

NIOBRARA STATE PARK

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Situated at the confluence of the Niobrara and Missouri rivers in northeastern Nebraska, Niobrara State Park provides a wide range of outdoor experiences. Cabins, RV and tent camping, picnicking, swimming, horseback trail rides, hiking, fishing, history and communing with Mother Nature are all available at this exceptional, 1260-acre park.

Modern camping facilities are open from mid-April through mid-October. Cabins are available year round. Horseback trail riding operates from Memorial weekend through Labor Day. The swimming pool is open mid-June through mid-August. Park grounds are open year-round for picnicking, hiking, sightseeing and primitive camping.

Visitors are urged to practice safety at all times. Parts of the park are situated on high bluffs that can be hazardous for the unwary and the careless.

Accommodations

Niobrara's 19 modern housekeeping cabins sit high above the Missouri River, offering a commanding view of the breathtaking expanse of bluffs, cliffs and river. There are 12 two-bedroom units that sleep 6 (1 double and 2 sets of bunk beds); 3 three-bedroom units that sleep 10 (1 double and 4 sets of bunk beds); 4 three bedroom units that sleep 8 (2 queens and 2 sets of bunk beds), and 1 three bedroom, two story farm house renovated into a lodging facility called the Ranch House that sleeps 8 (3 doubles, 2 twins), located just 1 block north of the RV campground next to the wrangling station. They all have air conditioning and heat. Bedding, towels, cooking utensils and tableware are provided. Cabins have kitchenettes complete with a small stove and refrigerator, a screened back porch, and a patio with picnic table and grill.

A day use group lodge is available for conferences, retreats, family reunions and other similar events. Situated on a ridge overlooking the Missouri River, it offers a spectacular view of the vicinity. The lodge has a well equipped kitchen and restrooms and accommodates up to 110 people.

Cabin reservations are accepted for two or more nights up to a year in advance of arrival date. During the peak season, a two-night stay is required; unless it is a one-night stay positioned between two prior reservations or a walk in registration for that day's business. Several of the cabins are available year-round.

Half of the modern campsites at Niobrara State Park can be reserved up to a year in advance, with a 3-day prior to arrival cut-off. The other half of modern campsites are available on a first come, first served basis.

Cabin and camping reservations are accepted up to a year in advance of arrival date, and can be made by calling the Nebraska State Park Reservation Call Center (402) 471-1414, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. CT. Reservations are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week online at www.outdoornebraska.org. Reservations may also be made by calling the park directly, during park office hours.

Camping & Picnicking

The modern RV campground has 7 pads with 50-amp electrical service and 69 with 30-amp electrical hookups. Other facilities include drinking fountains, modern restrooms, showers, dump station, playground equipment, picnic tables and grills. The tent camping area extends along three miles of extremely hilly, winding road. Grills and ground-level fire rings are provided. Many sites are situated on elevated hills adjacent to the Niobrara River. Cedar trees abound in the tent camping area, interspersed with groups of elm, hackberry and ash. Backpackers will also find Adirondack shelters here. For horse lovers, Niobrara has a special camping area for those who want to bring mounts to the park. The horse camp is primitive camping with no water available. Campers will need to fill water from the nearby campground. One smooth wire horse pen is provided.

Grills and picnic sites are located at various points along the one-way three-mile loop. One picnic shelter, situated on one of the highest points in the park gives a spectacular view of the surrounding countryside.

Recreation & Wildlife

A large number of white-tailed deer call the park home and wild turkeys roam freely through the cabin and tent camping areas. Beaver, muskrat and mink prowl the riverbanks and the varied bird life ranges from the majestic bald eagle to the tiny chickadee. The song of the whippoorwill blends with the call of the coyote in a nighttime serenade.

For the wildlife enthusiast, Niobrara offers ample photo opportunities or just the chance to observe the many species native to the area.

Nature's wonder is readily visible during a drive along the park's 7 miles of roads or a stroll along the 12-plus miles of hiking trails. A 2.1 mile hike-bike trail traverses the entire northern boundary of the park and offers some unique views of the timbered river bluffs and wetland areas. The eight-foot wide trail is wheelchair accessible and features a fishing bridge across the Niobrara River. In winter, the trail is open to cross-country skiers and snowmobiles.

Other Niobrara State Park pastimes include a modern swimming pool, horseback trail rides, fishing and nearby rivers. Pool hours are 1-6 p.m. daily (mid-June through mid-August). A lifeguard is always on duty. Season pool passes are also available. Buffalo Cookouts start Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend, check with park office for schedule of dates, times and programs. Trout are stocked in the park ponds in March and October. School Naturalist Programs for students are available in the spring by contacting the park office.

The park maintains three boat access areas to the Missouri River – at the old Niobrara town site, the Verdel site, 8 miles upstream (toilets available), Ferry Landing, 4 miles downstream across from the village of Running Water, S.D. and Sunshine Bottoms, west 15 miles on Hwy 12, then North 5 miles (toilets not available).

The Cramer Interpretive Center offers an exceptional view of the park and highlights places and people that played key roles in the history of the area, including the Ponca Indians. Adjacent to the park is the 4,500-acre Bazile Creek Wildlife Management Area, which affords ample opportunity for wildlife viewing, fishing, boating and hunting in season. Visitors may want to visit the site where the large fossilized skull, jaw and paddle of a mosasaurus, a sea-going lizard at least 30 feet long, had lain for 70 million years. Other areas of interest are Ashfall Fossil Beds State Historical Park, Ponca Cemetery, Mormon Monument the Ponca Agency, the city of Niobrara's modern 9-hole grass greens golf course, Niobrara Historical Society Museum, as well as other local attractions. Ask for directions at the park office.

Office Hours

Memorial weekend-Labor Day 8 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. daily
Mid-November to mid-April 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday

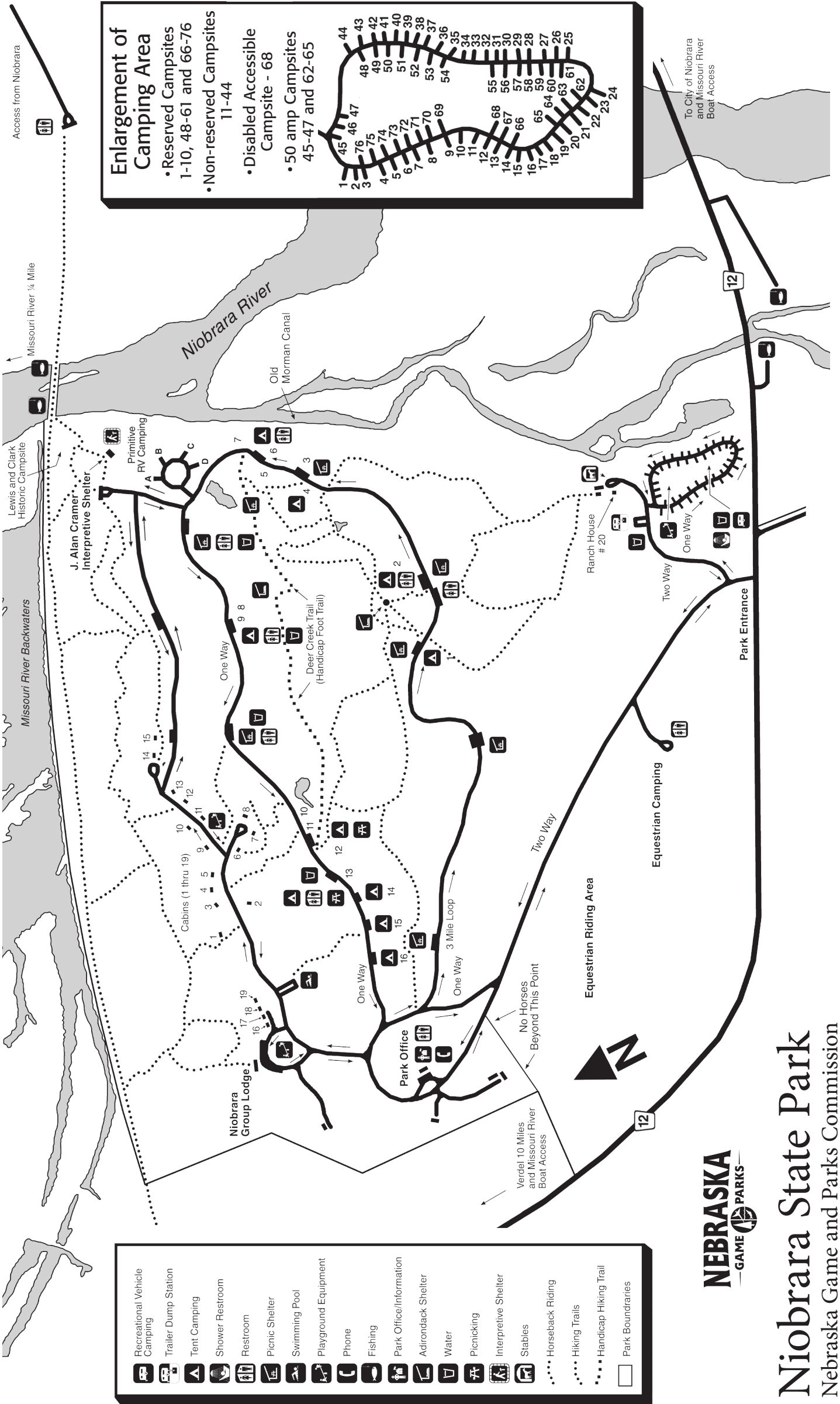
You can buy a park entry, fishing or hunting permit online as well at www.OutdoorNebraska.org

It's **EASY** to make **RESERVATIONS** for your favorite
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