

OHF FINAL REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Number: 011-118

Recipient: State of North Dakota Parks & Recreation

Award Amount: \$8,700.00

Total Project Costs: \$16,826.74

Total OHF Funds Received: \$8,700.00



Goal of Project:

Envisioned by the North Dakota State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), the new Sheyenne River Water Trail provides canoeing, kayaking, fishing, camping and hunting access via the Sheyenne River. Four access sites provide information on proper hand launch and retrieval, dispersed camping on public lands by practicing a “leave no trace” guiding principle, water trail safety and aquatic invasive species control. All aspects of the Sheyenne River Water Trail help to provide access to public lands and positive public lands stewardship.

Work Accomplished:

- Maps, informational panels and brochures were developed to provide orientation and education.
- Several hand-launch sites were designed and constructed along the trail. This work included site preparation by mowing and hazard tree removal. Placement of Class-5 gravel for drive approaches and parking areas. Placement of parking barriers. Construction and placement of informational kiosks and building wood steps down to the water access points.
- Placement of signage along that trail that helps to define hand-launch access markers, eight camping markers, ten entering/leaving public lands markers, four information panels and four large area maps.

Project Results:

The project has been well received by the local community and has generated an immense amount of interest. The project was recognized by the U.S. Forest Service – Northern Region and received the 2019 Regional Forester Honor Award for providing outstanding benefits to the public.

This project is serving as a catalyst for a larger effort that is envisioned to develop a 100-mile long water trail that will include this project as one of its segments. A new multi-agency team will initiate planning efforts through an opportunity with the National Park Service.

Coordinating agencies include the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Parks Service, North Dakota Parks and Recreation, North Dakota Game & Fish, Industrial Commission and the Ransom County Park Board.

Value to North Dakota:

In addition to providing diverse recreational opportunities and access to public lands, this project is an example of the impact’s recreation can have on local communities. The first annual River Festival was held at Fort Ransom State Park in Fort Ransom, North Dakota. The event promoted recreation opportunities on public lands with a focus on canoeing, kayaking, and aquatic invasive species control. Attendees participated in a record-setting canoe and kayak launch on the Sheyenne River with more than 100 registered boaters. Many families participated in youth activities at the park while the Forest Service operated an information booth to promote the new trail.

This project is an excellent example of how partnerships can lead to valuable outcomes for the citizens of North Dakota and the recreating public. Thank you to the Industrial Commission and the Outdoor Heritage Fund.