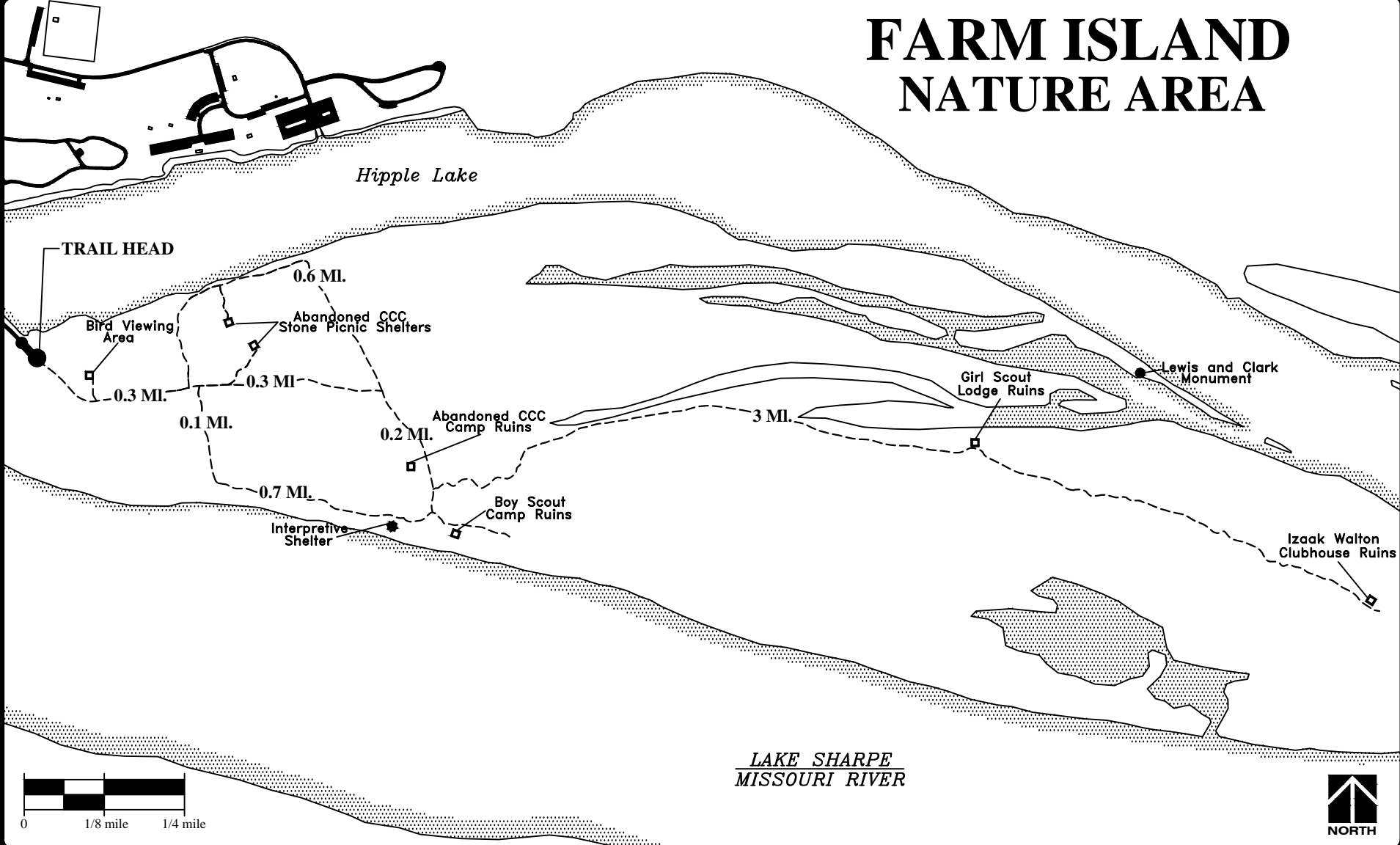


# FARM ISLAND NATURE AREA



# **Farm Island Recreation Area**

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## **Nature Exploration Trail**

**Type of trail:** Hiking, biking, interpretive/viewing nature, interpretive history

**Trail surface:** Gravel/limestone

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

**Fee required:** Park Entrance License

**Length of trail in miles:** Three miles

**Location of the trailhead:** South end of causeway

**Facilities at or near the trailhead:** Toilet, parking

**Facilities along the trail:** Toilet and bench

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

**What lodging opportunities are provided IN the park:** Tent camping, electrical and non-electrical campsites, wheelchair accessible campsite, camping cabins

**Does this trail connect with any other trails:** No

**Nearest facilities for purchasing snacks, sunscreen etc.:** In Pierre – 2.5 miles

**Nearest motels/restaurants OUTSIDE the park:** In Pierre – 2.5 miles

**Nearest Chamber of Commerce:**

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

# **Farm Island Recreation Area**

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## **Nature Exploration Trail**

There have been many changes to Farm Island from when the first fur traders or when Lewis & Clark came up the Missouri River.

The fur traders who planted and tilled gardens on the island named the Island. Surrounded by water, their crops were relatively safe from prairie fires or enemies who could burn or steal the produce. By an Act of Congress in March 1889, the 1,800 acres of Farm Island were given to the City of Pierre.

The isolation of the island was changed in 1934 when crews of the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed a half-mile-long causeway across the North Fork of the Missouri River. By 1946, the upkeep of this popular island became too great an obligation for the City of Pierre and ownership was transferred to the Department of Game, Fish and Parks.

The island served as a state recreation area until Big Bend Dam was completed in 1965. Buildings and other facilities were then moved off the island. When the 80-mile-long lake behind the dam filled with water, much of Farm Island was flooded. Today, Farm Island has regained much of its original wilderness atmosphere.

During the past 200 years the island has changed from undisturbed nature to crude farming, to resort-recreation facilities, and then back almost to wilderness. Old roadways may be found beneath the encroaching vegetation. Nature has all but reclaimed the island.

As you walk along the trail, ponder about how the trees, birds, flowers, animals, and shorelines must have appeared to members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1804. The party stopped on the island to pick up elk that members of the expedition had killed for meat.

There are numerous maintained trails that will allow you to explore the island like many people have done long before this area was developed.

Please observe normal trail courtesy, leave wild plants and wildlife where you find them and deposit litter in proper containers. Pause frequently to listen, observe and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature.

# Farm Island Recreation Area

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## **Lewis and Clark Trail** [click here to get map](#)

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:** Tent camping, electrical and non-electrical campsites, wheelchair accessible campsite, 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 – 2.5 miles

**Nearest motels/restaurants OUTSIDE the park:** In Pierre – 2.5 miles

**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