

Now is the time to make summer vacation plans and reservations at Nebraska state parks.

Students are out of school, holidays are on the horizon and parks are getting ready for a busy summer.

Nebraskans appear to be choosing to spend more of their vacations in state parks as indicated by a rise in park permit sales in 2009.

Not only is it less expensive to vacation in the state, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has the resources available to plan a park trip.

State park and state recreation area visitors may enjoy a range of activities, including fishing, hiking, biking, picnicking, horseback riding, swimming, canoeing, and wildlife viewing.

Activities vary at each park, and many parks, especially state historical parks, offer much for those who enjoy learning about the history of Nebraska.

Learning about the parks without leaving home is simple. Campers may research each state park area by visiting OutdoorNebraska.org and pouring over the list of activities and amenities for each, as well as maps.

From the reservations page, they may check availability of lodge rooms, cabins and campsites before securing one for a selected date.

They may purchase a park permit (\$20 for an annual or \$4 for a daily) from the permits page.

To reserve a campsite or lodging, visit OutdoorNebraska.org or call the Nebraska Game and Parks Call Center between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday at (402) 471-1414.

Park entry permits are required for all state parks, state recreation areas and state historical parks.