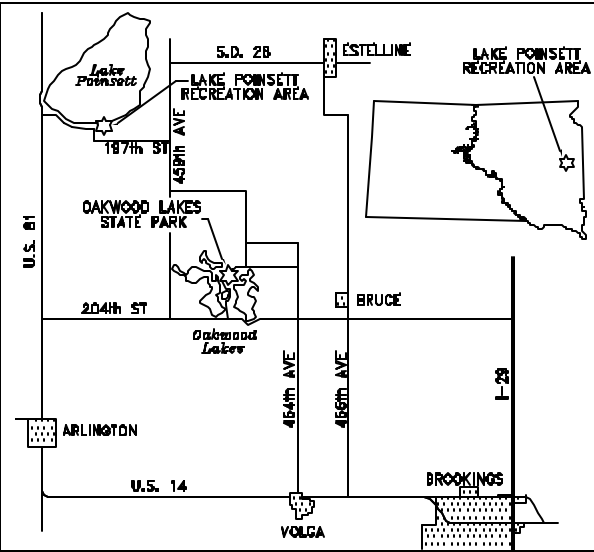
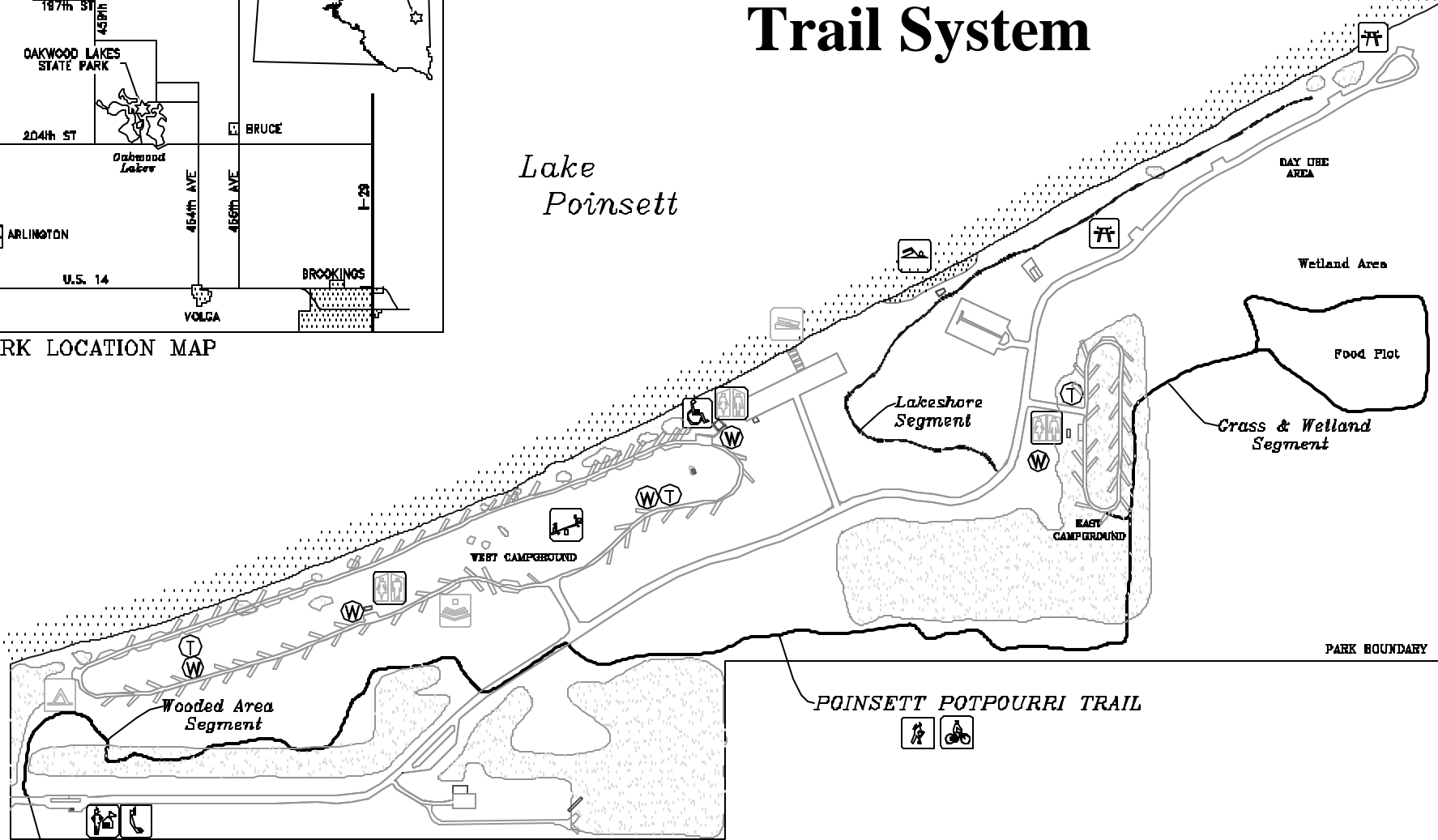


Lake Poinsett Recreation Area Trail System

Lake
Poinsett



PARK LOCATION MAP

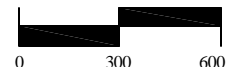


Poinsett Potpourri Trail
(Trail Head)

- | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| HIKING TRAIL | BOAT RAMP | AMPHITHEATER | ACCESSIBLE FACILITIES | TOILET |
| BIKE TRAIL | BEACH | PLAYGROUND | TENT AREA | DRINKING WATER |
| ENTRANCE BOOTH | PICNIC AREA | TELEPHONE | COMFORT STATION | TREES |



SCALE IN FEET



Date: 6/27/02

Lake Poinsett Recreation Area

Poinsett Potpourri Trail

Type of trail: Hiking, biking, interpretive/viewing and nature

Trail surface: Grass

Rated: Moderate, somewhat hilly, even trail surface

Fee required: Park Entrance License

Length of trail in miles: One mile

Location of the trailhead: Park entrance booth

Facilities at or near the trailhead: Parking

Facilities along the trail: Drinking water

Will there be interpretive information available: No

What lodging opportunities are provided IN the park: Tent camping, electrical and non-electrical campsites, wheelchair accessible campsite, camping cabins

Does this trail connect with any other trails: No

Nearest facilities for purchasing snacks, sunscreen etc.: Resort – three miles NW

Nearest motels/restaurants OUTSIDE the park: Motel/restaurant – approx. two miles NW

Nearest Chamber of Commerce:

Brookings Area Chamber of Commerce, 2308 6th St., Brookings, SD 57006, (605) 692-6125

Emergency phone numbers:

Ambulance - 911

Sheriff - 911

Fire Department - 911

Do most cell phones work on this trail: Yes

Lake Poinsett Recreation Area

Poinsett Potpourri Trail

The Poinsett Potpourri Trail passes through three unique areas:

Section #1: Wooded Area Trail

Begin at the information booth; travel through wooded area along south edge of campground #1, crosses road and goes through wooded area to open prairie area south of campground #2.

Section #2: Grass and Wetland Area Trail

Leave SE corner of campground #2, continues through open grassland to a food plot and returns along a wetland to the north and back to campground #2.

Section #3: Lakeshore and Rearing Pond Trail

Begins across the road from campground #2; follows along west side of rearing pond, heads east through swimming beach and follows shore to picnic area and return.

Section #1 - Wooded Area Trail

The wooded trail leads one through a variety of trees such as oak, cottonwood, willow, Scotch pine, ponderosa pine, eastern red cedar, honey locust, boxelder, hackberry, Russian olive, bur oak, American elm, and blue spruce. Lilac, chokecherry, apricot and plum may also be found.

Trees are very important facet of what is called a prairie state. They provide shelter from harsh winter winds and shade in the summer. Wildlife rely on trees for food and shelter and the beauty of the landscape is greatly enhanced with the presence of trees.

Section #2

The grass and wetland trail encircles an area with a food plot. Many food plots in the country are planted with corn and sorghum and are beneficial to the wildlife during South Dakota winters. Proper placement of plots near woody cover and wetlands enhances use by pheasants and other wildlife species.

The wetland north of the food plot provides areas for breeding, feeding, and shelter for waterfowl and other wildlife.

Wetlands help control flooding and erosion and also absorb large amounts of sediments and nutrients from surface water. Wetlands are not only valuable resources for wildlife but are also of interest to hikers, birdwatchers, photographers, and hunters.

The grass area is burned every several years to slow the growth of cool seasonal grasses, such as brome, and to promote growth of warm season grasses. Burning also removes build up of dead vegetation and releases nutrients back into the soil. Invader plants will be reduced and beneficial native grass growth species will grow to provide suitable nesting cover for wildlife.

Section #3

This area of the trail goes along a human-made pond that is periodically used for a rearing pond for perch. The perch are allowed to spawn and grow over the summer months and then are released to the main lake. The pond has also been used for kids' fishing tournaments. Ducks and Canada geese also frequent this area for nesting.

The remaining portion of the trail is on the shore of the second largest natural lake in South Dakota. This 8,500-acre lake was named for Joel Poinsett who served as U.S. Secretary of War. Poinsett was instrumental in promoting the expedition of Joseph Nicollet and John Fremont who explored the region in 1838.

Fishermen enjoy the lake year-round in search of walleye, perch, northern pike and bass. There are also spacious areas for skiers, jet skis, swimming and boating.