

Virginia Smith Dam

Located on the Calamus River near Burwell, the dam was completed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in May 1986. It is a zoned, rolled-earth filled structure 96 feet high with a crest length of 7,295 feet. It was built for off-season storage of water flows for release during the irrigation season. The reservoir has 31 miles of shoreline and 127,400 acre feet of storage. Operation of the dam and water releases are the responsibility of the Twin Loups Reclamation and Irrigation District. The reservoir irrigates about 53,000 acres of farmland.

Camping Reservations

Half of the modern campsites at Homestead Knolls and Nunda Shoal can be reserved up to a year prior to arrival; the remainder are available on a first come, first serve basis. Reservations may be made up to a year in advance of arrival date, and can be made on-line, by phone or in person.

To make reservations online, go to www.OutdoorNebraska.org. Phone reservations can be made through the Nebraska State Park reservation call center at (402) 471-1414.

There is a nonrefundable reservation fee for each site or unit reserved. The reservation fee applies to each site or unit reserved, regardless of the number of nights staying.

Check The Web!

Visit the Game and Parks Commission home page to discover Nebraska's other great state park lands, make your camping or cabin reservations, acquire your park entry permits and fishing & hunting licenses. Plan your getaway today at www.OutdoorNebraska.org. Web reservations available 24/7 or call 402-471-1414.

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Under federal and/or state law, discrimination is prohibited on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, marital status, national origin, disability or political affiliation. If you think you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility or want more information, contact the Affirmative Action Officer, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Lincoln, NE, 402-471-0641; the Equal Opportunity Commission, Lincoln, NE, 402-471-2024, TTY / TDD 402-471-4693. USFWS, Division of Bird Habitat and Conservation, Civil Rights Coordinator, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, MBSP 4020, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

Trolling with lures that imitate the lake's shad and alewife is a popular technique with anglers in boats. Of course, baits such as nightcrawlers, leeches and minnows also account for good catches.

Wildlife is abundant at Calamus SRA, and hunters have an excellent opportunity to pursue pheasant, deer, grouse, mourning doves, cottontail and waterfowl in season. A pair of bald eagles have made themselves at home on the upper end of the lake for several years. They can be observed from the highway on the north side of the lake. Other birds and wildlife also offer an enjoyable viewing experience.

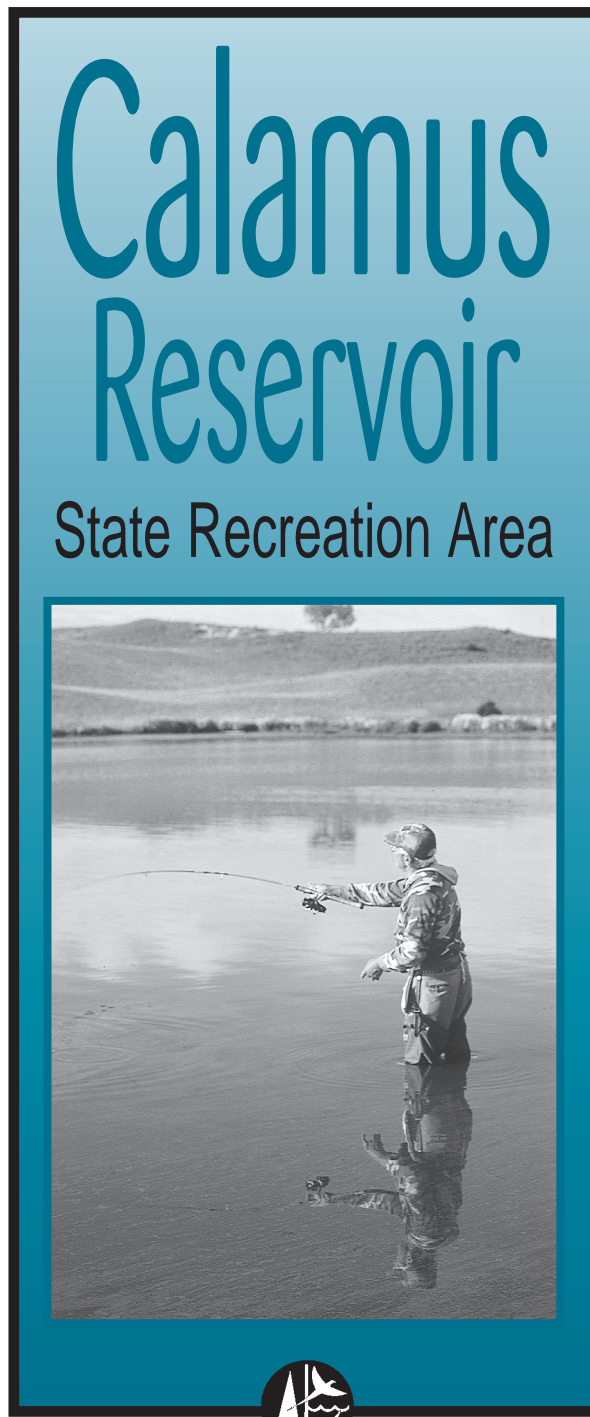


Little York Point

This day-use area offers picnic facilities, picnic shelter, drinking water and vault toilets. Little York Point affords visitors an exceptional view of the length of Calamus Reservoir. Visitors may also wish to stop at the area headquarters to pick up their park entry permit, fishing license and camping information. The area office is located here, as is a dump station. The point is named for the large number of early settlers who had their roots in England and many of whom immigrated from Yorkshire.

Valleyview Flat

Situated directly on the now extinct town site of Valleyview, this small area has a boat ramp and hard-surfaced parking area. Primitive camping is available for those who like to rough it. There are 3 hydrants for water and vault latrines. The townsite was founded in the early 1900s on the railroad grade of the never to be completed Lincoln and Black Hills Railroad. The grade was constructed in the late 1880s. A historical marker details the town's history.



Nebraska Game and Parks Commission



Homestead Knolls

Named to honor the hardy settlers who pioneered agriculture in the Calamus Valley, this area on the lake's north shore is the most highly developed recreation site on the reservoir. Homestead Knolls offers campers 83 hard-surfaced pads with 30 or 50 amp electrical hookups, showers and modern toilets. There are two boat-launching lanes for lake access, a swimming beach and a fish cleaning station. The picnic area enjoys a scenic view of the lake. Reservations are available for half of the modern sites up to one year in advance of arrival.

Hannamon Bayou

The boat ramp here is usable only when the water level in the reservoir is at or near full pool. It is a popular spot with anglers in the spring, and the lake is usually full until July 1. This is a pleasant spot for campers not needing modern facilities. Drinking water, picnic tables, grills and vault toilets constitute the area's amenities. The name comes from the two tombstones that marked the graves of a family named Hannaman dated 1886 and 1888.

Buckshot Bay

This area is named for Conrad Wentworth, famed scout and hunter at nearby Fort Hartsuff, better known at Little Buckshot. This area offers



Calamus Reservoir State Recreation Area (SRA), 6 miles northwest of Burwell offers some of the state's finest recreational opportunities. Camping, fishing, boating, hiking, sightseeing and hunting are real attractions on the 5,123-acre lake and surrounding 4,958 acres of gently rolling land, covered with native grasses and forbs. Some 1.2 miles of the Calamus River and 3.5 miles of other streams meander through the area.

Five boat ramps provide convenient access at strategic locations along the shoreline. Tents and RVs alike will find facilities suited to their needs from primitive to modern with hard-surfaced pads with electrical hookups, hot showers and a dump station.

A stop at the Calamus Fish Hatchery is intriguing for most visitors. Located below the dam, the hatchery has self-guided tours and displays on raising fish and other topics.

Primary sport fish in Calamus are walleye, white bass, wipers (white/striped bass hybrid), channel catfish, carp, drum and crappie. In addition, catchable rainbow trout are stocked regularly in adjoining Gracie Creek Pond. In spring and early summer, walleye are tops on most anglers' lists. As summer progresses white bass, wipers and catfish show up.

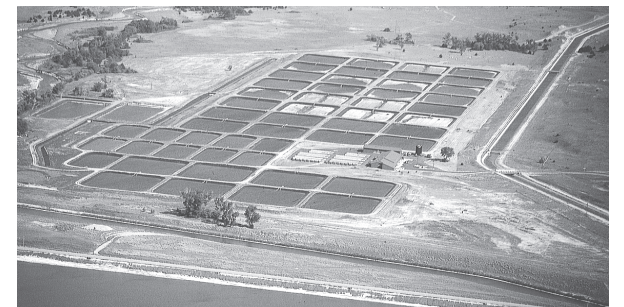


Popular bank fishing areas include Little York Point, Nunda Shoal, Homestead Knolls, Buckshot Bay, both ends of the dam, and just east of Gracie Creek. The inlet outlook is a popular spot in the spring, and Dry Creek area is good for anglers in waders and for belly boaters. Gracie Creek Pond has an accessible fishing pier and other handicap accessible facilities.

excellent boating access, even on windy days. The boat ramp and dock are protected, and the area has modern restrooms, drinking water and a gravel parking lot. No camping is allowed on this area.

Nunda Shoal

















Situated midway along the lake's south shore, Nunda Shoal derives its name from a settlement platted across the lake. Speculators hoped Nunda would become a railroad town. It would have served the Lincoln and Black Hills Railroad, which failed before any track was even laid. At its height, Nunda boasted a post office, telephone exchange and school. Facilities at this area include 39 hard-surfaced camp sites all with 30 amp electrical hookups (some have 50 amp), two boat launching lanes, drinking water, vault toilets and a fish cleaning station. Reservations are available for half of the modern sites up to one year in advance of arrival.



Calamus Hatchery

Located at the base of the dam, the hatchery was completed in 1991. The visitor-interpretive center is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily except holidays. Group tours are available by appointment. Call 308-346-4226. Built and operated by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, it is located on 136 acres of U.S. Bureau of Reclamation land. Water is supplied by eight ground wells and by a 36-inch pipeline from the reservoir. All water circulated through the hatchery is ultimately returned to the Calamus River. There are 51 rearing ponds with 24 concrete raceways and hatching tanks, all of which allow extensive culture of warm, cool and cold water fish species. Among common species raised here are walleye, northern pike, wipers, muskellunge, rainbow and brown trout, crappie, bluegill and channel catfish. Some 20 to 30 million fish are produced here annually.

KEY

-  Park Office
-  Restroom
-  Water
-  Parking
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Picnic Area
-  Tent Camping
-  Swimming Beach
-  Recreational Vehicle Camping
-  Shower
-  Dump Station
-  Boat Ramp
-  Fish Cleaning Station
-  Wildlife Viewing Area
-  Trees, Standing or Cabled Piles
-  Jetties

For More Information

For more information on this or any other Nebraska state park area, call or write: Parks Division, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, PO Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503-0370, phone 402-471-0641

Visit us on the World Wide Web at:
www.OutdoorNebraska.org
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AREA MAP

