



# **LaFramboise Island Nature Area**

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## **LaFramboise Island Trails**

**Type of trail:** Hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, viewing nature and interpretive history

**Length of trail:** Seven miles

**Trail surface:** Gravel/dirt/sand/grass

**Rated:** Easy, appropriate for all ages

**Fee required:** none

**Location of the trailhead:** SW side of the city of Pierre, at the end of the causeway

**Facilities at or near the trailhead:** Toilet, parking, drinking water, picnic tables, picnic shelter, grill

**Facilities along the trail:** Benches

**Will there be interpretive information available:** Yes

**What lodging opportunities are provided IN the park:** None

**Does this trail connect with any other trails:** Yes, large trail is broken up into smaller loops (see map),  
also connects with the Lewis and Clark Trail (to Farm Island and Oahe Dam)

**Nearest facilities for purchasing snacks, sunscreen, etc:** In Pierre

**Nearest motels/restaurants OUTSIDE the park:** In Pierre

**Nearest Chamber of Commerce:**

Pierre Area Chamber of Commerce, 800 W. Dakota, Pierre, SD 57501, (605) 224-7361  
Amulance - 911

**Emergency phone numbers:**

Ambulance - 911  
Sheriff - 911  
Fire Department - 911  
Pierre Police Department - 773-7410

**Do most cell phones work on this trail:** Yes

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## **LaFramboise Island Trails**

The island was recorded in the Lewis and Clark journals when they passed through the area in 1804. They saw many elk and buffalo on the island and called it "Good Humored Island" in reflection of their good spirits that day. In contrast, further up the river the next day they had a tense encounter with the Teton Sioux. The group's campsite location that night was fittingly referred to as "Bad Humored Island," which is no longer there today.

It was later changed to its present name, when Joseph LaFramboise built Fort LaFramboise at the mouth of the Bad River in 1817 for the American Fur Company. In 1829, the trading post was moved a mile upstream and renamed Fort Pierre Choteau after one of the founders of the fur company. In later years, parts of the island were farmed and a small saw mill also operated there. The remnants of these activities can still be seen today. LaFramboise Island became part of the Corps of Engineers' Big Bend Project in the 1960's and the causeway was constructed, making the area more accessible to visitors. The Island was transferred from the Corps of Engineers to the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks in 2002.

### **NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS**

LaFramboise Island is typical of a number of sandbar islands that used to be found along the Missouri River floodplains, but because of the impoundments on the river few of these islands remain today. The vegetation of the island is currently in a state of change. Before the dams were constructed upstream the island would occasionally flood. The inundations saturated the soil and removed some of the mature trees permitting cottonwood seeds to germinate and grow. Since flooding has stopped, cottonwood trees have had little reproduction occurring, while cedar, ash and Russian olive are becoming more prevalent. As the mature cottonwoods die these other tree species will take their place.

LaFramboise Island is an area with an incredible diversity of a bird species and wildlife. Deer and wild turkeys are common sights. The previously endangered least tern and bald eagle have been seen on the island. Snakes, ticks and poison ivy are also common, so please be careful.

# **LaFramboise Island Nature Area**

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## **Lewis and Clark Trail**

Connects Farm Island Recreation Area,  
LaFramboise Nature Area, and Oahe Downstream Recreation Area

**Type of trail:** Hiking and biking

**Trail surface:** Paved/gravel/limestone

**Rated:** Easy, appropriate for all ages

**Fee required:** Park Entrance License if starting at Farm Island or Oahe Downstream Recreation Areas

**Length of trail in miles:** 14.5 miles from Farm Island to Oahe Downstream

**Location of the trailheads:** Farm Island Recreation Area, LaFramboise Island Nature Area,  
Oahe Downstream Recreation Area

**Facilities at or near the trailheads:** Parking lots and vault toilets

**Facilities along the trail:** Resting benches and views of the Missouri River

**Will there be interpretive information available:** No

**What lodging opportunities are provided IN the park:** (At Farm Island and Oahe Downstream only)  
Tent camping, electrical and non-electrical campsites, wheelchair accessible campsites, camping  
cabins

**Does this trail connect with any other trails:** Connects with trails in Farm Island Recreation Area,  
LaFramboise Island Nature Area and Oahe Downstream Recreation Area

**Nearest facilities for purchasing snacks, sunscreen etc.:** In Pierre/Ft. Pierre

**Nearest motels/restaurants OUTSIDE the park:** In Pierre/Ft. Pierre

**Nearest Chamber of Commerce:**

Pierre/Ft. Pierre Chamber of Commerce, 800 W. Dakota Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501, (605) 224-7361

**Emergency phone numbers:**

Ambulance - 911

Sheriff - 911

Fire Department - 911

**Do most cell phones work on this trail:** Yes