

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

NEWS RELEASE

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For more information, contact Gordon Weixel at (701) 328-5357.

Veterans, military personnel admitted to state parks free on Memorial Day

North Dakota's state parks are off to a record setting pace in visitation in 2012 and are preparing for the first three-day weekend of the camping season with Memorial Day quickly approaching.

In honor of the United States Armed Services, military veterans and current personnel are admitted free to any North Dakota State Park on Memorial Day in recognition of their contributions to the country.

It is expected to be a busy weekend at most North Dakota State Parks with events and activities planned for the unofficial start of summer. There are still some campsites available through reservation, but Fort Stevenson, Lake Sakakawea and Lewis and Clark state parks have only first-come first-serve sites remaining and Icelandic, Grahams Island and Beaver Lake have only a few reserve sites left.

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park's campground remains closed for repairs, but is expected to open the first weekend in June. The rest of the park including Cavalry Square, On-A-Slant Village and the post's Blockhouses are currently open to the public.

Fort Stevenson State Park is holding its annual "Sky Dance Sakakawea" on May 26-28. This event is a kite flying festival for all ages.

Official opening of state park full services is this weekend (May 18-20) coinciding with Canada's Victoria Day. Most state parks have been offering full services for the past few weeks because of the beautiful spring weather North Dakota is experiencing and the high interest in camping. Parks on the state's northern tier – Icelandic, Lake Metigoshe and Turtle River – are expecting a number of Canadian visitors this weekend.

More 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.