

Family Park Fact Sheet

Objective: Family Park is a cooperative effort between the Soukup Family, the City of Sioux Falls and the South Dakota Department of Game Fish and Parks. The park was created to provide a place close to Sioux Falls where people, and especially families with kids, can go to learn, practice and enjoy the sport of fishing.

Location: Family Park is located ½ mile north of the intersection of 12th Street and the Tea/Ellis road. It is the area and pond north of Cherry Creek, not the area and pond immediately north of the new fire station. All other ponds and land in this general area are privately owned and not open to the public for fishing or recreation.

Ownership: The Soukup family donated 90 acres of land to the City of Sioux Falls for the purpose of developing a family-friendly urban fishing park. The SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks is funding the initial fishing access development and will manage the fishery. The City of Sioux Falls will maintain the park and fund future development.

Construction Status: Most construction was completed by late fall 2009. However, some finishing work like the grass seeding and the installation of the floating fishing piers will be completed in the spring of 2010.

Fisheries Management Plan: The pond currently contains populations of northern pike, white bass, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, bluegill, perch, bullhead, buffalo and sucker. GFP intends to maintain these populations by supplemental stocking and habitat management. Bonus stockings of 7,000 catchable rainbow trout will be made each spring and fall (14,000 total each year).

Fishing Restrictions: There are no special fishing restrictions for the park at this time. Normal statewide fishing limits and regulations apply and fishing licenses are needed like they would be to fish any other public water. The intent of the park is to provide a fun fishing experience for its users and catch and release fishing is strongly encouraged.

Park Rules: Various rules are needed to ensure a quality, peaceful experience for park users.

Park hours are 5AM to 10PM daily.

Motorized watercraft, including boats powered with electric motors, are prohibited. Canoes, kayaks and rowboats are allowed.

Snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are prohibited.

No swimming or scuba diving will be allowed.

Feeding of waterfowl is prohibited.

Open fires and the discharging of firearms or fireworks are prohibited.

In the winter, no vehicles may be driven on the ice and no ice shelters may be left on the ice when the park is closed.

Contacts

Don Kearney, Director of Parks and Recreation 362-8222

Todd St. Sauver, SD Game, Fish and Parks 362-2700