

A New Take on LAKE VERMILLION



The campers of South Dakota have spoken. The need for more campsites around the greater Sioux Falls area has been increasing for years. Population in the area is growing, people are staying closer to home for vacations, and they want more ways to make use of their days off.

With a new campground opening this summer at Lake Vermillion, campers will get their wish.

Starting Memorial Day weekend, Lake Vermillion Recreation Area will welcome campers into its new 28-site campground. However, this new addition to the popular park will offer a slightly different camping experience than visitors are accustomed to.

Those who are familiar with the hiking trail will recognize the area in which the new campground is located, which was part of the Game Production Area north of the original west campground. This area was actually the first choice for the original campground back in the early 1980s, and the area was even prepped for development. Trees were planted in large loop formations, allowing space between them for future campground roads. It was decided afterwards that the campsites should be placed closer to the lake. Therefore, that area of the park was not developed and eventually became part of the Game Production Area. Now, thanks to that early plan, the area is primed and ready to finally take on the role of a campground as intended.

Last summer, campers had a good glimpse of the action that was taking place north of the west campground. Bulldozers, earthmovers, and tractors removed trees and bushes to make

way for the campground roads and campsites. Work was put in making the roads and leveling campsites. With each phase of the construction work, the campground began to take shape.

Because of its location, this campground is going to have a completely different feel from the rest of the park's campground facilities. The new campground is going to be much more private and wooded. There is abundant screening between sites which will provide some shelter from those windy South Dakota days. The pads are larger while the use areas are going to be smaller, secluded, and more shaded than what you see in the rest of the park. This campground will provide a wooded camping experience and still be within seconds of all the water recreation Lake Vermillion is known for.

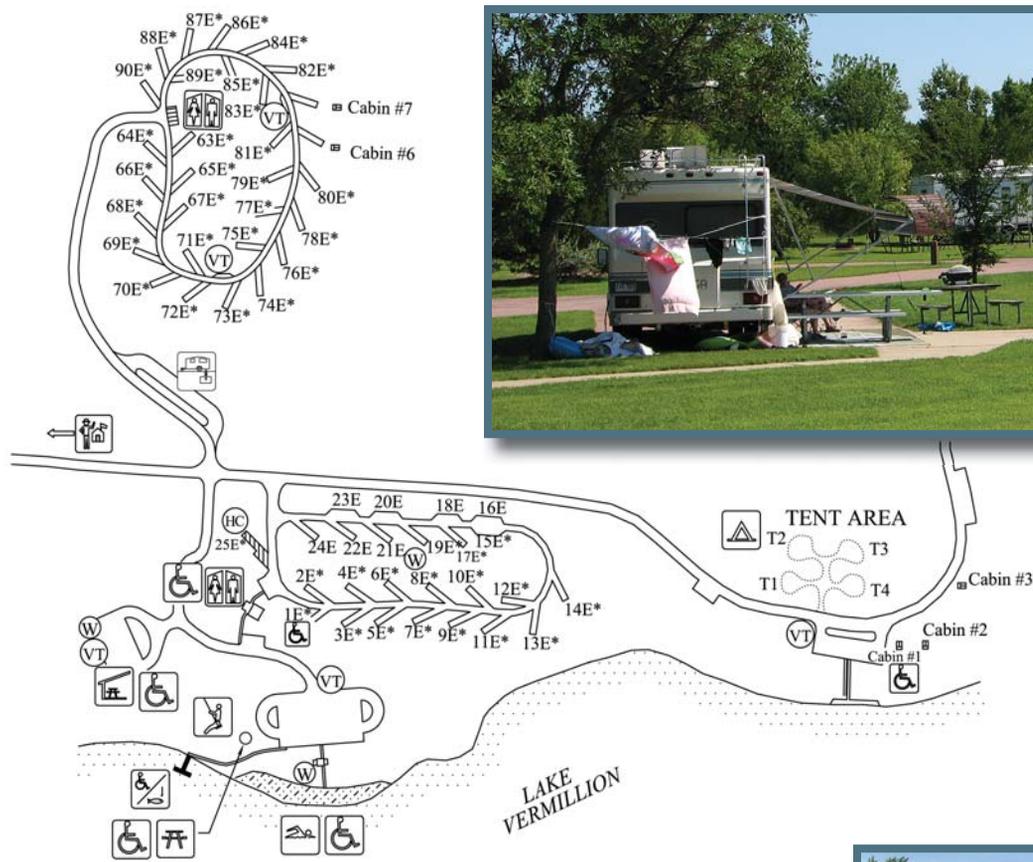
Two new camping cabins will offer campers a different perspective of the park as well. While the five current cabins offer scenic views of the lake, the new cabins will offer views of prairie landscape and rolling hills.

These cabins will also be located farther off the campground roads and offer a relaxing and quiet get-away for campers. They will also be equipped slightly different; offering two sets of bunk beds - one set with twin mattresses and one with a twin and a full.

One of the special features of this campground is the comfort station. The first of its kind in South Dakota's state parks, it offers two family rooms and two common areas. This building is also going to be the first to use a more 'green' septic system, featuring a more efficient disposal and reuse of the wastewater.

One of the most-needed improve-





< This maps shows the pre-existing campground (bottom half of map) and the new addition (top).

Lake Vermillion Recreation area has 3 campgrounds, with features such as: Beach, boat ramp, cabins, canoe/kayak rentals, dump station, fish cleaning station, fishing dock, picnic shelter, playground, flush toilets/showers, ski beach and boat wash station.

For more information about Lake Vermillion Recreation area, visit our website at: gfp.sd.gov/state-parks/directory/lake-vermillion

ments at Lake Vermillion was a dump station upgrade. As opposed to the original dump station, installed in the late 1980s, the new facility allows four campers to dump at one time. It will also be turned on sooner in the spring and stay open later in the fall, providing better service to shoulder season visitors. If you have previously visited Lake Vermillion, the dump station is now in a different location. Keep your eyes peeled and follow the road signs showing the way.

The expansion project also includes improvements to the west boat ramp parking area. The parking area will provide approximately 22 more parking spots and a frost-free hydrant to wash off boats and motors before heading to another lake. These new features are all within walking distance of the fish cleaning table.

While the area will be a work in progress for the next couple years as we continue to fine-tune and improve areas such as turf and trees, we're looking forward to debuting the expansion this summer.

If you've never been to the park, now is a great time to come and take a look. And even if it's been your favorite spot for decades, we invite you to check out the new campground and see Lake Vermillion from a different perspective.



NEW FACILITIES AT LAKE VERMILLION

- 28 electrical sites (all 50 amp), \$18/night
- 2 handicap accessible cabins, \$37/night
- Family-style comfort station
- Playground
- 4-camper dump station
- Expanded boat ramp parking
- Boat wash station

Reservations are being taken for the entire summer, 90 days before arrival.

