



Luce Adventure Trail :	Loop:	1.31 Mi
	A-E	0.1 Mi
	E-D	0.34 Mi
Pioneer Trail:	A-B	0.31 Mi
	B-C	0.40 Mi
	B-D	0.23 Mi
Abott Trail:	Loop:	1.05 Mi

Lake Herman State Park Trail System

Lake Herman State Park

Luce Adventure Trail

Type of trail: Hiking, interpretive/viewing nature, interpretive history, cross-country skiing

Trail surface: Grass

Rated: Easy, appropriate for all ages

Fee required: Park Entrance License

Length of trail in miles: 1.25 miles

Location of the trailhead: Northwest end of Herman Pond

Facilities at or near the trailhead: Parking, campground

Facilities along the trail: Fishing dock, benches

Will there be interpretive information available: Yes, signs along the trail

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 to the Abbott Trail and the Pioneer Nature Trail

Nearest facilities for purchasing snacks, sunscreen etc.: In Madison – two miles

Nearest motels/restaurants OUTSIDE the park: In Madison – two miles; surrounding area

Nearest Chamber of Commerce:

Madison Chamber of Commerce, 315 S. Egan Ave., Madison, SD 57042, (605) 256-2454

Emergency phone numbers:

Ambulance – 911

Sheriff – 911

Fire Department – 911

Do most cell phones work on this trail: Yes

Lake Herman State Park

Luce Adventure Trail

The Luce Adventure Trail takes you through a diverse group of natural resources. One will find interpretive signs along the way that describe each of the following ecosystems or interesting facts: forests, fossils, birds, Glacial Lakes, wildflowers, wetlands, tall grass prairie and the historic cabin.

The Luce Trail is named in honor of Herman Luce who, with William Lee, John Walker and Joseph Mason, is credited with being one of the first settlers in what is now Lake County.

Luce selected this site on the shores of Lake Herman for his cabin. A year after his arrival in 1870, Luce engaged Lee and another settler to build the cabin. The trail passes near the site.

Other homesteaders followed Luce to the area, and settled adjacent to the present-day State Park. Luce's cabin became the U.S. Land Office and Post Office for this frontier community called Herman. When a railroad bypassed Herman in 1881, the town was abandoned in favor of New Madison located 2 miles east.

Long before settlers arrived, the lake area had been a traditional campground for Plains Indian people, who called it Skunk Lakes. Bands from the west camped here en route to the red pipestone quarries, about 45 miles east of here. Their trail from the Missouri River followed closely the present route of SD 34.

Lake Herman, as it was named by the settlers, covers 1,330 acres. It was formed thousands of years ago when glaciers covered this region. Melting ice left the irregular mounds of rock and soil deposits called Coteau des Prairies (Hills of the Prairie). Depressions scooped out of the land by the ice, sometimes miles thick, became prairie lakes. This trail leads around a 25-acre pond, which is a typical example of a glacial prairie lake—generally saucer shaped and rather shallow, usually under 20 feet deep.

Lake Herman provided an ideal area for the Department of Game, Fish and Parks to establish a state park. The natural features - plants, birds, animals - have been preserved. As you explore the trail, take the opportunity to experience and learn more about your environment.

Please observe normal trail courtesy, leave wild plants and wildlife where you find them, and deposit litter in trash barrels. This is a foot trail. *Vehicles and horses are prohibited.*

Lake Herman State Park

Abbott Trail

Type of trail: Hiking, interpretive/viewing nature, cross-country skiing

Trail surface: Grass

Rated: Easy, appropriate for all ages

Fee required: Park Entrance License

Length of trail in miles: 1.1 miles

Location of the trailhead: Southeast corner of park

Facilities at or near the trailhead: Parking, gazebo

Facilities along the trail: None

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 to the Luce Adventure Trail, and the Pioneer Nature Trail

Nearest facilities for purchasing snacks, sunscreen etc.: In Madison – two miles

Nearest motels/restaurants OUTSIDE the park: In Madison – two miles; and surrounding area

Nearest Chamber of Commerce:

Madison Chamber of Commerce, 315 S. Egan Ave., Madison, SD 57042, (605) 256-2454

Emergency phone numbers:

Ambulance – 911

Sheriff – 911

Fire Department – 911

Do most cell phones work on this trail: Yes

Lake Herman State Park

Pioneer Nature Trail

Type of trail: Hiking, interpretive/viewing nature, cross-country skiing

Trail surface: Grass

Rated: Easy, appropriate for all ages

Fee required: Park Entrance License

Length of trail in miles: .4 miles

Location of the trailhead: Park Entrance

Facilities at or near the trailhead: Parking

Facilities along the trail: None

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 to the Luce Adventure Trail and the Abbott Trail

Nearest facilities for purchasing snacks, sunscreen etc.: In Madison – two miles

Nearest motels/restaurants OUTSIDE the park: In Madison – two miles; and surrounding area

Nearest Chamber of Commerce:

Madison Chamber of Commerce, 315 S. Egan Ave., Madison, SD 57042, (605) 256-2454

Emergency phone numbers:

Ambulance – 911

Sheriff – 911

Fire Department – 911

Do most cell phones work on this trail: Yes

This short trail is a link from the park entrance to the trailhead gazebo. It takes one through the tall grass prairie, near wetlands, and through an old campground area that is heavily shaded.

Please observe normal trail courtesy, leave wild plants and wildlife where you find them, and deposit litter in trash barrels. This is a foot trail. Vehicles and horses are prohibited.