

# Press Release



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*For Immediate Release, Monday, March 10, 2008*  
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## ***Online State Park Reservations Available April 1***

Beginning on Tuesday, April 1, at 8 a.m. (CDT), North Dakota State Park visitors will be able to reserve a campsite or cabin, or purchase an annual park entrance permit either online or by phone. The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's new online management system will be available either at [www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov), or by calling toll-free, 800-807-4723.

"This online management system makes it easier than ever for North Dakotans and out-of-state visitors to enjoy our state park system," said Doug Prchal, director of the department.

While the new system will not be going "live" until April 1, users can get a sneak preview on Monday, March 24, by logging onto [www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov) and clicking on the "Online Services" link. Those visiting the site early are encouraged to sign up for a North Dakota Login ID at that time. A Login ID will be required to use the system. However, visitors may already have a Login ID if they have used other State of North Dakota online services, such as purchasing hunting or fishing licenses via the web.

"Two of the biggest changes that park visitors will see in the online management system are the reservation windows and cancellation fees," said Karen Assel, assistant field manager.

Individuals will be able to make a campsite reservation 90 days in advance of their arrival date. For example, the earliest a campsite reservation for July 4<sup>th</sup> can be made is on April 6 at 7 a.m. (CDT). For those wanting a reservation for the night of July 18<sup>th</sup>—the start of the Governor's Cup Walleye Tournament at Fort Stevenson State Park—the earliest date to get a reserved site will be 7 a.m. April 20. A 90-day reservation calendar will be available on the web site.

Cabin reservations may be made up to a year in advance. In addition, beginning April 1, cabin reservations will no longer be made by calling the park directly, but must be made either online or through the call center. Shelter and group facility rentals will continue to be made by calling the park in which they are located.

*Play in our backyard!*

A cancellation fee will be charged for all cancelled campsite or cabin reservations. The cancellation fee ranges anywhere from \$5 to one night's camping/cabin rental fee, depending on when the cancellation is made.

“We know that cancellations are unavoidable,” Assel said. “However, we hope that our cancellation policy will encourage people to cancel their reservation as soon as they know their plans have changed. In turn this will free up more campsites on the system so that they can be booked by others.”

The online management system has a number of other features that will make it useful to both those making a reservation and visitors wanting a “first come, first served” campsite. Those browsing the online system will be able to order an annual state park permit, view maps and tables showing availability of reserved sites system-wide, check individual campsite features such as type and length of camping pad, location of park amenities, upcoming special events and more.

The online management system was developed by the State of North Dakota's Information Technology Department. The call center, operated by NOVO1, a private telemarketing firm based in Williston, will use the online system to book reservations for those who prefer making reservations by phone. Once the service goes live, it will be available 24 hours a day, year-round, for both call center and internet users, within the reservation window timelines.

Approximately half of all state park campsites and all park cabins may be reserved in advance. Campsites are also available on a first come, first served basis.