

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

NEWS RELEASE

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NDPRD initiates free annual pass for veterans with disability

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) is now offering a free annual State Park Vehicle Pass available to all United States military veterans and current personnel with proof of a 50 percent disability or greater. This is in recognition for the service U.S. military personnel, past and present, have provided the nation.

“It is important that we continue to find ways to recognize the efforts and sacrifice of those who put our country first by serving in the armed services,” NDPRD Director Mark Zimmerman says. “Those with military disabilities have often gone above and beyond what’s expected and by offering them free access to North Dakota State Parks we’re attempting to say ‘thank you.’”

The initiative to provide the free passes came at the request of the Professional Veterans Advocates of North Dakota. This is a non-profit association that provides services to more than 60 percent of the state’s veterans.

To receive the free annual pass, based on a 50 percent disability as allowed by the U.S. Veteran’s Administration, a letter of disability needs to be presented. Annual passes are available at all state parks and the NDPRD headquarters in Bismarck.

Prior, the NDPRD offered the free annual pass to military personnel and veterans with 100 percent disability. All military personnel with a lesser disability rating received a \$5 discount on the \$25 annual vehicle pass. The \$5 discount will remain in effect for those with less than a 50 percent disability.

On Memorial Day, May 28, all military veterans and current personnel are admitted to North Dakota’s 13 state parks free of charge.

Information on the state parks and North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department can be found online at www.parkrec.nd.gov or by calling 701-328-5357. Reservations can be made online or by calling 800-807-4723.