

IOWA'S STATE PARKS

JULY, 1941

PLEASE RETURN TO
IOWA STATE TRAVELING LIBRARY



STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

INDEX

	Page		Page
Arnolds Park Pier	14	Lucas-Monroe	30
Backbone	4	McGregor Areas	9
Barkley Memorial	26	Maquoketa Caves	27
Beaver Meadow	27	Medium Lake	15
Beeds Lake	18	Mill Creek	23
Bellevue	18	Mini-Wakan	14
Bixby	26	Nine Eagles	12
Black Hawk	18	Oak Grove	23
Brush Creek Canyon	30	Oakland Mills	19
Call, A. A.	18	Okamanpedan	13
Clark, T. F.	27	Palisades-Kepler	5
Clear Lake	13	Pammel	19
Cold Spring	19	Pikes Point	14
Dolliver	9	Pilot Knob	7
Eagle Lake	13	Pillsbury Point	14
Echo Valley	19	Pine Lake	22
Farmington	23	Pioneer	20
Fort Atkinson	26	Preparation Canyon	30
Fort Defiance	21	Red Haw Hill	23
Geode	7	Rice Lake	21
Gitchie Manitou	25	Rush Lake	15
Gull Point	14	Sharon Bluffs	21
Heery Woods	20	Silver Lake	28
Holst (Fraser)	31	Springbrook	10
Indian Mounds	25	Stone	12
Indian Village Tract	25	Storm Lake	15
Inn Area	14	Swan Lake	15
Josh Higgins	32	Trappers Bay	15
Lacey-Keosauqua	10	Twin Lakes	15
Lake Ahquabi	19	Turkey River Mounds	25
Lake Keomah	20	Union Grove	21
Lake MacBride	11	Walnut Woods	22
Lake Manawa	20	Wanata	30
Lake of Three Fires	20	Wapsipinicon	21
Lake Wapello	6	Waubonsie	6
Ledges	8	White Pine Hollow	30
Lee-Van Buren	31	Wild Cat Den	4
Lepley	28	Woodman Hollow	27
Lewis & Clark	22	Woodthrush	28
Lost Island	13	Yellow River	31

IOWA'S STATE PARKS, RESERVES AND RECREATION AREAS

STATE OF IOWA

STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

E. B. Graunitz	Lansing
R. E. Garberson	Sibley
J. D. Lowe	Algona
Mrs. Addison Parker	Des Moines
F. J. Poyneer	Cedar Rapids
R. E. Stewart	Ottumwa
A. S. Workman	Glenwood

F. T. Schwob
State Conservation Director

Iowa — Beautiful Land

Iowa—"Beautiful Land"—land of plenty, broad prairies brimming with golden grain, interspersed with many regions rich in the scenic grandeur that is Iowa. Seventy-nine state-owned recreation areas dot the state, minister to the recreational needs of more than three and a half million visitors each year.

First seen by white men less than three centuries ago, Iowa was perhaps 500 million years in the making. In that period of half a billion years six major forces worked unceasingly, relentlessly, shaped its surface to produce Iowa as we know it today.

First the earth's crust solidified, then its surface was inundated at

periodic intervals. The action of the water laid down the layers of sedimentary rock that we have labeled slate, limestone, sandstone and quartzite.

The glaciers came, moving, with irresistible force, great mountains of ice, that leveled and gouged the surface of the land. The worn rocks, gravel and clay, the burden cast off by the successive sheets of ice, we term glacial drift. The deeper, gouged out portions we know as our northern lakes.

Wind, too, entered the picture, ancient dust storms piled up the loess hills of our western border, build them up particle by particle like gargantuan ant hills.

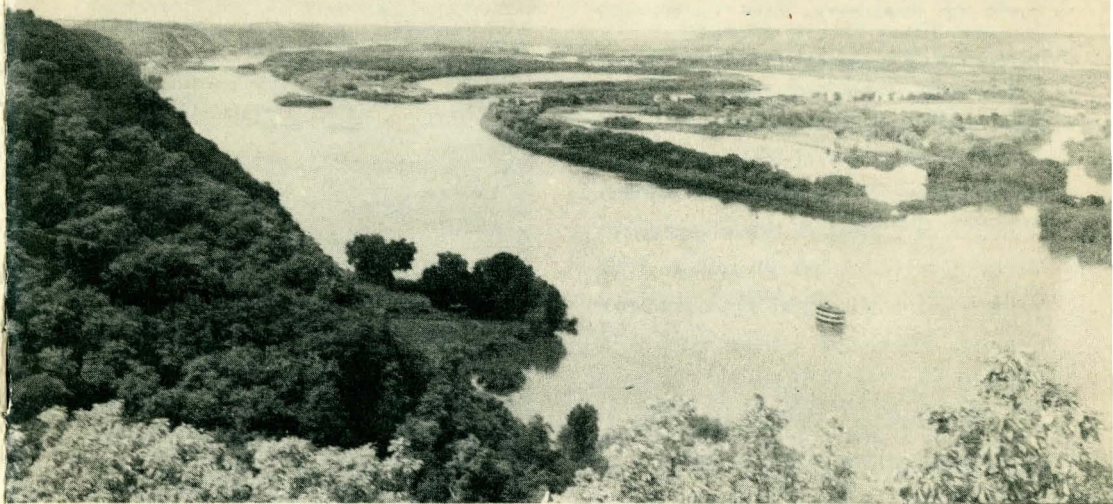
And the rains came, falling for untold centuries, gathered in rivulets, into streams, flowed relentlessly, wore away the surface, formed even the great valleys of the Mississippi and Missouri.

Frost and thirsty roots of countless growing plants cracked the rubble of the glaciers' wake—and soil was formed. Vegetation grew and thrived, battled for existence with animal forms. The vanquished enriched the soil, the victors adapted themselves to an ever-changing environment.

Then followed a period of relative stability, destined to be rudely shattered by the advent of man with his ubiquitous axe and gun.

And thus we chronicle the genesis of a state — of Iowa, "Beautiful Land."





Parks

The state parks are those areas of considerable extent which have been set aside for their scenic, historic or scientific values and for such recreational use as will not impair their natural characteristics.

Recreation reserves are spots of landscape beauty so located as to best serve the needs of the population in a given district.



Lake reserves are areas of water accessible and open to public use at all times subject, of course, to public regulations.

State forests are tracts of land on which stands of timber are established and maintained as demonstrations of proper land use in accordance with the plans and programs of the Commission.

Monuments are outstanding areas of land or objects of prehistoric, historic or scientific character which are set aside and saved because of their intrinsic value. Monuments have been divided into two groups—historic and archaeologic, and geologic and biologic.

Waysides are small areas situated along or close to a highway designed primarily to provide highway travelers with opportunities for rest and relaxation.

A parkway is a strip of park-like land devoted to recreation which features a pleasure vehicle road through its entire length.

BACKBONE

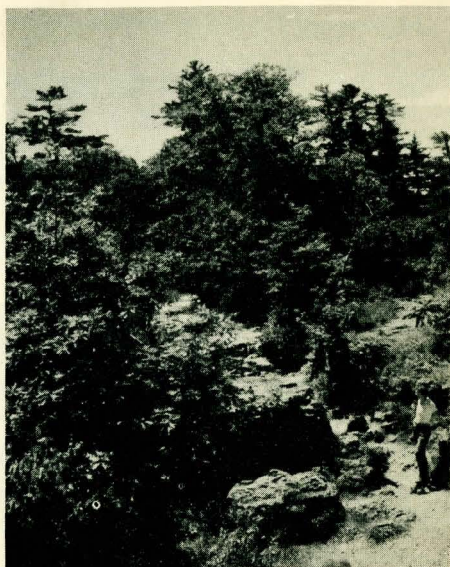
Delaware County, 1401 acres, obtained 1919. South of Strawberry Point on Primary Highway 19, off Primary Highway 13.

Rental cabins, camping, fishing, picnicking, refreshments, supervised swimming beach, winter sports.

Rugged limestone bluffs, rising to more than a hundred feet above the clear, cool waters of the Maquoketa River give this park its name. First park to be acquired in the Iowa park system, Backbone consistently has ranked high in popularity. Nearly 208,000 persons visited this north-east Iowa beauty spot in 1940.

The view down the valley of the Maquoketa from the heights of the rocky backbone is an incomparable one. This park is rich in a variety of recreation facilities. Fishermen find sport in the trout stream that courses through the area and in the beautiful lake nestled against its wooded hills.

The State Conservation Commission's trout hatchery is located in the north section of the park. Beautiful Richmond Springs provides the



water for the hatchery. This hatchery provides adult trout for stocking all the northeast Iowa trout streams.

A supervised swimming beach is maintained at the lake. Picnic areas are ample and well distributed over the park.

Twelve rental cabins are maintained in the park. Cabin reservations should be directed to the Park Custodian, Lamont, Iowa.

WILD CAT DEN

Muscatine County, 291 acres, donated in 1926 by the Brandt Sisters.. Between Muscatine and Davenport on Highway 160 and off Highway 161.

Camping, picnicking.

The Balanced Rock, Steamboat Rock and the Devil's Punch Bowl are among the scenic attractions of Wild Cat Den,

Wild flowers are present here in profusion — moccasin flowers, the

trilliums, asters, juniper moss and many others. The region long has been used as a field laboratory by college botany classes.

Its picturesque millhouse and dam, constructed by Benjamin Nye in 1850, stand mutely reminiscent of an era gone, like the water that passes over the stone face of the dam.

PALISADES-KEPLER

Linn County, 713 acres, obtained 1922. Six miles west of Mt. Vernon, off Highway 30 and Highway 261.

Rental cabins, camping, lodge serving meals, refreshments, fishing, picnicking.

The Palisades, mighty rock walls imprisoning the turbulent waters of the Cedar, rise majestically to heights of nearly a hundred feet, giving this park its name. Rising sheer from the waters edge, the palisades are truly an impressive sight.

They are unexcelled for their sheer beauty and restful surroundings. The cliffs are a massive layer of dolomite stone, fringed with many fine specimens of red cedar.

Many small ravines break the confines of the rocky gorge, giving visit-

ors access to the scenic valleys of the area.

The lowhead dam that has been constructed in the Cedar is the mecca of fishermen. Here they find some of the best fishing waters in the state.

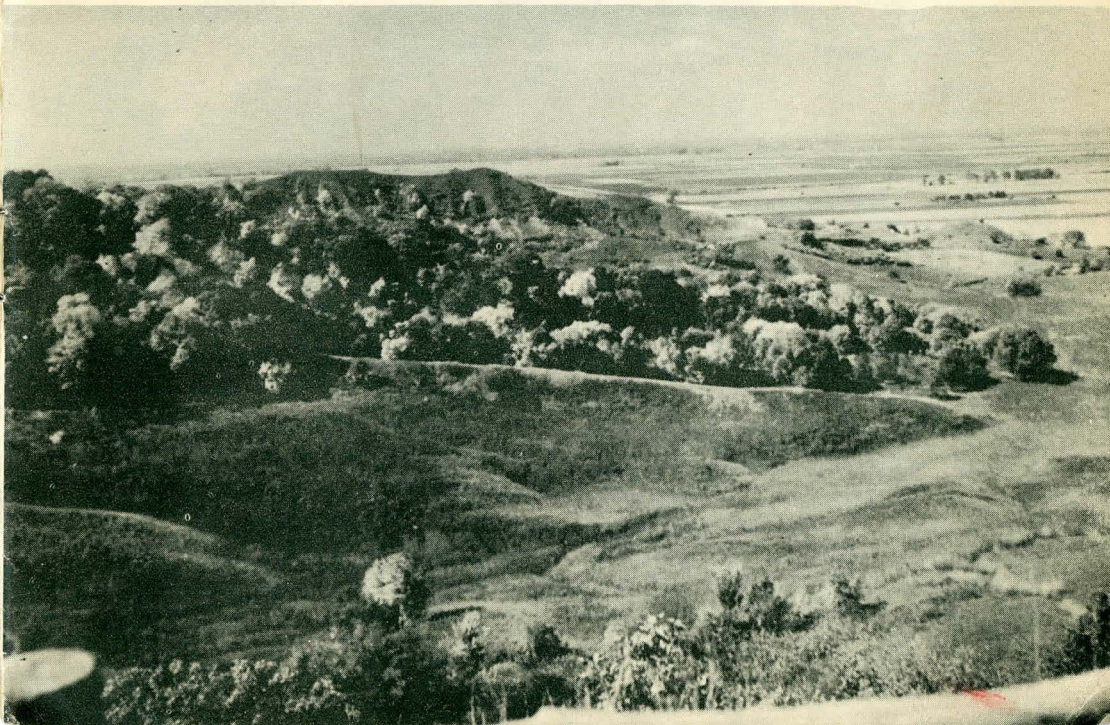
There is a magnificent view of the valley of the Cedar from the lookout shelter perched high above the river.

The area abounds in native shrubs, ferns, flowering plants and many different species of trees.

The walking fern and the rare ostrich fern have been found here. More than 125 species of birds have been observed in the park.

Rental cabins are available. Reservations should be directed to the Custodian at Mount Vernon, Iowa.

WAUBONSIE



Fremont County, 402 acres, obtained 1926. Midway between Hamburg and Sidney on Highway 239.

Camping, picnicking, refreshments.

Here's a bit of the southwest, transplanted to Iowa. The loess hills of Waubonsie are dotted with plants typical of southwestern United States.

Here are found the cactus, the pawpaw, the yucca, and more typical prairie plants such as blue aster, several varieties of golden rod and the yellow paint brush. Jack-in-the-Pulpit, hepatica and rue anemone may be found in the wooded valleys.

Waubonsie's massive ridges once resounded to the war cries of the Pottawattamies, meeting here in sacred tribal councils.

From the park's high ridges visitors may gaze over the landscape of four states, out over the broad flood plains of the Missouri River. This scene at twilight is one not soon forgotten.

Militia Hollow, a pleasant wooded valley, is a popular picnic spot in Waubonsie and is the scene of many group picnics.

LAKE WAPELLO



Davis County, 1130 acres, lake area 287 acres, obtained 1931. Six miles northwest of Drakesville, on Primary Highway 273, 13 miles west of Highway 63.

Rental cabins, camping, lodge serving meals, fishing, picnicking, refreshments, supervised swimming beach.

First of Iowa's artificial lakes, and also largest, Lake Wapello is one of the most beautiful of all the state's water areas. The lake's 287 acre bottom is literally studded with fish shelters, spawning beds and plantings of aquatic vegetation.

A series of nine fish rearing ponds provide fish for stocking the lake and for other water areas in the vicinity.

Smith Knoll, perched high above the waters of the lake, is the park's main picnic area. A picnic shelter, stoves and tables are located on the tree-studded knoll.

Twelve rental cabins are available for rent. Reservations should be addressed to the Park Custodian at Drakesville, Iowa.

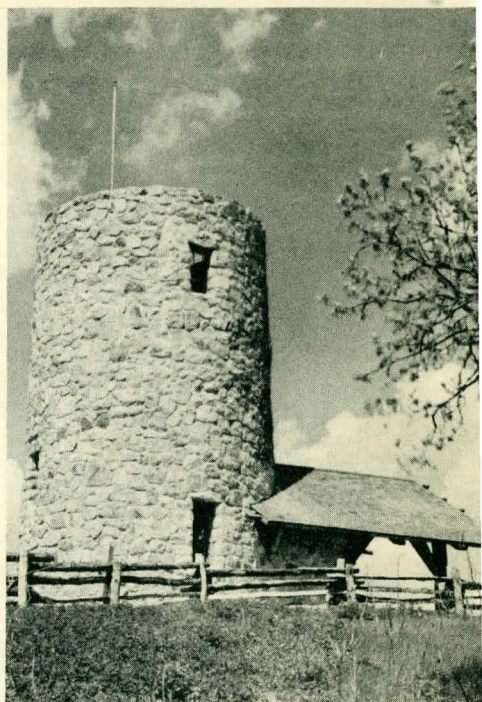
PILOT KNOB

*Hancock County, 379 acres, obtained 1922.
Four miles east, one mile south of Forest
City, off Highway 9.
Camping, picnicking, winter sports.*

One of the highest points in the state, Pilot Knob is a glacial formation, part of the Altamont moraine of the Wisconsin drift. This bold knob served as the pilot to direct the course of many a pioneer as he travelled across the prairie.

Once a favorite resort of the Indians, the area is the locale of many interesting stories of the red man. Deadman's Lake, a small, tree fringed water area, is located here. It gained its name from the solitary Indian who remained after his fellow tribesmen had moved on after the white settlers came. He was known to the rest of the Indians as the "deadman" and his story persists in the name of this lake.

From the top of a stone observation tower visitors may gaze over a 35-mile stretch of typical prairie



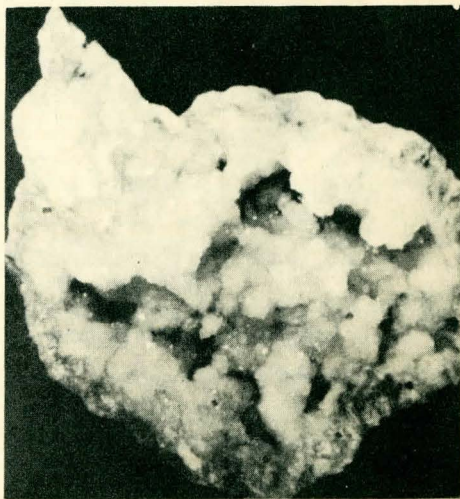
land. A large open amphitheatre in the eastern section of the park is the scene of open air meetings of all kinds.

GEODE

*Des Moines and Henry Counties, 842 acres,
acquired 1936. Southwest of Danville, east
of New London, south of Highway 24.*

Picnicking.

Geode State Park was named for the peculiar rock formations found here. Many geode are found in the park, some of them are as much as three feet in diameter. Geodes are hollow spheres of rock. The outside shell is made up of a layer of silica gel. The inside of these rocks is composed of beautiful, quartz-like material, formed by the massing of particles of lime into concrete form.





LEDGES

Boone County, 681 acres, obtained 1921. Six miles south of Boone on Highway 164.

Rental cabins, camping, fishing, picnicking, lodge, refreshments.

Outstanding among the scenic attractions of this park are its unusual rock formations, from which the name of the area is derived.

The "Ledges" are sandstone walls, ranging in height from 25 to 75 feet. The rocky walls border beautiful Pease Creek, named in honor of one of the prominent pioneer settlers of Boone County.

The park is interesting also for the wide variety of its plant and animal life. Some of the largest specimens of

elms in the state are found here and many giant maples, cottonwoods and ash are found.

Another of the interesting features is the zoo that is maintained in the south portion of the park. Here visitors may observe live specimens of the native animals of the state.

This section was once thickly covered with giant specimens of trees common to central Iowa and some very large specimens of ash, elm and cottonwood may be seen.

Rental cabins are available at Ledges and reservations should be addressed to the Custodian at Boone, Iowa.

McGREGOR AREAS

Clayton County, 544 acres, obtained 1936. In and near the Town of McGregor, off Highway 13.

Picnicking, refreshments.

Here's an area packed with historical lore and magnificent scenic attractions. More Indian mounds exist here than in any other portion of our state, and both effigy and burial mound types are present.

From Pike's Peak visitors may obtain incomparable panoramic views of the Mississippi and the junction of the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers.

This spot was named by Captain Zebulon Pike, who camped here on his famous exploration trip. It was here also that Pere Marquette first

saw what later was to become Iowa, in the year 1673.

In the "Little Switzerland" of Iowa, the McGregor Areas are rich in scenic attractions.

Picture rocks, an abrupt sandstone wall made up of a brilliant, multi-colored sandstone is another of the scenic attractions of the region. One of its canyons abounds with rare plants.

Picnicking is permitted in the Heights Area, north of McGregor.

Point Ann is a rough, wooded area,, a favorite with hikers. Here visitors thrill to majestic views of "Old Man River."

DOLLIVER

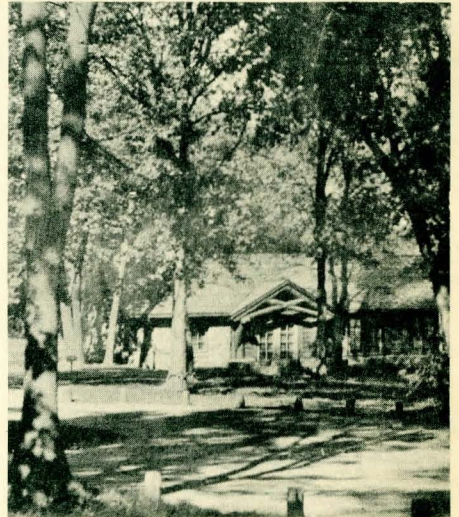
Webster County, 456 acres, obtained 1921. Two miles north of Lehigh on Primary Highway 121, off Primary Highway 50.

Rental cabins, camping, fishing, group camp, lodge, picnicking, refreshments.

Most unique of this park's many interesting features are the Copperas Beds. These are sandstone bluffs, containing iron. Water, soaking through the sandstone of the copperas beds, oxidizes and dissolves it. Evaporation leaves the mineral on the bluff face as a deposit of iron sulphate or "copperas."

Boneyard Hollow is a ravine filled with bones of elk, deer, buffalo, and Indians. Many arrowheads and other Indian implements have been found there.

One of the best equipped of all parks, Dolliver boasts a dozen picnic



areas. Lodges, a group camp and rental cabins also are available. Reservations should be addressed to the Park Custodian, Lehigh, Iowa.

LACEY-KEOSAUQUA

Van Buren County, 2234 acres, obtained 1920. Southwest of Keosauqua off Primary Highway 1. Camping, fishing, lodge, refreshments, supervised swimming beach.

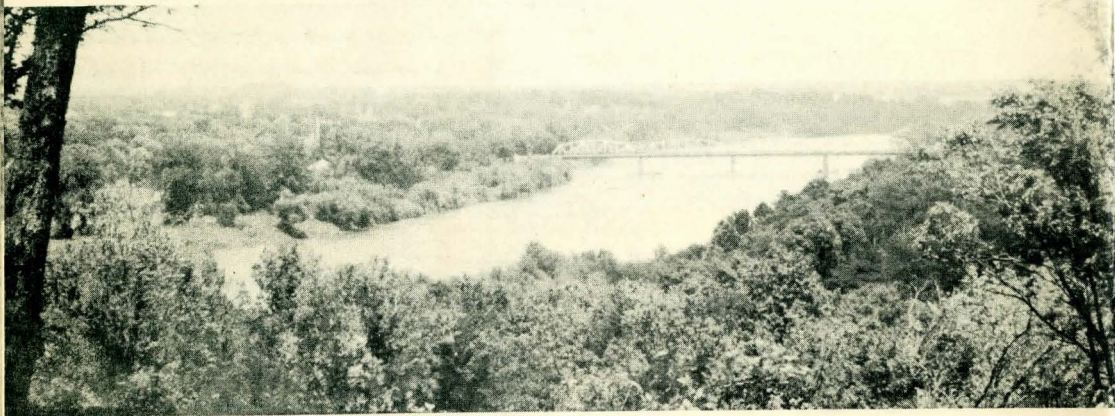
Largest of all Iowa Parks, this area is rich in historical interest. Its setting is a mammoth horseshoe bend of the Des Moines River.

Ely's Ford flanked by massive sandstone outcroppings, is one of the land-marks for which the park is famous. This ford was used for many years before the advent of roads into the region. It is thought to have been

used by the Mormons on their journey through Iowa. Nearby is the site of a prehistoric Indian village.

A bronze tablet in the area commemorates the settlement of the "Honey War" a boundary dispute that very nearly plunged the States of Missouri and Iowa into war more than a hundred years ago.

Few areas contain so varied a plant life as this southeast Iowa Park. Visitors get a magnificent view of the valley of the Des Moines from Sandy Knob.



Guthrie County, 695 acres, lake area 27 acres, obtained 1926. Five miles north of Guthrie Center, off Highway 25. Camping, fishing, picnicking, refreshments, supervised swimming beach.

A beautiful little 27-acre lake provides the center of interest for this park. The Raccoon River flows through the southern part of the area.

The major portion is heavily wooded and its ridges crowned with bittersweet and hawthorne are a delight to autumn visitors.

Wild flowers abound in the park, a variety of species are present in profusion. The Indian turnip, gentians, columbine, birdfoot violet and many others bloom here.

Indians fought over the hills and valleys of Springbrook long before the advent of the white man. The park's name comes from Spring Brook, the small stream that has been dammed to create the 27-acre lake in the area.

LAKE MAC BRIDE

Johnson County, 714 acres, lake area 138 acres, obtained 1933.. Four miles northwest of North Liberty, between Primary Highways 161 and 162.

Camping, fishing, picnicking, refreshments, supervised swimming beach.

One of the most beautiful of all Iowa's parks is this Johnson County Area. Named in honor of Thomas H. MacBride of the University of Iowa, one of the fathers of the Iowa Conservation Program, it is a park richly endowed with natural beauty.

Its focal point is an artificial lake that provides visitors with boating, fishing, and swimming. On one arm of the lake are located picnic

grounds, parking areas and a bathing beach and bathhouse.

MacBride boasts many fine picnic areas equipped with fireplaces and picnic tables. Its picnic areas are well shaded by the many fine specimens of oaks that grow there.

One of the most restfully inviting of all our state park areas, Lake MacBride is very popular with visitors.

Its beautiful tree-fringed lake was made by damming Mill Creek 600 feet above its junction with the Iowa River. The lake has been stocked with panfish and provides anglers with sporty fishing.



STONE



Woodbury County, 912 acres, obtained 1935. Northwest corner Sioux City, on Highway 12.

Camping, lodge, picnicking, refreshments, winter sports.

Popular with both winter and summer visitors, Stone Park is truly a year-round recreation center. Summertime visitors enjoy its abundant picnicking facilities and superb scenic views, while winter sports enthusiasts like its facilities for skiing, skating and tobogganing.

The area is rich in Indian lore. Its geology is interesting for its loess bluffs once were the eastern boundary of a great inland sea.

More than 70 species of wild flowers have been recorded from Stone Park. Most unusual, perhaps, is the yucca which grows on the loess hills of the region.

At one point visitors may look over three states. At Stoney Point there is a magnificent view, stretching 15 miles into the distance.

Five beautiful picnic areas, picnic tables, fireplaces, and parking facilities are available.

NINE EAGLES

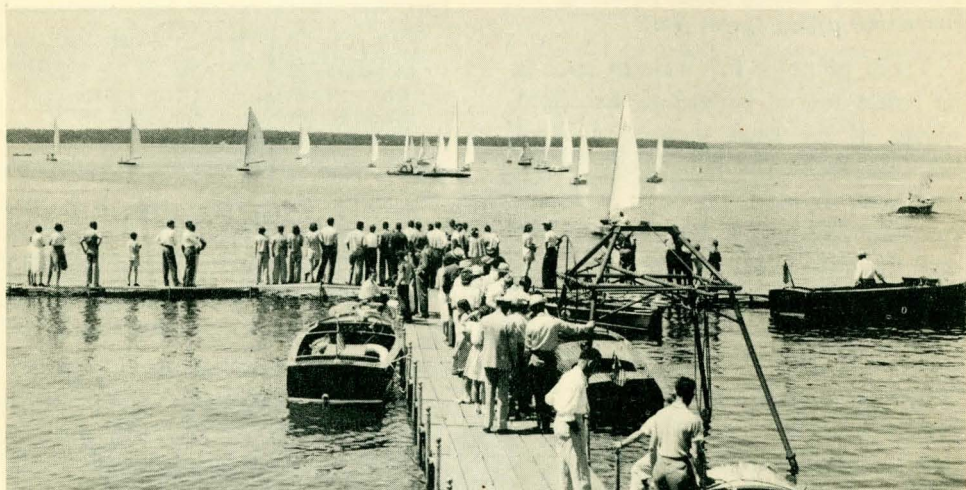
Decatur County, 1,000 acres, acquired 1940. Two and one-half miles southeast of Davis City. Undeveloped.

This park's name comes from the name of the first post office in Decatur County. Three commissioners, appointed to select a name for the new post office, could not agree on a choice. One of the men noticed several eagles perched in a nearby tree. A careful inspection disclosed that there were nine eagles in the tree. The commissioners decided that name was good enough.

The post office was located in the store of one Allen Scott. A forty acre tract in the present park is a part of the old Scott farm, oldest settled farm in Decatur County. The name "Nine Eagles" remained until 1859, when the post office was moved to Pleasant Plain. Following the Civil War both the post office and village names were changed to Pleasanton.

This is one of Iowa's newest state parks and at present is undergoing development.

Lake Reserves



CLEAR LAKE

Cerro Gordo County, 27 acres, obtained 1924. Southwest of Town of Clear Lake, on Highway 106.

Camping, lodge, picnicking.

This lake reserve has a fine, sand shore line more than 900 feet in length, providing an excellent bathing beach. The region is well timbered with excellent facilities for picnicking. Clear Lake, on whose shore the reserve is located, long has been noted for its good fishing, boating and bathing.

EAGLE LAKE

Hancock County, 20 acres, obtained 1924. Five miles northeast of Britt, near Highways 111 and 18.

Picnicking.

Eagle Lake is of particular interest to ornithologists in that it long has been an attraction to great numbers of many species of birds. The shores of the lake are covered with wild plum, wild crab, and oak trees.

OKAMANPEDAN

Emmet County, 18 acres, obtained 1923. Three miles northeast of Dolliver off Highway 9.

Fishing, picnicking.

Calvin Tuttle first staked a claim along the shores of Tuttle Lake in 1856. This lake originally was called Okamanpedan by the Sioux Indians. The Siouxian meaning of the name was "nesting place of the herons." The reserve is a wooded area on the southeast shore of the lake.

LOST ISLAND

Palo Alto County, 27 acres, obtained 1924. Three miles north of Ruthven on Highway 341.

Fishing, picnicking.

An old Indian legend of a beautiful, wooded island once located in the center of this lake is the origin of this area's name. Indian legend has it that the island vanished overnight beneath the placid waters. This lake provides fishermen with some of the finest bullhead fishing to be found anywhere in the state.

GULL POINT

Dickinson County, 77 acres. West side of Lake Okoboji, off Highway 32.

Fishing, lodge serving meals, picnicking, refreshments, golfing (green fees).

Focal point of this sylvan spot is its large lodge, providing excellent views of the blue waters of West Okoboji. Picnic areas here are ample and well shaded. Its dock is headquarters for the Okoboji Yacht Club and the club holds regattas regularly during the summer months. Its

name comes from the many gulls who rest on the rocks here.

THE INN

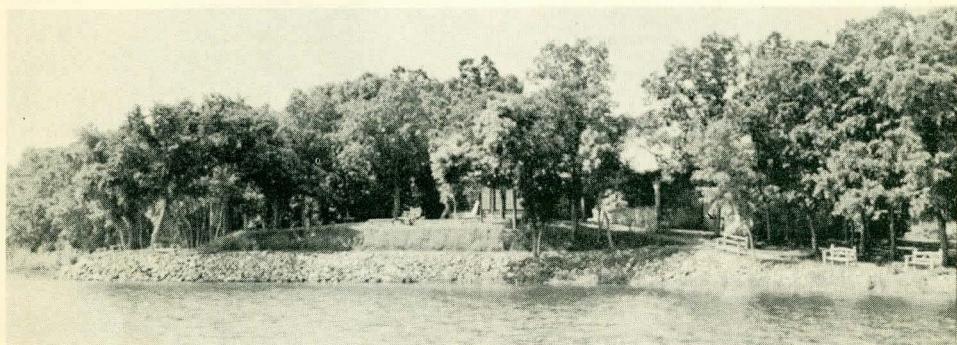
Dickinson County, 7 acres. Off Highway 32.

This area provides a public access to Lake West Okoboji. It is located on the north shore of the lake.

ARNOLDS PARK PIER

Built in 1930. Motor boats for hire.

Arnolds Park Pier gives a public access to West Okoboji. It provides facilities for launching and docking boats, both public and private.



PILLSBURY POINT

Dickinson County, 2 acres, obtained 1928. Southeast side lake West Okoboji off Highway 71.

Picnicking, fishing.

Magnificent views of West Okoboji will delight the visitor to this point on the southeast shore of the lake. Sailboat regattas are held here and the combination of white, billowing sails over an expanse of deep, blue water is truly an impressive picture.

MINI-WAKAN

Dickinson County, 18 acres. North end of Spirit Lake

Fishing, picnicking.

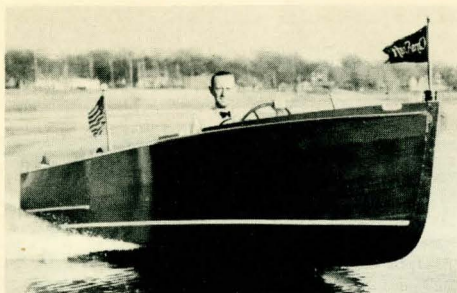
Mini-Wakan is a refuge and spawning area located on the north shore of Spirit Lake. It is a favored haunt of bullhead fishermen.

PIKES POINT

Dickinson County, 5 acres, obtained 1933. Northeast side Lake West Okoboji.

Fishing, picnicking, swimming.

Excellent fishing is to be found along this area on the shore of Lake West Okoboji. Pikes Point is a small, wooded area on the northeast side of the lake, providing an access to West Okoboji.



STORM LAKE

*Buena Vista County, 20 acres, donated and purchased 1926. East side of Storm Lake, south of Highway 71.
Fishing, picnicking.*

Storm Lake is not naturally a stormy lake as its name seems to imply. A party of United States Surveyors named the lake in 1855 after a violent wind storm blew down the tents in their camp on the shore of the lake.

SWAN LAKE

*Carroll County, 250 acres, obtained 1933. Three miles southeast of Carroll off Highway 30.
Fishing, picnicking.*

Swan Lake originally was known as Pashepaho for a Sac Chieftain. In 1823 Chief Blackhawk led his tribes to victory in a heated battle in this region.

TRAPPERS BAY

*Dickinson County, 87 acres, obtained 1933. West side of Lake Park on Highway 219.
Fishing, picnicking.*

Long before the advent of the white settlers into the region this area was a favorite haunt of trappers. The reserve is located on the site of their old camp grounds.

RUSH LAKE

*Palo Alto County, 62 acres, obtained 1931. Eight miles north of Laurens, off Highway 10.
Fishing, picnicking.*

MEDIUM LAKE

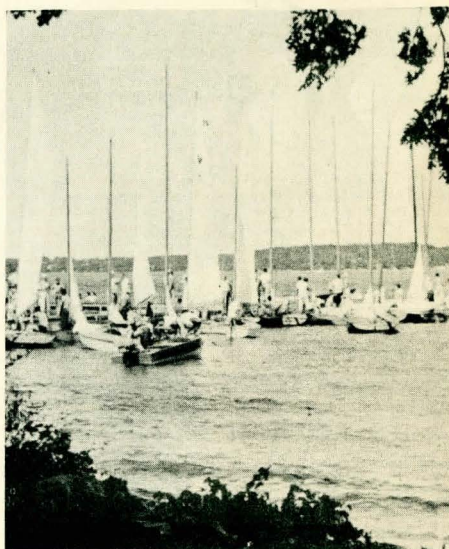
*Palo Alto County, 40 acres, obtained 1940. North shore Medium Lake Emmetsburg off Highway 18, adjacent to Emmetsburg.
Undeveloped.*

This is an undeveloped but beautifully wooded area located on the northeast shore of Medium Lake. Present plans call for its development as a picnic spot.

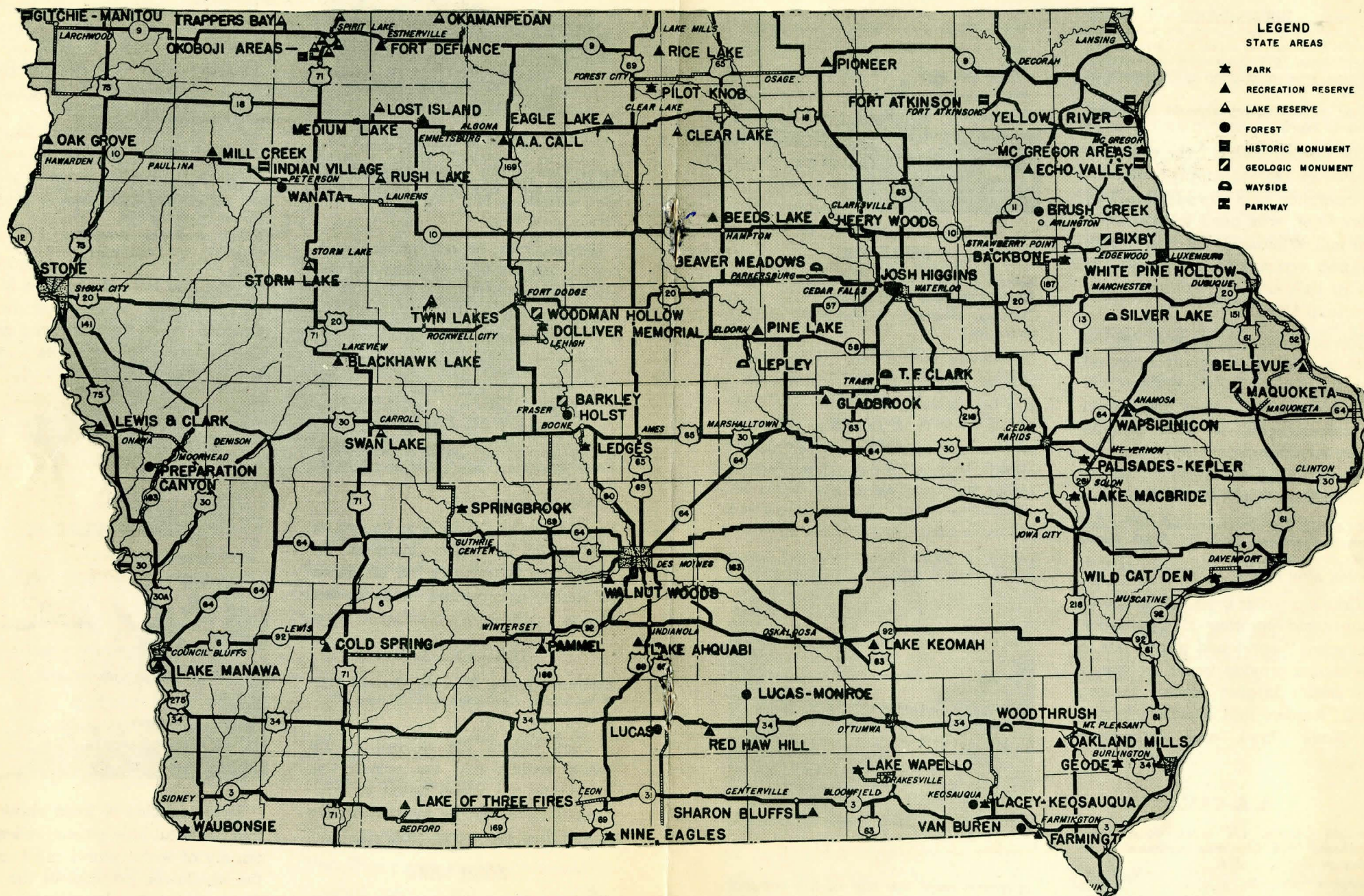
TWIN LAKES

*Calhoun County, 15 acres, obtained 1923. Five and one-half miles north of Rockwell City on Highway 124.
Fishing, picnicking, swimming.*

At present, dredging operations are restoring North Twin Lake. Many species of oak, maple, cottonwood and ash are found in this area. Visitors find its picnic spots particularly inviting.



Many species of trees abound in this beautiful little picnic area and a variety of water plants are found in the shallower portions of the lake. Picnic tables, fireplaces and benches add to the attractiveness of the reserve.



Recreation Reserves

BEEDS LAKE

Franklin County, 258 acres, 130 acres water area, obtained 1934. Two miles northwest of Hampton, near intersection of Highways 10 and 65.

Fishing, picnicking, refreshments, supervised swimming beach.

The original Beeds Lake was constructed in 1857 to supply water for the operation of a sawmill and, two years later, was used to operate a flour mill. William G. Beed, for whom the area was named, purchased the mill in 1864 and the mill was operated until 1903.

The area was taken over by the state in 1934 and, by arrangement with the National Park Service, the present beautiful, stone faced dam was constructed to impound the water for the lake.

BLACKHAWK LAKE

Sac County, 371 acres, obtained 1934. Lake-view and around shores of Black Hawk Lake.

Fishing, picnicking.

Here's a water area rich in scenic beauty and recreational opportunity. The many abandoned gravel pits in the region provide water for one of the state's largest panfish rearing units. Anglers find excellent fishing in Black Hawk and Arrowhead Lakes.

A. A. CALL

Kossuth County, 130 acres, donated and purchased 1926. One mile southwest of Algona on Highway 274.

Camping, picnicking.

This area is named for A. A. Call, who registered the first claim in Kossuth County. His cabin was built in



BELLEVUE

Jackson County, 173 acres, obtained 1925. South of Bellevue on Highway 62.

Camping, picnicking, refreshments, golfing (green fee).

Bellevue is situated in the heart of a region rich in historical interest. The first white settlers came to this region in 1833. A beautiful plateau, perched high above the river bluffs, affords visitors a magnificent view of the "Father of Waters."



a grove near the site of the present reserve. Much of the virgin timber that covered Call's rolling, timbered hills yet remains in the area.

COLD SPRING

Cass County, 60 acres, obtained 1935. One mile south of Lewis.

Picnicking, refreshments, supervised swimming beach.

Here's an area long intimately connected with the traditions of early Iowa. It derives its name from the large spring of cold water that rises from the base of its soft, sandstone bluff. Early settlers in the region knew Cold Spring as a popular recreation spot, the site of picnics and camp meetings and it still is very popular as a recreation place.

OAKLAND MILLS

Henry County, 110 acres, obtained 1920. Four miles southwest of Mount Pleasant, on Highway 133.

Camping, fishing, picnicking.

At one period during the early history of our state this region was alive with the busy humming of many water wheels, turning flour and saw mills. A modern hydroelectric plant has supplanted the massive water wheels of a not so distant past. The plant's dam forms a backwater lake that provides visiting anglers with fine fishing.

ECHO VALLEY

Fayette County, 100 acres, 12 acres water area, obtained 1934. One mile southeast of West Union on Highway 56.

Fishing, picnicking.

From the waters of its cedar-fringed lake to the very pinnacle of its rocky cliffs, here is an area of great natural beauty. Glover's Creek meanders interestingly through its acres and provides sporty angling for the trout fishermen who find their way to the spot. In the valley of Glover's Creek are the remnants of several old lime kilns that dotted this pleasant valley many years ago.

LAKE AHQUABI

Warren County, 560 acres, lake area 130 acres, donated by City of Indianola, 1934. Five miles south of Indianola, one mile west of Highway 65-69.

Camping, fishing, group camp, picnicking, refreshments, lodge, supervised beach.

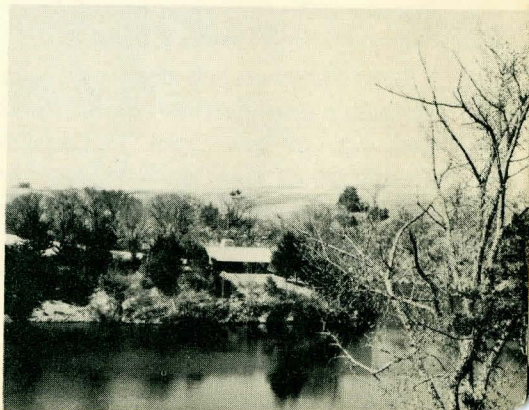
One of Iowa's newer reserves, Lake Ahquabi is one of the best equipped of all the state-owned areas. A group camp, located between the east and south arms of the lake, is the mecca of many organized groups each summer. The area has many fine picnic spots and a bathing beach and bathhouse are available at the lake.

PAMMEL

Madison County, 242 acres, obtained 1923. Five miles southwest of Winterset on Highway 162.

Camping, lodge, picnicking.

Dedicated to the memory of L. H. Pammel, one of Iowa's foremost leaders in conservation, this area is rich in a variety of native prairie flora. Pammel enjoys the distinction of having the only highway tunnel in the state. This tunnel has been enlarged from the original mill race that was cut through the shale stratum of a narrow part of the backbone in 1856. The mill race originally was used to power a flour and saw mill that was located there.



HEERY WOODS

Butler County, 380 acres, obtained 1920. Adjacent to Town of Clarksville on Highway 53.

Camping, fishing, picnicking.

This is another area dedicated to the memory of an Iowa pioneer. John Heery trudged alone from his native Wisconsin to take up his Butler County claim. Thanks to his foresight a great deal of virgin timber remains in the area today. Here the Shell Rock River has been impounded to provide a lake for fishing and other aquatic sports.

LAKE OF THREE FIRES

Taylor County, 385 acres, 125 acre water area, obtained 1934. Two miles north of Bedford on Highway 344 and two miles east.

Camping, fishing, picnicking, refreshments, supervised beach.

This beautiful spot was named for three tribes of Indians known collectively as the Three Fires. Here was the favorite gathering place of the Pottawattamies, the Chippewas and the Ottawas as they banded together for protection against the more savage tribes living to the north and west.

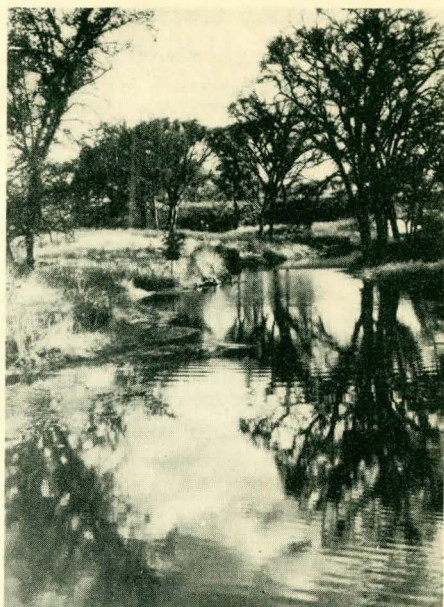
Now its timbered hills and tree-fringed lake are the mecca of visitors who find rest and relaxation in its many attractive natural features.

LAKE MANAWA

Pottawattamie County, 750 acres, obtained 1927. Two miles south of Council Bluffs on Highway 192.

Fishing, supervised beach, refreshments.

Lake Manawa is a flat, open area including considerable marsh land and an ox-bow lake. Extensive dredging has been done to improve the lake for fishing, swimming and other recreational uses. The lake originally was a part of the bed of the Missouri River.



LAKE KEOMAH

Mahaska County, 366 acres, lake area 82 acres. Four miles east and one mile south of Oskaloosa, off Highway 92.

Camping, fishing, picnicking, refreshments, lodge, supervised beach.

Lake Keomah takes its name from the first two syllables of the counties of Keokuk and Mahaska. Aquatic sports are the area's chief attractions, with two lakes there. Swimmers like Keomah's fine, sand beach, while fishermen get thrills a plenty angling for panfish in its two lakes.

PIONEER

Mitchell County, 12.36 acres, obtained 1937. Eight miles east, four miles north on Highway 9 from Osage.

Picnicking.

An old grist mill, still in operation, is located here on the banks of the Little Cedar River. Fishermen find sporty angling in this stream that borders the reserve. Pioneer finds great favor with many picnic groups.

RICE LAKE

Winnebago-Worth Counties, 471 acres, obtained 1924. Four miles southeast of Lake Mills.

Picnicking.

Rice Lake is being developed at present with aid of Pittman-Robertson funds. The lush growth of wild rice that bordered the lake caused early settlers to name the water area Rice Lake. The shores of the lake are covered with abundant groves of maple, walnut, basswood, ash and wild crab-apple.

SHARON BLUFFS

Appanoose County, 147 acres, obtained 1931. Three miles east of Centerville, one and one-half miles south of Highway 3.

Picnicking.

Sharon Bluffs takes its name from the Mormons who came to Appanoose County about a hundred years ago. The Mormons named a village and township Sharon because of a resemblance of the country to the coast plain west of ancient Palestine. The bluffs of this region are beautiful steep clay and shale outcropping on the east shore of the Chariton River.

UNION GROVE

Tama County, 346 acres, obtained 1940. Four miles southwest of Town of Gladbrook.

Picnicking.

Obtained in 1940, Union Grove Lake has not, as yet, been very extensively developed. A 110 acre lake in the area has been stocked with fish but has not been opened to fishing. Some very fine stands of oak-hickory timber are present here.

WAPSIPINICON

Jones County, 232 acres, obtained 1921. South edge of Anamosa on Highway 161. Camping, fishing, lodge, picnicking, refreshments, golfing, tennis (fees).

Here is one of the most enchanting of all the many beauty spots that border the beautiful Wapsie. It lies along the west bank of the Wapsipinicon River. Its natural features include, in addition, timbered hills, a sparkling, spring-fed creek and many rocky ledges and caves.

FORT DEFIANCE

Emmet County, 190 acres, obtained 1931. Southwest of Estherville on Highway 245. Camping, picnicking, winter sports.

The old fort for which this reserve was named was constructed in 1862. It was designed to protect early settlers from the Sioux Indians.

For a number of years afterward Fort Defiance served as a refuge for families attempting to homestead in the northwest. Bit by bit its stockade and other buildings were carried away to be used in the construction of settlers' cabins or for firewood.





PINE LAKE

Hardin County, 500 acres, 140 acres water area, obtained 1920. East bank of Iowa River at Eldora, on Highway 118, off Highway 57.

Camping, fishing, lodge, picnicking, refreshments, supervised swimming beach, winter sports, rental cabins.

One of the most beautiful of all the central Iowa recreation spots, Pine Lake possesses two excellent fishing lakes. Two groups of Indian Mounds add to the archaeological interest of the area.

Overnight cabins are available for rental and reservations should be addressed to the Park Custodian, Eldora, Iowa. A series of fish rearing ponds are maintained here and produce fish for stocking lakes in this and other water areas in the vicinity.

WALNUT WOODS

Polk County, 261 acres, obtained 1925. Eight miles southwest of Des Moines, off Highway 90.

Camping, lodge, picnicking.

Located within a great bend of the Raccoon River, Walnut Woods truly is a place for restful relaxation. The entire area is covered with a dense stand of walnut, red elm and sycamore trees that shade its many picnic areas. Its lodge, overlooking the twelve acre lagoon, is much used by groups who visit there.

LEWIS AND CLARK

Monona County, 315 acres, obtained 1924. Four miles west of Onawa on Highway 165. Fishing, picnicking, supervised beach.

Here, in August of 1804, the Lewis and Clark expedition spent several days making observations on the plant and animal life and geology of the vicinity. At that time the area's lake, Blue Lake, was the channel of the Missouri River. More than 7,000 deciduous trees were planted here in 1930 as a memorial to Stephen Mather, former Director of the National Park Service.

RED HAW HILL

Lucas County, 659.90 acres, obtained 1936. Two miles east of Chariton on Highway 34. Picnicking, fishing.

The hundreds of hawthorn trees that add their colorful bloom to the springtime scene have given this area its name. Fishermen know it well for the bass and other panfish that abound in its lake. Red Haw Hill is one of the most recently acquired recreation spots and is undergoing development at the present time.

OAK GROVE

Sioux County, 101 acres, obtained 1924. Four miles northeast of Hawarden on Highway 12.

Camping, picnicking.

Here's an area typical of the loess bluff region of western Iowa. Its topography is rough, with many valleys and exposed clay and shale slopes. The spot received its name from the bur oak trees present there, a species of tree rare to northwest Iowa. It also is rich in prairie flora.

FARMINGTON

Van Buren County, 109 acres, donated 1920. One-half mile east of Farmington, south of Highway 3.

Camping, picnicking, fishing.

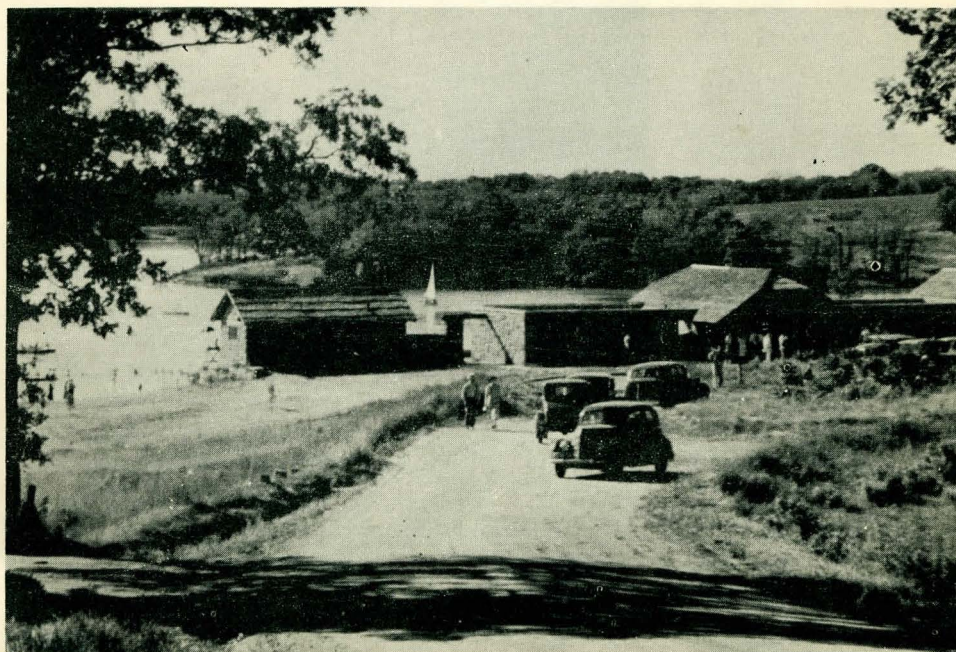
This is a part of the area involved in the Missouri Boundary War of more than a century ago. The region then was known as the half breed tract. Its beautiful little lake is a pretty sight in summer, covered with the bloom of thousands of lotus flowers.

MILL CREEK

O'Brien County, 157 acres, obtained 1935. One mile east of Paullina on Highway 10.

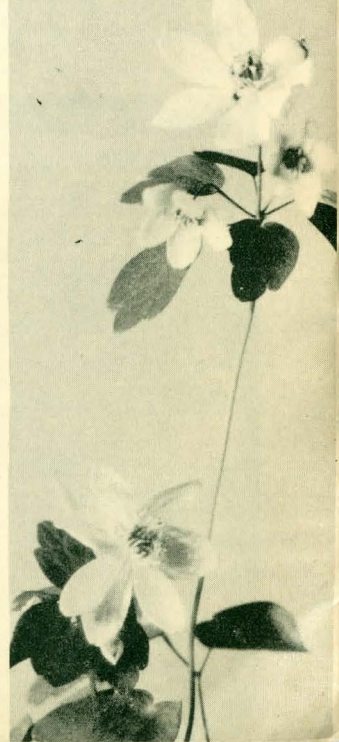
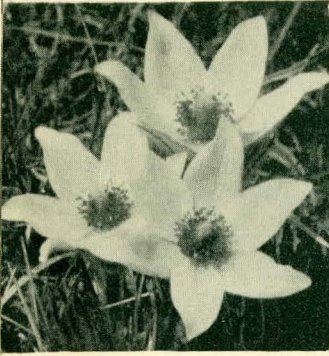
Picnicking, fishing, supervised beach, refreshments, polo.

This area takes its name from one of the five archaeological manifestations of the Indian in Iowa. The Mill Creek Manifestation occurred along the Little Sioux River from its bend along the Buena Vista-Clay County line down to the corner of Woodbury County. Mill Creek, which flows through the park, once was the site of an early water mill.



FLOWERS

That Bloom in the Parks



Historic Archaeologic Monuments

GITCHIE MANITOU

Lyon County, 143 acres, obtained 1926. Ten miles northwest of Larchwood, near Highway 9.

Many Indians used to gather at this spot, located along the ancient Indian all-water route from the Gulf of Mexico to Hudson Bay. This is a picturesque spot, entirely unlike any other section of our state. Here are ancient outcroppings of Sioux Quartzite, the mysterious Jasper Pool, flame flowers, mesquite, cactus and buffalo grass.

INDIAN MOUNDS, McGREGOR

Fish Farm, Sny Magill, Allamakee County. Near McGregor and Lansing.

These mounds constitute one of Iowa's richest scenic and historic assets. More Indian mounds, of both burial and effigy types are found in this region than in any other section. The work of a prehistoric race, the Indians long regarded them as the work of the Great Spirit.

INDIAN VILLAGE TRACT

O'Brien County, 5.42 acres. Three miles east of Sutherland.

This Indian village site is said to be the only site of its kind in the state that has not been disturbed by cultivation. Arrowheads and similar Indian artifacts have been found in this rectangular camp site that rises above the level of the surrounding terrain.

TURKEY RIVER MOUNDS

Clayton County, Donated 1939.

This group of Indian mounds, located at the point where the Turkey River empties into the Mississippi in Clayton County was given to the State. The land was donated by a group of Dubuque people who purchased them in order that they might be preserved. A fine group of effigy type mounds was included in this gift.



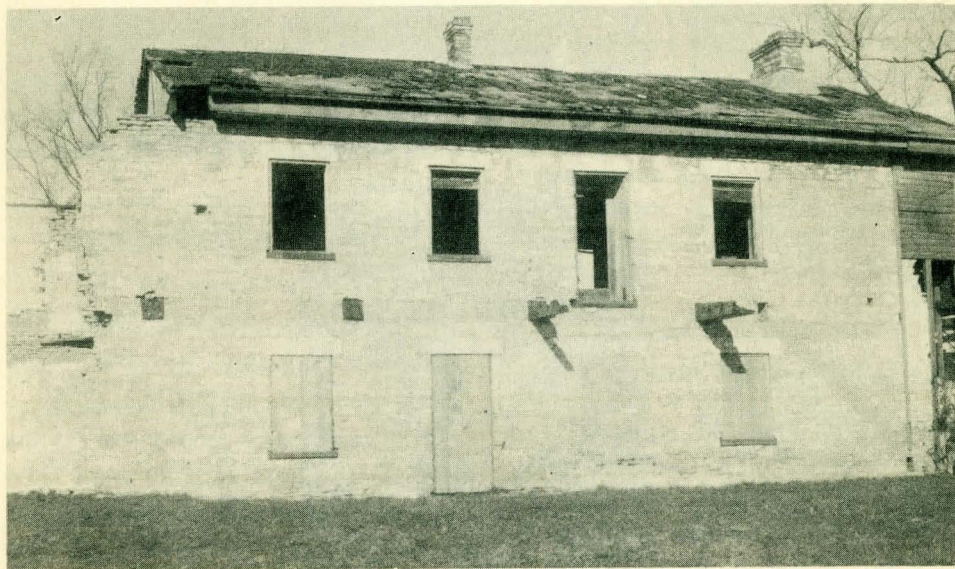
FORT ATKINSON

*Winneshiek County, 6 acres, obtained 1921.
Northeast part of Town of Fort Atkinson on
Highway 24.*

Picnicking.

This, the only Federal Fort in the State, was built to protect the Winnebago Indians from other warring

tribes. Built in 1837, the fort was occupied by troops for a period of seven years. Portions of Barracks, block houses and the powder magazine house of the original fort still stand there. At present further extensive restoration of this area has been started.



Geologic-Biologic Monuments

BIXBY

*Clayton County, 69 acres, obtained 1926.
Two miles north of Highway 10 at Edgewood.*

Picnicking.

The ice cave is the chief attraction at Bixby. Temperature in the cave varies only a few degrees all year round. Ransom J. Bixby, son of an early pioneer, built his cabin here and opened the area as a public park. Many species of trees and wildflowers abound in the vicinity.

BARKLEY MEMORIAL

Boone County, 40 acres, obtained 1929.



This spot is typical of the flora of the valley of the Des Moines River. The area is much used by ornithologists and students of botany who find it ideal for nature study purposes. It is a heavily wooded tract. The area was donated to the state by the widow of Alonzo J. Barkley.

WOODMAN HOLLOW

Webster County, 62 acres, obtained 1928. One-half mile northeast of Otho off Highway 169.

Outcroppings of carboniferous sandstone are found along the banks of the sparkling stream that fights its way from a spring through the pleasant valley of Woodman Hollow. This beauty spot is the home of many kinds of plant and animal life.

The little half-mile long valley here is truly a beautiful spot. It is a sylvan scene, charming for its native beauty and needing nothing additional to add to its simple beauty.

MAQUOKETA CAVES

Jackson County, 115 acres, obtained 1921. Eight miles northwest of Maquoketa on Highway 130.

Camping, picnicking, refreshments.

A massive, stone natural bridge,

caves and many species of wild-flowers are typical of this spot. Its great caves once were the home of prehistoric men and many artifacts have been found here. The ceilings of its caves once were clustered with many beautiful stalactites and stalagmites rose from the rocky floors.

A small stream still runs through the caverns. Electric lights have been installed in the cave for the convenience of visitors. The caves were discovered more than a hundred years ago.

Many lofty lookout shelters provide admirable places for visitors to look at the many scenic features of the region.

Waysides

BEAVER MEADOWS

Butler County, 71 acres, obtained 1935. North of Parkersburg on Highway 20.

Picnicking.

Here, in a now tranquil setting, early settlers of Butler County once hid in the bed of Beaver Creek to protect themselves from a band of hostile Indians. The deer, elk and buffalo that once roamed the surrounding prairie now are gone, but anglers of the present day find sporty angling for panfish behind the dam that has been built there to impound the waters of the creek.

This is an area with an interesting historical background, but possessing, in addition, a great deal of natural scenic value.



T. F. CLARK

Tama County, 24 acres, obtained 1921. Four and one-half miles northeast of Traer on Highway 63.

Picnicking.

This entire tract is heavily wooded with many kinds of trees, while anemone, blue-bells and violets add color to the forest carpet. This area

is dedicated to the memory of Theodore F. Clark, one of the early pioneers of Tama County.

SILVER LAKE

*Delaware County, 15 acres, obtained 1924.
Southeast of Delhi on Highway 113.*

The only glacial lake in north-eastern Iowa, Silver Lake enjoys the added distinction of being one of the oldest of all the state's lakes. Its setting is in the Iowan deposit beyond the eastern edge of the Wisconsin Drift.

It is probably the oldest of all the state's lakes. A great many species of song birds call this spot home and migrating waterfowl make much use of this area.

LEPLEY

*Hardin County, 10 acres, obtained 1920.
One and one-half miles north of Union on Highway 215.*

Picnicking.

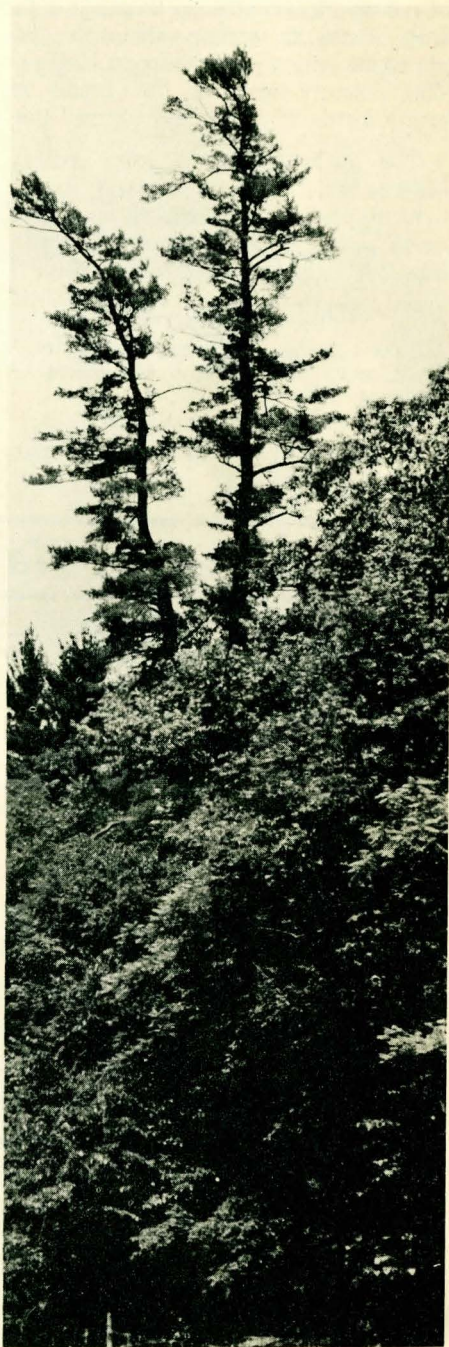
Lepley contains many good specimens of basswood, elms, hackberry and oaks as well as a variety of wild flowers. The virgin timber that exists in this spot is due to the foresight of members of the Lepley family whose slogan was "save the good trees and cut the poor ones."

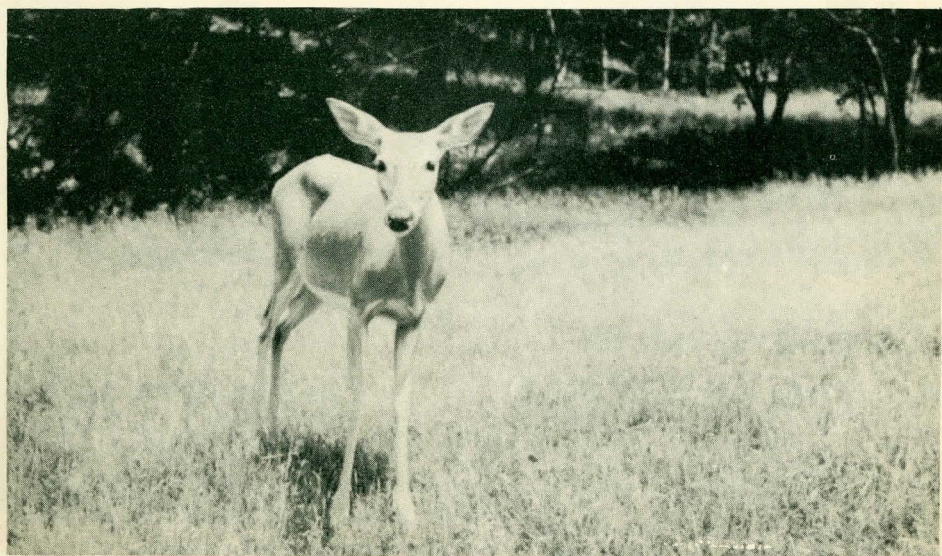
WOODTHRUSH

*Jefferson County, 25 acres, obtained 1928.
Six miles east of Fairfield on Highway 34.*

This is a small preserve being left just as nature made it. Woodthrush is a memorial to Hiram Heaton who

once lived here in the midst of his much-loved trees and flowers. The woodland abounds in many varieties of native ferns.





Forests

The state forests are a very integral part of the Iowa Conservation Program. To date, more than 12,000 acres of state forests have been secured and are being developed.

Iowa forest lands are in three general regions of the state—one block of land is in Lucas-Monroe Counties, another in Lee-Van Buren Counties and the third large tract is in Allamakee and Clayton Counties. A fourth area, the Holst State Forest, is located in Boone County.

The Lucas-Monroe Forest is more than 3,700 acres in extent, the Lee-Van Buren Forest 3,600 acres and the Allamakee-Clayton tract more than 4,200 acres.


In addition to preservation of the state forest lands, the state forestry program aims toward the development of tracts that will demonstrate true conservation in the use of land and water. The Holst Forest is being used by the Iowa State College Forestry Department as a laboratory and demonstration area. There, forestry practices are developed and tested under actual field conditions.

The state forests are recognized as an important factor in the game program. Many of the state forests have yielded much in recreational value through the production of shootable surpluses of quail and other forms of game.

Under managed grazing and limited cultivation, food was secured for feeding of wildlife populations during the winter months.

The state forest lands have undergone extensive development since their inception.

These state forest lands illustrate the proper use of land and water and their plans for development and maintenance have been carried out along these general lines: managed timber production, managed wildlife production, limited recreation, managed grazing, managed and limited cultivation and as experimental areas for the study of forestry problems.



BRUSH CREEK CANYON

Fayette County, 215 acres, obtained 1936. One mile north of Arlington on Highway 154.

PREPARATION CANYON

Monona County, 187 acres, obtained 1935. Six miles southwest of Moorhead, off Highway 183.

WANATA

Clay County, 149 acres, obtained 1934. South edge of Peterson on Highway 10.

WHITE PINE HOLLOW

Dubuque County, 610 acres, obtained 1934. One mile north, two miles west of Luxemburg on Highway 10.

LUCAS-MONROE

Lucas and Monroe Counties, 3722 acres, obtained during the years 1936-1938. Located in southwest and northeast Lucas County and northwest Monroe County.

LEE-VAN BUREN

Lee and Van Buren Counties, 3677 acres, obtained during the years 1936-1938. Located in west central Lee County near Farmington and in central Van Buren County near Keosauqua.

YELLOW RIVER

Allamakee and Clayton Counties, 4289 acres, obtained during the years of 1936-1938.

Located mostly in southeastern Allamakee County with a small area in northeastern Clayton County.

HOLST

Boone County, 330 acres, obtained in 1939. Located in northcentral Boone County bordering the Des Moines River, close to Fraser. A gift of the Holst family of Boone.



Parkways

JOSH HIGGINS

Black Hawk County, 175 acres, obtained 1936. Along Cedar River east of Cedar Falls. Picnicking.

Josh Higgins is the only parkway in the system of state recreation areas. It is a beautifully wooded

tract, extending along the bank of the Cedar River.

The parkway was named for a fictional radio character created by Joe DuMond and this area has been the scene for the radio serial built around the character.

.. Acknowledgment ..

We are indebted to the following sources for the pictures used in this booklet and we wish to gratefully acknowledge their use.

GEORGEN STUDIO, McGregor, Iowa

DON L. BERRY, Indianola, Iowa

OTTUMWA DAILY COURIER, Ottumwa, Iowa

ROBERT H. SLOAN

IOWA CITY PRESS CITIZEN, Iowa City, Iowa

S. W. LOCK, Mason City, Iowa

DR. EARLE CHRISTENSON, Eldora, Iowa

DR. ADA HAYDEN, Ames, Iowa

OLSON'S STUDIO, Cedar Falls, Iowa

THOS. G. SCOTT, Ames, Iowa

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page		Page
State Parks		Lake Reserves	
Backbone	4	Arnolds Park Pier	14
Dolliver	9	Clear Lake	13
Geode	7	Eagle Lake	13
Lacey-Keosauqua	10	Gull Point	14
Lake MacBride	11	Inn Area	14
Lake Wapello	6	Lost Island	13
Ledges	8	Mini-Wakan	14
McGregor Areas	9	Okamanpedan	13
Nine Eagles	12	Pikes Point	14
Palisades-Kepler	5	Rush Lake	15
Pilot Knob	7	Storm Lake	15
Springbrook	10	Swan Lake	15
Stone	12	Trappers Bay	15
Waubonsie	6	Twin Lakes	15
Wild Cat Den	4		
Reserves		Forest Reserves	
Recreation Reserves		Brush Creek Canyon	30
Beeds Lake	18	Preparation Canyon	30
Bellevue	18	Wanata	30
Black Hawk Lake	18	White Pine Hollow	30
Call	18	Lucas-Monroe	30
Cold Spring	19	Lee-Van Buren	31
Echo Valley	19	Yellow River	31
Farmington	23	Holst (Fraser)	31
Fort Defiance	21		
Heery Woods	20	Monuments	
Lake Ahquabi	19	Historic-Archaeologic	
Lake Keomah	20	Fort Atkinson	26
Lake Manawa	20	Gitchie Manitou	25
Lake of Three Fires	20	Indian Village Tract	25
Lewis & Clark	22	Indian Mounds — McGregor	25
Mill Creek	23	Turkey River Mounds	25
Oak Grove	23	Geologic-Biologic	
Oakland Mills	19	Bixby	26
Pammel	19	Barkley Memorial	26
Pine Lake	22	Maquoketa Caves	27
Pioneer	20	Woodman Hollow	27
Red Haw Hill	23		
Rice Lake	21	Waysides	
Sharon Bluffs	21	Beaver Meadow	27
Union Grove	21	Theodore F. Clark	27
Walnut Woods	22	Lepley	28
Wapsipinicon	21	Silver Lake	28
		Woodthrush	28
		Parkways	
		Josh Higgins	32

FEB 10 '43

APR 10 '51



MAY 11 '42

JUN -2 '52

MAR 12 '53

MAY 10 '52

MAY -5 '54

MAY 18 '52

MAY 18 '53

JAN 28 '54

AUG 13 '42

OCT 11 '46

FEB 17 '47

APR -4 '47

JAN 14 '52

MAY -1 '56

SEP 11 '58

MAR 24 '61

Park Rules



COOPERATION WILL PRESERVE YOUR PARK

SPEED LIMIT — 15 Miles Per Hour

PARKING — In Designated Areas.

FIRES — PICNICS — Use Equipment

PLANT LIFE — Please Do Not Disturb.

FIREARMS — Prohibited In This Area.

WASTE — Please Place In Containers.

CLOSING TIME — 10:30 P. M.

CAMPING — See Custodian.

ACCIDENTS — Report To Custodian.

ANIMALS — Please Keep On Leash.

OCT 25 '55

NOV 12 '56

DEC 14 '56

JUN 25 '57

MAY 26 '59

OCT 27 '61