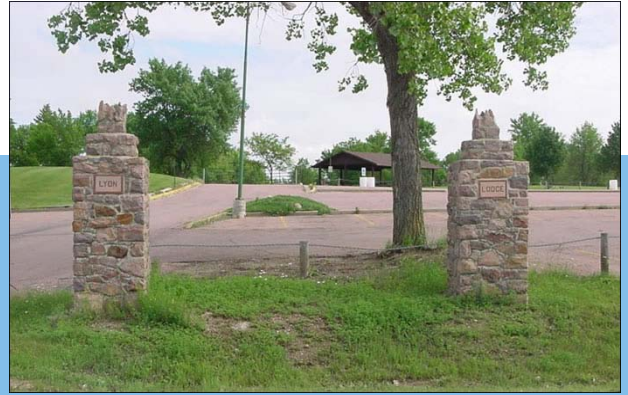


# WALL LAKE PARK

*by Scott Anderson*



The park encompasses property that was willed to Minnehaha County in 1949 by the estate of Winnow Axtell Lyon. Her will directed that the property be used for public park and recreational purposes. Two stone pillars mark the old driveway entrance to "Lyon Lodge", a stone structure that occupies a prominent site on the bluff above the lake. The pillars and lodge have been renovated to preserve their historical significance.



**front view of Lyon's lodge**

## Major Renovations to Lyon's Lodge

Starting in 2008, Minnehaha County began a major renovation to Lyon's Lodge. This included re-roofing the 76 year old structure and installing proper ventilation, new electrical service, tuck pointing and repairing loose field stones, providing electricity inside the structure, finishing and insulating the inside ceiling, new interior light fixtures, a new cement front entry and windows to replace the plywood covering the window openings. These improvements will make Lyon's Lodge usable for many years to come.

Other future renovations that are on the drawing board for Lyon's Lodge include replacing the steps on the west side of the stone cabin that lead down to the lake and a small dock or landing which will allow people to enjoy access to the lake. The major renovations should make Lyon's Lodge desirable for rental use as a location for birthday parties, family reunions and small weddings. The view over the lake is stunning.



**Installation of the new ceiling inside the lodge**



**View of Lyon's lodge from the picnic shelter**

## Improved Lake Access

The County Highway Department assisted the Parks Department in 2008 by helping renovate an old canoe launching area for the Girl Scouts. The Parks Department is working with the Girl Scouts to place a small dock in the improved canoe launching area.

**Looking Forward,  
Planning Ahead**

## WALL LAKE PARK Cont.

### New Picnic Shelter at Wall Lake

A new 16 foot by 24 foot picnic shelter was completed at the Wall Lake Park last October. The new picnic shelter is located just south of the Lyon's Lodge and has one of the most break taking views of Wall Lake. A new ce-



ment walkway with attached grilling pad connects the two structures. The picnic shelter was constructed with access to running water. The new picnic shelter and Lyon's Lodge can be reserved for events for a small fee. Those interested in reserving the one or both structures should contact the Planning Department.



### Annual Wall Lake Sprint Triathlon



The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Wall Lake Sprint Triathlon will be held this year on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Last year approximately 200 athletes com-

peted in this event, which involves swimming, biking and running. The Minnehaha County Parks Department is a co-sponsor of this event along with Sanford Wellness Center. In addition to the participants, there were several hundred supporters cheering the triathletes on to victory. If you're interested in registering for this event please contact the Sanford Wellness Center at 328-1600.



## PLANNING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

### Regional Planning Conference

Hosted by the South Dakota Planning Association, the 2009 Western Planner's Conference will be held in Spearfish on September 9-11, 2009. The states of Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Montana, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska are a part of this region. More information is available at [www.westernplanner.org](http://www.westernplanner.org).

### National Planning Conference

The 2009 National Planning Conference will be held in Minneapolis this year. Attended by thousands of planning professionals, students and officials, the conference offers workshops, sessions, tours, job connections, and networking opportunities. Held from April 25-29, registration information can be found on the American Planning Association's web site at [www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org).