Sandy Lake Recreation Area

Big Sandy Lake is located 13 miles north of McGregor, Minnesota, and is a part of the historic canoe route that linked Lake Superior and the Mississippi River. Archaeological 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 controls the runoff of 421 square miles and eight lakes. The old lock house at the dam has been converted into an interpretive exhibit which contains artifacts from the area’s historic past.

The clean, friendly atmosphere at Sandy Lake makes this area a favorite destination for visitors of all ages to enjoy fishing, boating, camping, swimming and wildlife. The campground offers 50-amp electric campites, a group camper cabin site, showers, swimming beach, fishing and courtesy docks, playgrounds and dump stations. Park rangers conduct interpretive programs on most weekends during the summer months and everyone is invited to join. Visitors can find an assortment of dining, championship golf course, resorts and many acres of public land that support a variety of recreational experiences within a 15 minute drive.

Emergency - Call 911

Thank you for visiting!

Sandy Lake Recreation Area is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Our trained staff are here to assist you, and we welcome your comments and suggestions.

Volunteer opportunities are available. Visit corpslakes.us/volunteer or www.volunteer.gov, or Call 1-800-VOL-TEER (800-865-8337) for more information.

You may make reservations for campsites or day-use shelters on the day of arrival to six months in advance of arrival (rolling window) by calling 1-877-444-6777 (TDD: 1-877-833-6777) or visiting www.recreation.gov.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Sandy Lake Recreation Area
22205 531st Lane, McGregor, MN 55670
Phone: (218) 426-3482
(651) 290-5850
www.mnp.usace.army.mil
www.corpslakes.usace.army.mil
Headwater Recreation Sites
SandyLake@usace.army.mil
Lake.Winnibigoshish@usace.army.mil
PokegamaLake2@usace.army.mil
LeechLake@usace.army.mil
CrossLake@usace.army.mil
GullLake@usace.army.mil

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CrossLake@usace.army.mil
GullLake@usace.army.mil
Rules & Visitor Information

- Campsite checkout time is at NOON on the last day of your stay. You may use our day use facilities to finish your visit. All camping equipment must be removed from your site by checkout time.
- You are welcome to stay with us for up to 14 days in a 30 day period.
- FIREWOOD ALERT! Only firewood certified and approved by state or federal natural resource agency is permitted. Any unauthorized firewood brought into the campground may be removed and destroyed by Corps of Engineers staff.
- To help all guests enjoy the serenity of the northwoods, reasonable noise levels must be maintained throughout the day and quiet hours are 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. Please respect the privileges and privacy of others.
- Off-road and all-terrain vehicles, or ATV, are not allowed. For the safety of all, this includes golf carts, motorized recreational scooters and children’s electric vehicles. Bicycles are permitted.
- Well behaved pets are welcome, but please keep them physically leashed (no longer than 6 feet), quiet, and attended at all times. Noisy animals may be asked to leave. Owners are responsible for the clean-up of all excrement.
- On your site, return all excrement. Owners are responsible for the clean-up of all excrement.
- All pets must be kept physically leashed. Noisy animals may be asked to leave. Owners are responsible for the clean-up of all excrement.
- Noisy animals may be asked to leave. Owners are responsible for the clean-up of all excrement.
- Bicycles are permitted.
- Clear, friendly atmosphere at Sandy Lake Recreation Area makes this area a favorite destination for visitors of all ages to enjoy fishing, boating, camping, interpretive exhibits which contain artifacts from the area’s historic past. The clean, friendly atmosphere at Sandy Lake Recreation Area is enjoyable.

Day Use Information

For non-campers, boat launches are available for a nominal fee. Swimming, fishing and picnicking and other activities are free of charge. A picnic shelter is available for use and may be reserved. Day use and visiting hours are between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m.