



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

St. Paul District

# RECREATION

in the St. Paul District



Your **safety** is our **concern**  
ALWAYS wear a **LIFE VEST**

# 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, Minnesota, is 23 miles from Brainerd, Minnesota, on the Pine River and opens to the Whitefish Chain of Lakes.

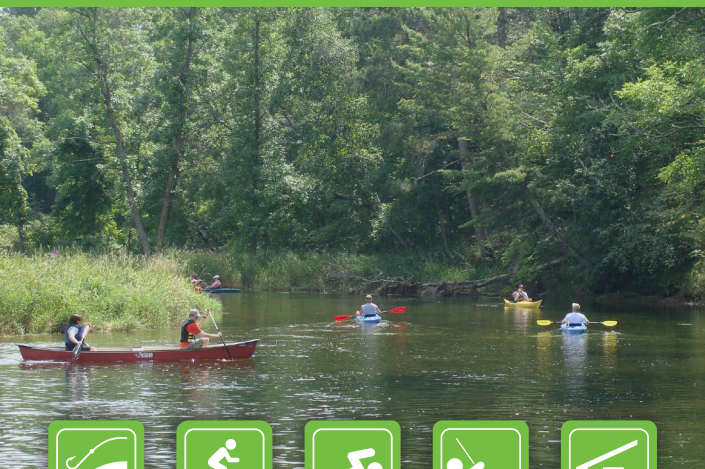
The recreation area offers accessible facilities, day-use areas, 122 campsites of which 97 are electric sites, two playgrounds, two picnic shelters, walking paths, a butterfly garden, two fishing docks, two boat ramp access areas, two shower buildings, two swimming areas and a canoe access area.

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

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, Minnesota, on the Gull River at the outlet of Minnesota's famous Gull Lake Chain of Lakes.

The accessible recreation area offers something for everyone including a wooded campground with 39 electrical sites, showers, laundry facilities, day-use areas, group picnic shelter, playgrounds, swimming beach, fishing piers and a boat launch onto Gull Lake.

Visitors can hike on our interpretive trail that offers picturesque views or bike on miles of local multi-use trails. It is also in close proximity to the 120 mile paved Paul Bunyan Trail, several amusement parks, numerous shopping opportunities, and more than 500 holes of golf on several premier area courses.

The area was formed by a receding glacier that moved southward from Canada and carved the landscape we see today. The region has a rich, diverse culture and history and has been inhabited several times since 800 B.C. Visitors have the opportunity to see and hear an abundance of wildlife including bald eagles, deer, otters, a variety of song birds and relax to the legendary call of the loon.

# LAC QUI PARLE

recreation area



## ***Watson, Minnesota***

The Lac qui Parle Recreation Area, which includes Marsh Lake, Lac Qui Parle Lake and the Chippewa Diversion, is located approximately 10 miles northwest of Montevideo, Minnesota.

The lake has 42 miles of shoreline for recreation within its 5,993 acres of water. There are 19 boat access areas, which include canoe portages. Fishing enthusiasts will enjoy catching walleye, channel catfish, blue gill, smallmouth bass, crappie and northern pike. The recreation site has three day-use areas, two picnic shelters, a playground and a walking path.

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 large populations of Canada geese. Marsh Lake is also home to a breeding ground for white pelicans, which is unique to this part of the country.



# LEECH LAKE

## campground and recreation area



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

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

The accessible recreation area is located in the center of the Chippewa National Forest and has a 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 Leech Lake Recreation Area offers boat mooring to registered campers, two boat ramps for access to the lake and one access to the Leech Lake River. Popular activities include fishing and bird watching. An on-site concessionaire offers marina type services including guided fishing trips, boat rentals and the sale of bait, gas, ice and boat docking.

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 eight lakes are affected at normal pool.

# ORWELL LAKE

recreation area



## ***Fergus Falls, Minnesota***

Orwell Lake Reservoir is located 9 miles southwest of Fergus Falls, Minnesota, on the Otter Tail River. The Corps owns 2,000 acres of land surrounding the reservoir with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources managing 1,900 acres.

The recreation areas are accessible. There are 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 Otter Tail River year around. Walleye, catfish, crappie and both largemouth and smallmouth bass are frequently caught. 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 Recreation Area is located two miles west of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, on the Mississippi River. Pokegama Dam has a quarter mile of shoreline for recreation along its 10 acres of land.

The accessible recreation area has a day-use area, two fishing piers, a campground with 19 electric spaces and two tent spaces, shower facilities, a picnic shelter and a playground.

Pokegama Dam has a boat ramp with access to the Mississippi River. Anglers fish for largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, northern pike, perch, crappie, sunfish and muskie. The site has a floating, accessible fishing pier and a fish cleaning station.

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

# SANDY LAKE

## campground and recreation area



### **McGregor, Minnesota**

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

This well-maintained recreation area features two day-use areas, a campground with 50 electrical campsites, eight tent campsites, a camper cabin, shower and laundry facilities, a picnic shelter, two playgrounds and a free public swimming beach. It has two boat ramps for access to the lake and a boat ramp that provides access to the Sandy and Mississippi rivers. 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 the 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 manages the runoff of 421 square miles.

# LAKE TRAVERSE

## recreation area



### ***Wheaton, Minnesota***

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

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.

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. Visitors can enjoy fishing, hunting, boating, water-skiing or relaxing with a picnic and taking in the birds.

# LAKE WINNIBIGOSHISH

campground and recreation area



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

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

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

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

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.

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

# LAKE ASHTABULA

campground and recreation area



## **Valley City, North Dakota**

Lake Ashtabula is located 10 miles northwest of Valley City, North Dakota, on the Sheyenne River. The lake was formed by the construction of Baldhill Dam in 1950.

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.

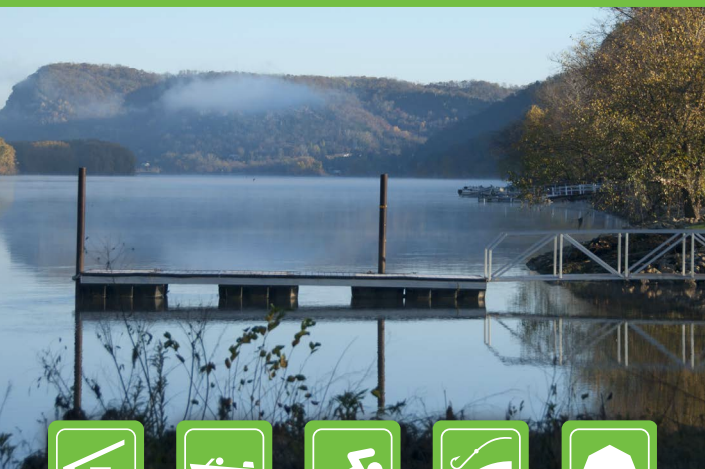
Lake Ashtabula is known for its northern pike, perch, walleye, white bass, smallmouth bass and crappie. Three accessible fishing piers and four automated fish cleaning stations are also available for anglers.

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 3 miles north of De Soto, Wisconsin, or 30 miles south of La Crosse, Wisconsin, off Wisconsin State Highway 35. It is the largest - public campground in the Mississippi River's Pool 9 area.

The recreation area offers accessible campsites, picnic shelters, restroom facilities and a shower. There are 73 campsites with electric hookups, 44 available for reservation and 70 primitive campsites for rustic nature enthusiasts. Many of these campsites provide a picturesque view of the Mississippi River. Other amenities include two playgrounds, a swimming beach, and two boat ramps, one to the main channel and one to the backwaters.

Blackhawk Park is also home to a historic site. The park is located on the same site as the final battle of the Blackhawk War, known as The Battle of Bad Axe, which occurred on Aug. 1-2, 1832. This site was also used as a camping area for Zebulon Pike in September of 1805 during his expedition to find the Mississippi River headwaters.



# EAU GALLE

campground and recreation area



## ***Spring Valley, Wisconsin***

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

A 150-acre lake is surrounded by four day-use areas, a beach, two boat launches, an accessible fishing pier, a campground and several miles of hiking and equestrian trails. Only electric motors are allowed on the lake.

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, perch, trout, bluegill and crappie provide year-round action for the angler whether it is from the shore or a boat.

# RECREATION

## in the St. Paul District

Blackhawk Park <i>De Soto, Wis.</i>	608-648-3314
Cross Lake Recreation Area <i>Crosslake, Minn.</i>	651-290-5793
EauGalleRecreationArea <i>Spring Valley, Wis.</i>	715-778-5562 - Press 0
Gull Lake Recreation Area <i>Brainerd, Minn.</i>	651-290-5772
Lac qui Parle <i>Watson, Minn.</i>	320-269-6303
Lake Ashtabula Recreation Area <i>Valley City, N.D.</i>	701-845-2970
Lake Traverse <i>Wheaton, Minn.</i>	320-563-4586
Leech Lake Recreation Area <i>Federal Dam, Minn.</i>	218-654-3145
Orwell Lake and Dam <i>Fergus Falls, Minn.</i>	218-736-6463
Pokegama Lake Recreation Area <i>Grand Rapids, Minn.</i>	218-326-6128
Sandy Lake Recreation Area <i>McGregor, Minn.</i>	651-290-5850
Winnibigoshish Lake Recreation Area <i>Deer River, Minn.</i>	218-326-6128

## WEBSITES

### ST. PAUL DISTRICT RECREATION

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

### RESERVATIONS

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

### CORPS RECREATION

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

### WATER SAFETY

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



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