



Rec Connect

The quarterly newsletter of the Recreation Division of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department

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First Ever ND Trail Conference

To kick off the first Recreation Division quarterly newsletter, it is fitting that it includes some big news. The Recreation Division of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) has partnered with the North Dakota Recreation and Park Association to host the first ever ND Trails Conference, which will be held at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park, August 28 & 29, 2012. The one and a half day conference will provide ND trail users, managers and advocates with this first ever opportunity to connect with and learn from motorized and non-motorized trail leaders from across the state. Session information and registration information can be found at the [conference website](#).

2012-2016 OHV Program Strategic Plan Completed

Recently the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) completed its 2012-2016 Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Program Strategic Plan. The purpose of developing the plan was to determine key trends and needs for OHV enthusiasts and key stakeholders groups and to ensure Department efforts are addressing those needs. The plan was developed through surveys of registered OHV owners, stakeholders and interest groups. Key recommendations within the plan are in the areas of training and safety education, use area development and communication. Check out the completed [2012-2016 OHV Program Strategic Plan](#) to learn more.

Pembina Gorge Grand Opening & Fossil Dig

In 2012, the Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area (PGSRA) is evolving from a concept to reality as the first phase of the multiphase project was opened Memorial Day weekend and more projects move past development stage into actual trails on the ground. To celebrate this milestone, a ribbon cutting and official opening ceremony will take place at 10:00am on June 30th at the trailhead. Events will include brief comments from officials involved in all aspects of development from planning to construction, followed by a guided, motorized trail ride, and finishing up with lunch at the trail head. Currently the PGSRA offers a 12 mile looped multiuse trail with another 10-12 miles reaching the end of the planning stage and entering into construction around mid-July. For more information on future development, rules and regulations, or other interesting recreation opportunities, check out the [PGSRA website](#).

Other events in the near future include the 2012 Pembina Gorge Fossil Dig taking place July 7th-15th. Participants will have the opportunity to dig alongside paleontologists as they search through layers of rocks and soil deposited over 80 million years ago. Registration is required and there are limited spots per day, so register soon! For more information regarding the dig, refer to www.walhalland.org.

Hands-On OHV Safety Classes Continue to Grow

OHV safety certification classes have been growing this year with hands-on classes leading the way. One of the main reasons hands-on classes are gaining in popularity is that it's a great learning platform where kids learn how to safely operate OHV's, while driving OHV's and get to ride for 3 hours of the training. They learn proper turning techniques, quick stops and swerves, how to properly drive on hills

along with rider ethics and familiarization of the laws and regulations surrounding the activity.

Hands-on classes are now offered in Bismarck at the Missouri Valley Motorsports Park training facility, operated by Burleigh County, which was funded by a grant from NDPRD. Other hands-on classes are offered at select locations statewide. Online and classroom classes are also available statewide to get certified. Youth ages 12 to 16 are required to get an OHV certification if they want to operate OHVs. Go to www.parkrec.nd.gov or call 328-5348 to find out the OHV certification class schedule and pre preregister online.

NDPRD is always looking for new place to hold hands-on and other OHV safety programs. To bring these programs to your area, contact Matt Gardner at 328-5384 or msgardner@nd.gov.

North Dakota State Trail Guide Recognized

The [North Dakota State Trail Guide](#) was nominated for the Notable Documents ballot at the 2011 North Dakota Library Association annual conference. This program recognizes North Dakota state agency documents of exceptional quality and usefulness. The top three vote-getters are then forwarded to an American Library Association committee for potential national recognition.

Recently the national committee made their selections, which included the North Dakota State Trail Guide. The committee does not rank its choices. Selected documents are recognized via an [article in Library Journal](#), an industry publication with 17,000 institutional subscribers.

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