



DISCOVER



NORTH DAKOTA PARKS AND RECREATION NEWS

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SPRING/SUMMER 2010



Governor John Hoeven (center) is pictured with new NDPRD director Mark Zimmerman (left) and retiring director Doug Prchal (right). Photo courtesy of Bismarck Tribune photographer Tom Stromme.

NDPRD director retires, Hoeven names successor

There's been a changing of the guard at the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department with Governor John Hoeven naming Mark Zimmerman director as former director Doug Prchal enters retirement.

Zimmerman comes to NDPRD from another state agency, the Department of Commerce's Tourism division. There he was an outdoor recreation specialist, promoting the state's outdoor activities in an effort to draw more visitors to North Dakota. Zimmerman is a former Bismarck park board member, serving as its president for two years. Between 1993 and 2000, Zimmerman served as the Constituent Services Director for Gov. Ed Schafer, where he managed a wide variety of requests from constituents and worked with local, state and

federal agencies to resolve constituent issues. Zimmerman serves as a board member of the Dakota Zoo, and remains active as a sports commissioner in the Prairie Rose State Games and the Boy Scouts of America.

"Mark brings not only a broad range of experience to the job, but also a sincere personal love for the outdoors," Hoeven said. "I am sure he will make a strong contribution to an already strong and vibrant state park system."

The 61-year-old Prchal retires after 25 years as a state employee, the last 16 as director of NDPRD. He looks forward to spending more time with his family, but says he will remain an advocate for the state's parks

Continued on page 2

Help state parks plant new trees

North Dakota State Parks are participating in the Odwalla "Plant a Tree Program" and needs help in securing votes that will lead to the donation of trees to the state park system.

Odwalla is a juice company, which for the past three years, has sponsored the "Plant a Tree Program." The program allows a person to "vote" for which state they want trees to be planted in. Each vote is equal to \$1 which Odwalla donates to the state parks to plant trees. The program and voting begins on May 25, and according to the company, the \$200,000 it is making available "goes very quickly," about five weeks, so votes need to go in as soon as the company allows. Voting is done at www.odwalla.com/plantatree where participants choose what state will get trees.

To help promote voting, states are asked to provide a video explaining the need for the trees. The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department used the talents of its own Kevin Stankiewicz and Cross Ranch State Park ranger Laura Kohn, along with the editing talents of ND Tourism's Tricia Miller to put together a short video which can be found at the Odwalla website, on Odwalla's Facebook page or YouTube.

In the past Odwalla has only run this program in a limited number of states, and is opening it to all states in 2010. Some states have received as much as \$50,000. Discover readers are encouraged to vote and spread the word to get others to participate.

News from the director

Time again to experience state parks

For outdoor enthusiasts this time of year marks the unofficial start of a new season to get out and enjoy the great outdoors. Whether your pursuits are hiking, birding, canoeing, biking or camping in our state parks, spring time is always the start of something new. This year that sentiment is also true for North Dakota Parks and Recreation.

After a distinguished and outstanding 26 years of dedicated service to the citizens of North Dakota and the visitors to our state, Doug Prchal has retired as Director of the agency.

Governor Hoeven stated at the public announcement of Doug's retirement, "I want to thank Doug for his many years of outstanding service to the Parks and Recreation Department and to North Dakota," Hoeven said. "Under his stewardship, our 12 state parks and five



**NDPRD
director
Mark
Zimmerman**

recreation areas have become national and international destinations of choice for thousands, contributing greatly to North Dakota's quality of life and economy."

I am honored to follow Doug's lead in the stewardship of our state's parks and natural resources. I look forward to working with a committed field and headquarters staff and the hundreds of wonderful volunteers to provide and enhance our state's outdoor recreational opportunities.

I am an avid camper and hope to make it to all the parks this season. I look forward to visiting with many of you, maybe even share sometime around a campfire. Please know my door is always open— feel free to stop by or call our office.

Best wishes for a memorable season in North Dakota's great outdoors and see you down the trail.

It was a privilege to serve the state's parks

The privilege to serve people engaged in outdoor recreation pursuits has been very rewarding. My career with North Dakota Parks and Recreation has encompassed a quarter century. That journey began as director of the Planning Division. Duties included master planning the park system while also overseeing various construction and maintenance tasks ensuring the integrity of properties and facilities. Stewardship of state assets is integral to public use.

Those early experiences established a framework and understanding that benefited the work as the Director over the past 16 years. That duty was, at times daunting, yet made easier because of quality staff who share the understanding of the rewards that come from this work. Providing outdoor places and programs for people's enjoyment is a special calling. Seeing the enjoyment in kids and adults in play or simply visiting and relaxing in a campsite or around a picnic table. Those are memorable moments and what state parks and outdoor recreation is about. Without the people parks would only be a place, but a void would result. Providing for the people visiting and the people who prepare and care for those special places are the dynamic of a system of parks and programs.

From page 1

and recreation opportunities.

"I want to thank Doug for his many years of outstanding service to the Parks and Recreation Department and to North Dakota," Hoeven said. "Under his stewardship, our 12 state parks and five recreation areas have become national and international destinations of choice for thousands, contributing greatly to North Dakota's quality of life and economy." Zimmerman began his new duties on May 3, spending a lot of time with Prchal in learning about the agency and its immediate concerns. Zimmerman will begin preparing a budget with staff which will be presented to the state legislature at the end of the year.



**Doug
Prchal
Parks
Advocate**

This article may well be my last duty with the agency but it is not a goodbye by any measure. "See you around" would be the more appropriate response. My intent is to remain in the Bismarck area and also to remain aware of and supportive of the activities of the agency. The journey into retirement, while also engaging and fun, will offer the opportunity to visit and enjoy parks and the outdoors from a user standpoint. Our paths will likely cross in that journey. Many memories and relationships were created over the time spent and those will remain and forever be prominent.

Happy Trails to all.

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Lewis & Clark State Park

Water levels allow marina to reopen

The rise of Lake Sakakawea is responsible for the rejuvenation of the Lewis & Clark State Park marina which had disappeared throughout most of the past decade because of low water.

New park manager Greg Corcoran has been busy getting the marina ready with the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department investing in new slips for boating enthusiasts. With the rise in the lake water Lewis & Clark saw a dramatic increase in visitation in 2009 and there has been great increase in interest in water sports at the park.

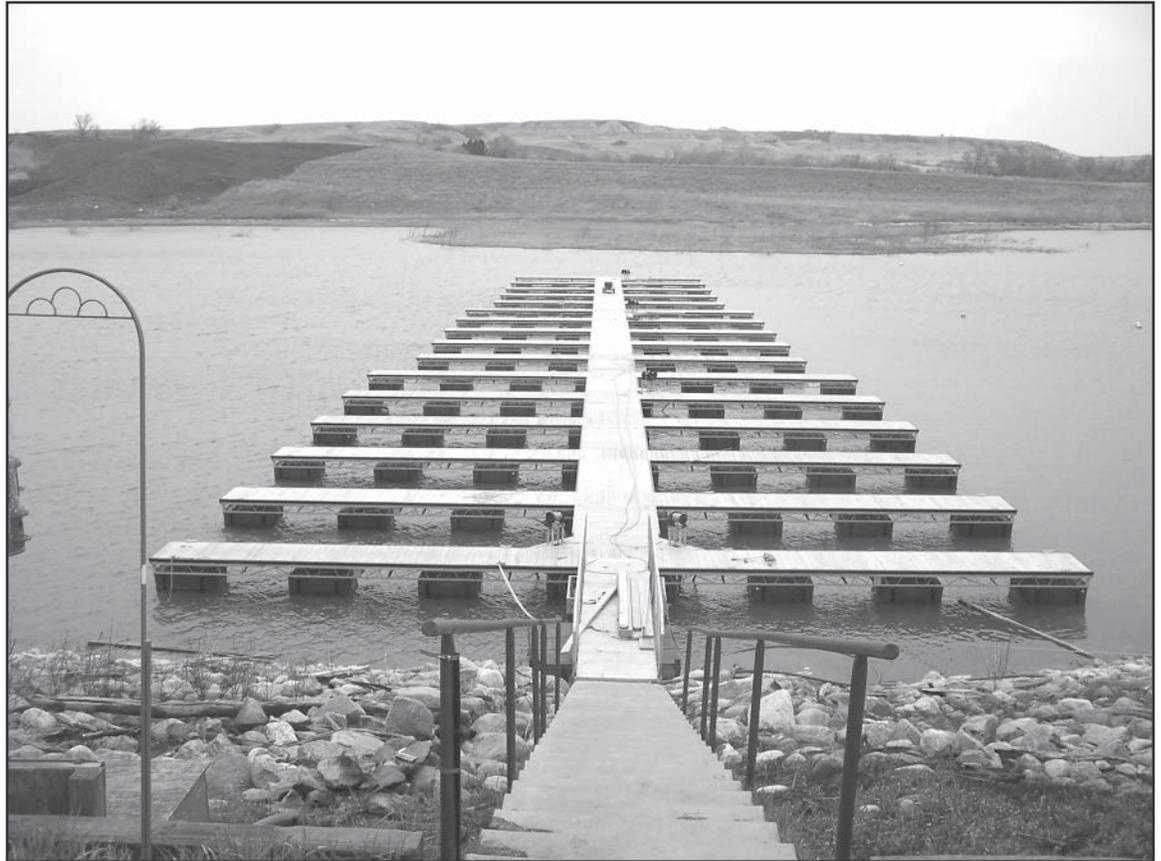
Lake Sakakawea reached a height of 1839.3 msl (mean sea level), by mid-May, roughly nine feet higher than the same time the previous year, according to Corcoran. This brought the depth of the marina to 14-17 feet. Last year the lake peaked at 1842 msl making the marina operational for the first time in over ten years.

"Campers and water recreationists are ecstatic with the return of the lake levels that the area is known for," Corcoran says. "Not only is the water a boon to the boaters, but also for the campers who now enjoy the sounds of waves splashing against the shore rocks all hours of the day... almost like ocean sounds on the prairie."

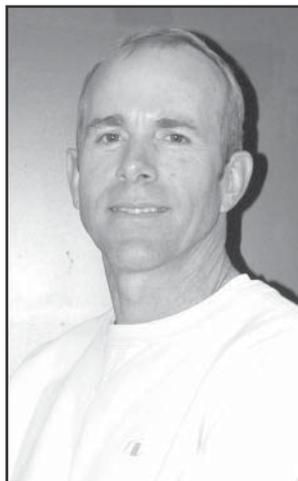
Thirty-two new slips have been placed in the marina, but are currently only attached to temporary anchors at the shore. The park is waiting on a concrete contractor to finish the permanent anchors, which are necessary, for insurance purposes, to allow leasing of the slips. Plans are to have the anchors completed by the beginning of June. All the slips are already accounted for

by interested boat owners.

The marina will have a new gas dock with work still to be completed by the contractor. It's not certain on when the gas dock will be operational, but Corcoran is anticipating mid-June. Electrical service to the docks and slips will not be available this year, but the park manager is anticipating offering this service during the 2011 season.



The new dock and slips being installed at Lewis & Clark State Park. It's the first time in nearly a decade that there has been enough water in the bay to allow operation of a marina at the state park.



Corcoran

"This spring we have already had numerous fishermen taking advantage of our courtesy dock and marina to launch their vessels," Corcoran says. "Fishing last year was phenomenal especially with the walleye, sauger and pike. Most walleyes were in the three to four pound range. Our fish cleaning station has been upgraded with a new sink aerator to make cleaning fish an easy task. It's located right off the marina entrance."

The Friends of Lewis & Clark State Park is taking part in a beach clean-up, an effort which the group hopes will revitalize the swimming beach on the north side of the campground.

"Parents have been eagerly waiting for a quiet and sandy spot near the water to take their children," Corcoran says. "We hope to make this possible for this camping season. Last year, on most weekends, the campground was full, and we expect more of the same this year."

Bluegrass festival celebrates 20 years at Cross Ranch

Bluegrass music lovers will help the Missouri River Bluegrass festival celebrate its 20th anniversary June 18-19, at Cross Ranch State Park, which has hosted the festival since it first opened in 1991.

Featured at this year's festival, are New Found Road and Johnny Butten, both acts performing each day.

Also performing will be Lonesome Traveler, Cotton Wood, DW Grothe, The Pfligers/Center Community Band, The Farmers, and Moose Creek. On Friday, the entertainment begins at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, the stage opens at 11 a.m. and then the Pfligers/CC Band kicks off the music at 1 p.m. Ticket prices for the festival are \$15 for Friday evening, \$20 for Saturday, and \$30 for both days. Youngsters ages 16 and under are admitted free. There is a \$5 daily charge to enter the park.

The annual festival takes advantage of CRSP's natural surroundings as performers take to the stage their fans find comfort in the shade of the surrounding cottonwood trees. Bluegrass fans enjoy the quality performances while relaxing and enjoying nature from the comfort of their own lawn chair, hammock or blanket.

The river bottom setting provides a unique and exciting environment for the audience as well as the bands that perform over the two days. Cross Ranch State Park is situated along seven miles of a portion of the free flowing Missouri River. Located about 12 miles southeast of Hensler, ND, the park is renown for its natural resources and miles of trails. Because of CRSP's location, in relation to the river bottom and the nearby open prairie grasslands, it is an ideal place for people to visit and get close to nature.

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The Missouri River Bluegrass and Old Time Music festival was first held as a special event at Cross Ranch in 1990. Former CRSP park manager and current head of planning and natural resources for the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department, Jesse Hanson, was responsible

former North Dakota governor Art Link. As the audience watched from the lawn of the Link Cabin in the comfort of their lawn chairs, the makings of what now is the Missouri River Bluegrass Festival began to develop and unfold.

The event rapidly grew in popularity



The High 48's perform at last year's Missouri River Bluegrass and Old Time Music Festival held at Cross Ranch State Park. The festival attracts some of the finest bluegrass musicians from the upper Midwest.

for the newly established park, as well as CRSP's activities and events. While Hanson was looking to provide an activity to close out the summers on Labor Day weekends, he happened to come across a Bluegrass Jam Session in a shopping mall. After listening to the Bluegrass group "Cross Roads," Hanson met with the band's leader John Andrus and they developed a Bluegrass event at Cross Ranch for Labor Day in 1990.

The event was small at first, originally taking place on the front porch of the current Art Link Cabin. On Labor Day weekend 1990 CRSP held its first Bluegrass event at which Cross Roads performed as well as the musically talented fiddler and

over the next couple of years, so to accommodate the crowd it was moved to a larger area of the park. Hanson attributes much of the early success of the festival to the time and efforts put forth by John and Arlene Andrus. John Andrus is fondly known as the "Father of Bluegrass for North Dakota" because of his support and continues to be the backbone of the festival.

"The impact of this festival in promoting the music and the joys of homemade music making would be hard to overstate," Andrus has written in support of the festival. "This event has been a model for several North Dakota festivals that have followed, including the Bismarck Bluegrass

Continued on page 5



Bluegrass and music fans of all types can enjoy the festival from the comfort of their own lawnchairs under the protection of the canopy provided by Cross Ranch State Park's cottonwoods.

**NORTH DAKOTA'S
CROSS RANCH
STATE PARK**

**20th Annual
MISSOURI
RIVER
BLUEGRASS
FESTIVAL
June 18-19**

From page 4
Festival, the Frozen Fingers Old Time Music Festival, and the January Bluegrass Concerts. Our Association (Bluegrass Association of North Dakota) sees this event as a cornerstone on which to continue to build our promotion of bluegrass music in North Dakota for as long as the park wishes to continue the event."

"The Missouri River Bluegrass Festival has been North Dakota's premiere bluegrass music festival for the past 19 years. The shaded main stage area is a gorgeous setting for the beautiful and exciting music performed there by many of the country's finest bluegrass musicians," Andrus added. "Fans attending over the years have grown into a virtual family, returning on their annual pilgrimage to experience some of the best acoustic music anywhere. For headline performers, the fes-

tival has the reputation for providing some of the best hospitality you can find. For regional bluegrass musicians, the festival is also the site of legendary jam sessions into the wee hours of the morning. For aspiring musicians, the festival offers workshops and open jam sessions to get them started right."

The park promotes the festival as a family event and encourages adults to bring their children along to participate. During the festival the park staff provides a free "Kids' Fest." This event provides activities for families with young children. While adults listen to the music, their children can be participating in games and craft-making under the supervision of park staff.
Pets are not allowed, nor is smoking, alcohol or video or sound taping of the festival.

**Performance
schedule**

Friday, June 18
6:30 p.m. Lonesome Traveller
7:30 p.m. Cottonwood
8:30 p.m. Johnny Butten
9:30 p.m. New Found Road

Saturday, June 19
11 a.m. open stage
1:00 p.m. Pfligers/CC Band
2:30 p.m. DW Groethe
3:30 p.m. Lonesome Traveller
4:30 p.m. New Found Road
5:30 p.m. The Farmers
6:30 p.m. Moose Creek
7:30 p.m. Lonesome Traveller
9:30 p.m. New Found Road



New Found Road

- Also performing...*
- Lonesome Traveller
 - Cottonwood
 - Center Community Band/
Pfliger Sisters
 - The Farmers
 - Moose Creek Symphony
 - DW Groeth

Ticket Prices...
Friday evening \$15
Saturday \$20
Friday & Saturday \$30
Ages 16 and younger FREE

Camp along the beautiful Missouri River in one of North Dakota's finest parks. Reservation can be made online or by calling 800-807-4723.

Sponsors



B.A.N.D.
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of North Dakota

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OR CALL 701-794-3731**

Lake Metigoshe State Park gets new amphitheater

Visitors to Lake Metigoshe State Park will get to take advantage of a new feature with the completion of the new amphitheater.

“The previous amphitheater had been there since the mid-1970s,” reports LMSP interpreter Amy Schimetz. “It was comprised of bench-style seating, a fire ring and a wooden white board that acted as a screen for films and slide programs.”

Age and the elements had taken their toll on the amphitheater, so it was decided to put in a new facility, better able to withstand the elements and provide more comfort for program participants.

“The new amphitheater project started last fall with the removal of the old bench seating, concrete stage and wood white board,” Schimetz describes. “Concrete was poured for the new site and the amphitheater building was also started. The amphitheater building will house audio/visual equipment for future programming.”

This spring new bench type seating, with back rests, were put together and installed. A viewing screen was put inside the building and the structure wired for electricity. Large doors on the building will open to allow audiences to view the screen.

“The amphitheater will accommodate as many as it did before as it has the same amount of linear seating as it did previously,” Schimetz says. “I believe the plan is to have the access paths lit to help guide people to evening programs. This will be great to have as some programs get out after dark, leaving participants confused as to how to get back to their campsites.”



Above: The new amphitheater building which will house the audio/visual equipment and viewing screen. Below: The new amphitheater seating



New pedestrian bridge for TRSP in 2010

Construction on a 200-foot pedestrian trail bridge at Turtle River State Park will begin in June, replacing the dilapidated vehicle bridge which is scheduled for removal.

“The new bridge has been on a department ‘wish list’ for several years and is being funded through federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds,” explains Jesse Hanson, NDPRD Planning/Natural Resources manager.

Building the pedestrian bridge has been in the thought process for some time, according to park manager Steve Crandall. The new bridge will eliminate an existing long uphill climb and a long trek through open country to the “nice” cross country trails along the river and the southwest corner of the park.

“The existing pony truss bridge in the Woodland Lodge area has been in severe disrepair for a numbers of years,” Crandall says. “It was actually closed to vehicle traffic about ten years ago and has been acting as a ‘pedestrian only’ link to our trails. The old bridge was also responsible for – or contributed heavily to – the ultimate flood damage to the Woodland Lodge, Assistant Manager’s residence, and the Interpretive Residence. The bridge choked up with down trees and brush, almost immediately, and backed the river up

at the location of the residences and eventually forced the river out of its banks during the flood of 2000 when we got 17 inches of rain in one night.”

Industrial Builders, Inc. was awarded the project, coming in with the low bid of \$329,769. Completion of the work is expected by the beginning of November.

“Construction should have very little impact on visitors, as the actual bridge location is somewhat removed from the main picnic area,” Crandall says. “While there will be heavy equipment working in the area during weekdays, the contractors will not be working on weekends. We caution visitors to stay away from the construction area until the project is complete.”

Turtle River State Park will also go through a \$387,176 roadway upgrade with crack sealing of all existing pavement, patching of soft spots, adding of a 2.5 inch overlay of new asphalt on the main road through the park, paving of the main Chalet parking lot, and a full chip and seal job. Most of the work will be done this summer with the full chip and seal job to take place during the summer of 2011.

Improvements being made at Beaver Lake

Visitors to Beaver Lake State Park will see some changes this year with the addition of a new entrance office, a third camping cabin and campground improvements.

"The new entrance office is moving along in the right direction," says park manager Jim Loken. "Rainy weather has slowed progress on outdoor landscaping over the last few weeks, but if all goes well, we should be ready to move into it in the next few weeks. The entrance office is long overdue, it will give us a visitor contact point to provide additional customer service."

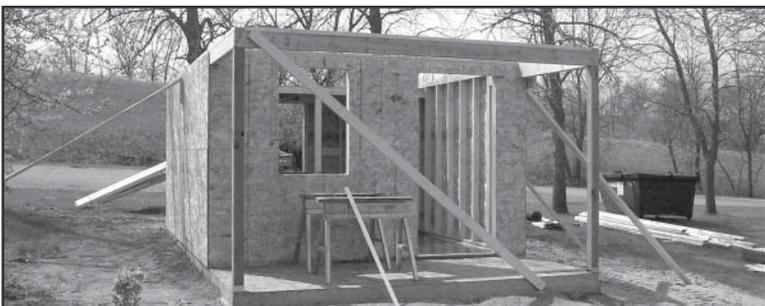
The camping cabin is the gift of Dr. Glenn Hoberg. A portion of the park is located on what used to be the Hoberg farmstead, first settled in 1916. Dr. Hoberg donated the first two camping cabins and made another generous gift of money to provide the majority of the funding for the third cabin, Loken explains. Completion of the cabin is expected by July 1.

"The cabins have been a great addition to the park and have been well received by the visitors," Loken says. "The continued generosity of Dr. Hoberg is greatly appreciated."

Improvements to the campground are also underway. Water hydrants are being added to the campsites. When completed there will be one water hydrant for every two campsites. Construction of two groups sites is also in the works and they should be operational by July.



Above: The new BLSP entrance office. Below: New cabin donated by Dr. Glenn Hoberg.



ISP deals with impact of dam retrofit

Icelandic State Park, located in northeast North Dakota, will see some major construction over the next two years with the retrofit of Renwick Dam, which will mean some changes in how visitors get to the camping area and popular beach front. The road across the dam will be closed on July 6 and the major construction will begin.

"Through the entire process, two items have remained constant," park manager Justin Robinson explains. "The project is going to occur and the park will remain open for visitors."

Renwick Dam was completed in 1962, the last in a series of ten dams put in as flood control projects on the Tongue River. The structure was completed at the same time G.B. Gunlogson and sister Loa, were looking for a way to preserve their land and heritage for future generations. The Gunlogsons donated 200 acres to the state which were turned into Icelandic State Park.

The 50-year-old-plus structure no longer meets dam design and safety requirements and the decision was made by the water management district to rehabilitate the dam with a \$5 million retrofit project. The road over the structure will be closed during the construction, estimated to take at least two years. During this time traffic headed for the west side of the park will be detoured along a route a mile east, a mile north and two miles west.

"A brand new 30-foot gravel road has been built for the detour," Robinson says.



Preparations are underway for the retrofit of the Renwick Dam at Icelandic State Park.

"This road will remain even after the dam work is completed as an alternate route. Everybody coming to the Heritage Center will be fine, those going to the west side of the park will be affected by the detour."

The dam is in the center of the park, dividing the entrance, visitors' center and pioneer village from the campground and Lake Renwick. The road connecting the park runs across the top of the dam. When the dam retrofit is completed, the road will run along the side the dam on the west, near the lake.

"It will be a challenging couple of years while the project is occurring," Robinson admits. "We have yet to finalize our plans on how we will staff, transport equipment or patrol the park. We will be using our older ranger station near the campground as the main entrance booth during the project. After the project is complete this building will be renovated for a new amphitheater."

Because of the manner in which the dam was constructed, it is susceptible to erosion. The project will include putting 20,000 yards of clay on top of the existing sand base and the center section will be filled with concrete including a new concrete spillway, according to Robinson. The dam will also be five feet higher.

The Tongue River watershed includes 93,300 acres of cropland, pastureland, forest/woods, parks/recreation, transportation and water. About 94 percent of the land is in private ownership with 51 farms with an average size of 1,300 acres impacted.

What's lurking in your woodpile?

Firewood piles make great homes for all kinds of animals. Some eat the deadwood. Some eat the animals that eat the deadwood. Some just like to hang out there because the pile of wood offers protection from the wind, rain and temperatures extremes. Some things in your woodpile are supposed to be there. You would expect things like pill bugs, slugs, carpenter ants, spiders, and perhaps even a snake or two.

Take a closer look. Firewood can also harbor exotic insect pests. Exotic insects like Emerald Ash Borer are major threats to North Dakota trees. Such pests are easily spread to new areas when infested firewood is brought in. Emerald ash borer was discovered in south eastern Michigan near Detroit in the summer of 2002. The adult beetles feed on ash leaves but cause little damage. The larvae feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the trees ability to transport water and nutrients, eventually killing the tree.

Emerald ash borer probably arrived in the United States on solid wood packing material carried in cargo ships or airplanes originating from the borers native Asia.



Photo of the Emerald Ash Borer.
(Photo courtesy US Dept of Agriculture, Forest Service.)

Emerald ash borer is also established in Windsor, Ontario, was found in Ohio in 2003, northern Indiana in 2004, northern Illinois and Maryland in 2006, western Pennsylvania and West Virginia in 2007, Wisconsin, Missouri and Virginia in summer 2008 and Minnesota, New York and Kentucky in the spring 2009. Since its discovery, Emerald ash borers have:

- Killed tens of millions of ash trees in southeastern Michigan alone, with tens of millions more lost in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, New York,

Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Quebec, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

- Caused regulatory agencies and the USDA to enforce quarantines and fines to prevent potentially infested ash trees, logs or hardwood firewood from moving out of areas where EAB occurs.

- Cost communities, landowners, nurseries, and forest product industries tens of millions of dollars.

What can you do to prevent the introduction of Emerald ash borer into North Dakota?

- Don't transport firewood into North Dakota and encourage your friends and relatives to refrain from bringing firewood into the state.

- Watch for symptoms of Emerald ash borer in your ash trees. If you suspect your ash tree could be infested with Emerald ash borer contact the North Dakota Department of Agriculture at 701-328-4765 or 800-242-7535.

Find out more about Emerald ash borer by visiting <http://www.agdepartment.com/Programs/pp/EmeraldAshBorer.htm>

New trails to explore at Fort Ransom

Visitors to Fort Ransom State Park will find a newly expanded trail system with nearly seven miles of new single track trails to explore.

Using Recreational Trails Program grant funds, the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department was able to expand park trails into nearly every part of Fort Ransom State Park. Competitive bid prices allowed for what was originally expected to be a four-mile project to include nearly seven miles.

The new trails offer park visitors access in remote areas of the park, into deep ravines with thick stands of oak/ironwood trees along with breathtaking views of the Sheyenne River Valley. Combined with the existing trails system, Fort Ransom State Park now boasts a little over 14 miles of non-motorized trails ready for use.

Trails built in 2009 rarely exceed a 10 percent grade incline or decline at any portion of the trail. Using "sustainable" design techniques, the trails are very user friendly, less prone to erosion and are less of an impact on the terrain during construction.

Trail head informational "kiosks," trail markers and a trail map are being finished up in the spring of 2010. The non motor-

ized trails at Fort Ransom State Park are open to horses, hikers and mountain bikes in the summer months; skiing and snowshoeing in the winter.

Park Manager John Kwapinski plans on starting a summer "hiking club" with staff lead hikes each week as a combination of promoting wellness and introducing people to the new trails.

"Starting on June 5, which is National Trails Day, park staff will lead guided hikes open to the public on our new trails," Kwapinski says. "We plan to have one hike a day on Thursday through Monday. We will keep track of those who attend those hikes with us. If a person completes ten hikes with us they will receive a free Fort Ransom State Park "Walk on the Wild Side 2010" lightweight windbreaker jacket."

Each hike will last one to two hours, according to Kwapinski. Which trail is to be hiked will be determined at the time of the hike depending on weather and the participants. Vehicle entrance fees are required for those attending the hikes.

"On the hikes we plan to talk about trail construction, health benefits and nature," Kwapinski adds.



FRSP park manager John Kwapinski models the windbreaker which will be given to those who participate in the "Hiking Club" and finish the necessary miles.

What's Lurking in Your Woodpile?

Kid's Page

Can you find these things that might be lurking in your wood pile?

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------|
| ANT | BAT | CENTIPEDE |
| DADDY LONGLEGS | EMERALD ASH BORER | FUNGUS |
| LICHEN | MILLIPEDE | MOUSE |
| SALAMANDER | SLUG | SNAKE |
| SPIDER | TERMITE | TOAD |

M B V J R S A L A M A N D E R N I S X L
 J Q T W E M R O X Y A V L N Z H G F E K
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 G U T G T S A M E E R Q O F N B O P B H
 N A B Y V N M X K P E M O S F B V N F V

Word find solution

Word find solution grid with words highlighted in a spider illustration.

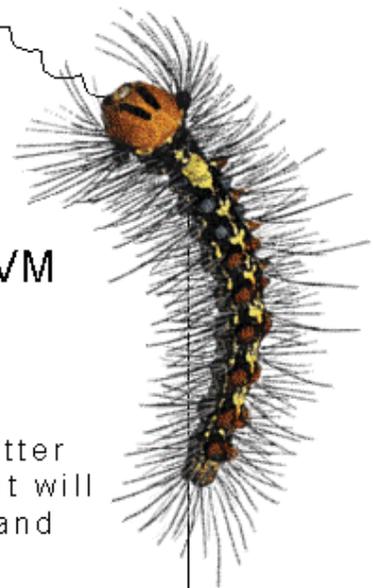


Cryptogram!

INJ'V SCYK CJYHMCYK UNGKMV DKMVM
 H UGKK GCIK!

And here is your hint: N = O

The cryptogram is a substitution puzzle. Every letter gets changed to another. Since "N" equals "O", it will equal "O" throughout the puzzle. Single letters and short words give you clues to location vowels.



Solution: Don't give invasive forest pests a free ride!

NDPRD News

ND Byways guide

An information guide to North Dakota's Scenic Byways and Backways is now available from the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department.

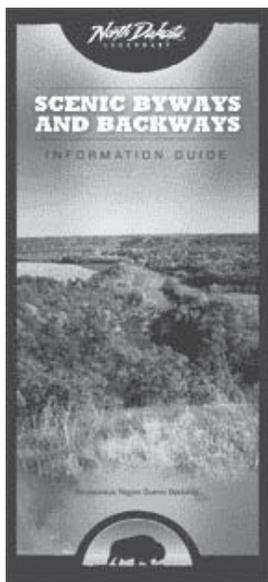
The state's byways and backways provide year-round attractions and activities. The new guide provides information on the ten distinct byways and backways located in North Dakota. There are maps, directions, amenities and points of interest detailed in the brochure and each Scenic Byway and Backway is featured in a seasonal layout.

To be considered for designation as a Scenic Byway or Backway, a route must qualify under one of the following categories: scenic, natural, historic, cultural, archaeological or recreational. Amenities such as gas, food, lodging and proximity to other interesting attractions are also taken into consideration.

Byways are roads with all-weather surfaces suitable for automobile travel, while backways are roads that may be unsuitable for large recreational vehicles or that may have safety or comfort concerns.

North Dakota's Scenic Byways and Backways include: Killdeer Mountain Four Bears Scenic Byway; Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway; Old Red/Old Ten Scenic Byway; Rendezvous Region Scenic Backway; Theodore Roosevelt National Park North Unit Scenic Byway; Chan SanSan (James River) Scenic Backway; Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge Scenic Backway; Turtle Mountain Scenic Byway; Saka-kawea Scenic Byway; and the Standing Rock National Native American Scenic Byway.

For a copy of the brochure, contact the North Dakota Parks and Recreation De-



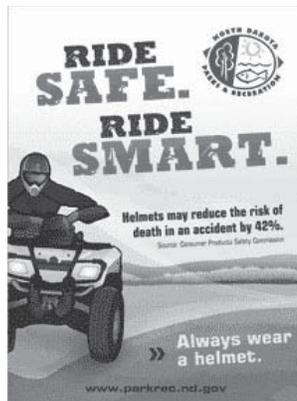
partment at 701-328-5357 or by e-mailing parkrec@nd.gov.

"Ride Safe, Ride Smart" campaign

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) launched the "Ride Safe. Ride Smart." public service announcement (PSA) campaign this April.

Dirt bikes, ATVs, and side-by-sides are popular off-highway vehicles (OHVs) among North Dakota residents. However, an increasingly significant issue in North Dakota is lack of helmet use by youth and adults. Riders and passengers under age 18 are required by law to wear a DOT-approved helmet when riding any OHV, including dirt bikes, ATVs, and side-by-sides.

To encourage OHV enthusiasts, especially youth, to consistently wear a properly fitted helmet television and online PSAs will focus on wearing a helmet to maximize injury protection. The helmet should fit snugly, fasten securely, and not be cracked or damaged. In addition, newer helmets will further protect riders through the use of the latest technological advancements in safety.



1st quarter visitation is up in 2010

State parks visitation is off to a good start in 2010 with the first quarter (Jan., Feb., Mar.) up 12.7 percent from 2009.

There were 64,281 visitors to the state's parks in the first quarter, up over 8,100 visits. 2009 was a banner year for the North Dakota state park system which saw over a million visitors, up nearly 20 percent from 2008 and the first time the million mark was surpassed since 2004. Nationwide, state parks saw an

average increase in visitors with North Dakota leading the way.

Several factors contributed to the state park system success including weather, the economy along with the value and recreational opportunities afforded by state parks. Indications are for more of the same in 2010 and state parks are geared up for full service camping which began May 14.

Campers have been taking advantage of the North Dakota state park campsite and cabin reservation system which can be accessed either online at www.parkrec.nd.gov or by calling 800-807-4723.

New trails guide

A new trail guide has been developed highlighting trail opportunities in State Parks, Recreation Areas, Nature Preserves and Forests. The guide will be available to the public at no charge beginning in late May and will be updated periodically to reflect changes to the Departments trail systems.

For more information on the North Dakota State Trail Guide contact Kevin Stankiewicz at 328-5355.



TRSP adds RV campsites

Turtle River State Park will be adding 22 additional RV campsites and three primitive (walk-in tent sites) to the Department's Online Management System in 2010 RV Sites

Sites one through 23 of the South Campground will be added to the existing (35) RV campsites (sites 37-63) currently on the system, to accommodate increased demand for reserved campsites. The park is also adding sites 1, 2, and 3 in the Trapper's Rest Primitive Area, as no primitive sites

were previously available for reservations.

The increase in reserved campsite availability will leave Turtle River with approximately 20 percent of its RV sites, and 90 percent of its primitive tent sites available on a "first come-first served" basis. Additionally, those sites on the system that do not have active reservations, will be sold on a "first come-first served" basis, just as before.

"In the last two seasons, the demand for reserved campsites has been much higher than our existing reserved site availability," says Park Manager, Steve Crandall. "In polling our visitors, it became clear that a number of our campers were driving between 100 and 150 miles and prefer the certainty of having a reserved campsite waiting for them when they arrive. In the absence of available reserved sites, they were simply reluctant to take a chance that first come – first served sites would still be available when they arrived. The reserved site additions are in response to this need."

The reduction in "first come-first served" campsites will impact local area visitors most, as they are more likely not used to having to plan their stay as far in advance. It's important RV campers understand that the reduction in first come – first served campsites will have an impact on the number of campsites that are available on short notice. Campers are encouraged to check campsite availability by utilizing the department's Online Services website, and/or contacting the park for more information prior to their departure.

To reserve campsites at any of the North Dakota State Parks, patrons can either call 1-800-807-4723 or go to the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department website at www.parkrec.nd.gov.

Reserving a campsite

Campsite reservations are available in North Dakota state parks between May 14 and Sept. 6.

Reserved sites for Memorial Day weekend are currently booked at 80 percent. Two parks, Fort Abraham Lincoln and Grahams Island State Parks, show reserved sites booked at 100% for that holiday weekend. All state parks have both reserved and first come first sites available to the public for the 2010 season.

Go to the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department website for infor-

mation on all campgrounds and reservation details www.parkrec.nd.gov.

Several park resources have been added to the reservation system this year:

Lake Metigoshe State Park opened the Cormorant cabin earlier this month. This is a sleeping cabin with electricity, vault toilet and cooking facilities.

Turtle River State Park upgraded their campsite electrical service to 50/30/20amp and included water hydrants on each site.

Twenty-three sites have been moved from first-come first-serve to reservable status.

Fort Ransom State Park moved three group sites from first-come first-serve to reservable status.

Watch for more cabin openings this summer and fall at Beaver Lake and Lake Metigoshe State Parks.

2010 Order Form

North Dakota State Park Annual Vehicle Permit

The 2010 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., or supply credit card information below, 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
_____ 2010 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.

Method of payment

Check Visa MasterCard Discover

Card# _____

V-Code (last 3 digits on back of card) _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Making memories
for a lifetime? It's a
walk in the park.
"I AM LEGENDARY."



See North Dakota's 13 beautiful state parks.
Camping and cabin reservations: www.parkrec.nd.gov



North Dakota Parks &
Recreation Department
1600 E. Century Ave., Suite 3
Bismarck, ND 58503