



Northern Plains Resource Conservation & Development Council

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Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

Project Partners:

- ◆ Spirit Lake Tribe (SLN)
- ◆ Spirit Lake Casino
- ◆ SLN Tribal Roads
- ◆ SLN Tribal Realty
- ◆ SLN Fish & Wildlife
- ◆ Western State Bank
- ◆ Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
- ◆ Garrison Diversion Conservancy District
- ◆ Ottertail Power Company
- ◆ Walmart
- ◆ University of ND
- ◆ TERO
- ◆ ND Forest Service
- ◆ Betty Morin
- ◆ Chuck Wilkie
- ◆ Northern Plains RC&D

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Spirit Lake Park

A park for the People. This was the vision of the Spirit Lake Dakota Sioux Nation. This Tribal reservation, situated on the south shores of Devils Lake, had no public park. The Tribal community had utilized the picnic facilities at Sully's Hill National Game Preserve, located within their reservation's boundaries, until the rising waters of Devils Lake inundated them in the late 1990's. In March of 2005, the Tribal Council designated a plot of Tribally owned land, a reclaimed borrow pit area along North Dakota Highway 57, as the location for a new Tribal Park. The Northern Plains RC&D Council became involved with the park planning in August of 2005, providing a small grant to pay for the culvert used in the construction of an approach which allowed access to the property from the highway. This proved to be the catalyst that got the project off the ground. In the fall of 2005 the Spirit Lake Tribal Fish & Wildlife Department headquarters were relocated to the site. They serve as caretakers for the park providing round the clock monitoring of the site. The Tribal Council dedicated the park in October 2005 as a public use community gathering place. Northern Plains RC&D has continued to work with Spirit Lake Fish & Wildlife and other Tribal departments and sponsors to add four picnic shelters, park benches, picnic tables, grills, numerous pieces of playground equipment, shade trees, a regulation-size outdoor basketball court and a handicap-accessible wildlife viewing deck. The park has become a popular gathering spot for local residents and visitors to the Lake Region. Several special events have been held at the park; including numerous weddings. In the spring of 2010 two medicine wheels are planned for completion at the site, and a permanent restroom facility will be constructed to replace the portable toilets which have been serving the park. National Association President Smith Freeman visited the park in September for a tour and picnic hosted by the Spirit Lake Tribe and the Northern Plains RC&D. Northern Plains RC&D is a proud sponsor of this community project.



NARCDC President Joan Smith Freeman visited Spirit Lake Park in September 2009 during National RC&D week.

