

Corps Has Much To Offer Everyone

There's not much better in life than spending sunny summer days enjoying the outdoors with family and friends. 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 river 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 accessible fishing docks on the Missouri River in Tailwaters and on Lake Yankton in Cottonwood Day Use Park for those with disabilities.

Along with fishing the Corps of Engineers parks offer many other recreational opportunities. Cottonwood Day Use Park has a disc golf course. This nine-hole course is in a beautiful open grassy setting surrounded by majestic Cottonwood trees. Whether you're a serious disc 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 Missouri 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 two campgrounds below the dam with great views of the Missouri River and Lake Yankton. Nebraska Tailwaters Campground has 42 campsites, all of which are on the river. There are both electric and non-electric sites.

Cottonwood Campground, located next to Cottonwood Day Use Park, has 77 campsites, all of which have electrical hookups. Electric hookups in each park have 20/30/50 amp service. Each campground offers modern restrooms, campsites with picnic tables and grills. Both have reservable and first-come, first serve campsites. Camping reservations can be made through the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS) at 1-877-444-6777 or at www.recreation.gov.

One of the leading attractions in the lake area is the Lewis and Clark Visitor Center. This is one of the premier visitor centers on the Missouri River. The center has spectacular views of the river, Lewis and Clark Lake, and Gavins Point Dam. Through its exhibits you will learn the history of the Missouri River and Lewis and Clark's influence on the Yankton area. Other exhibits will display the area's natural history and vast flora and

fauna, history of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the agency's role in management of the river. Before you leave, browse through the bookstore or take a walk in the Dorian Prairie Garden. The visitor center is free of charge and accessible for those with disabilities.

Gavins Point Dam is one of six main stem dams on the Missouri River. The operation of Gavins Point is vital to the management of the river. It is the last dam on the Missouri before it joins into the Mississippi. Gavins Point is essential for flood damage reduction, hydroelectric power, navigation, recreation, irrigation, water supply and quality and fish and wildlife enhancement — not only in the Yankton area but to the whole Missouri River basin. Tours of the powerplant are available on the hour between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (except 12 noon) each Friday, Saturday and

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