

Nebraskans have more than 80 state park areas to enjoy this summer. These parks offer a variety of activities for all ages.

To help Nebraskans plan vacations or trips to parks, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission offers the following summer park schedule. A park entry permit is required for all vehicles entering these parks.

Arbor Lodge State Historical Park (SHP)—Nebraska City, 402-873-7222. Mansion is open through Oct. 17, 1-5 p.m.

Bowring Sandhills Ranch SHP—Merriman, 308-684-3428. Ranch home tours and visitor center is open May 29-Sept. 6, Monday-Saturday (closed Wednesdays), 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sundays, noon-4 p.m.; Sod House Sunday, June 27.

Ashfall Fossil Beds SHP—Royal, 402-893-2000. Open daily Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.

Ash Hollow SHP—Lewellen, 308-778-5651. Visitor center open May 29-Sept. 6, Thursday-Sunday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Monday-Wednesday. Park grounds open 8 a.m.-sunset year-round. Ash Hollow pageant, June 18-19.

Buffalo Bill Ranch SHP—North Platte, 308-535-8035. May 29-Sept. 6, open seven days a week, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Calamus SRA—Burwell, 308-346-5666. Calamus Carp Tournament, June 5; Catfish Tournament, July 17-18; Calamus Carp Tournament, Aug. 7.

Chadron State Park (SP)—Chadron, 308-432-6167. Chadron SP Anniversary Day, June 19; Fur

Trade Days, July 9-11.

Eugene T. Mahoney SP—Ashland, 402-944-2523. Father's Day Buffet, June 20; star gazing, June 18, July 16, Aug. 20, and Sept. 10. Moonshell Storytelling Festival, Sept. 11.

Fort Atkinson SHP—Fort Calhoun, 402-468-5611. Open daily, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., May 31-Sept. 6; visitor center is open weekends only, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sept. 11-Oct. 17. Living history demonstrations, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., June 5-6, July 3-4, and Sept. 4-5.

Fort Hartsuff SHP—Burwell, 308-346-4715. Office and gift shop open 10 a.m.-5 p.m., until Sept. 6, Saturdays and Sundays only or by appointment.

Fort Kearny SHP and SRA—Kearney, 308-865-5305. Park is open daily till Sept. 6, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; 1860s soldier and civilian encampment and living history demonstrations, Sept. 4-6; Pony Express Re-ride, June 20; Fourth of July Stampede Days, July 3-4.

Fort Robinson SP—Crawford, 308-665-2900. Museums and restored buildings available mid-April to mid-November. Restaurant open daily Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Park opened at 4 p.m., May 28; Intertribal Gathering, June 11-13; Art Show, July 2-4; Fort Robinson 4th of July Celebration, July 4.

Indian Cave SP—Shubert, 402-883-2575. Living history demonstrations. Black powder demonstrations, June 5-6, July 3-4, Aug. 7-8, and Sept. 4-6. Fireworks, Sept. 4.

Lake McConaughy SRA—Ogallala, 308-284-8800. Go Fish Kids Fishing Clinic and Water Expo, June 5; Nebraska Walleye Association Tournament, June 20-21; Kites and Castles, July 31; The Dam Run, 5K/1 mile run/walk, July 31; Nebraska Walleye Trail Regional Championship Tournament, July 31-Aug. 1.

Lewis and Clark SRA—Crofton, 402-388-4169. National Park Service programs June 19, July 3, July 10, July 16, July 30, and Aug. 14, 7 p.m.

Merritt Reservoir SRA—Valentine, 402-376-3320. Nebraska Walleye Trail, June 6-27, with championship on June 26-27; Nebraska Walleye Association Tournament, July 19-20; Nebraska Star Party, Aug. 8-13.

Niobrara SP—Niobrara, 402-857-3373. Horse trail rides until Sept. 5; swimming pool open daily, June 5-Aug. 8, on weekends only, Aug. 9-Sept. 5; buffalo cookout and entertainment every Saturday until Sept. 4; Nebraska Humanities Programs, July 3, July 24, and Sept. 4; Plains Indian Program by Jim Horn, 6 p.m.; National Park Service programs, June 12, June 19, June 26, July 31, Aug. 14, and Aug. 21; Father's Day Fishing Tournament, 9 a.m., June 19; Kids Program presented by National Parks Service, July 2; Birding Program by Mark Brogie, July 17; Becoming an Outdoors-Woman kayak workshop, July 23-24; Ponca Cultural Night, Aug. 7; National Park Service program, 6 p.m., Sept. 3.

Pawnee SRA—Emerald, 402-796-2362. Carp-O-Rama, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., June 26.

Platte River SP—Louisville, 402-234-2217. Horseback trail rides, swimming pool, craft center, paddle boat rentals available, until Sept. 6; Father's Day buffet, June 20; holiday buffets, May 29-31, July 4 and Sept. 6.

Ponca SP—Ponca, 402-755-2284. Outdoor education programs available Memorial Day-Labor Day. Father's Day Fossil Hunt, June 19-20; Father's Day Fish Fry, June 20; Becoming an Outdoors-Family Workshop, June 11-13; Heritage Farm Weekend; Oct. 1-3; Archery Sight-In, Sept. 11-12; Missouri River Outdoor Expo, Sept. 18-19.

Rock Creek Station SHP—Fairbury, 402-729-5777. Rock Creek Trail Days, June 5-6.

Victoria Springs SRA—Anselmo, 308-749-2235. Very Important Kids Day, June 5.

Wildcat Hills SRA—Gering, 308-436-3777. Summer day camps at nature center, July and August.

Willow Creek SRA—Pierce, 402-329-4053. Fish and Chips Fishing/Golf Tournament, June 12-13.