

DISCOVER



NORTH DAKOTA PARKS AND RECREATION NEWS

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 2 WWW.PARKREC.ND.GOV FALL/WINTER 2013

Pass features Icelandic anniversary

Icelandic State Park is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2014 and to mark the occasion the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department is featuring the park on the 2014 annual vehicle permit which was available Nov. 1, 2013 and remains valid until May 1, 2015.

Icelandic State Park was created following the completion of Renwick Dam and creation of Lake Renwick just west of Cavalier, ND. The Pembina County Water Management Board deeded the land to the state for creation of a park and through the generosity of G.B. Gunlogson and his sister Loa, an additional 200 acres was acquired when they donated 200 acres of their family's homestead.



The park provides visitors with a variety of activities to partake. It features one of the state's finest swimming beaches,

a unique nature preserve to explore, a bevy of historic buildings, and a beautiful visitor/interpretive center dedicated to northeastern North Dakota's pioneers. Immigrants from 22 European countries settled in northeastern North Dakota, including the Icelanders, for whom the park was named. Boating and fishing for northern pike and other game fish are popular activities.

Icelandic State Park is located five miles west of Cavalier, ND on Highway 5. Visitors are first greeted by the beautiful Pioneer Heritage Center which also acts as the park's visitor center.

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Library park pass program is extended state wide

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) in association with the State Library announced the expansion of the Library Loan Program, allowing library patrons to "check out" a pass providing entrance to any State Park, effectively waiving the \$5 daily pass fee.

"This is part of our continuing mission to introduce people to the outdoors and enjoy North Dakota State Parks," says NDPRD Director Mark Zimmerman.

"There is so much to see and do at the state parks and the 'park pass' makes it easier for everyone to get out and visit some of North Dakota's best places."

The Library Loan program was first instituted in May of 2011, involving the 11 public libraries belonging to the Central Dakota Library Network (CDLN). The passes were a hit among CDLN patrons and the decision was made to offer it statewide starting this

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FALSP Manager Dan Schelske, NDPRD mascot Roscoe the Raccoon, CDLN's Christine Kujawa and the State Library's Kristin Byram announced the program's expansion.

News from the director

NDPRD is looking for people wanting to share their park experiences

Since the establishment of the state's first park, Fort Abraham Lincoln, the system has grown to include 13 parks and several recreation areas as diverse as the landscape of North Dakota and interests of the people who visit the parks and recreation areas. Throughout the years the mission has remained steadfast-- to provide an outdoor experience that is enjoyable, safe and worthy of the support of the citizens of our state and its visitors and protect the natural, cultural and historic value of these "special" places in North Dakota.

I treasure my childhood memories of picnics at the triple shelter and running in and out of the earth lodges at On A Slant Village at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park. I truly thought Fort Abraham Lincoln was a great place to explore—which it still is! I trust each of us has those memories of their favorite park or a special event or favorite story of that park.

As the Department plans a celebration worthy of a golden anniversary, we are asking you to help with the sharing of your memories. North Dakota Parks and Recreation is looking for photos, maybe even some 8mm film, of your time at state parks. Maybe you have a favorite story or tale to tell of a camping adventure at a park, or maybe you have a favorite souvenir from a visit to a park you would share with us and the public. For those that have photos or a story they would like to share with the NDPRD, please email us the information at parkrec@nd.gov. If you are unable to email the



**NDPRD
Director
Mark
Zimmerman**

stories and/or photos, they can be mailed to 1600 E. Century Ave., Suite #3, Bismarck, ND 58503. The NDPRD will do everything it can to preserve the photos and return them to their owners, but accidents do happen and the NDPRD cannot take responsibility for these articles. The NDPRD would prefer that any photos be scanned and emailed in digital form.

North Dakota enjoys a first class Parks and Recreation Department. Fifty years is a good milestone to pause and celebrate but also to plan for the next 50 years. Your memories and comments will be a valuable part of these efforts and I

look forward to hearing from you.

I would be negligent if I did not mention the great outdoor opportunities that lay ahead in the upcoming winter months. Get out and ski, snowshoe and hike at any of the parks in the coming weeks and months. For the hardy souls among us, spend a night or weekend winter camping. For others maybe a yurt or cabin at several of the parks is more appealing. Consider a trek to the recently opened back-country cabin at Lake Metigoshe State Park—Osprey Cabin. Check out the Department's website at: www.parkrec.nd.gov for complete information.



For the first time in a decade a sailboat regatta returned to Lake Sakakawea. The Fort Steveson Sailboat Regatta took place Aug. 24, but light winds kept most boats from finishing the course.

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Changes to be aware of in 2014

State park patrons can expect some changes to operations in 2014, so here's a look at what to expect.

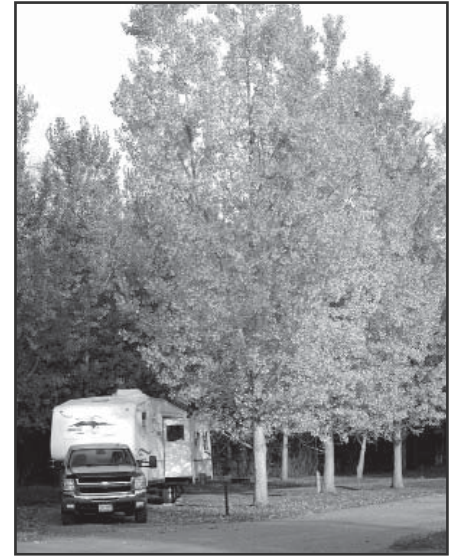
- The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department is contracting with a new call center, Customer Contact Services, to take campsite and cabin reservations. The toll-free number is the same, 1-800-807-4723, but hours of operation have changed from 24 hours a day/seven days a week to 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Central Time, daily.

- The 95-day advance window to reserve campsites for 2014 opens at 7 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11. Reserved campsites are available at 11 state parks and may be booked online at www.parkrec.gov or through the toll-free number.

- Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park and Lake Metigoshe State Park will begin testing a pilot program for 100 percent of these parks' campsites to be reserved in 2014. The pilot program is being conducted to address the high demand for campsites in these two parks. All campsites at these parks must be reserved either online or through the call center. Once the reservation window has passed -- noon the day prior to arrival -- any vacant campsites are available on a first come-first serve basis. Customers must arrive at the park with their camping unit to occupy a first come-first serve campsite.

- The department is increasing

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Campers will see a slight increase in rates for full-service campsites.

Planning is underway for NDPRD's 50th anniversary celebration in 2015

In 2015 the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department is marking its 50th anniversary, and while the festivities are over a year away, the NDPRD's 50th Anniversary Committee is hard at work planning the details for what should prove to be a memorable celebration.

Grahams Island State Park Manager Henry Duray and Assistant Field Manager Karen Assel are co-chairs of the committee which is drawing upon the varied talents of NDPRD staff and a few select non-staff members including former NDPRD Director Doug Prchal, graphic artist Keely Hagen and writer Marc Conrad. The committee meets on a regular basis, making significant progress in several areas.

"We've enlisted the help of a lot of people in preparing for the anniversary celebration," says NDPRD Director Mark Zimmerman. "We appear to be on track, but there is a lot of work yet to be done and we want to make this an anniversary celebration that people will want to participate in and remember for years to come."

There are several facets to the anniversary celebration including: an

updated history of the NDPRD as researched by Conrad; a 50th anniversary logo; archiving of department photos; search, documentation and storage of agency related artifacts; a traveling exhibit; anniversary merchandise; contests; promotion; tree plantings; and statewide events in the parks.

In the months to come the committee will begin looking on what items will be displayed in the traveling exhibit along with how the outside of the trailer carrying the exhibits will look. Hopes are the traveling exhibit will make its first appearance at the 2014 North Dakota State Fair scheduled for late July.

Natural Resources Coordinator Kathy Dutenhefner is coordinating the efforts to plant 50 trees and shrubs at each of the state parks to mark the anniversary. She feels the plants used should be native to North Dakota and is in the process of finding areas in each park for the plantings.

Lake Metigoshe State Park Interpreter Amy Schimetz is developing ideas for events at the parks as well as contests in which park visitors and campers can participate. Schimetz is also working on

digital presentations which the NDPRD and parks can use to promote the anniversary.

The NDPRD is working with Horizons magazine in putting out a calendar for 2015, in which each month will feature photos of North Dakota's state parks.

Account and budget specialist Kathy Renner is developing merchandise marking the anniversary and will be available to the public. Some of the merchandise will be "giveaways" while others will be sold through the parks and other outlets.

NDPRD Director Mark Zimmerman, Division Manager Jesse Hanson and Field Manager Brad Pozarnsky are looking at "legacy projects." These are likely to be larger, construction-type of projects which will mark the NDPRD's anniversary for years to come.

More information about the anniversary and the events being planned will be released as the details are firmed up. The NDPRD is working on a website that will provide information and hopes it will be up and running later in 2014.

Awards galore in 2013

NDPRD recognizes the very best...!

Jorgenson receives department's highest award

The Cal Renner Award of Excellence is the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's highest honor recognizing any individual, group or business whose efforts have contributed substantially to furthering the goals of the department.

The 2013 recipient is long-time employee Carol Jorgenson, an administrative officer who has been the NDPRD's "go-to" person when it comes to fiscal management.

"In reading the qualities of Cal Renner one can easily replace his name with Carol's," says Icelandic State Park Manager Justin Robinson. "She strives for excellence, is highly organized and has the ability to work with a wide variety of individuals. Carol is the silent partner, the back bone of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department."

The NDPRD's computer and network specialist, Eric Godel, was quick to realize Jorgenson's importance to the agency even though he only joined the NDPRD six months previously.

"She knows much of the parks' history and so much of the business side," Godel writes in his nomination. "She has been such a huge help to me since I started here. I feel without her guidance I would have been sitting here clueless so many times. She always knows where everything is and is so incredibly organized."



Jorgenson

NDPRD's Planning and Development Division Manager Jesse Hanson also provided great praise of Jorgenson in his nomination of her for the Renner Award.

"For 35 years, Carol has been an integral part of the NDPRD administration division and the department as a whole," Hanson says. "While filling positions including clerk, typist, account technician, budget specialist and administrative officer, Carol developed a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the department's payroll, accounting, expenditures history, building insurance facts and inventory data bases, to name just a few. Carol has been as much a leader in the success of the agency as anyone."

Grahams Island State Park Manager Henry Duray, a former Cal Renner Award winner, also nominated Jorgenson.

"Over her career Carol has processed millions of dollars of payments to thousands of individuals, companies, businesses, corporations, vendors, contractors, and employees," Duray recounts. "Everybody is happy when they get their check and it all adds up – which in Carol's case is 99.9 percent of the time. We in the field greatly appreciate her efforts, proficiency and competency in the service rendered to us and our vendors. If the Cal Renner Award represents excellence, Carol Jorgenson is on the train."

Five selected to receive special merit awards

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's Special Merit Award are given to a person or group who go above and beyond expectations in their efforts related to state parks. This year, the NDPRD selected five individuals who best exemplified those types of efforts – Marie Challes, Senator Stan Lyson, Jeanne Chaput, Sandy Zimmer and Kari Steier.

Challes' volunteer efforts have not gone unnoticed by LCSP Manager Greg Corcoran and Ranger Ryan Gardner. Challes along with her granddaughters put in about 80 hours of volunteer time in 2013 tending to the park's landscaped areas.

"Through her horticultural skills and love of Lewis and Clark State Park, Marie has continuously purchased and propagated flowers that provide beauty, relaxation, and warmth for the park's many visitors," Corcoran says. "She and her granddaughters gifted many volunteer hours manicuring and nurturing the landscaped areas of the comfort station, amphitheater, South Shelter and concession building, providing a colorful and relaxing presentation to these high-use areas. The flowering forbs also provide a place of learning and interpretation of the many pollinating insects of the surrounding area that come to these areas as a food source. We are forever

grateful for the time, talent and treasure that Marie has gifted to Lewis and Clark State Park."

State Senator Stan Lyson, representing District 1 out of Williston, was instrumental in adding North Dakota Parks and Recreation Peace Officers

to the "law enforcement" definition of those officers eligible for the WSI Law Enforcement exemption. Lyson is a retired sheriff, member of the ND



Lyson

Continued on page 7

Merit Awards for 2013

Employees go above and beyond in their efforts

Those North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department employees (full-time and seasonal) who go above and beyond the standards set for their position are recognized with the department's Merit Award.

This year the NDPRD's Merit Award winners are: Jarod Matzke, John Latch, Marc Brown, Matt Gardner, Erik Dietrich, Carol Jorgenson, Kathy Renner, Stacy High, Emily Gullicks, Karen Assel, the staff at Grahams Island State Park and the staff at Icelandic State Park.

Despite being confronted with many challenges and obstacles in his first year at Little Missouri State Park, Ranger/Supervisor Jarod Matzke managed to handle each with great poise, according to Cross Ranch State Park/Little Missouri State Park Manager Eric Lang.

"Considering Jarod only worked seasonally at the parks for two years, he did an exceptional job of taking care of the park visitors, the park itself, taking on a supervisor role, along with being a park ranger, campground host and maintaining excellent neighbor relationships," Lang says. "In being a Ranger and becoming a supervisor, Jarod had to take on many new duties and he never missed a beat with any of those tasks."

Seasonal Park Ranger John Latch provided aid and assistance to a couple visiting Little Missouri State Park.

George Milauskas had to be rushed to the Minot hospital in a helicopter after suffering a stroke. Latch drove George's wife Diane to the hospital to be with her husband.

"John, who I believe was going off duty for two days, felt strongly that he wanted to drive me the three and a half hours to Minot. I did not want to inconvenience him like that, but I truly appreciated his offer and it definitely turned out for the best," Diane wrote in a letter to the NDPRD. "In the car, John showed kindness and concern be-

yond what you would expect a stranger to show. Special recognition should go to John for his kindly demeanor, caring and thoughtful conversation that put me at ease and kept me focused on the positive instead of on the terror that I might otherwise have felt. He is a very exceptional human being!"

George recovered, though he remains on medications. The park staff also took care of the Illinois couple's dogs and RV while George was in the hospital for six days. The Milauskas' son eventually arrived taking the dogs and RV to Minot.



Gullicks



High



Renner

The administrative staff of Carol Jorgenson, Kathy Renner, Stacy High and Emily Gullicks are recognized with the award for their ability to step up and take on the duties and responsibilities of the department's Business Manager while a replacement was found and then helped the new Business Manager, Renae Gall, make the transition to the position.



Brown



Dietrich



Gardner

When the International Mountain Bike Association backed out of a scheduled Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance Workshop at Turtle River State Park, the NDPRD's Marc

Brown, Matt Gardner and Erik Dietrich stepped up and agreed to take on the responsibilities of leading all associated presentations and a full-day Trail Building School. That led to the completion of a critical connection to TRSP's River View Trail.

NDPRD Operations Assistant Karen Assel took on the responsibility of guiding the process to bid and award a new contract for the Vendor Services and Call Center Operations related to the NDPRD's Online Management System (OMS). She provided training and guidance to the new Call Center management and staff as well as guided and supervised the appropriate change in service vendors, while making the entire process seemingly seamless.



Assel

During and following the period when Renwick Dam and the community of Cavalier were threatened with destruction by flood waters, Icelandic State Park Manager Justin Robinson and his staff did an exceptional job working with two construction companies, managing logistics, coordinating food, patrolling the temporary dam and other emergency duties.



Robinson

Grahams Island State Park Manager Henry Duray and his staff are recognized for their efforts in the massive tree and shrub planting project in 2013. Through park staff diligence and hard work over 12,800 trees and shrubs were planted on six sites at Grahams Island. This one planting effort is the largest in NDPRD history and exemplifies tree care at its best.



Duray

NDPRD News

Custer Christmas returns to FALSP

The Custer Christmas holiday tradition returns to Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 7-8, with a variety of activities and amusements for kids and adults planned from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

“Custer Christmas gives people a chance to escape the busy holiday season, if only for an afternoon, says Park Manager Dan Schelske.

Visitors can enjoy a leisurely stroll through the Custer House decorated in traditional Victorian style, have a meet and greet with General George Custer, or join the state park interpreters in decorating the tumbleweed Christmas tree. There is an opportunity for people to make their very own Victorian Christmas ornaments as a free souvenir. Sleigh Rides on Cavalry Square are available both days.

“We want people to have a relaxing afternoon,” says Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park Interpretive Coordinator Matt Schanandore. “They can string popcorn for the tree, or just enjoy frosting a cookie with homemade frosting, or enjoy a brisk ride around Cavalry Square on a sleigh.”

In the Commissary visitors can take old-fashioned photographs dressed up as soldiers or laundresses, individually or as a family for free. The Commissary Store and Coffee Shop are open during the event, offering holiday gift ideas and serving hot chocolate, apple cider and the finest gourmet coffee drinks around.

Admission to the event is \$6 per adult and \$4 per student. The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department has waived the vehicle entrance fee in honor of Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park’s Visitor Appreciation Week-end.

For more information about Custer Christmas, visit www.parkrec.nd.gov or call 701-667-6340.



Motorized Recreation Coordinator Erik Dietrich stands by two of the 10 new Arctic Cat 90 youth ATVs which will be used for hands-on certification classes. These ATVs bring the NDPRD fleet to 16. Eight will be stationed in Bismarck and eight at the Pembina Gorge Recreation Area.

FALSP master plan nears completion

The Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park master plan is nearly complete with a final draft presented at a public meeting Dec. 3.

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department worked with YHR Partners Architecture Planning for nearly a year on developing the master plan. The final draft incorporates input from a public meeting held in January of 2013, along with the results of an online survey. A citizens’ advisory group was also instrumental in guiding the plan’s development.

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park, located south of Mandan along the Missouri River, is North Dakota’s oldest state park at 105 years. It is of historical and natural significance. Visitors can visit Calvary Square featuring a reproduction of the Commanding Officer’s Quarters – home to General George Armstrong Custer. The On-A-Slant Indian Village and many of the park’s

features were built during the Great Depression by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The park has several miles of multi-use, non-motorized trails and one of the NDPRD’s most popular beautiful campgrounds located adjacent to the Missouri River.

Information about Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park and the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department is found online at www.parkrec.nd.gov.

Changes in NDPRD personnel

There have been a couple of personnel changes in the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department over the past six months.

Dustin Waldholm, formerly at Lewis and Clark State Park, is now the Ranger/Assistant Manager at Fort Stevenson State Park. At Lewis and Clark State Park Les Myers is the new full-time maintenance man replacing Dave Bauer who retired.

Annual pass from page 1

Picnic areas enable visitors to enjoy a relaxing afternoon in the shade of old oak trees, while the campgrounds offer full amenities, including electrical hookups, modern comfort stations with showers and a sewage dump station. Three sleeping cabins are available from mid-May through the end of September.

The Gunlogson State Nature Preserve

is found within the park's borders. An extensive self-guided trail system is established along the Tongue River. Access to the trail begins at the Gunlogson Homestead site and there are foot bridges providing easy crossing of the river and the area's many natural springs. The 200-acre natural wooded area along the Tongue River is a sanctuary for plants, birds and

wildlife.

Information for Icelandic State Park and the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department can be found online at www.parkrec.nd.gov. The annual pass is \$25 and can be purchased online, at any of the North Dakota State Parks and at NDPRD headquarters in Bismarck.

Library program from page 1

fall. Nearly 90 North Dakota public libraries will have the park pass available for loan. The pass is good for seven days. Any additional charges, such as camping and rentals, are not included in the pass and are the responsibility of the pass holder.

In 2012, libraries in the CDLN circulated the passes 137 times and in 2013, through September, the passes have been

checked out 215 times. The Bismarck Public Library also checks out fishing poles with tackle boxes and life jackets for kids, which is a great "check-out package" for its outdoor enthusiasts. The expanded program will distribute 252 passes to 87 public libraries in North Dakota.

There is a limit of one pass per household and they can only be checked out by cardholders age 18 and older and in good

standing with the library. The passes can be renewed after seven days if there is no one on a waiting list to use the pass. To check out a pass a library card must be presented. After seven days passes are to be returned to the library circulation desk from where it was borrowed.

Information on North Dakota Parks and Recreation can be found online at www.parkrec.nd.gov.

Special Merit Awards from page 4

Senate since 1999, and past president of the North Dakota Peace Officers Association.

In nominating Lyson, Turtle River State Park manager Steve Crandall had this to say, "Senator Lyson not only agreed to introduce this legislation, but also took it upon himself to find appropriate co-sponsors, guided the legislation through both chambers and saw to it the bill passed with an emergency clause."

Pembina County Public Health Administrator Jeanne Chaput has been instrumental in helping Icelandic State Park in developing a smoke-free zone plan, providing signage and buying cigarette receptacles.

"Jeanne and her husband have been avid supporters of Icelandic State Park for years. Jeanne is a very positive individual and always promotes Icelandic State Park on her travels," says ISP Manager Justin Robinson. "Yes, Jeanne is the Public Health Administrator for Pembina County, however, most of the interaction I have had with her, has been while she is using the park on her own time. She is an excellent leader in her field, going above and beyond on her own time to promote public health as well as assist Icelandic State Park."

In the past 21 years the Federal Highway Administration helped fund over \$11.6 million in Recreational Trail Projects in North Dakota, equating to over 3,500 miles of trails. Management of this program falls to the NDPRD's Recreation Division. The past year has been a steep learning curve for the new recreation division manager Matt Gardner, but he had some helping hands in the form of the Federal Highway Administration's Sandy Zimmer and Kari Steier.

"The success of this federal program in North Dakota is due largely to the dedication, commitment and professionalism exemplified by FHWA ND Division Financial Manager Sandy Zimmer," Gardner says. "In 2013, Sandy was simultaneously introduced to a new NDPRD Recreation Division Manager and a new Grants Coordinator. This was combined with a request from FHWA for the NDPRD to implement a Title VI program along with using a new FHWA grant accounting system. Sandy's willingness to work together was invaluable to the NDPRD.

"Kari Steier, FHWA Financial Specialist, is also a deserving recipient of this award recognition," Gardner continues. "Her attention to detail and exceptional customer service has been very well received and much appreciated during this year of transition. Kari has provided instruction to NDPRD on the FHWA grant accounting system and is always willing to answer questions and help troubleshoot any accounting issues that come her way and she always does so with a pleasant demeanor."

Changes from page 3

full-service campsite rates in 2014. This increase applies to campsites with water, electricity and sewer hook-ups. The current fee is \$25 per night and will be increased to \$30 per night. Over the past four years campground utility rates have increased across the state park system. Escalating cost of repairs, maintenance and service work also impacts user fees. The \$5 increase for full service campsites is the first step toward department-wide rate adjustments in response to inflation.



North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department
 1600 E. Century Ave., Suite 3
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2014 North Dakota State Park Annual Vehicle Permit Order Form

The 2014 Annual Vehicle Permit for North Dakota state parks can be ordered by mail at a cost of \$25 each. ND residents ages 65 and older can receive a discount price of \$20. Permits come with a card and envelope making them ideal for gift giving. Make checks or money orders payable to the ND Parks and Recreation Dept. and mail to:

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Dept.
1600 E. Century Ave., Suite 3
Bismarck, ND 58503

Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

e-mail address _____

Vehicle license number(s) on which permit will be used:

Quantity	Cost	Total
_____ 2014 annual permit	\$25/each	\$ _____
_____ ND resident 65 and older <small>Date of birth required for senior discount.</small>	\$20/each	\$ _____
_____ number gift envelopes		

If permit is given as gift please provide the permit holder's above information

Disabled veterans and former POWs must apply in person at parks or Bismarck office to receive special discount.

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation encourages the use of its internet site www.parksrec.nd.gov for the purchase of Annual Vehicle Permits. Secure sales can be made through either credit or debits cards online.