



Rec Connect

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

Volume 1 • Issue
2

September 25, 2012

New Off-Highway Vehicle Safety PSA Campaign

The Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) safety program is always looking for ways to reach the public with the Ride Safe Ride Smart safety message. This spring, the Recreation Division contracted with a film and production company to make a series of OHV safety public service announcements (PSA) to be aired on television and radio, as well as YouTube and in safety presentations. The purpose of the PSAs is to raise public awareness about how to operate OHVs safely and in an ethical manner. The titles of the PSAs are: "Stick To The Trail", "I Learned It In Class", "2 Are Better Than 1", "The Right Fit" and "Helmet Superman". The videos can be seen on the [North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's YouTube page](#) with a full media release planned for next spring. Please feel free to pass the PSAs on to friends and family and to share your thoughts with us.

Limiting Landowner Liability to Promote Outdoor Recreation

North Dakotans are blessed with wide open spaces and the ability to access both public and private property for a wide variety of recreational passions. This is possible, in part, because North Dakota has a limited landowner liability law ([N.D.C.C. 53-08](#)) which protects landowners and local governments by limiting the liability they may incur from public recreation on their property. While this law has been in place for a number of years, the 2011 Legislative Assembly took steps to strengthen the law, reaffirming support for ND's outdoor recreation system and ensuring strong landowner protections remain in place. Earlier this year the Recreation Division developed a new online brochure which explains the law and the recent changes to it. The new [Limited Landowner Liability Brochure](#) is intended to be used as an education tool for recreation stakeholders, the public and landowners as the state's outdoor recreation needs change and grow.

Pembina Gorge Development Continues

The newly established Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area (PGSRA) is just off the heels of a busy summer. A summer filled with a grand opening celebration, fossil digs and people enjoying the Pembina Gorge in ways not previously possible. With summer behind us, work has already begun on the second phase of trail development. Phase two will add approximately 12 more miles of trail to the existing system, creating a multi-use motorized trail system with diverse opportunities for riders of all skill levels. Completion of this phase is expected to be late fall. Layout for phase three, which is a 4 mile non-motorized trail, is also underway and is slated for completion in 2013. Phase three will serve the numerous hikers and horseback riders who flocked to the PGSRA this past year, providing even more diverse outdoor recreation opportunities. For more information, check out the [PGSRA website](#).

ND Scenic Byway Conference Draws Near

The 2012 North Dakota Scenic Byway Conference will take place October 8, 9 and 10 at the Seven Seas in Mandan, ND. Byway leaders from across the state will gather to share their knowledge with one another and to discuss the future of scenic byways in North Dakota. This year's conference will give byway leaders an opportunity to take a guided bus tour and experience an up close look at both the Sakakawea Scenic Byway and the Old Red Old Ten Scenic Byway.

The North Dakota Scenic Byway Program is administered through a cooperative effort between the North Dakota Department of Transportation and the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's Recreation Division. More information on [North Dakota's 10 Scenic Byways and Backways](#) can be found by visiting our website.

Pembina Gorge to host Pumpkin Fest Events

The Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area (PGSRA) is hosting several events for the 9th Annual Giant Pumpkin Festival in Walhalla on Saturday, September 29th. Events include:

- The Pumpkin Hunt in the Tetrault Woods State Forest, featuring has a new floating boardwalk and new log foot bridges for the public to enjoy.
- The Pumpkin Run ATV ride on the PGSRA trail system, which begins at 1 p.m. at the Trailhead.
- Scenic Pembina Gorge Helicopter Tours also departing from the Trailhead.

Visit the event website for more information: http://www.walhalland.org/new_images/pumpkinfest.gif

Scenic Byways and Fall Colors

Fall is a wonderful time of the year to get outside and explore North Dakota's ten designated scenic byways. Whether by car, by bike or on foot you will discover the unique personality and beauty of each byway. Even more, you will come to realize and appreciate the individual communities in and around these byways. When you simply hear the word autumn/fall it invokes the senses. From the sights and sounds of auburn red leaves blowing across the lawn to the smell and feel of the brisk morning air, there are endless moments where nature reminds us of its beauty. And so, if you are looking for something to do, check out the fall foliage along North Dakota's Scenic Byways, and when you are done with one, remember there are nine more scattered throughout the state that are worth visiting. More information on [North Dakota's 10 Scenic Byways and Backways](#) can be found by visiting our website.

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department
Recreation Division
1600 E. Century Avenue, Suite 3
Bismarck, ND 58503-0649

Ph 701.328.5357
Fax 701.328.5363
TTY Ph 800.366.6888
parkrec@nd.gov

www.parkrec.nd.gov



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