

Welcome to Beaver Creek Nature Area

Beaver Creek Nature Area highlights natural and historical resources in the vicinity. Pioneers named the creek for the numerous beaver they found along the winding spring-fed stream. The stream flows year-round, supplying the numerous plants and animals with water, and in turn, supplying visitors with opportunities to observe nature up-close.

Homesteader Day Celebration

Sunday following Labor Day, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The annual Homesteader Day celebration is a way for visitors to experience pioneer life. There are horse-powered pioneer farming demonstrations, old time fiddlers, pioneer games, candle dipping, civil war soldiers, rope making and much more! The historic cabin is also open for visitors to come in and explore during the celebration.

Trails

Homesteader Nature Trail

- *Trail surface:* Dirt
- *Rated:* Very difficult, extremely hilly, very uneven surface
- *Length:* 1.5 miles
- *Trailhead:* Located southeast of Homestead Loop – across the bridge
- No facilities along the trail.
- Trail connects with Homestead Loop Trail

Homestead Loop Trail

- *Trail surface:* Gravel/limestone
- *Rated:* Easy, appropriate for all ages
- *Length:* 0.10 mile
- *Trailhead:* Located directly east of parking lot
- Trail connects with Homesteader Nature Trail

For more information about the history, plants and wildlife within the park, visit www.gfp.sd.gov.

Pack In, Pack Out

Beaver Creek Nature Area does not offer any trash receptacles. Please take home any trash you create while enjoying this area. Help keep your park clean by not littering and leaving your trash behind!

History

In 1869, a young newlywed couple named John and Anna Samuelson, walked here from Sioux City, Iowa to homestead this fertile land. Their first home was a sod dugout on one of the nearby hillsides. In 1872, the log cabin was completed and John, Anna and their firstborn daughter moved in. The Samuelson's raised eight children in this log cabin before they moved westward. The solid oak logs give testament to their strength, as now, over one hundred years later, the cabin still stands.

Rules and Regulations

Natural Resources

Please leave all plants, living or dead, where you find them. Many of these plants provide food and shelter for the wildlife.

Vehicles

- All vehicles must stay on established roads.
- Maximum speed in the park is 15 MPH.

ATVs, Scooters and Golf Carts

All vehicle operators must be at least 14 years of age and have a valid drivers license. No off-road driving is allowed.

Park Hours

- **6am—11pm year round**

Pets

Pets must be on a leash. Only service animals are allowed in park buildings. Owners must clean up after their pets. Please do not leave pets unattended.

Fires / Firewood

- Fires are allowed in designated fireplaces and grills.
- Collection of firewood within the park is prohibited.
- Out-of-state firewood is not allowed in the park.
- Only certified firewood is allowed within the park.

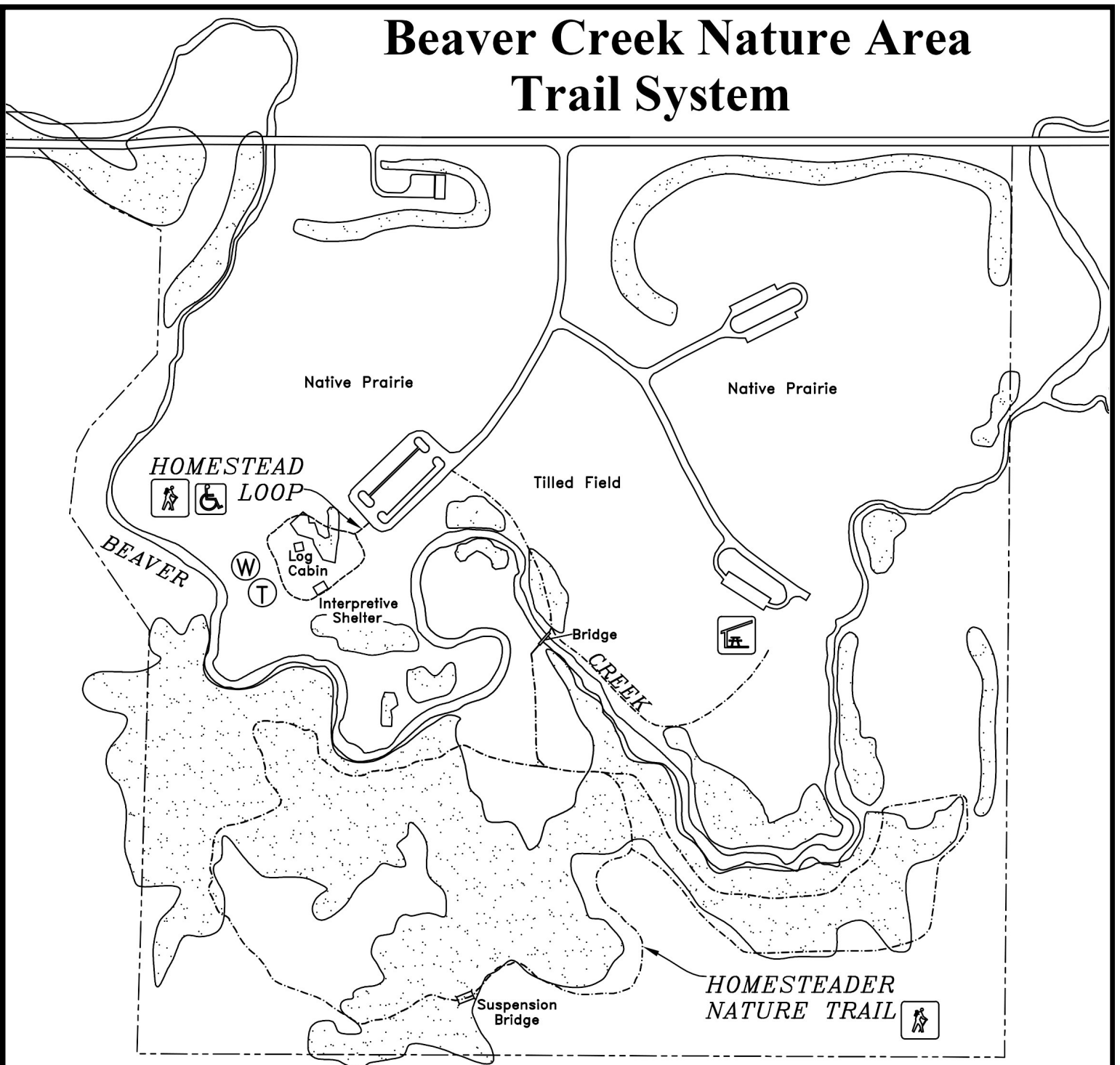
Metal Detectors

Metal detecting within the park is strictly prohibited. Respect the history of the park and don't take it home with you.

Fireworks

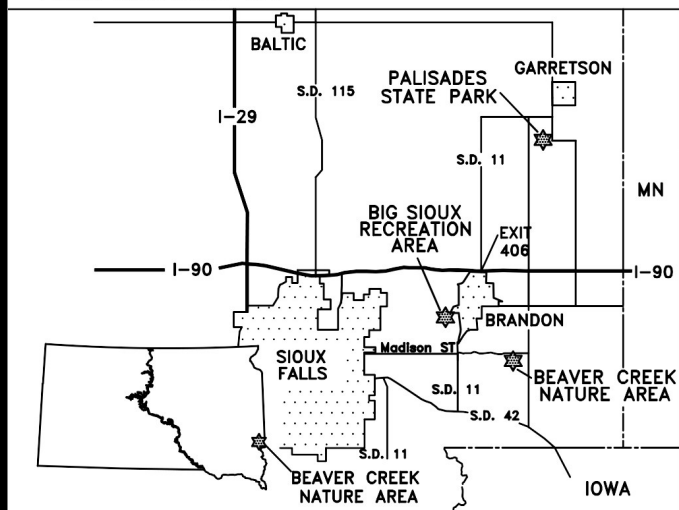
Fireworks are prohibited year round within any State Park, Recreation Area, Nature Area or Lakeside Use Area.

Beaver Creek Nature Area Trail System



PARK LOCATION MAP

PARK BOUNDARY



- | | | | |
|--|----------------|--|-----------------------|
| | HIKING TRAIL | | PICNIC AREA |
| | PICNIC SHELTER | | ACCESSIBLE FACILITIES |
| | VAULT TOILET | | DRINKING WATER |
| | TREES | | |



SCALE IN FEET

