chapter/affiliate/partner's area or larger, not just a short segment.

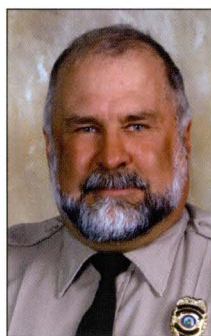
The Vanguard Award recognizes exceptional leadership skills, perseverance and vision, and the significant achievements made possible by an individual's dedication to the North Country National Scenic Trail. Gardner was honored for his work and support of the North Country Trail in North Dakota, including helping with the Outdoor Heritage Fund grant and other trail projects.



Pozarnsky Retires After More Than Four Decades of Service

Brad Pozarnsky recently retired from NDPRD after more than 41 years of service. He began his career with NDPRD in 1975 as a seasonal ranger at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park and later became a full-time ranger. Later, Pozarnsky moved to Fort Stevenson State Park as full-time manager and then transferred to Lake Metigoshe State Park working in the same position. He was promoted again to west district manager, followed by east district manager. Approximately 20 years ago, he was promoted to his final role as a field manager.

"It was a great job, I really enjoyed working with the public, I am a people person," says Pozarnsky. "I am going to miss the people I worked with and the public. I will miss improving the parks and watching the young staff grow up into managers."



New Faces at State Parks

Eric Sperling

Sperling began as a seasonal park ranger at Grahams Island State Park in April 2016 and accepted the full-time position of park ranger at Lake Sakakawea State Park in May 2016.



Alex Dohman

Dohman was a seasonal park ranger at Turtle River State Park from May 2014 to September 2014. He was rehired in May 2015 as a seasonal biological technician with NDPRD through December 2015 and accepted the full-time biologist I position in August 2016.



Paul Grine

Grine began with Lewis and Clark State Park in May 2015. His employment continued at Little Missouri State Park and Cross Ranch State Park during the winter of 2015-2016. He became the ranger supervisor at Little Missouri State Park in April 2016. He accepted the full-time position of park ranger at Turtle River State Park in September 2016.



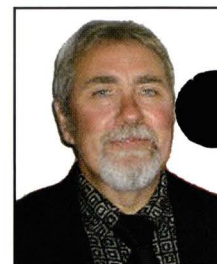
Doris Boepple

In October 2016, Boepple was hired as the administrative assistant at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park.



Gordon Weixel

Weixel, public information officer, retired from NDPRD in August 2016.



New Species of Mosasaur Uncovered at Pembina Gorge Fossil Dig

Some exciting news resulted from this year's dig at Pembina Gorge. "We were able to uncover a new species of mosasaur for North Dakota, possibly an entirely new species," says Clint Boyd, a senior paleontologist with the North Dakota Geological Survey. Although it will take time for experts to research the remains that were found, experts are extremely excited about the new discovery and that it happened in North Dakota.

On Aug. 10-13, a public fossil dig was once again held in the beautifully scenic Pembina Gorge near Walhalla in Cavalier County. This event has been offered for several years in an ongoing search to discover sea monsters. The location of the dig, overlain by the Pierre Formation, is more than 80 million years old and holds some of the oldest surface rocks in North Dakota.

When dinosaurs were roaming

elsewhere, North Dakota was covered with a shallow ocean known as the Western Interior Seaway. This was home to variety of animals such as giant swimming reptiles called mosasaurs, giant squid, sea turtles, aquatic birds, fish of all shapes and sizes, snails, clams and many more creatures.

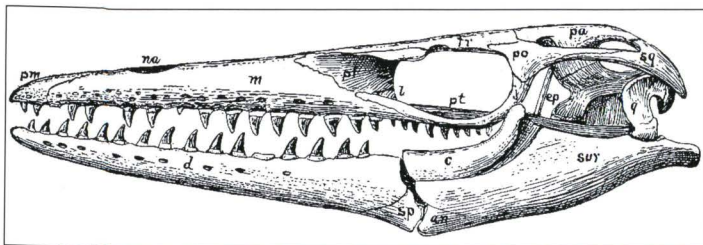
This year's dig was co-sponsored by the North Dakota Geological Survey, North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department, and Walhalla Economic Development. The four-day event welcomed the public to actively participate in the digging with paleontologist supervision. Boyd says the event was successful with around 75 people, including a school group, participating in the dig.

Other specimens found during the dig were parts of a 20-foot fish called *Xiphactinus* and an *Enchodus*, which is comparable to salmon, but larger. "When

digging out that much rock, you uncover a variety of fish material," says Boyd. The bulk of the remains found, however, were from a reptile called a mosasaur, a carnivorous animal that can range from 12 to 50 feet. "It's like a komodo dragon with flippers," describes Boyd.

Following the public fossil digs, the specimens are sent to the North Dakota State Fossil Collection, which is located at the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck. From there, they are cleaned in the paleontology laboratory and then featured in a collection at the museum.

At this time, the 2017 public fossil dig schedule has not been finalized, but you can keep up to date on the events and findings of the North Dakota Geological Survey at www.dmr.nd.gov/ndfossil/ or on its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NDGSpaleo.



Mosasaur remains, Pembina Gorge

First Day Hikes a Chance to Celebrate the New Year Outdoors

First Day Hike Events have become signature events for many of America's state parks. On New Year's Day, parks in all 50 states offer free, guided programming that provides opportunities for individuals and families to celebrate the New Year in the outdoors. According to the National Association of State Park Directors' website, nearly 28,000 people took part in First Day Hikes Events, collectively hiking more than 66,000 miles throughout the country, last year.

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) has five locations participating in First Day programming on Jan. 1. Programming includes a bird count, a cross-country ski/snowshoeing event and themed hikes. The events are free to the public, but state park entry fees apply. Participants of all ages are welcome and are encouraged to dress for winter weather conditions to maximize their First Day experience.

Contact the state parks or interpretive centers directly if there are any cancellation inquiries during severe weather conditions. NDPRD invites you to start the New Year by coming to play in its backyard.

The First Day Hike Event will be the first hike associated with the **Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park** 2017 Hiking Challenge. Participants should dress for the day's weather and meet

at the visitors center at 1 p.m. where a group will set off on a two-mile adventure, pending snow conditions.

The 2nd Annual First Find, First Day Hike will start at **Cross Ranch State Park** at 1 p.m. and take approximately an hour to complete. Participants can meet at the River Peoples Visitors Center to start their geocaching adventure. There will be three geocaches with New Year's surprises hidden around the park for visitors to find. To find the geocaches, visitors can bring smart phones, their own GPS units or borrow one of eight GPS units from the park. Park staff will be available to guide visitors and help with GPS units. The hike is a continuation of the First Find, First Day Hike that was planned last year. The event's difficulty is a moderate level, and the distance will be about one mile. Hot chocolate and refreshments will be provided.

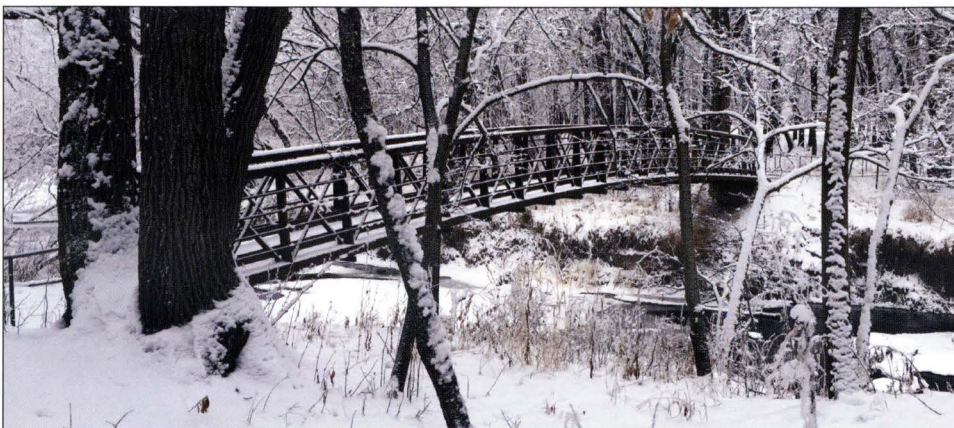
Put on your winter gear in preparation for the Expedition at the **Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center** and hike through the forest to Fort Mandan where warm fires await. Join park staff and participants at 1 p.m. at the Fort Mandan Visitors Center and head out on a one-mile hike that will be followed by socializing in the fort. Participants also have the opportunity to sample historic foods, as well as warm beverages. This event is free to the public. Visitors should



be sure to wear boots and bring their cameras.

Grab your field guides and your binoculars to join **Turtle River State Park** staff for a Winter Bird Count-First Day Hike. The official count will start around 8 a.m. and finish late in the day. Participants can come and go throughout the day. A Birding Basics Hike will take place from 10-11 a.m., starting at the park's Chalet. Turtle River State Park will have a few extra binoculars available for visitors to utilize. The hike will be about a mile in length and longer for those who stay into the day for the bird count. Free hot chocolate and cider will also be available.

Fort Stevenson State Park is holding its fourth annual First Day Hike from 5:00-7:30 p.m. Participants are invited to hike, cross-country ski or snowshoe, depending on the park's conditions. Park staff will provide candle luminaries to light the trail, and participants can enjoy snacks and refreshments at the visitor center following the hike.



Turtle River State Park



Honor Guard members from left to right: Ryan Nelson, Erik Dietrich, Ryan Gardner, Char Binstock, Katie Ogden and Justin Robinson.

Front row: Wendy Ross, Superintendent of Theodore Roosevelt National Park; U.S. Senator John Hoeven; Patricia Trap, National Park Service Deputy Regional Director, Midwest Region; and Mark Zimmerman, Director of North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department.

Honor Guard Presents Colors

North Dakota State Parks and Recreation Honor Guard presented colors at the Theodore Roosevelt National Park's celebration of the National Park Service's 100th anniversary. The ceremony, held at the Painted Canyon overlook on Aug. 25, featured the release of the U. S. Mint quarter coin that highlighted Theodore Roosevelt at the Elkhorn Ranch.

2017 Order Form

North Dakota State Park Annual Vehicle Permit

The 2017 Annual Vehicle Permit for North Dakota state parks can be ordered by mail at a cost of \$25 each. ND residents ages 65 and older can receive a discount price of \$20. Permits come with a card and envelope, making them ideal for gift giving. Make checks or money orders payable to the ND Parks and Recreation Department and mail to:

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department
PO Box 5594
Bismarck, ND 58506-5594

Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Quantity	Cost	Total
_____ 2017 annual permit	\$25/each	\$_____
_____ ND resident 65 and older	\$20/each	\$_____
Date of birth required for senior discount DOB _____		
_____ Number of gift envelopes		

If permit is given as a gift, please provide the permit holder's above information.

Disabled veterans and former POWs must apply in person at parks or Bismarck office to receive special discount.

North Dakota Parks and Recreation encourages the use of its website www.parkrec.nd.gov for the purchase of Annual Vehicle Permits. Secure sales can be made through either credit or debit card online.



North Dakota Parks and
Recreation Department
PO Box 5594
Bismarck, ND 58506-5594

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H.B. 1089

2.10.17

Written Testimony #10

HB 1089:

Senate Political Subdivisions
Red River Room, 10:00 A.M.
Friday, February 10, 2017

Mr. Chairman, members of the Senate Political Subdivisions Committee, my name is Matthew Gardner, Recreation Division Manager for the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. I appear today in support of HB 1089.

As a state agency we are always looking at ways to be more efficient with our processes and our funds. This is especially true now given the current climate. One avenue our agency reviewed as a cost saving measure, without reducing services, is the ability to sell advertising in select Parks and Recreation publications. The Department prints park brochures, maps and other information that is sought by visitors to our parks and recreation areas. We would look to sell advertising in our Discover magazine and State Park Guide. The Discover is a biannual publication that is given to our annual pass holders and park visitors. The State Park Guide is our most popular publication and is distributed at rest areas across the state and other outreach engagements of the Department.

The thought process behind selling advertising in these publications is not to turn a profit but rather break even and save on overall printing costs for the agency but still provide useful informational tools to our visitors. A current case study is Snowmobile North Dakota's publication SNO-DAK. They use a company from Minnesota who solicits for advertising on their behalf and the advertising sales cover their printing and design costs plus turn a small profit. We also conducted some other research and found that many other state's natural resource agencies are selling advertising in publications to offset costs.

Our hope is that small local c-stores along with sporting goods suppliers and RV and boat dealerships would take this opportunity to reach out to their customers and we could still provide these useful publications at little or no cost to the State. For this purpose, I ask for a DO PASS on House Bill 1089.

Mr. Chairman this concludes my remarks; I would be pleased to answer any questions the committee may have.



AND

PARKS

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FALL/WINTER 2016

RECREATION

Director's Message

One of my favorite pictures from this summer is the one of me standing with the CCC boy at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park. My dad was a CCC boy, and I often think of the adventures he had as a young North Dakota farm boy working on projects on the west coast. I also think of the young men who worked at camps in North Dakota, as CCC boys or part of the WPA, and the projects they completed at Fort Abraham Lincoln, Beaver Lake, Lake Metigoshe and Turtle River State Parks. Those bridges, picnic shelters, rock cairns, and beautiful rock and timber buildings still serve visitors to the parks and stand as a testament to a different time and the hard work of those young men. Thankfully those wonderful facilities have not changed in almost 80 years!

However, changes have occurred at North Dakota state parks over this past year, and I am proud to highlight several of those. Next summer when you visit Grahams Island and Fort Ransom State Parks, you will be greeted by new visitor centers and, in the case of Grahams Island, a new bait shop as well. Beautiful buildings to be sure, but more importantly, they are much needed facilities to better serve the visitors to the parks. Icelandic and Fort Stevenson State Parks will start the next camping season with new comfort stations with family

restrooms, shower facilities and ADA accessibility. Cross Ranch is home to a new 30' yurt, Pretty Point, which joins the two yurts at Fort Ransom State Park in offering unique lodging experiences at our state parks—including indoor bathrooms and a loft for the children or grandchildren. Learn more about these projects in this issue of *Discover*.

Other projects included exterior renovation of the Chalet building at Turtle River State Park—now done inside and out and ready for the sledding and cross-country skiing season. Campsite and road improvements at Lewis and Clark and Fort Abraham Lincoln State Parks have also been completed and will be welcome changes for next year's visitors and campers.

Not all changes are in buildings and other infrastructure projects. One major change in the department was the retirement of Brad Pozarnsky, field manager. Brad's 41-year service to the department, the citizens of North Dakota and the visitors to the parks is one of dedication and passion for the mission of the department. We wish Brad and Arlene the best in their new adventures!

Another major change on the horizon is the operations of the department going forward. With budget concerns taking priority in the 2017 Legislative Session,



NDPRD Director Mark Zimmerman

state agencies will be asked to review their operations and adjust accordingly.

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing first-class services and programs to park visitors. Yes, operations will be tweaked to assure efficiency and continued good service, and all of us look forward to another great year in 2017 at North Dakota state parks.

Keep updated on parks and recreation events, activities and other highlights by checking out the department's website at www.parkrec.nd.gov and the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ndprd.

See you in the great outdoors!

Discover Fall/Winter 2016 Volume 21, Number 2

This magazine is published by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's facilities, programs and employment procedures are open to all, regardless of age, sex, race, color, disability, religion, national origin or political affiliation. Contact North Dakota Parks and Recreation if you need an alternate format of this publication.

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Website: www.parkrec.nd.gov



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ON THE COVER: Young hikers experience fall colors along this trail in the Turtle Mountains on National Public Lands Day in September.

2017 State Park Permits Now Available

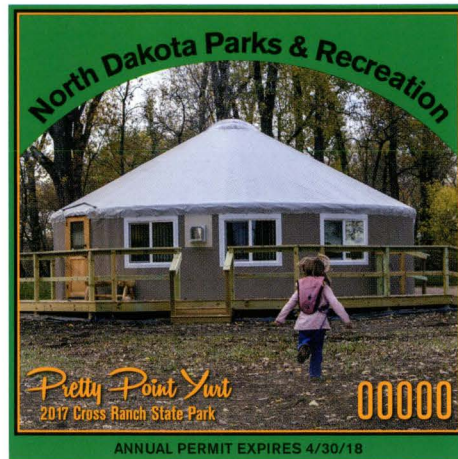
The 2017 North Dakota state parks annual permit was made available for purchase Nov. 7. The annual permit allows unlimited entry into all 13 state parks, as well as provides users with a free subscription to the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's (NDPRD) *Discover* publication.

The 2017 permits are available to purchase online at www.parkrec.nd.gov, toll-free through the Reservation Call Center at 800-807-4723, at NDPRD headquarters in Bismarck or at any North Dakota state park.

100 Percent Reservation System

The 2016 camping season marked the first summer all 13 state parks used the 100 percent reservation system. Reservations at all parks were required at least 24 hours in advance for all campsites, corrals, cabins, yurts and tipis.

The reservation system was very successful, making the camping experience easier for both the parks and campers. Initially piloted at three parks over the last couple of years, it was implemented into all of the state parks for the 2016 season.



Karen Assel, assistant field manager for NDPRD, helped develop and implement the system. "The first year of full 100 percent reservations went well; the system was very efficient," she says. "All campers have an equal opportunity to rent a campsite, those traveling a long distance to the park as well as those living nearby."

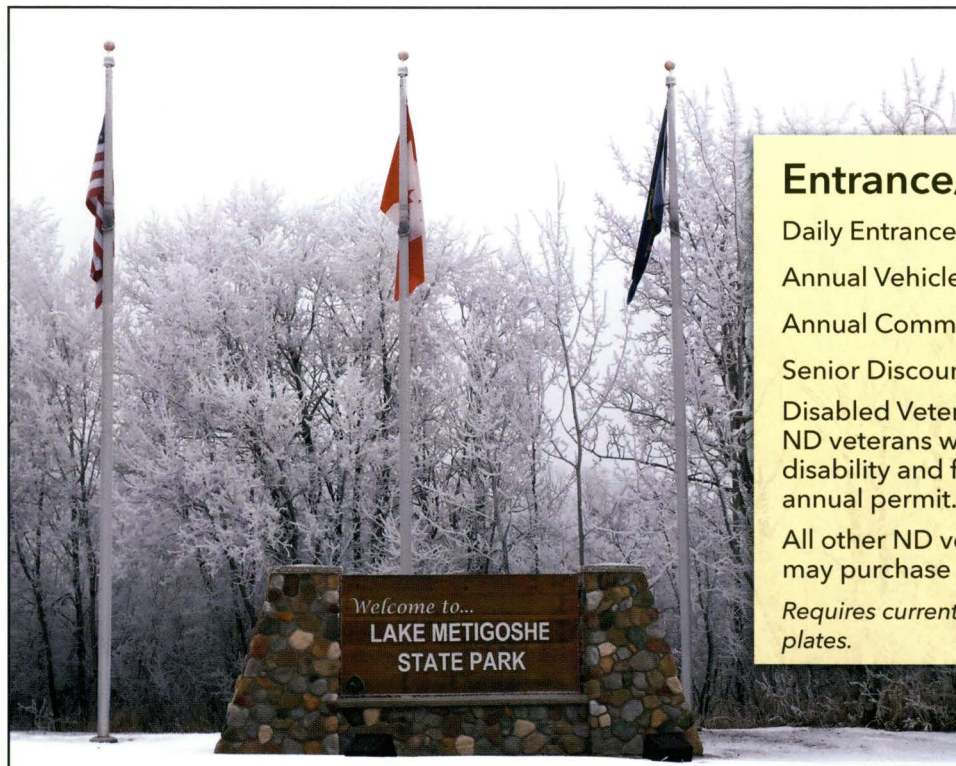
NDPRD decided to implement the 100 percent reservation system for many reasons. It allows campers to plan their trip in advance and be guaranteed a campsite, staff are able to plan and better manage the campgrounds, and it

allows for a better flow in and out of the campground, since all campers have paid and know the location of their campsite.

Many other surrounding states have also started taking reservations only. "Not only did the reservation system work great for our parks, it is also keeping up with trends," says Grahams Island State Park's Manager Henry Duray. "Campers have assurance that they have a camping spot and are able to pick their campsite. It also helps the parks to know how many campers to expect and knowing that they have all paid."

Reservations can be made up to 95 days prior to and as little as 24 hours in advance.

Campsite, cabin and yurt reservations can be made by phone to the NDPRD Reservation Call Center at 800-807-4723 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. central standard time. Campsite and cabin reservations can also be made online 24 hours a day at www.parkrec.nd.gov. Reservations for horse campsites and corrals must be made directly with the park. Prices vary on reservations, and full payment is required to confirm all reservations.



Entrance/Permit Fees:

Daily Entrance Fee	\$5
Annual Vehicle Entrance Permit	\$25
Annual Commercial Bus Pass	\$125
Senior Discount (ND residents age 65 and older)	\$20

Disabled Veterans and POWs:
ND veterans with a 50% or greater service-related disability and former POWs are eligible for one free annual permit.

All other ND veterans with service-related disabilities may purchase an annual permit for \$20.

Requires current VA proof of disability or ND DAV/POW license plates.

State Park Improvements and Capital Projects Enhance Visitors' Experiences

With the 2015 Legislature providing a record amount of funding for development in North Dakota state parks, many projects got underway across the state to both enhance existing park facilities and draw additional visitors with new year-round accommodations.

The Chalet at **Turtle River State Park (TRSP)** was recently under construction, first with the completion of an interior remodel. An exterior remodel has now also been completed with new windows and doors, as well as siding. "It has helped the building to look more presentable and inviting, as well as increased efficiencies," says Larry Hagen, park manager.

Hagen notes the improvements have also generated more interest in the building. "The building is available year-round, and the upstairs can be rented for events," he says, noting the building's downstairs is used for winter sledding and a starting point for the park's cross-country ski trails. "The improvements provide a much more appealing facility."

In addition, a new bathroom was recently completed near the park's CCC Memorial Shelter. "It can better accommodate events and is designed to be open later in the season," Hagen notes. "These improvements have been long needed for the park and the people that come to use Turtle River State Park. The facilities are now set up to be more inviting to visitors and events."

Construction on a new yurt at **Cross Ranch State Park (CRSP)** was completed in mid-October. "This yurt is an amazing rental opportunity for visitors," says Eric Lang, park manager. "It is the only rental facility we currently offer in the park that has running water. It provides all of the comforts of home and provides visitors of all outdoor levels the opportunity to stay in comfort."

Lang says the yurt is steps away from miles of groomed cross-country ski trails. "After a chilly day of skiing, you

can warm up with a hot cup of coffee or cocoa, turn on the propane fireplace and gaze over the Missouri River."

CRSP has two log cabins, the John Colter and Art Link cabins, as well as three other yurts available for rent. The park's visitor center is also open seven days a week.

Electricity was recently added to all the park's RV campsites, and five new vault toilets were constructed in the park. Rural water has also been run to the park and will be utilized in the near future. Lang says plans to build another cabin with running water are in the works for 2017.

Construction on two new yurts at **Fort Ransom State Park (FRSP)** was also completed this spring. "These are the first of their kind for the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. These yurts have more amenities and offer a comfortable, year-round experience with forced air conditioning during the summer and a standard home furnace during the winter," says Tyler Modlin, park manager.

He notes the yurts are also the first of their kind in the state parks with double pane windows, as well as dome and door windows. The facilities are ADA compliant, have custom pine tongue and groove walls, and two bedrooms in each. "When you step into our yurts, you're stepping into something that most luxury resorts wish they had," Modlin notes. "The location we put them in is most beneficial for all seasons of users."

Right outside the yurts' front doors is the trail head for the park's trails system. "We can now offer an experience to those that do not have a camper or tent, but still want to enjoy the outdoors in the state park," says Modlin.

Recent capital projects also completed at FRSP include the park's new visitor center. "This building is roughly 3,400 sq. ft. and houses the administration offices, as well as a meeting room, which can be used for educational purposes," Modlin notes.

With additional storage in the building, he says FRSP is now able to provide cross-country ski and snow



The Chalet, Turtle River State Park

shoe rentals and house expanded concessions. “The center section of the building also has a fireplace with couches and chairs for people to visit while they warm up during a break from winter activities.”

The park’s old visitor center will now be turned into a full-service rental cabin. Also new to the park is a vault toilet, which provides park users in the modern campground with a closer facility. All of these projects were part of a park master plan that is now completed, adds Modlin.

Grahams Island State Park (GISP) is also looking toward the completion of a new visitor center and bait shop building by the end of November. “The building we have operated currently as the bait shop has been moved a number of times due to flooding,” says Henry Duray, park manager, adding with a recent influx of visitors the original building was too small to use as an entrance, visitor center, and concessions and bait shop. “It was cheaper to build a brand new building, so we went through a planning process with a committee and picked a new location and design.”

A groundbreaking was held in May for the building that will now serve as an entrance facility complete with a visitor center, concessions and bait shop, and administrative offices. “You drive into the park about a mile and there is the new facility,” notes Duray. “It is a one-stop shop and will allow us to have staff in one place to provide services for our visitors.”

Many other improvements have taken place at GISP, including the building of a new full-service campground and the paving of roads, which, Duray notes, ties into the new visitor center. In addition, a new play area, campfire amphitheater and 15,000 trees and shrubs have been added to the park. “We were struggling for so many years to just get ahead of the flooding of Devils Lake, but now we can focus on improvements to the park,” says Duray.

Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center

Since its construction in 1996-1997, the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center has been owned by the state of North Dakota, and for nearly 18 years, the Lewis & Clark Fort Mandan Foundation operated the facility on behalf of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD). On May 1, 2015, NDPRD assumed control of the facility’s operations, including all maintenance and staffing, while the Lewis & Clark Fort Mandan Foundation continued to assist in the promotion and interpretive programming of the facility. “The Foundation oversaw the development of these sites into some of the best along the Lewis & Clark Trail,” says Kevin Kirkey, site supervisor. “The ongoing operation of the site is just like when the Foundation ran it, with the same level of service.”

Below is a list of some of the 2017 events taking place at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center:

- Jan. 1 — First Day Hike: A unique hike through the river bottoms to Fort Mandan
- March 3 — The Inside Tour: An after-hours tour of the Interpretive Center, including the collections room
- April 19 — Middle Missouri History Bee: Teams of 4th grade students compete on their knowledge of North Dakota studies
- April 21 — KNDC Awards Luncheon: Annual luncheon and awards ceremony to recognize winners of the Keep North Dakota Clean contest



Visitor center, Fort Ransom State Park



Entrance facility, Grahams Island State Park



Winter Activities Abound in North Dakota State Parks

The winter months in North Dakota can be long and frigid, but that doesn't mean you have to sit around and wait for spring. Make sure to get out and enjoy one of the many cold weather activities offered at 11 state parks. Below are highlights of the many different winter activities offered at North Dakota state parks.

Snowshoeing and Cross-Country Skiing

Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing are great winter sports that allow a little off-roading. Many of the parks offer miles of groomed and ungroomed trails to go snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, as well as rental equipment.

With more than 10 miles of groomed and ungroomed trails, **Cross Ranch State Park** is a beautiful location to cross country ski along the Missouri River or snowshoe off the beaten path and see almost 600 acres untouched beauty. "The skiing and snowshoeing are snow dependent. We like to have at least 12 inches of snow before we groom the trails, but visitors can ski if there is snow and we haven't groomed the trails yet," says Eric Lang, park manager. Cross-country skis and snowshoes are available to rent for \$15 per pair per day.

Once the snow has fallen and is deep

Winter Trails at North Dakota State Parks

Park	Length	Description
Beaver Lake	5 miles	skiing allowed, no groomed trails
Cross Ranch	10 miles	marked/groomed
Fort Abraham Lincoln	6.75 miles	skiing allowed, no groomed trails
Fort Ransom	6.5 miles	marked/groomed
Fort Stevenson	3 miles	marked/groomed
Grahams Island	3.5 miles	marked/groomed
Icelandic	5 miles	marked/groomed
Lake Metigoshe	8.5 miles	marked/groomed
Lake Sakakawea	3 miles	skiing allowed, no groomed trails
Lewis and Clark	4 miles	skiing allowed, no groomed trails
Turtle River	7.5 miles	marked/groomed

enough, Lake Metigoshe State Park grooms more than eight miles of trails. Visitors are encouraged to explore the park or the forest-lined cross-country ski trail. Skis and snowshoes are also available to rent for \$15 per pair per day.

Turtle River State Park has more than seven miles of trails for winter fun. "We are located in the Turtle River Valley in the Red River Valley. Because of the way the park lays, generally we're a bit out of the wind; the snow lays in the park a bit better," says Larry Hagen, park manager.

Many other parks offer cross-country skiing and snowshoeing trails, including Beaver Lake State Park, Fort Abraham

Lincoln State Park, Fort Ransom State Park, Fort Stevenson State Park, Icelandic State Park, Lake Sakakawea State Park, and Lewis and Clark State Park.

Fat-Tire Biking

Fat tire biking is becoming very popular across the state. These bikes are ideal to be ridden in snow, sand and mud. With the snowy North Dakota winters, it is the perfect sport to take part in outdoors.

Fort Stevenson State Park, located in Garrison, offers groomed trails for snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and fat-tire biking. "What makes us unique is we are one of the few places in North Dakota where you can rent fat-tire bikes," says Chad Trautman, park manager, adding the bikes rent for \$6 per hour or \$25 per day. Fort Stevenson State Park is the only state park that rents fat-tire bikes. The trails are also open to winter bikers at Fort Lincoln State Park.

Sledding

Sledding is a favorite past time for many North Dakotans, and **Lake Metigoshe State Park** has one awesome hill. "Our hill is great! You can really fly down the hill, and if you hit it just right, you will end up far out into the lake," says Amy Schimetz, park interpreter.

Located across from the sledding hill is also a warming house. "A lot of families



Cross Ranch State Park



Fort Stevenson State Park

bring a picnic lunch. After sledding, they walk across the parking lot and enjoy cocoa and sandwiches in the warming house," Schimetz notes.

Turtle River State Park also offers a sledding hill and warming house. The park rents out the second story of the Chalet, as well as the Woodland Lodge for meetings and family gatherings.

Ice Fishing

Dress warm, bait your hook and dream of a whopper! Ice fishing is one of the most popular winter activities in North Dakota. People come from all over the country to ice fish in the state. Many state parks have lake or river access and make ice fishing easily accessible.

Head to **Grahams Island State Park**, located on Devils Lake, to do some ice fishing, the park's most popular winter activity. "We keep our boat ramp open all year round," says Park Manager Henry Duray. "We are an ideal park to ice fish, with lake access to Devils Lake."

Ice fishing is also very popular at

Beaver Lake State Park, Lake Metigoshe State Park and Fort Stevenson State Park.

Winter Camping and Accommodations

Winter camping can be a fun and, depending on your accommodation, a challenging activity. North Dakota state parks have many different types of accommodations that vary from primitive to modern.

Cozy up in a log cabin at **Cross Ranch State Park**. "The log cabins out here make for an awesome experience, being able to watch a fire in our wood burning stoves and just getting a really cool winter log cabin experience," says Eric Lang, park manager.

Visitors can rent a cabin for \$80 per night. The park also has three yurts for \$65 per night, and a new yurt with running water for \$125 per night. The campground is also open and has the same amenities as the summer months; however, the water is turned off at the dump station and campground.

Lake Metigoshe State Park has three modern cabins, which vary from \$95 to \$115 per night and are available to rent year-round. In addition, the park has a fourth cabin, Cormorant, with electricity but no running water for \$55

per night; a yurt for \$65 per night (heat, but no water); and an osprey, a primitive cabin, for \$55 per night. The osprey has no motorized vehicle access and is only accessible by a two-mile snowshoe or cross-country ski in the winter months, or hike, kayak or canoe in the summer months.

The campground is open year-round at **Grahams Island State Park** and is popular with anglers. Before the ice is thick enough to drive on, or when it is getting too thin, fishermen and women are able to park their ice castle fish houses in the campground. "Anglers can go out and fish for the day, before walking back to their ice castle parked in our campground, on safe ground," notes Duray.

Many state parks have primitive campgrounds available for winter campers. Reservations for cabins and yurts are taken up to one year in advance. Also, those renting cabins/yurts need to bring their own bedding.

To find out more information about winter activities, visit www.parkrec.nd.gov. To check availability and/or make reservations for the cabins or yurts this winter, go to www.parkrec.nd.gov or contact the Reservation Call Center at 800-807-4723.



Grahams Island State Park

Staff Recognition and Changes at NDPRD

Hanson Receives Governor's Award

On Sept. 12, Gov. Jack Dalrymple presented six state employees with the Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Service in recognition of their dedication and contributions to the people of North Dakota. Jesse Hanson, director of the Planning Division for the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) was recognized in the Executive and Administration category.

The award recipients were nominated by their peers and selected by a committee of judges who reviewed and scored the nominations. Nominees were rated on their overall job performance, contributions to their department, commitment to customer service, working relationship with fellow workers and involvement in their community.



Vanguard Award Presented to Gardner

The North Country Trail Association presented its 2016 Vanguard Award to Matthew Gardner, NDPRD recreation division manager, at the association's conference in Fargo in September. This award is presented to a legislator or other public official whose leadership, actions and advocacy have substantially benefited the North Country Trail over a chapter/affiliate/partner's area or larger, not just a short segment.

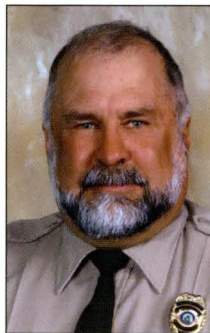
The Vanguard Award recognizes exceptional leadership skills, perseverance and vision, and the significant achievements made possible by an individual's dedication to the North Country National Scenic Trail. Gardner was honored for his work and support of the North Country Trail in North Dakota, including helping with the Outdoor Heritage Fund grant and other trail projects.



Pozarnsky Retires After More Than Four Decades of Service

Brad Pozarnsky recently retired from NDPRD after more than 41 years of service. He began his career with NDPRD in 1975 as a seasonal ranger at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park and later became a full-time ranger. Later, Pozarnsky moved to Fort Stevenson State Park as full-time manager and then transferred to Lake Metigoshe State Park working in the same position. He was promoted again to west district manager, followed by east district manager. Approximately 20 years ago, he was promoted to his final role as a field manager.

"It was a great job, I really enjoyed working with the public, I am a people person," says Pozarnsky. "I am going to miss the people I worked with and the public. I will miss improving the parks and watching the young staff grow up into managers."



New Faces at State Parks

Eric Sperling

Sperling began as a seasonal park ranger at Grahams Island State Park in April 2016 and accepted the full-time position of park ranger at Lake Sakakawea State Park in May 2016.



Alex Dohman

Dohman was a seasonal park ranger at Turtle River State Park from May 2014 to September 2014. He was rehired in May 2015 as a seasonal biological technician with NDPRD through December 2015 and accepted the full-time biologist I position in August 2016.



Paul Grine

Grine began with Lewis and Clark State Park in May 2015. His employment continued at Little Missouri State Park and Cross Ranch State Park during the winter of 2015-2016. He became the ranger supervisor at Little Missouri State Park in April 2016. He accepted the full-time position of park ranger at Turtle River State Park in September 2016.



Doris Boepple

In October 2016, Boepple was hired as the administrative assistant at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park.



Gordon Weixel

Weixel, public information officer, retired from NDPRD in August 2016.



New Species of Mosasaur Uncovered at Pembina Gorge Fossil Dig

Some exciting news resulted from this year's dig at Pembina Gorge. "We were able to uncover a new species of mosasaur for North Dakota, possibly an entirely new species," says Clint Boyd, a senior paleontologist with the North Dakota Geological Survey. Although it will take time for experts to research the remains that were found, experts are extremely excited about the new discovery and that it happened in North Dakota.

On Aug. 10-13, a public fossil dig was once again held in the beautifully scenic Pembina Gorge near Walhalla in Cavalier County. This event has been offered for several years in an ongoing search to discover sea monsters. The location of the dig, overlain by the Pierre Formation, is more than 80 million years old and holds some of the oldest surface rocks in North Dakota.

When dinosaurs were roaming

elsewhere, North Dakota was covered with a shallow ocean known as the Western Interior Seaway. This was home to variety of animals such as giant swimming reptiles called mosasaurs, giant squid, sea turtles, aquatic birds, fish of all shapes and sizes, snails, clams and many more creatures.

This year's dig was co-sponsored by the North Dakota Geological Survey, North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department, and Walhalla Economic Development. The four-day event welcomed the public to actively participate in the digging with paleontologist supervision. Boyd says the event was successful with around 75 people, including a school group, participating in the dig.

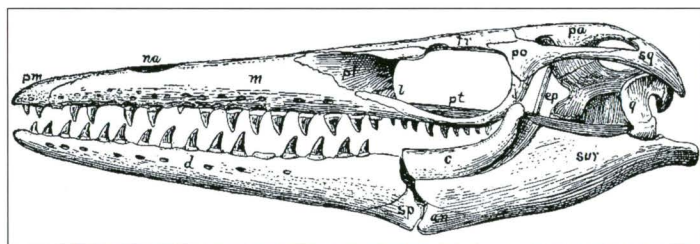
Other specimens found during the dig were parts of a 20-foot fish called *Xiphactinus* and an *Enchodus*, which is comparable to salmon, but larger. "When

digging out that much rock, you uncover a variety of fish material," says Boyd.

The bulk of the remains found, however, were from a reptile called a mosasaur, a carnivorous animal that can range from 12 to 50 feet. "It's like a komodo dragon with flippers," describes Boyd.

Following the public fossil digs, the specimens are sent to the North Dakota State Fossil Collection, which is located at the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck. From there, they are cleaned in the paleontology laboratory and then featured in a collection at the museum.

At this time, the 2017 public fossil dig schedule has not been finalized, but you can keep up to date on the events and findings of the North Dakota Geological Survey at www.dmr.nd.gov/ndfossil/ or on its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NDGSpaleo.



Mosasaur remains, Pembina Gorge

First Day Hikes a Chance to Celebrate the New Year Outdoors

First Day Hike Events have become signature events for many of America's state parks. On New Year's Day, parks in all 50 states offer free, guided programming that provides opportunities for individuals and families to celebrate the New Year in the outdoors. According to the National Association of State Park Directors' website, nearly 28,000 people took part in First Day Hikes Events, collectively hiking more than 66,000 miles throughout the country, last year.

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) has five locations participating in First Day programming on Jan. 1. Programming includes a bird count, a cross-country ski/snowshoeing event and themed hikes. The events are free to the public, but state park entry fees apply. Participants of all ages are welcome and are encouraged to dress for winter weather conditions to maximize their First Day experience.

Contact the state parks or interpretive centers directly if there are any cancellation inquiries during severe weather conditions. NDPRD invites you to start the New Year by coming to play in its backyard.

The First Day Hike Event will be the first hike associated with the **Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park 2017 Hiking Challenge**. Participants should dress for the day's weather and meet

at the visitors center at 1 p.m. where a group will set off on a two-mile adventure, pending snow conditions.

The 2nd Annual First Find, First Day Hike will start at **Cross Ranch State Park** at 1 p.m. and take approximately an hour to complete. Participants can meet at the River Peoples Visitors Center to start their geocaching adventure. There will be three geocaches with New Year's surprises hidden around the park for visitors to find. To find the geocaches, visitors can bring smart phones, their own GPS units or borrow one of eight GPS units from the park. Park staff will be available to guide visitors and help with GPS units. The hike is a continuation of the First Find, First Day Hike that was planned last year. The event's difficulty is a moderate level, and the distance will be about one mile. Hot chocolate and refreshments will be provided.

Put on your winter gear in preparation for the Expedition at the **Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center** and hike through the forest to Fort Mandan where warm fires await. Join park staff and participants at 1 p.m. at the Fort Mandan Visitors Center and head out on a one-mile hike that will be followed by socializing in the fort. Participants also have the opportunity to sample historic foods, as well as warm beverages. This event is free to the public. Visitors should



Turtle River State Park



be sure to wear boots and bring their cameras.

Grab your field guides and your binoculars to join **Turtle River State Park** staff for a Winter Bird Count-First Day Hike. The official count will start around 8 a.m. and finish late in the day. Participants can come and go throughout the day. A Birding Basics Hike will take place from 10-11 a.m., starting at the park's Chalet. Turtle River State Park will have a few extra binoculars available for visitors to utilize. The hike will be about a mile in length and longer for those who stay into the day for the bird count. Free hot chocolate and cider will also be available.

Fort Stevenson State Park is holding its fourth annual First Day Hike from 5:00-7:30 p.m. Participants are invited to hike, cross-country ski or snowshoe, depending on the park's conditions. Park staff will provide candle luminaries to light the trail, and participants can enjoy snacks and refreshments at the visitor center following the hike.



Honor Guard members from left to right: Ryan Nelson, Erik Dietrich, Ryan Gardner, Char Binstock, Katie Ogden and Justin Robinson.

Front row: Wendy Ross, Superintendent of Theodore Roosevelt National Park; U.S. Senator John Hoeven; Patricia Trap, National Park Service Deputy Regional Director, Midwest Region; and Mark Zimmerman, Director of North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department.

Honor Guard Presents Colors

North Dakota State Parks and Recreation Honor Guard presented colors at the Theodore Roosevelt National Park's celebration of the National Park Service's 100th anniversary. The ceremony, held at the Painted Canyon overlook on Aug. 25, featured the release of the U. S. Mint quarter coin that highlighted Theodore Roosevelt at the Elkhorn Ranch.

2017 Order Form

North Dakota State Park Annual Vehicle Permit

The 2017 Annual Vehicle Permit for North Dakota state parks can be ordered by mail at a cost of \$25 each. ND residents ages 65 and older can receive a discount price of \$20. Permits come with a card and envelope, making them ideal for gift giving. Make checks or money orders payable to the ND Parks and Recreation Department and mail to:

**North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department
PO Box 5594
Bismarck, ND 58506-5594**

Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Quantity	Cost	Total
_____ 2017 annual permit	\$25/each	\$_____
_____ ND resident 65 and older Date of birth required for senior discount DOB _____	\$20/each	\$_____
_____ Number of gift envelopes		

If permit is given as a gift, please provide the permit holder's above information.

Disabled veterans and former POWs must apply in person at parks or Bismarck office to receive special discount.

North Dakota Parks and Recreation encourages the use of its website www.parkrec.nd.gov for the purchase of Annual Vehicle Permits. Secure sales can be made through either credit or debit card online.



North Dakota Parks and
Recreation Department
PO Box 5594
Bismarck, ND 58506-5594

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North Dakota

STATE PARKS GUIDE

P.1

- Beaver Lake
- Cross Ranch
- Fort Abraham Lincoln
- Fort Ransom
- Fort Stevenson
- Grahams Island
- Icelandic
- Lake Metigoshe
- Lake Sakakawea
- Lewis and Clark
- Little Missouri
- Sully Creek
- Turtle River



The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department invites you to discover the unique beauty and history of North Dakota by visiting its state parks, recreation areas and trails. These areas play an important role in preserving the state's history and the unique natural features defining North Dakota's landscape and heritage.



The history of the state is largely that of the people who inhabited it, and how their natural environment shaped them. Glimpses into the lives of those people—the Native Americans, the trappers, traders and explorers, and the homesteaders and ranchers—can be found in many of North Dakota's state parks. This guide tells you about state parks that preserve priceless Native American sites, areas visited by the Lewis and Clark Expedition, military forts, and ethnic settlements.

Other parks allow you to experience North Dakota's landscape and wildlife. Here you will find exciting recreational opportunities along our lakes and rivers, and unex-

pected wooded valleys, prairie vistas and rugged Badlands.

Whether you are a returning visitor or new to the state...take the time to explore North Dakota's state parks. The parks are open all year round for your enjoyment!

North Dakota State Parks Guide

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department

1600 East Century Avenue, Suite 3, Bismarck, ND 58503, ph. 701-328-5357

E-mail—parkrec@nd.gov Web Site—www.parkrec.nd.gov

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's facilities, programs and employment opportunities are open to all, regardless of age, sex, race, color, disability, religion, national origin or political affiliation. Contact us if you need an accommodation for a disability, or for an alternate format of this publication, at 701-328-5357 or Relay North Dakota TTY Service 800-366-6888.

Entrance and camping fees

All North Dakota state parks that are developed and maintained charge entrance and user fees year-round, based on the level of services available. In addition, user fees may be charged for other special services, facilities or activities.

Fees must be paid upon entering the park either to a park ranger or by using the park self-registration system.

Reservations

Campsite, cabin, yurt and tipi reservations at North Dakota's state parks can be made online or through the call center, at **800-807-4723**. Check the North Dakota Parks and Recreation website at, www.parkrec.nd.gov, for more information.

Interpretive programs and special events

On weekends throughout the summer, most state parks host interpretive programs that are fun for the whole family. These programs highlight historic, natural or recreational features within the parks. In addition, state parks host a variety of special events that include kite festivals, fishing tournaments as well as the ever popular Christmas and Halloween themed weekends. For a complete schedule of events, contact the state park or check the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department website at www.parkrec.nd.gov.

Cabins/yurts & group facilities

Ten state parks have cabins available for rent. Camping cabins (no interior bathrooms or cooking facilities) can be found at Beaver Lake, Fort Abraham Lincoln,

Fort Stevenson, Grahams Island, Icelandic, Lake Sakakawea and Lewis and Clark. Primitive log cabins are available year-round at Cross Ranch, while Lake Metigoshe has family-style cabins with kitchenettes and bathrooms. Turtle River has 12 duplex sleeping cabin units equipped with bathrooms and bunk beds that can be rented individually or by groups, along with a kitchen and dining hall. Group facilities at Lake Metigoshe include two dorms that sleep a total of 120, kitchen and dining hall.

General rules

- ◆ Campsite and cabin occupancy limited to no more than 14 days in a 30-day period.
- ◆ Must be 18 years of age or older to rent park campsites and facilities.
- ◆ Fires must be contained in designated fire rings and attended by an adult at all times.
- ◆ Campfires may be prohibited based on rangeland fire dangers.
- ◆ No pets allowed inside cabins or indoor facilities.
- ◆ Pets must be kept on a leash and attended at all times.
- ◆ Pet waste must be bagged and disposed of in an appropriate manner.
- ◆ No smoking in park facilities.
- ◆ No game or fish cleaning in or around cabins or group facilities.
- ◆ Contact park for restrictions on alcohol use and insurance requirements for rental of group facilities or shelters.
- ◆ Use of fireworks prohibited.
- ◆ Metal detecting on state property is not allowed.
- ◆ Firearms must be unloaded and stored in a gun case. Discharge of any weapon or projectile within a state park is not permitted.
- ◆ Additional info about facility use policies is available either online or at the park.

Beaver Lake State Park

4

Located on the west shore of Beaver Lake in south central North Dakota, Beaver Lake State Park provides a relaxing get-away for those wanting to get back to nature.



The gently rolling prairie provides scenic views for leisurely walks. In the summer, the lake attracts visitors for boating, canoeing, water skiing and fishing.

Park guests find plenty to occupy their time, whether it's studying the area's fascinating history; discovering the plentiful natural resource; taking advantage of refreshing water sports; hiking; mountain biking; fishing; or just relaxing in the shade of an American elm.

Nearby Attractions: Slade and Long Lake National Wildlife Refuges •

Whitestone Battlefield State Historic Site • Golfing.

Facilities: 270 acres •

Camping • Electrical Hook-ups • Campsite Reservations • Showers and Flush Toilets • Sewage Dump Station • Picnic Shelters • Boat Ramp • Swim Beach • Camping Cabins • Mountain Biking.

Location: Seventeen miles southeast of Napoleon—3850 70th Street SE, Wishek ND 58495, ph. 701-452-2752, email blsp@nd.gov.



Cross Ranch State Park is located along some of the last free-flowing and undeveloped stretches of the Missouri River.

A boat ramp and canoe and kayak rentals are available for those wishing to explore this scenic segment of the river, while anglers will find walleye, trout, catfish, salmon, pike and bass in its waters.

An extensive trail system can be explored either on foot or on cross-country skis during the winter months. The trails allow access to a 5,000-acre nature preserve with mixed grass prairie, river bottom forests and woody draws. Campers can use either the park's primitive campground or hike to their camping spot in a back country area.



The park is a favorite of area musicians and hosts the annual Missouri River Bluegrass Festival, a musical extravaganza drawing Bluegrass musicians from around the country.

While Cross Ranch State Park provides only primitive camp sites, the nearby Sanger campground has electrical sites and provides boat access to the Missouri.

Nearby Attractions: Cross Ranch Nature Preserve • Fort Mandan and Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center • Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site • Coal Mine and Power Plant Tours • Fort Clark State Historic Site.



Facilities: 589 acres • Camping • Electrical Hook-ups (Sanger only) • Campsite Reservations • Showers • Sewage Dump Station • Hiking and Cross Country Ski Trails • Cross Country Ski/

Snowshoe Rentals • Boat Ramp • Canoe/Kayak Access and Rentals • Fishing • Year-round Cabins/Yurts • Naturalist and Year-round Outdoor Learning Center Programming • Visitor Center.

Location: 12 miles southeast of Hensler-1403 River Road, Center, ND 58530, ph. 701-794-3731, e-mail crsp@nd.gov

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park 6

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park is rich in both early Native American and military history.

The visitor center and historic buildings feature exhibits and programs on the early occupation of the area. On-A-Slant Mandan Indian Village with its reconstructed earthlodges depicts the lifestyle of the Mandan, who lived



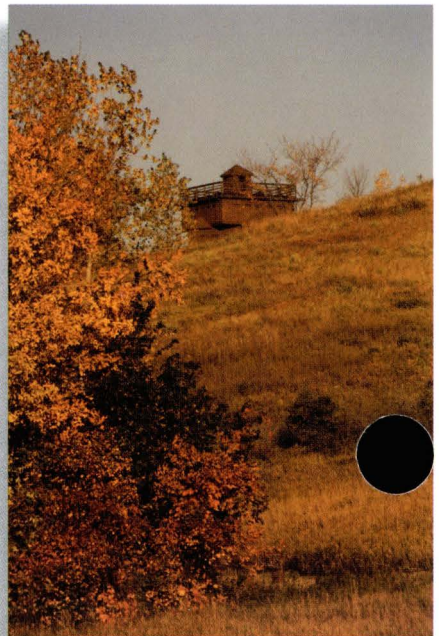
here from 1575-1781. In 1804, the Lewis and Clark Expedition camped nearby and noted their abandoned village in their journals. From 1872 until 1891, the military occupied this site, first under the command of

Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer. The park features a modern campground and picnicking facilities, hiking and biking trails, as well as shoreline access for fishing in the Heart and Missouri rivers.

Facilities: 1,006 acres • Camping • Electrical Hookups • Campsite Reservations • Showers and Flush Toilets • Sewage Dump Station • Hiking, Mountain Biking, Horseback and Paved Interpretive Trails • Historian • Living History • Camping Cabins • Visitor Center and Historic Buildings • Missouri River Natural Area.

Nearby Attractions: Boat Ramps • Golf and Tennis Areas • State Capitol • North Dakota Heritage Center • Riverboat • Trolley • Zoo • Roughrider State OHV Trail

Location: Seven miles south of Mandan on Highway 1806—4480 Fort Lincoln Road, Mandan, ND 58554, ph. 701-667-6340, e-mail falsp@nd.gov.



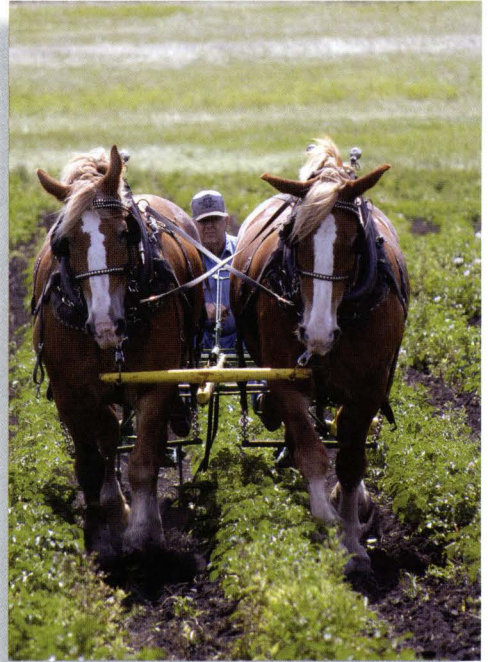
Fort Ransom State Park

Taking its name from an 1860s military fort, Fort Ransom State Park is located in the midst of the scenic and heavily wooded Sheyenne River Valley. 7

The river provides abundant opportunities for canoeing, fishing and bird watching, while within the park can be found a short segment of the North Country National Scenic Trail. During the summer, picnicking and camping are favorite activities, while cross-country skiing is a popular winter sport. A farmstead within the park is the setting for the annual Sodbuster Days celebration, with demonstrations and exhibits of homesteading life.

Nearby Attractions: Bears Den Mountain Downhill Ski Area • Fort Ransom State Historic Site • Ransom County Historical Museum • Sheyenne Valley State Snowmobile Trail

• Sheyenne National Grassland • Sheyenne State Forest • Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway.



Facilities: 947 acres • Camping • Electrical Hook-ups • Campsite Reservations • Showers and Flush Toilets • Sewage Dump Station • Picnic Shelters • Hiking, Horseback, Mountain Biking and Cross-Country Ski Trails • Canoe/Kayak Rentals • Visitor Center • Corral and Primitive Camp Sites.

Location: Two miles

north of the community of Fort Ransom—5981 Walt Hjelle Parkway, Fort Ransom ND 58033, ph. 701-973-4331, e-mail frsp@nd.gov.

Fort Stevenson State Park

On the north shore of Lake Sakakawea, this park was named for a late 1800s fort that served as a supply depot for other military posts in the Dakota Territory.



Fort Stevenson State Park is known as the “Walleye Capital” of North Dakota. It’s a favorite spot for sportsmen to experience the great fishing on the lake and is home to the annual Governor’s Cup Walleye Fishing Derby.

Boaters will find excellent facilities, including two marinas — Garrison Bay and de Trobriand — with boat ramp access, fishing boat rental and boat and camper storage.

A variety of events are held at the park each year including the Sky Dance Sakakawea Kite Festival; CANDISC Bike Tour; and Beach Party. There is a seasonal naturalist providing education programs

Nearby Attractions: Golf • Tennis • North Dakota Fishing Hall of Fame • Power Plant Tours • Broste Rock Museum • ND Firefighter Museum • Wally the Walleye, ND’s largest walleye.

Fa- cilities:

- 549 acres •
- Camping •
- Campsites with Sewer and Electrical Hookups •
- Campsite Reservations •
- Family Cabins •
- Camping Cabins •
- Showers and Flush Toilets •
- Sewage Dump Station •
- Picnic Shelters •
- Two Marinas •
- Slip Rentals •
- Gas Dock •
- Fish Cleaning Station •
- Boat Ramp •
- Boat Rentals •
- Canoe/Kayak Rentals •
- Hiking Trails •
- Arboretum •
- Prairie Dog Town •
- Hiking Trails •
- Swim Beach •
- Park Concession •
- Cross Country Ski Trails

Location: Three miles south of Garrison, ND – 1252A 41st Avenue NW, Garrison, ND 58540, ph. 701-337-5576, e-mail fssp@nd.gov.



Devils Lake, North Dakota's largest natural lake, is home to Grahams Island State Park, named after the first known white settler in the area, Captain Duncan Graham. The park offers camping and picnick-



ing facilities. There is a boat ramp, with access to the lake for fishing and other water sports, as well as a bait shop and gas facility. The park hosts numerous national and regional fishing tournaments during the year, and offers some of the best fishing in the midwest.

The Sivert Thompson Activities Center is available for rent and is an excellent facility for large group activities. It has seating for up to 180 people and is equipped with a wood-burning fireplace, indoor restroom, catering area and a large patio.

Nearby Attractions: Fort Totten State Historic Site • Sullys Hill National Game Preserve • Camp Grafton • Golf • Native American Crafts • Lake Region Snowmobile Trail • Historic Downtown • Lake Region Heritage Center

Facilities:

1,122 acres •
Camping • Electrical Hookups • Campsite Reservations • Showers and Flush Toilets • Sewage Dump Station • Picnic Shelters • Sivert Thompson Activities Center • Boat Ramp •



Bait Shop • Hiking Trails • Playground • Camping Cabins • Fish Cleaning Station

Location: Sixteen miles southwest of the city of Devils Lake – 152 S. Duncan Road, Devils Lake ND 58301, ph. 701-766-4015, e-mail dlsp@nd.gov

Icelandic State Park

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Situated on the north shore of Lake Renwick, camping, boating, swimming and fishing for northern pike and other game fish are popular activities at Icelandic State Park.



Within the park are the Pioneer Heritage Center and restored historic buildings, which provide a glimpse of North Dakota's homesteading heritage. An early homestead preserves the state's pioneer spirit.

The park includes the Gunlogson Nature Preserve, the state's first dedicated nature pre-

serve. This is a 200-acre natural wooded area along the Tongue River, providing a sanctuary for plants, birds and wildlife.

Nearby Attractions: Golf Course • Pembina Gorge • Pembina County Historical Museum • Pembina State Museum • Northeast Snowmobile Trail • Frostfire Mountain Ski Resort and Summer Musical • State Scenic Byway

Facilities: 912 acres • Camping • Electrical Hook-ups • Campsite Reservations • Showers and Flush Toilets • Sewage Dump Station • Picnic Shelter • Swim Beach

• Boat Ramp and Courtesy Dock • Fishing Dock • Sledding Hill • Hiking Trails • Paved Bike Path • Groomed Cross-Country Ski Trails • Seasonal Naturalist • Playground • Camping Cabins • Interpretive Center and Historic Buildings

Location: Five miles west of Cavalier on Highway 5 – 13571 Hwy. 5, Cavalier ND 58220, ph. 701-265-4561, e-mail isp@nd.gov.



Lake Metigoshe State Park

Nestled in the scenic Turtle Mountains along the U.S./Canadian border, Lake Metigoshe is one of the most popular year-round vacation spots in North Dakota.

The small lakes within the park provide opportunities for fishing, canoeing, boating and swimming. A multitude of trails attract hikers and mountain bikers. Winter brings snowmobilers, cross-country skiers, sledders and ice fishing enthusiasts. Three year-round cabins with kitchens, gas fireplaces and bathrooms along with a yurt can be rented by the night or week, and group dorms (cap. 120), kitchen and meeting facilities are also available.



Nearby Attractions: International Peace Garden & Music Camp • Camp Metigoshe • Downhill and Cross-Country Ski Areas • Peace Garden State Snowmobile Trail • Golf Courses • Turtle Mountains • J. Clark Salyer and Lords Lake National Wildlife Refuges • Rendezvous Region Scenic Byway.

Facilities: 1,551 acres • Camping • Electrical Hookups • Campsite Reservations • Showers and Flush Toilets • Sewage Dump Station • Picnic Shelters • Swim Beach • Boat Ramp and Fishing Dock • Hiking, Mountain Biking, Snowmobile and Groomed Cross-Country Ski Trails • Sledding Hill • Warming House • Canoe, Kayak, Snowshoe and Cross-Country Ski Rental • Naturalist and Year-round Outdoor Learning Center Programming • Playgrounds • Year-Round Cabins and Yurt Facilities • Group



Dorms, Kitchen and Meeting Facilities

Location: Sixteen miles northeast of Bottineau—#2 Lake Metigoshe State Park, Bottineau ND 58318, ph. 701-263-4651, e-mail lmssp@nd.gov.

Lake Sakakawea State Park

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On the south shore of Lake Sakakawea adjacent to Garrison Dam, Lake Sakakawea State Park offers a wide range of water-based recreational activities and facilities.

The park has a full-service marina, including convenience store, fishing guide services, and boat and camper storage. Boat ramps in the park offer deep water access to some of the best fishing on Lake Sakakawea. The park also features modern camping and picnicking facilities. Hikers enjoy a segment of the North Country National



Scenic Trail. Sleeping cabins are available for rent during the camping season.

Nearby Attractions: Garrison Dam and Fish Hatchery • Audubon National Wildlife Refuge • Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site • Coal Mine and Power Plant Tours • Golfing

Facilities: 1,293 acres • Camping • Electrical Hook-ups • Campsite Reservations • Showers and Flush Toilets • Sewage Dump Station • Picnic Shelters • Swim Beach (contact park for status) • Marina • Fish Cleaning Station • Boat Ramps • Hiking Trail • Camping Cabins • Visitor Center



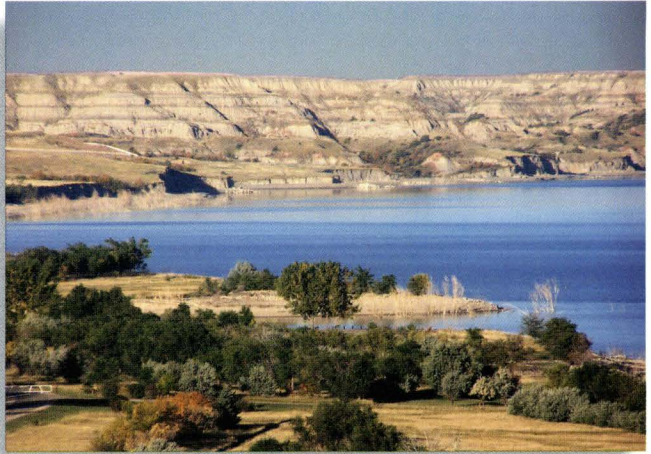
Location: A mile north of Pick City – Box 732, Riverdale, ND 58565, ph. 701-487-3315, e-mail lssp@nd.gov.

Lewis and Clark State Park

The towering buttes and rolling hills to Lake Sakakawea provide a rugged backdrop to this park, situated on one of the upper bays of Lake Sakakawea. **B**

Modern boating facilities, including marina with slip rentals and a boat ramp, are major attractions.

Anglers will find excellent fishing for walleye, sauger and northern pike. Visitors can become acquainted with the natural communities associated with the park by hiking a self-guided nature trail. Camping cabins with air conditioning, a microwave oven and coffee pot are available during the summer months.



There is a swimming area for campers near the cabins and a day-use beach at the south end of the park.

Nearby Attractions: Buffalo Trails Museum • Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site • Fort Buford State Historic Site • Golf Areas



Facilities: 490 acres • Camping • Electrical Hookups • Campsite Reservations • Showers and Flush Toilets • Sewage Dump Station • Picnic Shelters

• Marina • Fishing • Cleaning Station and Boat Ramp • Nature Trail • Camping Cabins.

Location: Nineteen miles southeast of Williston on Highway 1804–4904 119th Road NW, Epping, ND 58843, ph. 701-859-3071, e-mail lcp@nd.gov.

Little Missouri State Park

Little Missouri State Park contains some of the most rugged, picturesque Badlands terrain in the state.

Most of the park is accessible only by horseback or hiking. Numerous wildlife species frequent the park, including mule deer, coyote, fox, bobcat and golden eagle. Horse rentals and a guide service are located adjacent to the park. In addition, corals and well water are available for those bringing in their own horses to ride the 50 miles of trails. Use of certified weed-free feed is required.



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Nearby Attractions:

Theodore Roosevelt National Park (North Unit) • Lake Sakakawea • Killdeer Mountains • Killdeer Mountains Round-up Rodeo • Little Missouri State Scenic River (no access from park) • Killdeer Mountain Four Bears Scenic Byway.

Facilities: 4,592

acres • Camping • Electrical Hookups • Campsite/Corral Reservations • Vaulted Toilets • Picnic Shelters • Hiking and Horseback Trails • Corrals • Shower House.

Location: 17 miles north of Killdeer – c/o Cross Ranch State Park, 1403 River Road, Center, ND 58540, ph. 701-794-3731 or 701-764-5256 email crsp@nd.gov.

Sully Creek State Park

Located in the heart of the North Dakota Badlands, Sully Creek State Park is just minutes away from the historic town of Medora and Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

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In the early spring, canoeing/kayaking the Little Missouri River is a popular activity.

Corrals are provided for those bringing in their own horses. Horseback riders, mountain bikers and hikers have access to the 120-mile long Maah Daah Hey Trail, which traverses the Little Missouri National Grassland. Use of certified weed-free feed is required by horseback riders using the trail. For additional trail

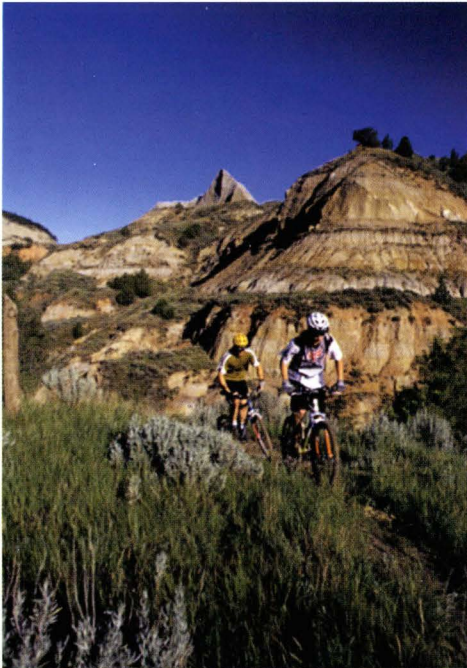


restrictions, contact the Dakota Prairie Grasslands, North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department or the National Park Service.

Nearby Attractions: Theodore Roosevelt National Park (South Unit) • Little Missouri National Grassland • Burning Coal Vein • Medora • Chateau de Mores State Historic Site • Little Missouri State Scenic River.

Facilities: 80 acres • Camping • Horse Corrals • Campsite/Corral Reservations • Canoe Access • Maah Daah Hey Trail Access • Shower House • RV Dump.

Location: Two and a half miles south of Medora—c/o Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park, 4480 Fort Lincoln Road, Mandan, ND 58554, ph. 701-667-6340 or 701-623-2024 email: falsp@nd.gov.



Turtle River State Park

Constructed in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps, this park is located in a beautiful, wooded valley along the meandering Turtle River. The park features year-round recreational activities, including camping, picnicking, hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing and sledding. Anglers can also practice their fly fishing techniques in the trout-stocked river.

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Perfect for weddings, family reunions and other group activities is the spacious Woodland Lodge, with its kitchen and dining hall. Sleeping cabins, equipped with bathrooms and bunkbeds (no cooking inside), can also be rented by groups or individuals during the summer. The upstairs of the Chalet/Warming House is also available to

rent for just about any type of group function. The CCC Memorial Shelter offers a picturesque setting and is popular for wedding and large group picnics.

Nearby Attractions:

Golf Course • Larimore Dam and Recreation Area • University of North Dakota • Grand Forks Air Force Base • Kelly's Slough National Wildlife Reserve • Prairie Chicken Management Area • Oakville Prairie.

Facilities: 784 acres •

Camping • Electrical Hookups • Campsite Reservations • Showers and Flush Toilets •

Sewage Dump Station • Hiking, Mountain Biking and Groomed Cross-Country Ski Trails • Paved Nature Trail • Outdoor Learning Center • Naturalist and Year-round Outdoor Learning Center Programming • Sledding Area • Playground • Warming House • Sleeping Cabins • Kitchen and Dining Hall • Visitor Center.

Location: Twenty miles west of Grand Forks on Highway #2 – 3084 Park Ave., Arvilla ND 58214, ph. 701-594-4445, e-mail trsp@nd.gov.



Pembina Gorge Recreation Area

The Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area is being developed in a way new to the state of North Dakota. The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department is implementing a multiuse trail system to accommodate the three classes of Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs): dirt bikes, four wheelers, and side by sides.

The most recent development is a 24-mile looped trail completed in the spring of 2013. It accommodates OHVs up to 60 inches wide.

More traditional, non-motorized trail opportunities are in the works as well. The Tetrault Woods State Forest, located south of Walhalla, is undergoing some trail enhancements which includes a floating bridge across a beaver pond and trail repairs to provide an unforgettable walk through the woods.

Other recreational opportunities in the Pembina Gorge area include hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, bird watching, primitive camping, wildlife viewing and canoeing/kayaking.

Location: OHV Trail is five miles west, a mile north, a mile west of Walhalla; Tetrault Woods is two miles south of Walhalla – 101 5th St. Walhalla, ND, 58282 Phone: 701-549-2444, email pgsra@nd.gov.



Indian Hills Recreation Area

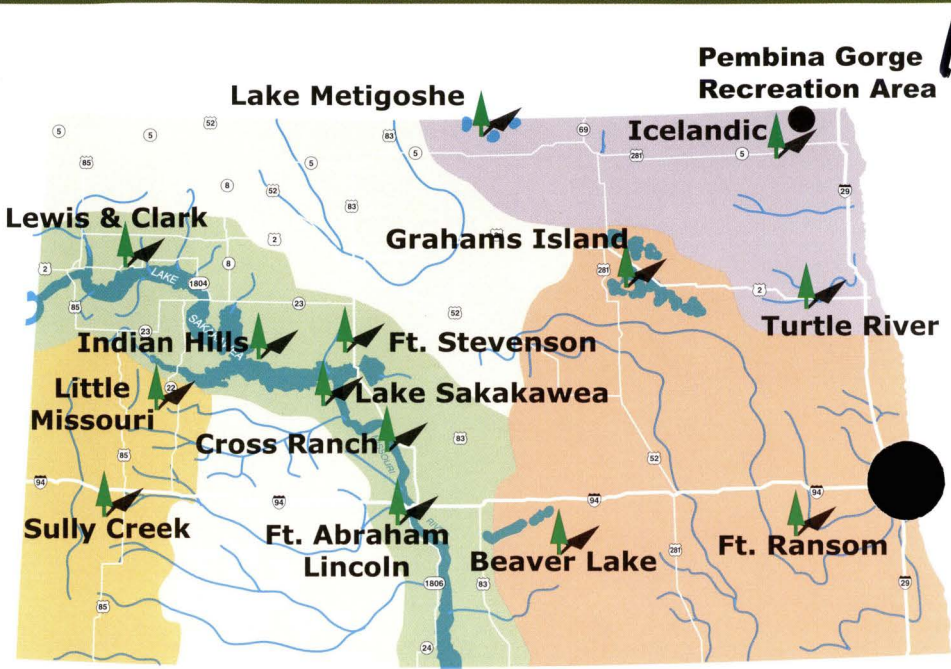
Indian Hills State Recreation Area and Resort is operated by a private lease. Amenities include camping, modern and primitive cabins, boat ramp, camp store, fishing guide service and hiking, mountain biking and birding trails.

Nearby Attraction: Broste Rock Museum • North Dakota Fishing Hall of Fame • Three Affiliated Tribes Museum • Casino • Golf and Swimming Areas.

Facilities: 80 acres • Camping • Electrical and Water Hookups • Showers • Sewage Dump Station • Fish Cleaning Station • Boat Ramp • Hiking and Biking Trails • Cabins • Picnic Shelter • Gas Dock • Overnight Docking.

Location: Thirty-one miles west of Garrison – 7276 14th Street SE, Garrison, ND 58540, ph. 701-743-4122, e-mail ksorge@btinet.net.

Parks locations and amenities



Campground

Park Amenities	Amenities																							
	Campsites	Group Campsites	Electricity	Electricity/Sewer hookups	Showers	Dump Station	Overnight Accommodations	Group Complex	Visitor Center	Historic Buildings	Indoor Meeting Facilities	Picnic Shelters	Playground	Swim Beach	Marina	Boat Ramp	Fishing	Canoe/Kayak Rentals	Hiking Trails	Bicycling Trails	Horseback Riding	Winter Activities	Concessions	
Beaver Lake	33	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓
Cross Ranch	70	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Fort Abraham Lincoln	96	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fort Ransom	36	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fort Stevenson	154	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Grahams Island	107	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Icelandic	161	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Lake Metigoshe	130	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Lake Sakakawea	192	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Lewis and Clark	83	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Little Missouri	30		✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Sully Creek	38	✓			✓	✓	✓												✓	✓	✓	✓		
Turtle River	100	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓			✓	✓

Winter Activities

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Most of North Dakota's state parks are open all year and provide an assortment of winter activities, including cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, sledding, ice-skating and ice fishing. Many of the parks have cross-country ski trails designed to challenge novice and advanced skiers. Snowshoers, while not allowed on groomed cross-country ski trails within the state parks, can blaze their own trails through undisturbed snow during the winter months.

The state also has 14 snowmobile trails, which cover over 3,400 miles of groomed and ungroomed trails. The snowmobile season runs from December 1 through April 1, providing the trails have a minimum base of four inches of packed snow.

Conditions for both snowmobile and cross-country ski trails are posted on the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department website, www.parkrec.nd.gov, or are available by calling the North Dakota Tourism Division at 1-800-HELLO ND.

Cross Country Skiing	Trail	Miles	Sled Hill	Ice Fish	Notes
Beaver Lake	●	5		●	
Cross Ranch 701-794-3731	MG	10			Ski/snowshoe rentals
Ft. Lincoln 701-667-6340	●	6.75			
Ft. Ransom 701-973-4331	MG	6.5			Warming house
Ft. Stevenson 701-337-5576	MG	3		●	
Grahams Island 701-766-4015	MG	3	●		
Icelandic 701-265-4561	MG	5	●	●	Interpretive center open
Lake Metigoshe 701-263-4651	MG	8.5	●	●	Ski/snowshoe rentals, warming house
Lake Sakakawea 701-487-3315	●	3	●	●	
Lewis and Clark 701-859-3071	MG	4		●	
Turtle River 701-594-4445	MG	7.5	●		Chalet/warming house

Marked

State Snowmobile Trails	Trail	Miles	Location (Info: 701-328-5357/www.parkrec.nd.gov)
Northeast (Pembina Gorge)	MG	417.5	Langdon, Walhalla, Cavalier, Edinburgh
Peace Garden	MG	190	Bottineau, Rolla
East Central Valley	MG	202	Cassellton, Fargo
Sheyenne Valley	MG	286	Jamestown, LaMoure, Ft. Ransom, Valley City, Oakes
Red River North	MG	151.5	Minto, Grafton
Red River South	MG	193	Grand Forks, Manvel, Fordville
Lake Region	MG	216	Devils Lake
Mayville-Portland	MG	74	Hatton, Portland, Mayville, Hillsboro
Missouri Valley	MG	213	Mandan, Bismarck, Linton
Sno-Trails	MG	351	Minot, Velva, Towner
North Central	MG	180	Rugby, Cando
Southern Valley	MG	136	Wahpeton, Mooreton
Cattrail	MG	103	Hope
Sargent County	MG	90	Gwinner

Groomed

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department
1600 East Century, Suite #3
Bismarck, ND 58503

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