

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Grahams Island road raise gets underway**

#### **Main boat ramp will also be raised**

Construction to raise the road leading to Grahams Island State Park six feet is underway and visitors to the park should expect some delays going in and out of the park.

With Devils Lake reaching record levels and threatening to over top a five-mile stretch of the Grahams Island road the North Dakota state legislature approve raising the road from 1455 feet above sea level to 1461. Ames Construction was awarded the contract based on its bid of just over \$15 million for the project. The federal government is providing \$12.3 million of the construction funding with the North Dakota legislature providing state match of \$2.8 million. Benson County is contributing \$50,000 and the city of Devils Lake also is contributing \$50,000 of local match.

Construction will start on the west side of the road coming from Grahams Island through the water zone. The lane will be widened, raised some and graveled for traffic. The work will then move to the east lane to raise it to grade and finally the west lane will be raised to the level of 1461.

Initially, only short delays are expected with traffic directed by flaggers. Later, pilot cars will guide travelers through the construction area. Truck traffic will increase as the project proceeds as they haul fill, riprap and gravel.

On Monday, Sept. 19, the main boat ramp will be closed and construction will start to raise the ramp from 1454 to 1458. A temporary boat launch will be located near the park's primitive campground. Depending on weather conditions and contractor progress the main ramp may be closed for the rest of the season.

Updates on construction progress on the road and ramp can be found on the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department website at [www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov) or by calling Grahams Island State Park at 701-766-4015.