

Park Amenities

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

Swimming

A swimming beach with beach house, showers, and dressing room is available.

Please Note:

Lifeguards are NOT provided.



Boating

Electric trolling motors may be used but gasoline motors are prohibited.

Canoe/Kayak/Paddle Boat/Paddle Board

Rental Rates:

\$6.00/Hour

\$25.00/Day

Flotation devices must be used

Boat launch and parking are available for anglers and boaters.

Personal Watercraft Storage

(Sponsored by FOCW)

Available Apr 1 through Nov 1

The six racks are available on a first come first served basis. Each rack has 6 slots for watercraft. The form is on the Friends of Chester Woods website at:

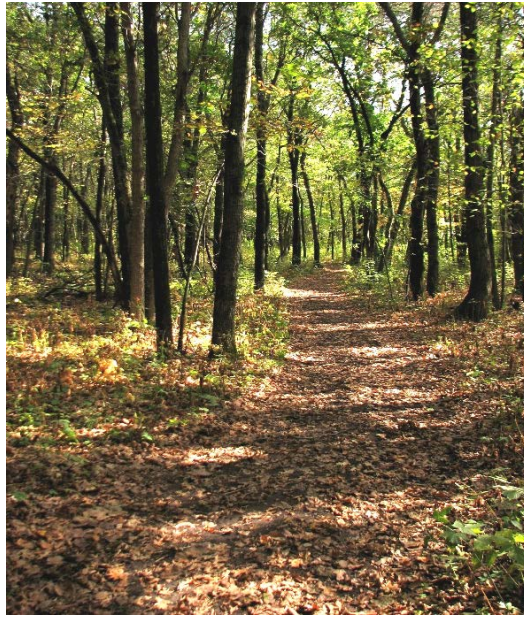
<http://www.friendsofchesterwoods.org/>

Rental Rates Per Individual

\$100 First Slot

\$150 Two Slots

\$200 Three Slots



Trails & Hiking

Approximately 12 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 3 miles of Chester Lake and Kisrow Trails **ONLY** and **must** be kept on a leash in the developed areas.

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.

Winter Recreation

Cross Country Skiing and Fat Tire Bikes. There are five miles of groomed ski trails. The trails are designed to accommodate both classic and free-style skiing and fat tire bikes. Ice fishing is also available. Portable ice houses only as you cannot drive on the lake with motorized vehicles.

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 State Highway 14

Park Hours

Open Daily: 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Chester Woods Park

8378 Highway 14 East Eyota, MN 55934

(507) 328-7350

Friend us on Facebook or visit our website @ www.co.olmsted.mn.us/pw/parks/chesterwoods

Created by: Olmsted County Public Works Staff

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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: 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.



Vehicle Entry Permits Required

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, Public Works Building at 2122 Campus Dr. SE., Suite 200 or at the Public Works Service Center at 1188 50th St SE.

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.

Violation of park regulations is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to \$1,000 and/or a jail term.

Pets must be leashed AT ALL TIMES and are allowed in the developed area only and please clean up after your pet. ***Please read pet signage carefully!***

Surrounding Area:

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



Fishing

The lake has been stocked with largemouth bass, pan fish 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, hard surfaced parking area, grills, firepits and electricity. Leashed pets are allowed in the picnic areas.

Check the website for Online Shelter Reservation Information!

Equestrian

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

Trails are open from May 1 to November 1 and may be closed if conditions are deemed unfit or unsafe by the park manager.

Call ahead for information: 507-328-7350.

Hunting

Hunting, trapping and seining are prohibited except during specific events authorized by resolution of the County Board.

Camping Facilities:

- 50-unit campground loops through an attractive wooded area
- 39 sites with electrical hook-ups
- 9 non-electric sites
- 2 ADA accessible camper cabins
- Restrooms with showers
- Water spigots located throughout the campground
- Dump station
- Paved boat launch and swimming beach available nearby
- Two sites are ADA accessible
- Natural Playscape
- Two sets of playground equipment near campsites, along with several informal play fields. The larger playground equipment is ADA accessible

Camping Fees:

\$ 30.00 for campsites with electricity

\$ 25.00 for campsites without electricity

Camping reservations for the upcoming camping year will be taken on or after January 2nd. Reservations can be made online (credit card), in person (Cash, Check, or Credit Card). There is a \$5 fee if making a reservation online. Park staff may present programs for campers and park visitors on several weekends throughout the summer.

Firewood

Due to the threat of Emerald Ash Borer disease, only wood sold by the park itself, pre-bundled firewood which contains DNR certification it is free of invasive species and diseases and clean, untreated lumber is permitted in the parks.

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