

Welcome to Chester Woods Park!

Chester Woods Park is located at the headwaters of Bear Creek in the rugged bluff country of southeast Minnesota.

History:

Purchased from private developers to assist in the flood control project for the City of Rochester, Bear Creek Reservoir was finished in late 1994. The park formally opened in May 1995.

Federal funding was used for the construction of both the park and dam. Total cost of the project was approximately \$5,000,000.

Entrance Permits:

All vehicles entering the park are required to display either an annual or daily entrance permit. Permits may be purchased at the park entrance or at the Public Works Bldg. in Rochester, at 2122 Campus Dr. SE., Suite 200.

Permits: \$5 daily or \$25 annually.
Senior Citizens (65 or older): \$5 daily or \$20 annually.

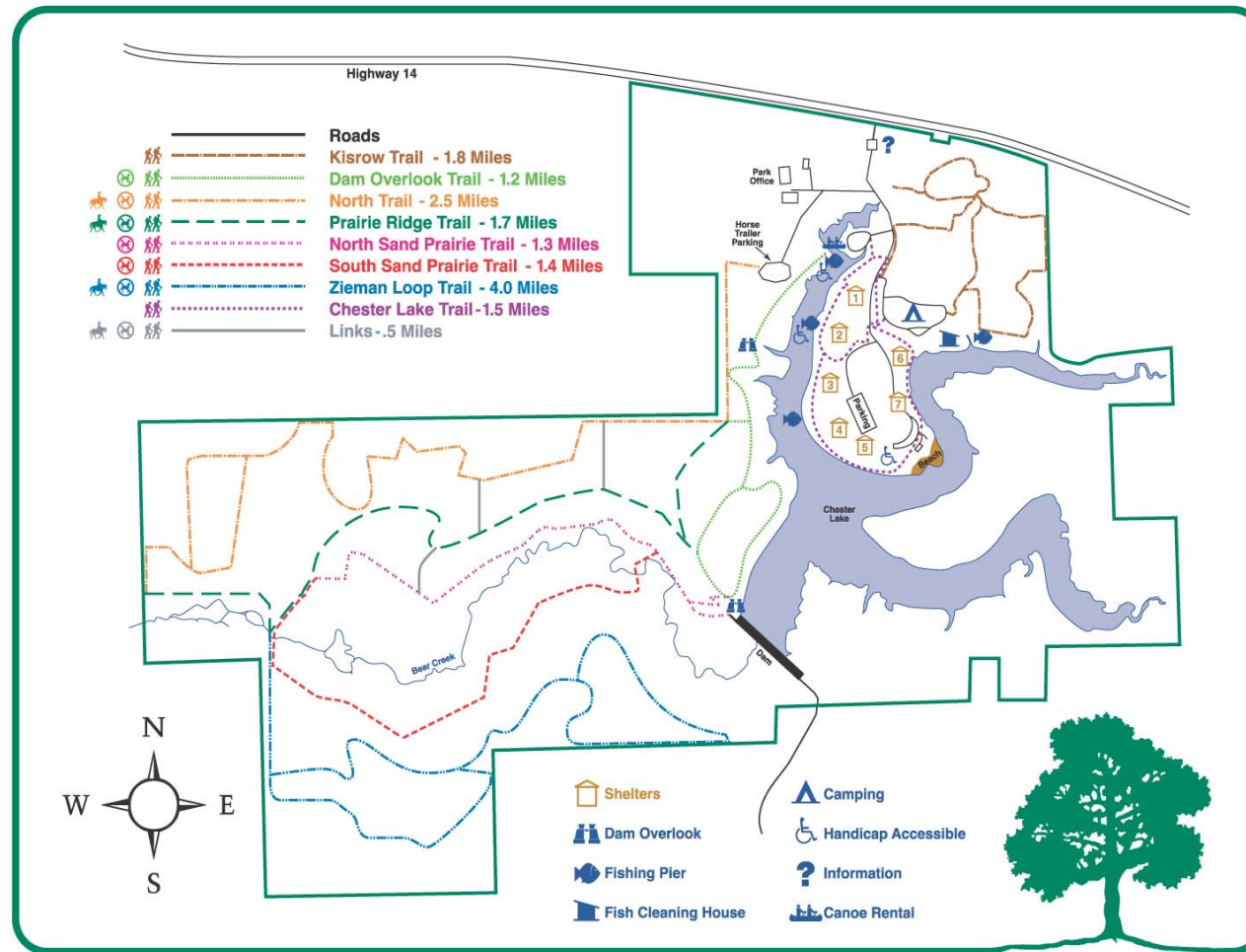
Permits expire one year from the month of purchase.

Surrounding Area:

The nearest town to the park is Eyota, three miles east on Highway 14.

A convenience store and gas station are located 1 mile west on Highway 14.

Violation of park regulations is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to \$700 and/or a jail term.



Fishing

The lake has been stocked with large mouth bass, panfish and channel catfish. Minnesota fishing regulations are in effect and a fishing license is required. Special size limits apply. Vehicles displaying proper handicapped insignia may access the fishing pier via the asphalt-surfaced hiking trail.

Picnicking

Seven separate picnic areas are available, each with its own covered shelter and hard surfaced parking area.

Equestrian

Permits are required for each mount, \$6.00 daily or \$30.00 annually. **Permits are NOT transferable.**

Trails are open from May to November and may be closed if conditions are deemed unfit or unsafe by the park manager.

Call ahead for information: 507-287-2624.

Hunting

Small game hunting is prohibited in the park, but deer hunting is allowed on a lottery basis to keep populations in check.

Camping facilities:

- 52 unit campground loops through an attractive wooded area.
- 37 sites with electrical hook-ups.
- Restrooms with showers.
- Water spigots located throughout the campground.
- Dump station.
- Paved boat launch and swimming beach available nearby.
- Two sites are handicapped accessible.
- Two sets of playground equipment near campsites, along with several informal play fields. The larger playground equipment is handicapped accessible.

Camping Fees:

\$ 18.00 for campsites with electricity.
\$ 15.00 for campsites without electricity.
Camping reservations for the upcoming camping year will be taken on or after January 2nd.

Naturalist staff may present programs for campers and park visitors on several weekends throughout the summer.

Firewood

Olmsted County Parks can no longer allow firewood to enter park property due to the threat of Emerald Ash Borer disease. All firewood **MUST** be purchased from the Campground host on the premises.

Pick up a Campground brochure for reservation instructions, site map, regulations and more information.

Pets must be leashed AT ALL TIMES and cleaned up after. They are not allowed outside the developed area.

Park Amenities

The Park surrounds 118 acre Chester Lake. Facilities are provided for:

Swimming

A swimming beach with beach house, showers, dressing room, and storage lockers is available. Vending machines are located on the patio overlooking the beach.

Please Note:

Lifeguards are NOT provided.



Boating

Gasoline motors are prohibited, but electric trolling motors may be used.

Canoe/Kayak/Paddle boat

Rental Rates:

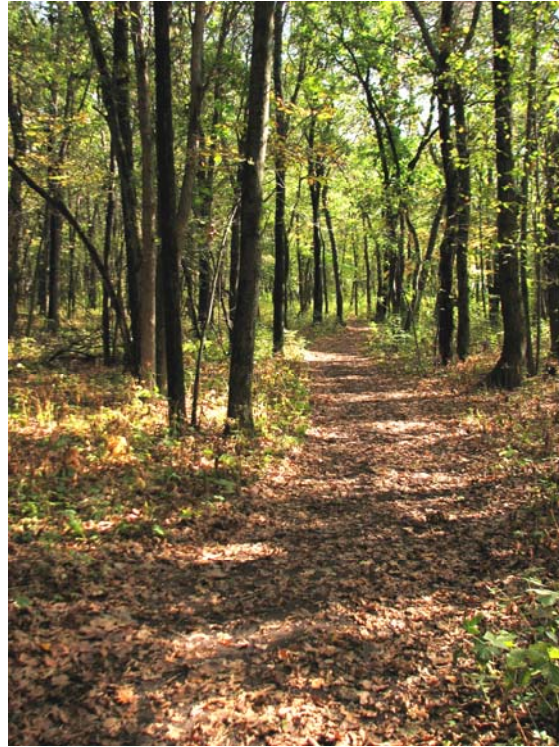
\$6.00/Hour

\$25.00/Day

\$10.00 Key Deposit

Flotation devices must be used

Boat launch and parking are available for anglers and boaters.



Trails & Hiking

Approximately 15 miles of primitive trails wind through a variety of inviting natural habitats in the undeveloped areas of the park. Pets are **not** allowed on these trails. Pets are allowed on the Kisrow and Chester Lake trails **ONLY** and **must** be kept on a leash.

A mile long hard surfaced trail links the campground, boat launch, fishing pier, and picnic areas.

Motorized vehicles and bicycles are restricted to improved roads and designated trails only.

Cross Country Skiing

There are five miles of groomed ski trails. The trails are designed to accommodate both classic and free-style skiing.

Plants and Wildlife

The park has an abundant and diverse population of wildlife:

- Mammals such as deer, weasels, voles, mink, shrews, among many others.
- Over 150 species of upland and woodland birds and waterfowl have been seen here.
- A diversity of insects, including many butterfly species, pollinate plants and feed numerous birds, reptiles and amphibians.
- Remnant communities of native prairie plants reside in the park. These are managed to reduce invasion by alien species and encourage propagation of the native plants and animals.



Olmsted County's Chester Woods Park

Located 7 Miles East of
Rochester, MN on Highway 14

Park Hours

Open Daily: 7 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Chester Woods Park

8378 Highway 14 East
Eyota, MN 55934
(507) 287-2624

www.co.olmsted.mn.us

Created by:

Olmsted County Public Works Staff

Form # 3600-64

07/21/11

CHESTER WOODS PARK

Eyota, Minnesota

Open Year Round!



1330 acres of natural beauty!

**MISSION STATEMENT
OLMSTED COUNTY PARKS**

The mission of Olmsted County Parks is to foster an appreciation of the natural world through environmental education, natural resource management, and public participation in the stewardship of our park lands.

VISION

Learning life-long lessons in natural places.

Open Daily 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Vehicle Entry Permits Required

