

2026 Friends of Perch Lake Newsletter



Aurora Borealis over Perch Lake 11/13/2025

Many Changes coming to Homestead

We were pleased to receive a grant from the DNR, which will support the improvement of restroom facilities near both the picnic area and the beach. The plan includes installing a two-stall Huffcutt restroom building equipped with electricity and running water near the picnic area. This facility will replace the existing porta potties. Each stall will be individually lockable and will include a flushable toilet and sink. Additionally, a small rinsing shower will be available for beachgoers to wash off sand.

A second Huffcutt facility will be located near the beach, replacing the current porta potties. This building will be a pit-style restroom without running water. A similar facility was recently installed at Pine Lake, where it has received positive feedback from visitors.

Another significant improvement is the implementation of an automated gate system and electronic kiosks for purchasing park passes. This system is designed to streamline access, reduce congestion, and allow seasonal staff to focus on maintaining park cleanliness and safety. The concrete pad for the kiosks has been poured and we anticipate launching the system early 2026

With this system:

Annual park passes will transition from rear-view mirror hangers to card-style passes that can be swiped at the gate.

Daily passes will also be available through the kiosks.

Each time a pass is used, the gate will open and a vehicle count will be registered.

Once the number of entries matches the available parking spaces, the entrance gate will temporarily lock until a vehicle exits, helping prevent overcrowding.

In addition, we'll be able to program the gate to restrict access after 10:00 PM, reducing unauthorized after-hours use.

We're excited about these upgrades and the benefits they will bring to park visitors.

George Ballard Community Development * Parks Administrator of St. Croix County

How use new Kiosk



Has directions on screen. Highlights: dispenses both daily and annual passes, plastic only.



New Site Manager

Bobby Tulare

Bobby has taken the position of site manager. He previously worked as seasonal staff at Homestead, while completing his university course of study.



Hudson Pewee hockey team members at Kid's Ice fishing contest on Perch Lake



Evidence of a beaver on the delta at Homestead. Will likely move on once busy.



Water level drop not historic. Large stumps showing were on dry land a few decades. Per homesteading descendent, the lake level tends to cycle up & down.

**FOPL annual meeting
Saturday, May 23 10a.m.**

Playground Shelter or Entry building if inclement weather. Public Welcome.

**Brat stand fund raiser
9/18-19 10-2pm RJs Meats
Hudson.**