

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

## **NEWS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release, Friday, Oct. 12, 2012*

*For more information, Gordon Weixel, 701-328-5358*

### **ND state parks continue to see good visitation**

Through the third quarter of 2012, North Dakota State Parks came up just short of a million visitors, but will exceed the million visitor mark for the fourth consecutive year by the end of 2012.

Through September, there were 999,573 visitors to North Dakota's state parks, up 13 percent from last year. A continued mild fall and early winter could see up to 100,000 more visitors by the year's end.

"North Dakota is bucking the trend being seen in other state parks throughout the nation. Instead of having to cut services or even close parks, we're looking at how the parks can better serve their customers," says Mark Zimmerman, North Dakota Parks and Recreation Director. "We raised the flood threatened road leading to Grahams Island State Park on Devils Lake and are now constructing 48 new campsites on Grahams Island which will open next year. The NDPRD is looking to expand facilities at Lewis and Clark State Park and is in the process of developing a master plan for Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park, to name just a few of the things we're looking at currently."

North Dakota State Parks have reduced some services with the end of the regular camping season, but the parks, campsites and year round cabins remain available to the public throughout the winter. During the off-season those planning a visit should call the park directly to find out what is available.

Information on North Dakota's state parks can be found online at [www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov).