

# IOWA'S STATE PARKS and PRESERVES

## Welcome You

**WELCOME** . . . Iowa is less than a century old. A young state that leads the nation in farming, literacy, and per capita wealth. Iowa, comprised of twenty-five percent of the most valuable farm land in the nation nevertheless has acquired for your public estate over 18,500 acres for parks and preserves. These areas are rich in Iowa's history, scenic grandeur of rocky canyons, streams and forests, and offer sport and recreation to 2,400,000 visitors each year. State parks and reserves are not confined to any one section but are scattered throughout the state. Usually there are several areas within a two hours drive of your home. Enjoyable access to the parks is possible during all seasons of the year over Iowa's fine highway system. The primary purpose of having your public estate is to preserve the unusual and unique or historic spots of the state for all time, in a manner to permit maximum enjoyment and recreation by the public. These parks are the meeting place of the farmer, the playground of the urban dweller, the laboratory of the student and a resting place for the weary. A cordial invitation is extended to you. You are especially welcome.

**Hunting and Fishing** licenses may be procured at county recorder's offices, sporting goods houses, and resorts. Further information as to open and closed seasons may be obtained from the State Conservation Commission, Des Moines.

**IOWA STATE PARKS** and Preserves with their forts, their hollows and bridges, caves and dens, mills and cabins, defy rigid classification. Some are primarily historical, some are memorial, and many are of physiological importance. Old Fort Atkinson and Fort Defiance are clearly historical in character. Lewis and Clark, Dolly, Lake MacBride, Heery Woods, and Stone Park have human associations which well justify their being named as memorial parks, whereas Aquabui, Waubesa, and Lake of Three Fires were so named because of Indian lore associated with them. Echo Valley, Wild Cat Den, Maquoketa Caves, Backbone, Ledges, and White Pine Hollow definitely indicate physical features.

**Winter Sports** have not been neglected within the parks. Skating is provided wherever possible; ski runs are enjoyed in several parks; and at Pine Lake a constructed toboggan slide was very popular in the winter of 1936. Warm shelters are conveniently situated.

**YOUR PUBLIC ESTATE** . . . consists of 18,500 acres of the finest scenery to be found in the Middle-west, 41,000 acres of beautiful natural lakes, and 800 miles of publicly owned rivers, all for your pleasure and study. Within this 18,500 acre estate are picnic grounds and swimming beaches with ample parking areas, made accessible by 90 miles of roads, 47 major vehicular bridges, and the only highway tunnel within the state, the last being located at Pammel State Park, Boneyard Hollow, the Devil's Staircase, The Backbone, The Picture Rocks, the Ice Caves, and many other beautiful works of nature may be seen only by using the 100 miles of foot trails, 18 lodges, which may be reserved for a small fee, and 42 open picnic shelters are available for picnic groups and the casual visitors at all times. For cool and safe bathing there are 12 supervised beaches and bath houses. Your family may spend several delightful weeks in any of the 27 cabins within the parks. Your club or organization may utilize the group camps. 28 fulltime conservation officers assigned as park custodians, assisted by 21 part-time caretakers, represent your host, the Iowa Conservation Commission.

## Where to Go --What to Do

Name of Park or Preserve	Acreage	Key	Location	Resident Custodian	Non-Resident Custodian	Boating	Camping	Fishing	Hunting	Swimming	Trails
Backbone	1,388.00	F-22	4 1/2 miles S. W. Strawberry Point								
Barley	40.00	F-12	1 1/2 Miles N. W. Trues								
Beaver Meadows	74.00	F-16	North side of Parkersburg								
Beets Lake	267.62	E-15	3 1/2 miles N. W. Hampton								
Bellevue	148.15	H-20	S. side Bellevue								
Bixby	40.00	E-25	2 miles N. Edgewood								
Black Hawk Lake Area	837.36	H-7	At Lake View								
Arrowhead Preserve	160.00										
Black Hawk Preserve	177.56										
Brush Creek Canyon	130.98	E-21	1 mile N. E. Arlington								
Call, A. A.	134.00	C-10	1 1/2 miles S. W. Algona								
Clark, Theo. F.	24.38	H-18	5 miles N. E. Trues								
Clear Lake	27.00	C-14	1 mile S. Clear Lake								
Cold Spring	60.00	M-7	1 1/2 miles S. Lewis								
Dolliver-Memorial	588.67	G-11	12 miles S. E. Fort Dodge								
Eagle Lake	27.00	C-12	4 miles N. E. Britt								
Echo Valley	107.5	D-21	2 miles S. E. West Union								
Farmington & Big Duck Lake	109.17	Q-21	At Farmington W. of river								
Flint Hills	110.65	P-24	4 miles N. W. Burlington								
Fort Atkinson	5.00	C-20	At Fort Atkinson								
Fort Defiance	185.70	A-8	West side of Estaberville								
Gitchie Manitou	143.50	A-1	N. W. corner of Iowa								
Heery Woods	380.38	E-17	S. side of Clarksville								
Lacey-Keosauqua	1,706.03	P-20	At Keosauqua S. of river								
Lake Aquabui	560.00	M-13	7 miles S. of Indiana								
Lake Koomah	352.35	M-18	3 1/2 miles E. Okolona								
Lake MacBride	700.00	J-22	3 miles W. of Union								
Lake of Three Fires	504.00	P-19	6 1/2 miles N. E. Bedford								
Lake Wapello	1,094.50	P-17	6 miles W. Drakeville								
Ledges	684.00	L-12	3 1/2 miles S. Boone								
Leprie	9.00	M-20	3 miles N. Union								
Lewis & Clark on Blue Lake	315.00	L-2	4 miles W. Onawa								
Lost Island	27.63	C-8	4 miles N. Kautven								
Maquoketa Caves	85.01	L-25	3 miles N. W. Maquoketa								
Mt. Cook Area	157.50	D-4	1 mile E. Paullina								
Mini-Wakan on Spirit Lake	18.50	A-7	N. end of Spirit Lake								

**OUTSTANDING FEATURES** that should be seen when visiting the State Parks and Preserves!

**BACKBONE**—"The Backbone," Richmond Spring, the lake, largest trout hatchery in the state.

**BELLEVUE**—views of the Mississippi river, golf course, unusually mountainous park road.

**BIXBY**—peculiar phenomenon of Ice Cave, trail to Chimney Rocks.

**BLACK HAWK PRESERVE**—fish ponds.

**BRUSH CREEK CANYON**—"Fairland" Gorge.

**DOLLIVER**—coppers beds, Boneyard Hollow.

**ECHO VALLEY**—Backbone, cedar-fringed lake.

**FLINT HILLS**—golf course, Flint Creek Valley.

**FORT ATKINSON**—ruins of the original fort.

**FORT DEFIANCE**—wild flowers, scenic valley.

**GITCHIE MANITOU**—Jasper Pool. Sioux Quartzite outcroppings.

**LACEY KEOSAUQUA**—Ely's Ford, lodge and cuisine, wild flowers, oak trees, golf course, lake and river.

**LAKE WAPELLO**—state's largest artificial lake.

**LEDGES**—Ledges, reindeer moss, zoo, flowers.

**LEWIS AND CLARK**—only ox-bow lake in state park.

**MAQUOKETA CAVES**—caves, natural bridges.



**MCGREGOR AREAS**—views along Mississippi river, unusual Indian effigy mounds.

**OKOBOJI POINT**—the heart of Iowa's Lakes, GULL POINT—park lodge and cuisine.

**ORLEANS**—largest pike hatchery in the state.

**PALISADES KEPLER**—palisades of the Cedar River, trail to Upper Palisades, lodge and excellent dining facilities.

**PAMMEL**—highway tunnel.

**PIKES PEAK**—Picture Rocks, Bridal Veil Falls.

**PILOT KNOB**—panoramic view from tower, wild flowers.

**PINE LAKE**—twin lakes, Falling Rock, golf course, bathing, boating.

**RICE LAKE**—golf course.

**SPRINGBROOK**—Artificial Lake, old "Fortyniners' Trail," unusual fall coloring of trees.

**SIEVERT'S SPRINGS**—springs, fish hatchery.

**STONE PARK**—yucca and prairie flowers.

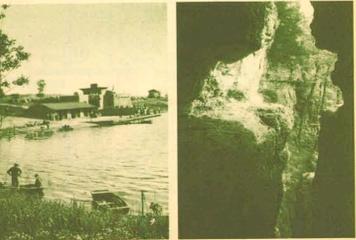
**WALNUT WOODS**—walnut trees, large elms.

**WAPSINICON**—caves, ledges, dens, golf course.

**WAUBONSIÉ**—paw-paw grove and wild flowers.

**WHITE PINE HOLLOW**—largest stand of virgin white pine in the state.

**WILD CAT DEN**—dens, old grist mill.



**THE IOWA STATE PARKS** and Preserves do not have open and closed seasons. The Conservation Commission believes that your parks should be open to the public at all times, and opportunities have been provided for sport, recreation, and relaxation throughout the year. Each period offers new views, new activities, and new enjoyment. The floral progression begins with the appearance of the snow trillium and continues until late fall when the witch-hazel blooms. Picknicking is extremely enjoyable in April and May. Swimming and the other aquatic sports are ushered in by the month of June. During the hot months of July and August the cool, shady glades and moist glens offer protection from excessive heat. September brings the beautiful fall season with the asters and the brilliant sunac. October and November present the golden panorama of autumn coloring, and such activities as hiking, riding, and wiener roasts. During the winter months, skiing, tobogganing, and skating are the chief attractions. Throughout the year lodges, warm in the winter, cool and inviting in the summer, are available for group meetings and parties.

**WILD FLOWERS** in vast quantities are to be found in all the State Parks and Preserves. The Conservation Commission is the first conservation organization in the country to make a comprehensive study of the native habitat of the wild flowers. A long time program for the preservation of existing flowers and the restoration of those native to Iowa has been inaugurated. A conservative estimate of the value of the flowers in Wild Cat Den alone amounts to over \$50,000. In the Ledges near the east entrance, is a hillside seven or eight acres in extent solidly covered with hepaticas during April. Over 350 varieties of wild flowers may be found in Lacey Keosauqua. The entire area of Pilot Knob is brilliant during the middle of May with amonellas, bloodroot, trilliums, merrybells, and violets. From April until June a wonderful display of thousands of wild flowers is to be found at Fort Defiance. Prairie and desert flowers may be seen in Waubonise and Stone Parks on the loess bluffs of western Iowa. The beauties of nature are no found around the picnic areas, but must be discovered in secluded glens and along quiet trails. Here is inviting inducement for long, refreshing walks.

**IOWA STATE PARKS**

*Your Public Estate*

**IOWA STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
DES MOINES

**IOWA HIGHWAY COMMISSION**  
AMES

**Camping** is permitted in certain parks for a fee of 50¢ per night or \$2.50 a week per unit. Campers provide their own tents and outfits. A time limit of two weeks is maintained, and in some parks only overnight camping is permitted. For further information, see park list.

**Swimming** is provided at 12 supervised beaches, and the State Conservation Commission is proud to announce that no drownings have ever occurred at any of the supervised state park beaches. The small fee charged defrays the cost of life guards, cleaning the beach, and keeping the dressing rooms sanitary. Suits and towels may be rented and checking service is provided at all bath houses. Refreshments may be obtained.

**CABINS**, located in 7 State Parks, may be rented for a period of from one day to two weeks. Many cabins have running water and toilets, and most of them have fire places so that they may be used throughout the year. Reservations should be obtained in advance by writing the custodian of the park.

**GROUP CAMPS**, consisting of cabins, each accommodating eight, central mess hall, showers, and leaders' cabins, are available at Dolliver and Aquabui State Parks. These can accommodate up to 50 campers. Smaller groups can be accommodated at Backbone and Palisades State Parks. Reservations for group camps and further information may be obtained from the Conservation Commission, Des Moines.

**Boats** are available for rent in many State Parks, and in most of the state recreational lakes. Sailboating is popular on all the larger lakes. Motor boats and outboards are strictly prohibited on the artificial lakes.

## Where to Go --What to Do

Name of Park or Preserve	Acreage	Key	Location	Resident Custodian	Non-Resident Custodian	Boating	Camping	Fishing	Hunting	Swimming	Trails
McGregor Areas	544.27	C-23	3 miles S. of McGregor								
Pike's Peak	140.65		S. side McGregor								
Point Ann	152.10		McGregor vicinity								
Other Areas	257.53										
Oak Grove	101.00	C-1	7 miles N. Hawarden								
Oakland Mills	111.00	Q-21	3 1/2 miles S. W. Mt. Pleasant								
Okamnapoon on Tuttle Lake	18.00	A-9	3 1/2 miles N. E. Dolliver								
Okoboji Region	85.41	A-6									
Gull Point	71.56		W. Side W. Okoboji								
Orleans Hatchery	20.00		N. of town Spirit Lake								
Pike's Point	8.50		N. W. side of W. Okoboji								
Pilgrimage Point	2.50		At Arnolds Park W. Okoboji								
Palisades Kepler	738.89	J-22	14 miles S. E. Cedar Rapids								
Pammel	290.93	M-11	6 miles S. W. Winterset								
Pike Knob	373.13	D-15	5 miles E. Forest City								
Preparation Canyon	233.00	L-3	6 miles S. E. Moorhead								
Rod Haw Hill	425.00	C-14	1 mile E. Chariton								
Rice Lake	50.57	A-13	4 miles S. E. Lake Mills								
Rush Lake	62.00	D-8	8 miles N. E. Laurens								
Sharon Bluffs	142.30	Q-16	1 mile E. Centerville								
Sioux Springs	23.00	S. E. Decatur									
Silver Lake	15.00	G-23	S. E. side Delhi								
Springbrook	657.27	J-9	10 miles N. E. Guthrie Center								
Stone Park	785.00										
Storm Lake	15.00	F-6	E. side of Lake								
Swan Lake	230.52	L-8	2 1/2 miles S. E. Carroll								
Tappers Bay on Silver Lake	55.00	A-9	W. side Lake Park								
Twin Springs	16.05	F-6	3 1/2 miles N. Rockwell City								
Walnut Woods	201.37	L-13	1 mile S. W. Des Moines								
Wanna Preserve	136.46	D-4	At Peterson S. of river								
Wapsinicon	220.00	L-23	At Anamosa S. of river								
Waubonise	200.00	Q-4	6 1/2 miles S. W. Sidney								
White Pine Hollow	370.00	F-24	2 miles N. W. Lucasburg								
Wild Cat Den	259.78	L-25	15 miles N. E. Muscatine								
Wood Thrush Preserve	26.80	O-20	6 miles E. of Fairfield								
Woodman Hollow	62.00	G-11	2 1/2 miles E. of Otho								

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