LAKE SHETEK
STATE PARK

FACILITIES AND FEATURES:
• 70 drive-in campsites (Oak Woods and Sunrise Campgrounds)
• 64 electrical (32 have sewer, water and electric with 50 amp service)
• 7 cart-in sites
• 12 rustic campsites (Prairie Campground)
• 1 primitive group camp (Wilderness camp)
• 80-person capacity
• 4 Camper Cabins
• Picnic area with 2 shelters (1 winter warming shelter)
• Boat and canoe launch
• Rowboat, canoe and kayak rental
• 8 miles of Summer hiking trails
• 6 miles of paved bike trail
• 5 miles of snowmobile trails

VISITOR FAVORITES:
• Swimming beach
• Koch Cabin
• Loon Island
• Fish Rearing ponds
• Interpretive center
• Nature Store
• Shetek Monument
• Eastlick Marsh observation deck and spotting scope

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

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

Department of Natural Resources
Information Center
500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4040
(651) 296-6367 (MN Toll Free)

TDD (Telecommunications Device for Deaf)
(651) 296-5484 (Metro Area)

State Park rules are available at park office or check park bulletin boards for information about occasional scheduled programs.

LAKE SHETEK STATE PARK is located 14 miles northeast of Stacy, 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.

Visitors enjoy fishing for walleye, northern, perch, bullhead, crappie, channel catfish and other species. Bull trout, cutthroat trout, brook trout, and Arctic grayling are also available in Lake Shetek State Park.

from the Missouri River watershed. This Coteau region was inundated by glaciers that moved across Minnesota two million to 11,000 years ago. During the last period of glaciation (Wisconsin), the Des Moines lobe covered this area with deep deposits of glacial till (rock debris). Sediment carried in glacial runoff deposited into meltwater channels backed up water and created Lake Shetek.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION: Schools and other groups are encouraged to use state parks for environmental education activities. Interpretive signs at points of natural and historical interest introduce visitors to items sometimes missed by the casual observer. The park’s interpretive center, open May through October, has on display interpretive exhibits and activities relating to the natural, cultural and historic resources of the park. Visitors should inquire at the park office or check park bulletin boards for information about occasional scheduled programs.

LAKE SHETEK

HISTORY: Long before Euro-American settlement appeared in the area, Ancient Peoples were settled in the Lake Shetek area. Undoubtedly, the first visitors were wandering hunters in pursuit of bison. Because of its supply of water, bison and those who preyed upon them were attracted to the Shetek area. The first peoples to settle and farm the area were the people of the Great Oasis culture on the northeastern slope of the Coteau Des Prairies around 900-1100 A.D.

In the mid-1840s, European and American explorers such as Catlin, Nicollet, Prescott and Fremont explored the area associated with Lake Shetek and what would later be called Murray County. The first pioneer settlement at Lake Shetek occurred in 1856. By 1862, there were approximately 9 families numbering around 50 people living along the eastern side of the lake. The promise of this first settlement came to an end during the US Dakota War of 1862. On August 20, 1862, a group of Dakota people descended on the Shetek settlement. Fourteen settlers and an unknown number of Dakota were killed in the fighting that followed. The surviving settlers fled the area.

After the US Dakota war ended on September 26, 1862 with the Battle of Wood Lake, the Shetek settlement lay abandoned. It would be another ten years before permanent settlers would return to the area.

GEOLOGY: Lake Shetek lies in the Coteau “highlands of the prairies” region of Minnesota, a geological area which separates the Minnesota River

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