



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

St. Paul District



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**RECREATION** in the St. Paul District

[www.mvp.usace.army.mil/recreation](http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/recreation)

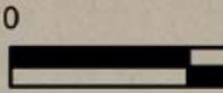
# RECREATION in the St. Paul District



**US Army Corps of Engineers**®

St. Paul District

**BUILDING STRONG**®





# CROSS LAKE

campground and recreation area



## ***Crosslake, Minnesota***

Cross Lake Recreation Area, located in Crosslake, Minn., is 23 miles from the city of Brainerd, on the Pine River and opens to the Whitefish Chain of Lakes.

Cross Lake Recreation Area has handicap accessible facilities, day use areas, 119 sites with 74 electric sites, three playgrounds, two picnic shelters, two walking paths, two fishing docks, two boat ramp access areas, two shower buildings, two swimming areas and a canoe access.

You can fish for walleye, northern pike, crappie, sunfish and bass. Winter enthusiasts can enjoy ice fishing and snowmobile trails at their own leisure.

Cross Lake was originally developed as a reservoir in 1886 to provide a 3-foot river navigation channel on the Mississippi River below Lake Pepin during the dry summer months.

Located on a historical stop along the National Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway, Cross Lake Recreation Area is a very popular summer destination with biking trails nearby and scenic wildlife views in many areas.

# GULL LAKE

campground and recreation area



## ***Brainerd, Minnesota***

The Gull Lake Recreation Area is located 10 miles northwest of Brainerd, Minn., on the Gull River at the outlet of Minnesota's famous Gull Lake Chain of Lakes.

The Gull Lake Recreation Area is handicapped accessible and has two day-use areas, a campground with 37 electrical sites, shower and laundry facilities, a group picnic shelter, a playground, a swimming area, an interpretive hiking trail and is in close proximity to the Paul Bunyan Trail.

Our boat ramp and beach are located on the lake where you have the opportunity to hear the call of the loon or wet a line for a chance to catch a wide array of fish.

The prehistoric archaeology of the Gull Lake dam site is of particular significance. There are 12 complete, and several partial, burial mounds. An interpretive center provides information for visitors on the burial mounds, which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Gull Lake Dam was put into service in 1912. It was the last of the Headwaters reservoir dams constructed.

# LAC QUI PARLE

recreation area



## ***Watson, Minnesota***

The Lac qui Parle Flood Control Project, which includes Marsh Lake, Lac Qui Parle Lake and the Chippewa Diversion, is located approximately 10 miles northwest of Montevideo, Minn.

The lake has 42 miles of shoreline for recreation within its 5,993 square acres of water. There are 19 boat access areas, which includes canoe portages, located around the lake. Fishing enthusiasts will enjoy catching walleye, channel catfish, blue gill, smallmouth bass, crappie and northern pike.

The Lac Qui Parle Project has three day-use areas, two picnic shelters, a playground and a walking path.

The Lac Qui Parle Flood Control Project was authorized as a federal project by the Flood Control Act of 1936.

Lac qui Parle is located in the Prairie Pot Hole Region of Minnesota and is a great place for viewing wildlife. There are several overlook areas where you can view wildlife, which includes a large population of Canada goose. Marsh Lake has a breeding ground for white pelicans, which is rare to this part of the country.

# LEECH LAKE

campground and recreation area



## ***Federal Dam, Minnesota***

Leech Lake Recreation Area, near Federal Dam, Minn., is located about 45 miles west of Grand Rapids, Minn.

Leech Lake Recreation Area is handicapped accessible, has a developed campground and day-use areas. It has 68 campsites with electricity; five campsites with electric, sewer and water; and four non-electric, tent-only sites. Other amenities include a picnic shelter, two mini-shelters, two playgrounds, a fish cleaning facility, showers, laundry, a dump station and walking trails. The recreation area is located in the center of the Chippewa National Forest.

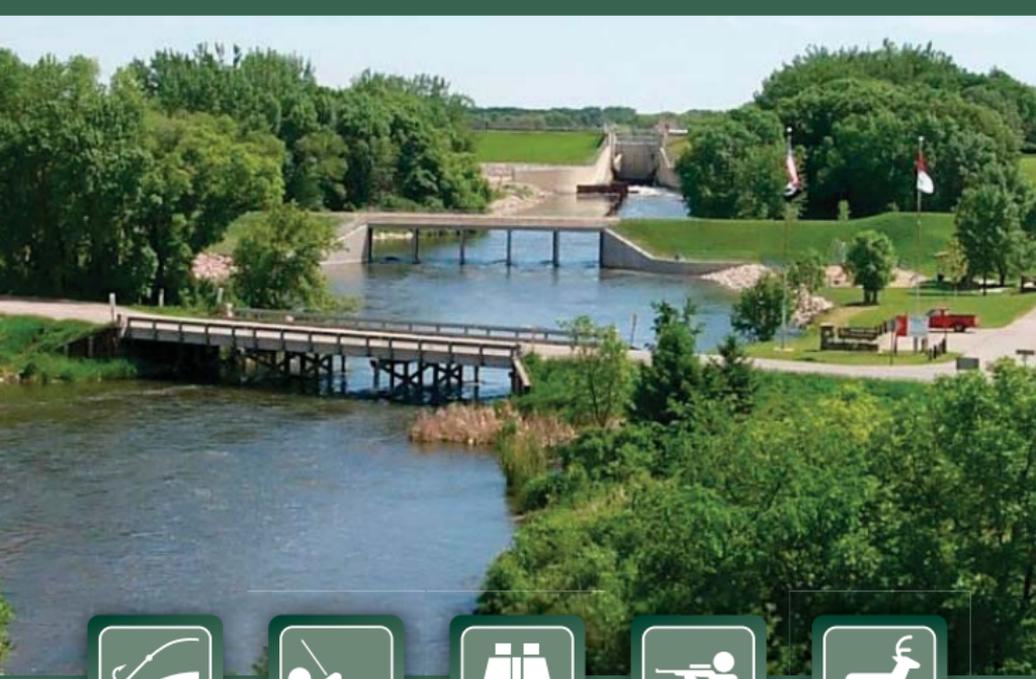
Leech Lake Recreation Area has two boat ramps for access to the lake and one access to the Leech Lake River. Popular activities include fishing and bird watching.

Leech Lake fills a basin formed by receding glaciers. The dam, constructed in 1884, controls the runoff from a 1,163 square mile drainage area and encompasses about 14 natural lakes.

The Leech Lake Recreation Area offers boat mooring to registered campers. An on-site concessionaire offers marina type services including guided fishing trips, boat rentals and the sale of bait, gas, ice and boat docking.

# ORWELL LAKE

recreation area



## *Fergus Falls, Minnesota*

Orwell Lake Reservoir is located nine miles southwest of Fergus Falls, Minn., on the Ottertail River. The Corps owns 2,000 acres of land surrounding the project with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources managing 1900 acres.

The recreation area has two areas that are both handicap accessible, two day-use areas, two picnic shelters, a main recreation area with a playground and a scenic overlook area. There are no established walking paths and camping is not allowed.

Orwell Lake has one public boat ramp where anglers can fish the Ottertail River year around. Walleye, catfish, carp, crappie, and both largemouth and smallmouth bass are frequently caught within the lake.

Orwell Dam was built in 1952 as a Flood Control Project. It is a wonderful place to fish and connect with nature. Visitors can also take-in sights of deer and eagles in a tranquil environment.

# POKEGAMA LAKE

campground and recreation area



## ***Grand Rapids, Minnesota***

Pokegama Dam and Recreation Area is located two miles west of Grand Rapids, Minn., on the Mississippi River. Pokegama Dam has a quarter mile of shoreline for recreation along its 10 acres of land.

The Pokegama Dam Recreation Area is handicapped accessible, has a day-use area, a campground with 19 electric spaces and two tent spaces, shower and laundry facilities, a picnic shelter and a playground.

Pokegama Dam has a boat ramp with access to the Mississippi River. You can fish for largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, northern pike, perch, crappie, sunfish and muskie.

Pokegama Dam was originally built in 1885 as a navigation storage reservoir to aide steam vessels traveling the river below Minneapolis. With the creation of the 9-foot dredged channel in the 1930s, this purpose has now changed to flood control, recreation, wildlife and other responsibilities.

The Pokegama Dam and Recreation Area has a floating, handicapped accessible fishing pier and a fish grinding station to clean your catch.

# SANDY LAKE

campground and recreation area



## *McGregor, Minnesota*

The Sandy Lake Recreation Area is located 13 miles north of McGregor, Minn., on Big Sandy Lake.

The recreation area is handicapped accessible, has two day-use areas, a campground with 50 electrical sites, eight tent campsites, shower and laundry facilities, a picnic shelter, two playgrounds and an interpretive hiking trail.

Sandy Lake Recreation Area has two boat ramps for access to the lake and a boat ramp that provides access to Sandy River. There are opportunities to fish for walleye, northern pike, crappie, sunfish and bass.

The Sandy Lake Recreation Area is located on the historic canoe route that linked Lake Superior and the Mississippi River. Archeological evidence from the area indicates that Native Americans established villages on the lake after glaciers retreated about 10,000 years ago. A major fur trading post was established on the western edge of the lake by the Northwest Fur Company in the late 1700s. In 1895, the Sandy Lake Dam was completed and today controls the runoff of 421 square miles and eight lakes.

# LAKE TRAVERSE

recreation area



## *Wheaton, Minnesota*

Lake Traverse is located near the city of Wheaton, Minn.

White Rock Dam, which forms Mud Lake, is located on the north end and controls water flowing north on the Bois de Sioux River. Reservation Dam controls the pool level at Lake Traverse and the water flowing north into Mud Lake; it also serves as a levee that separates the two lakes.

Browns Valley Dike lies on the southern end of the project and has one significant feature. The dike lies directly on the continental divide. This means all water north of the dike flows toward the Hudson Bay and all water south flows toward the Gulf of Mexico.

Handicap-accessible bathrooms are located at all three day-use areas, along with one picnic shelter and two playgrounds and several boat ramps.

Recreational activities are available year-round. You can enjoy fishing, hunting, boating, water-skiing or relaxing with a picnic and taking in the birds.

The Lake Traverse project was authorized by Congress in 1936 and completed and put into operation in December of 1941.

# WINNIBIGOSHISH

campground and recreation area



## ***Deer River, Minnesota***

The Winnibigoshish Dam and Recreation Area is located 15 miles northwest of Deer River, Minn., on Lake Winnibigoshish and the Mississippi River.

The recreation area is handicapped accessible, has a day-use area, a campground with 22 electric spaces, a picnic shelter and a playground.

A boat ramp is also available for access to the Mississippi River where you can fish the tail water for walleye, northern pike, rock bass and perch. A snowmobile trail runs through the day-use area during the winter.

Winnibigoshish Dam was originally constructed in 1884 as a navigation storage reservoir but now serves as a flood control reservoir, with recreation, wildlife and tribal trust responsibilities.

The Winnibigoshish Dam campground is home to many towering red pine trees and is frequently visited by perching bald eagles that stop to enjoy a meal of fresh fish.

# LAKE ASHTABULA

campground and recreation area



## *Valley City, North Dakota*

Lake Ashtabula is located 10 miles northwest of Valley City, N.D., on the Sheyenne River. The lake was formed by the construction of Baldhill Dam.

Completed in 1951, the dam was intended to stabilize flows on the Sheyenne River. Baldhill Dam serves as a multi-purpose facility providing stable water supplies, flood abatement, wildlife habitat and recreation.

There are seven recreation areas around the lake and four campgrounds that offer trailer sites with electrical hookups as well as tent sites. In addition to camping, there are three swimming areas and seven boat ramps. Picnic facilities and playgrounds are located at most of the sites. Recreational areas are fully operational from May to September.

Lake Ashtabula is known for its northern pike, perch, walleye, and white bass, smallmouth bass, crappie and bullhead. Three accessible fishing piers and four automated fish cleaning stations are also available for anglers.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service operates the Valley City National Fish Hatchery, which includes the fish hatchery ponds located directly below the dam.

# BLACKHAWK PARK

campground and recreation area



## *De Soto, Wisconsin*

Blackhawk Park is located three miles north of De Soto, Wis., or 30 miles south of La Crosse, Wis., just off Wisconsin State Highway 35. It is the largest public use campground in the Mississippi River's Pool 9.

Blackhawk offers accessible campsites, picnic shelters, restroom facilities and a shower. There are 73 campsites with electric hookups, 44 available for reservation and 100 primitive campsites for the more rustic nature enthusiasts. Many of these campsites provide a picturesque view of the Mississippi River. Other amenities include two playgrounds, two boat ramps, a swimming beach and a sanitary disposal station.

Blackhawk is designated as a dredged material placement site the Corps has developed since 1985.

# EAU GALLE

campground and recreation area



## *Spring Valley, Wisconsin*

Eau Galle Recreation Area is a 650-acre project located just north of Spring Valley, Wis., 50 miles east of the Twin Cities and 40 miles west of Eau Claire, Wis.

A 150-acre lake is surrounded by four day-use areas, a beach, two boat launches, a handicap accessible fishing pier, a campground, and several miles of hiking and equestrian trails.

The campground offers electric, non-electric and walk-in tent campsites. There is also an equestrian campground. The foot trails provide a scenic and relaxing view of the woodlands and wetlands.

An abundance of largemouth bass, northern pike, bluegill and crappie provide year-round action for the angler whether it is from the shore or a boat. The Eau Galle Reservoir only allows non-gasoline powered boats.

The Eau Galle Flood Control Project, with its dam, lake, recreation areas and channel improvements, was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1958 as result of repeated flooding in the Spring Valley area.

# RECREATION

in the St. Paul District

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Cross Lake Recreation Area<br><i>Crosslake, Minn.</i>              | 218-692-2025 |
| Gull Lake Recreation Area<br><i>Brainerd, Minn.</i>                | 218-829-3334 |
| Lac qui Parle<br><i>Watson, Minn.</i>                              | 320-269-6303 |
| Leech Lake Recreation Area<br><i>Federal Dam, Minn.</i>            | 218-654-3145 |
| Orwell Lake and Dam<br><i>Fergus Falls, Minn.</i>                  | 218-736-6463 |
| Pokegama Lake Recreation Area<br><i>Grand Rapids, Minn.</i>        | 218-326-6128 |
| Sandy Lake Recreation Area<br><i>McGregor, Minn.</i>               | 218-426-3482 |
| Lake Traverse<br><i>Wheaton, Minn.</i>                             | 320-563-4586 |
| Winnibigoshish Lake<br>Recreation Area<br><i>Deer River, Minn.</i> | 218-326-6128 |
| Lake Ashtabula Recreation Area<br><i>Valley City, N.D.</i>         | 701-845-2970 |
| Blackhawk Park<br><i>DeSoto, Wis.</i>                              | 608-648-3314 |
| Eau Galle Recreation Area<br><i>Spring Valley, Wis.</i>            | 715-778-5562 |

## WEBSITES

ST. PAUL DISTRICT RECREATION  
[www.mvp.usace.army.mil/recreation](http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/recreation)

RESERVATIONS  
[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

CORPS RECREATION  
[www.corpslakes.usace.army.mil](http://www.corpslakes.usace.army.mil)

WATER SAFETY  
[www.watersafety.usace.army.mil](http://www.watersafety.usace.army.mil)



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