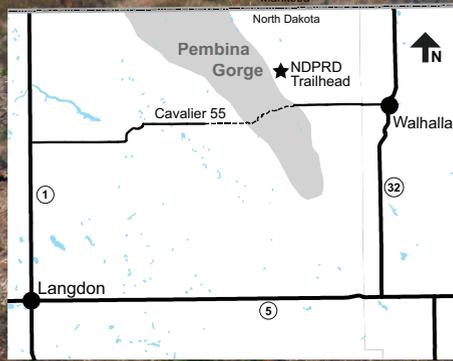


What to expect



www.parkrec.nd.gov

Explore the Pembina Gorge, the North Dakota Park and Recreation Department's newest trail, using an ATV or dirt bike. The trail head is located 1 mile north, 1 mile west, and ¼ mile north of the beautiful Walhalla Country Club.

At the trail head riders are treated to a breathtaking view from the top of the Three Sister Hills. This overlook provides one of the area's best photo opportunities. The first leg of the trail comes in over a set of beaver dams that feed into a stream, leading you down to the Little North Pembina River.

After crossing the Little North the trail travels up the valley past the fossil dig site (known locally as the Yellow Bank). Once past the Yellow Bank, the

trail follows the top shelf of the valley to the confluence of the Big Pembina and the Little North Pembina rivers. From here riders can see the entire Norman Atta — second highest hill in North Dakota — and the Frost Fire ski area.

The route then heads west, passing an old homesteader's road known as Swinky's Trail. Near the end of this segment, the trail, crosses a very steep crevasse ending up on an overlook approximately three miles west of the confluence. At this point, riders can see a local landmark, known as the Round Mound, and a good deal of the Pembina River itself. The second leg of the ride works past the pines and out to the meadows behind Butch's Cabin.

Nearby attractions

- Community of Walhalla
- Fossil Dig
- Camping

*Icelandic State Park
Mount Carmel Dam
Riverside Park (Walhalla)*

- Gingras Trading Post
- Golf Courses
- Frost Fire Ski/Snowboard Area & Live Summer Theater
- Rendezvous Region Scenic Backway
- Cavalier County Museum
- Tetrault State Forest
- Masonic Scenic Overlook
- Kittson Trading Post (State Historical Park)
- Three Martyr Graves

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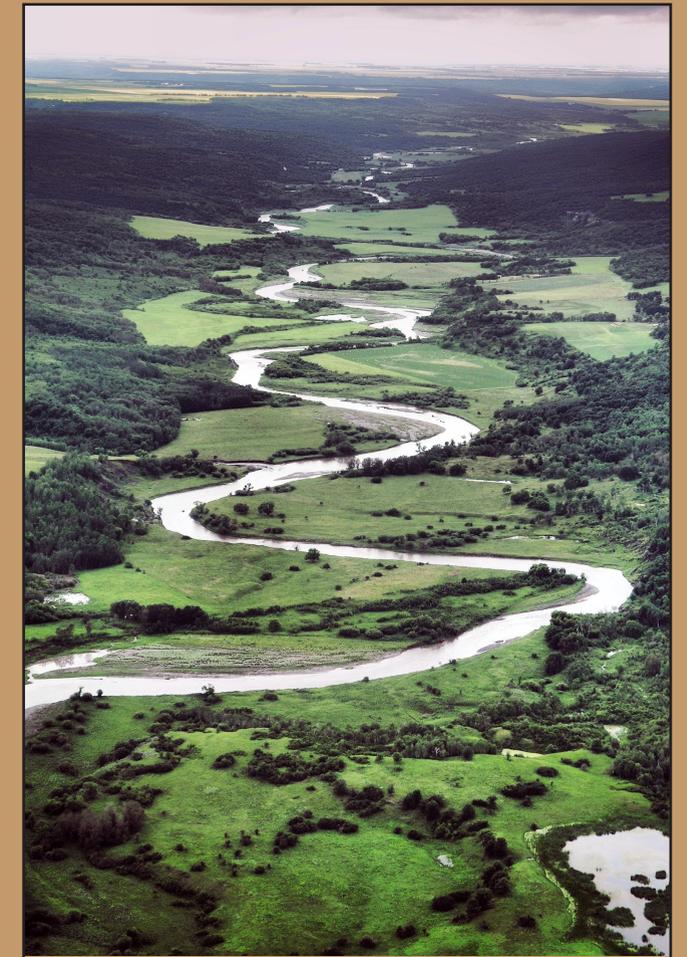
Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area

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The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's facilities, programs and employment opportunities are open to all, regardless of age, sex, race, color, disability, religion, national origin or political affiliation. Contact the NDPRD if you need an accommodation for a disability or an alternate format of this publication.

Pembina Gorge

State Recreation Area



The Recreation Area

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department, in cooperation with various state agencies and local entities, is undertaking a project known as the Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area to provide recreation opportunities in the Pembina Gorge through a system of trails, overlooks and access points.

Types of uses include motorized (Class I, II and III Off-Highway Vehicles) and non-motorized (hiking, biking, equestrian) recreation. Motorized off-highway vehicles (OHV) over 60 inches in width are prohibited from using the trails.

The Pembina River trail provides some of the finest canoeing/kayaking in the state. New projects and improvements to existing trails are happening every year and this area is quickly becoming a destination for adventure seekers throughout North Dakota and the surrounding states.

In addition to adventure in the Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area, there are many other activities to partake in close by. The Gingras Trading Post hosts one of the oldest structures in North Dakota and displays the fur trader history in the area. Icelandic State Park captures the essence of the settlement of North Dakota. History, nature, adventure...no matter what you're looking for, you'll find something interesting here!

Trail systems have been studied across the country and have been proven to make a positive economic impact on the surrounding communities. The livelihood of the surrounding communities is improved with enhanced health, recreation and quality of life. Trail development helps preserve both cultural and natural resources in the area. It provides educational opportunities for people to get out and learn about the resource. The Pembina Gorge has potential to provide all of the above if development is done in a sustainable, ecologically friendly way.



Trail Rules and Safety

- There is no fee to use the OHV trail
- Trail open to registered Class I, II, III OHVs.
- Side-by-sides cannot be over 60 inches in width.
- Riders under age 18 must wear a helmet.
- Ages 11 and younger cannot operate OHVs.
- Ages 12-15 must have an OHV safety certificate.

- Non-motorized trail uses are permitted.
- Follow trail signage
- Respect private lands adjacent to the trail.
- Wear proper riding gear

For complete trail regulations see the NDPRD website at www.parkrec.nd.gov.

Nature in the Gorge

The Pembina Gorge is a complex and diverse natural area of about 12,500 acres in northeast North Dakota featuring the longest unaltered stretch of river valley in the state. It's stunningly beautiful no matter the time of year, a natural wonder, rugged and sheltered from the rolling plains typical of the upper Midwest.

The glacial melt carved the Gorge out of soft marine shales, creating one of North Dakota's deepest and steepest river valleys. It's a biological crossroads and an ecological wonder where elements of northern boreal forest, eastern deciduous forest and central grasslands converge. The Gorge has the most extensive oak woodland in North Dakota; the greatest development of birch woodlands; an immense wetland thicket with notable fauna density; the largest collective area and most associated number of upland shrub lands; and at least 65 different documented natural diversity features including 30 plant species and 21 animal species categorized as "rare" in the state. The Pembina Gorge is perhaps the most floristically diverse area in North Dakota with over 480 species of plants.

Over 75 species of breeding birds are found in the Pembina Gorge, including 11 of the state's breeding warblers, making it a birdwatcher's paradise. It is the home of North Dakota's only naturally occurring herd of elk. The Gorge's unique combination of plants lends to an exceptional wildlife diversity including elk, moose, black bear, mountain lion, lynx and bobcats.

The Pembina Gorge also contains a 75- to 80-million-year-old fossil site containing Mosasaurs (giant sea lizards), bird, fish, squid and other fossils. At least four Mosasaurs, along with sharks, fish vertebra and fish scales have been discovered and identified by the North Dakota Geological Survey. Mosasaurs were the most fearsome predators and dominated the Western Interior Seaway during the Cretaceous Age.