

Background

This past year began the transformation of the old landfill on 22nd Ave. to the vision that was created three years ago for a nature park. The first phase of the nature park was completed in late-June, 2012, and at that time the park was reopened to the public. Fishing docks were anchored in place and were heavily utilized by the public and participants in the Fishin' Fridays recreation program. Additional trail work and clearing were also part of this phase.

This past fall saw the nature center begin to rise in the southwest corner of the park. A unique building with Douglas fir timber framing, rustic exterior and shake shingles, the nature center will undoubtedly become the focal point for education, programming, and socializing at Dakota Nature Park.

The area is open to public use for such activities as fishing, bird-watching, hiking, biking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, ice-skating, canoeing / kayaking and picnics. If you are a user of this area, please be considerate of others who are also enjoying this opportunity.

Fisheries Improvements, Phase I

Specifics:

- Two floating piers
- Trail construction
- Two parking lots
- Kayak/canoe ramp





Nature Center, Phase II

Specifics:

- 5,300 sq. ft., timber frame construction
- acid-stained cement floors
- atrium, classroom, 4-season porch, restrooms
- dual fireplace, reception, exhibits, storage
- geothermal, mound septic, city water

Nature Center Operation

Expected Summer (May – Aug.)

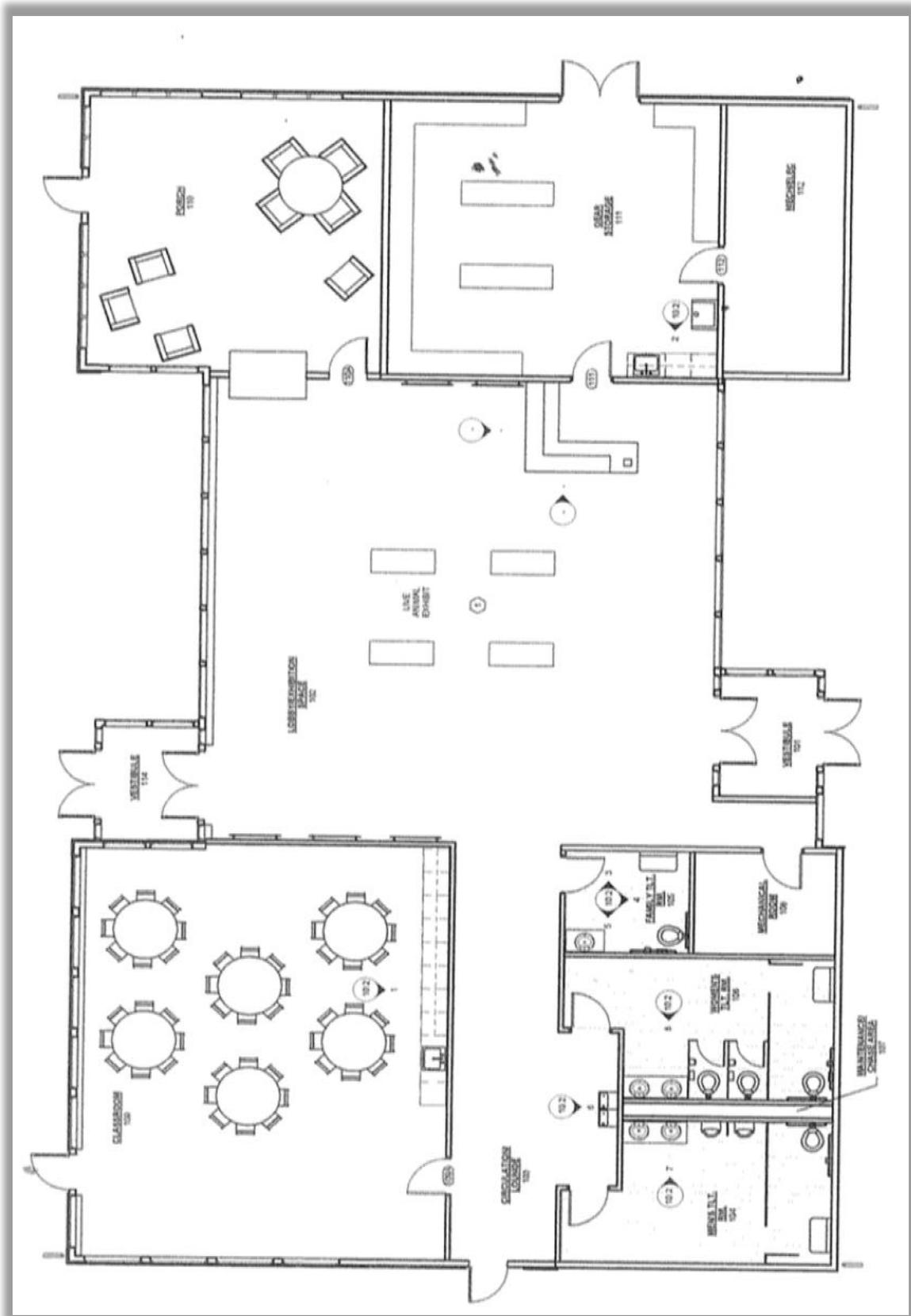
Hours of Operation: 5 - 7 days a week, 12noon - 8pm
and as schedule demands.

Expected Winter (Sept. – April)

Hours of Operation: Sat. & Sun., 8am-5pm
and as the schedule demands.

Staffing: seasonal employees
Friends of Dakota Nature Park
fulltime employees within normal schedule

Nature Center Floor Plan



Phase III and Beyond

- Additional trails, including mowed trails, boardwalk, main trail through the middle of the park, trail to the overlook and the footbridge over the north channel

- Shelters/Fencing/Two vault toilets
- Prairie restoration
- Other plantings, including berries and fruit, screenings
- Wildlife food plots and butterfly gardens
- Natural play-scapes (logs and boulders) and fishing hard-points
- Mountain bike course and track

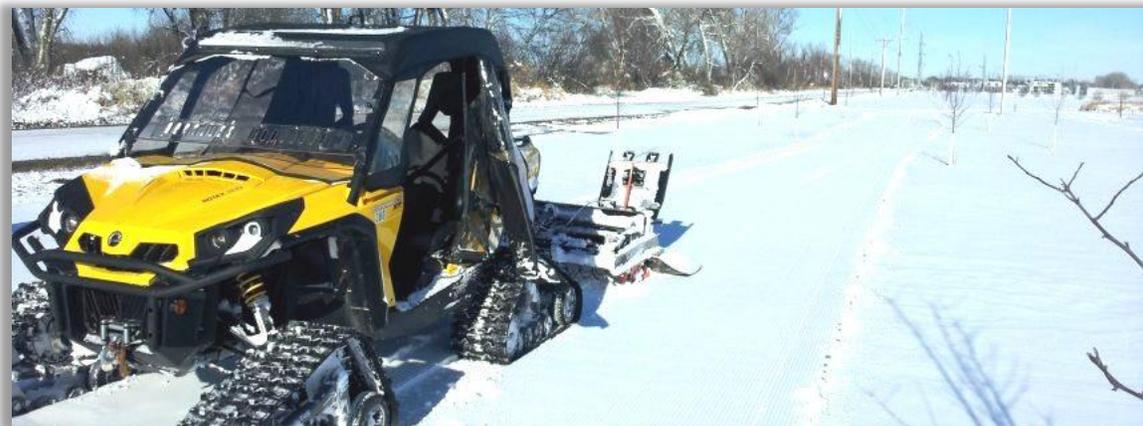
Major infrastructure completion: late fall 2013 (spring 2014)

Current Usage:

1. Family Fishing/Fishin' Fridays/Ice Fishing Derby
2. Geo-caching
3. Middle school science classes
4. Walking/Running
5. Bird-watching
6. Dog-training
7. X-C Skiing/Snowshoeing/Sledding/Ice Skating
8. Biking/Mountain Biking
9. Kayaking classes
10. SDSU Wildlife Studies

Wellmark grant benefits for the park: Can-am w/tracks, snow groomer, two kayaks/PFDs/paddles, thirty pairs of snowshoes, two adaptive bikes, five sets of binoculars, six GPS units, and fishing equipment.

Current and Future XC Ski and Snowshoe Trails



Examples of Future Usage:

1. Nature education classes, including Bushcraft Kids, South Dakota Naturalist (Jr.), Track and ID classes
2. Astronomy classes
3. Fishing classes
4. Classes for building bat-houses, kestrel-boxes...
5. Interpretative trails
6. Outdoor cooking/baking classes
7. "Good Talks": outdoor recreation, hunting /fishing, nature education
8. Specialty groups: United Retirement Center, Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts, 4-H, School classes, ADVANCE, SDOAC, Arts Council

Partnership with SD Outdoor Adventure Center

Established baseline:

1. Traditionally, each possesses education and activity areas of delivery:
 - a. SDOAC – all precision shooting sports
 - b. BPRD – kayaking/canoeing, fishing, snowshoeing/x-c skiing
2. Dakota Nature Park is a scheduled facility (beyond general public activity).
3. Chase Ellis, BPRD Rec Superintendent, will sit on SDOAC activities board.
4. To insure the original vision for Dakota Nature Park is maintained, communication between all organized user groups will be essential.

Dakota Nature Park Vision Statement:

Dakota Nature Park is a special place that is set apart from the City and its other fine parks.

Dakota Nature Park is a place where nature prevails and all humans are guests.

As good guests, humans should tread lightly on the land, undertaking only activities that have a minimal impact on the park's land, waters and wildlife, and that allow others to experience a sense of solitude and the uniqueness of this special place.



Friends of Dakota Nature Park

The Brookings Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department (BPRD) appreciates your interest in volunteering at Dakota Nature Park. The concept for this park was born from a committee of volunteer citizens three years ago, and it is the desire of the City of Brookings to maintain the park as a community project. The City recognizes the importance of volunteers in maintaining the quality of life and landscape in Brookings. BPRD is encouraging people to join Friends of Dakota Nature Park to help insure that park remains safe and clean for recreation and education opportunities for all our citizens.

Friends of Dakota Nature Park will be organized by BPRD. Eventually, (the hope is) volunteers will emerge to manage the group with direction from department employees. You are welcome to volunteer for any amount of time, and that time will be appreciated. Some volunteers may only be available certain time of the year, as well, and that will not be a hindrance to volunteering.

During the 2013 summer, there will be limited use of the park due to the various construction phases. It is anticipated that the nature center will be completed in early August, as well as the remaining trail work. While there may be some limited duties for volunteer before that, opportunities to volunteer will grow quickly beginning in August. By next spring, the department expects to need a consistent group of volunteers to help maintain and supervise the park and activities.

Again, thank you for your interest in volunteering.

Pete Colson, Brookings Park, Recreation & Forestry Department Director

Present or Most Recent Employer _____
Supervisor _____ Phone _____ Length of Employment _____

Employer Address _____ City _____ State _____

Special professional education, training, skills, and/or hobbies that may be applicable to your consideration for a volunteer: _____

Special Certification (i.e. CPR, Medical, etc.) _____

What previous experience do you have as a volunteer with adult, youth or children's programs?

Community affiliations (Clubs, Service Organizations, etc.): _____

Do you have children or youth registered in our program? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, at what level? _____

Please provide at least three references, at least one of which has knowledge of your participation as a volunteer previously in a youth program.

Name	Address	Phone
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Have you ever applied and been denied participation in any activity, sport or program involving children or youth?
Yes _____ No _____

If so, please explain: _____

Please use extra paper if additional information is required for any response.

Have you had a history or been convicted of a crime related to aggressive behavior, assault, or violence?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please explain:

Have you had a history or been convicted of a crime involving sexually exploitive behavior, sexual abuse involving children or been required to register as a sex offender?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please explain:

List below any violations, other than minor traffic offenses, for which you were convicted in a court of law. One or more convictions may not necessarily disqualify you from volunteering with the City of Brookings. The decision, however, will be based on a number of factors such as the duties of the volunteer position for which you are being considered, the seriousness of the offense of which you were convicted, your age at the time of the offense, rehabilitation efforts, the recentness of the offense, etc. Please be complete. All information is subject to verification.

OFFENSE	PLACE	DATE	DISPOSITION (Sentence)
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As part of the City of Brookings volunteer employment process, we may be checking your background relative to job and personal references, criminal record, credit, and social services record. In order to do that, we must have your authorization.

AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION

I understand that this investigation into my background may include a review of sex offender registries, child abuse and criminal history records. I understand that this check will determine, in part, my eligibility for appointment to a volunteer position within this organization. The undersigned hereby authorizes any state department of social services, any police department, and the City of Brookings to obtain and/or release any and all information regarding the social services, work credit, or criminal history of the undersigned applicant for consideration for volunteering at the City of Brookings. I hereby release and agree to hold harmless from any and all liability City of Brookings, to include any employees, officers and/or members, or any other person, organization, employer, or reference that may provide such information on account of compliance with this authorization. I understand that nothing in this application is intended to imply or create an employment relationship or contract for employment. If appointed, I understand that at any time I am subject to suspension, removal, or other discipline for violation of City of Brookings policies or principles. I certify that the information provided by me is true and accurate, to the best of my knowledge. The undersigned understands that misrepresentation or omission of facts called for in the application is cause for cancellation of the application and may result in immediate dismissal from my volunteer service.

Applicant signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if under 18 years of age)

Date

Printed Name _____

We appreciate your taking time to complete this application and your willingness to serve as a volunteer!!!

For use by City of Brookings only:

Background check completed by _____ on _____

System(s) used for background check (minimum of one must be checked):

Sex offender registry ____ Criminal History Records ____ References ____

Only attach to this application copies of background check reports that reveal convictions of this applicant.

Volunteer Duties (Please check those that may apply to you)

Days of the week _____ may be available:

Print Name

- Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday
- Saturday Sunday

Times on those days you checked you may be available?

How many hours are you willing to volunteer per week?

Do you use Facebook?

What are the best ways to contact you?

Please check below those duties you would be willing to perform?

- Litter cleanup along the trail system and high-use areas
- Landscaping, light-duty around the Nature Center
- Supervising the Nature Center during scheduled hours, including maintaining and renting equipment
- Supervising the Nature Center during events, including evenings.
- Assisting with inside programming, children and adults
- Assisting with outdoors programming, children and adults

Light maintenance, including fixing loose boards on trail and docks, etc.)

Outdoors Park Host, includes travelling the park talking and assisting people.

Special skills I have that may be needed at the park:

Duties not listed above:

Duties I am not interested in performing:

Comments or additional information:

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