

Lake Ashtabula

Baldhill Dam

Valley City, North Dakota

Welcome to Lake Ashtabula (Baldhill Dam)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers welcomes you to Lake Ashtabula, offering year-round recreational opportunities in the east central part of North Dakota. The brochure will assist you in locating and safely using the wide range of recreational facilities and natural areas found here.

For further assistance, please contact the Lake Ashtabula office at 701-845-2970 or stop by the office located at the west side of Baldhill Dam.



History

Lake Ashtabula is formed by the Baldhill Dam on the Sheyenne River. The Sheyenne River is the longest river in North Dakota entirely contained within the state borders. Once water passes through Baldhill Dam it continues on in the Sheyenne until it joins the Red River of the North just north of Fargo, N.D.

Congress authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to design and construct Baldhill Dam in 1944. The dam was intended to stabilize flows on the Sheyenne River. Baldhill Dam serves as a multi-purpose facility providing stable water supplies, flood abatement, wildlife habitat and recreation. Baldhill Dam was first put into emergency service in 1950 and was completed in 1951. In 1997 a dam safety rehabilitation was completed, and in 2004 an additional modification was completed providing additional temporary water storage during flood events. Both modifications will insure that Baldhill Dam will continue to provide safe and effective service into the 21st century.

The Corps of Engineers owns the entire shoreline around Lake Ashtabula and is responsible for the management of these lands. The shoreline is divided up into four zones, limited development, recreation, protected areas and restricted areas. Most of the larger segments of the shoreline are utilized as developed recreation areas, wildlife management areas or dam operation areas. The remaining lands are classified as limited development and are managed for a wide variety of activities including dispersed recreation, agriculture and wildlife. For further information or a copy of the current shoreline management plan, please contact the Lake Ashtabula office at 701-845-2970.

Camping

The Corps of Engineers operates seven developed recreation areas providing a variety of facilities around Lake Ashtabula. There are four different campground to choose from, as well as two-primitive hike in campsites accessible from the North Country National Scenic Trail that offer a variety of facilities and experiences. Visitors can choose from the alcohol-free setting at East Ashtabula Crossing to the wooded seclusion of Eggerts Landing. All campgrounds offer trailer sites with electrical hookups as well as tent sites. Three of the campgrounds have campsites that may be reserved through the National Recreation Reservation Service by calling 1-877-444-6777 or through their web site at www.ReserveUSA.com.

In addition to camping, there are three designated swimming areas around the lake, as well as seven boat-launching ramps to provide boaters and anglers access to all areas of Lake Ashtabula. Picnic facilities and playgrounds are located at almost all sites. The recreation areas are fully operational from the first of May through the end of September.

Fishing

Lake Ashtabula provides excellent fishing opportunities. Lake Ashtabula is known for its northern pike, perch, walleye and white bass. Other fish in the lake include small mouth bass, crappie, and bullhead. There are seven boat ramps to provide access to the lake as well as two accessible fishing piers and four automated fish cleaning stations for your use. Fishing licenses and bait may be purchased from concessionaires around the lake.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service operates the Valley City National Fish Hatchery, which includes the fish hatchery ponds directly below the dam. In the spring of each year, northern pike and walleye are netted from the lake and striped of their eggs and sperm. These eggs are hatched at the Valley City fish hatchery and some of the resulting fingerlings are returned to the lake in the fall.



Hunting/Wildlife Management

The Corps of Engineers actively manages 2,800 acres of land surrounding Lake Ashtabula for wildlife. This land, which is a combination of grassland, woodland and shrubland, provides food and habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. All of these lands are open to the public for recreation including wildlife viewing, hiking and hunting.

Lake Ashtabula is located in the "prairie pothole" region and provides key nesting and brood rearing habitat for a wide variety of waterfowl. One unique seasonal visitor is the white pelican. Pelicans are seen throughout the summer months in large flocks on the lake.

Other popular wildlife species that can be found at or near Lake Ashtabula include white tailed deer, sharptail grouse, wild turkey and gray partridge.




US Army Corps of Engineers®
St. Paul District

North Country National Scenic Trail

Lake Ashtabula is home to 35 miles of the North Country National Scenic Trail. The NCT is a 4,200 mile long non-motorized hiking trail that starts near Lake Sakakawea in North Dakota and ends in Crown Point, New York. The NCT is a National Park Service project and has been constructed with the help of many cooperating agencies and volunteers. The trail segments at Lake Ashtabula are strictly for foot travel only, while some segments of the trail are open to horse travel and biking. For information and trail conditions, please contact the Lake Ashtabula office.



Other Recreational Opportunities

Two recent additions to the long list of things to do at Lake Ashtabula include groomed cross country ski trails and the Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway.

Skiing

Groomed cross-country ski trails are maintained, weather permitting, at Eggert's Landing and Mel Rieman. Eggert's Landing has about 2 miles of trails groomed for both skating and classic styles of skiing. Mel Rieman offers a 1 mile trail groomed for classic skiing.

Scenic Byway

The Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway is a 63-mile long motor route starting at the Baldhill Dam and traveling south along the beautiful Sheyenne River to the town of Lisbon, N.D. The route includes 25 interpretive stops. As of 2004, this is the only nationally designated byway in North Dakota.



Water Safety

Your safety is our concern. Just a reminder that about half of all boating accidents involve alcohol and almost all boating fatalities occur when life jackets are not worn. Please use alcohol in moderation in areas where it is allowed. Always wear your life jacket when you are on the water.

The park rangers at Lake Ashtabula take an active role in water safety. They present numerous water safety programs to children as well as adults. If you are interested in a water safety program please contact the office for more information. Remember that most accidents can be prevented and make your trip to Lake Ashtabula a safe one.



Dam Statistics

Location:
Stream-Sheyenne River
Distance from Mouth-271 miles
Drainage area- 4,138 sq. miles

Lake:
Area-5,234 acres
Length-27 miles
Maximum depth-42 feet

Gates:
3-Tainter gates 40' wide
2-Low flow Conduits 3' diameter
Maximum discharge of controlled spillway- 43,100 cubic feet per second

Dam:
Type-Rolled Earth
Elevation of Emergency spillway-1271'
Length-1650'

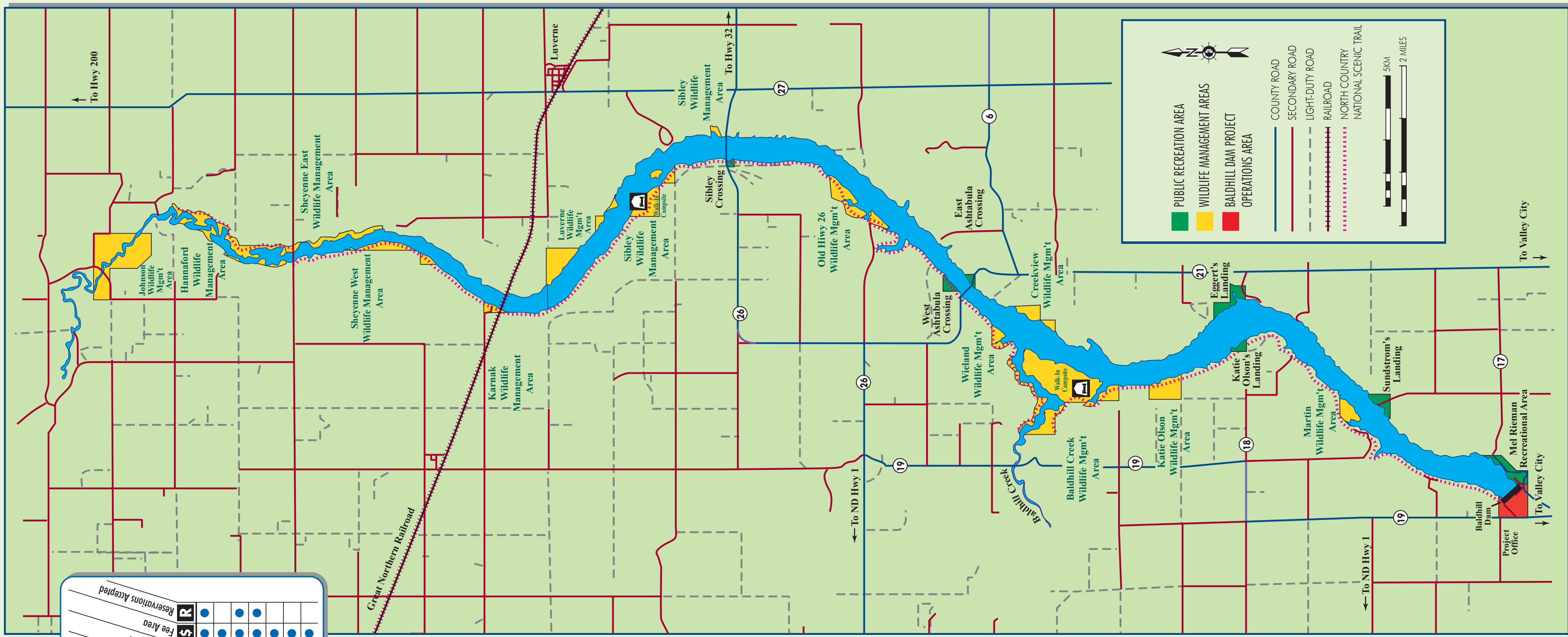
Land:
Public owned- 2,885 acres
Flowage easements-2,366 acres

Regulations

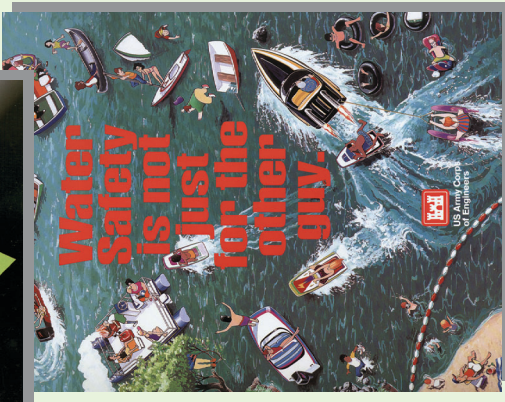
All federal lands at Lake Ashtabula are governed by the regulations set forth in Title 36, section 327 of the U.S. Code of Federal regulations. Some areas are also subject to special rules set by the resource manager. Copies of the "Rules and Regulations" brochure are available from Park Rangers as well as brochure boxes located at each recreation area. Special site rules are posted on site bulletin boards. All local, state and federal laws are applicable.



www.mvp.usace.army.mil/recreation
www.ReserveUSA.com



Public Recreation Areas	Mel Riemann	Sundstrom's Landing	Egger's Landing	East Ashtabula Crossing	West Ashtabula Crossing	Sibley Crossing	Katie Olson's Landing
Campround Trailer Sites	●						
Campround Tent Sites	●						
Print Area	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Restrooms	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Swimming Area	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Playground Area	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Picnic Shelter	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Showers	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Drinking Water	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sanitary Dump Station	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Morina	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Fish Cleaning Station / Table	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Campsite - Electric Hookups	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Campsite - Table	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Wheelchair Access - Campsite	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Wheelchair Access - Fish Platform	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Concessions	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Public Telephone	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Boat Ramp	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Parking Area	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Fee Area	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Reservations Accepted	●	●	●	●	●	●	●



Important Phone Numbers
Emergency 911
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Lake Ashtabula Project Office
 2630 114th Ave. SE
 Valley City, ND 58072-9795
 701-845-2970
National Recreation
Reservation Service 877-444-6777
www.ReserveUSA.com
Other Useful Links are:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
www.mvp.usace.army.mill/recreation
Valley City Chamber of Commerce
 701-845-1894
www.hellovalley.com
Other Recreational Opportunities
www.recreation.gov

How to Get There:
 The main route to Lake Ashtabula recreation sites and project office is via Interstate 94, to Valley City exit #292. Then follow the signs for approximately 12 miles, heading in a northwesterly direction. It is also accessible from other directions by state, county and township roads.

