



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# Iowa DNR News

Conservation and Recreation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 23, 2020

- [Major renovations to begin at Pine Lake State Park](#)
- [South Skunk River to be designated as a State Water Trail](#)

## Major renovations to begin at Pine Lake State Park

ELDORA -- Several structures at Pine Lake State Park, including shelters, cabins and shower buildings, will undergo renovations this summer starting in June.

According to Andy Place, DNR park ranger at Pine Lake State Park, the renovations will improve visitor experience and modernize facilities. “The local community and park visitors will really enjoy the updated facilities at the park,” said Place.

Scheduled improvements include: a new shelter and vault toilet at Circle Point; new HVAC, plumbing and ADA-accessible features at the stone cabins; new shower and restrooms at the campgrounds; and regrading and removal of old building foundations at the Upper Pine Lake boat ramp.

Due to the nature of the renovations, park visitors can expect periodic closures of the Upper Pine Lake boat ramp and the bike trail while construction is taking place. Additionally, the Circle Point picnic area will close beginning June 21, the campground will close Monday July 27, and the cabins will close beginning Friday, July 31. These three areas will remain closed for the rest of the summer season.

“This is a major project and we hope visitors will be patient and understanding,” said Place. “Once completed, the improvements will provide much-needed amenities to Pine Lake for many years to come.”

For questions, contact the park office at:

Pine Lake State Park  
22620 County Highway S56  
Eldora, Iowa 50627

641-858-5832

[Pine\\_Lake@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Pine_Lake@dnr.iowa.gov)

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# South Skunk River to be designated as a State Water Trail

The Iowa DNR will officially designate the South Skunk River in Story County as a State Water Trail on Wednesday, June 24. [The Story County Conservation will broadcast the event on Facebook Live beginning at 6:00 p.m.](#)

The water trail begins in Story City and ends at the southern edge of the Story County line. This segment of the South Skunk River is popular with paddlers, anglers and mixed-use trail users. The effort to designate it as a State Water Trail began in the mid 2000's. State Water Trails help re-connect Iowans to their history, heritage, geology, and wildlife. A water trail promotes caring and raises awareness of the environment.

"In my previous experience with the establishment of State Water Trails in North Central Iowa, I have personally witnessed the positive impacts of water-related outdoor recreation," said Pat Shehan, special projects ranger with Story County Conservation. "Designating the South Skunk River as a State Water Trail will only further enhance the already popular South Skunk River, encourage use and enjoyment by the public, and bring additional awareness of issues such as water quality and need for improved recreational opportunities in Iowa."

Todd Robertson, outreach coordinator for the Iowa DNR said, "There has been an explosion of river activity lately, especially with tubing and kayaking. With that comes the need to communicate, maintain, and manage the river resource. Water trails do that. They help river users with signage, maps and brochures, but there are also maintenance and management responsibilities identified among the water trail partners".

Viewers who tune in to the [Facebook Live broadcast](#) will hear from DNR Director Kayla Lyon, DNR Water Trails Coordinator John Wenck, Story County Conservation Board Chair Dr. Jim Pease and several representatives of the Skunk River Paddlers. If the weather cooperates and water levels are adequate, an inaugural paddle down the river will conclude the ceremony.

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The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is working with state and local officials to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and has transitioned employees to work remotely. DNR offices are closed to the public during this time and only available by appointment.

In other efforts to further reduce the spread of Covid-19, the DNR is encouraging the use of the online services for purchasing licenses, submitting applications, payments and other daily tasks and interaction with DNR staff.

The **FREE Go Outdoors Iowa app** is available at the App store and Google Play. The Go Outdoors Iowa app allows users to purchase and view hunting and fishing licenses and submit harvest and quota reports, all from your cell phone.

**Full list of DNR's online services:** <https://www.iowadnr.gov/about-dnr/about-dnr/online-services-databases>.

**Up-to-date information on DNR services, facilities and events impacted by Covid-19:** <https://www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/Covid-19>.

**Technical information for regulated businesses in regards to Covid-19:** <https://www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/Social-Media-Press-Room/Disaster-Assistance#3057321-covid---19-outbreak>.

Thank you for your patience and flexibility during this time. If you need to contact DNR staff you can reach them by email or phone or by calling (515) 725-8200.