Nebraska Camping Destinations

NE Game Parks <https://nebraskastateparks.reserveamerica.com/>

Many NE State Parks have stables with horseback riding.

NE parks have a daily user fee that must be paid in addition to the camping fees.

NE Ashland 68003, 28500 West Park HWY, **Eugene Mahoney State Park** <http://outdoornebraska.gov/mahoney/> – this park is located just north of I-80. You really need a bike to get around the park. Activities include paddle boat lake, snack bar, crafts center, theater, pool complex with water slides, stables with trail and pony rides, miniature golf, disc golf, standard golf driving range, observation tower overlooking the Platte River, plant conservatory with international iris collection, playgrounds and paved hike/bike trails. Free WIFI near the park office so be sure to ask for the WIFI password at check-in. There are two shaded campgrounds with 149 paved pad electrical hookups, 7 full hookups and a free dump station. Only the lakeside Campground has showers and they are free. LTVer recommended for the variety of activities. The only drawback is there is some road noise due to I-80 being less than 1 mile away. Reservations 402-471-1414 or <http://www.outdoornebraska.org>

NE Aurora 68818, <http://auroraareachamberanddevelopment.com/visit/> -located in the heartland of the United States on Interstate 80. The **Streeter Park** campgrounds are conveniently located near downtown Aurora and are available year-round to the public. first-come, first-serve basis. three nights per stay, FREE Camping, donations requested. Donation drop box located under the shelter at campground entrance. FREE electrical hookups FREE water FREE waste water dumpsite. <http://www.cityofaurora.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=76&Itemid=88>

NE Columbus 68601, Lakeview RD, 402-562-5709 **Loup Park** <http://www.loup.com/recreation/lakebabcock.asp> - one of the best-known family camping facilities in northeast Nebraska. Come for an afternoon picnic, walk or bike the paved trails or just enjoy an evening sunset. The views of the lake are wonderful. Shade from the large cottonwood trees. Free camping with electrical hookups. No reservations accepted. Limit of 7 days per 30-day period in Loup Park system.

NE Columbus 68601, 18th AVE, 402-562-5709 **Lake North Park** <http://www.loup.com/recreation/lakenorth.asp>- one of the premier family-oriented parks in northeast Nebraska. This 200-acre lake is popular for boating, water skiing, camping and fishing. The campground has free electrical hook-ups. No reservations accepted. Limit of 7 days per month.

Lakeview Road NE Gothenburg 69138, **Pony Express Museum** <http://www.ponyexpressstation.org/> – the town contains 2 Pony Express Stations. Learn about the mail service that was twice as fast as stagecoach mail service but only lasted two years because of the arrival of the telegraph.

NE Kearney 68847 - **Sandhill Crane Migration** <https://visitkearney.org/sandhill-cranes/>

- Every year from late February to early April, over 600,000 Sandhill Cranes migrate on the Platte River valley in order to ‘fuel up’ before resuming their northward migration. Audubon’s Nebraska Crane Festival: March 22-25, 2018 Most land in the Platte River valley is private property.  Do not trespass! In the morning, cranes shuffle up and down the river waiting for the sun to pop up over the horizon. As the sun rises, cranes head out to feed and loaf in the surrounding fields. During the day, cranes "dance" to relieve the stress of migration and strengthen pair bonds. Cranes are very "social" birds and in the evening, congregate in wet meadows before heading back to the river for the night. The most important thing is to make sure that you have enough dark warm clothing, binoculars, warm drinks, water bottle, & snacks. The largest concentration of Sandhill Cranes occurs within the last two weeks of March and this is also when we have the largest number of crane watchers. Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary

<http://rowe.audubon.org/crane-facts> - has $35 crane viewing tours Rowe Sanctuary is approximately 20 miles from the city of Kearney and you can easily make it to our office in 20 - 25 minutes via Interstate 80. <https://fareharbor.com/embeds/book/roweaudubon/items/67140/calendar/2018/02/?full-items=yes>

Fort **Kearny State Recreation Area** <http://outdoornebraska.gov/fortkearnysra/>

- offers 186 acres dotted with sandpit lakes. In the spring, the world’s largest concentration of sandhill cranes and waterfowl gathers in the central Platte River valley. Facilities include electrical and primitive camp pads, showers, dump station, modern restrooms, water. The interpretive center at adjoining Fort Kearny State Historical Park is open daily during peak migration and serves as an information center for crane viewers. The bridges over the Platte River on the hike-bike trail are a popular place to observe the cranes at dusk and dawn.

<https://nebraskastateparks.reserveamerica.com/camping/fort-kearny-sra/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NE&parkId=230098>

NE Gering 69341 - **Scotts Bluff National Monument** <https://www.nps.gov/scbl/index.htm> in western Nebraska includes an important 19th-century landmark on the Oregon Trail and Mormon Trail. The National Monument contains multiple bluffs (steep hills) located on the south side of the North Platte River. It is named for one prominent bluff called Scotts Bluff, which rises over 800 feet (240 m) above the plains at its highest point. The Summit Shuttle is available to any visitor free of charge. During the 7-10-minute drive, a park ranger will share stories about the natural, cultural, and historical resources of the park. No RV on Summit RD due to hairpin turns. Day use only. Visitor Center contains the Oregon Trail Museum.

NE Minatare 69356, 308-783-2911- **Lake Minatare State Recreation Area** <http://outdoornebraska.gov/lakeminatare/> - is one of the most popular and scenic recreation areas in Western Nebraska. The 2,180-acre lake was built in 1915 for irrigation storage and is home to one of only seven inland lighthouses in the U.S. The 55-foot tall stone structure offers a beautiful view from the top. Lakeview Point Campground, located near the iconic lighthouse, has 52 gravel pads with 20- and 30-amp electrical hookups, modern restrooms and showers. Butte View Campground has 49 sites with 50-amp electricity. Stay here when visiting Scotts Bluff in Gering which is 6-8 miles away. <https://nebraskastateparks.reserveamerica.com/camping/lake-minatare-sra/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=NE&parkId=230121>

NE Ogallala 69153, 308-284-8800 **Lake McConaughy State Recreation Area** <http://outdoornebraska.gov/lakemcconaughy/>– Lake McConaughy is very large with a depth that allows deep draft pleasure boats created by the Kingsley Dam. This rec area has 4 different campgrounds. There are primitive, electric and full hookup sites with payment of the appropriate camping fee AND daily use permit. Beach camping is allowed in some areas. There are coin operated showers with flush toilets in the four campgrounds. The Lake Ogallala campground is located below the dam, enjoys better protection from winds that can develop on the larger lake and has mature shade. Lake Ogallala is LTVer recommended. Reservations 402-471-1414 or <http://www.outdoornebraska.org>

NE Schuyler 68661, HWY 15, 402-352-3101 **South Campground Schuyler City Park**

<https://schuylernebraska.net/points-of-interest/campground/> - First Come, First Serve, Pay shower and bathrooms, full hookups and electric only sites. Dump station available.