

OHF FINAL REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Number: 015-161
Recipient: Watford City Park Board
Award Amount: \$14,345.00
Total Project Costs: \$17,949.08
Total OHF Funds Received: \$13,461.81



Goal of Project: This project provided for the installation of a handicapped accessible pathway, van accessible parking pad, plus a wood fiber base and border for the playground at the McKenzie Bay Recreation Area.

Work Accomplished: This project completed a 16' X 16' parking pad connected to the playground by a 5' X 40' concrete pathway with 5' X 6' level landing pad at the point where the pathway and playground meet. A border was installed around the perimeter of the playground. Within this border, a wood fiber material base was installed throughout the playground. This project includes signage for the parking area and to acknowledge the project donors.

Project Results: The work completed at the playground was done in conjunction with the addition of four pieces of playground equipment primarily for toddler use. Funds for the new equipment were raised by volunteers. However, accessibility guidelines require compliance with any new improvements to a public area such as this playground on federally managed lands. This prevented the installation of those new toddler pieces. Without the funds to achieve accessibility, the new equipment or further expansion of the playground wasn't possible.

This recreation area now has a better variety of equipment for children including toddlers and is also handicapped accessible. Early comments on the completed work are very good and people really appreciate the efforts and collaboration that made it possible.

Value to North Dakota: Lake Sakakawea is a vast and wonderful recreation experience. However, access to the lake is always challenging, minimal and expensive. For this reason, counties are fatigued by requests for recreation access meaning the cost of building and maintaining roads in remote areas. Dunn County and McKenzie County have spent nearly a million dollars on access to the McKenzie Bay Recreation Area alone in the past decade.

Being able to receive funds from the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund for this project provided for costs that were unforeseen while volunteers collected funds for the new playground equipment. Those folks saw the cost of their project nearly double with the need to comply with accessibility guidelines. Without assistance, the project may never have been completed.

This work meets the priorities of the North Dakota State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. This reflects their priority for campgrounds, swimming/water facilities and playgrounds. It also meets the secondary needs in their plan which includes recreational boating facilities. The McKenzie Bay Recreation Area now provides a great playground. Thank you.