

Mineland Reclamation: Sherwood Campground at Lake Ore-Be-Gone, Gilbert



- The city of Gilbert made improvements to the utilities, beach area parking and water access at its 57-unit Sherwood Forest Campground adjacent to Lake Ore-Be-Gone. A master plan was created for the campground's future growth and development.
- The campground offers full hookup utilities, remote tent sites, horseshoes and volleyball. It reaches full capacity most of the camping season. The campground is located along the paved Mesabi Bike Trail and minutes from the Iron Range Off-Highway Vehicle State Recreation Area.
- Future campground plans include:
 - 15 new camp units to the north and 26 units to the south.
 - A new shower building.
 - Boat landing improvements and beach enhancement.
 - Additional parking.
 - Hiking/walking trails.
 - Office facility expansion into a trailhead with informational signs, OHV/ATV trail information and trail mapping.
 - Tree planting.
- The 140-acre Lake Ore-Be-Gone is an artificial lake that was formed decades ago by the flooding of three open-pit iron ore mines formerly owned by LTV Mining/Erie Mining Co. Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation assisted with the original reclamation work of the mine pit and campground area. The agency helped develop beaches, a swimming area, public boat landing, fishing pier and docks and sunken attractions for scuba divers.
- The lake has earned national notoriety among divers because of its crystal blue clear waters where they can see a sunken school bus, cars, U.S. army plane, rail cars, boats, platforms, a jeep, a Huey helicopter and old mining equipment.
- Gilbert's campground and Lake Ore-Be-Gone area is an excellent example of how mining-impacted land can be transformed for the betterment of northeastern Minnesota's residents, environment and economy. The campground brings tourism revenue into the region and gives local residents a unique public amenity to enjoy.

Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation provides funding to assist with highly visible development and restoration of mining-impacted lands in northeastern Minnesota.