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**S.D. State Parks**  
 523 E. Capitol  
 Pierre, SD 57501  
 (605) 773-3391



To contact  
 West Whitlock  
 Recreation Area  
 directly, [click here](#),  
 or you can write or  
 telephone:

**West Whitlock  
 Recreation Area**  
 HC 3, Box 73A  
 Gettysburg, SD  
 57442  
 (605) 765-9410

### Campground Maps

*Caution: Large graphics.*  
[West Whitlock  
 Recreation Area](#)

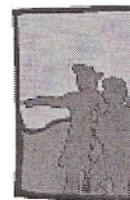
# West Whitlock Recreation Area

Gettysburg, South Dakota -- (605) 765-9410

*Once a popular campsite with the Arikara and Mandan tribes, West Whitlock is now a favorite with fishermen and campers. A replica Arikara earth lodge highlights the area's past, while a modern campground with camping cabins, swimming and boating facilities delight present-day visitors.*

## Facilities at a Glance

- Modern Campground With 103 Sites
- 63 Electrical Campsites
- Two Comfort Stations
- [Camping Cabins](#)
- Fish Cleaning Station
- Modern Boat Ramps
- Playground
- Dump Station
- Swimming Beach
- Picnic Area and Group Shelter
- Hiking and Interpretive Trails
- Interpretive Center
- Arikara Lodge Replica
- Cross-Country Ski Trail
- Nearby Concessions and Food Service



Enjoy State Parks along the  
 Lewis and Clark Trail  
 in South Dakota

## About the Park

West Whitlock was once a popular campsite for the Arikara and Mandan people. Today, it is popular among boaters and fishermen who enjoy the adjacent waters of the Lake Oahe Reservoir.

A replica Arikara earth lodge pays homage to the area's colorful past, while a modern campground with cabins, swimming, fishing and boating facilities delight present-day visitors.

## History

The park is named for Mrs. J.F. Whitlock, whose pioneer descendants once owned the land. At one time, a ferry crossing operated in the vicinity and a small settlement was known as Whitlock Crossing.

## Camping

A large campground provides 103 modern sites. Electricity is available at 63 sites and reservations are available year-round at 1-800-710-CAMP. The campground has picnic tables, grills, electrical outlets, hard-surfaced roads, gravel camping pads and a modern comfort station with warm showers. Heated and air-conditioned camping cabins are available year-round.

## Oahe Reservoir

Lake Oahe Reservoir, located on the Missouri River, provides hours of outdoor fun. The lake has more than 2,000 miles of shoreline and its clear waters are ideal for boating, sailing, fishing, water skiing and diving. Campers, history buffs, mountain bikers and hikers will find new adventures in this rugged land first explored by Lewis and Clark.



## Hours

West Whitlock Recreation Area is open year-round. The park is open 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. May 1 through Sept. 30; and 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Oct. 1 through April 30.

## Interpretation

A program coordinator leads weekend programs at West Whitlock Recreation Area during the summer months. In addition, free educational programs are held especially for the kids. The Junior Naturalist Program allows children 7-12 to learn more about nature by participating in a hands-on learning environment. Older children may participate in the Everyone Chooses How Our Earth Survives (ECHOES) program. This environmental education program is especially for young people looking for a chance to expand their knowledge about the planet.

If exploring nature by yourself is more appealing, the park has a self-guided interpretive hiking trail.

## Fishing

Anglers looking for wide-open waters and a variety of sport fish will enjoy a visit to West Whitlock Recreation Area. West Whitlock is located on the 100-mile long Lake Oahe Reservoir and access is available at the park's modern boat launch.

Just after ice-off, northern pike come into Whitlock Bay to spawn. Anglers have found great success fishing from shore. In fact, a 36-pound northern was caught from shore during 1993! The main sport fish, however, is the walleye. Each year thousands of fishermen travel to Lake Oahe in search of 'ol marble eyes. The

reservoir is a favorite stop along the professional walleye fishing circuit and draws anglers from across the nation.

The reservoir's newest sport fish is the chinook salmon. Each year thousands of eggs are taken from adult salmon at Whitlock Spawning and Imprinting Station. After hatching, fingerling salmon are returned to the lake. When adult salmon return in the fall, fishermen will find fast and furious action. Other sport fish that inhabit the waters of Lake Oahe are white bass, smallmouth bass, rainbow trout, brown trout and sauger.

As an added convenience, nearby East Whitlock and Forest City lakeside use areas provide additional boat launching and primitive camping. Bait shops, fishing guides and a wide variety of supplies and equipment are available at several nearby resorts.

### **And While You're in the Area....**

- The Medicine Rock is displayed at Gettysburg's Sunset Museum. The surface of this huge, flat boulder is carved with handprints, footprints, bird and animal tracks.
- The Whitlock Salmon Spawning and Imprinting Station is located adjacent to West Whitlock Recreation Area. Each year thousands of salmon eggs are fertilized at this station. Tours are available during the fall. A salmon festival is held each year on the first Saturday in October.
- The annual Civil War Festival highlights the colorful past of Gettysburg's sister city and battlefield. Several re-enactment groups stage the historic Civil War battle which is open to the public.

#### **For More On Area Attractions Contact:**

Gettysburg Chamber of Commerce  
PO Box 33  
Gettysburg, SD 57442  
(605) 765-9309

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This page was last updated October 11, 2000.