



Custer State Park Bison Center

Department of Game, Fish, and Parks

Overview

Governor Noem's recommended budget includes \$500,000 in general funds and \$4.5 million in other fund expenditure authority for a new \$5 million Bison Center at Custer State Park.

Project Plan

A generous donor has offered \$4.1 million to build an interpretative center at the bison corals in Custer State Park, a place where tourists routinely stop. Outside the time of the Buffalo Roundup, there isn't much for tourists to see at the corals. The donor thought that a visitor center at the buffalo corals would help better tell the story of the buffalo to our visitors.

In addition to \$500,000 from the state, the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation will raise the additional \$400,000 necessary to fully fund the project. To kick off the fund-raising campaign effort, the Foundation has generated a mailing to the Governor's Buffalo Roundup VIP list. The Department expects donations to pick up throughout the winter of 2020-2021 as it appears the public has great interest in this exciting project.

Story

Creation of the bison center will provide the platform for visitors to understand the history of bison in the park, in South Dakota and in native American culture. Some of this story is currently being provided at the Custer State Park visitor center, but by providing an additional space this story can be enhanced at the bison center. This will also create space at the Custer State Park visitor center to elaborate more on the creation of the park, provide a space for display of historic artifacts and memorabilia, and some of the other interesting pieces that tell the story of Custer State Park.