LAKE SHETEK STATE PARK

FACILITIES AND FEATURES:

• 77 semi-modern campsites; 67 electrical (Wolf Point Campground)
• 10 rustic cart-in sites
• 20 rustic campsites (Prairie Campground)
• 1 primitive group camp (Wilderness camp)
• Zuya Group Center; 80-person capacity
• Camper Cabin
• Picnic area with 2 shelters (1 winter warming shelter)
• Boat and canoe launch
• Rowboat, canoe and kayak rental
• 8 miles of hiking trails
• 6 miles of paved bike trail
• 5 miles of snowmobile trails
• 3 miles of ski trails

VISITOR FAVORITES:

• Swimming beach
• Koch Cabin
• Loon Island
• Fishing ponds
• Interpretive center
• Nature Store
• Shetek Monument
• Eastlick Marsh observation deck and spotting scope
• Woodland, marsh, and prairie hiking trails

Because lands exist within the boundaries of this park that are not under the jurisdiction of the D.N.R., check with the park manager if you plan to use facilities such as trails and roads other than those shown.

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Looking for more information?
The DNR has mapped the state showing federal, state and county lands with their recreational facilities. Public Recreation Information Maps (PRIM) are available for purchase from the DNR gift shop, DNR regional offices, Minnesota state parks and major sporting and map stores.

Check it out - you’ll be glad you did.
LAKE SHETEK STATE PARK

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Lake Shetek State Park
163 State Park Road
Currie, MN 56123-1018
(507) 763-3256

Department of Natural Resources
Information Center
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4031

DNR Web Site: www.dnr.state.mn.us
State Parks Page: www.mnstateparks.info

LAKE SHETEK STATE PARK is located 14 miles north-northeast of Slayton, 13 miles south of Tracy, and 33 miles southeast of Marshall, MN in Murray County. Access to the park is by County Road 38, north of Currie.

Highway map index: D-19.

Shetek is an Ojibwe word. The most widely accepted translation is “pelican”. Lake Shetek, the largest lake in southwestern Minnesota, forms the headwaters of the Des Moines River.

For many years, the Department of Natural Resources has stocked game fish in Lake Shetek. In 1975, an aerating system was installed in the 3,600-acre lake, raising the winter oxygen level and reducing winterkill.

Small sandspits dammed nearby meltwater channels and depressions, which backed up water and eventually created Lake Shetek.

HISTORY: The natural beauties of the Lake Shetek area which attract present day visitors are not confined only to the 20th century. Long before white settlement appeared in the area, American Indians were settled in the Lake Shetek area. Undoubtedly the first visitors were wandering hunters in pursuit of bison. Because of the supply of water, bison and those who preyed upon them were attracted to the Shetek area.

Strictly speaking, the first to settle the area were the peoples of the Great Peace culture on the northeastern slope of the Coteau. In the mid 1840s, European and American explorers such as Catlin, Nicollet, Prescot and Fremont explored the area associated with Lake Shetek and what would later be called Murray County.

The first settlement in the area occurred in 1856. From the period 1856-1862 a settlement was established. Although its population varied, it probably numbered no more than 40 persons at any given time. This settlement was established from Lake Fremont to Beauty Lake along the eastern belt of land adjacent to Lake Shetek. The availability of labors and wood made it attractive for settlers and pioneers. The western shores of Shetek were settled by Prairies and thus offered no appeal to the first settlers.

Most of those who came in the 1856-62 period were taking advantage of then Governor Ramsey’s lenient land regulations which permitted them to claim land and after seven years’ occupation if they cleared sufficient land area for a settlement.

The promise of the first white settlement of Shetek came to an end during the Dakota Conflict of 1862. On August 20, 1862 three war bands of Dakota braves descended on the Shetek settlement. Fifteen settlers were killed in the attack and the rest scattered.

After the conclusion of the Dakota Conflict on September 26, 1862, Shetek lay abandoned for all practical purposes. It was not until the 1920’s that further settlements were envisioned for the area. Families from Ireland were tempted to settle at Avoca and nearby towns through generous grants and low deterrents.

Toilets

LAKE SHETEK

TRAILS
• Hiking

FACILITIES
• Restrooms/Shower
• Parking
• Interpretive Center
• Fish Cleaning
• Park Office
• Camper Cabin
• Group Campground
• Group Center
• Monument

LAKE SHETEK STATE PARK

WOLF POINT CAMPGROUND

TOILETS

Contact the Department of Natural Resources Information Center for current camping and availability information, or use the website www.mnstateparks.info

For information available in alternative formats, please call 715-224-3100.

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