

## WINDMILL STATE RECREATION AREA

At 167 acres, Windmill State Recreation Area (SRA) is one of the jewels of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission in the state's unique "chain of lakes" along Interstate 80.

Situated at the Gibbon interchange between Kearney and Grand Island, it draws its name from the locale, Windmill Crossing, where the Pawnee Indians forded the Platte River during their annual buffalo hunts. The old-time windmills of the area were acquired in the early 1970s. They have all been restored to working order.

### ABOUT THE WINDMILLS

The largest windmill is a railroad windmill that stands more than 60 feet tall. The wheel is 20 feet in diameter, with 200 blades in two rows of eight sections each. The vane, or small fan section that extends beyond the edge of the wheel, is a type of governor. When the wind is too strong, it turns the head out of the wind and shuts it down so it won't spin at excessive speeds that can damage the mechanism.

The main tower exceeds 40 feet to the platform, while the "stub" tower rises another 11 feet. Also the oldest windmill at the park, it was first erected in a small town in northeastern Colorado, probably Fleming, about 1880. It was taken down in 1955 and moved to Kansas. It was found at "Sodtown," just east of Colby, and moved to Garden City. It was acquired in August 1972 from Homer Sargent of York, Nebraska, and moved to Windmill SRA. After being rebuilt, it was erected on Nov. 1, 1973.

The smaller Waupans windmill was first erected in 1902. It came from Louis Drake of Arcadia, Nebraska, and was reassembled in the fall of 1972 after being restored. The 10-foot, folding wheel always faces downwind, while the weighted tail points into the wind.

Built about 1910, the Dempster Model 9 windmill came from a farm east of Wilsonville in southwest Nebraska. Its 10-foot, flat wheel faces into the wind. Donated by Paul and Carl ten Bensel of Wilsonville, it was rebuilt before being erected here in July 1973.

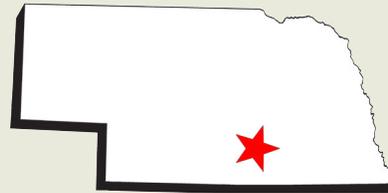
### MORE INFORMATION

A valid Nebraska Park Entry Permit is required for all vehicles entering the park. Permits can be purchased:

- At [OutdoorNebraska.org](http://OutdoorNebraska.org)
- At the park
- From Game and Parks permitting offices or permit vendors

### VISIT US ON THE WEB AT

[OutdoorNebraska.org](http://OutdoorNebraska.org)



#### Windmill (SRA)

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# WINDMILL

## STATE RECREATION AREA



**NEBRASKA**  
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## CAMPING

Windmill SRA offers modern camping facilities, restrooms, showers and a laundromat. The paved camping pads have electrical hookups, picnic tables and fire grates. There is a trailer dump station on the area.

For day use, there are picnic facilities, restrooms and shelter house. Swimming is allowed, but there are no lifeguards on duty.

Half of the modern campsites can be reserved before arrival; the remainder are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Reservations may be made up to a year in advance of arrival date at [OutdoorNebraska.org](http://OutdoorNebraska.org) or by phone at 402-471-1414 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. CT, Monday-Friday.

There is a nonrefundable reservation fee for each site reserved, regardless of the length of time of the reservation.

## FISHING

Windmill SRA's six lakes offer good fishing opportunities for a variety of species.

**Lake 1:** Largemouth bass, bluegill, common carp, crappie and channel catfish are available.

**Lake 2:** Largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie, channel catfish and yellow perch are available. A handicapped accessible fishing pier is located on the northeast corner of the lake. Catchable rainbow trout are stocked in October and March.

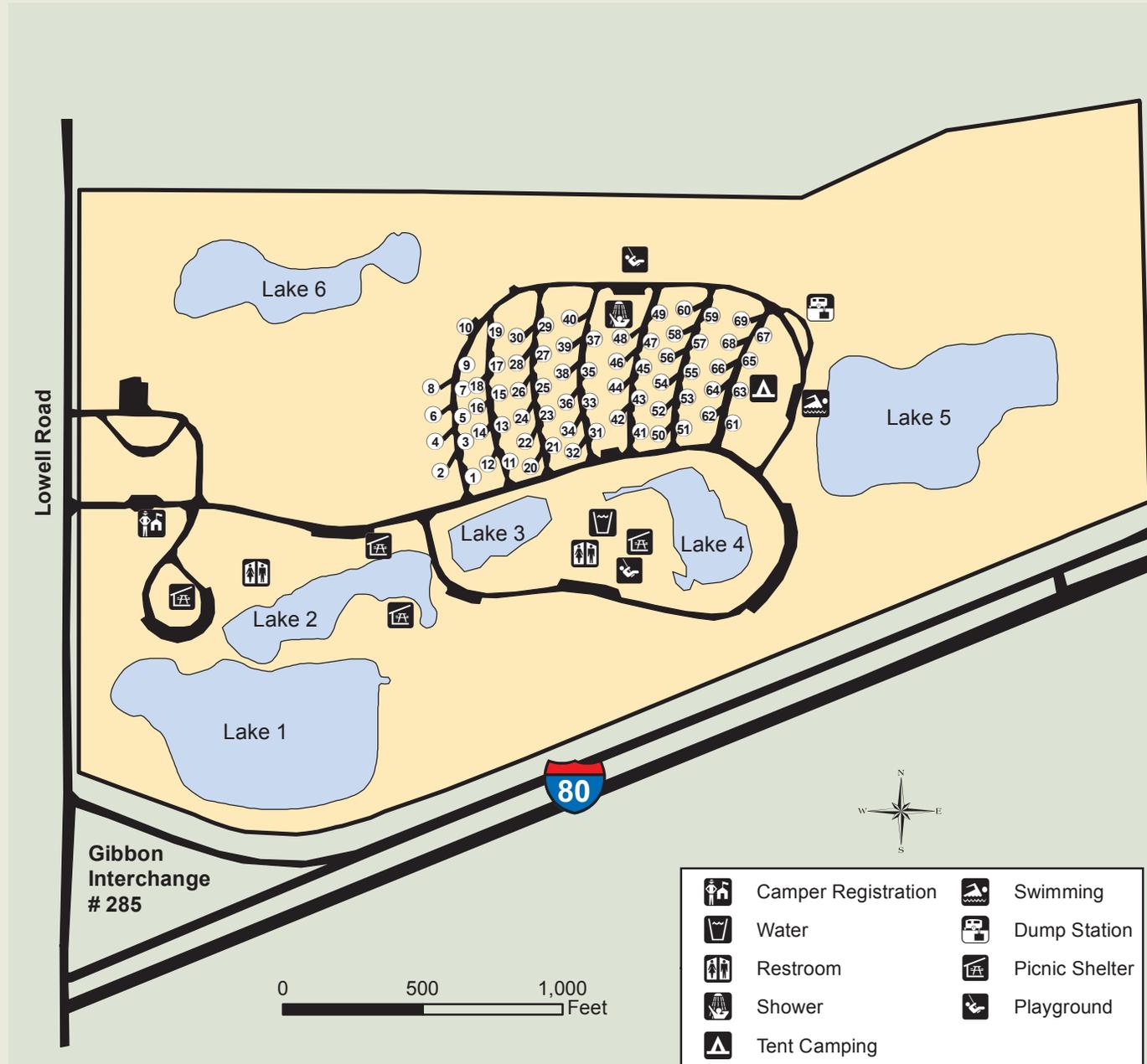
**Lake 3:** Largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie and channel catfish are available. The harvest of channel catfish is prohibited.

**Lake 4:** Largemouth bass, bluegill, common carp, crappie and channel catfish are available.

**Lake 5:** A swimming beach is located on the west end of this lake; therefore, fishing access is restricted to the eastern half. Largemouth bass, bluegill, common carp and channel catfish are available.

**Lake 6:** Largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish are available.

Consult the current Nebraska fishing guide for fishing regulations.



	Camper Registration		Swimming
	Water		Dump Station
	Restroom		Picnic Shelter
	Shower		Playground
	Tent Camping		