

Lake Bemidji State Park



Spring 2012



Camper Cabin update

The contract for site preparation and installation of the new Camper Cabins has been awarded so everything is on track to have them ready for use later this summer. We have also decided on names for the cabins. To fit the current theme of the campground, the cabins will have the names of trees that can be found in the park. As you reference the adjoining map, Cabin 1 will be Tamarack, Cabin 2: Spruce, Cabin 3: Balsam and Cabin 4: Maple.

The location of the Camper Cabins will be in the old North Group Camp/overflow camping area, located just north of the Dining Hall building. As you can see on the map, two cabins will be ADA accessible, as will both vault toilets located on site.

The Camper Cabin project is being partially funded by the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment which was passed by the citizens of Minnesota back in 2008. Park guests should know that the cabins have come as a direct result of their support of the Legacy Amendment.

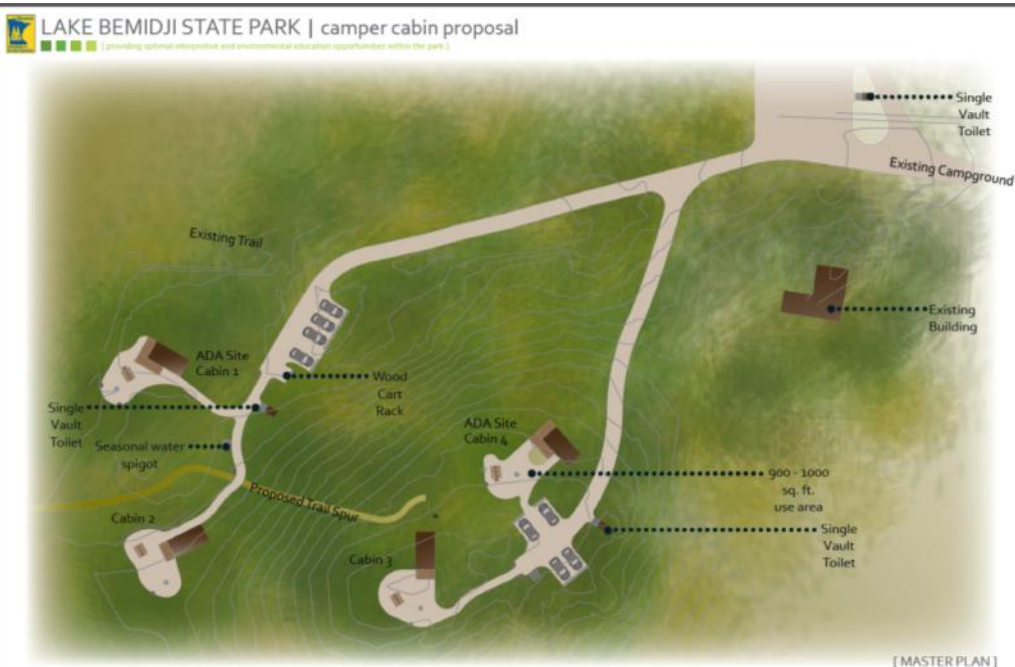


“WATCH FOR SPRING!”

- the first 70 degree day
- the last snow
- smell of a skunk
- Pussy willows
- first thunderstorm
- Redwing black birds
- Robins
- lake ice out
- frogs calling
- Marsh marigolds blooming

When will the ice go off Lake Bemidji?

| Ice Off | Freeze up | Year |
|---------|-----------|------|
| 20-Apr | 6-Dec | 2000 |
| 30-Apr | 20-Dec | 2001 |
| 25-Apr | 25-Nov | 2002 |
| 24-Apr | 2-Dec | 2003 |
| 24-Apr | 14-Dec | 2004 |
| 18-Apr | 30-Nov | 2005 |
| 16-Apr | 1-Dec | 2006 |
| 27-Apr | 7-Dec | 2007 |
| 12-May | 8-Dec | 2008 |
| 27-Apr | 7-Dec | 2009 |
| 6-Apr | 1-Dec | 2010 |
| 28-Apr | 6-Dec | 2011 |
| ?? | | 2012 |



Web Page for Lake Bemidji State Park contains program listings, photos, and important updates.
http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/lake_bemidji/index.html

Short Winter!

Was this the shortest winter on record? Possibly so—at least it seems that way to lots of skiers, snowshoers, and snowmobilers, who were definitely feeling deprived. Here at Lake Bemidji State Park, we fielded phone calls from as far away as Iowa and the Dakotas from people looking for snow! Snowmobilers arrived from both St. Cloud and Moorhead in search of winter too.

Despite a very dry December and January, Bemidji possibly had the best ski conditions in the state for much of February and early March. Our Candlelight Ski and Snowshoe, originally scheduled for January 14, was held on February 25—with a turn-out of about 70 winter-happy people! On March 3, Park Manager Pete Harrison led a guided snowmobile trip from Lake Bemidji State Park to the new shelter at Three Island Lake County Park, again with optimal conditions.



Picnic Shelter Rehab & GreenTouch Day 2012

Saturday May 5 will be the park's 13th annual GreenTouch Day, sponsored by Beltrami Electric Cooperative. This year's big project will be staining the exterior of the Picnic Shelter. The Picnic Shelter was originally built between 1936 and 1940 and is one of two National Youth Administration buildings in the park, and it also has the distinction of being on the National Register of Historic Places. It was completely rehabbed in 2003, but it's time for some more attention. This spring the concrete floor is being replaced, and then GreenTouch Day volunteers will spruce up the exterior with a new coat of stain.



April 5, 12 & 19, 2012

Basic Birding

This three-night series entitled Basic Birding is a place to start the joys of bird watching and identification. The first session will focus on guide books, selection and use of binoculars, as well as tips to field identification. The second session will explore the anatomy and structure of birds and how this is helpful in identification. The third session will focus on bird behavior and how that can aid in identification. Besides the three indoor sessions there will be a Saturday field trip to practice the skills of birding. This series is for the novice bird watcher as a way to begin enjoying avian sights. This program is free, but a vehicle permit is required to enter the park. Class is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Lake Bemidji State Park Visitor Center. Call 218-308-2300

April 2012

Ice Out - Ice Cream Social

Ice out on Lake Bemidji could be just a week a way - or not. But whenever it occurs, it's time to celebrate. The celebration will be at the lakefront pavilion near Paul and Babe on a Sunday in April. The tenth annual "Ice-Out Ice Cream Social" is a way of welcoming spring and saying good-bye to winter by using lake ice to make genuine hand-cranked, home-made ice cream. And in order to enjoy this more, you can take your turn at the crank. This offer is only good until the ice cream is gone. There will be a variety of flavors and a few clean-water themed activities to participate in. As ice out draws near, check with the Lake Bemidji State Park calendar for time and date or call the park at 218-308-2300. This event is hosted by the Bogs and Logs chapter of Minnesota Master Naturalist.