

DISCOVER

News About the North Dakota Parks And Recreation Department



Statistics & Facts

2006 Park Visitation

Visitation at North Dakota State Parks climbed 1.72 percent in 2006, compared to attendance in 2005. Total park visitation for 2006 was estimated at 940,113, compared to 924,209 in 2005. While slightly higher, park attendance was below the ten-year average, due in part to hot weather, fire bans and higher transportation costs.

Most popular parks last year were Fort Abraham Lincoln (123,587), Lake Sakakawea (115,573), Lake Metigoshe (105,185), Fort Stevenson (104,591), Grahams Island (104,385) and Icelandic (101,957).

Residents vacation at home

Nearly 73 percent of all State Park campers in 2006 were North Dakota residents, compared to 69 percent for in-state residents in 2005.

Use of State Park Campgrounds by Canadians grew in 2006 with 8 percent of all campers coming from across the border, primarily from Manitoba. In comparison, in 2005, 6.87 percent of all campers were from Canada. The increased use is attributed to better monetary exchange rates.

Out-of-state campers came from every state in the union. The largest numbers were from nearby midwestern states. Of all campers, here is a comparison of the top states/countries of origin:

North Dakota	72.63%
Canada	8.08%
Minnesota	6.63%
Wisconsin	1.72%
Montana	1.02%
South Dakota	0.75%
California	0.75%
Michigan	0.73%

Donations, gifts and endowments—

Opportunities in place to accept private donations supporting parks

Analysis of the 2006 state-wide and visitor surveys revealed park visitors and residents suggested the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department consider accepting gifts and donations. They further noted an endowment program should be initiated. This information was surprising since all of these programs are in place. That data clearly told us that, although the various options are developed, we have not aggressively provided regular awareness of their existence. This article begins that awareness and explains how you can help us benefit your park system.

Statutory authority allowing the department to accept donations, gifts, and bequests was provided in 1980. That legislation also created the authority to establish a "gift fund." The gift fund provides a donor the flexibility to direct a donation specifically to a park, program or to permit the gift for general, discretionary use. The choice rests with a donor.

Donations need not be limited solely to cash; gifts have included a variety of equipment for park use, various furnishings, services or materials and labor for a project. Each park maintains a list of needs in the event inquiries for a probable gift are made. Department-wide priority needs are maintained at the central office and those needs also may be directed for the same purposes noted above. Additionally, a priority list of facility needs and projects, by park, are on file. Donations can be directed to augment or create new educational programs and also may be directed toward natural resource work. An example of the latter items would be tree and shrub selection for landscape plantings, flower gardens or plants for use in natural landscape replacement.

Any gift can be directed to a specific park or to a special project (*a donor form can be found on page 2*). Dakota Explorers is an educational program focused at children visiting parks, en-

Donations-cont'd on page 12

Dedicated to the CCC—

Right, Civilian Conservation Corps veteran Ted Will and Park Manager Dan Schelske pose with "The Worker," a bronze statue to be unveiled at the Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park Visitor Center on Thursday, June 14, at 7 p.m. Will spearheaded a private fund drive to purchase the statue, which commemorates the work of the CCC during the 1930s in a number of North Dakota State Parks and other areas across the state. Below, Jim Beck lays stone for the statue plaza.



Director's News

The smell of spring has been in the air, a sign of new outdoor recreation opportunities. Spring brings forth another season, a new beginning. With the close of another biennial legislative session, we focus full energy on the arrival of visitors to the state park system. Included within this issue, a standard each spring, is the special event insert. Review it with close scrutiny and plan your summer and fall travel.



Director's Letter

I am pleased to report the budget just approved during the last session will afford us the opportunity to make some long overdue repairs and improvements. Budget approval permits us to take on new initiatives for the next two years. Of high priority to park visitors will be an on-line sales program allowing reservations of a majority of services and facilities, along with sales of permits, all at your home computer. Along with capital projects, the new budget affords enhanced resource management and replacement of aging and antiquated equipment. A surprise came roughly one month ago with federal funding for a marina at Fort Stevenson, through support of the Corps of Engineers. Coordination has already begun on that project.

In reality, a new budget is a new beginning. Another visitor season has begun and work is well underway to welcome the 2007 season. The approved budget components give staff the tools to continue their dedicated work serving you, the customer. You are an integral part of the success of the department. Your consistent use of the parks and volunteer efforts contribute to the viability of a quality state park system. Revenues from your use provide the funding source for operations costs. We are grateful for that support and mindful of fees for services threshold and will continue to seek your insight into maintaining a fair fee structure.

Even though the fee structure addresses expenses, inflation is a constant and accordingly, we are not able to offer all the different types of services or facilities our visitors request. If you have not read the cover story on gifts or donations you are encouraged to do so. Special gifts are always welcome to maintain and improve the integrity of your state park system. Gifts can be directed to a specific park, program or facility and are eligible tax deductions. If you have an idea for funding a program or facility, please give me a call, 701-328-5357.

The state parks are waiting for your arrival, come out and play. Enjoy 2007.

—Doug Prchal, Director



Jerry Grasl, right, is presented with the Cal Renner Award of Excellence by Director Doug Prchal

Grasl recipient of State Parks Cal Renner Award of Excellence

Jerry Grasl was the recipient of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's 2006 Cal Renner Award of Excellence. The award was presented to Grasl by North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department Director Doug Prchal during the department's May staff meeting.

The Cal Renner Award is the department's highest honor and recognizes individuals or groups whose long-term commitment to excellence has furthered the mission of the department, and benefited the state of North Dakota and their local community.

Grasl, the department's West District carpenter, was honored for his work on a variety of different park projects, including the remodeling of cabins at Lake Metigoshe, visitor center cabinetry and renovations of park shower facilities.

In making the nomination, Jesse Hanson, Planning and Natural Resources Division coordinator, commended Grasl for "his continuing example of excellence in public service."

"Jerry's excellence in workmanship, public relations and his work ethic provides safe, quality public facilities," Hanson added. "He is an excellent role model for our agency employees."

The award is named in honor of the late Cal Renner, who served as the department's carpenter from 1987-1996. His commitment to excellence year in and year out, combined with his ability to work with a variety of individuals, set an outstanding example for excellence.

Time to spare? Outdoor experiences available

Yes, those experiences would be at a state park. You may be who we are looking for. If outdoor work is of interest, state parks may have a part-time opportunity with flexible hours waiting for you. We are especially interested in retired folks who want to get back into the work force. There are plenty of opportunities available for 10, 20, 30 or 40 hour work weeks during the months of June through September.

If you are interested or know of someone who has expressed interest in temporary work, please contact the Bismarck office at 328-5357 or simply inquire at a state park near you. Ask for the park manager, they will visit about a variety of jobs to choose from with the option of flexible hours to fit your needs.

Gifts to Support North Dakota State Parks for Generations to Come

Name _____ Daytime Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Yes, please call me to discuss methods I may use to donate to North Dakota State Parks. I am interested in learning more about funding opportunities in the following areas—

No, do not contact me. However, I would like to donate \$ _____ to the State Parks Gift Fund to benefit the following state park or program area—

Clip & return to ND Parks & Recreation Department, 1600 East Century Avenue, Suite 3, Bismarck, ND 58503.



MISSION—Provide and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities through diverse parks and programs that conserve the state's natural diversity.

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 Camping reservations 800-807-4723
 www.parkrec.nd.gov

New Fort Stevenson marina in progress

The wait is over for development of a deep water marina facility in Garrison Bay on the west side of Fort Stevenson State Park. Notice was received in mid-March from Senator Byron Dorgan's Bismarck office that the Corps of Engineers (COE) has programmed funding and would be designing, bidding and supervising construction activity for the new marina.

"The Corps made a promise some time ago to complete this facility, and I am pleased they have followed through on it," Dorgan said. "Our recreation industry on Lake Sakakawea has suffered from the extended drought we are experiencing but this new marina will ensure that boaters and tourists have a base in Garrison Bay."

This announcement allows action to begin the four-to-five year effort of replacing the current marina on de Trobriand Bay, built in 1982 with assistance from the COE—a facility that has not functioned over half of its life due to low water levels of Lake Sakakawea. Since the March notice North Dakota Parks and Recreation staff, along with Garrison representatives and Riverdale Corps staff, met with the Omaha COE design team on April 11 in Bismarck. The purpose of that meeting was to review the planning completed in past years and set a timetable for completion of design, the bidding period and proposed date for start of construction.

"A significant amount of work had been done on the plans allowing a point of departure rather than starting anew," said Doug Prchal, director of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. "To have plans completed to the level they were allows much more expedient completion of construction plans leading

to bid and contract award in the fall of 2007."

The project scope consists of a rock-lined basin constructed to a depth of 1,790 feet to support a dock configuration for roughly 70 boats and includes a fuel and pump-out station. The boat ramp will remain outside the marina but the project scope includes a concrete pour to extend the ramp up to the parking lot elevation of 1,855 feet. A parking area, concession building, utility service, lights, and basin anchorage are included in the project. Based on final design and cost estimates, some of these latter items could be options in the bid. By compiling the bid document with this approach a bid award can be made toward a base facility rather than having to re-bid the project if costs come in above the budget.

Fort Stevenson State Park Manager Dick Messerly and Prchal felt the meeting with the Corps and other members resulted in a productive outcome. The permitting requirements of the project are on track and in sync and will not create any delays. All in attendance at the meeting recognized the need to maintain a work zone on the project such that access is maintained to the lake and that construction schedules need to work around the 2008 park event schedules so as not to interfere with public use of Fort Stevenson State Park. Both Prchal and Messerly said if all goes well, the opening of a new full-service marina should be realized in the spring of 2009.

Road repairs, campground work earmarked for '07-'08 construction

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department will start chipping away at a significant backlog of park road repairs in 2007. Over \$400,000 was appropriated during the 2007 legislative session for chip/seal, asphalt overlays and general repairs for Fort Stevenson, Lake Sakakawea, Beaver Lake and Devils Lake state parks. These road projects will be staggered between 2007 and 2008 to limit disruption for summer park visitors.

Lake Sakakawea and Fort Stevenson state parks both will see completion of campground water/electrical improvement projects in the fall of 2007. At Fort Stevenson, the second phase of a new campground loop includes installation of individual sewer hookups along with water/electrical for 15 additional sites in the new north loop. A much needed upgrade in electrical/water service in the Turtle River State Park campgrounds is scheduled to be bid out in late summer of 2007 with construction expected to commence either late in 2007 or early 2008.

Icelandic State Park will gain a 1,500 square foot addition to the park's Pioneer Heritage Center. The new wing will house exhibits on the natural history of northeastern North Dakota, along with an expanded theatre. The Northeastern North Dakota Heritage Association has committed to raise 25 percent of the project costs.

The department continues to move forward with design and construction of single track trails funded through the Federal Highway "Lewis and Clark

Legacy Trails" grant program. A five-mile single track trail is underway at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park and is expected to be ready for hikers, mountain bikers and horse riders by June 1. A five-mile trail at Fort Stevenson is designed and ready to be bid in early June with construction commencing in mid-summer. A two-mile, hard-surfaced, wheelchair accessible trail at Lewis and Clark State Park is scheduled for construction in late



Bitner Construction crews carve out a single track trail between Cavalry Square and the infantry post at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park. New park trails follow the land's contours to minimize erosion.



Construction

Ramps, shoreline fishing areas identified on Lake Sakakawea

by Jason Johnston, project manager, ND Parks & Recreation Dept.

Lake Sakakawea's predicted levels this winter were bleak at best, but Mother Nature has definitely helped turn that around. Although the lake still is bordering the all-time low levels much too closely, the predictions have gotten better with lake levels rising and maintaining levels above 1,809 feet MSL this summer in the latest predictions.

Once again the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department, state Game and Fish Department, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Riverdale have been working together to see which boat ramps would be ready and which ones would need work in order to provide access through the coming seasons.

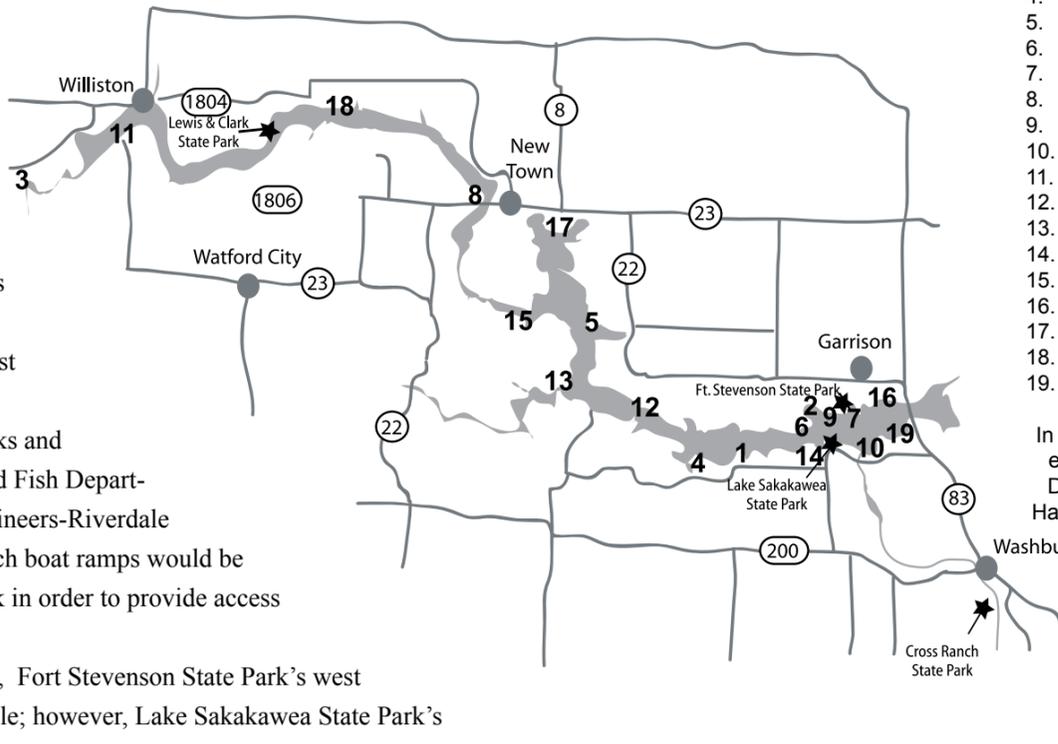
With the work completed in 2005, Fort Stevenson State Park's west ramp was not in question of being usable; however, Lake Sakakawea State Park's main ramp and Indian Hills were.

In 2005 plans were put in motion to construct a low water boat ramp on Fishing Point at Lake Sakakawea State Park. However, rising lake levels last spring allowed the park to continue to use its main ramp and construction of the Fishing Point ramp was put on hold. This winter those plans were once again brought out and readied for action; however, the lake levels have risen so no further action is needed at this time. Being Mother Nature likes to throw these changes at us so frequently, if the levels do proceed to drop and make the main ramp questionable for use, construction of the Fishing Point ramp will once again move forward.

Even with the lake levels rising, the ramps at Indian Hills were still not looking like they would be functional. So, to make sure access is available at Indian Hills, repair and extension of low water ramp #2 were completed this spring. Lake levels are being monitored in the event a third low water ramp needs to be installed at Indian Hills.

Unfortunately, the rising lake levels still haven't gotten to the point where Lewis and Clark State Park's ramps are fully functional. While water is lapping at the low water ramp, the levels only provide marginal access for personal water craft. Even though the ramps may not be usable for boat fishing you will still be able to walk out for shoreline fishing.

Currently, there are 19 functioning boat ramp access points on Lake Sakakawea. Depending on the lake's water levels, this number could climb.



1. Beulah Bay
2. Camp of the Cross
3. Confluence
4. Dakota Waters
5. Deepwater Bay
6. Douglas Bay
7. Fort Stevenson State Park
8. Four Bears
9. Garrison Creek
10. Government Bay
11. Highway 85 Bridge
12. Indian Hills
13. McKenzie Bay
14. Lake Sakakawea State Park
15. Skunk Bay
16. Sportsman's Centennial
17. Van Hook
18. White Earth Bay
19. Wolf Creek

In addition, the following areas were expected to be open by Memorial Day: Beaver Bay, Douglas Creek, Hazen Bay, New Town, Parshall Bay, Reunion Bay and Sanish Bay.

State and federal agencies have also identified an additional 18 areas (see list), in addition to boat ramp access points, where shoreline fishing is welcome. Boat ramp locations are shown on the map above.

For additional information on lake access on the Missouri River system, visit the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's web site at gf.nd.gov/boating/mo-riv-system-boatramps-status.html.

2007 Shoreline Fishing Access Areas

In addition to boat ramps, the following areas have been identified for shoreline fishing access points on Lake Sakakawea

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Government Bay | Tobacco Garden |
| Deadman's Bay (West Wolf Creek) | Skunk Creek Bay |
| Good Bear Bay (Indian Hills) | Beaver Creek |
| Fish & Camp Court | Pebble Beach |
| Deepwater Creek (low water ramp area) | Beulah Bay |
| Sanish Bay (Aftem Development) | Renner Bay |
| Four Bears | Long Creek |
| Reunion Bay | McKenzie Bay |
| White Earth Bay | |
| Little Beaver | |

Fire Season

Top, right—North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department fire crew members Dan Schelske and Eric Dietrich tend a "back burn line" on a controlled burn at Lake Sakakawea State Park this spring. Crews participate in controlled burns at all North Dakota state parks and attend several hours of fire certification training each year. Department staff are also part of North Dakota's multi-agency wildfire suppression teams and may be called out to help with wildfires outside of state park boundaries.



Bottom right—Lewis and Clark State Park Manager Al Larsen and Keith Orth, ranger at Lake Sakakawea State Park, complete the final lap in their fire training "pack test." In order to be certified to assist in wildfire suppression efforts, fire crew members must be able to carry a weighted pack for a specified distance within a set time. Weights, times and distances vary, depending on the crew member's responsibilities.



Lake Sakakawea/Missouri River water topic for interim study

The 17-member Legislative Council has selected slightly over 50 resolutions adopted during the last Legislative session for further study by interim legislative committees.

One of the studies selected that will be of particular interest is HCR 3044, a study of how the state might pursue additional uses of Lake Sakakawea and Missouri River waters for such beneficial purposes as domestic and industrial uses, recreation, fish and wildlife, and irrigation; and how the State might urge Congress to review the 1944 Flood Control Act and the way the Corps of Engineers manages the Missouri River system.

Additional information about interim study resolutions can be found on the Legislative Council's web site, www.legis.nd.gov.

2007 Summer Events



in North Dakota State Parks

If you are a North Dakota resident, there is likely a state park within an hour's drive from your front door. If you have been thinking about vacationing at home this summer, North Dakota's State Parks offer a bounty of opportunities for you and your family to enjoy... whether for just a day or a two-week stay. Use this guide to plan your visit, visit us online at www.parkrec.nd.gov, or give us a call for more information.

Beaver Lake State Park 17 miles southeast of Napoleon Ph. 701-452-2752

June 2 (10 a.m.) – National Trails Day. Join a park ranger for a guided 1.5 mile hike along the shores of Beaver Lake. Meet at the north picnic shelter at 10 a.m.



July 15 (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.) – 6th Annual Bull-head Fishing Tournament. Fishing starts at 9 a.m. with weigh-in at 4 p.m. Contact Beaver Lake State Park staff at 701-452-2752 for further details.

Sept 29 (10 a.m.) – National Public Lands Day. Volunteer to help make a difference on our public lands through various projects in Beaver Lake State Park.

Cross Ranch State Park 12 miles southeast of Hensler Ph. 701-794-3731

June 2 (10 a.m.)—National Trails Day. Enjoy hiking the trails at Cross Ranch on National Trails Day. Join a park interpreter at 10 a.m. for a guided hike following in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark.

June 15-17—North Dakota Star Party. Join the UND Astronomy Club in learning about the mysteries of the universe while at Cross Ranch State Park (additional fee charged for attending club programs).

June 22-23—Old Time Music Festival. Rollocking bluegrass and old-time music has made this music festival a hit for years. Talented national and regional musicians will perform at the park on Friday evening and Saturday, with open stage performances Sunday. Headline performances feature the nationally known bluegrass band, Art Stevenson and Highwater. Tickets can be purchased at the gate as either a single day or weekend pass. A tentative schedule of performers can be found on-line at www.parkrec.nd.gov.

July 14—Visitor Appreciation Day and The Nature Conservancy's 25th Anniversary Celebration. Free admission to the park to help The Nature Conservancy's Cross Ranch Nature Preserve celebrate its 25th anniversary.

July 27—Special Consensus Concert. Listen to great bluegrass music under the cottonwoods when this Chicago band returns to Cross Ranch State Park.

August 17-19—Lewis and Clark Weekend. A weekend to celebrate the achievements of Lewis and Clark on the 201st anniversary of the expedition's leaving North Dakota.

September 22—Wild Woman Girl Scout Event/National Hunting and Fishing Outdoor Skills Day. A day dedicated to the outdoor arts. The morning session is for members of Girl Scouts Dakota Horizons; everyone is welcome for the afternoon programs on fly-fishing, archery, GPS and more.

September 29—National Public Lands Day. Volunteer at the park to help make public lands more enjoyable. Meet at 2 p.m. at the River Peoples Visitor Center.

December 15, 1-4 p.m.—Holiday Trim-A-Tree. Join us as we celebrate the season in the traditional fashion of the early North Dakota pioneers.

7 miles south of Mandan
Ph. 701-667-6340

June 2 (10 a.m.)—National Trails Day. Take a two-mile hike with a park ranger on the new Lewis & Clark Legacy Trail.

June 8-9—Halloween in June. Come check out the campers, all decorated for Halloween. Prizes for the best decorated camper, kids' parade, trick or treating and more.

June 14-17 (10 a.m.-7 p.m.)—Fort Abraham Lincoln Festival. The Fort Lincoln Festival celebrates the 100th anniversary of Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park and the 25th Anniversary of the Fort Abraham Lincoln Foundation. This year's festival has many events planned, including a large military encampment, Native American presenters and craft demonstrators in the On-a-Slant Village, Fort Lincoln Road Race, outdoor Melodrama performance, with a boxed buffalo burger dinner, and NEW this year, many craft vendors featuring North Dakota products.

June 14 (7 p.m.)—Civilian Conservation Corps Statue Dedication. Join veterans of the Civilian Conservation Corps for the unveiling and dedication of a statue, "The Worker," in front of the Visitor Center.

June 16 (8 a.m.)—Fort Lincoln Road Race. This unique and scenic road race, held in conjunc-

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park



Happy 100th Anniversary

Fort Abraham Lincoln!

North Dakota's oldest state park, Fort Abraham Lincoln, is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. On March 2, 1907, the 75 acre military reservation was deeded to North Dakota by an act of Congress. Over the years, additional land was acquired, including the site of On-A-Slant Indian Village, and land for camping, picnicking and trails.

Make plans now to visit this historic park this summer. Take in any of the special weekend events, tour the visitor center, reconstructed cavalry and infantry buildings and earthlodges, or head for the campground. From now through Labor Day, visitor center hours are from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, with guided tours of the cavalry post and On-A-Slant Village on the half-hour. History passes, which include guided tours and admission to the Melodrama, are \$6/adults, \$4/students and under 6 free. Unlimited history passes are \$15/year for North Dakota State Park annual permit holders.

tion with the Fort Lincoln Festival, takes you on a path along the hills overlooking the Missouri and Heart rivers, an area once home to the Mandan Nation who were known for their strong runners. The race features both a 5K walk and run and a 10K run. Registration fee.

July 1 (1-4 p.m.)—Old Fashion Root Beer Social

July 8—Fort Abraham Lincoln History Symposium. Authors, scholars, and interpreters will fill this afternoon with informative, entertaining, and interesting bits and pieces of history about both the Mandan culture and life at Fort Abraham Lincoln. For times and information on speakers, check the Fort Abraham Lincoln Foundation's web site at www.fortlincoln.com.

July 21 & August 12—Frisbee Golf Tournament. Kids can test their Frisbee skills and win prizes, too. Meet at the Infantry Post. Frisbees will be provided.

July 22 & August 11—Kite Day. Kids, come fly kites atop the always windy Infantry Post hill. The first 25 youngsters who show up will receive a free Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park 100th anniversary kite.

August 18 (1-5 p.m.)—Sheheke Returns to On-A-Slant Village Festival. Sponsored by the Fort Abraham Lincoln Foundation and held at On-A-Slant Indian Village. For details, visit the foundation's web site, www.fortlincoln.com.

October 17 (7:30 p.m.)—Evening at On-A-Slant. An evening at On-A-Slant Village is brought to you by the Fort Abraham Lincoln Foundation. Come gather around the fire and learn about the history of the Mandan people, hear some Mandan stories, and enjoy native flute music.

October 19-20—Haunted Fort. Eerie guided tours of buildings on Cavalry Square. Not for the faint of heart!

December 8-9—Custer Christmas. Tours of the Custer House and barracks. Sleigh rides (weather permitting), carolers and family fun.

Fort Ransom State Park
2 miles north of Fort Ransom
Ph. 701-973-4331

June 2, 10 a.m.—National Trails Day. Hike with the park manager on a two hour hike on park trails.

July 14-15—Sodbuster Days. Celebration of early 20th century farm life with demonstrations of farming with horses, homemaking skills, music, farm-style food and more.

August 3-5—GTO Cruise. This event is the only one of its type in North Dakota devoted exclusively to the GTO and GTO owners. Vehicles of all ages and conditions will caravan from Valley City to the park. Call the park for additional information about the club and its activities.

August 12—Visitor Appreciation Day. Free entrance to park.

September 8-9—Fall Sodbuster Days. The fall event focuses on harvest techniques from the early 20th century.

September 29-30—Sheyenne Valley Arts and Crafts Association (SVACA) Fall Festival. 40th annual festival held in the town of Fort Ransom.

Fort Stevenson State Park

3 miles south of Garrison
Ph. 701-337-5576

June 2 (2 p.m.)—National Trail Day. Ranger-guided 1.5 mile hike through park's native prairie. North Dakota bird checklist available. Hike will start at the Guardhouse Interpretive Center (701-337-5576).

June 23-24 (1-4 p.m.)—Fort Stevenson Frontier Military Days. Living history demonstrations with military encampment and maneuvers. Skills and crafts of the Indian Wars period on display. Visit the Fort Stevenson Guardhouse Interpretive Center (701-337-5576).

June 24—Visitor Appreciation Day. Free admission into Fort Stevenson State Park (701-337-5576).

July 4 (At dusk)—July 4th Celebration. Fireworks display in the picnic area of the park (701-337-5576).

July 20-21—North Dakota Governor's Cup Fishing Derby. 252 teams competing for the Governor's Cup 32nd annual championship. Flights go out between 7 and 8:30 a.m. Weigh-ins begins at 3 p.m. (701-337-5576).

July 21 (9 a.m.-12 noon)—North Dakota Junior Governor's Cup Fishing Derby. Open to ages up to 17. Prizes awarded. Only charge is the park entrance fee. (701-337-5576)

August 4-11—CANDISC Bicycle Tour. "Plains to Mountains" route is a 430-mile loop tour that will cycle from the plains of the Missouri River to the Turtle Mountains of Lake Metigoshe. We will ride to the one-of-a-kind International Peace Garden, located on the U.S. and Canadian border. The Peace Garden is an inspiring botanical park commemorating peace between the United States and Canada. The tour will also feature the Geographic Center of North America (1-800-799-4242).

August 25—Beach Party. Garrison Chamber of Commerce Beach Party, live bands and entertainment, fun and food for all ages, '50s, '60s & '70s music. Early ticket sales discount (1-800-799-4242).

Mid-September—Garrison Fall Walleye Classic. Maximum 130 teams competing for top prize money (1-800-799-4242).

Grahams Island State Park

15 miles west then 5 miles south of Devils Lake
Ph. 701-766-4015

June 2 (10 a.m. & 2 p.m.)—National Trails Day. 1.5 mile guided hikes along the park's mowed trails with a discussion of nature in the park and the effect of high water on the island.

Icelandic State Park

5 miles west of Cavalier
Ph. 701-265-4561

June 2 (9:30 a.m. & 4 p.m.)—National Trails Day. Morning guided hike on the park's Bluebird Trail and an afternoon hike through the Gunlogson Nature Preserve.

June 17 (2 p.m.)—French Program/Open House.

Tuesday, June 19—Red River International Bike Tour. Overnight stop. For information about this new bike tour, visit their web site, www.rribt.com.

July 20-22—Christmas in July. Decorate your campsite, it's Christmas all over again!

August 10, 11, & 12—Kids' Weekend. An entire weekend totally devoted to kids with games, entertainment, contests, and lots of excitement.

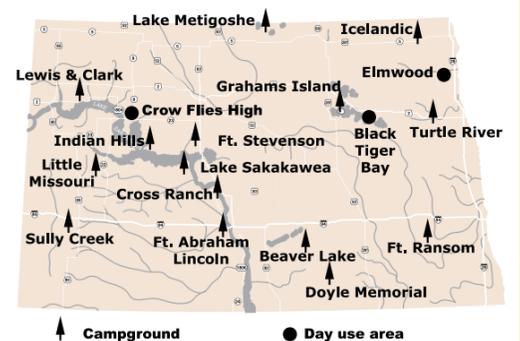
September 9—Pioneer Machinery Show. Machinery parade, threshing, tractor pull, kids' peddle pull, entertainment, displays, and breakfast. All located at the Pioneer Machinery Site (across the road from the park).

November 18—Christmas Open House/Visitor Appreciation Day. The Pioneer Heritage



Center will be decorated with trees, lights and a variety of Christmas displays. The ethnic theme this year will be French and a tree will be decorated with this theme. There will also be ethnic food, entertainment and Santa will be here too. This event is our annual Visitor Appreciation Day, vehicle entry fees are waived for the day.

North Dakota State Parks Facilities



	Campsites	Electrical	Reservations	Showers	Dump station	Cabins	Historic buildings	Swimming beach	Boat ramp	Horse trails	Boat rental
Beaver Lake	25	●	●	●	●	●		●	●		
Black Tiger Bay										●	
Cross Ranch	76	S	●	●	●	●			●		C
Doyle Memorial	6	●	●	●	●	●			●		
Ft. Abraham Lincoln	98	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	
Ft. Ransom	41	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	C
Ft. Stevenson	145	●	●	●	●	●	●	*	●		B
Grahams Island	106	●	●	●	●	●			●		B
Icelandic	159	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Indian Hills	63	●	●	●	●	●			●		
Lake Metigoshe	103	●	●	●	●	●		●	●		C
Lake Sakakawea	192	●	●	●	●	●		*	●		B
Lewis & Clark	73	●	●	●	●	●		*	●		
Little Missouri	30	●	P	●	●	●				●	
Sully Creek	33									●	
Turtle River	100	●	●	●	●	●	●				

Reservations: 800-807-4723; P - Call park directly.
Swimming beach: * - Beach closed due to low water.
Boat rental: C - canoes & kayaks; B - fishing boats.
Electrical: S - Sanger Campground only, restricted length.

Lake Metigoshe State Park

16 miles northeast of Bottineau

Ph. 701-263-4651

June 2 (7:30 p.m.)—National Trails Day.

Celebrate National Trails Day with a program on geocaching at the park's amphitheater.

June 9—Visitor Appreciation Day.

Enjoy free entrance into the state park to picnic, swim, hike and bike; camping fees still apply. Explore the natural areas of the park to birdwatch, canoe, hike or just find a quiet spot to relax. Stop at the large picnic shelter to get a free hot dog and visit with friends and park staff.

June 29-July 2—Independence Day Extravaganza. Celebrate Independence Day at Lake Metigoshe State Park. Activities include a bike parade, watermelon bowling and seed spitting contests for kids of all ages.

July 7-8—Annual Beach Olympics. Join in on some friendly competition with the shoreline activities we have planned for your time at the beach. Compete at Lake Metigoshe and your team may just take home the Gold!

July 14—Fire Awareness Day. Visit the park for various demonstrations and programs regarding fire equipment and safety.

July 27-29—2nd Annual Halloween in July.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to decorate their campsites, dress up in favorite Halloween costumes and go trick or treating. There will be a haunted house as well as mask making and trick or treating activities. Awards will be given away to the most ghoulish campsites and scariest trick or treaters.

August 10-12—Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Workshop. Come to the park to learn outdoor skills that may assist you in enhancing your outdoor experience at the 12th annual BOW Workshop. For additional information or to register, visit the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's web page, gf.nd.gov/education/instruction/outdoorswoman.html

September 1—Art in the Park. Kids of all ages are welcome to attend demonstrations and participate in hands-on arts & crafts at the park.

September 29—National Public Lands Day. Volunteers needed to help with various projects at the park. Projects may include tree planting, mulching, general park clean-up and other trail work.

Lake Sakakawea State Park

1 mile north of Pick City

Ph. 701-487-3315

June 2 (10 a.m.)—National Trails Day.

3-mile guided hike on the North Country National Scenic Trail with an interpreter-led discussion about the flora and fauna of the Missouri River breaks.

July 14—Boat Safety and Visitor Appreciation Day. Free park entrance. Special programs for kids include seminars on boat safety. Small boats furnished by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are used to teach the basics of boat operation safety.

August 24-25—Great Planers Salmon Derby. Join the Great Planers for their premiere salmon derby on Lake Sakakawea. Weigh-in schedules will be posted in the park and derby headquarters will be located at the park's special events shelter near the marina.

Lewis & Clark State Park

19 miles southeast of Williston



North Dakota State Parks mascot Roscoe Raccoon is always a hit with the kids when he visits the parks for children's activities, shown here with friends at Lake Sakakawea State Park in 2006.

State Parks Fees & Reservations

Fees collected by North Dakota's State Parks are crucial. All park revenue goes into a park operating fund that is used to pay for day-to-day operation of the park system, including utilities, fuel, seasonal salaries, vehicles and routine maintenance. Additional fees may be collected to help defray the costs of special services, events and other programs.

Entrance Fees

Daily vehicle entrance fee \$5
Annual vehicle entrance permit \$25

Senior Discount—ND residents 65 & older are eligible to purchase an annual park permit for \$20.

Disabled Veterans and POWs—ND veterans with a 100% service-related disability and former POWs are eligible for a free annual permit. All other ND veterans with service-related disabilities are eligible to purchase an annual permit for \$20. Requires VA letter showing proof of disability or status.

Camping Fees

(May 19-Sept. 30, 2006)

Site with electrical hookup \$14/night
Elec. & sewer site (Ft. Stevenson)..... \$19/night
Little Missouri/Cross Ranch site
with electrical hookup \$8/night
Site without electricity \$8/night
Little Missouri/Sully Creek site
without electricity \$5/night
Campsite reservation fee \$6/site

Miscellaneous Fees

Ft. Abraham Lincoln Interpretive Pass—A per person interpretive fee is collected at Ft. Abraham Lincoln State Park from those visiting the Custer House, On-A-Slant Village, and Visitor Center to help defray the cost of offering those services.

Adult daily interpretive pass \$6/day
Student daily interpretive pass \$4/day
Annual family interpretive pass \$15/year
(with purchase of annual park permit)

Horse Fees—Horses allowed at Ft. Ransom, Ft.

Abraham Lincoln, Sully Creek and Little Missouri. A per horse fee is charged, allowing use of corrals and trails. Use of certified weed-seed-free forage or feed is required and is available at each horse facility park.

Per horse \$5/day

Canoes & Kayaks—Available at Lake Metigoshe, Ft. Ransom and Cross Ranch. Additional fee for drop-off or pick-up service. Minimum 2-hour rental period.

Per canoe or kayak \$14/2-hours or \$40/day

Campsite Reservations (800-807-4723)

Campsite reservations are available from May 18 through Sept. 3 at 11 state parks by calling 800-807-4723. Ft. Ransom State Park has reserved sites available through Sept. 30. The camping fees and a non-refundable \$6/site reservation fee must be paid in full by credit card when the reservation is made. Annual and daily entrance fees will be collected at the park.

Campers who have made a reservation are permitted to arrive any time during their reservation period. This may result in some sites remaining empty. These sites have been paid for and the park is obligated to hold a reserved site until a cancellation is made. We thank you for your understanding when you see unoccupied reserved sites.

Additional information about campsite reservations can be found on-line at www.parkrec.nd.gov.

About half of the campsites in North Dakota State Parks are available by reservation, with additional sites on the reservation system on holiday weekends. All other campsites are available on a first come, first served basis.

Ph. 701-859-3071

June 2 (2 p.m.)—National Trails Day.

Participants will hike a portion of the park trail system, logging GPS coordinates of all trail junctions, rest sites and damaged areas. All are encouraged to bring a GPS and stay for brats and chips at the end of the event.

June 9 (10 a.m.)—Friends of Lewis & Clark State Park Picnic. Members of the park's Friends group are invited for entertainment and picnic. For information on joining the Friends of Lewis and Clark State Park, give Park Manager Al Larsen a call at 859-3071.

June 16 (10 a.m.)—North Dakota Quarter-horse Association Program. Program on horsemanship will be held in the park's amphitheater.

June 17—Visitor Appreciation Day. Free park entrance.

July 13-14—Christmas in July. Decorate your campsite to compete for prizes and have fun. There's also a rumored visit by S. Clause.

Turtle River State Park

22 miles west of Grand Forks

Ph. 701-594-4445

June 23—Turtle Fest & Visitor Apprecia-



Many of North Dakota's state parks host a Christmas in July celebration in their campgrounds, with prizes awarded for best decorated campsite and appearances by Santa.

tion Day. Join the Friends of Turtle River (FOTR) at their annual fundraiser. Activities include "Learn to Fish" for children (9 a.m.-noon); guided mountain bike tour (10-11 a.m.); geocaching seminar (11 a.m.-noon); children's arts and crafts (11 a.m.-2 p.m.); Prairie Day presentation (1-2 p.m.); Amphibians and Reptiles program with live snakes (2-3 p.m.); and a guided road bike tour (4-5 p.m.). Throughout the day there will be live music by a local bluegrass group, Too Old to Die Young; self-guided scavenger hunt; and bike and equipment display. A pig roast will be held from 11 a.m. until the pork is gone (\$7.50 for adults and \$5 for kids).

July 4 (1-4 p.m.)—Music in the Park. 22nd year with Dick King and the Classic Swing Band playing their Big Band tunes at the CCC Memorial Shelter.

June 2—National Trails Day State Park Events

National Trails Day will be celebrating its 15th anniversary on June 2. National Trails Day is a day to discover, to explore and to learn about trails. It is also a day to thank the countless agencies, organizations and volunteers that continuously work to maintain and develop our trail systems. In recognition of National Trails Day, several North Dakota state parks host Trails Day events.

Beaver Lake State Park—Join a ranger for a guided 1.5-mile hike along the shores of Beaver Lake. Meet at the north picnic shelter at 10 a.m.

Cross Ranch State Park—Join a Cross Ranch State Park interpreter and follow along in the footsteps of the Corps of Discovery. The 1.5 mile hike is along the scenic Missouri River. Learn about the history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and how it relates to the present. Meet at the River Peoples Visitor Center at 10 a.m.

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park—Take a 2-mile hike with a park ranger on the new Legacy Trail at the park, beginning at 10 a.m.

Fort Ransom State Park—Hikers should meet at the Bjone House Visitor Center at 10 a.m.. The park manager will lead a 2-hour hike on park trails. Bring along a water bottle and bug spray.

Fort Stevenson State Park—Ranger-guided 1.5 mile hike through park's native prairie. North Dakota bird checklist available. Hike will start at 2 p.m. at the Guardhouse Interpretive Center.

Grahams Island State Park—These 1.5 mile walks will be on mowed trails through the trees. We will be discussing the different types of nature and showing the history of the island along with what the high water of Devils Lake has done to the island. Meet at the park's bait shop at either 10 a.m. or 2 p.m.

Icelandic State Park—Hike a portion of our bluebird trail, beginning at 9:30 a.m.. The afternoon hike begins at 4 p.m. and will be on the Wildwood Trail in the Gunlogson Nature Preserve. American Hiking Society items and additional items will be awarded as door prizes.

Lake Metigoshe State Park—Meet at the campground amphitheater at 7:30 p.m. for a program on geocaching. There are several geocaches located at the park so bring your GPS units, or borrow one from the park.

Lake Sakakawea State Park—Meet at 10 a.m. for a guided 3-mile trail hike on the North Country National Scenic Trail with interpreter-led discussions on the flora/fauna of the Missouri River breaks. Snacks and drinks provided at the Visitor Center.

Lewis and Clark State Park—Walk in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark during this Trails Day event that begins at 2 p.m. Participants will hike a portion of the trail system, logging GPS coordinates of all trail junctions, rest sites and damaged areas. All are encouraged to bring a GPS and stay for brats and chips at the end of the event. Meet at the comfort station at Lewis and Clark State Park. Survey techniques Lewis and Clark used will be demonstrated and the mapped trail will be hiked. Soft drinks and light snacks will be provided. Bring gloves and mosquito repellent and an open mind.



Contacting us

Need more information? There's plenty of information on our web site, including a calendar of events, campfire program schedules, reservation confirmation link and park maps. If you cannot find the information you need, give us a call, zip out an e-mail or drop us a line.

**North Dakota Parks & Recreation
Department**

1600 E. Century Avenue, Suite 3, Bismarck, ND 58503
Ph. 701-328-5357, E-mail parkrec@nd.gov

**Web Site www.parkrec.nd.gov
Campsite Reservations 800-807-4723**

Beaver Lake State Park

(Also—Doyle Memorial Recreation Area information)
3850 70th Street SE, Wishek, ND 58595
Ph. 701-452-2752, E-mail blsp@nd.gov

Cross Ranch State Park

(Also—Little Missouri State Park information)
1403 River Road, Center, ND 58530
Ph. 701-794-3731, E-mail crsp@nd.gov

Ft. Abraham Lincoln State Park

(Also—Sully Creek State Park information)
4480 Ft. Lincoln Road, Mandan, ND 58554
Ph. 701-667-6340, E-mail falsp@nd.gov

Ft. Ransom State Park

5981 Walt Hjelle Parkway, Ft. Ransom, ND 58033
Ph. 701-973-4331, E-mail frsp@nd.gov

Ft. Stevenson State Park

(Also—Indian Hills Recreation Area information)
1252A 41st Avenue NW, Garrison, ND 58540
Ph. 701-337-5576, E-mail fssp@nd.gov

Grahams Island State Park

(Also—Black Tiger Bay SRA information)
152 S. Duncan Road, Devils Lake, ND 58301
Ph. 701-766-4015, E-mail dlspp@nd.gov

Icelandic State Park

13571 Highway 5, Cavalier, ND 58220
Ph. 701-265-4561, E-mail isp@nd.gov

Lake Metigoshe State Park

#2 Lake Metigoshe State Park, Bottineau, ND 58318
Ph. 701-263-4651, E-mail lmsp@nd.gov

Lake Sakakawea State Park

Box 732, Riverdale, ND 58565
Ph. 701-487-3315, E-mail lssp@nd.gov

Lewis & Clark State Park

(Also—Crow Flies High Scenic Overlook information)
4904 119th Road NW, Epping, ND 58843
Ph. 701-859-3071, E-mail lscsp@nd.gov

Turtle River State Park

(Also—Historic Elmwood information)
3084 Park Avenue, Arvilla, ND 58214
Ph. 701-594-4445, E-mail trsp@nd.gov

Recap of off-highway vehicle and snowmobile legislation this session

During the 2007 legislative session North Dakota lawmakers faced a number of topics, including snowmobile and Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) recreation. Here is a recap of what passed and what did not.

Passed

■ HB 1012 – Allows youth under sixteen years of age to legally participate in organized (OHV) sporting events without taking an OHV safety course.

■ HB 1362 - Allows the North Dakota snowmobile out-of-state public trails and lands access permit to be sold on-line and at businesses throughout the state.

■ HB 1445 – Allows OHVs to be driven on paved and non-paved roadways that have a speed limit of 55 miles per hour or less and allows Class III OHVs (larger off-road utility vehicles) to be driven on paved roads with a speed limit of 65 mph or less as long as the driver is at least 16 years old and has a valid driver's license.

■ HB 1465 – Requires dealers who sell motor-powered recreational vehicles to be registered with the state and any revenue generated from this to be used to enforce this provision in the ND Century Code.

Did Not Pass

■ HB 1423 – Would have lowered the legal riding age from twelve (12) years of age to eight (8) years of age subject to taking and passing an OHV safety course, parental supervision and a limit in the size of the vehicle they could ride. Bill failed in the Senate, 9-37.

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department will be incorporating these changes in the North Dakota Century Code when it reprints the 2007-2009 OHV and Snowmobile Safety booklets. Both books are due out in August.

Cross Ranch to host joint silver anniversary July 14

The Nature Conservancy's Cross Ranch Nature Preserve and North Dakota's Cross Ranch State Park will be celebrating 25 years of conservation July 14. A variety of individual and family activities are planned for the public throughout the day.

Through private contributions, The Nature Conservancy purchased the 5,593-acre Cross Ranch in 1982, donating a portion of the property for the creation of Cross Ranch State Park. Today, the preserve is open to the public for light recreation while cattle and bison are used as grassland management tools for the preservation of native prairie habitat. Cross Ranch State Park offers camping, hiking, cross-country ski trails, and canoe and kayak access to a rare stretch of free-flowing, undeveloped Missouri River.

Expansion of Icelandic Visitor Center approved

The 60th Legislative Assembly approved funding for expanding the Pioneer Heritage Center at Icelandic State Park. Funding for the construction of the existing building including the exhibits was provided fully by the Northeastern North Dakota Heritage Association, a private non-profit organization affiliated with the park since 1987. This expansion will continue in partnership with the state providing 75 percent of the funding and the association contributing the remaining 25 percent.

Conceptual components, yet to be formally designed, include a larger meeting facility, audio/visual room, traveling exhibit area, natural history exhibit room, added office area and update the heating and cooling system to geothermal. The original building plans contained many of these ideas but they were deferred back in 1988 due to cost and budget limitations. Through continued support by the Heritage Association, this plan for expansion was advanced by the department in the 2007-2009 budget.



Pioneer Heritage Center at Icelandic State Park.

“Approval of this project has a broader value than an improved facility for public education and enjoyment.” said State Parks Director Doug Prchal. “It energizes the association with the goal of continuing what they visioned roughly 20 years ago. We are blessed with this partnership and with a passion toward providing an interpretive story of the pioneer settlement of North Dakota, including the natural environment that sustained them.”

Planning for this facility will begin during the summer of 2007, fundraising will ensue by the Heritage Association and construction is expected during 2008. As more formal plans develop we will share those and also be better aware of a scheduled opening date.

Bad Bugs in Your Bundle?

A version of this story originally appeared in the April, 2006, issue of Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine, adopted with permission of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

For many people, a campfire is an important part of the camping experience. It's the family room of the campsite; a place where friends get together to share a laugh, cook meals and toast marshmallows.

But the firewood that fuels your campfire could also be transporting harmful insects and diseases to the forested areas in North Dakota including your favorite park or campground, and maybe even your own backyard or neighborhood.

Pests and diseases such as the gypsy moth, oak wilt, and emerald ash borer are a serious threat to North Dakota. These pests are easily spread through infested firewood. Although oak wilt and emerald ash borer have not yet been discovered in North Dakota, they still pose a serious threat. Emerald ash borer has already killed millions of ash trees in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Maryland, and Ontario, Canada.

Across North Dakota, campers are encouraged to take some simple steps to help ensure the healthy future of the state's parks and forests:

1. Leave firewood at home and purchase aged firewood near your campsite location. The parks offer firewood for sale at a reasonable price or private sellers will have it available just outside the park. This is especially important for any campers from Michigan where the emerald ash borer is established.
2. Don't leave any unused wood behind and don't take it with you to another destination.
3. When buying firewood, make sure you receive pieces that are dry and have either no bark or bark that is loose (a sign that the wood is very dry). Not only will this reduce the threat of spreading diseases, your fire will be easier to start.

For a copy of the emerald ash borer FAQ visit the North Dakota Department of Agriculture website, www.agdepartment.com/Programs/pp/EABNDDAflyer.pdf.

Prairie Rose State Games heads for Fargo

From July 13-15, an estimated 5,000 athletes will gather in Fargo to participate in the 21st annual Prairie Rose State Games. The Fargo Park District, along with many volunteers and organizations, will be hosting 32 events ranging from archery to wrestling. The Opening Ceremonies will be Friday night and include a family fun night with a free movie, pop and popcorn. For more information or to register, go to www.prairierose.org.

State survey underway for Outdoor Recreation Plan

In June the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department will be conducting a household recreation survey as part of the development process for the 2009-2013 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The survey will examine outdoor recreation pursuits in North Dakota and rank them in order of frequency of use. In addition, the survey will determine emerging trends in outdoor recreation.

This information will be used to develop the SCORP to better prepare the state for future funding needs and identify focus areas for recreation agencies. The plan is due to be completed in early January.

Legislature approves funding for on-line reservation system

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department received a \$165,000 appropriation in the 60th Legislative Session to implement an Online Management System. The system will provide web-based access to reserve department resources, including campsites, cabins, shelters, and meeting room facilities.

Approximately 73 percent of current reservation Call Center users expressed interest in the development of an online program. Plans are underway to work with the state's Information Technology Department to build an application for use by department staff, the general public and a Call Center vendor.

Department hosts Rocky Mountain Parks meeting

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department hosted the 2007 Rocky Mountain State Parks Executives Conference (RMSPEC) May 7-10 in Grand Forks. Attending were park personnel from eight western states and two Canadian provinces. Conference activities included tours of Turtle River and Icelandic state parks, and a trip into the Pembina Gorge in northeastern North Dakota.

RMSPEC member states include North and South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Nebraska, Utah and Colorado. Next spring's conference will be hosted by Utah State Parks.

Off-highway vehicle safety classes scheduled for summer

Summer is upon us and everyone wants to get outdoors and enjoy nature. There are so many different ways to enjoy the outdoors, from hiking to biking, fishing to swimming, camping to riding OHVs (Off-Highway Vehicles).

Riding OHVs, which include dirt bikes, ATVs and utility vehicles, is a growing activity in our great state and here are a few things you should know about them.

■ Helmets are required to be worn by anyone under the age of 18.

■ Anyone who operates an OHV on public property from the age of 12 to 16 is required to have in their possession either a valid North Dakota driver's license or permit, or an OHV safety course certification card obtained through the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department.

Classes are being offered throughout the summer and fall. Current classes scheduled are:

June 5—Linton

June 9—Walhalla

June 16—Mandan

June 8—Bismarck

June 11—Williston

June 19—Minot

More classes are yet to be scheduled. If you would like more information on classes, places to ride and regulations, please visit us at www.parkrec.nd.gov and click on "OHVs." If you have additional questions, would like to register for a class, or would like a class held in your area, please call 701-328-5357.

Staff positions filled

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department has announced the addition of three new people to fill open staff positions.

Michael Duerre has been hired as the Pembina Gorge trails manager. He will be based out of the North Dakota Forest Service Field Office in Walhalla, and will oversee the department's land holdings in the Pembina Gorge, along with the development of motorized and non-motorized recreation trails in the area. A Mandan native, Duerre has a degree in zoology from North Dakota State University. Prior to joining the department, he worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Most recently he worked for the department as a data manager in the Natural Resources Division.

Kevin Stankiewicz has joined the department as the new trails and byways coordina-



Kevin Stankiewicz

tor. Originally from Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, Stankiewicz is a 1996 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, with a degree in speech communications. He was previously employed as a cycling guide with Trek Travel in Madison and currently lives in Mandan. His responsibilities include management of the North Dakota Scenic Byways and Backways Program, along with overseeing the department's state trails development. He is based in the department's Bismarck office.

Shane Grove has been named maintenance supervisor at Turtle River State Park, Arvilla. Shane currently lives in East Grand Forks and brings varied experience, from equipment operator to general contractor. He has been to the Minnesota State Fire School in St. Cloud and is also an EMS First Responder.



Shane Grove

Winter Meeting Awards

Staff and volunteers were presented merit awards at the department's winter meeting. Recipients included **Joe Thrasher** and **Pat Thornburg**, for landscape beautification at Turtle River State Park;

Joe Hall, for his work on the Lake Sakakawea State Park Wheelchair Hunt; and **Nat Bornsen**, for his work with AmeriCorps while at Turtle River. Other recipients included **Larry Hagen** and **Dan Schelske**, firefighting support; **Maureen Trnka**, outstanding campfire programs; **John Tunge**, law enforcement training coordination; and **Steve Best**, for statistical data support. **Gerry Brennan** and **Laurie Narum** were honored for outstanding customer service at Little Missouri State Park.

Staff service awards went to **Carol Jorgenson** and **John Tunge** for 30 years of service; **Larry Hagen** and **Dorothy Streyle**, 25 years; **Donna Schouweiler**, 20 years; **Jerry Grasl** and **Trevor Retterath**, 10 years; and **Emily Gullicks** and **Arik Spencer**, 5 years.

Jack Brown Award

Karen Assel, assistant field manager, received the Jack Brown Award of Excellence at last summer's Prairie Rose State Games in Bismarck. Assel was the program coordinator for the first State Games in 1987. The award is presented annually to a volunteer who has made major contributions to the continuation of the Games.

Tourism Award

The department's public information coordinator, **Donna Schouweiler**, was the recipient of the Governor's Travel and Tourism Award in the behind the scenes tourism employee category. The award was one of seven presented in Fargo at the North Dakota Tourism Conference in late



Briefly

Endowments can be made to North Dakota Community Foundation

abling them to gain stewardship lessons as well as learning and experiencing the outdoors. Donations toward this program aid staff in expanding and enhancing this program for kids.

All donations are tax-deductible contributions whether cash, equipment and services, or materials and labor. The department provides a formal letter to acknowledge each gift, and notes the donation value and purpose for documentation and tax records. The 2007 Legislature approved and Governor Hoeven has signed into law Senate Bill 2363. This law allows for generous tax credits for individuals and businesses who give specific types of gifts to North Dakota charities.

Individuals must make a qualified deferred gift to a qualified North Dakota charity. The tax credit is 40 percent of the charitable deduction allowed by the IRS up to a maximum of \$10,000 per year per taxpayer or \$20,000/year per couple filing jointly. The credit may be carried forward for three additional tax years if it cannot all be used in one year.

Although the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department can accept gifts and those gifts meet tax deductible criteria, the department is not a non-profit. However, the North Dakota Community Foundation and all of its component funds are considered qualified charities. The department has a number of accounts on file with the Community Foundation for the reason of meeting qualifications and that also affords local friend groups the 501c status.

For example, a couple enters into a \$200,000 charitable gift annuity agreement with the North Dakota Community Foundation (NDCF) for a directed gift to a specific park. The IRS allows them to deduct \$100,000 from their federal taxable income as a charitable gift. The couple would qualify for a \$40,000 ND income tax credit. They could take up to four years to take the credit against their ND income tax liability. The credit is limited to the amount of their income tax liability.

Businesses (C corporations, S corporations, estates, limited liability companies and trusts) that pay ND income tax may take a 40 percent credit for gifts to the qualified endowment fund of a qualified North Dakota charity. All of NDCF's endowment funds are qualified under this law.

These are incredible incentives on top of already great charitable income tax deductions and really offer a great benefit for gifts to the North Dakota Community Foundation to be held for a favorite state park or park program that benefit a donor, park and department.

Endowment funds have been established with four state park Friends groups to support the maintenance and operation of programs and facilities those groups were instrumental in creating with the respective parks. Two of the funds are held by the North Dakota Community Foundation with others in the works. An endowment brochure, "Investing in the Future," was created in 2004 and mailed to financial planners, CPAs and attorneys across the state to alert those professionals of the ability of the department to accept gifts, bequests and donations as individuals and organizations are doing estate or financial planning. A copy of that brochure can be mailed by calling our Bismarck office.

Because of their non-profit status, the Community Foundation has been a partner with ND Parks and Recreation since the state's centennial in 1989. The North Dakota Community Foundation provides a secure charitable structure outside of state government to hold assets and provide grants for state park projects, activities, etc.

Many opportunities are waiting in the state park system to be accomplished through trusts, donations or endowments. Consider helping create a legacy in the state parks you enjoy by "Investing in the Future." For more information you can contact us at 701-328-5357 or you can also reach the ND Community Foundation by calling 701-222-8349.

Nothing in this article is intended to provide legal or tax advice, please consult your professional tax advisor for specific information for your situation.

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Turtle River State Park Visitor Center opens for summer season

Above—Visitors tour the new Visitor Center nearing completion at Turtle River State Park, Arvilla. The building, designed to replicate the stone and log structures already in the park that were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, will house park offices. Interpretive exhibits about the accomplishments of the CCC in eastern North Dakota will be installed later this summer. The project was funded through a 50/50 matching Transportation Enhancement grant from the Federal Highway Administration, which is administered by the North Dakota Department of Transportation.

Just for Kids Answers, from page 11—

Things to Bring Camping Word Scramble: How is it that one careless match can start a forest fire but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?
Campfire Capers Crossword: 1. Bugspray, 2. Burgers, 3. Charcoal, 4. Hiking, 5. Lantern, 6. Biking, 7. Campfire, 8. Matches, 9. Tent, 10. Camper, 11. Mosquitoes, 12. Grill, 13. Holidogs.

