Heart Butte Dam & Reservoir
North Dakota

History
Heart Butte Dam on the Heart River in south central North Dakota is a homogeneous earthfill structure completed in 1949. Heart Butte Reservoir (Lake Tschida) currently provides water for irrigation, flood control, recreation and fish and wildlife benefits.

The Heart Butte Unit irrigation lies in scattered tracts along the Heart River to the Missouri River. There are approximately 13,100 acres of irrigable land.

Camping
Eight recreation areas provide numerous campsites. Primitive camping is available on a first come first serve basis. Some campsites offer picnic tables, grills, shelters, restrooms and potable water. An RV dump station is provided above the Rimrock Recreation area.

Fishing & Hunting
Heart Butte Dam and Reservoir offers an abundance of wildlife for hunting, fishing and viewing opportunities year round. Heart Butte is well-known for its walleye and northern pike. A fish cleaning station is provided at the North Shore Concession.

In addition to the abundant fishing, Heart Butte is a popular destination for hunting ring-necked pheasant, white-tailed deer and mule deer.

Recreation
Lake Tschida is the only sizeable body of water in the area and has become a popular recreation center. Picnicking, swimming, boating, camping, water skiing and fishing are popular summer activities. Fall and winter activities include hunting, ice fishing, snowmobiling and ice skating.

Archaeology
Take pictures, make drawings, look, but do not remove archaeological artifacts, rocks, fossils and other geological specimens: it’s against federal and state law.

The past is for everyone. Archaeological artifacts and geological specimens are part of the heritage of this region, state and nation.

Hours
The facilities are open year-round. Campgrounds are open year-round, however, the roads are not maintained in the winter. Lake Tschida recreation area observes a quiet time from 11 p.m. through 6 a.m. Mountain Time. Facilities maintenance runs from May 1 through September 30.

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