

SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS
OUTDOOR TRADITION

100
YEARS

HERE'S TO 100
S'MORE

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE PARK HISTORY

1919

Custer State Forest becomes Custer State Park.

1927

President Calvin Coolidge makes Custer State Park his "Summer White House."

1945

The first state parks are added to the state park system since Custer in 1919: Bear Butte, Hartford Beach, Lake Herman, Lake Louise, Llewellyn Johns, Oakwood Lakes.

1948

Parks were designated into categories depending on their use – state parks, recreation areas and recreation development areas.

1959

Fort Sisseton became South Dakota's first and only Historic State Park.

1961

The state legislature appropriated \$50,000 for the purchase of property at Bear Butte to be used as a state park. This is the only time general funds were used to acquire park land in South Dakota.

1967

The first state park entrance license requirement (\$2 per vehicle) was established.

1970

Blood Run was listed as a National Historic Landmark.

1971

GFP begins charging a camping permit fee for parks. The daily fee was \$2 with the annual fee set at \$12.50.

1973

The Snowmobile Trail System was started in eastern South Dakota.

1978

The first Fort Sisseton Festival was held with over 22,000 people attending.

1983

16 Missouri River areas were leased to the Division of Parks and Recreation by the U.S. Corps of Engineers to become state recreation areas.

1985

Maud and Mary Adams gifted land along the Missouri River which became the Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve.

1988

State parks implemented volunteer campground host program.

1990

Camping cabins were available at four parks - Lewis and Clark, Newton Hills, Snake Creek and West Whitlock.

1991

Construction began on a 6-mile segment of the Burlington Northern Trail in the Lead area. The trail was dedicated by Governor George S. Mickelson on September 28.

1993

The Black Hills Burlington Northern Trail was renamed the George S. Mickelson Trail in recognition of former late Governor Mickelson's support and leadership that ensured the development of this 114-mile trail.

1998

The 114-mile George S. Mickelson Trail was completed and the first Trail Trek was held.

2001

Internet on-line camping reservations initiated at www.CampSD.com.

2002

U.S. Corps of Engineers transferred approximately 60 sites totaling over 12,000 acres of land along the Missouri River to the Division of Parks and Recreation.

2013

Good Earth State Park at Blood Run is designated the first new state park in over 40 years.

2019

South Dakota State Parks celebrates their 100th anniversary.

