

## Get away from the hustle, check out the Corps campgrounds

Summer is here and with it comes warm temperatures, sunny days, and good times with family and friends. The Yankton area has much to offer people wanting to spend some time away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Our community is fortunate to have some of the best recreation resources in the area with the Missouri River and Lewis and Clark Lake.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has several parks just downstream of the Gavins Point Dam that still offer recreation that is free to the public. Whether you want to boat, fish, swim, picnic or camp, there is a park for you to relax in.

For those of us that love to fish, the area below the dam offers some of the best catches around. There are two boat ramps on the Missouri River just below the dam located at the Training Dike Recreation Area and in Nebraska Tailwaters. The Training Dike is accessible from the Toe Road on the north side of the dam and Nebraska Tailwaters is right off of Nebraska Hwy 121. The Training Dike and Cottonwood Day Use parks also have boat ramps to access Lake Yankton.

The fact that Lake Yankton doesn't allow boats with gas motors (only electric motors and "man power" are allowed) makes this the perfect choice for those who want a quiet setting to fish.

Don't have a boat to go fishing with? All of these areas have shoreline access. There is even a handicapped accessible fishing dock on the Missouri River in Tailwaters and on Lake Yankton in Cottonwood Day Use Park.

If fishing's not your thing, the Corps of Engineers parks offer many other recreational opportunities. Along with the boat ramp to Lake Yankton, Cottonwood Day Use Park boasts a Frisbee golf course. This nine-hole course is in a beautiful open grassy setting surrounded by majestic Cottonwood trees. Whether you're a serious Frisbee golfer or you want to try it out for the first time, this course will provide hours of fun. Cottonwood also has individual picnic areas and a group shelter that is available to rent for your function or gathering.

The Training Dike area has easy access to both the river and Lake Yankton. It has the only swimming

beach below the dam. The area has lots of individual picnic sites and a small covered shelter available on a first-come first-serve basis.

Always popular is the large playground area, nicknamed Rainbow Park. This is a great place to take the kids for an hour or the whole day. The beach and the playground are within walking distance, though children should always be supervised by adults.

There are 2 campgrounds below the dam that have spectacular views

of the Missouri River and Lake Yankton. Nebraska Tailwaters Campground has 42 campsites, all of which have great views of the river. There are both electric and non-electric sites.

Nebraska Tailwaters recently underwent an extensive renovation. The improvements included — construction of a new comfort station, electric campsites were upgraded to 50 amp service, many campsites were lengthened, and the boat ramp parking lot was expanded.

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