

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

Press Release

For Immediate Release, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013

For more information, contact Icelandic State Park (701) 265-4561

State park annual vehicle pass unveiled at Icelandic State Park Christmas Open House

Icelandic State Park's annual Christmas Open House and Visitor Appreciation Day is Sunday, Nov. 24 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Pioneer Heritage Center. The 2014 North Dakota State Parks annual vehicle pass, showcasing the park's 50th anniversary, will be unveiled during the afternoon's activities.

This year's Christmas Open House theme is "Dakota December Dream," featuring items made locally in North Dakota. Live trees, donated by local growers, and artificial trees will be decorated by volunteers to showcase the state's Christmas spirit.

For years the North Eastern North Dakota Heritage Association (NENDHA) has exhibited "ethnic" trees representing ethnic groups settling in northeastern North Dakota. This year's selection represents Finland and the Finnish heritage.

A program begins at 2 p.m. with musical entertainment, ethnic performances and information on Finland. The annual park pass will be unveiled for the first time with the aid of North Dakota Parks and Recreation Director Mark Zimmerman. Santa is expected to stop by from 3 to 4 p.m. to provide some good cheer and photo opportunities. Traditional Finnish desserts and refreshments will help conclude activities.

Entrance to the park, including the program and exhibits at the Pioneer Heritage Center, will be free to the public since it is Icelandic State Park's annual Visitor Appreciation Day. For those unable to attend the Christmas Open House, the Pioneer Heritage Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. There will also be special viewing hours in the evening from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sundays. The Heritage Center will be closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas and will close at noon on Christmas Eve.

Icelandic State Park is located five and a half miles west of Cavalier on State Highway 5. To view the exhibit, use the park's main entrance (do not follow the construction detour signs which lead to the campground). Information about the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department and Icelandic State Park can be found online at www.parkrec.nd.gov or by calling the park at (701) 265-4561.