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IOWA PARKS

CONSERVATION COMMISSION *author*  
DES MOINES, IOWA

## IOWA PARKS

LAKE AHQUABI	NINE EAGLES
BACKBONE	PALISADES-KEPLER
BEEDS LAKE	PIKES PEAK & MCGREGOR HEIGHTS
BELLEVUE	PILOT KNOB
BLACK HAWK LAKE	PINE LAKE
CLEAR LAKE & MCINTOSH WOODS	PRAIRIE ROSE
LAKE DARLING	RED HAW LAKE
DOLLIVER MEMORIAL	ROCK CREEK
FORT ATKINSON	SHIMEK STATE FOREST
GEODE	SPRINGBROOK
GITCHIE MANITOU STATE PRESERVE	STEPHENS STATE FOREST
IOWA PRAIRIES	STONE
LAKE KEOMAH	YELLOW RIVER FOREST
LACEY-KEOSAUQUA	VIKING LAKE
LAKE OF THREE FIRES	LAKE WAPELLO
LEDGES	WAPSIPINICON
LEWIS & CLARK STATE PARK	WAUBONSIE
LAKE MACBRIDE	WILDCAT DEN
MANQUOKETA CAVES	WILSON ISLAND

## FACILITIES

Organized group camping is very popular and cabins accommodate as many as seventy. Cots, mattresses, dining hall, sanitary facilities, water, cook stove, walk-in refrigerator, water heater, and limited kitchen equipment are furnished. Renters must furnish their own dishes, kitchen help and cook.

The camp area is for camping only. Picnic tables, showers and toilets, water and fireplaces are available.

Picnic tables dot the park and dozens of fireplaces are in the picnic areas. Firewood is available at the park office for a small fee. Park personnel will tell visitors where the park office is located.

Rowboats or boats and motors may be rented at the boathouse. Bait and fishing equipment may also be purchased there. Public docks are available for use free of charge during the day by operators of privately owned boats.

Over the boathouse is a small but lovely cafe well-equipped and overlooking the lake. A popular beach, centrally located has lifeguards on duty throughout the entire summer. Refreshments are sold at the modern, stone bathhouse.

A list of rates charged for services are on the back of this folder. A map of the park is inside.

## RESERVATIONS

All reservations for cabins and enclosed shelters must be made with the park officer. Reservations are not taken for tent and trailer camping but campers are requested to register at the park camp office upon arrival.

night.

## TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING

Modern Area . . . . . \$2.50 Per Night Per Basic Unit  
Modern Area W-Elect. . . . . \$3.00 Per Night Per Basic Unit

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25c per person per night.

## ORGANIZED GROUP CABINS

Rates charged to organized youth groups will be 75c per person per day with a minimum charge of \$32.00 per day. When rented to groups other than organized youth groups, the charge will be a minimum of \$7.00 per day per cabin plus \$25.00 per day for use of the lodge. Reservations are only accepted for organized youth groups.

## ENCLOSED SHELTERS (LODGE) RENTAL

The rate is \$25.00 per day. Hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. No additional charge is made for electricity or fuel. Lodge will be closed during the winter.

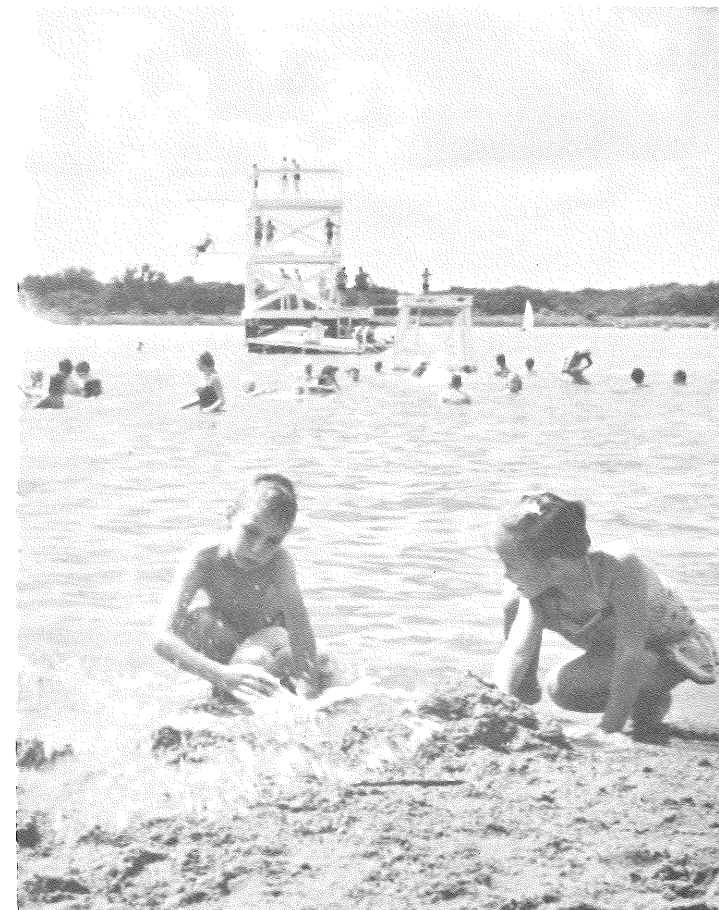
All prices quoted are subject to State Sales Tax.

## NEIGHBORING TOWNS

**INDIANOLA**, 5½ miles north. Home of Simpson College. Most all churches and a shopping center are here.

**DES MOINES**, Iowa's capitol, is 22 miles away.

# LAKE AHQUABI



*Ahquabi, in the Three River  
country - - -*

*No war dance or council  
No rain dance or sun dance,  
For this is the Ahquabi:  
"The Resting Place".*

STATE CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT  
300 4TH STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

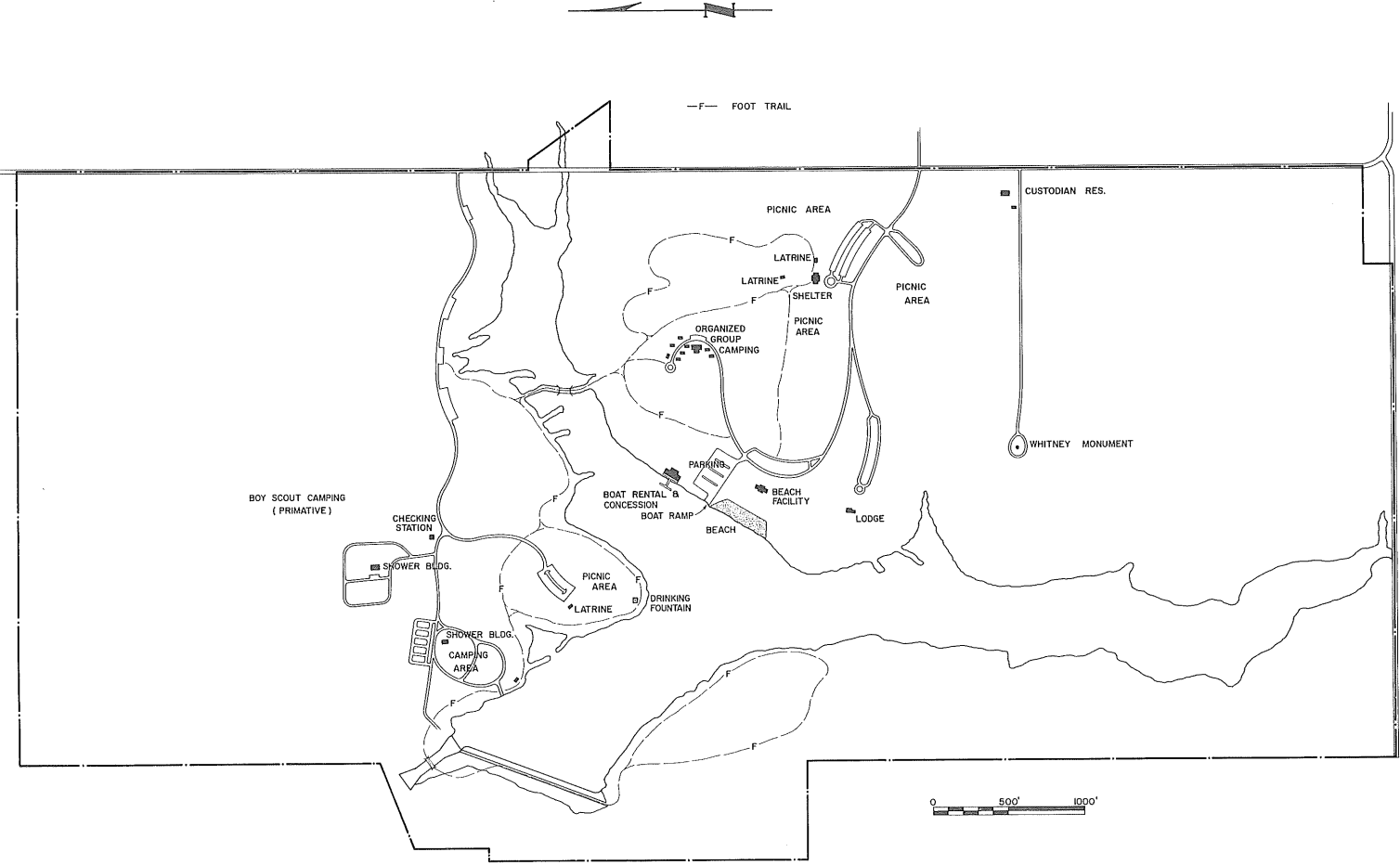
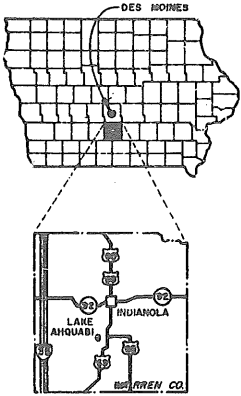
# THE PARK

Ahquabi is an Indian word meaning "The Resting Place". It is here that many persons from all walks of life can enjoy a few hours of relaxation. Many drive from Des Moines, 20 miles from the park, to fish or picnic after work on long summer evenings. Less than thirty minutes drive from anywhere in the city, a fisherman can have a boat out in the middle of the lake an hour after he leaves his place of business, or can rest under the shade of countless trees while a picnic table is prepared.

Ahquabi is not for Des Moines residents alone by any means. Visitors from all over the state and many out of state, come here regularly to camp in the well-kept camping area, or to picnic. Needless to say, Indianola residents and those surrounding towns and farms use the lodge and shelters for family reunions and the like. The lodge can be rented through the park officer.

Lake Ahquabi is in Warren County, six miles south of Indianola on Highways 65 and 69, and one mile west on a paved road. The roads inside the park are excellent, all-weather roads. There are also several miles of nature trails and "fisherman" trails in the beautiful woods that surround the lake.

The park contains a magnificent group of white oak trees, survivors of the original oaks that covered this valley when it was one of the favorite resting places of Indians. No doubt, many Indians passed beneath some of the very trees that still grow here.



MAILING ADDRESS:  
PARK CONSERVATION OFFICER  
LAKE AHQUABI STATE PARK  
R.R. 1  
INDIANOLA, IOWA 50125



Backbone State Park was dedicated October 1, 1919, with an area of 1,300 acres. Since then, it has grown to include 1,600 of the most scenic acres in the Middle West. Visitors not acquainted with Iowa beauty spots are due for a considerable surprise in Backbone.

The park gets its name from a high ridge of rock in the approximate center of the area. It bumps along for a quarter of a mile, closely resembling a huge backbone, with boulders and rocky humps to form its vertebrae.

Formerly called "The Devil's Backbone", it is bounded by the Maquoketa River. The river flows southeast along the rock ledge, continues the length of it until it finds a saddle, goes through this and turns to flow back almost northwest along the opposite side of the ledge. At times it's only a few hundred feet from the portion of the current flowing south. The Backbone is fully as high as the level of the country surrounding the park and is the highest part of northeast Iowa.

Covered with vegetation, the Backbone supports some fine pines and other trees. Wind-blown pines resembling the famous Cypress Point trees of California jut over the cliffs at several points.

There are many rocky staircases and caverns. The walls of the edges are so precipitous that mountain climbers come here to practice.

The romance of the past is strong with tales of Indian massacres, train and bank robbers, cattle rustlers, and horse thieves, all of whom may have used the Backbone for hiding. These tall tales, some true, make good listening when told by those who have visited the park for several years.

Within Backbone's borders will be found recreation including hiking at its very best, climbing, nature study, and a lake for swimming, boating, and fishing. There are trout streams, a trout hatchery well worth a visit, an auditorium capable of seating a few hundred; cabins, shelters, natural beauty galore for camera color shots, and picnic tables. All these and even more accommodations are here to make your stay pleasant whether it's for two weeks or a day's outing.

Just outside the park, there is a Conservation Commission pine forest attractive to photographers and, in season, bow hunters.

A park conservation officer and his assistant, as well as fish hatchery personnel, live in the park all year to care for the park and its visitors. Campers must register with the park officer or his assistant. Those desiring to rent cabins should contact the park officer.

Space does not permit a detailed description of all the trails Backbone has to offer; however, many of them are marked, and hikers will have no trouble finding one to their liking.

There is a nine-hole golf course located immediately adjacent to the northern limits of the park managed by the Backbone Golf and Country Club and open to all. Green fee is charged. The park officer will gladly supply you with a booklet describing the trout streams of Iowa free of charge.

18 FAMILY CABINS

All cabin rental reservations must be made through the park officer. Rates are for a maximum of four persons.

Daily ..... \$10.00 per cabin  
Weekly ..... \$50.00 per cabin

Cots are supplied for additional guests for an additional charge of 50 cents per day.

The cabins accommodate four comfortably. Renter must provide own bedding, pillows and linens. The rental of cabins does not entitle tenant to free use of beach or boating privileges. Arrangements for these may be made with the concessionaire at the boat house. Electricity is included in the above rates with the exception of a 10 cent meter charge for the hot water shower at the cabin shower house.

CAMPING RATES AND REGULATIONS

All camping permits are issued by the park officer. The Commission has fixed the fees for tent and trailer camping as follows:

Non-Modern Area .....\$2.00 Per Night Per Basic Unit  
Modern Area .....\$2.50 Per Night Per Basic Unit  
Modern Area W-Elect. .... \$3.00 Per Night Per Basic Unit

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25 cents per person per night.

All prices quoted are subject to State Sales Tax.

For chaperoned, organized youth groups, 15 cents per person per night is charged. There is a minimum charge of \$2.50 per night in a modern area.

Facilities furnished are space, picnic, and sanitary facilities. A refreshment and stand and two shelters are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. At the lower campground is a shower building with hot and cold running water and laundry tubs. Firewood is available at the park office for 25 cents per bundle.

SURROUNDING TOWNS

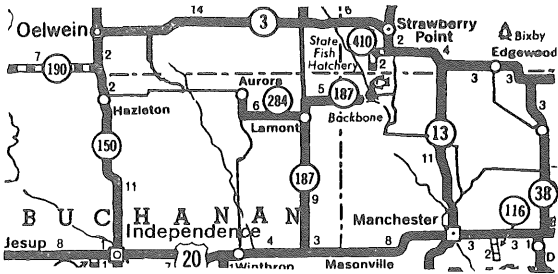
Strawberry Point, 5 miles from the park, has most denominations of churches, a bowling alley, and shopping center.

Lamont, and Dundee, both 7 miles from the park, have good shopping centers.

PARK OFFICER'S ADDRESS  
Backbone State park  
Dundee, Iowa 52038

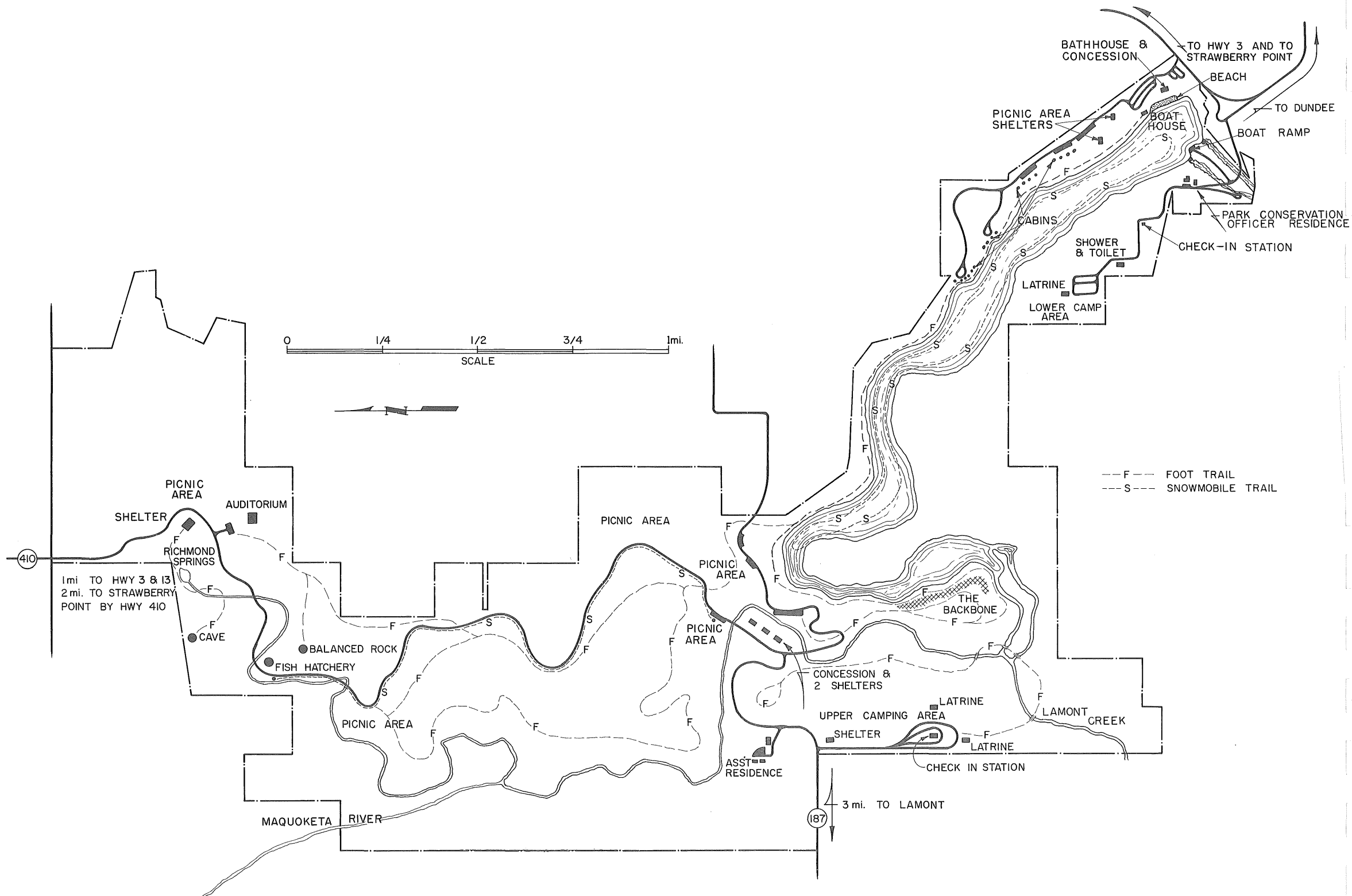
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BACKBONE



Iowa Conservation Commission

300 - 4th STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319



Beeds Lake, just north of Hampton in Franklin County, has everything anyone could wish for in a state park, and then some. The "then some" is a wonderful dike that bisects the lake from southeast to northwest to form 650 yards of the best bank fishing anywhere. In fact, the distance can be doubled because it's possible to fish both sides at once without leaving a line untended. Bridges at either end allow easy boating access to the west end of the lake.

Another extra is the dam's unusual spillway, so beautiful with its varicolored stone in horizontal layers that slope abruptly for 40 feet to the rock foundation. The spillway is 170 feet long.

The bathing beach is on the west side of the tree-covered dike. It is well sanded and supervised and the bathhouse is one of the finest.

Concessionaires rent boats, motors, sell refreshments and fishing supplies to the thousands who come by car or plane to enjoy this most rewarding of state parks. A pair of concrete boat ramps lead down to a sheltered bay.

Visitors who come by plane can park their aircraft at the airport just across the county road south of the park's entrance. From there one may walk only a block or two to picnic, swim, boat or fish from the dike.

There are several clean, level picnic areas; shady and provided with adequate parking, tables, and fireplaces.

There is a rustic shelter for family reunions that offers a splendid view of the lake.

The camping area is near the Park Officer's residence and is well provided with fireplaces and tables.

Spring Creek is from 12 to 14 miles long and is fed by numerous cold water springs that have continued to flow regularly, summer and winter, since long before the white men penetrated this country. Evidence that Indian tribes used the lake site for recreational purposes were found by the early settlers who held their own picnics and reunions there. They found a perfect paradise in this basin surrounded by a dense growth of trees of every variety native to the midwest. Nuts, berries and fruit were there in abundance.

In 1857, T. K. Hansbury built the first dam and grist mill, but William Beed put in the long dike and made many improvements when he bought the property in 1864.

Fishing is a year round sport at Beeds Lake where bass, wall-eyes, cat, bullheads, northerns and panfish are available for the angler. The residents on the north shore, and many others, own ice shanties for winter angling.

The trees are mostly second growth now, but plentiful and of many varieties. Flora of every kind native to the area flourishes, providing excellent cover for birds and wildlife. There is a refuge at the west end of the lake where many species of waterfowl and shore birds may be studied.

Whether you come for a day's outing or two weeks of camping, your stay at Beeds Lake State Park will be well worthwhile anytime.

#### TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING

No reservations are necessary but campers are required to secure a camping permit at the park office upon arrival.

The Commission has fixed the fees for tent and trailer camping as follows:

Modern Area . . . . . \$2.50 Per Night Per Basic Unit

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25 cents per person per night.

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For chaperoned, organized youth groups, 15 cents per person per night is charged. There is a minimum charge of \$2.50 per night in a modern area.

Camping fees do not include use of boat and beach facilities.

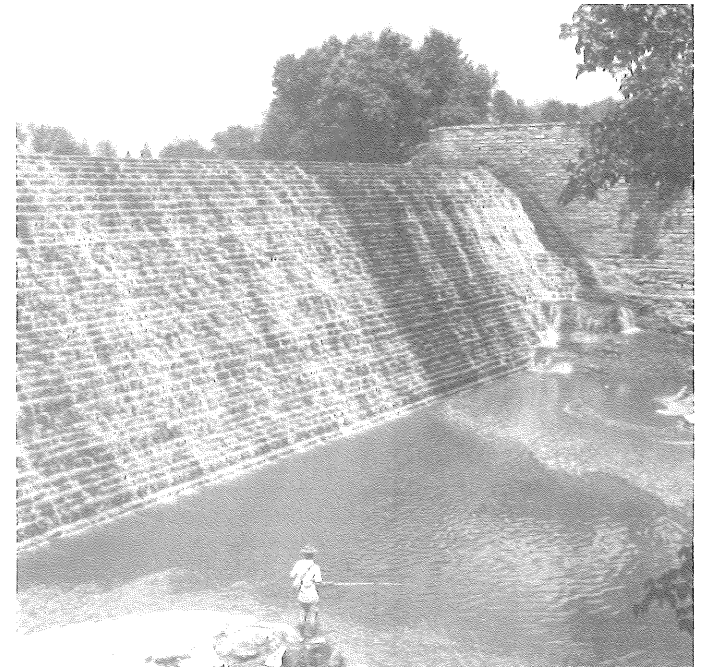
Facilities furnished are space, water and sanitary facilities. Firewood is available at 25 cents at the park.

#### NEARBY TOWN

**HAMPTON** has a population of over 4,000 and is a few miles from the park. The town is famed for its nurseries. Necessary facilities for picnicking and camping are found here.

PARK OFFICER'S ADDRESS  
Beeds Lake State Park  
Hampton, Iowa 50441

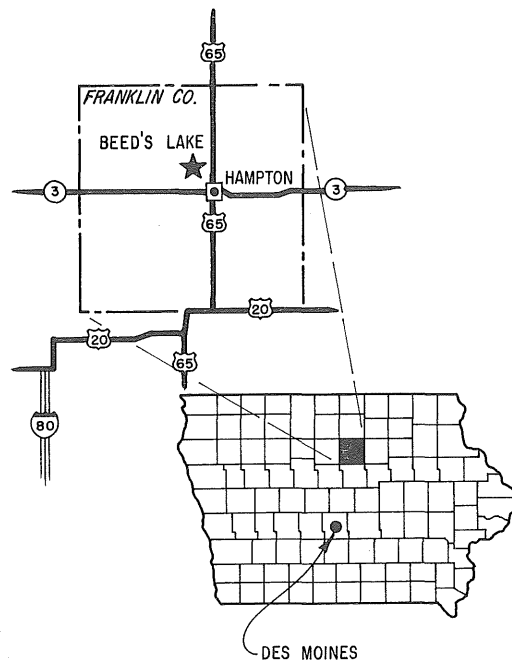
## BEEDS LAKE



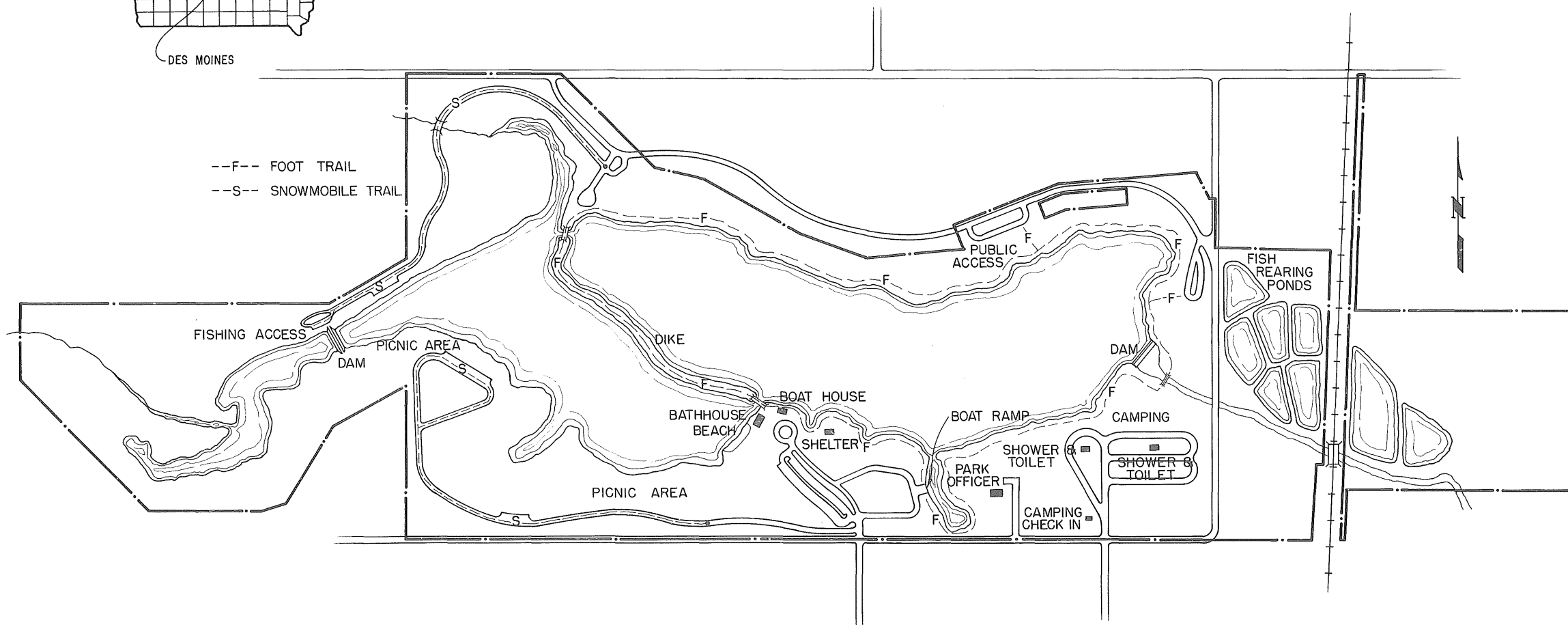
*Fed by the cold waters of neverending springs; dammed over a century ago to form a race that supplied power to a grist and saw mill; drained to give rich land for wartime farming, and reborn for your pleasure and mine.*

IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

300 FOURTH STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319



Accessible by auto or air, this beautiful lake lures fishermen, bathers, campers and hikers by the thousands to its clear waters and treelined shore.



This state park system is located south of Bellevue on Highway 52 and 67.

Two separate units comprise Bellevue State Park. The Nelson Unit is located at the immediate south end of Bellevue atop the bluff. The Dyas Unit is two miles farther south of Bellevue off of Highway 52 - 67.

On either side of Bellevue are high bluffs which afford a superb view of the river, its wooded islands, the nearby sand dunes, and the rugged woodlands on both sides of the Father of Waters.

To enjoy the Nelson Unit, the two short and easy trails -- one to the north of the parking area by the enclosed shelter, the other to the east and south, are both highly recommended.

The first gives an aerial view of the town of Bellevue from atop the high cliff. Many park visitors find they consume much film here in taking pictures of the Mississippi River, the lock and dam and the river barges. The old mill just below on Mill Creek is another favorite subject.

The second short trail leads to the Indian mounds. These mounds were associated with the Woodland Culture and were built at various times from 1000 B.C. to about 1300 A.D. One of the most inspiring views is where this trail leads along a vertical cliff affording a panoramic view of the Mississippi River to the north, across to the east and far to the south.

A generous assortment of wild flowers will be found in the park system. The hepatica, one of the most abundant, appears in early spring before the tree leaves shade the woodlands. Jacob's ladder soon follows with its bell-shaped flowers.

Many common ferns may be found here but the one that seems to belong to the limestone ledges within the park is purple cliffbrade.

In the isolated timber area across the Mississippi River live the crow-sized pileated woodpeckers. These large woodpeckers are rare in Iowa and are only seen in a few remaining deep woodlands.

In winter the stately bald eagles concentrate in numbers near open water on the river below the lock and dam.

## FACILITIES

### TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING (Permitted at Dyas Unit Only)

No reservations are needed but campers are requested to secure a camping permit from the park office upon arrival. The camping fee is \$2.50 per night per basic unit.

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25 cents per person per night.

For chaperoned, organized youth groups, 15 cents per person per night is charged. A minimum charge of \$2.00 per night in a non-modern area and \$2.50 per night in a modern area.

Facilities furnished are space, water, showers and sanitary facilities. Firewood is available at the park office for 25 cents per bundle.

### ENCLOSED SHELTER (Nelson Unit)

At the top of a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River is a rustic enclosed shelter. No charges are made for electricity or fuel on the lodge rental.

All reservations must be made through the park officer.

The rate is \$15.00 per reservation. (Rate given is for each 100 people per reservation.)

All fees are subject to State Sales Tax.

## SURROUNDING TOWNS

**Bellevue** - - The Nelson Unit of the Bellevue State park system is at the south end of Bellevue.

**Dubuque** - - Twenty-two miles northwest on Highway 52.

**Maquoketa** - - Twenty miles southwest on Iowa 62.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

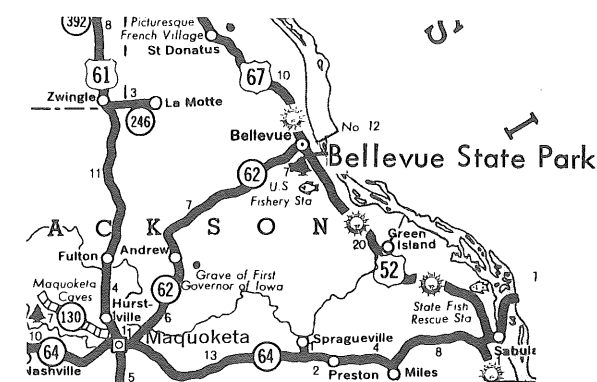
Bellevue State Park lies along the Great River Road winding along the Mississippi River.

Grave of Iowa's first Governor, 14 miles southwest at Andrew.

PARK OFFICER'S ADDRESS:  
Bellevue State Park  
Bellevue, Iowa 52031

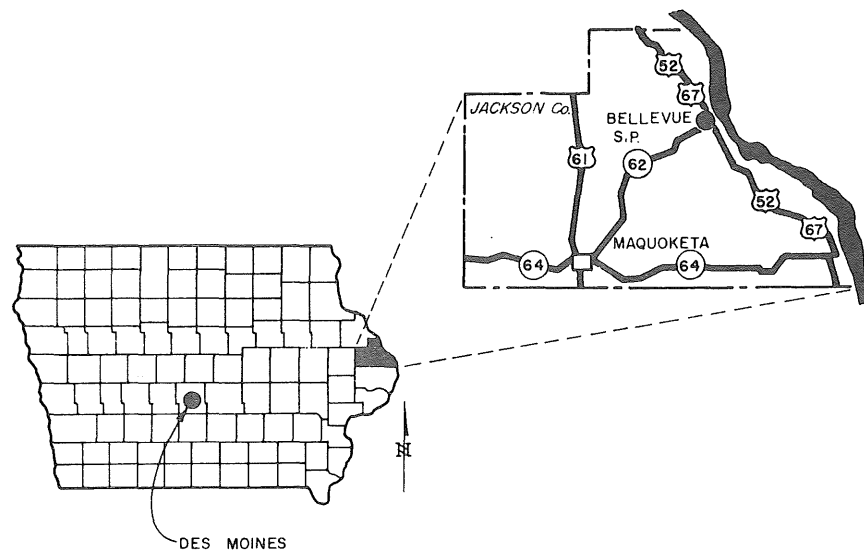
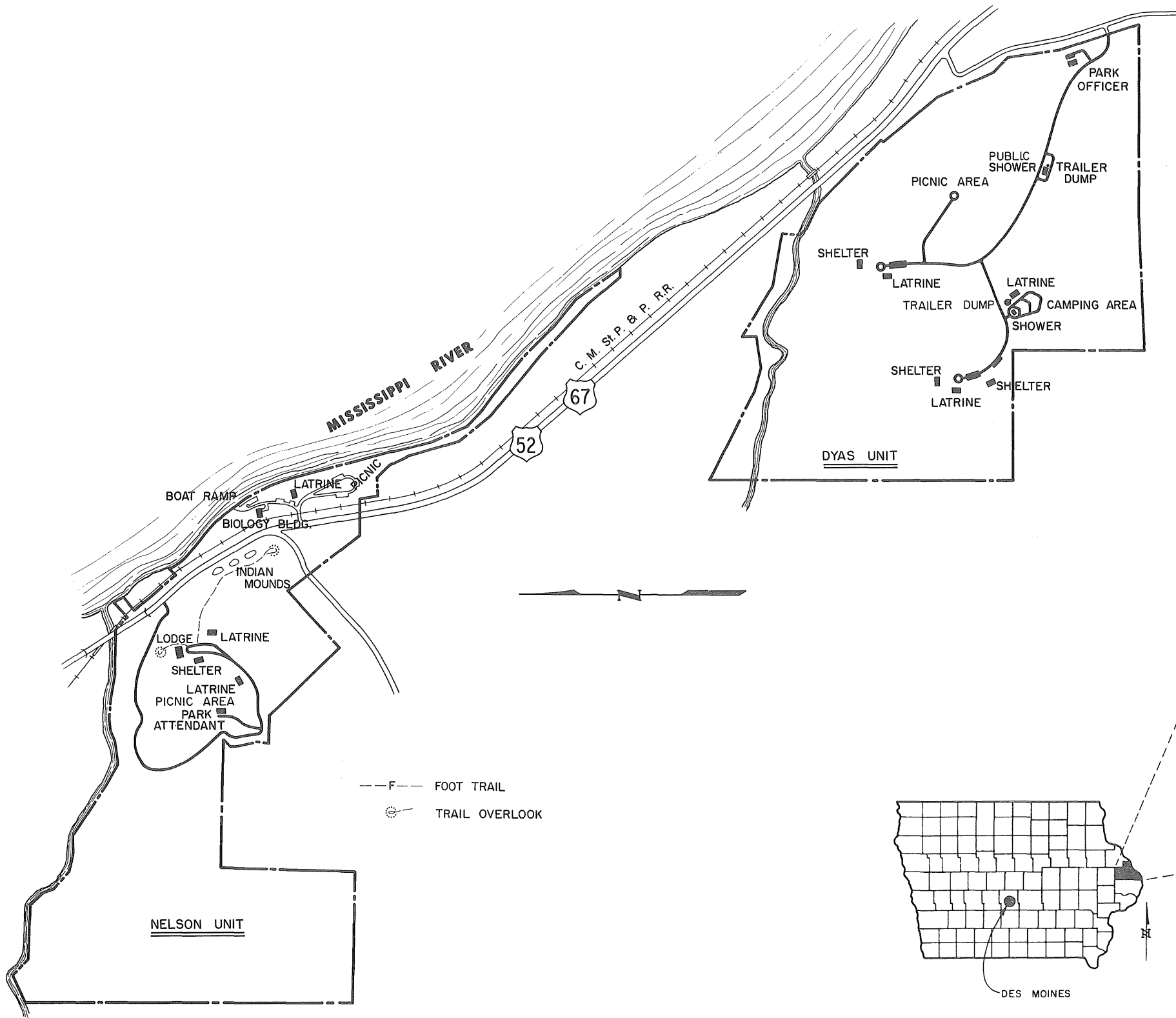
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# BELLEVUE



IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

300 - 4th STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319





Off the southeast tip of the town of Lakeview in Sac County, lies Black Hawk Lake. Covering 957 acres, it's the southern-most, major, glacial, fishing lake in Iowa.

Black Hawk attracts people from all parts of Iowa and many other states for the simple reason that restaurants, picnicking, camping facilities, and good roads surrounding the lake are available.

Fun at Black Hawk doesn't end when cold winds blow; winter sports such as skating and ice boating are also enjoyed by those with a flare for excitement. Ice boats with their white sails billowing in the winter wind have been clocked skimming the ice at speeds of 100 miles per hour.

The most popular sport at Black Hawk is fishing. Channel catfish, crappies, walleyes, bluegills, sunfish, and various species of bass are all in abundance and strike often.

The state owns 266 acres around the lake providing camping, picnicking, boating, unsupervised swimming, and just plain relaxing. At the campground on the southeast side, showers, modern restroom facilities, and electric outlets are available.

The state manages seven boat launching ramps: three at the state park, three between Ice House and Hunter's Point, and one at Arrowhead Lake. Private establishments, in close proximity to the lake region, offer boats, motors, bait, and tackle for nominal costs.

A broad expanse along the northwest shore is state-owned, and a road runs close to the lake. Here fishing accesses and parking areas are readily available.

The wide, sandy, Sac City Beach can't be beat for swimming. Water sports are unsupervised.

Arrowhead Lake, a separate body of water at the far west end of Black Hawk, has picnicking and fishing facilities. Fish rearing ponds and a fish management station are between Arrowhead and Black Hawk. The resident park officer lives at the northern tip of Arrowhead.

Native or migrating shorebirds and gulls can be seen at the Arrowhead Lake-Provost Slough vicinity which is used as a wild-life refuge and waterfowl area in the spring and fall.

On the Lake View edge of Black Hawk is Crescent Park, managed by the city of Lake View, where many enjoy swimming, camping, and picnicking under the watchful eye of a statue of Chief Black Hawk.

This Sauk Indian chief led his followers back to the tribal lands east of the Mississippi River. His territory was at the mouth of the Rock River near Rock Island, Illinois. A prominent figure in the Black Hawk War, he caused the decimation of Winfield Scott's command before his eventual defeat and capture. Traveling the river courses in Iowa, he eventually died in this state.

Denison Beach is also state-owned and has a shelter, fishing, and unsupervised swimming.

All sports and facilities a lake can offer are at Black Hawk whether it's for a day's outing or a two-week camping vacation.

TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING

No reservations are needed for camping, but campers must secure a camping permit from the park office upon arrival.

The Commission has fixed the fees for tent and trailer camping as follows:

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Modern Area W-Elect. . . . . \$3.00 Per Night Per Basic Unit

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For chaperoned, organized youth groups, 15 cents per person per night is charged. There is a minimum charge of \$2.50 per night in a modern area.

Facilities furnished are space, water, shower, flush toilets, laundry tubs, boat ramps, sewage disposal station for travel trailer, unsupervised swimming, and picnicking. Firewood is available at the park office for 25 cents per bundle.

All prices quoted are subject to State Sales Tax.

SHELTER

There are two shelters, one at the state park and another at Denison Beach, available on a first-come first-serve basis.

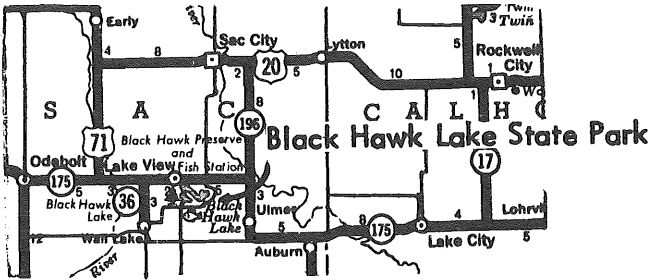
IN THE VICINITY

In addition to Lake View, other towns in the area include Ulmer, east of the park; Sac City, north of Black Hawk; Odebolt, west; Wall Lake, to the south; and Early, to the northwest on Highway 71.

PARK OFFICER'S ADDRESS  
Black Hawk State Park  
P.O. Box 7  
Lake View, Iowa 51450

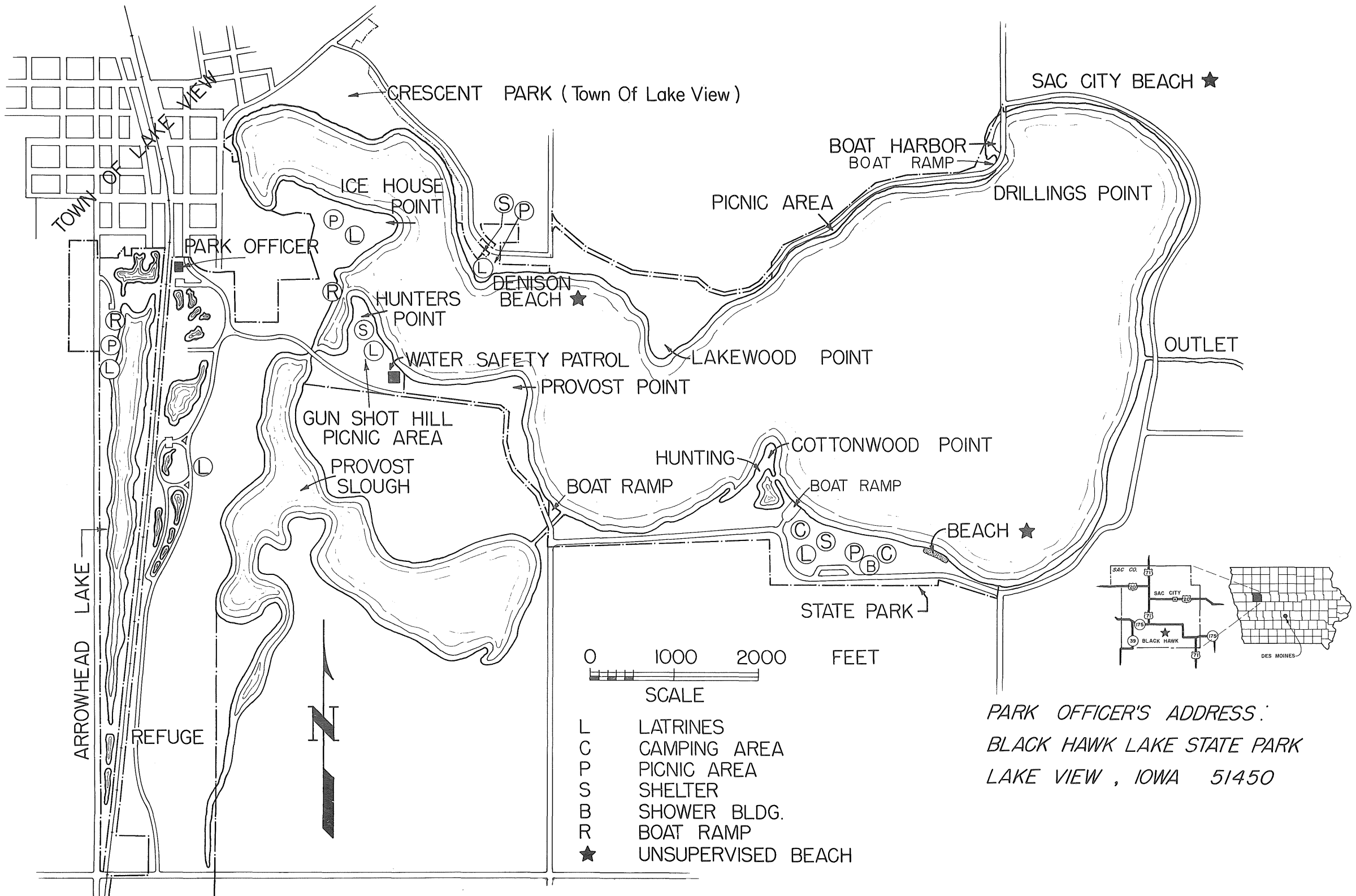
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BLACK HAWK LAKE



Iowa Conservation Commission

300 - 4th STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319





Now almost surrounded by summer cottages and luxurious, year-round homes, the shores of Clear Lake still have a big variety of trees, shrubs and wild flowers. Trees include basswood, elm, walnut groves, oak, ash, hickory, linden, butternut, wild crab, plum and thorn apple. Wild flowers include species native to Iowa and a few, such as wild spikenard, spotted touch-me-not and many asters, while not indigenous to the area, are well worth mentioning.

The abundance of timber and natural bushes, both in the parks and surrounding the cottages, make favorite haunts for many species of birds. Flocks of gulls and shore birds skim and soar over the water.

Clear Lake State Park, acquired by the state in 1924, has an area of 90 acres. McIntosh Woods, purchased 10 years later, has 60 acres. Besides these parks, the state owns several fishing and bathing accesses, a walleye hatchery and a 250 foot state dock all open to the public.

The lake itself has been an Iowa playground for more than a century. The city of Clear Lake was incorporated in 1871. Churches and lodges built camps there in the '80's and the first amusement parks had their beginnings in the '90's. Long before that, Indian tribes met there to camp and fish all summer.

This is without doubt the most popular state park for camping, with two beautiful, wooded campgrounds on opposite corners of the lake. Yearly, around 500,000 persons visit one or the other of these park-beaches. Almost 30,000 campers registered at Clear Lake campgrounds yearly.

The facilities include modern shower, flush toilets and laundry tubs, fireplaces, picnic tables, and space. It would be hard to imagine a more ideal campground.

Clear Lake State Park, on the southeast shore, has a wonderful picnic ground, excellent beach and the aforementioned campground, shaded and cooled on the warmest summer days by invigorating lake breezes. There is a large, rustic lodge for family reunions and the like just above the beach. There are also individual compartments-size buildings for changing clothes.

A park officer resides just east of the Clear Lake State Park area and campers should see him before setting up camp. Firewood is 25 cents per bundle.

McIntosh Woods, on the northwest shore, is a lovely place of gently sloping woods and meadows where visitors can camp and play and picnic; a peninsula sends a long finger out into the lake with docks, boat landings on the west, a boat launching ramp, and rush-grown foliage (excellent duck blind material) on the west.

A resident park custodian is stationed at McIntosh Woods and campers in this area must secure camping permit from park office.

#### AT CLEAR LAKE ONLY

Enclosed Shelter Rental . . . . . \$25.00 per reservation

No charge is made for electricity or fuel. Lodge is open May 1 -Sept. 30. Rate given is for 100 persons per reservation.

There are plenty of stores, churches, service stations, etc., in Clear Lake, and Ventura. Mason City is 9 miles east and Garner is 12 miles west. Small shopping centers and refreshment stores surround the lake.

#### CAMPING RATES AND REGULATIONS

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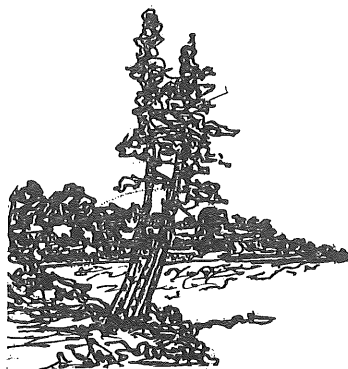
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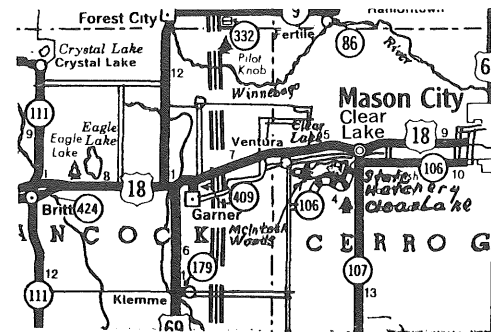
Facilities furnished are space, water, shower, flush toilets, and laundry tubs.

PARK OFFICER'S ADDRESS  
Clear Lake State Park  
Route 1  
Clear Lake, Iowa 50428

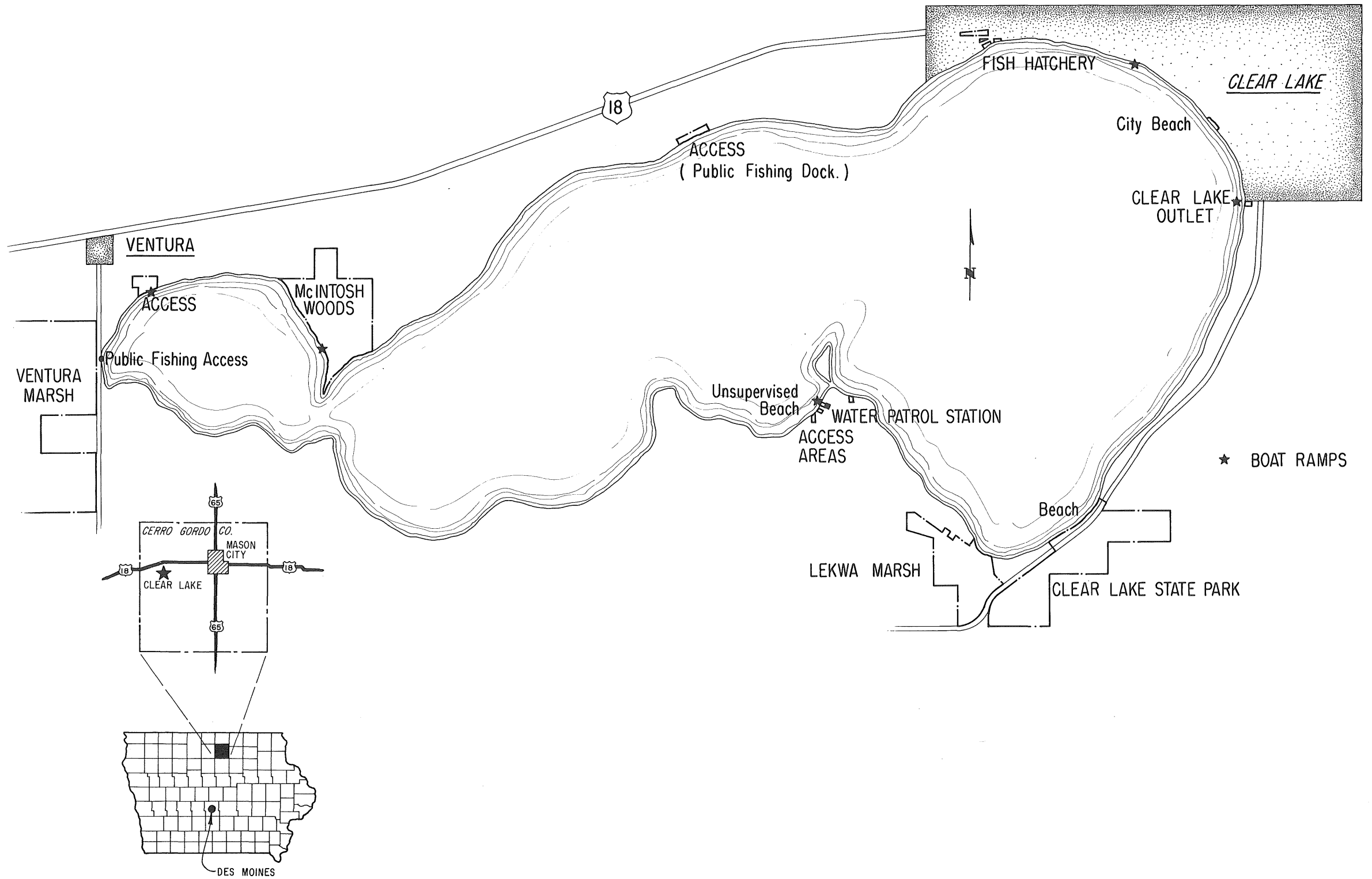
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# CLEAR LAKE and McIntosh Woods



Iowa Conservation Commission  
300 FOURTH STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319



## TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING

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A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25c per person per night.

All prices quoted are subject to State Sales Tax.

For chaperoned, organized youth groups, 15c per person per night is charged. There is a minimum charge of \$2.50 per night in a modern area.

Facilities furnished are space, water and sanitary facilities. Firewood is available at 25c at the park.

## ORGANIZED GROUP CAMPING

Charges for the use of the group camp and equipment are 75c per day, per person, with a minimum charge of \$25.00 per day. The charge to groups other than organized youth groups will be a minimum of \$7.00 per day per cabin plus \$25.00 per day per group for the use of the kitchen and dining hall.

## ENCLOSED SHELTER RENTALS

There are three enclosed shelters that may be rented as follows:

Central-\$10.00, South-\$10.00, North-\$5.00. Rates given are for each 100 people per reservation. No charges are made for electricity or fuel. Reservations are made through the park officer.

## NEIGHBORING TOWNS

LEHIGH, 3 miles southeast, is the closest town.

OTHO and KALO are also near the park.

FORT DODGE is 15 miles from Dolliver with a population of over 30,000.

## PARK OFFICER ADDRESS:

Dolliver State Park  
RR No. 1  
Lehigh, Iowa 50557

CPA-24077 5/71

# DOLLIVER MEMORIAL



*"Laughing, bubbling woodland brook,  
Murmuring sweetly as you flow  
Through copperas valley;  
Tell me a tale of long ago."*

*"... To him who in the love of nature  
holds communion with her visible forms,  
she speaks a varied language."*

IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
300 4th STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319



Boneyard Hollow, a narrow ravine running out from the river for perhaps a quarter of a mile, gets its name from the wagon loads of buffalo bones unearthed there by the early settlers. The abrupt cliffs on either side jut 75 to 100 feet and it is claimed that Indians used this dead end valley as a buffalo trap, a fact substantiated by the ancient artifacts found here.

Outside the park proper lies Woodman Hollow a gorge cut from sand stone rock made by water dashing over the rock for centuries. It is famous for its variety of ferns and wildflowers.

Dolliver is a paradise for birds. An interesting bird to meet along Prairie Creek is the belted kingfisher or the little green heron while warbling bluebirds, cheerful black-capped chickadees and saucy wrens welcome visitors along all the trails whether it be at the spring, the copperas beds or the botanical wonder of Woodman Hollow.

Lehigh, also on a scenic drive, is a river town with a past that rivals Dodge City, Kansas, for gunfighting action. Gypsum miners and workers in the huge tile factory (still there and going strong) made the old town ring with payday celebrating. Nowadays, it is a very peaceful community but old timers are glad to relive adventures that might curl the hair of any "cowboy".

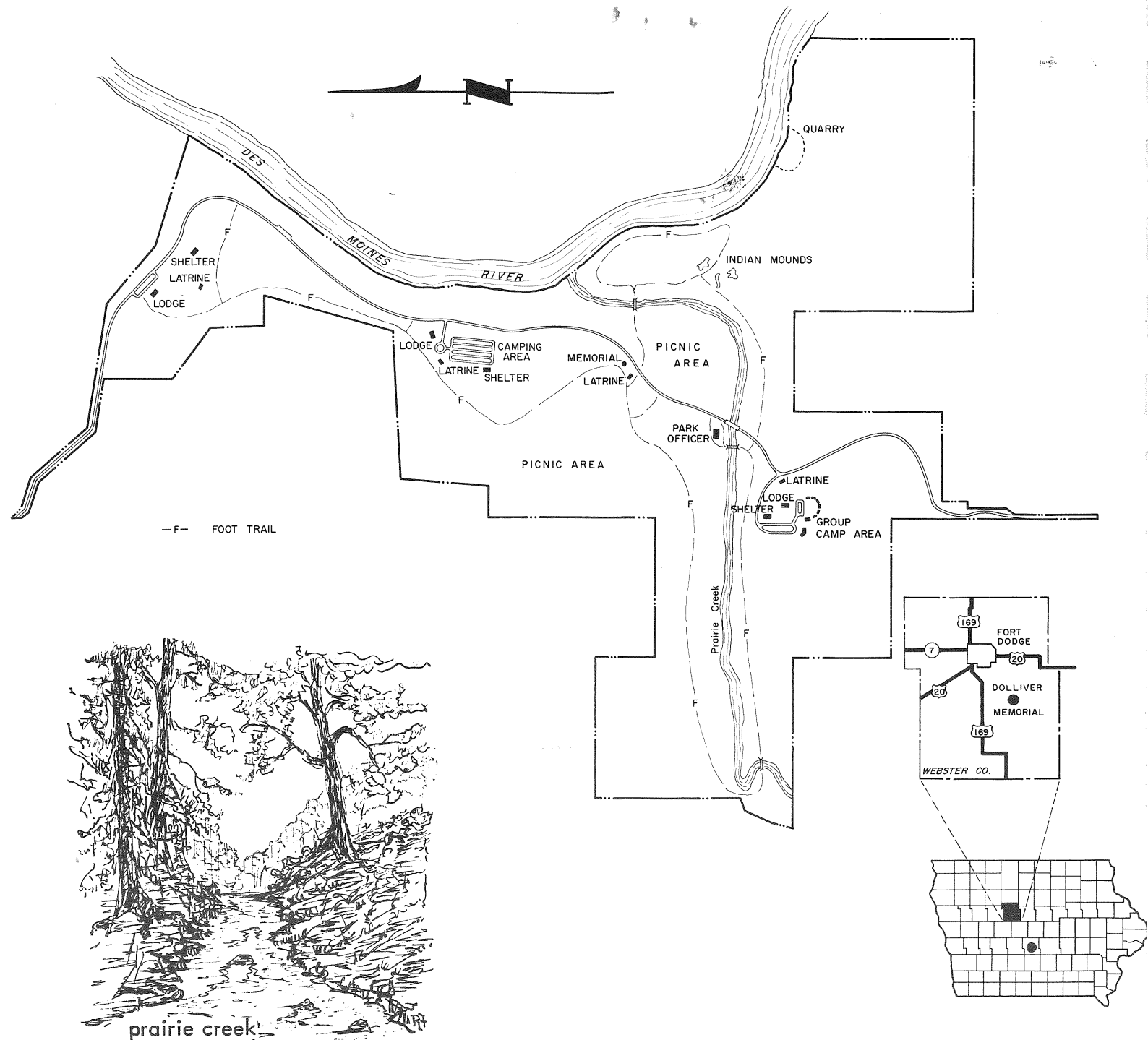
Dolliver Memorial State Park, 3 miles northwest of Lehigh, in Webster County is 600 acres of the most varied beauty anywhere in Iowa if not in the entire middlewest.

Slopes of over 1,000 feet, covered with vegetation of many varieties, wander down to the Des Moines River from Indian mounds atop one of the highest points in the state. Massive sandstone cliffs tower 150 feet above babbling brook and ledges of rock with caves hidden by overhanging Virginia creeper. These bound glens where butternut, quaking aspen and largetoothed aspen, white and black ash trees grow, and ostrich fern, lungwort, mandrake, hepatica, black-eyedsusans and almost every variety of wildflower and shrub are found. All this beauty can be reached by five miles of trails well marked by the feet of hundreds of hikers.

Space does not permit us to name all the varieties of flora found here nor the different types of rock and rock formations, except the most unusual - - the copperas beds. Said to be the most unique spot in the park, they are located in a coal sandstone bluff some 150 feet high and several hundred feet long. This iron compound was used by the Indians as paint in dyes. The path that leads to them has some unusual features, one of which is a cathedral-like glen, grassy, and with an atmosphere so sublime that church groups hold worships here.

Fishermen spend many happy hours on the bends and curves of the Des Moines River and many are the tales of big walleye pike and channel catfish. There isn't a more pleasant place to fish in Iowa.

This park is a fitting memorial to the scholar, orator, statesman and conservationist for whom it was named. Jonathan P. Dolliver lived and worked in these hills and valleys as a boy and young man and always returned to them for solace. A sandstone ledge in the center of the park, over a bubbling spring, holds a bronze likeness of Dolliver. This memorial tablet was unveiled on June 28, 1925, at the park's dedication ceremony.



a new reservation at Fort Snelling.

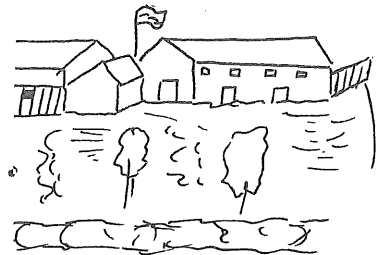
So Fort Atkinson was no longer needed. The last troops left on February 24, 1849. Its supplies were sold and a caretaker appointed to protect the buildings and grounds (a job much sought after as a political plum because it paid \$30 per month).

The stockade was used for firewood by travellers. Settlers building homes found the fort a wonderful source of glass and hardware. Windows and doors were taken as well as hasps hinges, lumber, etc.

Meanwhile, Iowa had become a state and the legislature was petitioning the federal government to give the fort and two sections of land to the state for the establishment of an agricultural college. The general assemblies of 1849-51 and '53 urged their senators and representatives to use their influence to secure this land grant, but no evidence can be found that the war department ever seriously considered it.

Buildings at the fort were sold in 1855 for \$3521.00 and the land was given to the General Land Office for disposition and regular entry of the land by settlers for \$1.25 per acre. All of the buildings were destroyed except the southwest block house, the powder magazine in the southeast corner and about one-third of the north stone barracks.

The state acquired the fort in 1921 and the State Conservation Commission began the present reconstruction work in 1958. In 1962, the museum was completed to display artifacts and information pertaining to the fort and the military forces who served there.



# FORT ATKINSON



A landmark and historical monument to the men who labored there that a tribe of Indians might find a safer and better life.

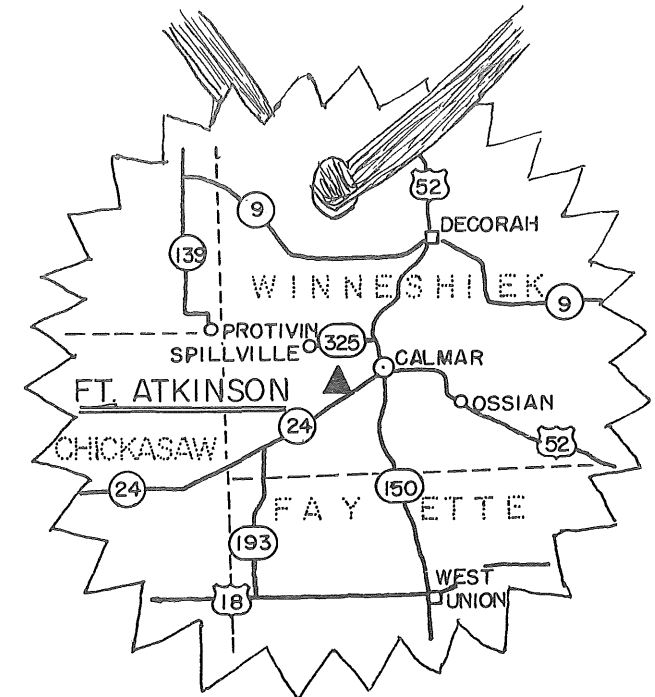
PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS  
State Conservation Commission  
Des Moines  
IOWA

Fort Atkinson is in Winnesheik County on Highway 24 just north of the town of the same name. Parts of this fort have stood since 1840.

To understand the reason for building the fort, it is necessary to know something of the Indian treaties of the fifteen years preceding.

In 1825, a great council was held between warring Indian tribes and the federal government in an effort to bring peace. A "Neutral Line" was established from the mouth of the Upper Iowa River near New Albin. It extended to Hawarden on the Big Sioux River and thence down the Missouri River.

This "Neutral Line" did not stop all of the fighting. The Sioux to the north and the Sac and Fox to the south ignored it and fought intermittently. Other peace councils held for the next three years also failed to stop the bloodshed, causing national concern.



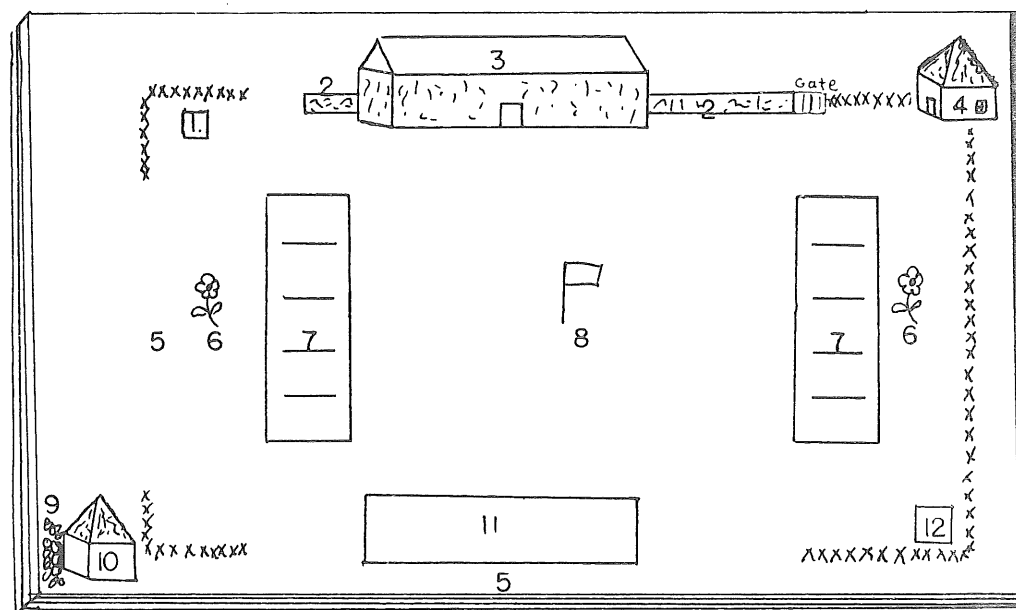
In the council of 1830, the "Neutral Ground" was established (a strip 40 miles wide having as its center the previously established "Neutral Line"). This buffer strip also failed for when Chief Black Hawk's band sought refuge within it, the Sioux fell upon them with tragic results.

In the treaty of 1832, the Winnebagoes ceded all their land east of the Mississippi to the government and agreed to move to "Neutral Ground." The government was to provide them with agricultural implements, establish schools and pay the tribe ten thousand dollars per year for 27 years. However, only small bands actually moved in because the Sac, Fox and Sioux tribes were hostile to them and the Sioux regarded this ground as their best hunting area.

No attempt was made to force the Winnebagoes to move until 1840 when

Brigadier General Henry Atkinson, Commandant at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, ordered troops to aid those at Fort Crawford, Prairie Du Chien, if the tribe resisted.

After many parleys, meetings and councils, the move was effected as far west as the Turkey River. The Winnebagoes feared the other tribes and they also wanted to be near the trading center of Prairie Du Chien.



- INDICATES STOCKADE OF LOGS WITH GUN OPENINGS
1. WELL
  2. LIMESTONE WALL
  3. OLD BARRACKS AND HOSPITAL NOW MUSEUM
  4. CANNON HOUSE
  5. LOOKOUT
  6. GARDENS

7. OFFICERS' QUARTERS
8. FLAG
9. ROCK QUARRY WHERE ORIGINAL ROCKS FOR THE FORT WERE OBTAINED
10. CANNON HOUSE
11. REMAINS OF BARRACKS SCHOOL AND CHURCH
12. MAGAZINE

Open May 16 to October 30

For appointments contact Lois Rausch,  
Fort Atkinson, Iowa

General Atkinson had previously recommended the establishment of an army post on the Cedar River but changed his plan and on May 5, 1840, sent a party east to locate a good spot for the post. On May 31, 1840, Capt. Isaac Lynd, with 71 men and officers of the 5th Infantry, arrived at Fort Atkinson.

By the spring of 1841, it was clear that foot soldiers could not cope with the restless Winnebagoes. Small bands were continually returning to Wisconsin. Permission was then given to build stables and quarters for cavalry. On June 24, 1841, Company B, 1st Regiment of Dragoons, arrived at the post to do most of the patrolling necessary to keep the Indians in bounds.

Although Fort Atkinson was heavily armed, there is no record of its ever having been attacked. Minor revolts and skirmishes were ended quickly with the help of Morgan's company of Iowa Volunteers who furnished their own horses and rode with the Dragoons for fourteen months. They were of much help when the Winnebagoes moved to Minnesota in 1848, by treaty, to





# GEODE

This park has much to offer including the curious rock formation for which the place is named. There is the beautiful 205 acre lake with an excellent beach and a modern bathhouse.

A concessionaire who sells refreshments has boats and motors for rent, as well as fishing supplies and bait. Roads reach half a dozen picnic areas, all with adequate parking, running water and a view. Trails from these wind around the lake and through timber and undergrowth of every variety found in Iowa. Firewood is available at the park office for 25 cents a bundle.

Over in the southwest corner, the Skunk River flows along to the Mississippi. In bygone years it was the only highway and river boats from Oakland Mills (a river port for nearby Mt. Pleasant) and Lowell passed by on their way to Fort Madison.

Hardy hikers may climb over rock hummocks and cross narrow feeder streams up river until they come upon a tiny cemetery. The grave markers, mostly down and buried, bear epitaphs dating back as far as 1816. Some of the settlers buried there were born before the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Old timers in the region say this graveyard was used by one family from around 1815 until 1860. The newest headstone bears the date 1855. There is evidence that several perished in a plague that struck the family early in the century.

It takes but little imagination to turn time back more than one hundred years, and hear the mournful wail of a steamboat's whistle or the unnerving cry of a wildcat as the shadows of evening creep over the banks of the river.

Geode State Park is in the southeast corner of Henry County about six miles south of the town of New London which is on Highway 34. Good all-weather roads lead to its four entrances; one from New London, one from Burlington, another from Lowell, and the fourth from Agency. Just a few miles east of the park, one of the largest ammunition plants of World War II begins, with a four-lane superhighway leading on into Burlington.

The park's main entrance is reached by a county road that turns south from Highway 34 just east of New London. This gravel road goes past the park officer's residence at the north end of the beach, or the number one picnic area which has a shelter, rest rooms, tables and fireplaces. All of the park roads are well marked.

The lake's fish population includes largemouth bass, channel catfish, bluegills, crappies and bullheads. Experimental walleye stocking was started in 1959. Fishing is good in Lake Geode. There is a public dock and launching ramp at the northeast end of the lake and shore fishing is very popular.

Many visit Geode in the winter to enjoy hiking through the snow, picnicking on clear, frosty days (the fireplaces are three feet off the ground), and ice fishing.

## TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING

No reservations are necessary but campers are asked to secure a camping permit from the park office upon arrival. Camping fees are as follows:

\$2.50 or \$3.00 per night, per unit. Two week limit.

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25 cents per person per night.

Facilities furnished are space, water and sanitary facilities. A shower house, running water and trailer dumping station are provided.

For chaperoned, organized youth groups, 15 cents per person per night is charged. There is a minimum charge of \$2.50 per night in a Modern area.

All fees subject to State Sales Tax.

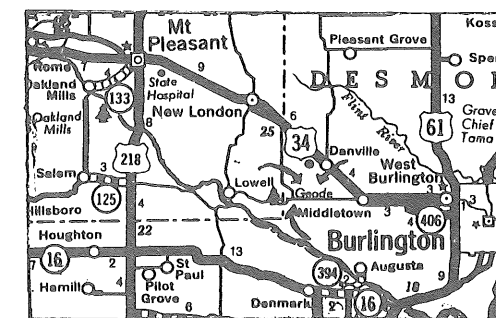
## SURROUNDING TOWNS

New London, about six miles from Geode, has recreational conveniences, churches and laundramats.

Lowell, Middletown, Denmark and Danville are smaller towns with churches, stores and filling stations.

PARK OFFICER'S MAILING ADDRESS  
Geode State Park  
Route 1  
Danville, Iowa  
52623

CP-2A-26828 5/71



IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

300 4th STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319





## GITCHIE MANITOU

In the extreme northwest corner of Iowa, on a portion of and covering 91 acres, is Gitchie Manitou State Preserve, one of the most unusual areas in Iowa.

Nowhere in the state is there a bit of land as unexpectedly novel and more curiously formed into strong contrasts than here where three prairie states, Iowa, South Dakota and a few miles east, Minnesota, meet. The Big Sioux River forms its western boundary and divides Iowa and South Dakota.

Gitchie Manitou is the Sioux Indian name for, "Great Spirit" or "Great Force of Nature". Early French explorers called it, "Coteau des Prairies" (Hill of the Prairie) and English trappers designated it, "Height of Land".

## GEOLOGICAL INTEREST

The oldest known rock which outcrops in Iowa is Sioux quartzite of the Pre-cambrian Age. Erosion exposes this hard pink rock only throughout this corner of Iowa. It is fairly well distributed in parts of South Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Exposures of Sioux quartzite are found in the north-central part of Gitchie Manitou lying above the Big Sioux River.

Another outcropping, about 50 feet wide and ½ mile long, is in the bottom of a small valley.

In the 1890's, the State Board of Control acquired the area. A prison camp was established and the prisoners quarried the quartzite. A railroad spur was extended from Sioux Falls to the quarry site and quartzite was shipped extensively to that area. The area was rescued from further proposed quarrying and made a geological monument in 1920.

It is believed Jasper Pool, a pond set into the quartzite, was formed by quarrying operations which opened the natural springs allowing water to fill the pool. The springs are now inactive but in times of high water, run-off from the Big Sioux River backs into a normally dry-run creek flowing into Jasper Pool. The pool was dredged in 1962 to remove silt.

## THE FORMING OF SIOUX QUARTSITE

Pre-cambrian quartzite dates back two billion years when the Gitchie Manitou area was considerably higher. Through the years, the firm Sioux quartzite cemented and carried iron deposits accounting for the color. The weaker Pre-cambrian rock formations were eventually eroded away.

In all other parts of Iowa, erosion and settling have buried the Sioux quartzite beneath the earth's mantle. In southern Iowa, it's there but buried deep under the soil.

With the advent of the Ice Age, Gitchie Manitou was tilted and buckled resulting in the bumps and mounds. The broadly arched strata, folded rock formations and faulted rocks are familiar features.

They show the region and the entire area was once in high altitude even though now it is as level and smooth as most other parts of this vast interior plain.

## BOTANICAL AND BIRD INTEREST

Geology isn't the only interest Gitchie Manitou holds. Desert plants such as prickly pear cactus, found growing in the rocks, mark the transition from lush prairie land to the semi-arid condition of the western prairie.

The Sioux quartzite on the north rises gradually from the Big Sioux River to an open prairie. This unplowed, native prairie exhibits many interesting prairie plants including goldenrods, asters, sunflowers, wild 4 o'clocks, spurge and native grasses.

The area south of the fence was once cropland but is now returning to native prairie.

Western prairie birds including the western meadowlark, vesper sparrow and dickcissel are common. Other western birds such as the lark bunting, blue grosbeak, Say's phoebe, Arkansas kingbird, Townsend's solitaire, rock wren and the colorful Lazuli bunting have been seen in or near the area.

Trees and shrubs are few except along the Big Sioux River occurring in small ravines in the rocks. The soil is limited and trees do not have a chance to grow making them small and stunted.

## A SECRET INDIAN MEETING PLACE

Old-timers in the area tell that Gitchie Manitou was once one of the secret meeting places of Sitting Bull and his Sioux warriors preparing for the Battle of the Big Horn when they completely wiped out Custer's troops at Bloody Run.

After Custer's defeat, it is said, Indians went into what was called the Ghost Dance Era. Sitting Bull again called his scattered tribes from the Battle of the Big Horn. They met here to arrange another battle in South Dakota which never materialized.

Whether this is completely true remains to be seen but evidences of Sioux Indians in the vicinity are plain up and down the Big Sioux River. Downstream about 6 or 7 miles, there are remains of an old Indian village.

Indian artifacts such as arrowheads and breast plates carved from Sioux quartzite have been found at Gitchie Manitou. There is a series of circular Indian burial mounds in the southern portion of the preserve.

No camping is allowed in this state preserve area.

## NEARBY TOWNS

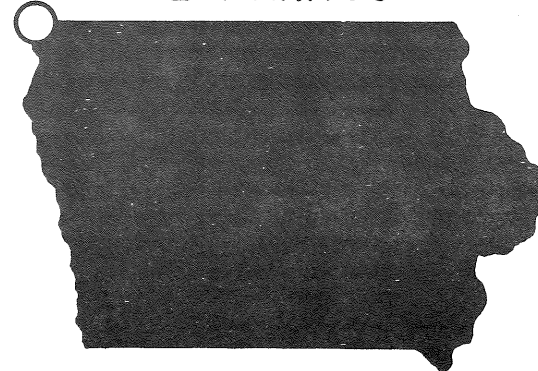
Larchwood, on Iowa Highway 9, is nine miles east of Gitchie Manitou. Rock Rapids is about 21 miles east on Iowa Highway 9.

CP-A40291 6/71

# GITCHIE MANITOU State Preserve

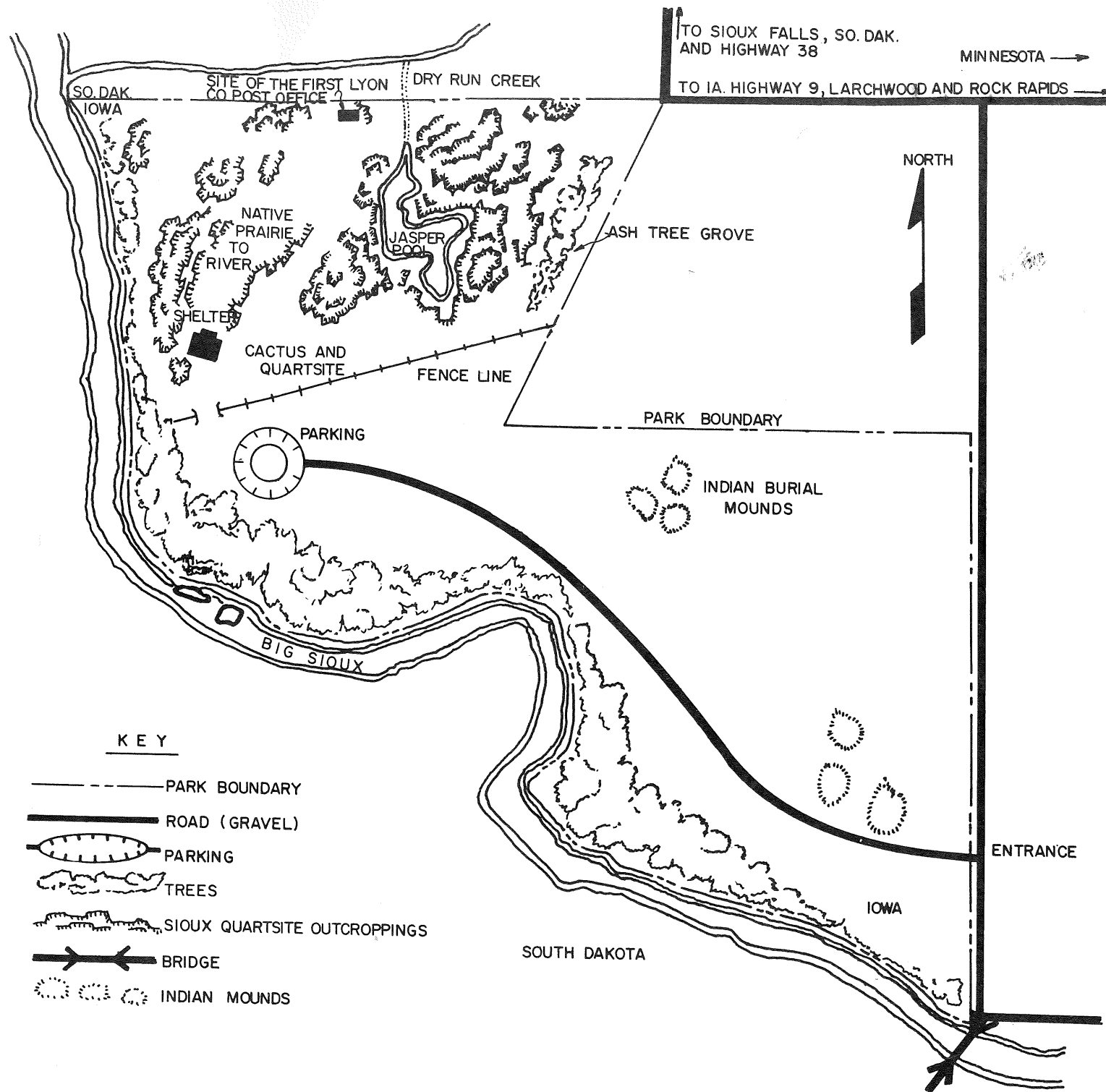


## GITCHIE MANITOU



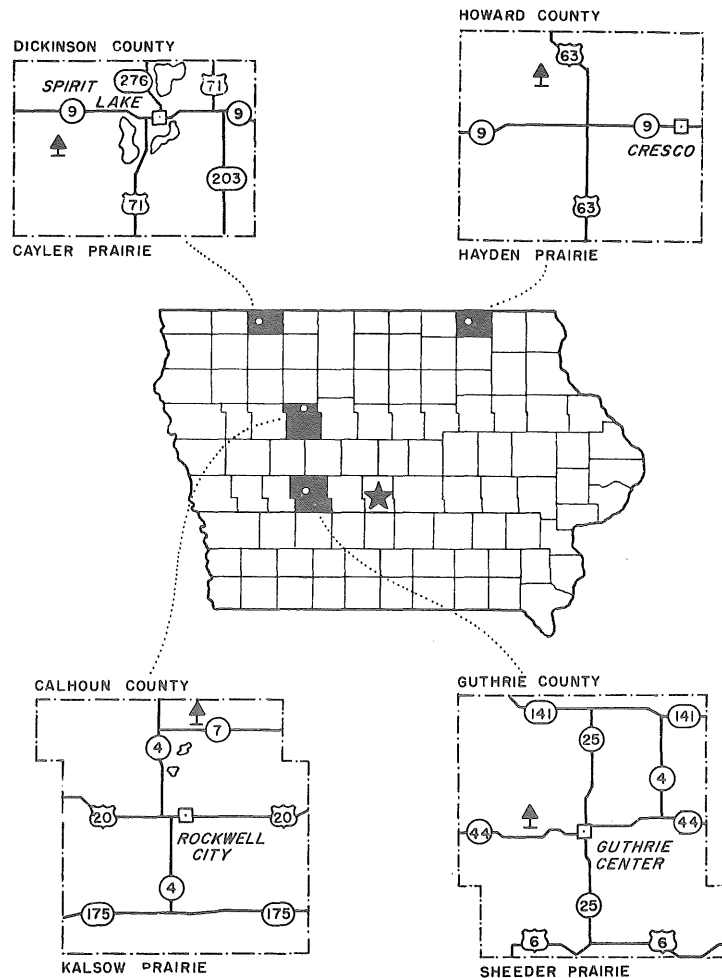
IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

300 - 4th STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319



## LOCATIONS

The public is invited to visit these interesting plant communities and appreciate their many seasonal aspects as they unfold the flowers and fruits of their 300 or more plant species. These are not picnic areas but are set aside to study, enjoy and conserve.



## FLOWERS OF THE PRAIRIE

July is the month the prairies are in their glory. New varieties are unfolding continuously giving them new faces almost every week. A number of common flowers to watch for are listed below:

**Pasque Flower** --- The first to bloom, April to June. A short, hairy-stemmed plant with blue-gray flowers. Nicknamed "prairie smoke" by the pioneers.

**Shooting Star** - - Streamline, deep pink flowers with pistils and stamens forming a spear-like tip. Petals turn backward to resemble tiny shooting stars. Blooms April to June.

**Black-Eyed Susan** - - Rough, hairy stems. Golden ray flowers curve backward around a brown disk. These and other prairie sunflowers are Composites, the largest family of flowering plants. Composites have individual flowers clustered into a head composed of outer ray flowers and tubular flowers in the center disk. This head is often mistaken for a single flower.

**Yellow and Purple Cone Flowers** - - Branching plants growing to 3 feet. Single, showy heads with a series of drooping ray flowers and cone-shaped center disk covered with minute, grayish florets.

**Lead Plant** - - Dense hair giving a whitish appearance. Small, purple flowers grow on a large stem crowded into a spike-like cluster.

**Compass Plant** - - Coarse, tall perennial with a yellow, sunflower bloom. Lower leaves vertical with edged oriented from north to south. Flowers said to follow the sun from east to west, July to September.

**New Jersey Tea** - - Low-growing shrub with pointed leaves and small, white flowers in umbrella-like clusters. During Boston Tea Party days, when oriental tea from English ships was unpopular, the fresh or dried leaves were used as a substitute.

**Spiderwort** - - May to August. Three petals opening in the morning, withering by noon. Blue, white, pink and lavender combinations.

**Culver's Root** - - Stout, erect plant reaching 3 feet. Small flowers bloom on a branching 9-inch cluster from June to September.

**Butterfly Weed** - - Little orange flowers with "horns" pointed downward arranged in a flat cluster. Often this member of the milkweed family is accompanied by a group of butterflies.

**Prairie Phlox** - - Rosy-pink to violet. A tufted plant with slightly hairy, nearly erect stems.

**Turks Cap Lily** - - A lily often 5 or 6 feet tall. Nodding flowers resemble miniature tiger lilies. Sometimes 50 flowers are on a single plant, July to September.

**Purple and White Prairie Clover** - - Upright, dotted stems and small flowers in dense heads. Purple blooms from June to September. White, June to July, has smooth stems and is shorter.

**Blazing Star** - - A spike-like ornamental with tufted flowers on an elongated spire. Purple to lavender flowers. Blooms August and September.

**Yarrow** - - This flower is often mistaken for fern by the dissected leaves. White, sunflower-like blossoms grow in flat-topped clusters.

**Prairie Rose** - - Our pinkish-white state flower blooms after May 30.

**Common Mullein** - - Densely woolly both on foliage and stems. Basal leaves from a large, compact rosette from which the leafy stem bears compact flowers in a dense yellow spike.

**Golden rod** - - Numerous small, yellow flower heads grouped into compact, branching clusters.

**Ox-eye-Daisy** - - Grows 2 to 5 feet with terminal yellow flower heads. One of many prairie daisies.

**Daisy Fleabane** - - Slender stemmed plant, 1 to 3 feet, with slightly downy stems and flattened, lavender flower heads.

**Jerusalem Artichoke** - - Grows 6 to 10 feet with many yellow flower heads. Roots were cooked and eaten by the Indians and early explorers. Tubers are connected in necklace fashion.

**False Indigo** - - A tall shrub, sometimes 15 feet, with sumac-like foliage and flowers in a dense, spire-like cluster of deep blue each with a single petal. Blooms May to June.

**Ironweed** - - Stiff, erect plants with coarse stems growing 3 to 6 feet. Flower heads form a loose, open cluster at the summit of the stems and branches. Tubular, blue flowers have a fringed effect.

**Rattlesnake Master or Soapweed** - - The only Yucca in Iowa. The stems are partially in the ground. Showy, greenish-white flowers have a soapy appearance. Leaves are erect and pointed.

**Puccoon** - - Densely hairy, 16-inch plants. Roots yield a red dye. Flowers in a one, sided cluster of yellow, funnel-shaped blossoms.

**Blue Vervain** - - Stiff, 4 sided, rough, hairy stemmed plant growing to 6 feet. The slender, terminal, compact flowers are in a spike standing upright like a pencil. Often purple, pink or white as well as blue.

**Milkweed (Common and Whorled)** - - Coarse, stout stemmed plants. Clusters of flowers are in umbels at the axis of the upper leaves. Whorled milkweed has leaves whorled around the stems and flowers. Milky sap in the stems and leaves.

**Joe-Pye-Weed** - - Purplish stems with spreading clusters of small, purple flower heads. Often 10 feet.

**Queen Anne's Lace** - - Greenish-white flowers on a bristly stem, fern-like foliage.

**Cinquefoil** - - A rose with leaves arranged in five-fingered manner. Yellow flowers bloom on a stout stem in spreading clusters.

**Bedstraw** - - This plant has 4-angled stems and minute, yellow flowers in tight clusters, often sprawling.

**Ground Nut** - - Also known as wild bean. A twinning, climbing plant with edible tubers. Pea-like flowers with fruit in bean pods.

**Vetchling** - - Yellow, pea-like, 1-inch flowers become pale purple when mature.

# IOWA PRAIRIES



STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
300 Fourth Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

## IOWA PRAIRIES

Before cultivation changed the fields of blazing star, cone flowers, and rattlesnake master, to corn, oats, and wheat, Iowa was known as the prairie state. Instead of miles of neatly plowed fields, early pioneers found miles of prairie flowers and grasses, some growing higher than a man was tall, extending as far as the eye could see.

For better preservation of these prairies the state has purchased four such areas to help familiarize Iowans with this part of their pioneer heritage. Getting acquainted with prairie life and knowing these plants existed before man even dreamed of America or a state named Iowa, adds much to a man's sense of pleasure in historical knowledge. The best way to enjoy these flowers is to get out and experience this part of nature firsthand. Walk through the bluestem grass; touch the delicate shooting star; and inhale the fresh aroma of prairie clover.

### HAYDEN PRAIRIE

Gently rolling Hayden Prairie, the largest of the Iowa prairies, was purchased in 1945 making it the first prairie acquired by the State. Of its 199 acres, about 140 are upland or dry prairies and the remainder lowland. It is 4 miles west and 4½ miles north of the junction of U.S. 63 and Iowa 9 near Cresco.

During the 78 years this unplowed piece of prairie was in one family, it was cut for hay and occasionally pastured, but otherwise remains as it was in pioneer days.

In mass and from a distance, the blue-gray pasque flower, earliest of the prairie flowers, was often mistaken by pioneers as prairie smoke. According to **Ecology of Native Prairies in Iowa**, by John Moyer, ox-eye daisy, wild aster, yarrow, Coreopsis (tickseed), sunflower, lead plant, wild indigo, prairie clover, willow, quaking aspen and golden Alexander are the principal flora and shrubs to greet Hayden Prairie visitors. There are 134 species representing 36 plant families.

Virgin prairies such as Hayden once covered 5/6 of Iowa but with cultivation, now only the characteristic soil profile remains to mark its boundaries. Owing to fire and, at times, a high water table, trees were unable to establish themselves on these areas even though soil and climate would permit their growth. Forests were limited to areas of deeper soil concentration sheltered from fires.

### KALSOW PRAIRIE

In southeastern Pocahontas County, one mile west and 4½ miles north of Manson, is 110 acre Kalsow Prairie. This full quarter section was purchased by the State in 1948. Most of this prairie is somewhat flat upland and the remainder lowland.

Kalsow has 149 species representing 35 different plant families. A beautiful 80 acre stand of blazing star, in damper soil, makes its appearance in July. Wild asters, ox-eye daisy, compass plant, wild indigo, sunflowers, lead plant, prairie rose, golden Alexander, goldenrod, purple cone flower and blazing star are the principal flowers. These and many others combine to make Kalsow an enchanting, fragrant reminder of pioneer days.

Both Hayden and Kalsow have many of the same species such as redbud, bluegrass, timothy, clover, and morning glory. The chief difference is the more luxuriant development on Hayden.

Bluestem grass is common to all prairies especially when an area has been over-grazed. Managed burning is helpful in controlling bluestem. Prairies can survive burning as the plants were adapted to fires but spraying is fatal. Although other factors have contributed, the ultimate culprit in vanishing prairie flora from Iowa was the plow.

### CAYLER PRAIRIE

Cayler Prairie was purchased as the third prairie preserve in 1960. Relatively undisturbed, except for the annual cutting of wild hay in late August, activities of biologists in the summer, and of hunters in the fall, this tract of unplowed, ungrazed prairie remains much the same as it appeared when the early pioneers first settled in Iowa.

Just west of the Iowa great lakes region in Dickinson County, Cayler Prairie is in close proximity to the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory.

About 75 of its 120 acres are rolling upland prairie and the remainder intermediate and lowland prairie. A few more species are found here due to the potholes where aquatic flowers grow, such as three types of milkweed found only in this area. Rattlebox is unique to both Cayler and Sheeder. Lowland blazing star, an earlier variety with more scattered flowers and stiff goldenrod with its ridged, stiff, flat heads are also

unique to Cayler.

This prairie tract, representative of vegetation of hilly morainal areas, is of special interest for its rich, varied flora and the number and diversity of its flowers and grasses. A total of 265 species and 53 plant families of flowering plants have been found here.

Lead plant heads the list of most common flowers with blazing star, prairie rose, goldenrod, purple prairie clover, yarrow, prairie scouringrush, mugwort, pasque flower, silver-leaf, stiff goldenrod, prairie thistle, white clover, wild pea, yellow cone flower, prairie lettuce, ground cherry, daisy-fleabane, tickseed, yellow sweet clover, false gromwell and prairie violet following in this order.

Upland Cayler is dry and characterized by big bluestem grass while on the intermediate, upland-lowland area, meadow-rue, Culver's root, ox-eye, larkspur and golden Alexander are common. In the slough grass, (moist prairie) community, water-hemlock, pale-spike lobelia and sunflower prevail.

In the sandbar willow community, .2 acres, nettles and catnip are the only invaders because of dense shrublike growth of small trees. In the bullrush-arrowhead-cattail community, one finds rich, varied flora, accounting for many of the plants collected from Cayler Prairie.

### SHEEDER PRAIRIE

Sheeder Prairie is 6 miles west of Guthrie Center on Iowa 44, one mile north and ½ mile west. This 25 acre prairie was acquired in 1961 making it the most recent of the four natural monuments of native vegetation which originally occupied 84 percent of Iowa.

Its closeness to Springbrook State Park, the location of the annual Teachers' Conservation Camp, has made it the object of study by students attending this outdoor summer school.

Outstanding flowers to watch for on Sheeder include butterfly weed, turks cap lily, pasque flower, blazing star and various sunflowers. No native species has entirely disappeared under the disturbance of cultivation, pasturing and mowing; the original flora has been preserved. The prairie has been a closed community excluding most invaders. This stability is increased by the long life-span of many, as only 5 percent are annuals.

The property of Lake Darling State Park was acquired in 1947. Upon completion in late summer of 1950, dedication ceremonies were held September 17th. J.N. "Ding" Darling, for whom the park was named, "set the gate" - a ceremony in which the honored guest closes the valve on the spillway and thus completes the impoundment of the lake's water.

Ding, beloved cartoonist of the Des Moines Register, was always a champion of conservation, and his pen did much to further the cause. He served on many committees that dealt with the preservation of lands, waters, and wildlife.

Each year many visitors use the camping, picnic and beach facilities. Improvements in the coming years will undoubtedly increase the lake's popularity. The camping area called "Cherry Grove", surrounded by a gently sloping terrain, is located on the south shore of the lake. A new bathhouse, complete with showers and flush toilets, is as modern as tomorrow.

The park covers an area of over 1,417 acres. The 400 acre lake gauges its maximum depth at 30 feet near the dam with an average depth of 10 feet. The lake is about 2½ miles long and has nearly 18 miles of shoreline.

With a population of over 68,000 within a radius of 40 miles, Lake Darling is always busy. Fishing is the number one form of recreation, with picnicking, swimming, and boating also very popular.

Fishing has been good right from the start, with channel cat, bullheads and bass being the most sought after. Pan fish are abundant and good sized.

A concessionaire rents boats and motors and sells bait. An excellent concrete boat ramp for the new camping area is at the south end of the lake, and there are public boat docks on the west central and southeast sides with ample parking and a picnic area adjoining.

A private youth center with a large lodge building and cabins provide a good meeting place for school and church groups in the vicinity. This center is NOT within the park except by boat. A road between the park and the town of Brighton is plainly marked, "Lake Darling Youth Center".

The bathing area is well marked by buoys and a substantial parking area is located just above the sandy beach. A small fee is charged for swimming by the concessionaire at the bathhouse.

Lake Darling has a full time park officer who resides just inside the entrance off Highway 78.

## TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING

No reservations are needed, but campers are requested to secure a camping permit from the check-in station upon arrival. Camping fees are as follows:

\$2.50 per night, per unit. Two weeks limit.

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25 cents per person per night.

Facilities furnished are space, water, and sanitary facilities. Showers, flush toilets, and laundry tubs are available at no extra charge to campers. Firewood is available at 25 cents per bundle.

For chaperoned, organized youth groups, 15 cents per person per night is charged. There is a minimum charge of \$2.50 per night in a Modern area.

All fees are subject to State Sales Tax.

## SURROUNDING TOWNS

**BRIGHTON**, 3 miles, from the park, is a town of over 600 population where camping and picnicking supplies, stores, laundromat, and most all churches are available.

**PLEASANT PLAIN**, is four miles southwest of the park.

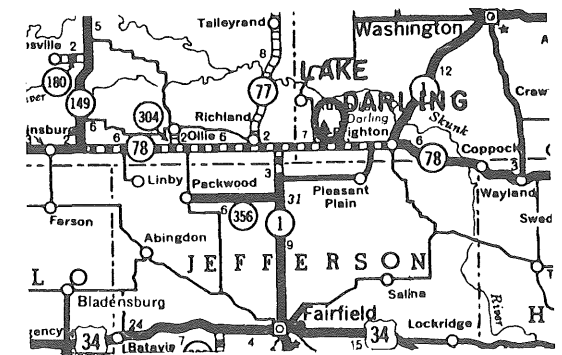
**FAIRFIELD**, southwest on Highway 34 is 17 miles from the park. Conveniences include drive-in movies and golf courses.

**WASHINGTON**, 14 miles northeast on Highway 1, is the county seat.

ADDRESS OF PARK OFFICER  
Lake Darling State Park  
Route 1  
Brighton, Iowa 52540

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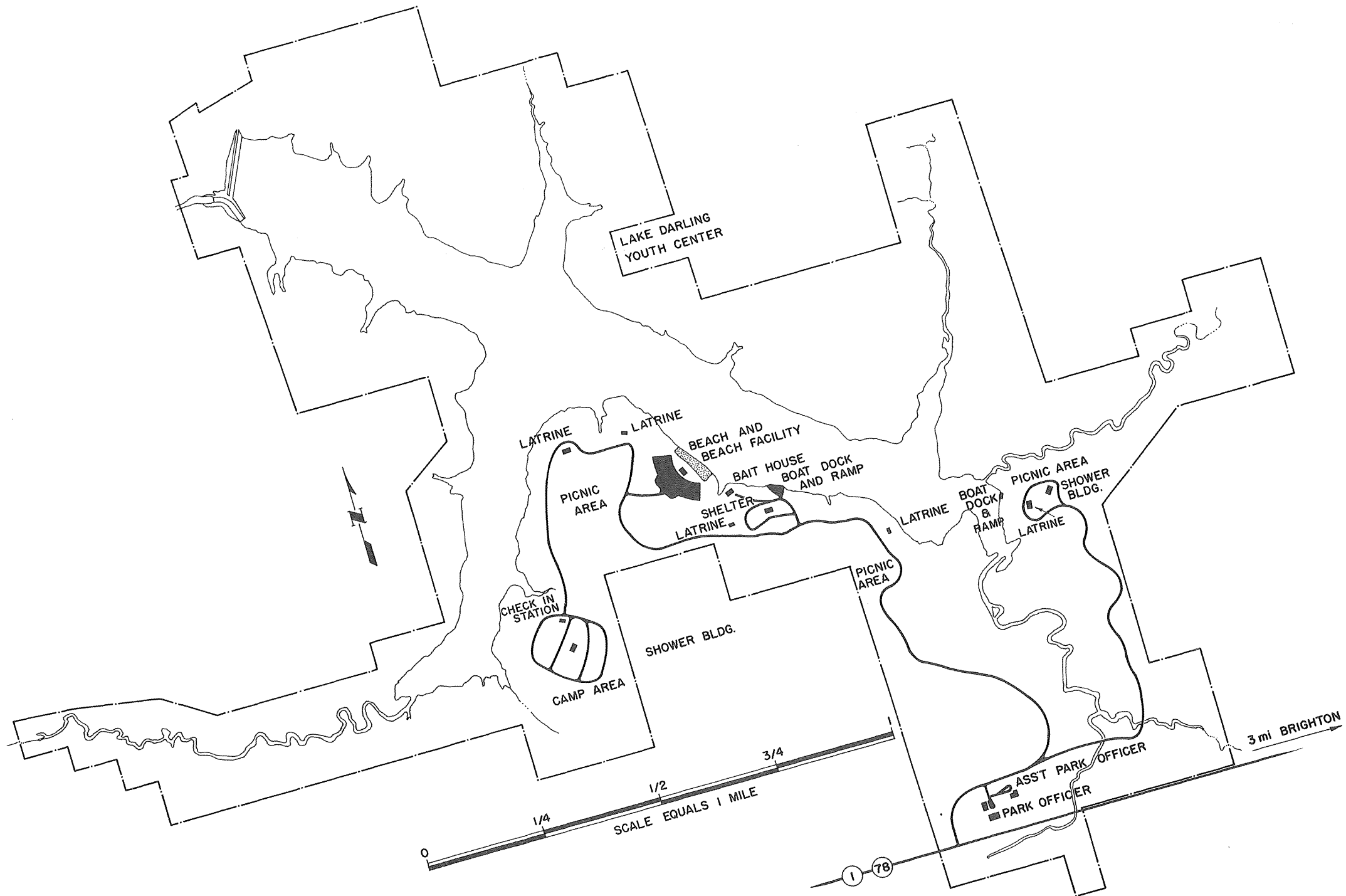
# LAKE DARLING



IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

300 - 4th STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319





Lake Keomah, 366 acres of water and woods, celebrated her silver anniversary in 1960; commemorating 25 years of useful beauty, supplying waters in which to fish, swim and boat, woods in which to camp and picnic, and trails to hike. Its popularity increases every season with as many as 256,000 visitors during the year.

The L-shaped lake contains 83 acres of water and plenty of fine bass, bullheads, catfish, bluegills and crappies.

Between the arms of the lake are the lovely, shaded picnic and camping areas with running water, shower and toilet facilities, plenty of parking, fireplaces, firewood and open space. The beach and bath house are in excellent condition; a concrete boat ramp at the southeast end aids in launching boats.

At the south end, by the silt basin, is a lodge for small groups of campers, for which a small charge is made.

Many think Keomah was named for an Indian tribe. However, its name is derived from the first syllables of the 2 counties that jointly helped to finance the project—Keokuk and Mahaska Counties—thus, Keo-Mah.

A part of the southern side of the lake was reserved by the founders to be developed by private individuals. As a result, many beautiful summer homes dot this side of the lake.

In the summertime the open water, grasslands, deep woods and swamp-like areas offer a large variety of cover for all types of wildlife. Careful hikers along the park's scenic trails may catch a glimpse, or even a good long look, at a row of bull frogs blowing and puffing bass solos just short of the foot bridge at the north-west end of the lake, a great blue heron wading in the shallows spearing minnows and tiny leopard frogs, a covey of bobwhite quail rising at the approach of human footsteps while a hen pheasant, almost tame, walks sedately over to a dusty spot in the trail and rolls in the dirt to rid herself of mites.

Not far from the dam, a fawn leaves the woods and stares curiously into your binoculars until a fat doe, looking very maternal, comes out and nuzzles her child back to safety. Rabbits, squirrels, and all kinds of bird life, abound.

Summer is great, on or off the water, but you should see Keomah in the fall when the lake is surrounded by a riot of color. The many varieties of trees and shrubs make every bit as fine a setting as the new foliage and blossoms of—

— Spring —Spring!! What a season to visit Lake Keomah — when the crappies hit anything, bluegills bite like crazy, and bass — well, seeing is believing.

Winter? Sure there's fun in the ice and snow. The park officer keeps a part of the ice cleared of snow for skating, and ice fishing is great sport for all ages.

Any season is a good season at Lake Keomah.

TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING

No reservations are needed, but campers are requested to secure a camping permit from the check-in station upon arrival. Camping rates are as follows: \$2.50 per night, per unit. Two weeks limit.

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25 cents per person per night.

ORGANIZED CAMPING

For organized groups such as scouts using the Youth Camp area a charge of 50 cents per person, per night is made. There is a \$10.00 minimum. For adult camp groups, 50 cents per person must be paid, plus the \$25.00 for the use of the shelter.

\$25.00 per day per each 100 people is charged for the use of the lodge (enclosed shelter). All equipment for camping must be furnished.

All fees subject to State Sales Tax.

NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Oskaloosa, 6 miles west of the park. Population: 11,000

Sigourney, 20 miles east of the park. Population 2,000

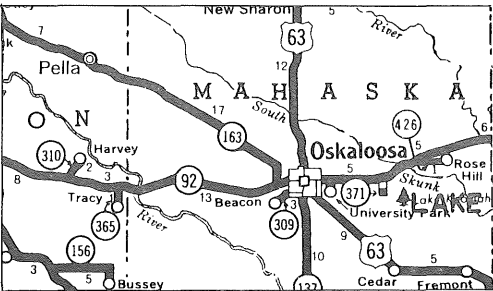
Pella, 35 miles northwest of the park. The home of Central College and the annual Tulip Festival.

Rose Hill, Cedar, Wright, Fremont, and Delta are the smaller towns around the park, with shopping centers and churches.

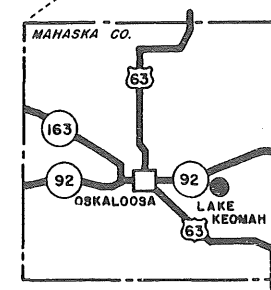
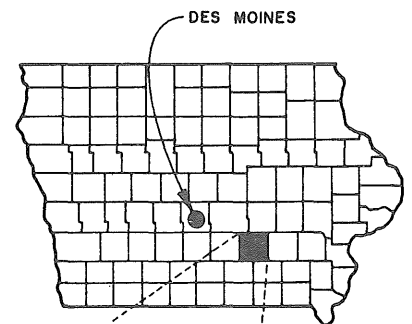
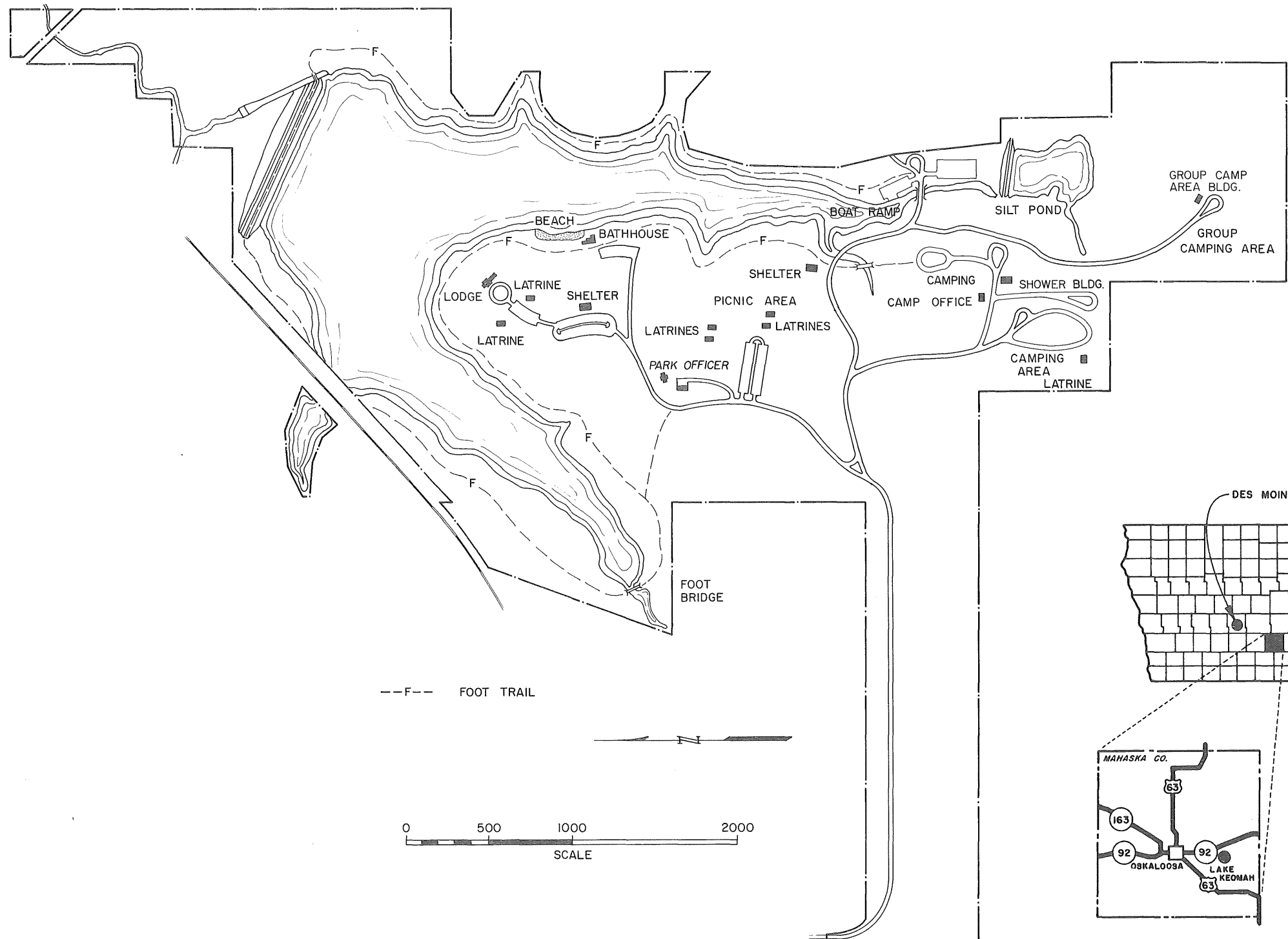
Knoxville and Red Rock Dam are only 25 miles to the west on Highway 92.

ADDRESS PARK OFFICER  
Lake Keomah State Park  
Route 1  
Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577

LAKE KEOMAH



IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
300 - 4th STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319





Lacey-Keosauqua is one of Iowa's largest state parks. Among its 1,653 acres of flowers and shrub filled woods may be found evidence that it has been used as a park for thousands of years, and no wonder. Ancient Indian tribes must have found its tree-covered slopes, limestone gorges, cliffs, and open meadows just as relaxing as do modern campers and picnickers.

The great horseshoe bend of the Des Moines River, extending for two miles along the northern boundary, offers beautiful vistas and panoramas when viewed from overlooks at different points in the park.

Nestled in one of its many valleys is an artificial lake of thirty acres that provides the summer visitor with bathing, boating, fishing and beauty.

Nature trails abound and the wildlife sheltered here includes deer, raccoon, opossum, gray squirrel, red fox and every species of birdlife found anywhere in the midwest, as well as some rare birds that seem to reside only in this park.

Herbaceous plants, ferns of many kinds, shrubs of all varieties, and magnificent trees, many of them over 200 years old, make hiking an endless delight.

A lovely and very exacting golf course is also within the park's boundaries. Its rough consists, in part, of a species of cottony prairie grass found only in this area of the state.

The formal opening of Keosauqua State Park took place on October 27, 1921. Six years later a huge boulder overlooking the Des Moines River above Ely's Ford was inscribed as follows:

"This boulder is dedicated to Major John Fletcher Lacey, eminent lawyer, statesman, soldier, and citizen, for his constructive work in conservation, by the Iowa Conservation Association, August 15, 1926." Therefore the name, Lacey-Keosauqua.

Ely's Ford, on the north side of the park, was the river crossing for the Mormon Trail and the pioneers from the south side of the river before the bridges were built. The origin of the present town of Keosauqua goes back to 1839.

Within the memory of many people of Van Buren County, are the woodsmen who resided on the southern slope of one of the park's ridges and made their entire living by cutting and selling timber. Ruins of their cabins may be found by careful hikers on the right trails today.

The nearby towns of Keosauqua and Bentonport hold much historical interest. Dams, locks, old steamboat landings and power mills (or what is left of them) along the Des Moines River, recall the past when the river was a highway to the interior of Iowa.

Waterfowl of all kinds can be seen on the river and lake and are hunted, in season, outside the park. Fishing is permitted by licensed visitors at all times and tales of big catfish and flatheads caught in the Des Moines River are numerous. Panfish can also be caught.

## TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING

No reservations are necessary, but campers are asked to secure a camping permit from the park office upon arrival.

Fees: \$2.50 or \$3.00 per day, per unit. There is a 2 week limit.

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25 cents per persons per night.

For chaperoned, organized youth groups, 15 cents per person per night is charged. There is a minimum charge of \$2.50 per night in a modern area.

Facilities include water, sanitary facilities, showers, and electrical outlets.

## MODERN OVERNIGHT CABINS

Rates for a maximum of four persons. The rental of cabins does not entitle tenant to free use of beach or boating privileges. Arrangements may be made with the concessionaire, however. Electricity is included.

Cabins will be rented on a daily rate basis when available but reservations are for a minimum of one week.

Daily Rate . . . . . \$10.00 per cabin  
Weekly Rate . . . . . \$50.00 per cabin

## ENCLOSED SHELTER

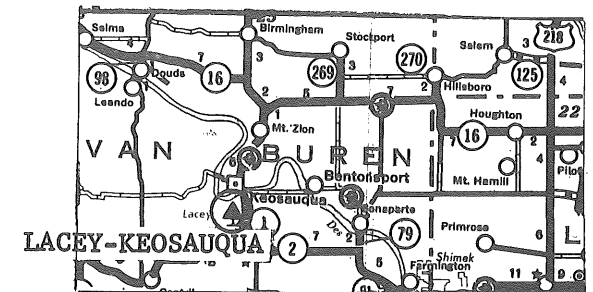
The enclosed shelter is available upon reservation with the park officer for a fee of \$15.00 per each 100 people.

All fees subject to State Sales Tax.

ADDRESS PARK OFFICER  
Lacey-Keosauqua State Park  
Box 398  
Keosauqua, Iowa 52565

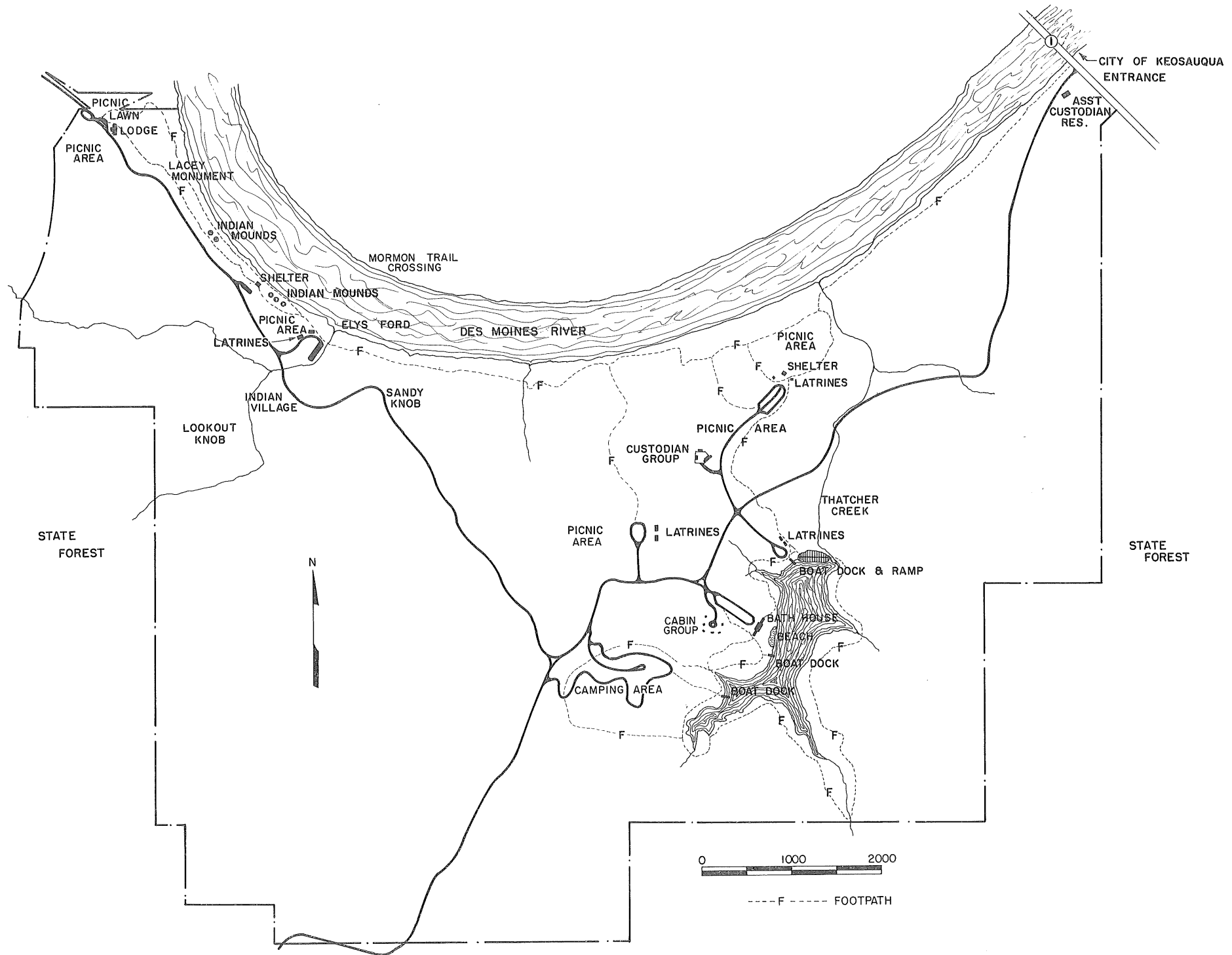
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# LACEY-KEOSAUQUA



IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

300 - 4th STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319



Lake Macbride, covering 950 acres is the state's largest man-made water area. Located in Johnson County, four miles west of Solon, the park's main entrance may be reached by Highway-382 leading north-west from Solon or from U.S. Highway-30 on a blacktop road through Ely south to Iowa-382. Excellent roads lead to the park's picnic areas, campgrounds and overlooks—all with adequate parking space.

The park officer's residence is just inside the entrance. From there the road branches south and west to a campground and east to boat ramps, the supervised beach, and bathhouse.

Another boat ramp is located on the north shore of the lake off Highway-382. Sailboat buoys and boat docks are also located here.

Nature trails for ardent hikers wind for miles around the west end of the lake. All trails in this park are filled with the sights and sounds of Iowa at its best, and some that are seldom seen elsewhere in the state. For instance, the stands of evergreens in which long-eared and the rare saw-whet owls rest on fall and winter days.

It is possible to cross the dam by foot to the scenic spillway with its multi-colored rocks. One area of the Coralville Reservoir can also be reached by this trail.

Fishing is great, and bird watchers thrill to the sight of every song bird native to the region. Many species of shore birds inhabit the area, and waterfowl abound in the spring and fall. There is much good hunting in the Coralville Reservoir area.

From the southwest edge of Solon, a county road is used to reach the inside of the lake, between its two "arms". This road heads straight west from Solon and curves south toward the lower leg of the lake. A left turn at the end of this road follows the lake shore to a campground, picnic area, boat ramp, and assistant park officer's residence.

Continuing between the arms of Lake Macbride on the road from Solon, a turn to the south west leads to the Central Shop of the State Conservation Commission. At the shop, the signs used in Iowa's state parks are made, and much of the cabinet work and furniture repair is done for the Commission's main office and departments all over the state.

Private cottages, many of them palatial and occupied all year long, line the shores of the peninsula across the lake from the dam.

## TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING

No reservations are needed but campers are requested to secure a camping permit, and trailer camping fees are as follows:

\$2.00 per night, per unit on the east area where there is no modern shower building.

\$2.50 per night, per unit on the west main area. Facilities include showers and trailer sewage disposal. (\$3.00 per night for area with electrical outlets.)

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25¢ per person per night.

Space, water and sanitary facilities are supplied. Firewood is available at the camp office for 25 cents per bundle.

Overnight camping for organized groups such as scouts, etc., can be arranged. The rate is 15 cents per day, per person. A minimum charge of \$2.00 per night in a non-modern area. A minimum charge of \$2.50 per night in a modern area. All prices are subject to state sales tax.

## IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

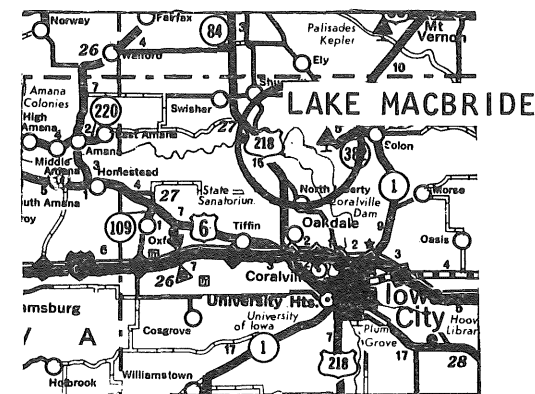
Solon, four miles from the park.

Iowa City, home of the State University of Iowa, is 14 miles south of Macbride on State Highway - 1.

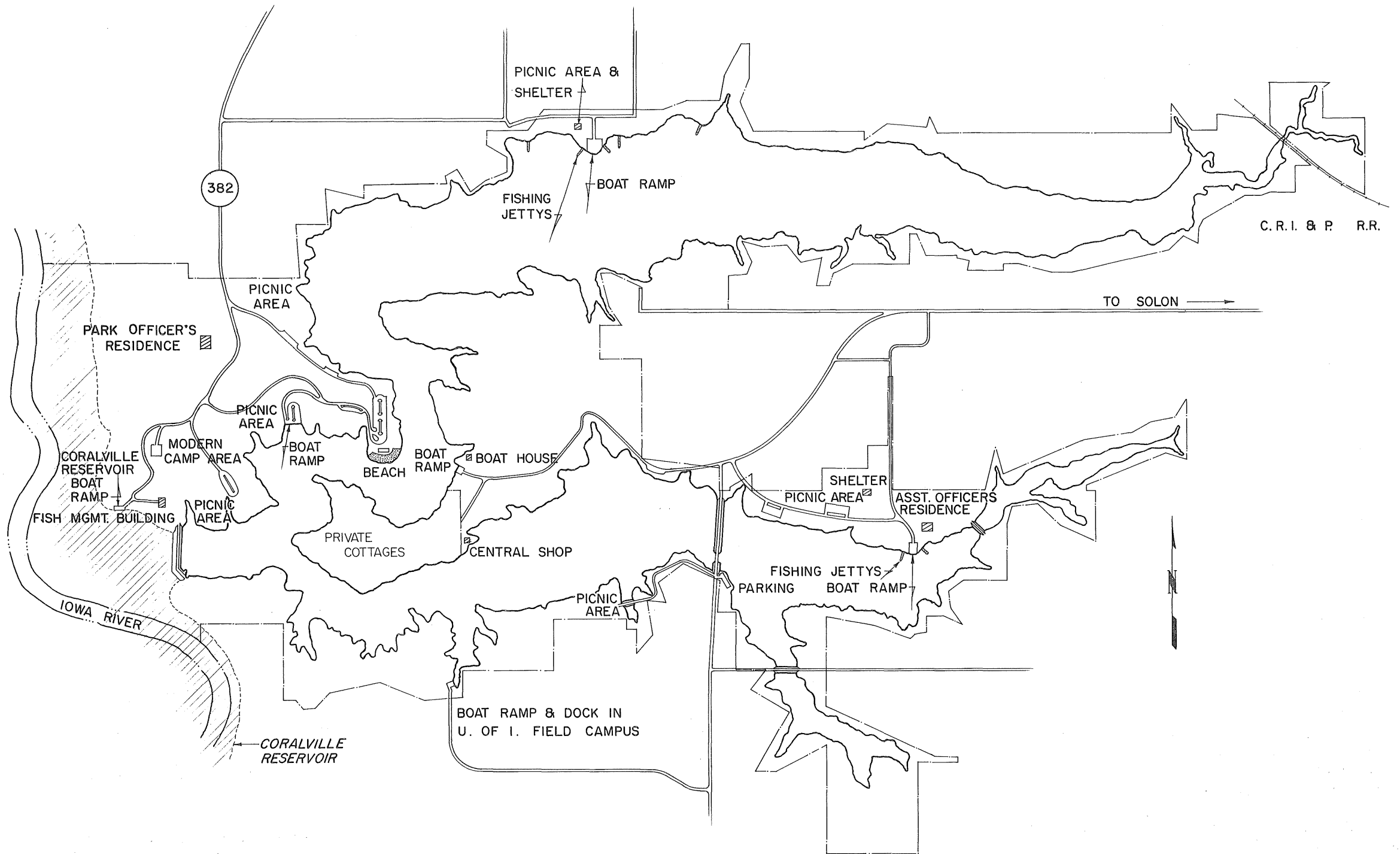
Cedar Rapids, 16 miles northwest of the park is the second largest city in Iowa.

Coralville Reservoir, the spillway at Macbride flows into this reservoir. It extends up the Iowa River from 17 to 27 river miles from the dam. It was built by the Corps of Army Engineers and is under their jurisdiction. Recreation includes boating, hunting, fishing, swimming, camping and picnicking. The dam, just south of Turkey Creek, is a sight well worth seeing. It can be reached by a county road that turns north a few miles from Iowa City, off Highway 1.

# LAKE MACBRIDE



PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS  
IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
300 4TH STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319



Lake of Three Fires, 125 acres of beautiful, blue water, is more than a mile long and half a mile wide, extending into scenic inlets ideal for fishing and boating. A sandy beach invites sun bathing and is equipped with chairs. A large, supervised swimming area with rafts and diving boards will accommodate swimmers. Refreshments and bathhouse are available.

In the 642 acres surrounding the lake are picturesque woodlands for hiking, bird watching, and photography, and three areas for camping and picnicking nestled beneath shady oaks and elms. Each area is within a stones throw of the shoreline and has plenty of parking space. The first is for picnicking with hundreds of tables, dozens of fireplaces and a very fine shelter house with a huge fireplace of its own.

The second area, for camping in tents or trailers, is located just north of the picnic area and is equipped with electrical outlets. Recently developed is the third and northern most camping area. In between the two camping areas are six modern family cabins that sleep four comfortably. All of these facilities have running water.

There are three concrete boat ramps for those who bring their own boats, one near the beach and one at each camping area. Lake of Three Fires is an artificial or man-made lake over 100 acres and boaters may use outboard motors up to six horsepower. Boats and motors are for rent and fishing supplies are available from a concession near the beach.

The summer season is best at Three Fires, but any nice spring or fall day will see hundreds of picnickers, hikers, shutter-bugs and, of course, fishermen. Winter, too, has its attractions.

Legend has it that when Indians roamed the prairies of Iowa, great council meetings were held in what is now Taylor County. This was centrally located in the favorite hunting grounds of the wandering tribes and when a meeting was to take place, runners were sent out to the nations concerned to tell them the approximate location of the rendezvous. The exact location was known by the smoke of three fires that said, "This is where it's going to be held."

The fires were usually built atop the highest hill nearby, and from which all points of the compass could be observed. There is such a high point near the park and the valley that is now covered by the waters of the Lake of Three Fires that it is thought to have been the gathering place for many an ancient pow-wow, council or religious festival.

Park visitors who know of this legend tell us that it is very easy to imagine the sound of tomtoms and the shuffle of dancing feet when the wind is blowing gently off the lake on nights when there is a full moon. They say it's not a bit annoying, in fact, they declare, it's the world's best cure for insomnia.

TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING

No reservations are needed, but campers are requested to secure a camping permit from the park office upon arrival. Camping fees are \$2.50 or \$3.00 per night, per unit. Two weeks limit.

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25 cents per person per night.

Outdoor cooking facilities, modern restrooms and running water are provided.

Firewood is available at the camp ground for 25 cents per bundle.

For chaperoned, organized youth groups, 15 cents per person per night is charged. There is a minimum charge of \$2.50 per night in a modern area.

CABINS

Each of the six cabins will accommodate four persons comfortably. Rates per cabin:

Daily rate: ..... \$10.00 per cabin  
Weekly rate: ..... \$50.00 per cabin

50 cents per day additional charge for all over four persons. Cabins are equipped with refrigerator, stove, cooking utensils and dishes. Renters must provide bedding, pillows, linens. Rental of cabins does not entitle tenant to free use of beach or boating facilities. During June, July and August reservations made per week only. Reservations must be accompanied by \$10.00 deposit.

All fees are subject to State Sales Tax.

SHELTER HOUSE

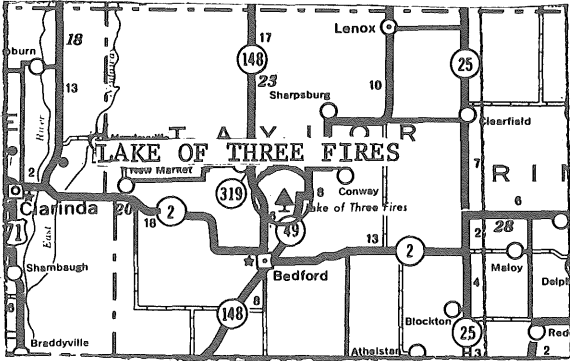
Fireplace, electricity, tables and running water are provided. No reservations may be made for the shelter house. First come, first served: no charge.

SURROUNDING TOWNS

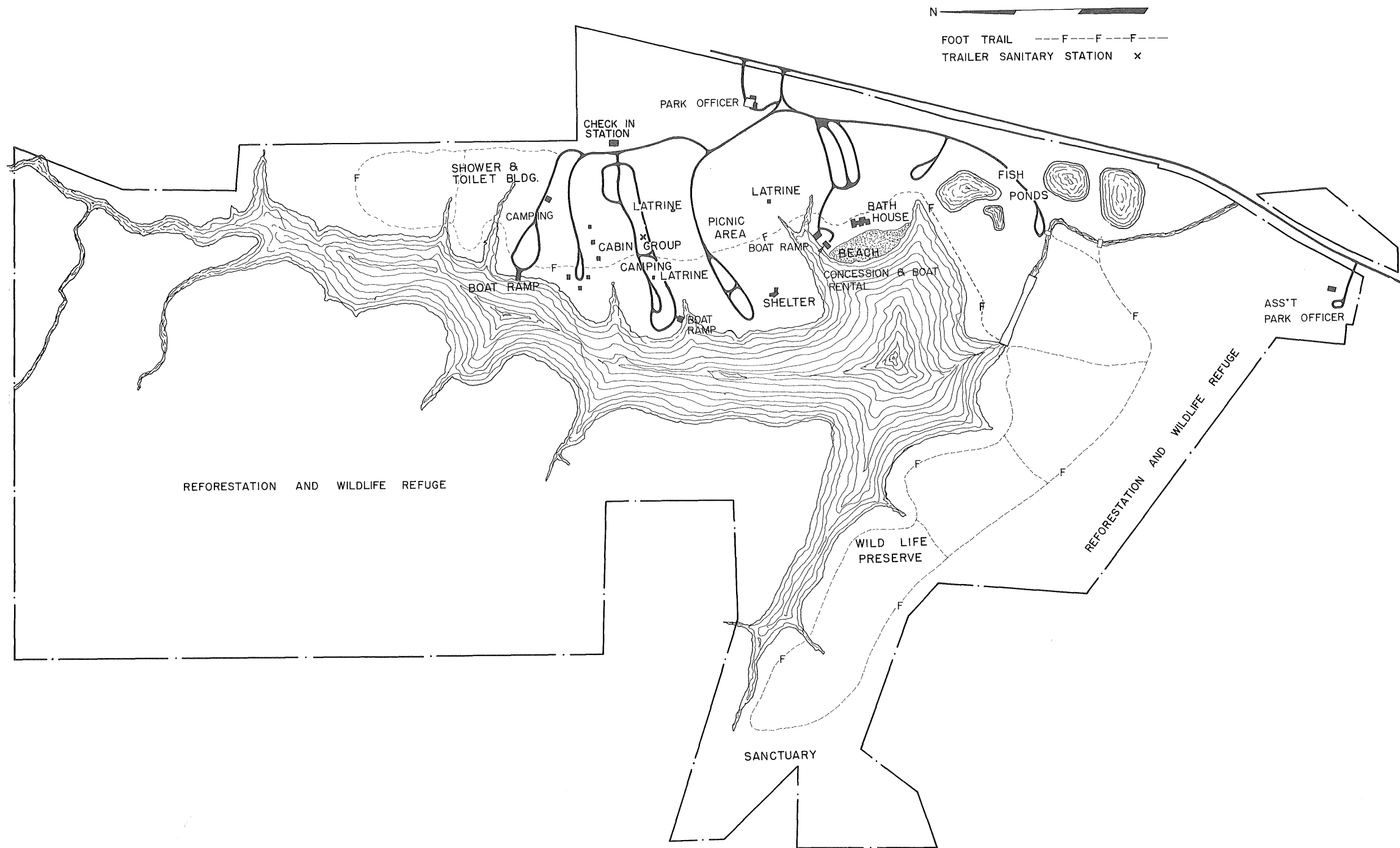
Bedford — 3 miles. Groceries, gas, and churches available.  
Clarinda — 18 miles. Shopping, most churches, movies.

PARK OFFICER'S ADDRESS  
Lake of Three Fires State Park  
Route No. 1  
Bedford, Iowa 50833

LAKE OF THREE FIRES



IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
300 - 4th STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319





The Ledges holds great interest also for the naturalist in its wide variety of plant life. Some of the largest specimens of trees in the state are found here including many giant maples, cottonwoods and ash. Flowers and shrubs of many varieties grow in abundance, and some rare species such as the closed gentian, walking ferns, pussy-toes, and the rare showy orchis. Juneberry, ninebark, blue beech, and nanny-berry are just a few of the Ledges' small trees and shrubs. Bird life is bountiful and varied owing to the excellent cover and food potential of the plant life.

The Des Moines River, flowing through the west edge of the park, offers fine fishing; and an excellent boat ramp provides easy access.

For nearly a century the Ledges has been a favored picnic area. Indians used it before that for their councils and pow-wows. It was dedicated November 9th, 1924, as one of our first state parks. The following bit of poetry adorned the official program of the ceremony:

*Here the massive, sculptured ledges  
Towering to the sloping land,  
Represent a Coal-age valley,  
Filled with ancient river sand.  
In the brooks are sand and boulders,  
Residues from glacial clay,  
Telling stories of the ages  
That have moved along the way.  
Say the ledges to their lovers,  
"As you carve a picnic ham,  
Please preserve my gems of beauty;  
Keep me ever as I am."*

Just outside the park, within easy hiking distance, is the Conservation Commission's Wildlife Exhibit Station, well supplied with wildlife. It is not uncommon to spot cars from every state in the nation at the Exhibit where native birds and animals of Iowa are cared for, studied, and displayed.

There are some very interesting Indian mounds also within hiking distance of the park. In the park itself there is an Indian Council Ledge where, according to legend, chiefs and warriors of the Sioux, and later the Sac and Fox (now Mesquakie) and other tribes gathered to boast of their wars, adventures, and loves. A guard was placed on the cliff that is known as Sentinel Rock, a spot that commands a view for miles in every direction, to watch for enemies.

The Camp Fire Girls' Camp Hantesa lies just to the north of the park. Camp Mitigwa, the Boy Scout area, and the State 4-H Camp are to the south of the Ledges.

TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING

All camping permits are issued by the park officer. The Commission has fixed the fees for tent and trailer camping as follows:  
Modern Area . . . . . \$2.50 per night per basic unit  
Modern Area W-Elect. . . . . \$3.00 per night per basic unit

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25 cents per person per night.

For chaperoned, organized youth groups, 15 cents per person per night is charged. There is a minimum charge of \$2.50 per night in a modern area.

All prices quoted are subject to State Sales Tax.  
Facilities furnished are space, water and sanitary facilities. Firewood is available at 25 cents at the park.

SURROUNDING TOWNS

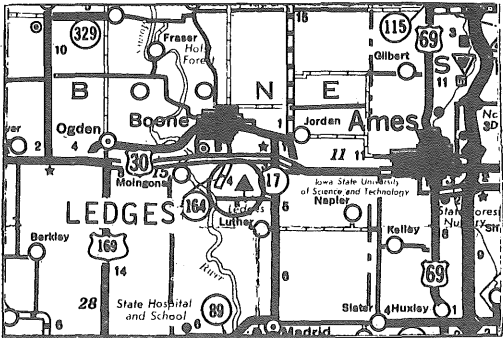
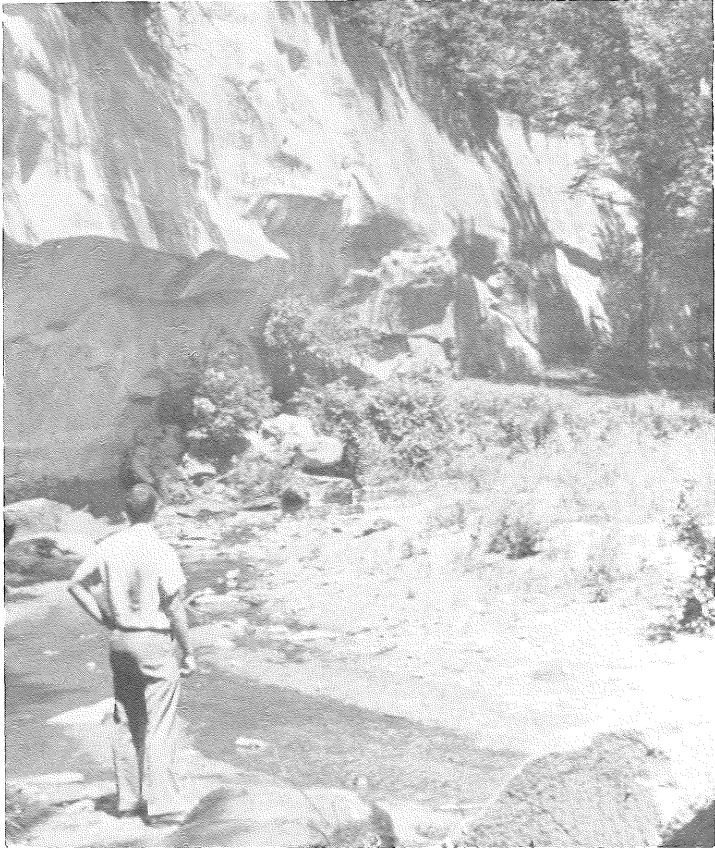
Boone, six miles from the park on paved highway, provides everything visitors to the Ledges might want during their stay: churches of all faiths, golf courses, movies, and a shopping center. Population: 12,468.

Luther, Five miles from the Ledges, has a store and churches.  
Madrid, 13 miles south of the park, is an old railroad town well worth visiting for its scenic and historic value.

PARK OFFICER'S ADDRESS  
Ledges State Park  
Madrid, Iowa 50156

CP-A39979 5/71

LEDGES



IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
300 4th STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

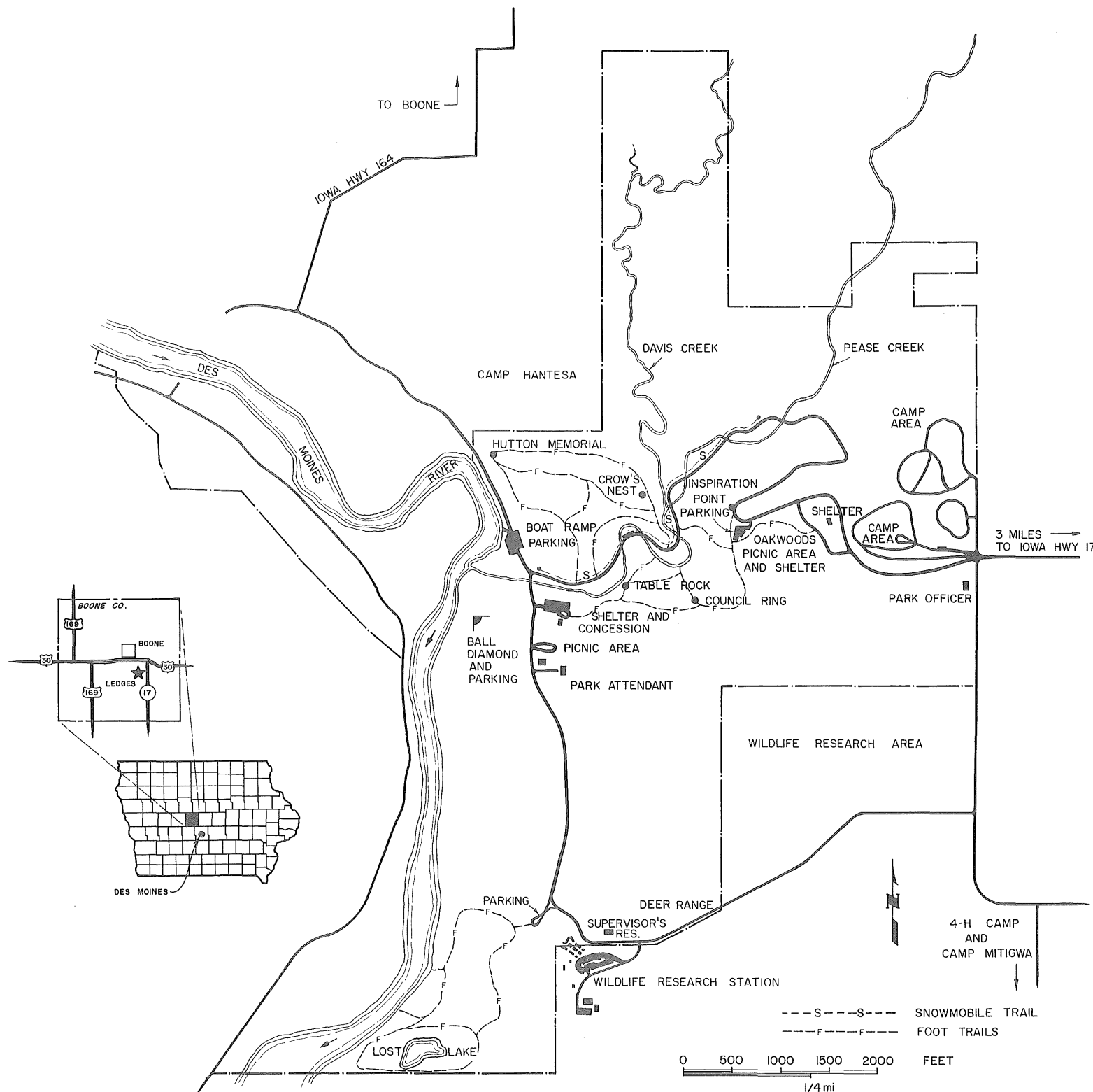


The Conservation Commission's Wildlife Exhibit adjoining the Ledges has over 50 enclosures containing game birds and animals. These include the river otter and beaver, several exotic species of pheasants, and a display of native snakes. The waterfowl pool contains the largest number and most outstanding variety of species that has ever been available in Iowa.

Organized groups who desire guided tours of the exhibit may make reservations by writing to the Wildlife Research and Exhibit Station, Ledges, Boone, Iowa. Reservations cannot be accepted for Saturday and Sunday dates.

The Ledges, in Worth Township, Boone County, is central Iowa's most popular playground. Visitors by the thousands enjoy its fine picnic areas from early spring until late fall, and hikers are on the trails year 'round. The natural beauty and historical interest of the park and surroundings make it the ideal spot for a Sunday or holiday outing.

Outstanding among its 900 acres of scenic attractions are the unusual rock formations from which the name is derived. The "ledges" are sandstone walls from 25 to 75 feet high. These miniature cliffs border Pease Creek, named in honor of one of the prominent pioneer settlers in that vicinity. Trails lead up and down steep slopes to scenic overlooks that offer breath-taking views so memorable that many carry cameras to record the beauty.





Adjacent to the swimming beach is a concession where meals, sandwiches, candy, ice cream and pop, as well as boat and motor rentals and several kinds of bait may be obtained. Hunting and fishing licenses may be obtained from the park custodian.

Persons who wish to meet in groups may reserve the park lodge (enclosed shelter) for \$15.00 plus tax on a daily basis. No charges are made for electricity or fuel on lodge rentals.

Several nature trails crisscross the heavily wooded park area. In addition to native cottonwoods, such introduced species as maple, jack pine, spruce, elm, black locust, white ash, poplar, box elder and willow may be found within the park.

Flowering dogwood, diamond willow, sumac, wild rose, violets and daisies make Lewis and Clark's wooded glens and flood plains come alive with color. White-tail deer, beaver, mink, coyote and fox are but a few of the many animals found on the area.

Lewis and Clark State Park is named after two men who were responsible for mapping and exploring western North American. The park is opposite the spot where Lewis and Clark camped while on their way to the Northwest.

Meriwether Lewis, private secretary to President Thomas Jefferson, and Captain William Clark of the United States Army, were commissioned by President Jefferson in 1804. They headed an expedition into the Northwest to explore the territory west of the Missouri River.

With 26 men and supplies these two men lead their expedition up the Missouri River from St. Louis on May 21, 1804. On July 18, 1804, the party reached a point at the present southwest corner of Iowa.

On August 9, 1804, members of the Lewis and Clark expedition arrived in the present day park area and spent several days in the region exploring and making observations on the geographical conditions, plants and animals they found. The explorers learned that the Petite Rivere de Cuoues, now called the Little Sioux River, drains the Lac d' Esprit (Spirit Lake).

## CAMPING RATES AND REGULATIONS

All camping permits are issued by the park officer. The Commission has fixed the fees for tent and trailer camping as follows:

Modern Area . . . . . \$2.50 Per Night Per Basic Unit  
Modern Area W-Elect. . . . . \$3.00 Per Night Per Basic Unit

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged \$.25 cents per person per night.

Camping fees do not include use of boat and beach facilities.

Facilities furnished are space, water and sanitary facilities. Firewood is available at 25c at the park.

All prices quoted are subject to State Sales Tax.

For chaperoned, organized youth groups, 15c per person per night is charged. There is a minimum charge of \$2.50 per night in a Modern area.

## NEARBY TOWNS

Onawa, Monona County seat with a population of 3176, is located one mile south and five miles east of the park on State Highway 175. Camping and picnicking supplies may be obtained there.

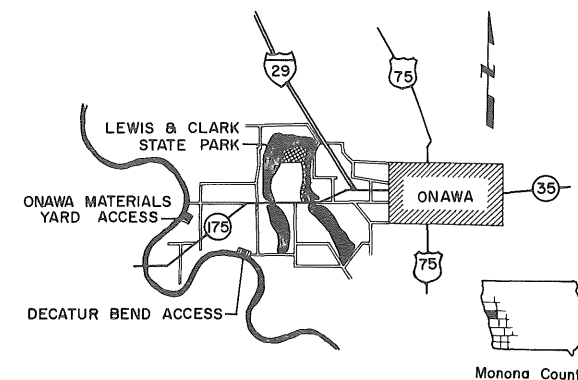
Blencoe, 286 people, is five miles east and seven miles south of the park on U. S. Highway 75.

Turin has over 100 residents and is 12 miles due east of Lewis and Clark State Park on State Highway 175.

Sioux City and Council Bluffs, larger cities near the area, are short drives of 41 and 65 miles, respectively, on Interstate 29 from the State Park.

Park Officer's Address:  
LEWIS & CLARK STATE PARK  
ONAWA, IOWA 51040

# LEWIS & CLARK STATE PARK



IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
300 - 4TH STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

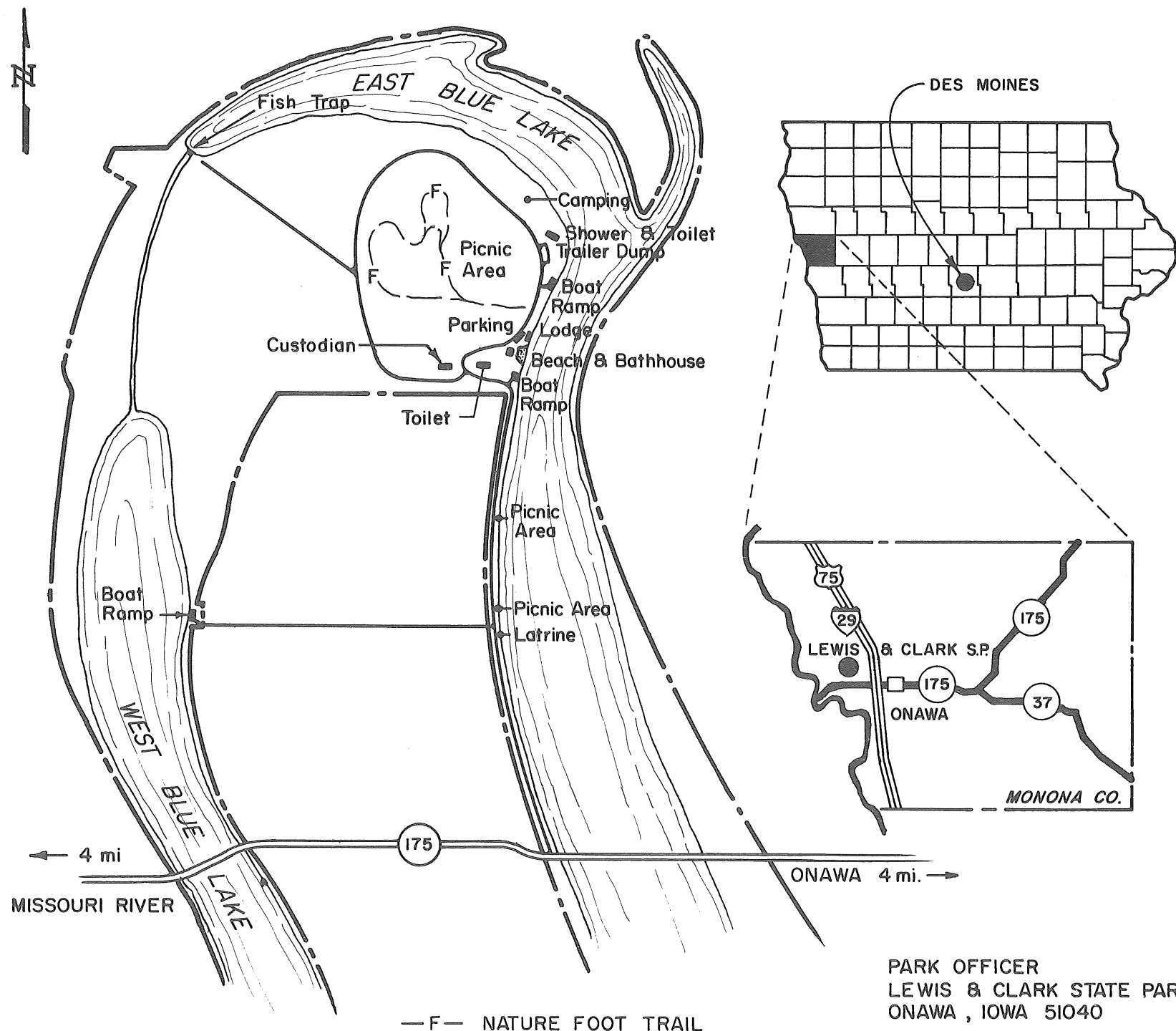
Lewis and Clark State Park is located on an oxbow lake formed by the meanderings of the Missouri River on Iowa's western border in Monona County. The park consists of 286 acres and lies adjacent to Blue Lake covering 983 acres.

When Lewis and Clark visited the region, this lake bed was a part of the main channel of the river. Since then, the river has changed its course to the west, leaving a natural Iowa lake in the shape of an oxbow. Land for the 286 acre park was first acquired in 1924 and lies two miles west and one mile north of the Interstate 29 and State Highway 175 interchange.

Explorers Lewis and Clark of Colonial fame were undoubtedly the first white men to see this area. Today, over 200,000 people visit the park each year. Iowans and tourists from across the nation come to enjoy the many fine recreational facilities as well as to see the camp site area and monument commemorating the visit of Meriwether Lewis, William Clark and the 26 members of their expedition.

Blue Lake provides a great variety of water recreation from swimming at a supervised beach, water skiing, pleasure boating to fishing. Since Blue Lake is a naturally formed body of water, no restrictions are placed on the size of outboard motors permitted. Known as a good bass lake, Blue Lake offers walleye, northern, crappie and bluegill fishing. Snowmobiling is a popular winter activity on the lake.

Nearly three miles of park roads provide access to two boat ramps, bathhouse and showers, 18 acres of camping area equipped with 75 electrical outlets, and 35 acres of picnic grounds complete with shelters, tables, fireplaces and drinking water.



Maquoketa Caves became a state park in 1921 but there is plenty of evidence that the caves were used by sight-seers long before that. Not only are initials and names carved in the limestone walls of the caves and cliffs that date back to 1835, but Indian pottery, arrowheads, spears, etc., show that these caverns may have been home to tribes who lived hundreds - - perhaps thousands - - of years ago.

When first discovered by a hunting party before the Civil War, the cave ceilings were hung with beautiful, milk-white stalactites with corresponding stalagmites rising from the floor. Souvenir hunters have robbed the caves of their rarest beauty, yet much of the unique, attractive and fascinating formation still remains.

Electric lights are strung thru the major caves and pathways are easily followed. Some of the other caverns, like the "Hernando's Hideaway", "Ice Cave", "Rainy Day", "Window" and "Shinbone" necessitate a good flashlight; as does "Bat Passage" and the exciting "Steel Gate Passage", which open off the main cave. The park officer will be glad to tell you about any of the caves, most of which are plainly marked by signs.

Space does not permit a further description of the many attractions of this wonderland where you may camp and picnic to your heart's content. Rates for camping are on the back of this folder.

## RATES

### TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING

All reservations must be made through the Park Officer.

The Commission has fixed the fees for tent and trailer camping as follows:

Two dollars per night per unit.

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25¢ per person per night.

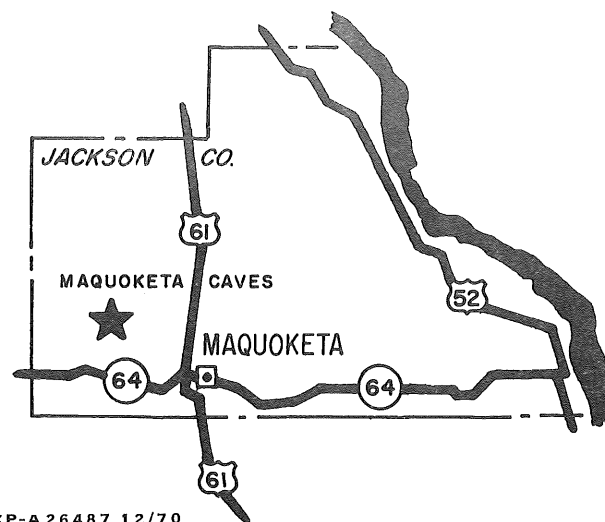
Facilities furnished are space, firewood, water and sanitary facilities.

Camping is limited to two weeks only.

No charge is made for the use of the picnic areas. Fireplaces, tables and running water are provided. Firewood is available from the park officer at 25¢ per bundle.

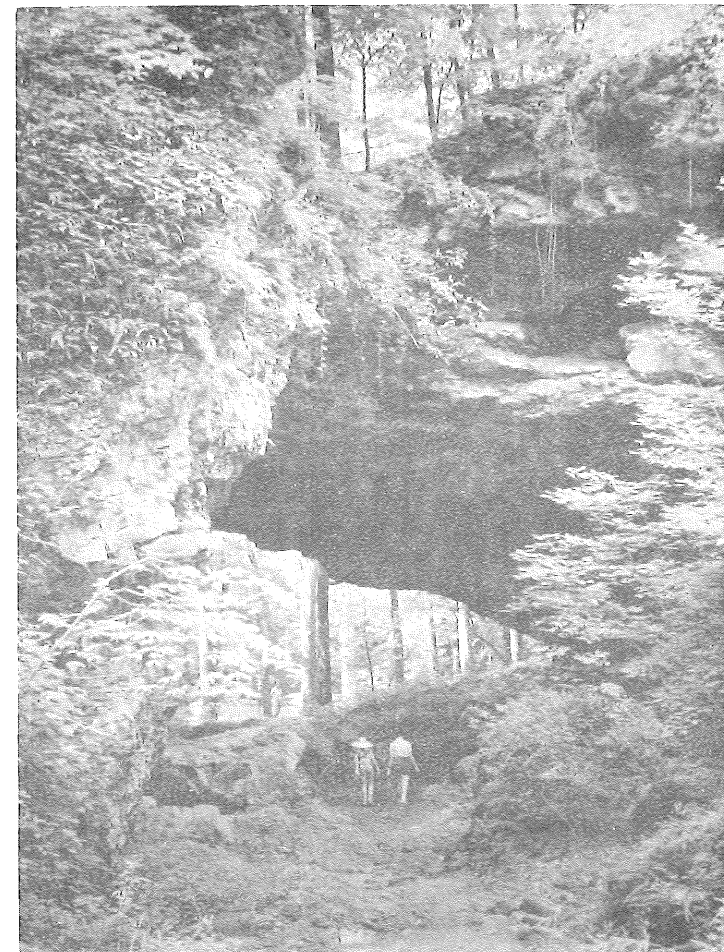
### NEIGHBORING TOWNS

The city of Maquoketa, 6 miles, has every convenience - - churches of all faiths, stores, laundromats, movies, etc.



CP-A 26487 12/70

# MAQUOKETA CAVES



*As you tread the winding trails of this wonderland of caves and arches of stone, it would not be at all surprising to suddenly come upon a mad hatter of Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum - - or Alice herself hiding behind a yew tree or a gnarled cedar.*

### PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

State Conservation Commission

300 4TH STREET

DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

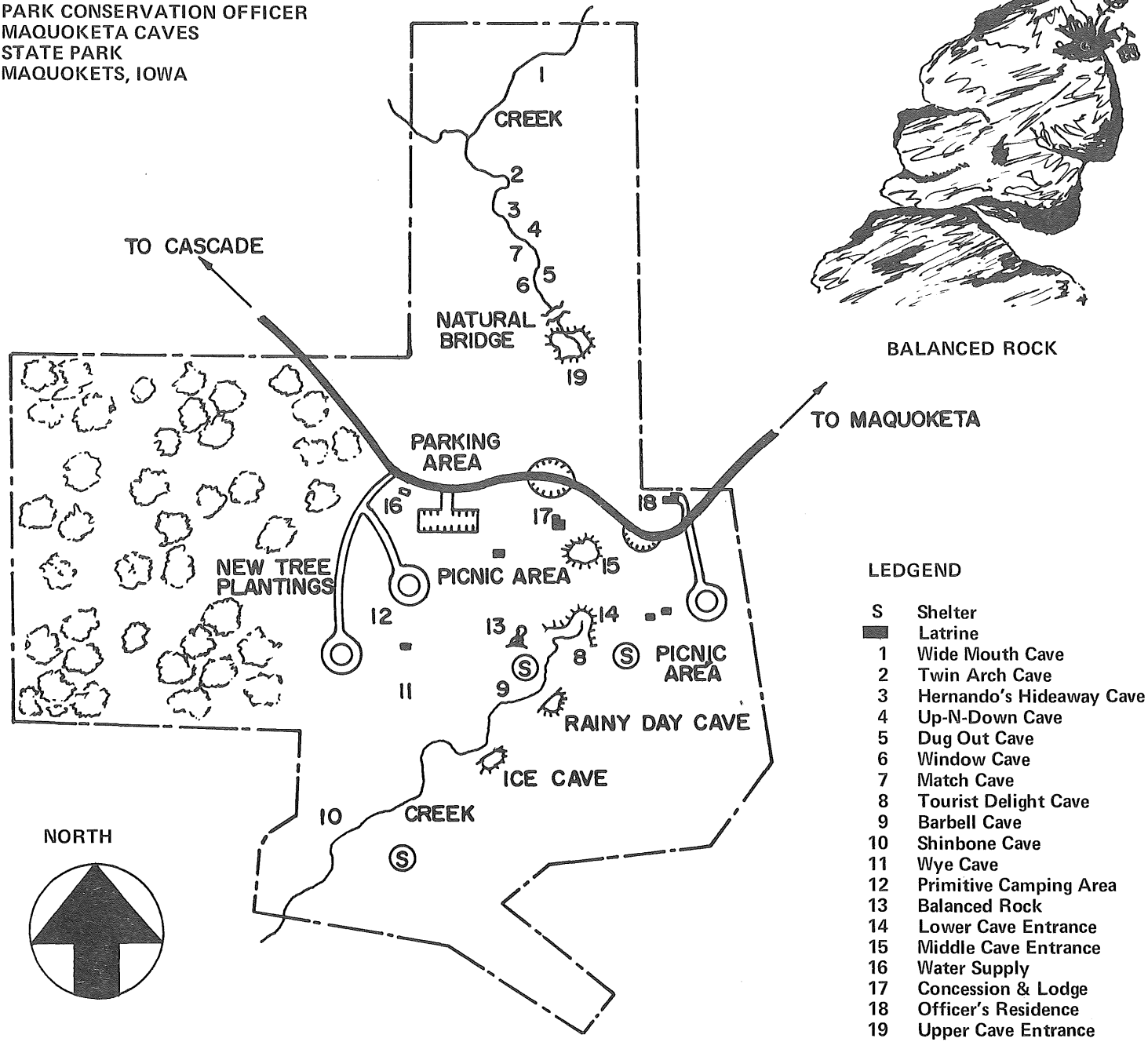
Maquoketa Caves State Park is in Jackson County six miles northwest of the city of Maquoketa on State Highway 130. The park contains only .37 of a mile of surfaced road. The rest of the way is by foot on well marked, though sometimes rugged, trails.

The center of the area (191.8 acres) is a steep ravine with sheer cliffs ranging from 10 to 75 feet in height. Trails leading around the top of these cliffs to overlooks that offer views of the valley are really exciting. Not only will the hiker experience a mild form of mountain climbing, but he will see flora and fauna unexcelled in any of our state parks at any season of the year. In the spring the whole area is carpeted with hepaticas. Summer sees wildflowers everywhere, fall brings out the bright orange of bittersweet that has been known to climb a tall white pine until it appears to be decorated for Christmas. Winter snows cover the evergreen and aspen with soft beauty while gnarled cedars in clefts of rock on the cliffs appear as ghostly mountain climbers.

The 13 caves that honeycomb the valley's sides and beneath it are of much interest to spelunkers everywhere. Needless to say, school children also love to visit the caverns and hike the trails past the balanced rocks and natural bridges.

A park officer lives in the park to care for it and its caves. There is a concession stand for refreshments and information about the caves and trails.

ADDRESS  
PARK CONSERVATION OFFICER  
MAQUOKETA CAVES  
STATE PARK  
MAQUOKETS, IOWA



Along the Iowa-Missouri border 5½ miles southeast of Davis City in Decatur County, is Nine Eagles State Park. This scenic, 1,080 acre park is one of the most easily accessible parks in the state especially by way of Inter-state 35 to U.S. 69 and on to Davis City.

The wooded hills make Nine Eagles one of Iowa's most scenic parks. Most of the park is woodland with many oaks lining the hillsides and lake shore. In the fall, the hills are aglow with shades of brown, gold and red intermingled with greens. These colors against the blue of the sky, reflecting into the sparkling water of the 56 acre lake combine to make Nine Eagles a site well worth driving to see.

Fishing is a popular sport with park visitors. The lake is a natural for bass and they like to hide in the brush piles under the water. It's not often a fisherman leaves the park without his share of big bull bass, channel catfish, bluegills, crappies or sun-fish.

Nine Eagles has served Iowans since its dedication in 1952.

The watershed is all in timber making the lake one of the clearest artificial lakes in the state. Even following a rainstorm, the water remains clear.

Because it's not an artificial lake over 100 acres, only rowboats and electric trolling motors not exceeding 1½ H.P. are permitted. They may be rented from the concessionaire near the beach on the north shore where bait and tackle are also available.

Near the boat concession is a large sandy beach popular for swimming. Docks and a boat ramp are provided east of the beach for those who own their own boats.

Near the beach is a picnic area where visitors enjoy the shade, adequate parking, tables and fireplaces. Picnic areas are scattered throughout the park.

A picnic area is near the park officer's residence. A camping area is shown on the map. (Camping rates are on the back of this folder.)

Flora of every kind native to the area flourishes and provides excellent cover for birds and wildlife. This is a haven for deer and

almost every morning or evening they can be seen as they feed and drink near the lake or browse in the woodland. Water birds wading in the lake are common sights to fishermen and picnickers along the lake shore.

The name, "Nine Eagles", originated with the first post office in Decatur County which was first built in the general park area.

At the time the post office was built, the townsmen and women were debating about a name when someone looked into a nearby tree where nine eagles were perched. From then on the post office was known as "Nine Eagles", a name the park later inherited.

### TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING

No reservations are needed for camping but campers must secure a camping permit from the park office upon arrival.

Camping fees are as follows: \$2.50 or \$3.00 per night, per unit, two weeks limit.

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25 cents per person per night.

For chaperoned, organized youth groups, 15 cents per person per night is charged. There is a minimum charge of \$2.50 per night in a modern area.

**All fees subject to State Sales Tax.**

Facilities furnished are space, water and sanitary facilities. Showers, flush toilets, and laundry tubs are now available at no extra cost to campers. Firewood is available at the park office.

### SURROUNDING TOWNS

**DAVIS CITY**, 5½ miles northwest, and **PLEASANTON**, one mile south, are the closest towns to Nine Eagles. Both have necessary picnicking and camping supplies.

**LEON**, to Davis City then 8 miles north on Highway 69, and **LAMONI**, also to Davis City then 7 miles west on Highway 69, are the closest larger towns. Both have groceries, recreational facilities and churches.

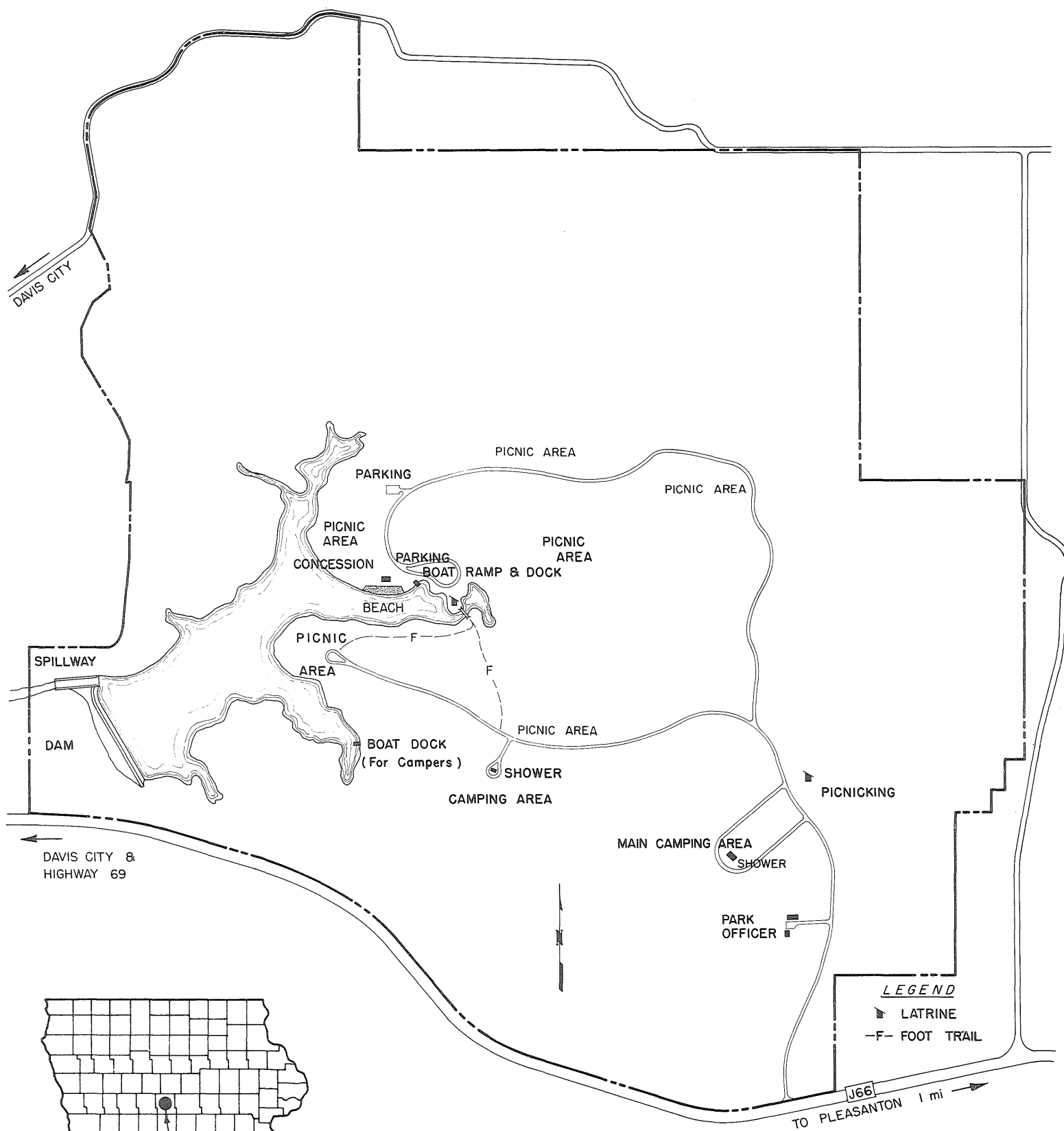
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PARK OFFICER'S ADDRESS  
Nine Eagles State park  
Davis City, Iowa 50065

# NINE EAGLES

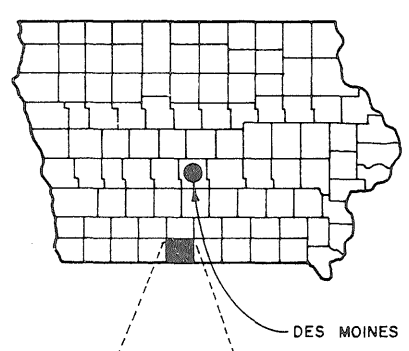


IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
300 - 4th STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

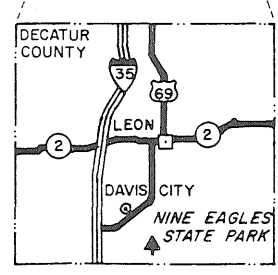


**LEGEND**

- LATRINE
- F- FOOT TRAIL



DES MOINES





Palisades-Kepler State Park covers 688 acres along the banks of the Cedar River in Linn County. Vertical cliffs along the river, dotted with green moss, ferns, and swallows' nests add to the natural beauty of the scenic area.

Palisades-Kepler received its name from the palisades of the Hudson River in New York, and from the Kepler family who were among the original donors of land.

All sorts of Indian artifacts have been uncovered in the caves that are carved out of the palisades. Indian mounds within the park area were found to contain ancient pottery, stone fish hooks, and arrows. Many of these Indian relics may be viewed in museums across the state.

Palisades-Kepler offers a variety of natural settings enhanced by trees, shrubs, and woody vines which shelter the well-marked nature trails that wind continuously through the park.

Lookout Tower, furnishing a view of the limestone cliffs, the Cedar River, and surrounding countryside, is located upstream from the parking area at the end of one of the scenic trails. The tower offers welcome relief due to the breezes that blow on even the warmest summer days.

The tourist may also wish to take advantage of other places with names such as Lover's Leap, Maple and Hemlock Junction, Fern Cliffs, Indian Mounds, and Council Fire Circle that are as intriguing as they sound.

Men who know Palisades-Kepler best, and have fished in the Cedar River, insist that every kind of fish native to Iowa has been caught there. In the impoundment above the dam fishermen catch bluegill, crappies, bullheads, and carp. Below the dam is "Big Fish" territory where anglers find walleye and flatheads. These heavyweights of the fresh water fish kingdom lurk under brush piles, submerged hollow logs, and vacated beaver apartments. They come out occasionally when a choice chub, or other bait familiar to big cat fishermen, is lowered temptingly.

Accommodations in this historic and natural scenic area include cabins, camping, lodges for special picnics and parties, an open shelter in the main picnic area, fishing, an excellent boat landing and dock, and a dam across the Cedar River.

## TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING

No reservations are necessary, but campers are asked to secure a camping permit from the park office for \$2.50 per night per camping unit. Electricity is an additional 50c.

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25c per person per night.

Facilities furnished are space, water, central shower house, and toilet facilities. There are tables and fireplaces in both the camp and picnic areas. The camp area is for campers only. Firewood is available at the park office for 25c per bundle.

For chaperoned, organized youth groups, 15c per person per night is charged. There is a minimum charge of \$2.50 per night in a Modern area.

All prices quoted are subject to State Sales Tax.

## CABINS

There are 2 stone cabins that accommodate 8 persons each. They rent for \$12 per day and \$60 per week. There is a charge of 50 cents per person per day over 8 person limit.

There are 4 family cabins, accommodating 4 persons each, that rent for \$10 per day and \$50 per week.

All reservations are made through the park officer, and a \$10 deposit is required on all cabins. Extra cots are 50 cents each.

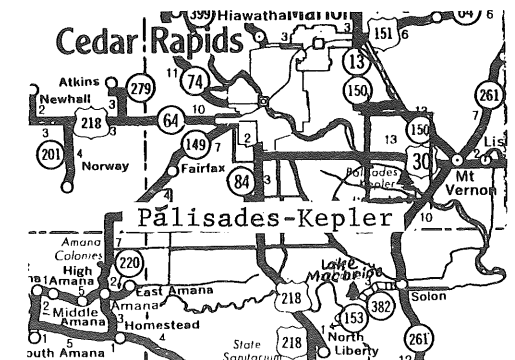
A lodge is also available for public use. The rental fee is \$25.

## NEIGHBORING TOWNS

MT. VERNON, home of Cornell College, is three miles from the park. It provides shopping facilities, churches, and recreation.

CEDAR RAPIDS, 12 miles from the park, is Iowa's second largest city.

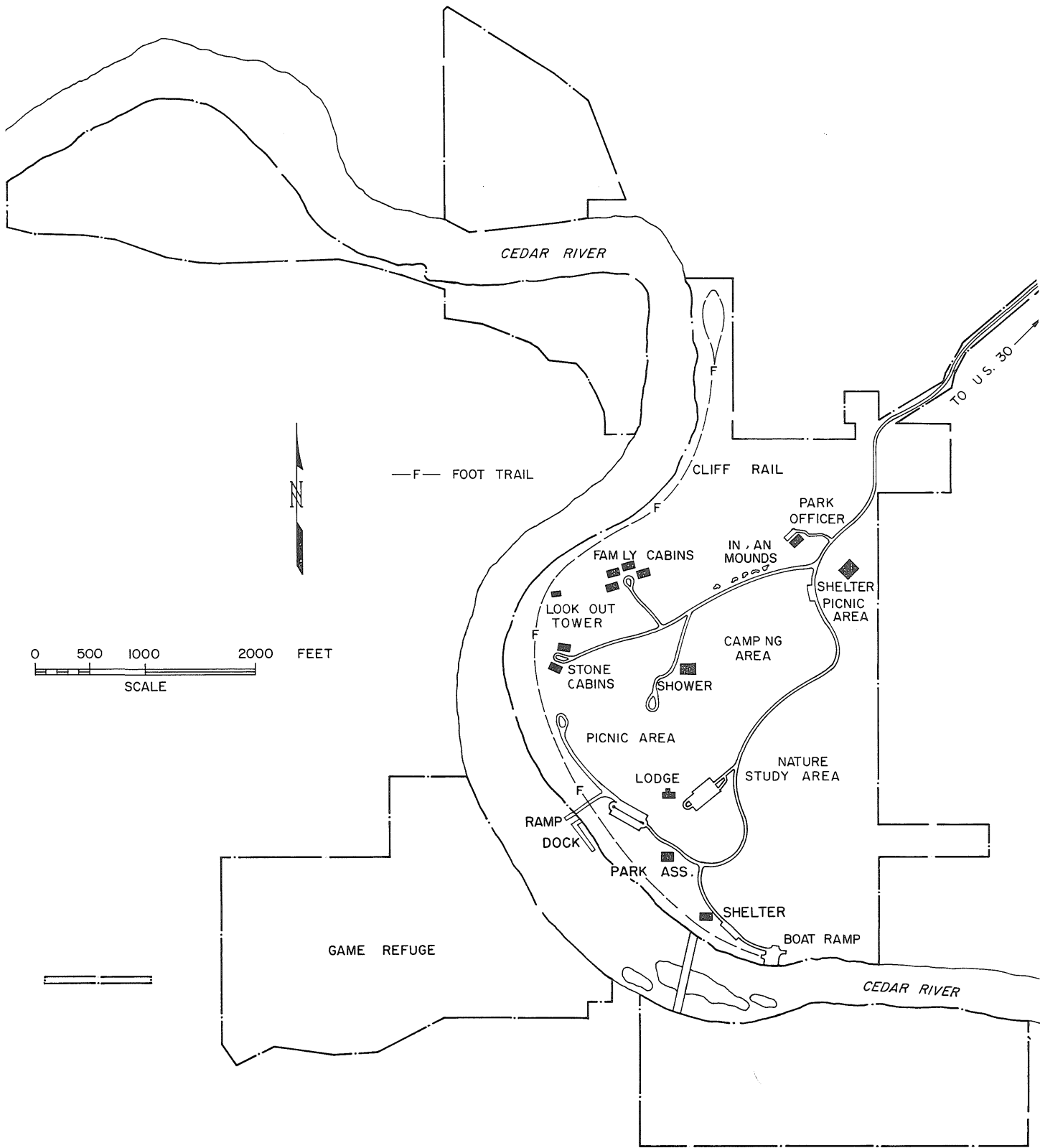
# PALISADES - KEPLER



## IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

300 4TH STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319





Follow Highway 340 at the south end of McGregor's Main Street, wind upward about 1½ miles and you come to Pikes Peak State Park, the highest bluff on the Mississippi River. In the heart of one of the nation's most picturesque regions, Pikes Peak is a unique combination of beauty and history.

Long noted for its scenic autumn beauty, Pikes Peak, McGregor and vicinity attracts a multitude of visitors annually. Hotels and motels in McGregor are filled from the first frost until the leaves have fallen. From McGregor, the sightseers travel up river through Marquette and Harper's Ferry to Yellow River Forest, only a few miles away; or across the river to the Wisconsin side to view Iowa's finery across the mighty Mississippi.

But autumn is not the only season for a visit to this area. Fishing is excellent at all seasons; at the Lynxville dam (for wall-eye) or one of the many backwaters (for panfish and bass). Winter ice fishing here is a real delight.

Standing atop this 500 foot bluff and looking south the confluence of the Wisconsin River with the Mighty Mississippi may be seen. To the north, the view of the twin suspension bridges connecting Iowa and Wisconsin makes an inspirational view.

The Wisconsin River from time immemorial formed part of nature's thoroughfare. Indians traveled their canoe route from the St. Lawrence River to the Mississippi via the Wisconsin. Here on the banks of the Mississippi, the long, narrow prairie was suited for encampment by Indians where they held councils, traded and played annual ball games.

The first white man came in 1673 when Louis Joliet, the explorer, and Father James Marquette reached the goal of their search. At the mouth of the Wisconsin, they saw the great unknown river they were seeking.

After the Louisiana Purchase, the government sent Zebulon Pike in 1805 to explore the Mississippi Valley and select locations suitable for military posts. Pike recognized this hill as an important strategic point and an excellent location for a fort. The war department agreed with the vicinity but selected the prairie around Prairie du Chien for the fort. It wasn't until several years later Pike was again sent by the government and named Pikes Peak, Colorado.

In 1837, a ferry was established by Alexander MacGregor from Prairie du Chien across the river opening the land to settlers. This was the beginning of the town McGregor.

When Mrs. Munn, the grandniece of MacGregor, died, her will provided Pikes Peak be given to the federal government as a gift. The land had been inherited from MacGregor. Later, it was conveyed by Congress to the State of Iowa.

She never allowed settlers on this land and the views at Pikes Peak seen today don't vary much from those that greeted the eye of primitive man.

The two trails, one leading to Pictured Rocks and one to the Wisconsin River mouth, offer a challenge to hardy trail climbers. Along the Pictured Rocks trail, hikers see sheer walls of Trenton limestone, rich in fossil remains including bracheopods, gasteropods and cephalopods. Pictured Rocks are a fine display of

St. Peter's sandstone. There cliffs are banded, mottled and fancifully figured in a harlequin coat of yellow, red, white, black, green and brown with mixed tones and shades in a variety of patterns. The trail goes past the painted walls to Bridal Veil Falls, a refreshing spring.

The castle-like piles of rock in the area with fantastic pinnacles are cut out by erosion of wind and water. They still stand because during the glacial age, the northeastern Iowa bluffs remained and island in "a sea of glacial ice" which submerged the surrounding countryside. Some of the finest examples of effigy mounds ever found are here. Effigy mounds are Indian burial mounds given animal shapes.

Ornithologists pronounced the Mississippi Valley as one of America's best fields of bird study especially during migration.

#### CAMPING RATES AND REGULATIONS

All camping permits are issued by the park officer. The Commission has fixed the fees for tent and trailer camping as follows:  
Modern Area . . . . . \$2.50 per night per basic unit  
Modern Area W-Elect. . . . . \$3.00 per night per basic unit

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25 cents per person per night.

**All prices quoted are subject to State Sales Tax.**

For chaperoned, organized youth groups, 15 cents per person per night is charged. There is a minimum charge of \$2.50 per night in a modern area.

Facilities furnished are space, water and sanitary facilities.

PARK OFFICER'S ADDRESS  
Pikes Peak State Park  
McGregor, Iowa 52157

#### IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

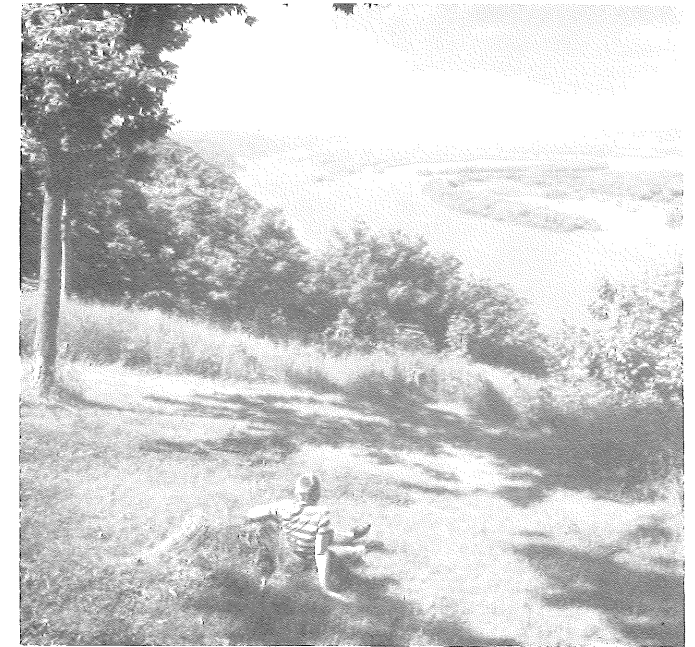
**EFFIGY MOUNDS NATIONAL MONUMENT:** Iowa's only National Park, is located 3 miles north of Marquette on State Highway 13. This 1,200 acre area was established to preserve a group of ancient Indian burial mounds. At the Visitor Center a short slide program and exhibit room tell what is known of the mounds and Indians who made them. A pleasant walk takes visitors to the mounds and a scenic view of the Mississippi River. The Visitor Center is open 8-5 daily or 8-6 June through August.

**MC GREGOR:** An old and picturesque river town 1½ miles north of the park. Hotel, motels, tourist home, churches, restaurants, historical museum and river trips are available here.

**MARQUETTE and HARPERS FERRY:** Two old river towns on the shores of the Mississippi a short way from the park. Tourists cross the rivers to Wisconsin at Marquette.

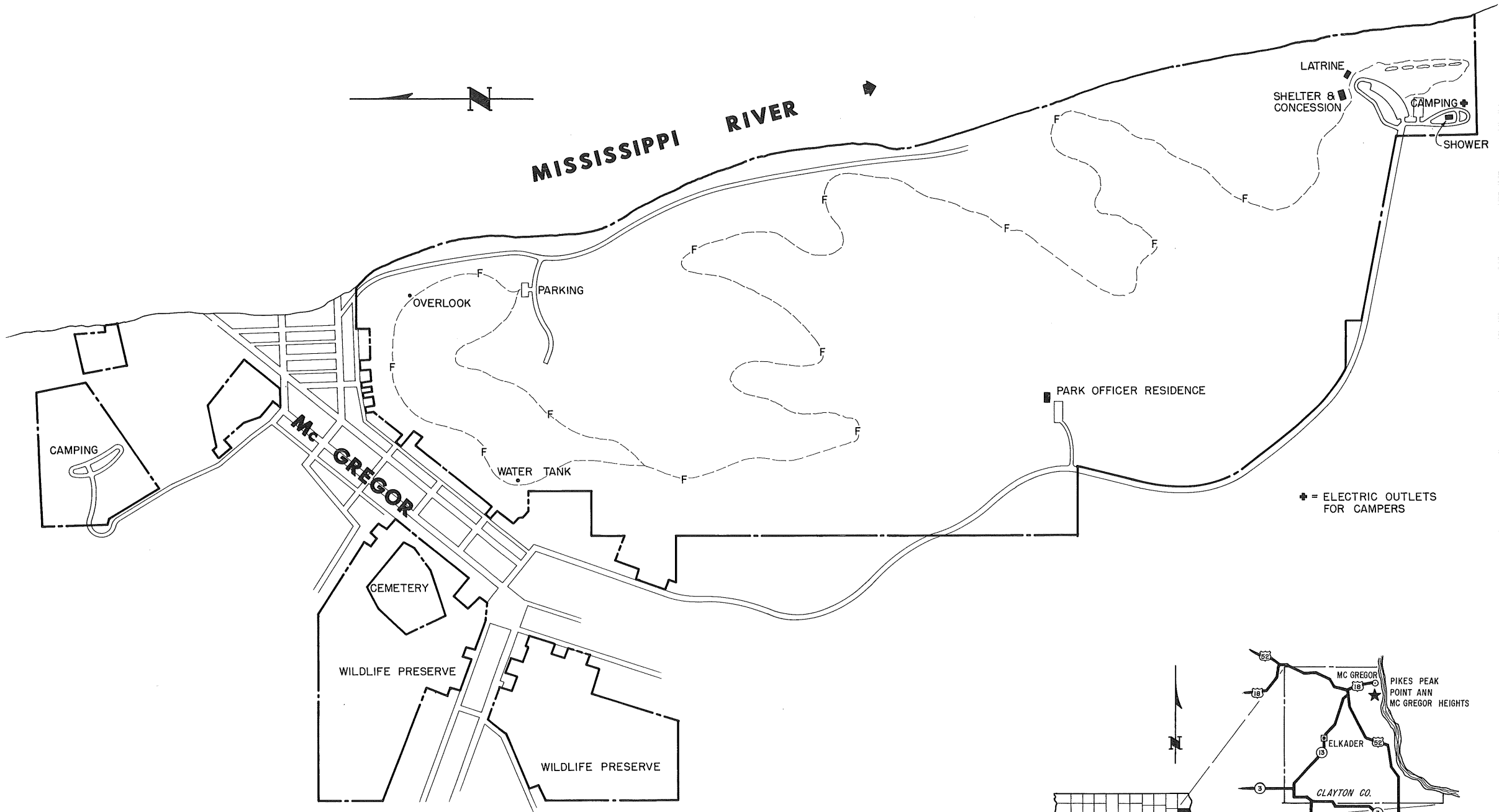
**YELLOW RIVER FOREST:** 6,000 acres of virgin timber. Picnic facilities are provided. Hunting and fishing as well as unorganized camping are enjoyed in the Paint Creek Unit.

## PIKES PEAK and McGregor Heights

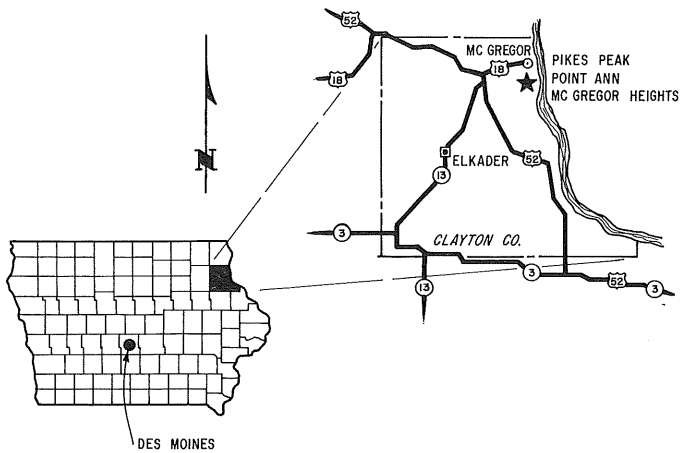


#### IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

300 FOURTH STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319



⊕ = ELECTRIC OUTLETS  
FOR CAMPERS



Standing atop the Pilot Knob tower, visitors have a view that is unsurpassed anywhere in Iowa. After glaciers leveled the prairies of north central Iowa, they deposited the rocks and earth they were carrying, forming the mounds and peaks that are now Pilot Knob. This area is said to be a part of the eastern moraine or edge of the Wisconsin glacial drift. With an altitude of 1,500 feet, Pilot Knob is the second highest peak in the state.

From this vantage point, a panorama of wealth-producing land may be viewed in all directions for as far as 35 miles. Some of the most fertile land in Iowa is visible from Pilot Knob. Groves of trees at farms and country churches lend much to the attraction of this spot. The varying colors of different crops make the view kaleidoscopic in all seasons. Whichever direction one chooses to point his camera, he may find an interesting color study in his natural surroundings, for below Pilot Knob lie lush valleys that change their dress according to the time of year.

Within the park area of Pilot Knob, surrounded by other mounds of less altitude, a small lake nestles like a brooding hen in her well-hidden nest. Dead Man's Lake, enclosed by abrupt banks, has a legendary history stemming from its rather intriguing name. The park officer or regular visitors will always be happy to relate the various legends.

The lake is bordered by native trees, shrubs, and flowering plants. Aquatic fowl feed and breed in the tall grasses nearby. In the waters of Dead Man's Lake grow three species of pond lilies, one of which is said to be found nowhere else in Iowa. Botanists favor the place in search of rare specimens of plants and shells. Dead Man's Lake is a gem in nature's diadem that will linger in the memory of all who visit it.

Among the varieties of native trees to be found in the park are walnut, ash, basswood, wild cherry, burr oak, white oak, red oak, and others. In spring, summer and fall, blossoms and leaves lend unsurpassed beauty to the scene as the undergrowth changes with the seasons.

Winter, too, has its good times for visitors to Pilot Knob State Park. There is a small artificial lake of 15 acres where a warming shed is provided and ice skating is enjoyed most of the winter, as well as sledding and tobogganing.

Rates for camping are listed on the back of this folder. A shelter is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are picnic tables and fireplaces in the shaded areas with plenty of parking places.

#### TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING

No reservations are needed, but campers are asked to secure a camping permit from the park office. The rate is \$2.50 per night per camping unit. An additional 50c is charged for electricity.

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25c per person per night. Camping is limited to two weeks.

Facilities furnished are space, water, modern toilet and shower house, tables, stoves, and a trailer dump station. Firewood is available at the park office for 25c a bundle.

All prices quoted are subject to State Sales Tax.

For chaperoned, organized youth groups, 15c per person per night is charged. There is a minimum charge of \$2.50 per night in a Modern Area.

#### SURROUNDING AREAS

Rice Lake, 12 miles north, is also a state park and provides boating, fishing, golf, shelter, and swimming.

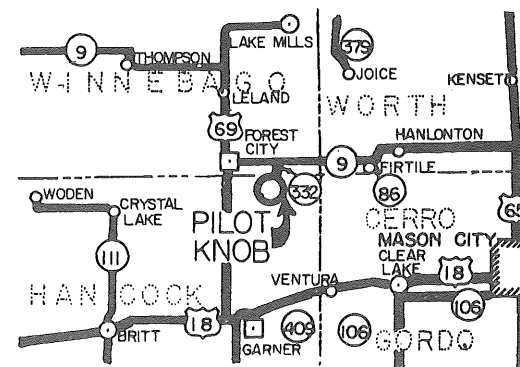
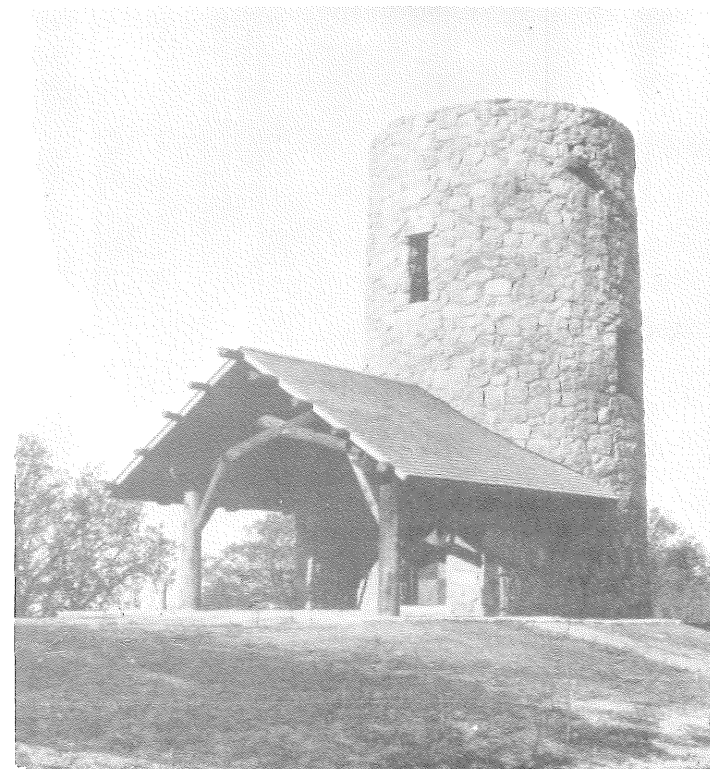
Forest City, only 4 miles from the park, has service stations, churches, movies, supermarkets, and a bowling alley.

Crystal Lake, a county park 12 miles west, provides boating, fishing, swimming and camping.

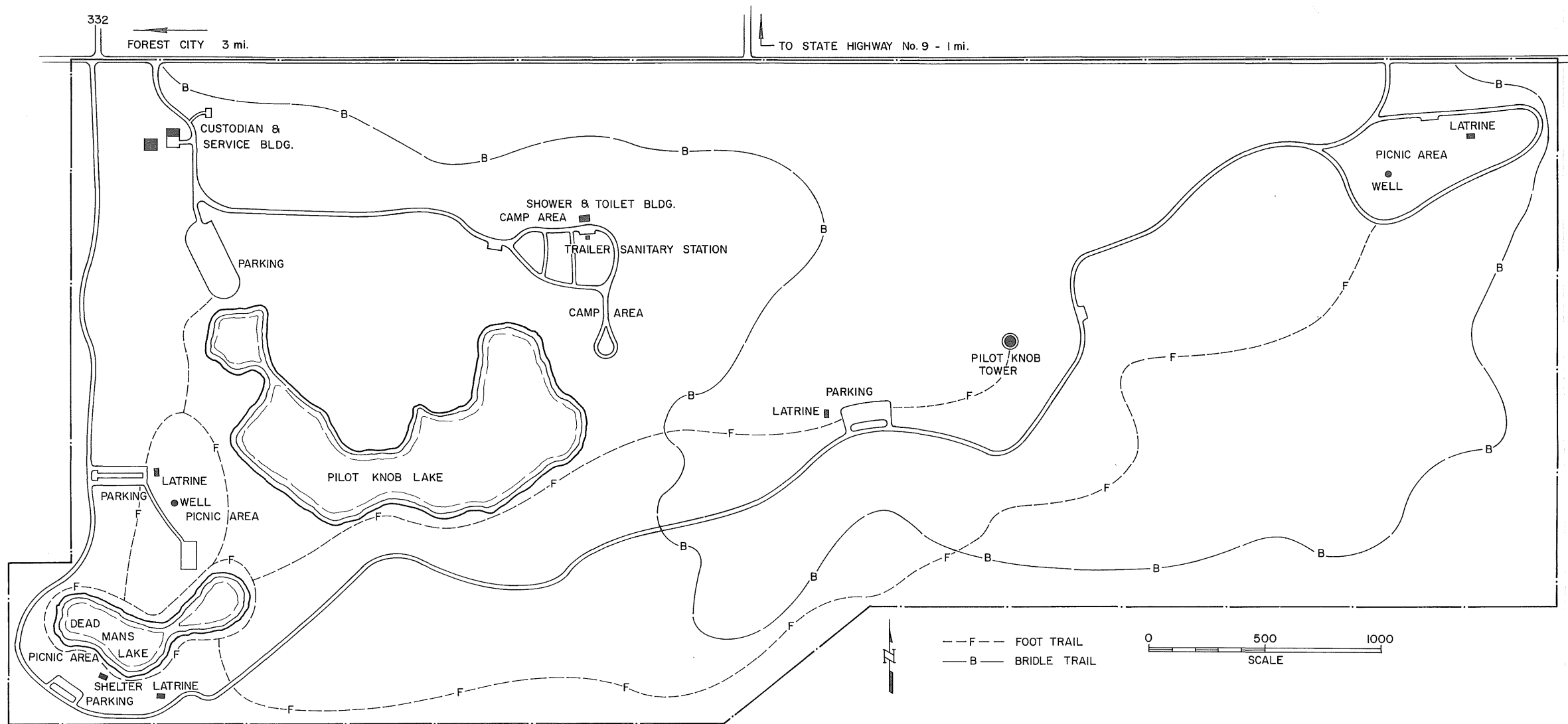
#### ADDRESS

Park Conservation Officer  
Pilot Knob State Park  
Box 108 - R.R. No. 1  
Forest City, Iowa 50436

# PILOT KNOB



IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
300 4th STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319



Follow Iowa highway 175 out of Eldora one mile to the intersection of highway 118, turn north toward Steamboat Rock and you are in central Iowa's vacation land where Pine Lake State Park, one of Iowa's finest parks, is located.

This popular park is approximately 50 miles from Waterloo, 40 miles from Marshalltown and 75 miles from Des Moines.

Pine Lake State Park comes doubly equipped in outdoor enjoyment by having two lakes, 65 acre Lower Pine and 101 acre Upper Pine.

In 1922, the idea was conceived for placing a dam across the place where Pine Creek flows into the Iowa River to create Lower Pine. Some years later, Upper Pine Lake came into existence.

Because of its size, under 100 acres, only boat motors allowed on Lower Pine are electric not exceeding 1½ H.P. Upper Pine is large enough for motors not over six horsepower. These two facts make Pine Lake State Park an ideal park, a lake for boaters and a lake for fishermen.

Bass, crappies, bluegills, bullheads and northerns are plentiful in both lakes. The Iowa River bounds part of the park and is noted for its abundance of channel catfish and smallmouth bass.

The resident park officer lives at the park's entrance where a road leads to the four cabins on the banks of the Iowa River. These cabins are made from native sandstone. Rental rates for cabins and lodge are listed on the back of this folder.

In 1848, the first geological survey in the territory showed the Pine Lake area to be mostly sandstone undermined by crevices, caves and springs. The native sandstone has been put to good use in the cabins, lodge and retaining walls.

Follow highway 118 past the officer's residence and on to Lower Pine where the boat concessionaire rents boats, and sells bait and refreshments. There is a boat ramp for those who own boats.

Up the hill from the boat concession is a picnic area, parking and shelter. From here a foot trail and tunnel under the road lead down to the sandy, supervised beach. Refreshments are sold at the beach house.

Farther on 118 is the assistant officer's residence. A road leads from his house to private cottages and back to the highway.

In the same vicinity is the lodge. This rustic lodge is ideally located high on a hill overlooking Lower Pine with its tree-covered island.

Tables are set atop this hill and picnickers enjoy their meal looking out over the sparkling water.

Hikers can take the well-defined, rock trail around Lower Pine where they cross stone bridges across Pine Creek, see grand old pines known to be 250 years old, wildlife and the varieties of wildflowers, trees and shrubs. Hikers find a camera and a field guide come in handy at Pine Lake.

On 118 past the lodge is the park's 9-hole golf course managed by the Country Club and open to all. Green fees are \$3.00 per day.

A road cuts back from 118 to Upper Pine where there is a

parking lot, boat ramp and concession building. Here also is a camping area with electrical hookups, shower facilities and water hydrants throughout the area.

#### LODGE (Enclosed Shelter)

The lodge, overlooking Lower Pine and popular for reunions, church and other groups, can be rented through the park officer at the rate of \$15.00 per day. Rates given are for each 100 people per reservation. No charge is made for electricity or fuel on the lodge rental.

#### MODERN OVERNIGHT CABINS

Overnight cabins are available upon advanced reservation through the park officer for one and two week periods only.

Daily rates: ..... \$10.00 per cabin

Weekly rates: ..... \$50.00 per cabin

Rate for a maximum of four persons. Cots when available are supplied for additional guests at 50 cents a day per cot. Renter must provide own bedding, pillows and linens. The rental of cabins does not entitle tenant to free use of beach or boating privileges; arrangements can be made with the concessionaire. Electricity is included in the above rates.

#### TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING

No reservations are needed, but campers are requested to secure a Camping Permit from the park office upon arrival. Camping fees are as follows:

Modern Area ..... \$2.50 per night per basic unit

Modern Area W-Elect. .... \$3.00 per night per basic unit

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25 cents per person per night.

**All prices quoted are subject to State Sales Tax.**

For Chaperoned, organized youth groups, 15 cents per person per night is charged. There is a minimum charge of \$2.50 per night in a modern area.

Camping fees do not include use of boat and beach facilities.

Facilities furnished are space, water and sanitary facilities.

Firewood is available at 25 cents at the park.

#### IN THE VICINITY

**Steamboat Rock** —four miles northeast of the park on 118, is another state-owned area. Shelter, picnicking and fishing are available.

**Pictured Rock** —between Pine Lake and Steamboat rock, this county conservation area offers primitive camping and fishing in the Iowa River.

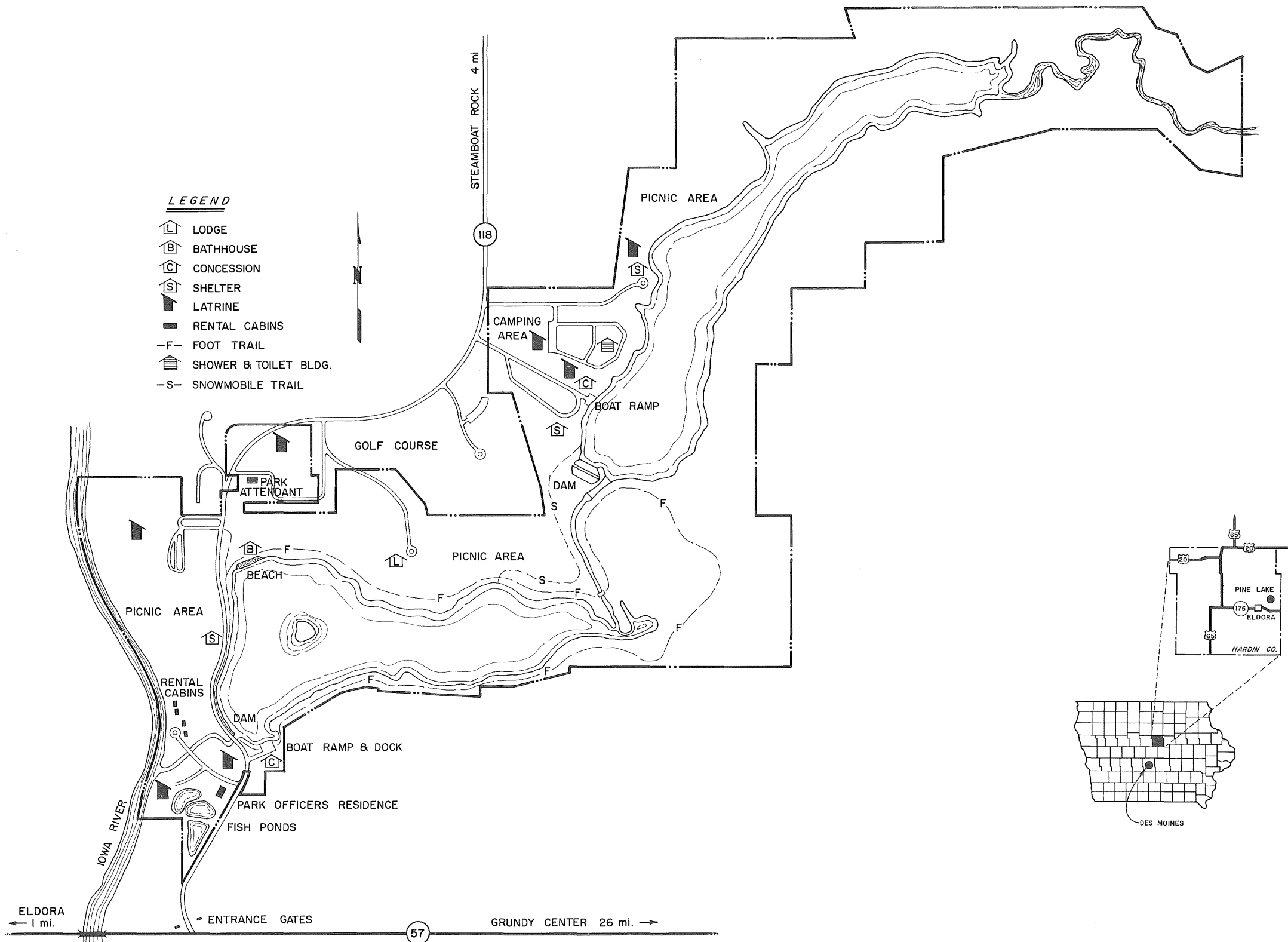
# PINE LAKE



PARK OFFICER'S ADDRESS  
Pine Lake State Park  
R.R. 2 Box 85  
Eldora, Iowa 50627

IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

300 4th STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319





# PRAIRIE ROSE

Prairie Rose State Park, opened in 1962, is located 6 miles east of Harlan on Highway 44 and 3 miles south on blacktop road. The 422 acre park sets among the drifted loess hills of western Iowa.

Nestled within the wind-formed hills in the center of the park is a 218 acre artificial lake which is the hub of the park's recreation activities.

The park received its name from a small town called Village of Prairie Rose which was once located near the present location of the park. The small prairie town is now a part of history.

Both tent and trailer camping is allowed; however, it is of a primitive type with only water, space and toilet facilities available.

A concession is located on the lake shore. Boats, motors, fish bait and refreshments are available. Fishermen will find top bass, channel catfish, bluegill and crappie fishing.

Picnicking is at its best at Prairie Rose. The picnic grounds and the road leading to it presents a panoramic view of the long, narrow lake and the loaf-like hills. With a little imagination, one could easily picture a Sioux Indian Chief sitting astride his pinto pony atop one of the prairie ridges.

Park-bound campers traveling on Interstate 80 will want to take the Avoca exit, which is about 7½ miles south of Prairie Rose. The park is but a few minutes drive north of Avoca on U.S. Highway 59 to Corely and then east on County Road J to the main entrance. For campers going west, Prairie Rose is an ideal "jumping off" point. Camping areas are fewer and farther between in the sparsely populated plains states.

The face of the park will gradually change in the years to come. To date, over 21,000 trees have been planted at strategic points around the lake.

Fisherman or boater, picnicker or sightseer, whichever you are, Prairie Rose provides it all.

Prairie Rose Lake State Park is one of the outdoor recreation areas considered under the twentyfive year Conservation Plan drawn up in 1933. Included in this plan were some seventeen state parks where natural beauty could be preserved and where such recreational facilities as swimming, camping, hiking, and organized winter sports could be provided. Investigation and reconnaissance surveys for a lake and park in Shelby County were begun in 1938. The 52nd General Assembly appropriated \$2,713,000 for the continuation of the twentyfive year Conservation Plan and of this amount \$269,000 was allocated to this project by the 53rd General Assembly. A total of sixteen possible sites were carefully studied and evaluated for the park and lake. In 1952, the proposed acquisition map was drawn up for the present site.

## TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING

No reservations are needed, but campers are requested to secure a camping permit from the park office upon arrival. Camping fees are \$2.00 per night, per unit, two weeks limit.

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25 cents per person per night.

Furnished are space, water and sanitary facilities.

Firewood is available at the park office for 25 cents per bundle.

For chaperoned, organized youth groups, 15 cents per person per night is charged. There is a minimum charge of \$2.00 per night in a non-modern area.

All fees subject to State Sales Tax.

## SURROUNDING TOWNS

Camping, picnicking and tourist supplies are just around the corner from Prairie Rose.

Harlan, Shelby County seat with a population of over 5,000 is just 6½ miles west and 5 miles north of Prairie Rose. Over a half-dozen different denominations offer services there each Sunday.

Elk Horn is located 9 miles east of Prairie Rose on highway 173.

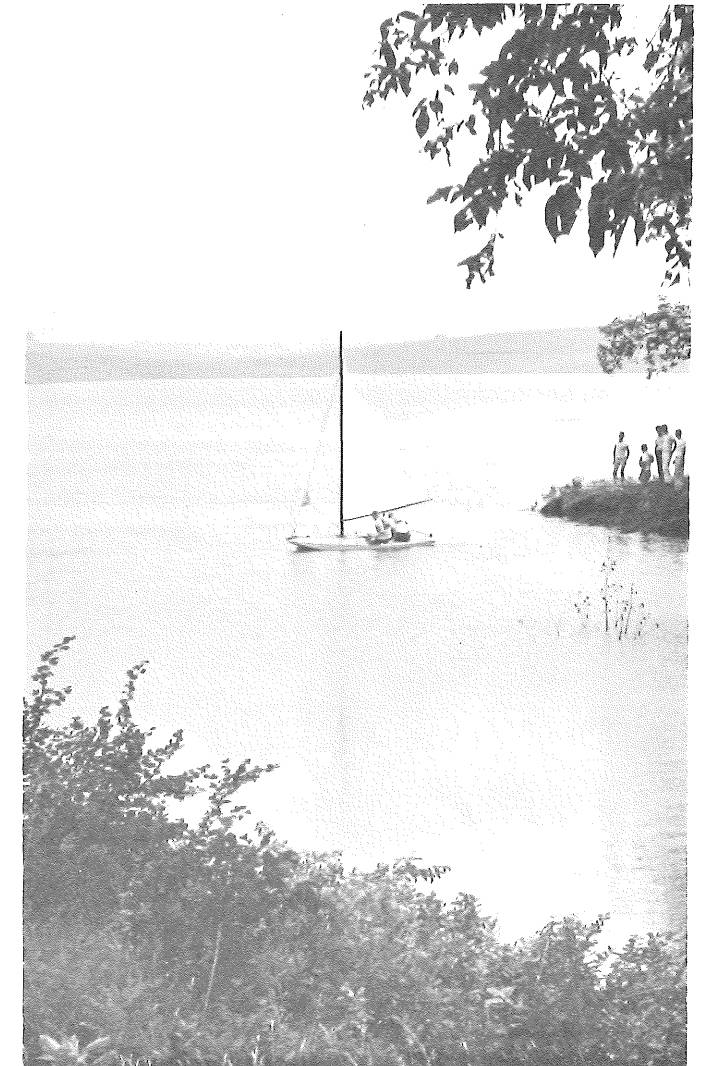
Corely, is just 6½ miles due west and 1½ miles south of the park at the junction of U.S. Highway 59 and County Road J.

Walnut, on I-80 is 7 miles south of the park.

Avoca, is located at the junction of Interstate 80 and U.S. Highway 59, and is 14 miles from the park.

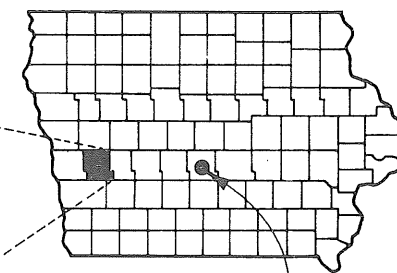
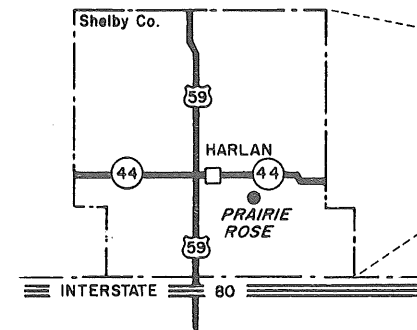
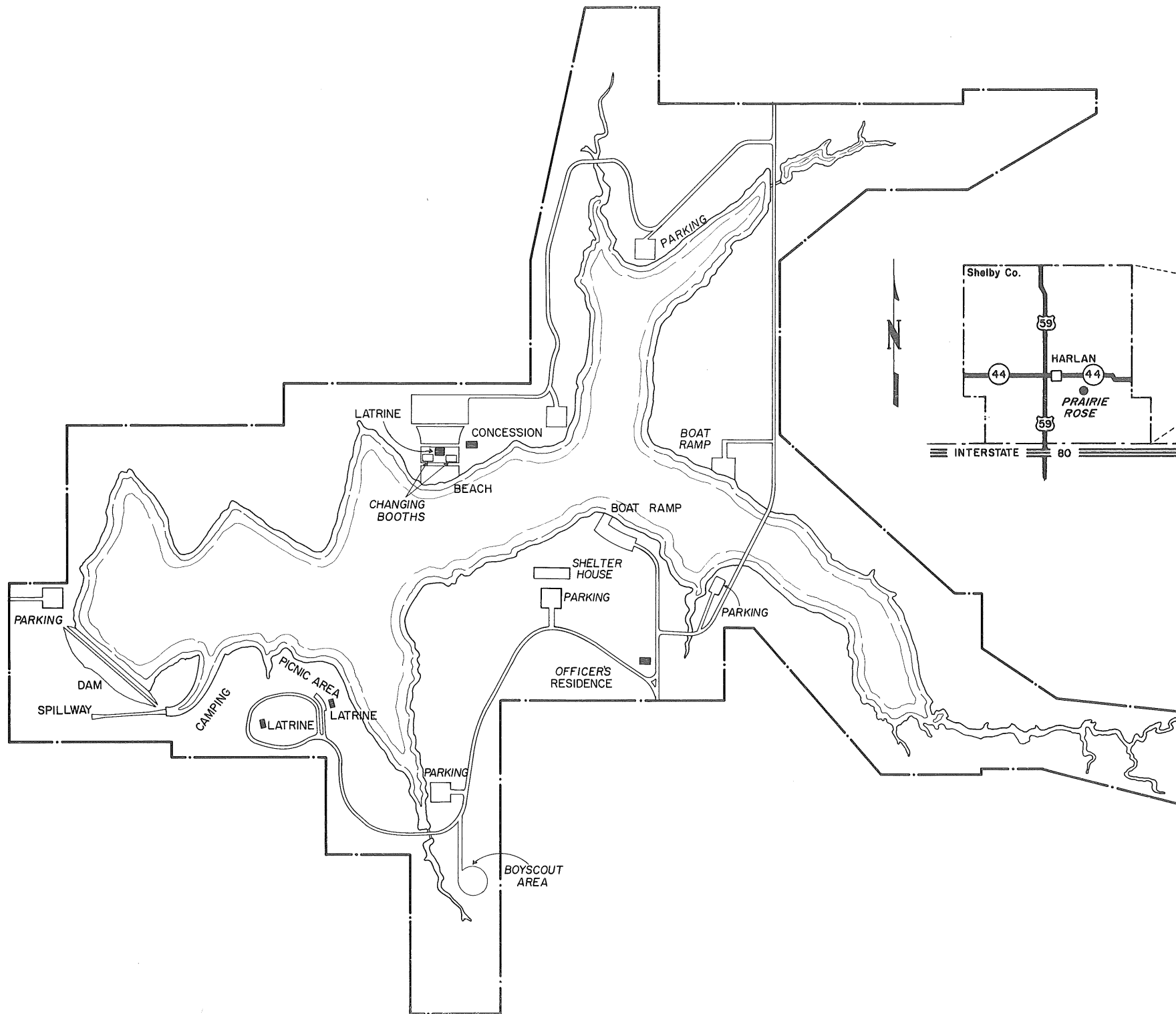
PARK OFFICER ADDRESS:  
Prairie Rose State Park  
Route No. 4  
Harlan, Iowa 51537

CP-2-A26833 5/71



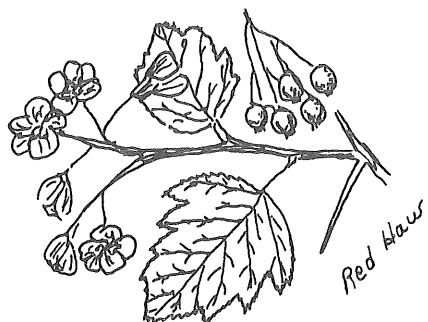
IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

300 - 4th STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319



Des Moines

Red Haw Hill has a full time park officer who resides just inside the park entrance off Highway 34. Rates for camping are on the back of this folder with a rundown of nearby towns and facilities. The park is only 50 miles from Des Moines.



## TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING

No reservations are necessary but campers must secure a camping permit from the park office. Tent and trailer camping fees are as follows:

\$2.50 per night, per unit. Two weeks limit.

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25 cents per person per night.

Facilities furnished are space and water with showers and flush toilets available at no extra charge to campers.

Electrical hookups are available at 50 cents per night, per unit. Firewood may be obtained at the park office at 25 cents a bundle.

For chaperoned, organized youth groups, 15 cents per person per night is charged. There is a minimum charge of \$2.50 per night in a modern area.

All prices quoted are subject to State Sales Tax.

ADDRESS OF PARK OFFICER  
Red Haw State Park  
Rt. 1 Chariton, Iowa 50049

## SURROUNDING TOWNS

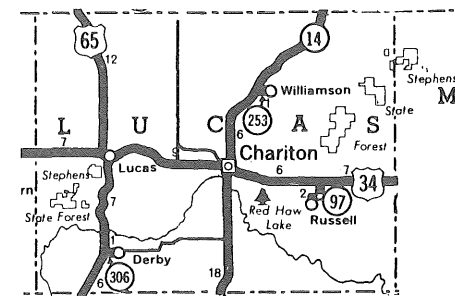
**CHARITON:** This town is two miles from the park with a population of around 5,000. Conveniences include two laundromats, ice house and churches.

**RUSSELL:** Off highway 34, just southeast of the park about five miles.

**DES MOINES:** Iowa's capitol is fifty miles northwest of the park.

CP-2-A 399 67 5/71

# RED HAW LAKE



IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

300 - 4th STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

Red Haw Lake State Park is so named because of the red haw trees growing naturally in the area. Red Haw is one of Iowa's most lovely state parks.

Stands of oak, maple, elm and pine trees add to the beauty of this 420 acre park. The hills are sights worth seeing at any season. In the spring, the red haws, wildflowers and shrubs clothe the hills with their soft spring bloom. Summertime, the shades of green against the sparkling lake make Red Haw a cool, relaxing place to spend a summer outing. Autumn when the slopes are painted in fall brilliance by the first frost, it's worth driving to see. In winter, the snow makes this park a fairyland. Ice fishing is popular and large catches of bluegills and crappies are common. All year around, Red Haw Lake State Park is well worth seeing.

Located just two miles from Chariton, in Lucas County, it is a popular weekend picnic resort. The addition of a shower house and flush toilets for the campgrounds, plus the fact the park is located on U.S. Highway 34, makes it an excellent spot to spend part or all of a two week vacation.

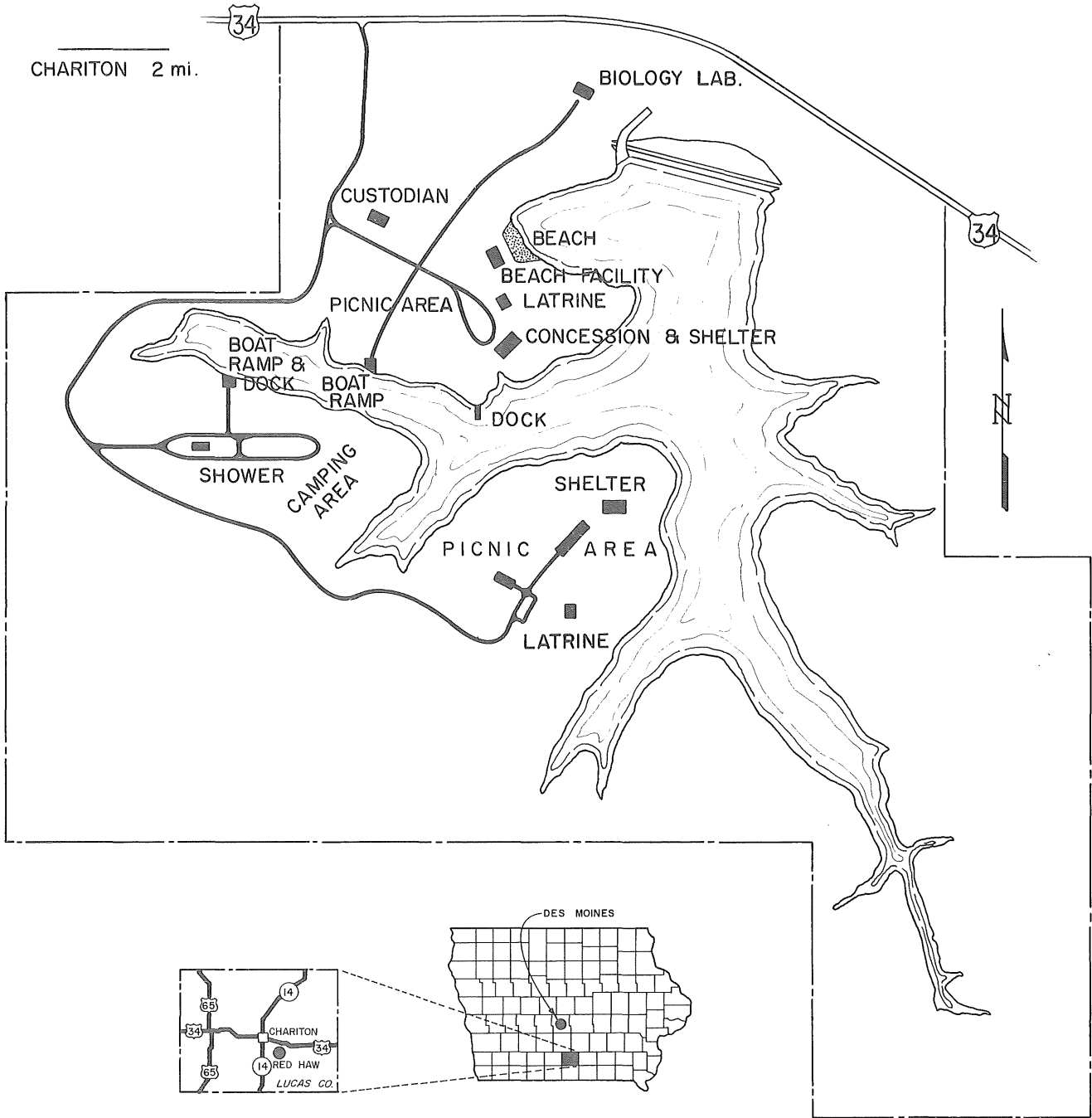
Both the campground and picnic areas offer a splendid view of the lake and are well equipped with fireplaces and picnic tables. Many tables are right by the lake and the whole area is carpeted with well-kept and mowed grass to the water's edge. Trees line the lake as well as throughout the park making the park cool even in the heat of summer.

The rustic shelter located atop a hill provides a view of another lake across the highway as well as Red Haw. The shelter is in great demand for family reunions. Its use is free of charge and is on a first come, first serve basis.

The lake is exceptionally clear and its curves and bends make it an enchanting hiking area. It was formed by a dam built between two of the hills at the north end of the park. This 76 acre lake is inhabited by panfish particularly bluegills and crappies. It's so clear a fisherman can see the fish take the hook. Only electric trolling motors are allowed on Red Haw Lake making it especially popular for fishermen and sailboaters.

A concessionaire rents boats and sells bait and tackle. All privately owned unregistered boats must be inspected and tagged by the park officer before being admitted to the lake. A boat ramp provides easy access.

The sandy bathing beach has a roped off swimming area, diving tower, two dressing booths and a concession building where refreshment is available. A registered lifeguard is on duty during the season.



Rock Creek State Park separates itself by the fact that it is listed as the 2nd largest artificial lake in Iowa, excluding reservoirs. Six hundred and forty acres of water offer a variety of outdoor sports to the visitor who wishes to take advantage of them. Visitors to the park may choose to travel Highway 6 or Interstate - 80, turning off at the Kellogg exit.

Rock Creek, which empties into the lake, gave Rock Creek Lake its name. The lake area officially became a state park, August 24, 1952.

The dam impounding the water is 1,650 feet long, 34 feet high and 450 feet wide at the base.

Since the lake is large, Rock Creek has the reputation of being an excellent fishing lake and fishermen are in abundance along the 15 mile shoreline to try their hand at catching bass, bluegills, crappies, catfish, and bullheads. While many prefer the shoreline, others take to the deeper areas of the lake where trolling and casting provide great sport. The deepest water is approximately 22 feet while the average depth is 10 feet.

Ice fishing on the lake's main body is a popular winter sport which offers the wintertime fisherman an abounding supply of king-sized bluegills and crappies.

Swimming is restricted to the supervised beach marked on the map. Sandy beaches enhance the area and affords the sunbather a valuable opportunity to take advantage of the water's edge. A modern bathhouse, completed in 1963, makes swimming that much more enjoyable.

A camping area and picnic areas line the water's edge. Campers enjoy being lulled to sleep by the waves gently lapping against the shore, then awakening in the morning to catch some fresh fish for the breakfast skillet.

For the convenience of the park visitor a concession is located near the swimming area where snack items may be purchased. A concession is also located at the north end of the lake where groceries, ice, snack items, bait and tackle may be purchased. Also at this area boats and motors may be rented, first aid and resuscitation equipment are available. For those who own their own boats, five concrete boat ramps may be found in convenient locations around the lake. (See map) Due to the size of the lake, boats with motors more than six horse power will not be permitted.

Rock Creek State Park sports many different species of wildlife - a pleasure to observe. At the far north end of the park, the State Conservation Commission maintains a hunting and fishing area which serves as a haven for Iowa wildlife, as does the whole park.

Thousands of ducks migrating to their summer breeding grounds take refuge in the solitude of Rock Creek. The concentrations, mostly teal, bluebills, and mallards offer an excellent opportunity to all bird watchers. In the spring, ducks in their full plumage are performing their courtship flights. Even in winter, mallards may be seen on the south end of the lake where the spillway keeps it relatively free of ice.

### TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING

No reservations are needed for camping but campers must secure a camping permit from the park office upon arrival. Tent and trailer camping fees are as follows:

\$2.50 or \$3.00 per night, per unit. Two weeks limit.

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25 cents per person per night.

For chaperoned, organized youth groups, 15 cents per person per night is charged. There is a minimum charge of \$2.50 per night in a modern area.

Facilities furnished are space, water, electrical outlets, and sanitary facilities.

All fees subject to State Sales Tax.

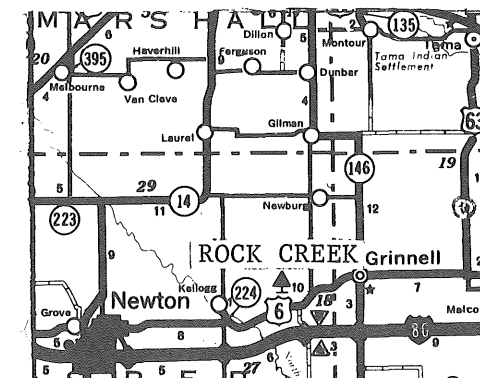
NEWTON, 4 miles south and 10 miles west on Highway 6, is the county seat.

GRINNELL, 7 miles east of Rock Creek, is the home of Grinnell College. All denominations of churches, grocery stores and various forms of recreation are found at both Newton and Grinnell.

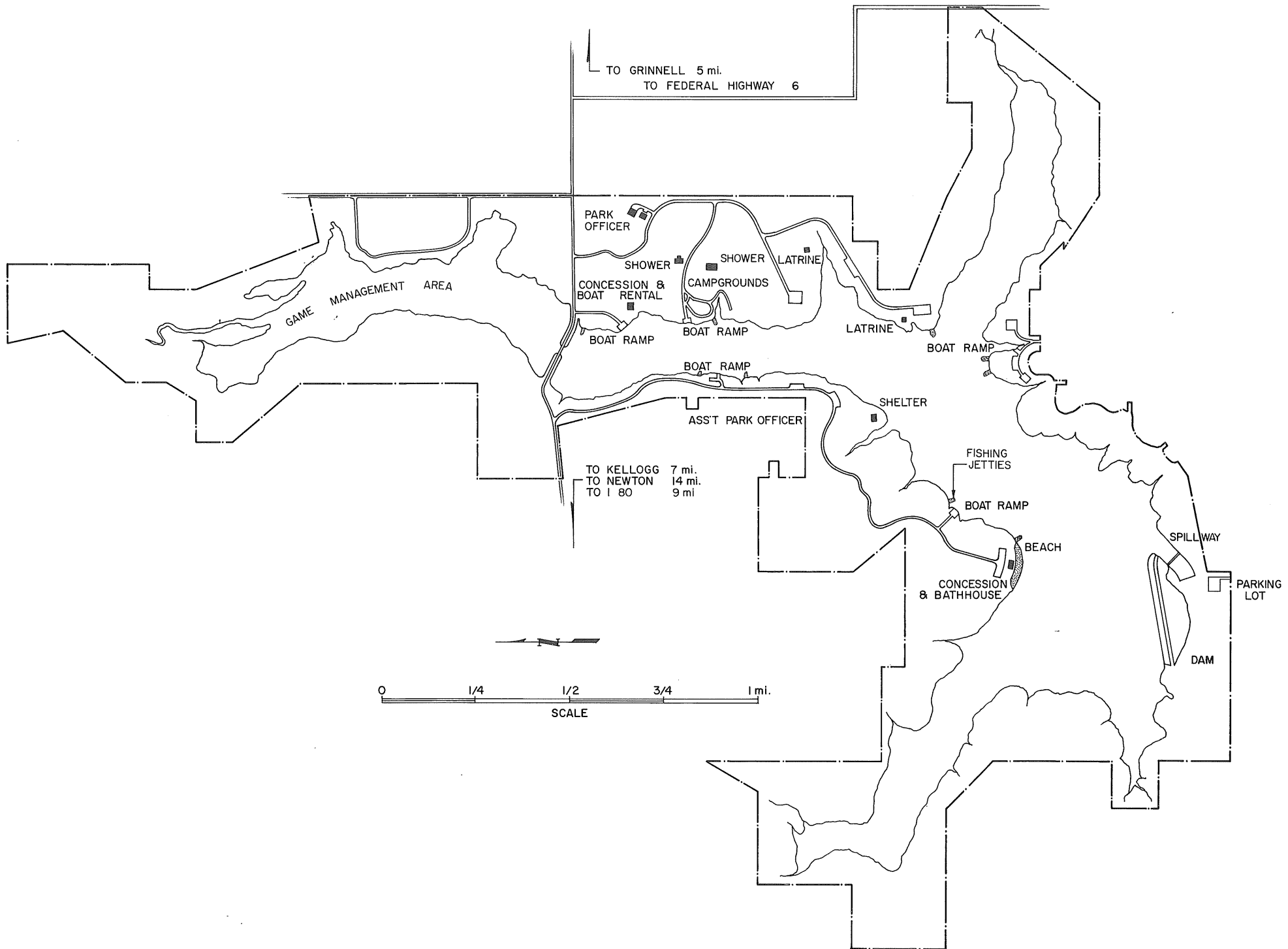
KELLOGG, is the nearest town to the park being 3 miles west and 2 miles south. Groceries, ice, etc. are also found here.

ADDRESS OF PARK OFFICER  
Rock Creek State park  
Kellogg, Iowa 50135

# ROCK CREEK



IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
300 - 4th STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319



The multiple use concept of forest management was initiated in 1967 with construction of two large ponds, one each on the Farmington and Donnellson Units. In 1968 a third pond was constructed on the Farmington Unit. Those ponds are equipped with draw down lines through the structure to facilitate lowering of water when needed in fish management.

Under this type of management, recreational developments, such as picnic and camping areas and more large ponds will be developed in the Farmington and Donnellson Units. The other units will be managed for timber and wild life production. Deer are abundant over the forest as well as other small game. In 1965 eleven Missouri-trapped eastern wild turkeys were released on the Lick Creek Unit and since have spread through the major forest units and adjacent private land.

A schedule of timber stand improvement has been continuing for several years, and pulpwood produced going to Consolidating Packing Corp., Fort Madison and fuel wood sold locally. Thinnings from older pine plantations go into treated fence posts for use on state forests, other Conservation Commission areas and for sale locally.

Facilities available on the Farmington and Donnellson Units consist of picnic areas with tables and fire places, camping areas with rock pads, tables, fire places and latrines, three large stocked ponds, and five smaller ponds, a nature trail with signs pointing out species of trees, features of natural interest and wild flowers. Signs in conifer plantations indicate species and management practices. There is no charge for use of the forest area. Camping privileges are for overnight, weekend or a maximum of one week period. Other units offer hunting in season for upland game. Horseback riding and special vehicle uses are permitted on certain roads. Recreation plans should be checked with the area forester prior to any such special use.

#### FOREST FIRE WARNING

The area contains one of the largest continuous stands of forest cover in this area. One careless campfire or discarded match or smoke can cause a fire which can ruin the

area for everyone. Build fires only at established fire places and use care in discarding matches or cigarettes. Report all wild fires at the forest headquarters. All fires should also be reported to nearest fire departments of Farmington, Donnellson or Argyle.

#### APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF UNITS

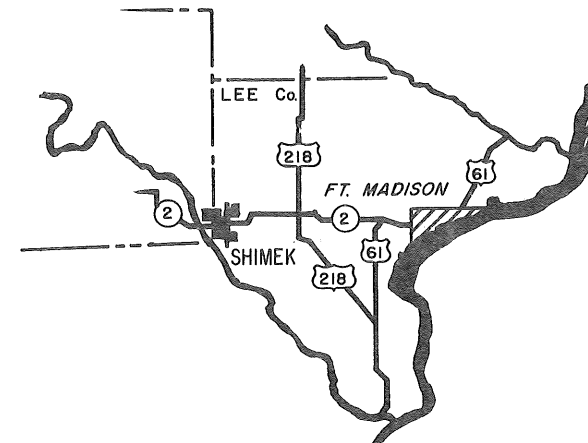
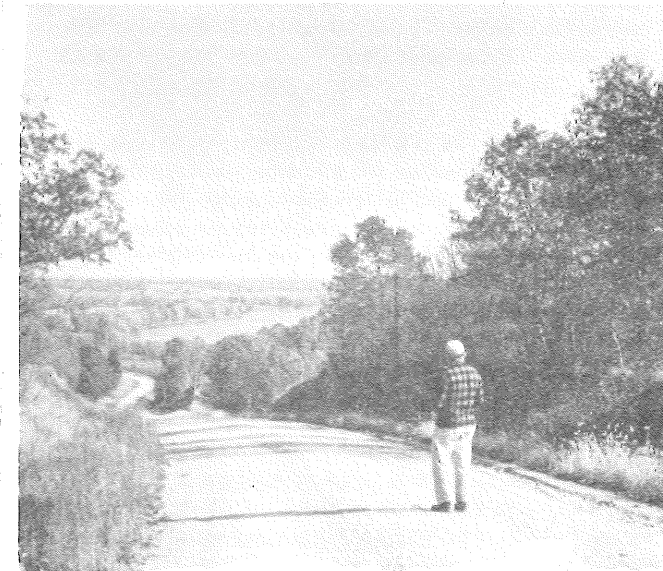
Croton Unit	1560
Lick Creek Unit	2700
Farmington Unit	1600
Donnellson Units	860
Keosauqua Unit	895

(Adjacent to Lacy-Keosauqua State park)

#### POINTS OF INTEREST IN IMMEDIATE VICINITY

1. Farmington - Settled in 1833, on Des Moines River; Old Congregation Church, built in 1848, is the second oldest west of Mississippi.
2. Indian Lake Park Across Des Moines River from Farmington, offers fishing, picnicking and camping.
3. Bonaparte Historical Bldgs.; remains of old Des Moines River locks.
4. Bentonsport On Hiawatha Trail; Mansion House museum; old River Boatman's hotel, with victorian furnishings; other reserected historical bldgs.
5. Croton, Iowa Site of Battle of Athens, most northern and Athens, Missouri battle of Civil War.
6. Keosauqua Oldest Iowa Court House Bldg., built in 1848; site of first legal hanging in state. Hotel Manning - Outstanding example of early "Steamboat Gothic" architecture.
7. Lacey Keosauqua State Park Iowa's largest state park; Ely Ford site of Morman crossing of the Des Moines River.

## SHIMEK STATE FOREST



IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

300 4TH STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319



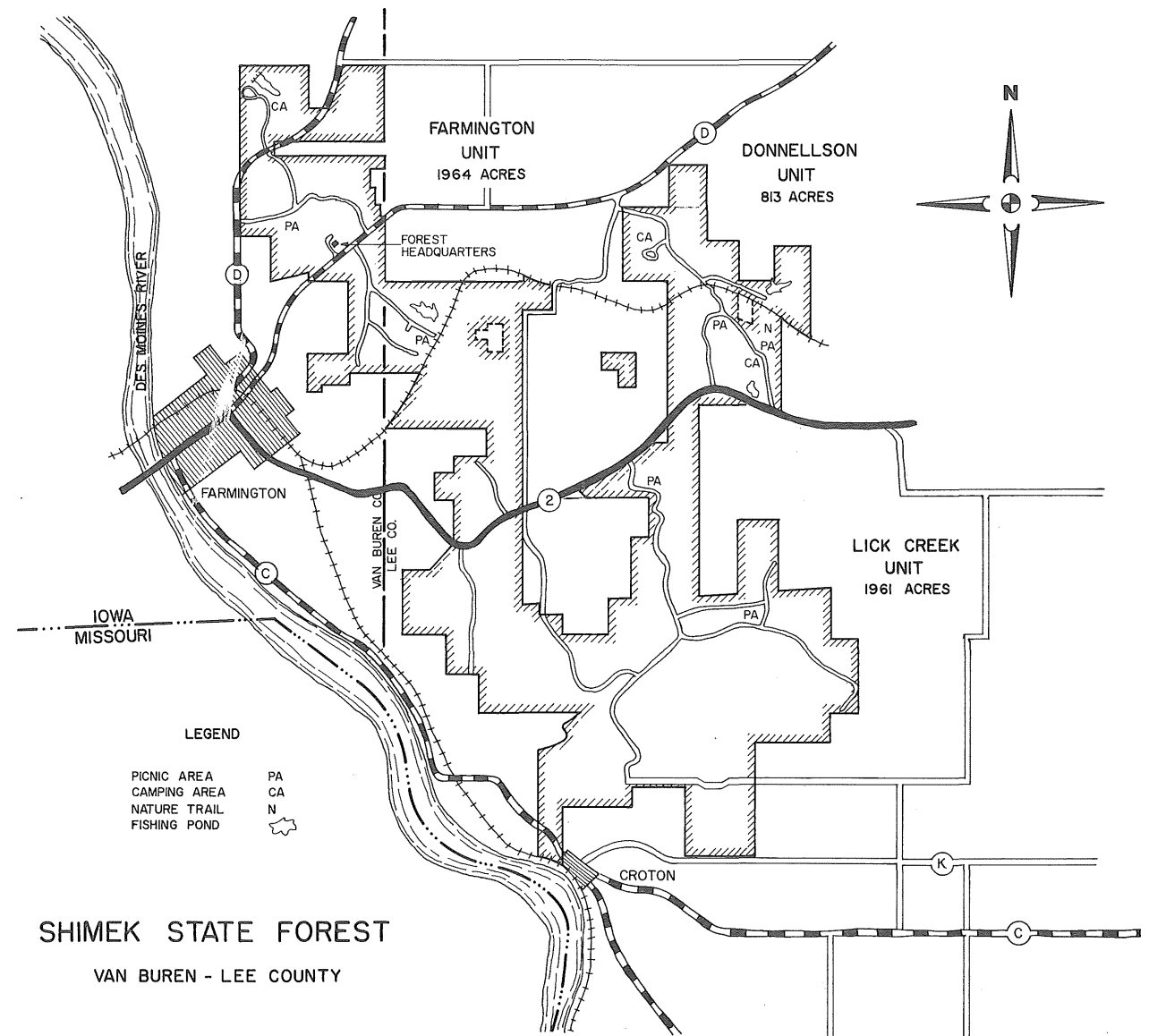
Located in historical southeast Iowa, adjacent to Iowa highway No. 2 east of Farmington, is Shimek State Forest. This 8,000 acre area is twenty-five miles west of Fort Madison and thirty miles north of Keokuk, Iowa.

Named for the late Dr. Bohumil Shimek, Iowa naturalist, one time botany department head at the University of Iowa and one of the state's early conservationists, the original 4,000 acres was established by many purchases of depleted farm land begun in the mid 1930's. Those individual acquisitions continued until pre-World War II days. Those early purchases were initiated by the late G.B. McDonald, head of Forestry Department, Iowa State University, acting as State Forester at that time.

Through an appropriation by General Assembly in 1964 an additional 3,000 acres were added in a purchase from U.S. Forest Service. Much of latter acquisition adjoined the forest. Since 1964 additional purchases have increased the forest to approximately 8,000 acres.

Since all of the area was in private ownership, all of the timber growing sites had been clear cut at least once and all present timber is second growth. Scattered among these timber growing sites were many acres of old field sites, that through soil mismanagement had lost their productivity from soil erosion. Beginning in 1939 with early plantings of conifers on these old field sites by Civilian Conservation Corps approximately 2,000 acres have been planted to various species of conifers. Since this area is mid way between the natural range of northern and southern pines, some of each were planted. From these plantings it was found northern pines were best adapted. The following conifers in order of acreage can be found; white pine, red pine, scotch pine, jack pine, Virginia pine, ponderosa pine and Austrian pine. The latter two are not planted now because high rainfall and humidity in this area makes them susceptible to a needle blight.

In addition to above mentioned, white spruce, pitch pine, shortleaf pine, table mountain pine, larch and several hybrid pines can be found in small plantings.



Springbrook State Park, located seven miles north and one mile east of Guthrie Center, offers 680 acres of the best recreational facilities and incomparable beauty in central Iowa. Only an hour drive from Des Moines, it is easily accessible on paved highways from all directions right up to the park entrance. The roads within the park are also paved.

The lake's clear, blue water is bordered by forested hills and an excellent sandy beach. Parking space is no problem. Boat rental and bait are available and refreshments are served by the bath house concession.

Fishing includes crappie, largemouth bass, bluegills, bullheads, northerns, and catfish. Ice fishing is also a popular sport on the lake.

Within the many good picnic areas are 205 tables and dozens of fireplaces, with firewood, water, and toilet facilities close at hand. Tent and trailer camping areas with modern toilets, fireplaces, tables, electric hookups, wood, and two shower buildings are available and are well kept features of Springbrook.

Other facilities include a large group camp complete with modern kitchen, dining hall, showers and toilets. Nine sleeping cabins will accommodate fourteen people each. Six family cabins are equipped with electric refrigerators, gas stoves, dishes and silverware and some cooking utensils. Cabin renters should bring pillows, towels and bedding. (see rates on back.)

Springbrook was once called King Park. The change came about because of the little, spring fed brook that originated and still feeds the lake.

Most every kind of bird that visits Iowa finds its way to this sanctuary, as do wildlife including deer, rabbits, etc. Flowers and trees native to this state can be located along the miles of nature trails that wind through the hills and valleys.

Because of the abundance of native flora and fauna, and the park's central location, the Teachers' Conservation Camp is held here from June to August each summer.

#### TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING

Registration must be made through the park officer. Tent and trailer camping fees are \$2.50 per night per unit and 50 cents additional for electricity.

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25 cents per person per night.

For chaperoned, organized youth groups, 15 cents per person per night is charged. There is a minimum charge of \$2.50 per night in a modern area.

Facilities furnished are water and sanitary facilities. Firewood is available from the park officer at 25 cents per bundle.

All prices quoted are subject to State Sales Tax.

#### OVERNIGHT FAMILY CABINS

Reservations must be made through the park officer. Advance reservations for one and two week periods only. Any fraction of a week will be charged on a daily rate basis.

Rates for a maximum of four persons are as follows: The daily rate is \$10.00 per cabin. The weekly rate is \$50.00 per cabin. Cots are available for additional guest at a charge of 50 cents per day per cot.

#### ORGANIZED YOUTH GROUP CABINS

Reservations must be made through the park officer. Cabins, cots, mattresses, sanitary facilities and water are furnished. Rates to youth groups are 75 cents per person per day with a minimum charge of \$25.00 per day. When rented to groups other than youth groups, rates will be a minimum of \$7.00 per day per cabin plus \$25.00 per day per group for the use of other facilities.

#### SURROUNDING TOWNS

**GUTHRIE CENTER** - most churches, bowling alley, laundromat, golf courses.

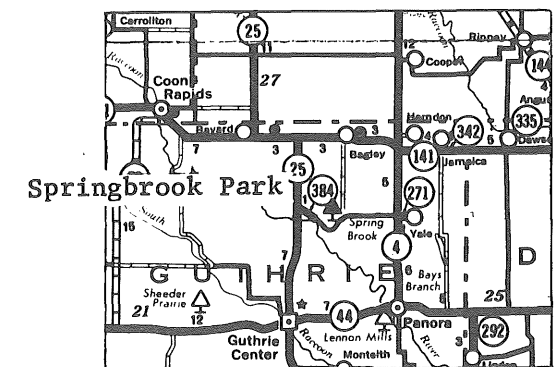
**PANORA** - 14 miles. Most churches, drive-in theatre, river fishing.

ADDRESS: PARK OFFICER

Springbrook State park  
P.O. Box 142, Route 1  
Guthrie Center, Iowa 50115

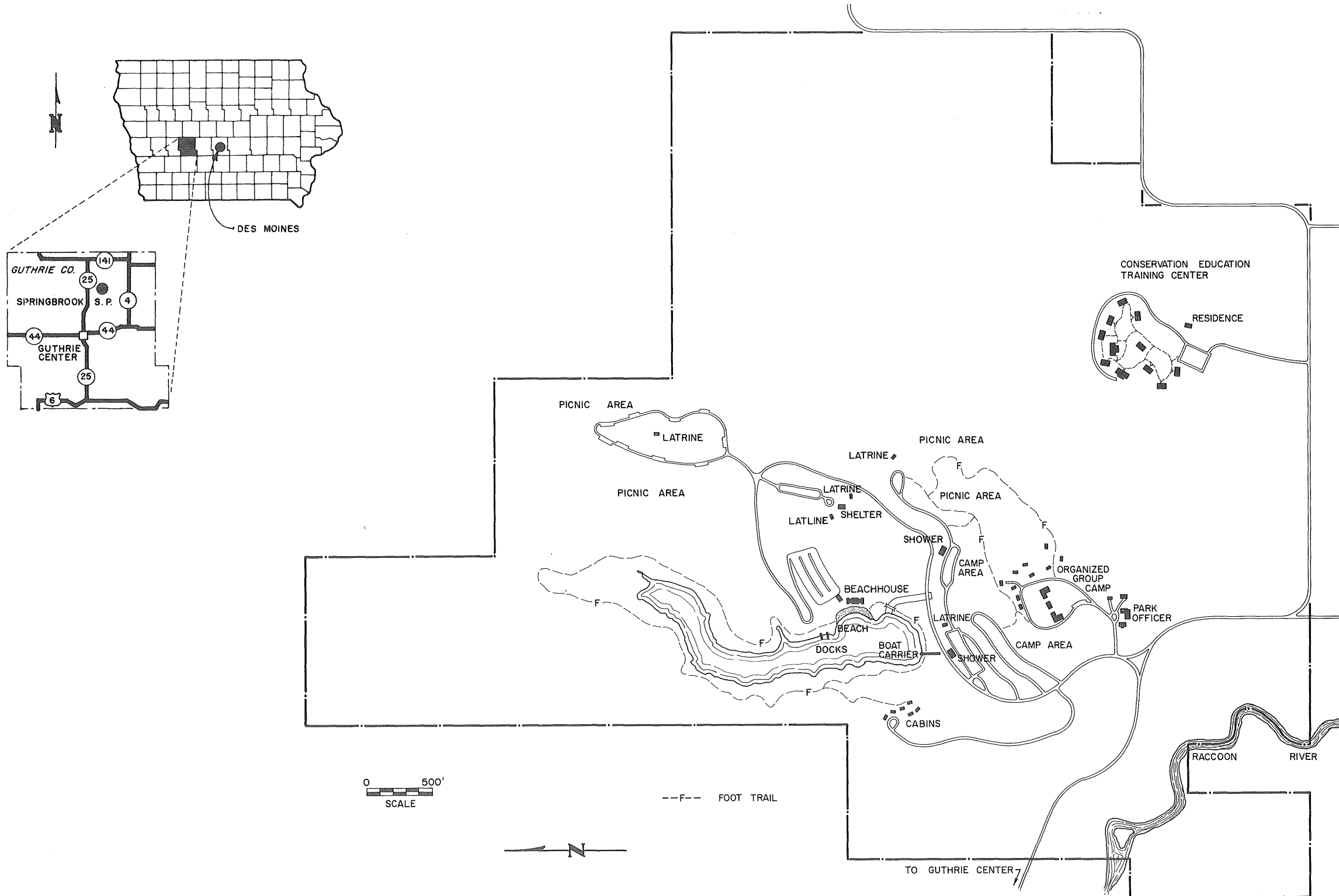
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# SPRINGBROOK



IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

300 - 4th STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319



The oak-hickory timber type found mainly on ridge tops and sides consists mostly of scrub oaks or stands of hickory. However, on the better sites, the white oak-red oak-hickory association predominates. The bottom land timber type contains a variety of species including elm, ash, cottonwood, soft maple and walnut. Many areas have been planted to coniferous trees and some broadleaved trees which are not native to the area, including a large variety of pines, douglas fir, black locust, Osage orange and tulip poplar.

The forest is the home of the white tailed deer which is abundant on the area and the largest of the fauna. Other animals include red and gray squirrels, raccoon, cottontail rabbits, wood chuck, muskrat, skunk, red and gray fox and many other smaller animals.

Non poisonous snakes are common but the two poisonous species, the rattlesnake and copperhead are very rare.

A variety of birds are present including those native to the woodland and its edge. Game birds include some pheasant and many bobwhite quail. The woodcock is an occasional visitor to the forest area.

Early in 1966, wild turkeys were released on the 1,000 acres unit. These birds show great promise.

The area is characterized by intermittent streams or seep fed, slow running streams which dry up completely at times. Many dew ponds, which are small impoundments, were built by the C.C.C. to serve as a water supply for fire protection and for the use of wildlife. The Lucas unit has a small lake which is stocked with game fish. A continuing program of small pond building is being carried on to provide water for fire protection and wildlife.

As the area has become better known, many people use its facilities. Use pressures are greater than present facilities can provide for at times. It is not unusual for picnic facilities to be fully occupied on some weekends. During the shotgun season on deer, certain units are crowded to the exclusion of other forms of use. Facilities are being expanded. With the present program of rock-ing roads and marking the areas, heavier use is anticipated. However, during the week, or in a slack season, a person would have the area almost to himself.

Only the Lucas and Whitebreast Units have all weather roads. The other units are not usable when the roads are wet.

Any reasonable public use of the areas is permitted, without application or fee (except that application must be made for certain large group activities). Some of the activities offered are fishing, picnicking, camping, hunting, hiking, riding, mushroom hunting and searching for Indian relics.

The entire forest area is open to hunting during the regular seasons for wild game. Hunters are asked to be particularly careful with the use of firearms around picnic areas or any place where people are congregated, and are asked to refrain from shooting at equipment, signs or trees.

Fishing is available at several lakes and ponds on the Lucas and Whitebreast Units.

#### Rules:

1. *Be careful with fire. Do not leave fire unattended. Make sure it is out before abandoning. If you should lose control of a fire or discover a wildfire, notify the nearest fire department. Use of tools in fire boxes at various locations for the purpose of putting out fires is permitted.*
2. *Confine vehicles to main roads. Drive carefully.*
3. *Do not molest plant life, wildlife, equipment or buildings.*
4. *Please refrain from taking horses into picnic area.*
5. *Please observe all signs and notices.*
6. *Use of dead wood for cooking or campfire is permitted.*
7. *Camping privileges are for overnight, weekend, or a maximum one week period.*

For further information, contact

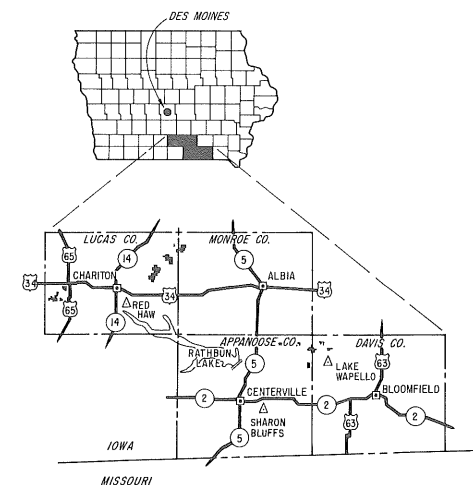
**AREA FORESTER**

CHARITON, IOWA  
PHONE 774-5581



CPA-40317 7/71

## STEPHENS STATE FOREST



**IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
300-4th STREET

DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

The Stephens State Forest, named for Dr. T. C. Stephens, a prominent educator and Sioux City native, is located in south central Iowa. The forest is divided into six separate units for a total of 7,686 acres as follows:

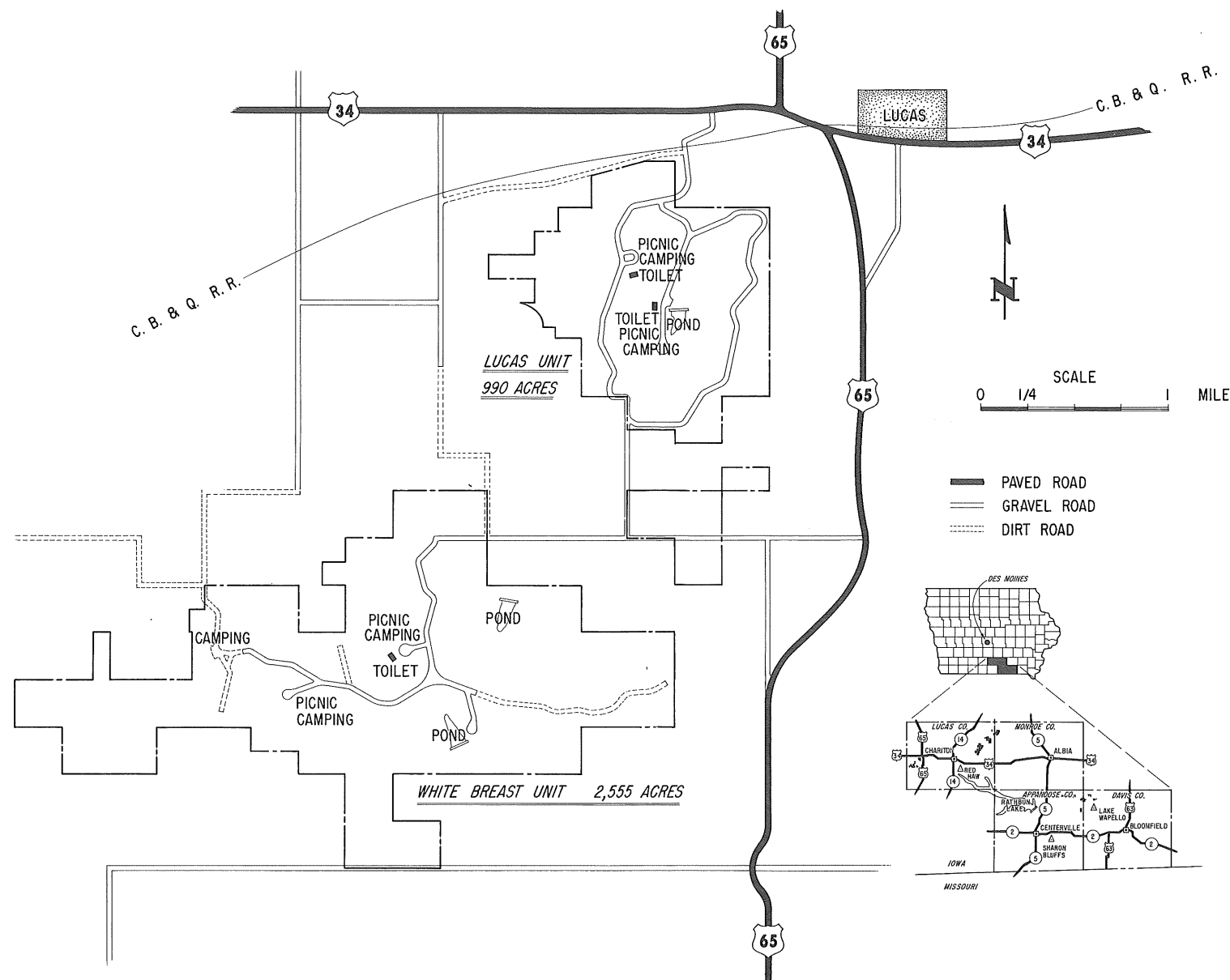
1. Lucas Unit (990 acres) is southwest and within one mile of the town of Lucas, just south of U.S. Highway No. 34.
2. Whitebreast Unit (2,555 acres) is 2 miles south and 2 miles west of the town of Lucas.
3. The Cedar Creek Unit (600 acres) is 4 miles east and 1 mile south of the town of Williamson.
4. The Chariton Unit (875 acres) is 6 miles east of the town of Williamson.
5. The 1,000 acres Unit (965 acres) is 1 mile northeast of the Chariton Unit in the northeast corner of Lucas County. Part of this unit lies in Monroe County.
6. Unionville Unit (1,700 acres) is made up of eight separate tracts in N.E. Appanoose County and N.W. Davis County.

The original function of the area was to serve as an example of forest management to the people of Iowa, to include demonstration areas of hardwood and conifer plantations. While these uses are still recognized, the area has assumed increasing importance as a recreational area. An increasing number of people from a wide area use the forest as a place to hunt, fish, camp, picnic, study nature and enjoy the out-of-doors.

The geology of this area was influenced by the Nebraskan and Kansan glaciers which left deposits of glacial till over the area, covering the sedimentary deposits which had lain exposed. Long after these glaciers had deposited their load of till over this part of Iowa, the Wisconsin glacier was melting in northern Iowa. The water produced by the melting ice which found its way into the Missouri River drainage caused large mud flats to be formed on the bottoms. Sometime later the prevailing westerly winds picked up the soil deposits from the Missouri Valley and carried them across what is now southern Iowa. In some areas, the deposits built up to be a 100 feet thick.

This fine, silty material termed loess is found on ridge tops overlaying glacial till. On the sides of hills, erosion has exposed glacial deposited materials. The relatively narrow valleys are covered by alluvial material carried from the hills by erosion. In some instances, erosion has proceeded far enough in the valleys to expose glacial till or underlying sedimentary material. The terrain then, is characterized by narrow, flat ridges, separated by deeply cut drainages.

The flora of the region consists of the tall grass prairie association and the oak-hickory and bottom land and hardwoods timber types and their transition zones. Since the forest area is located mainly on soils which have been formed under forest vegetation, the plants of the prairie are not common on the forest areas, however, big and little bluestem, switchgrass, Indian grass, cordgrass and other prairie plants may be found.



Stone Park offers an abundance of recreational facilities to its summer visitors.

Six beautiful picnic areas complete with tables and fireplace are available with enough parking space to accommodate anyone who wishes to take advantage.

Some of the best bridle trails in the state may be found here at Stone. Seven and one half miles of good roads wind their way through the lush summer undergrowth affording the motorist hours of viewing nature at her best. For those who wish to get a closer look at the wildlife species, nature lovers will be pleased with the miles of foot trails available.

Perhaps the most unusual of the species of over 70 wildflowers found in the park is the yucca which grows on the loess hills of this area. Native to the southwestern regions of the United States, the yucca is most beautiful in the summer months.

From Dakota Point visitors are afforded a magnificent view of the surrounding countryside stretching 15 miles in the distance.

Both boy and girl scout camps and the Salvation Army have permanent camps adjoining the park area. All three camps are within easy access to the park facilities.

Located near the intersection of the Missouri and Big Sioux Rivers, Stone Park was once the feeding ground for many kinds of wildlife. Bear, panther, lynx, deer and buffalo once roamed these grounds in search of food. One of their principal foods, grama oats, still cover the tops of the hills providing cover for the smaller game now inhabiting the area.

Old, worn trails still weaving through the dense undergrowth of Stone Park are believed to have been originally formed by the herds of buffalo in their treks across the land in search of new grazing pasture. The last wild buffalo in the state of Iowa is said to have died within the boundaries of Stone Park.

Stone Park, named for the Thomas Jefferson Stone family, was given to the state in 1935 as a gift from Sioux City. The land, upon Stone's death, was equally divided between a son and a daughter. The daughter gave her share to Sioux City and the town bought the son's share. The state, upon receiving this generous gift from Sioux City, developed the land until its present 900 acres was acquired and properly facilitated to accommodate the recreational needs of the people.

Atop a high bluff on the Missouri River, near Stone Park is Chief War Eagles's grave. A colorful character in Iowa's early history, he remained a friend to the white settlers until his death in 1851. To show their appreciation for his unreserved peaceful endeavors, the United States Government granted him much authority over this area of Iowa.

In the days of his youth, War Eagle is said to have spent much time in the hills and valleys that are now the park, taking part in religious ceremonies on the land that the Indians held to be sacred. Evidence that many camps were pitched over hundreds of years lies in "Kitchen Mounds" a few miles north of the park. In spite of its proximity to Sioux City, a city of 86,000, the solitude of Stone Park still has a tone of reverence which cannot be denied.

## TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING

No reservations are necessary, but campers are asked to secure a camping permit from the park office upon arrival. The Commission has fixed the fees for tent and trailer camping as follows:

Modern Area . . . . . \$2.50 Per Night Per Basic Unit  
Modern Area W-Elect. . . . . \$3.00 Per Night Per Basic Unit

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25c per person per night.

Facilities furnished are water, hot showers and sanitary facilities. Electrical outlets are available and firewood can be obtained from the park officer at 25c per bundle.

For chaperoned, organized youth groups, 15c per person per night is charged. There is a minimum charge of \$2.50 per night in a modern area.

All prices quoted are subject to State Sales Tax.

## ENCLOSED SHELTER

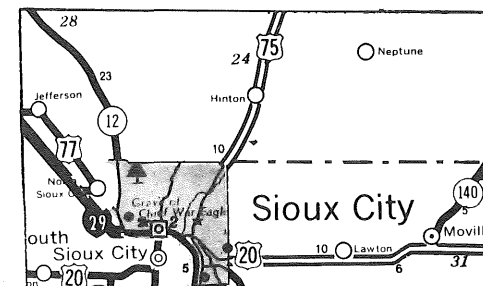
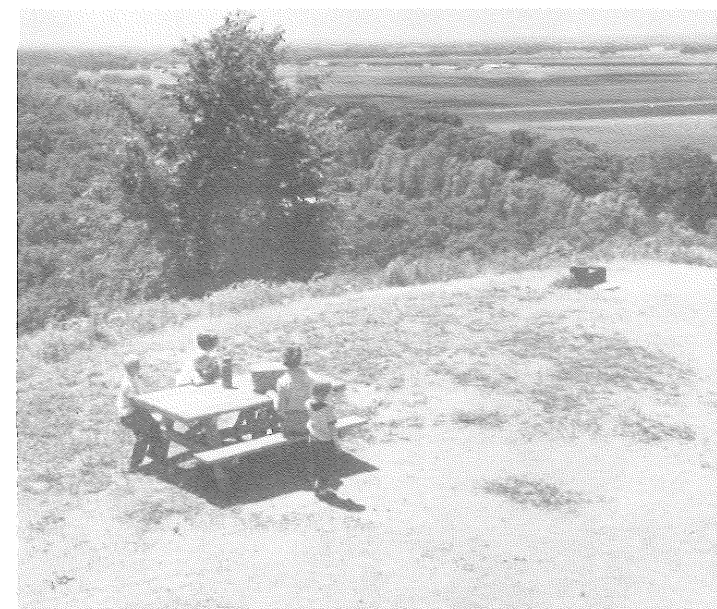
Stone Park has a fine enclosed shelter (lodge) that may be rented for \$25.00. Rate given is for each 100 people per reservation. No charges are made for electricity or fuel on lodge rentals. The lodge is closed during the winter. Reservations are made through the park officer.

The shelter house is on a first come, first serve basis. No reservations are needed.

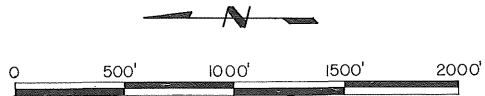
## PARK OFFICER'S ADDRESS:

Stone Park  
RR 3  
Sioux City, Iowa 51103

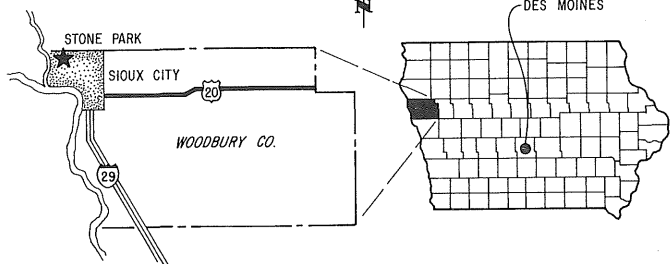
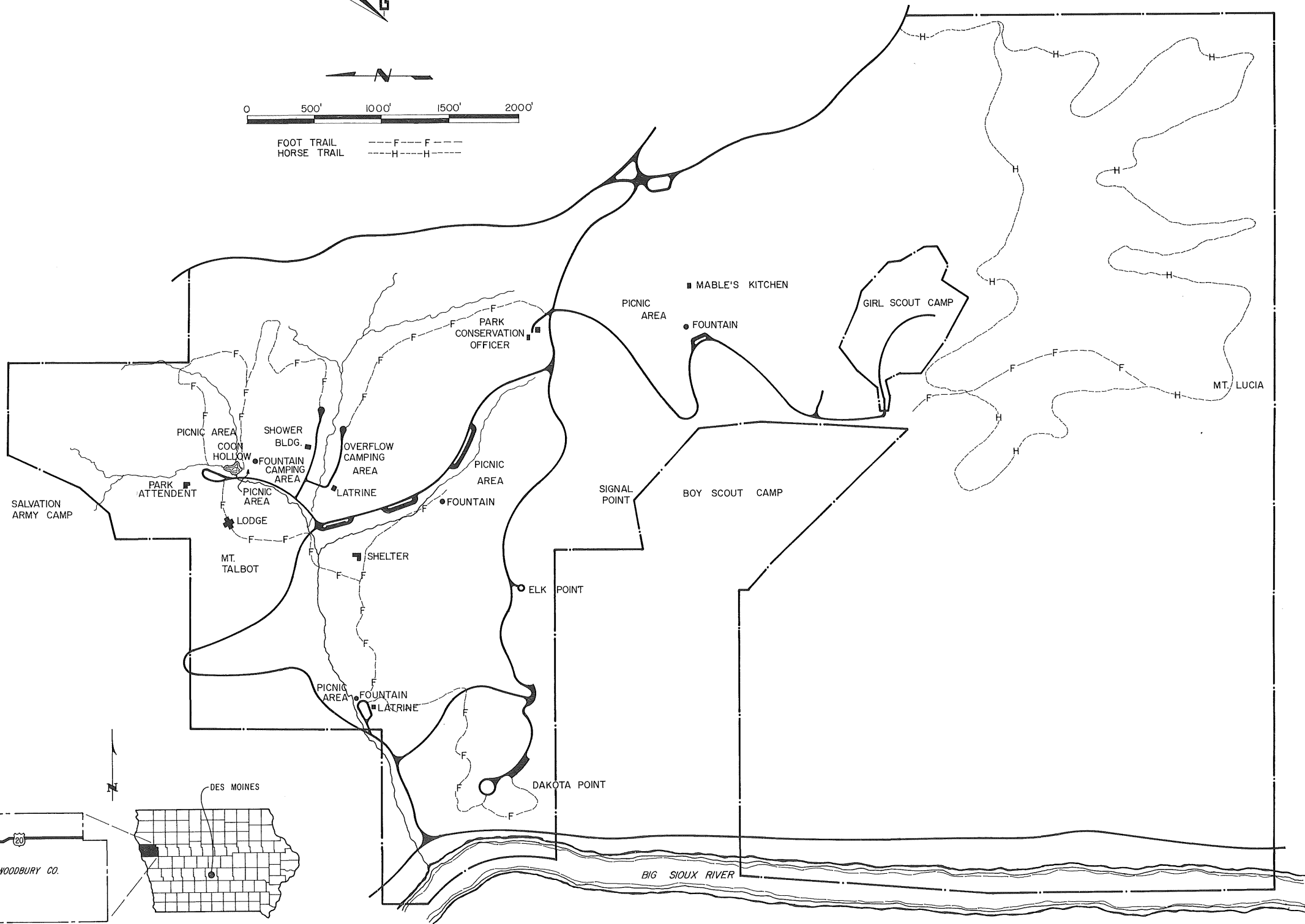
# STONE



IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
300 4th STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319



FOOT TRAIL    ---F---F---  
HORSE TRAIL    ---H---H---





slight charge, space can be rented for docking private boats over night or longer.

A long sweep of shady, grassy hillside that extends down to the water's edge forms the beautiful picnic area. Two access roads minimize conjection on busy summer days. The upper area road also leads to a shelter house and an overlook with an excellent view of the lake. There is also a large overlook above the beach area. Many stoves and picnic tables are available in both the upper and lower picnic areas.

Campers follow a winding road across a large silt dam to a secluded grassy area nestled between two arms of the lake. There is a fee charged for the use of this area. It has a modern shower house, electric outlets, trailer dump, and a boat ramp for the campers' convenience.

Most areas maintained for public use are along the west shore of the lake. A small access area at the southeast end of the dam on the east shore has parking facilities and concrete boat launching ramps. It can be reached by an all-weather road from U.S. 34. All of the roads in the area of public use on the west side of the lake are black-topped with the exception of the roads in the camping area which are surfaced with crushed rock.

A portion of the nearly 1,000 acre park has been left undeveloped. These areas have an abundance of the wild flowers common to this area. They also serve as a refuge for many species of wild game. It is not uncommon to view beavers, muskrats, ducks and shore birds in the far reaching arms of the lake, and possibly deer drinking or browsing at the water's edge. The quiet, alert hiker, walking the foot trails, can see many kinds of birds and small animals as well as a large variety of plants and flowers.

Of historic significance is the fact that the hills and valleys in the neighborhood were once favored as camp-sites by Indian tribes. Many artifacts were dug up when the dam was being constructed and at least one Indian burial ground is known to be underwater at the north-east-ern corner of the lake.

CAMPING RATES AND REGULATIONS

All camping permits are issued by the park officer. The Commission has fixed the fees for tent and trailer camping as follows:

Modern Area .....\$2.50 Per Night Per Basic Unit  
W-Elect. ....\$3.00 Per Night Per Basic Unit

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25c per person per night.

All prices quoted are subject to State Sales Tax.

For chaperoned, organized youth groups, 15c per person per night is charged. There is a minimum charge of \$2.50 per night in a Modern area.

Camping fees do not include use of boat facilities.

Facilities furnished are space, water and sanitary facilities. Firewood is available at 25c at the park.

SURROUNDING TOWNS

Stanton, 4 miles from the park, has a population of 570. Facilities at this town include a laundromat, grocery store, restaurant, service stations, a garage, and churches.

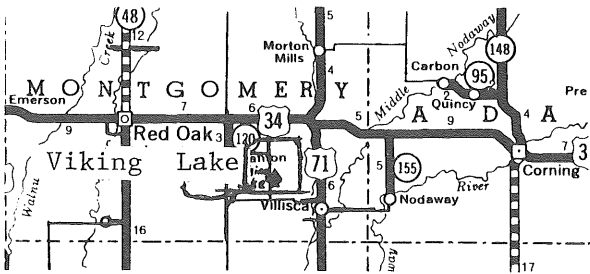
Red Oak, the county seat, 12 miles from Viking Lake, has a population of over 6,000 and has all the necessary facilities for the convenience of campers as well as theaters and clubs for their entertainment.

Villisca, 10 miles from the park, has a population of approximately 1,700 as well as churches, a golf course, and theater.

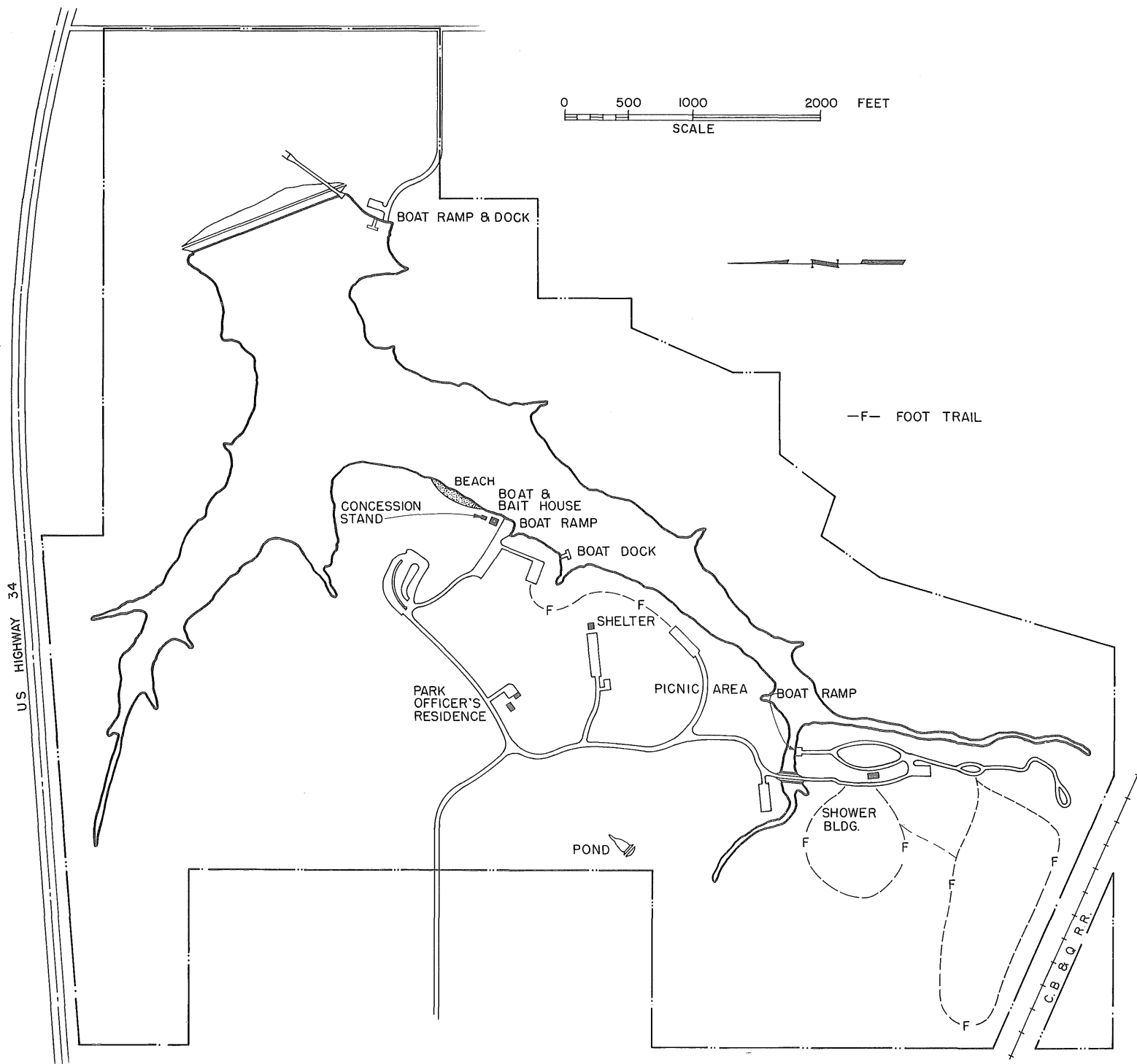
ADDRESS

Park Conservation Officer  
Viking Lake State Park  
Route 2  
Stanton, Iowa 51573

VIKING LAKE



IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
300 4TH STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319



Viking Lake is one of the most popular state parks in southwest Iowa due to its easy accessibility and the variety of recreational facilities. The park can be reached by turning south from U.S. 34 on a concrete road two miles east of Stanton and four miles west of U.S. 71.

Contrary to popular belief, Viking Lake was not created by glacial movement, except to provide the start of the stream that eventually filled it. The Conservation Commission sought the land from farmers who were cooperative in order to provide themselves and their neighbors with this fine place of recreation.

The greatest earth movers of all time - glaciers - pushed down from the far north at least four times during past eons. Three of them moved partly across Iowa and down into Missouri before dumping their loads of silt, soil and rock.

The last one, called the Wisconsin, unloaded gradually in two heaps, both in Iowa, as far south as Highway 30. Leveling off the tops of these piles before melting, the glacier left the higher, less hilly ground with numerous lakes and potholes. Consequently, below the general area along Highway 30, the melting of old Wisconsin formed rivers and creeks instead of lakes and potholes.

Some of the creeks are so situated between hills that, when properly dammed, they form lakes, or one of the thousands of farm pounds seen so often in southern Iowa. One of these artificial impoundments, created in 1957, is the 150 - acre Viking Lake, well stocked with crappies, bluegills, bass, bullheads, and catfish offering ample fishing opportunity to anglers of all ages.

The lake is 46 feet at its deepest point and has many bays and projecting points around its 4½ mile shoreline. A portion of the west shore is sanded, providing a well-marked area for swimming. At present, there are neat, clean compartment-size buildings where swimmers can change clothes. Future construction plans include a modern bath house. This area also has a bait house and boat livery that rents boats, motors, paddle boats and canoes. Another concrete ramp at this location is a convenient launching place for private boats. A well protected cove a short distance from the boat livery contains the state docks where, for a

Lake Wapello could easily be called the "country club" of Iowa state parks. Its buildings, hard-topped roads, neatly trimmed foliage and picnic areas hold a quiet elegance that compares favorably with the private sports clubs of the nation.

One of the park's attributes is its remoteness. Nestled in the heavily-wooded northwest corner of Davis County, the park lies 13 miles from Bloomfield, the county seat. The nearest populated areas are Drakesville, six miles east, and Unionville, six miles west, both with populations under 300 people.

Despite its isolation, Lake Wapello draws great numbers of people who come to take advantage of its camping and recreational facilities. The twelve modern overnight cabins are constantly occupied during the season. The camp ground, with its showers, toilets, and laundry tubs, is busy from April until late September. The picnic areas, grassy and shaded, are most attractive especially "Smith Knoll" with its unique stone shelter. The view from this overlook is exceptional anytime; but at night, when the many lights of the beach on the north shore cast dancing reflections on the water of the lake, the view is incomparable.

The southern arm of the lake is called Scouts Bay. A permanent Boy Scout camp occupies an area to the east of the bay, just outside the park property.

A map of the park is included in this folder, showing that the only entrance is at the northeast corner of the park. At this point begin two and a half miles of hard-top roads.

The city of Ottumwa, 30 miles north and east of Lake Wapello, has taken much interest in the park's development from the beginning. The "Ottumwa Daily Courier" of July 30, 1936, carried the following headline across its front page: "Lake Dedication Draws Big Crowd." Over 8,000 people were present to hear the dedication speeches and presentation of a monument commemorating the late Dr. W. C. Boone, a member of the former Fish and Game Commission, and later a member of the State Conservation Commission.

The park has a land area of 1,150 acres and 285 acres of sparkling blue water. It possesses seven miles of shore, a beautiful rough stone and hewn timber bath house, and adequate parking facilities for all areas.

Another interesting asset of the park is the fish hatchery where bass and pan fish are raised for lakes all over southern Iowa. Resident fish-culturists live there the year around to care for the rearing ponds and equipment.

Bass, crappies, catfish, bullheads and pan fish abound in this lake. Photos by the score adorn the walls of the concessionaire who rents boats and motors and sells bait and gear.

Clubs and organizations from Bloomfield, Ottumwa and rural areas of the vicinity use the fine, large dining room regularly for luncheons and banquets in the summer; and a refreshment

counter, operated by private individuals, caters to picnickers and bathers.

All rates will be found on the back of this folder.

## TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING

No reservations are necessary, but campers are requested to secure a camping permit from the park office upon arrival. The Commission has fixed the fees for tent and trailer camping as follows:

Modern Area . . . . . \$2.50 Per Night Per Basic Unit  
Modern Area W-Elect. . . . . \$3.00 Per Night Per Basic Unit

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25c per person per night.

For chaperoned, organized youth groups, 15c per person per night is charged. There is a minimum charge of \$2.50 per night in a modern area.

Facilities furnished are space, water and sanitary facilities. Firewood is available at 25c at the park.

Camping fees do not include use of boat and beach facilities.

All prices quoted are subject to State Sales Tax.

## MODERN OVERNIGHT CABINS

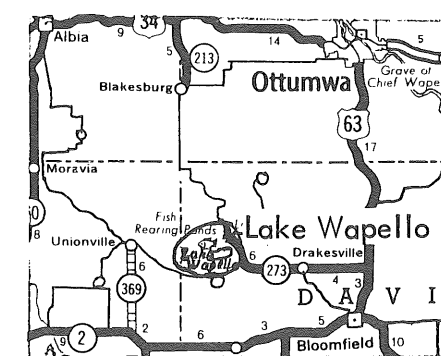
All reservations must be made through the park officer.

Rates are for a maximum of four persons. Cots where available are supplied for additional guests at 50 cents a day per cot. Advance deposit per cabin is \$5.

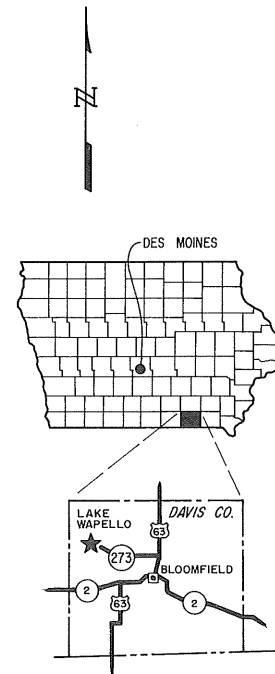
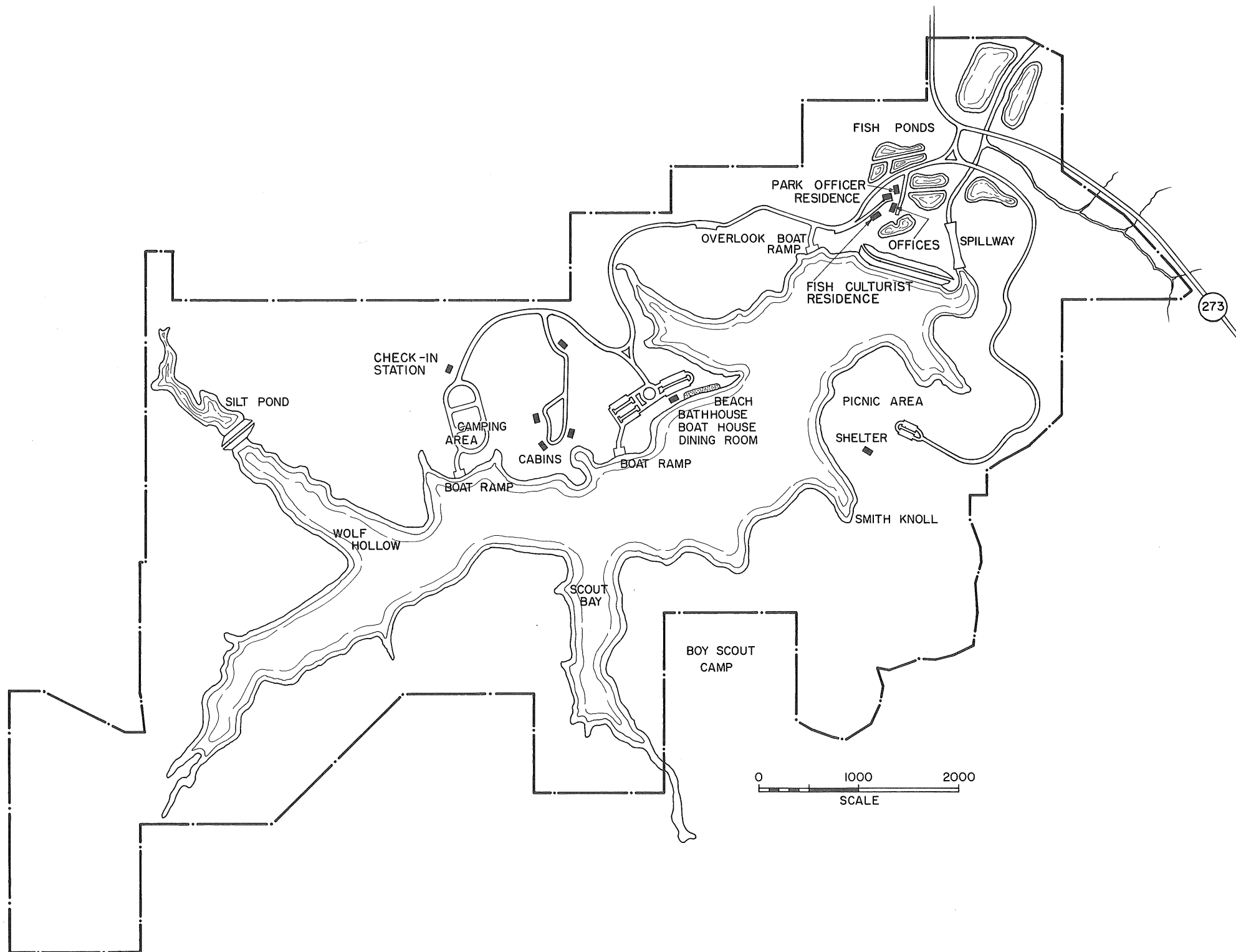
Cabins accommodate four comfortably. The renter must provide his own bedding, pillows, and linens. The rental of cabins does not entitle the tenant to free use of beach or boating privileges. Arrangements for these may be made with the concessionaire. Electricity is included in the basic rates. The daily rate is \$10 per cabin, and the weekly rate if \$50 per cabin.

**PARK OFFICER ADDRESS:**  
Lake Wapello State Park  
RR No. 1  
Drakesville, Iowa 52552

# LAKE WAPELLO



**IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**300 4th STREET**  
**DES MOINES, IOWA 50319**



# WAPSIPINICON

Just south of Anamosa, the road leads over a bridge across the Wapsipinicon River and through the entrance of Wapsipinicon State Park.

Within its borders is found recreation that includes hiking at its very best, climbing, nature study, fishing in the Wapsipinicon River, primitive camping, picnicking and other accommodations to make your stay pleasant, whether its for two weeks of camping or a day's outing.

Sandstone and limestone bluffs in this 248 acre park are covered with moss and columbine. The red flowers of columbine against the luxuriant green moss in late spring leave a long remembered sight to visitor's eyes. The word columbine is Latin for bright dove. If you look hard at these lovely, delicate flowers, their petals do resemble brightwinged birds.

Covered with vegetation and trees, Wapsipinicon is high in botanical value. Hiking, a favored activity of Wapsipinicon Park visitors, reveals a multitude of flowers, trees, wildlife and splendid views from the bluffs. Jack-in-the-pulpit hidden deep in the woods, May apple and bellwort are just a few of the vast wild flower varieties in the park.

Wildlife abounds here. A quiet walk along the river or creek running through the park often brings a deer into view as it stops to drink or beavers ambitiously constructing a dam. Squirrels scamper across the trails. Besides fox and gray squirrels, black phases are also seen.

Wapsipinicon supports some fine pines and other trees of many varieties. A road makes a complete circle of the park winding between the river and bluffs where the view is unforgettable. Motoring through the park's pure stand of white pine in White Pine Forest creates a feeling of being way out west or in Paul Bunyan's far north. This is the oldest planting of white pine in Iowa.

Hiking along the bluffs reveals numerous caves and a trip to the park isn't complete without visiting Horse Thief and Ice caves. Rocky staircases and caverns are also seen. The romance of the past is strong at Horse Thief Cave and the legend of the two horse thieves who used it for a camp as told by those who know makes good listening.

Bowl-shaped Horse Thief Cave is large enough to ride a horse into. Columbine and moss drape over the entrances of both this cave and Ice Cave, their rich greenery creating an air of restful repose.

For cool relief from afternoon heat, Ice Cave is just the answer. Visitors can crawl back into it where a cool temperature is maintained even during the height of summer's heat.

The Wapsi River at this point has a wide variety of fishing and some of the best. The Wapsi has long been famous for its channel and flathead catfish, spring crappies and bullheads especially below the dam which is near the park's entrance.

Often fishermen are rewarded when the water bursts and a largemouth bass, walleye or northern strikes making savage rushes and aerial leaps in an attempt to regain freedom. Smallmouth bass are there but wary and hard to catch.

A lovely creek, Dutch Creek, meanders through the park and empties into the Wapsi. At its mouth fishing is good almost anytime. If the water is high, many game fish wander back into Dutch Creek.

Picnicking along the river or in the seclusion of the woodland is enjoyed by many. Camping is on the primitive side and running water is available.

Don't forget your golf clubs. There is a nine hole course maintained by the Anamosa Country Club in the park.

A park officer lives in the park all year around to care for the park and its visitors.

## TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING

No reservations are needed for camping but campers must secure a camping permit from the park office upon arrival.

Tent and trailer camping fees are as follows: \$2.00 per night per unit. Two weeks limit.

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25 cents per person per night.

Facilities furnished are space, water and sanitary facilities. Firewood is available at the park office to all park visitors at 25 cents per bundle.

For chaperoned, organized youth groups, 15 cents per person per night is charged. There is a minimum charge of \$2.00 per night in a Non-Modern areas.

All rates are subject to state sales tax.

## LODGE (ENCLOSED SHELTER)

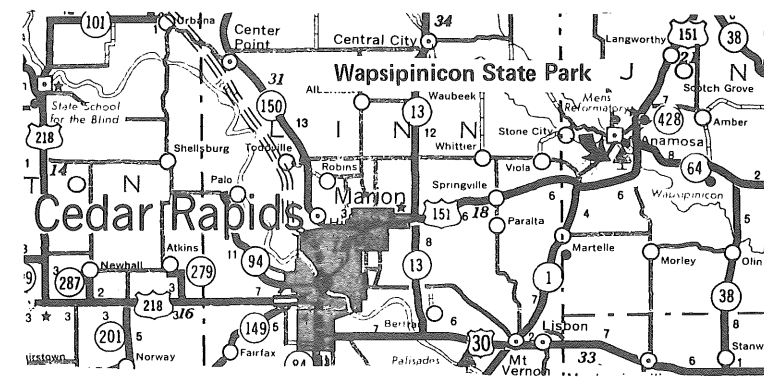
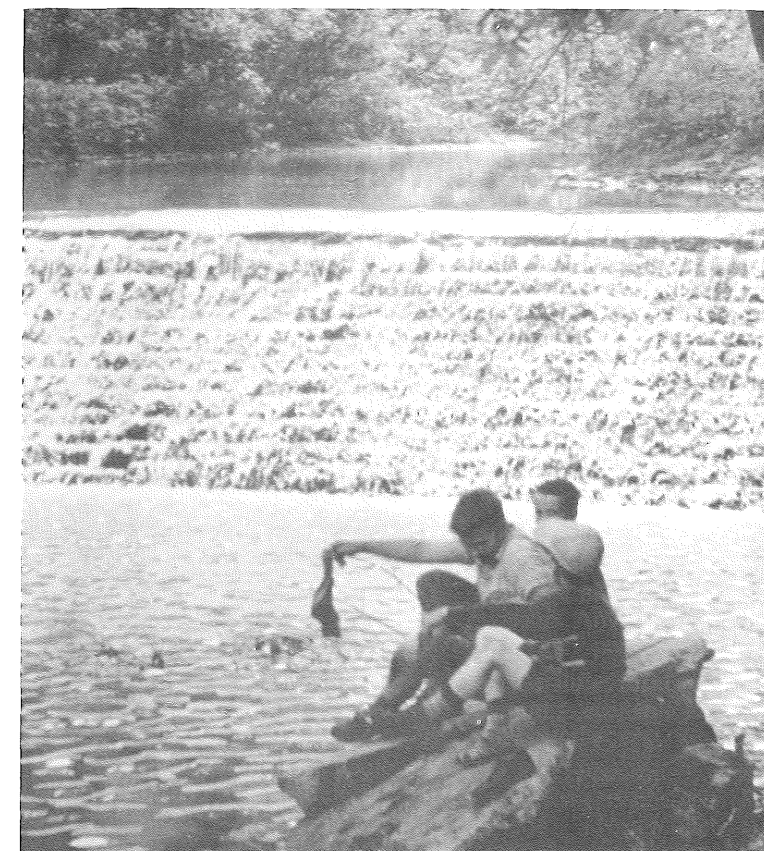
The lodge is available upon reservation with the park officer for a fee of \$10.00 per each 100 people. There is a gas stove, and tables. Running water is outside. No charge is made on the rental for electricity or fuel.

## SURROUNDING TOWNS

Anamosa: Immediately north of the park. The State Mens' Reformatory is housed here. Good shopping center, churches, supplies, etc.

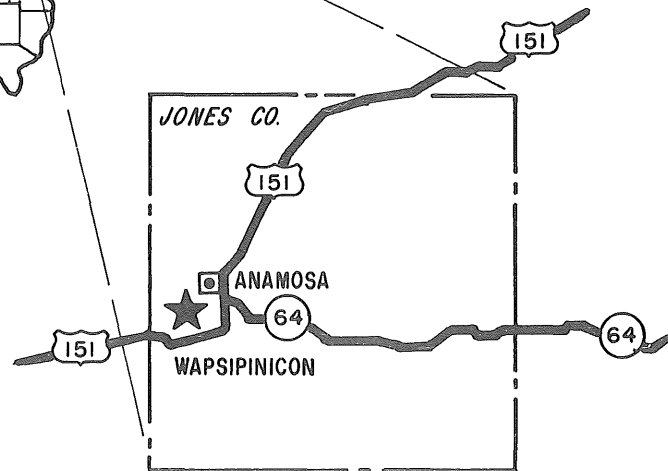
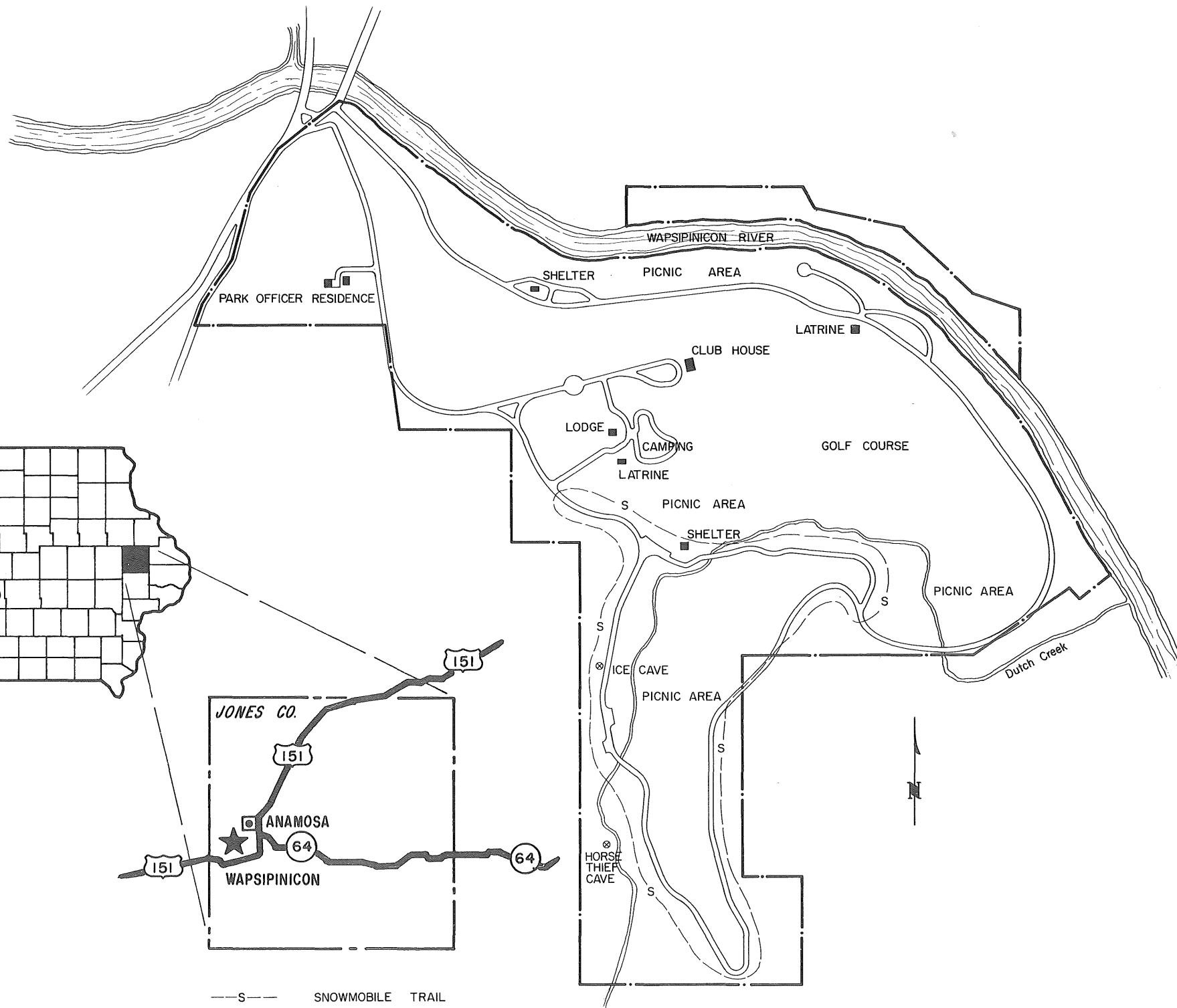
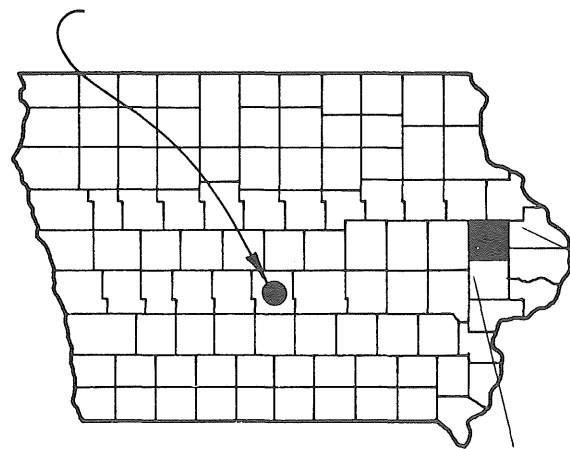
Cedar Rapids: Twenty miles southwest of the park on U. S. 151, Cedar Rapids is Iowa's second largest city. It is the home of Coe College and other points of interest.

Mt. Vernon and Monticello are also on a direct route from the park.



IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

300 4th STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319



—S— SNOWMOBILE TRAIL



Waubonsie State Park, located in the southwest corner of the state in Fremont County, covers 1,208 acres of natural scenic beauty.

Named for Chief Waubonsie of the Pottawattamies, the park was purchased in 1926. It has been called "a bit of the southwest transplanted to Iowa." The steep ridges, dropping away on either side, are miniature mountain trails where yucca and paw paw grow wild, and where, on a clear day, you can see hills over 50 miles distant.

This magnificent land of hills, ravines, woods, flowers and shrubs has been left largely as it was when Indians held their councils, plotted their wars, and pitched their teepees. Three bluffs, with naturally open pavillions, command a view of the corners of four states: Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri. Also from this vantage point one may view the Missouri River lazing her way across the open plain. One of these scenic overlooks can be reached by a wide trail only a few rods from the park's main parking area, and many people from nearby communities come regularly for a quick look from this ledge,

The park is the same today as it was in its beginnings with the exception that more land has been added and the trails have been improved.

Seven miles of foot trail and eight miles of bridle path wind along wind-swept ridges — steep, narrow and breathtaking; down in gorges and valleys where echoes resound from loess walls and wildlife scampers away, almost from underfoot.

Waubonsie State Park offers a variety of experiences that the visitor is not likely to forget. Chief Waubonsie and the Indians that preceded him left evidence that they, too, loved this land. In the mounds on the floors of grassy valleys and in gorges, artifacts hinting at a sublime day-to-day existence may still be found.

Changing seasons complement the beauty of this countryside. Spring brings the blossoms of dozens of varieties of flowers and shrubs. Summer beckons with cooling breezes on the high places, picnics in a shady glen; and adequate camping facilities make Waubonsie all the more desirable. Nowhere in the country will you find more brilliant splashings of color than at Waubonsie in the autumn. Nearly every visitor wants to capture this beauty in a color photograph. The park's beauty is enhanced when the bluffs and steeps are blanketed in

snow creating an imaginative Swiss setting with sledding and skiing at their best. Some trails on the southern slopes remain open in the winter to afford the hiker the advantages of a picturesque view of the snow-covered land.

There is no fishing in the park; however, the Missouri River and other streams are close in to accommodate the fisherman visiting Waubonsie. Forney's Lake is only 15 miles away on the scenic bluff road. It offers fishing and boating and is nationally known for thousands of geese that stop annually to feed and rest from their northward flight each spring. Camping and picnic areas in the park are numerous and very popular.

#### CAMPING RATES AND REGULATIONS

All camping permits are issued by the park officer. The Commission has fixed the fees for tent and trailer camping as follows:

Non-Modern Area . . . . .	\$2.00 Per Night Per Basic Unit
Modern Area . . . . .	\$2.50 Per Night Per Basic Unit
Modern Area W-Elect. . . . .	\$3.00 Per Night Per Basic Unit

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25c per person per night.

All prices quoted are subject to State Sales Tax.

For chaperoned, organized youth groups, 15c per person per night is charged. A minimum charge of \$2.00 per night in a Non-Modern area and \$2.50 per night in a Modern area.

Facilities furnished are space, water and sanitary facilities. Firewood is available at 25c at the park.

An open-sided shelter house is free to the public on a first-come, first-serve basis.

#### NEIGHBORING TOWNS

**Sidney**, is the home of one of the largest rodeos in North America. The rodeo is held each August.

**Hamburg**, 9 miles south of Waubonsie.

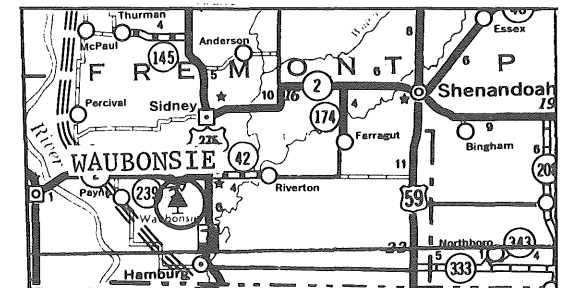
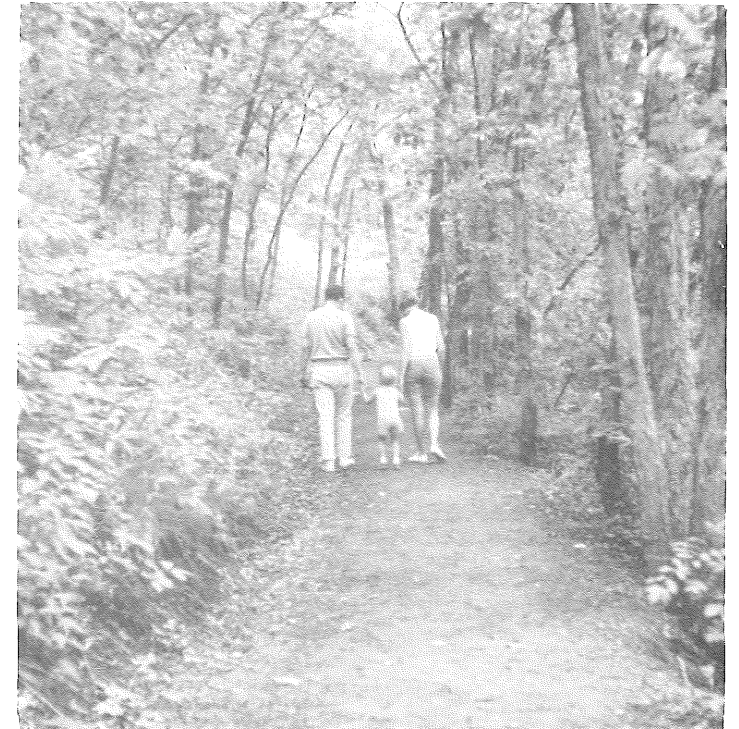
**Nebraska City**, 9 miles west across the Missouri River, is the home of J. Sterling Morton, founder of Arbor day. There is a museum in Arbor Lodge State Park.

#### ADDRESS:

Park Conservation Officer  
Waubonsie State Park  
Hamburg, Iowa 51640

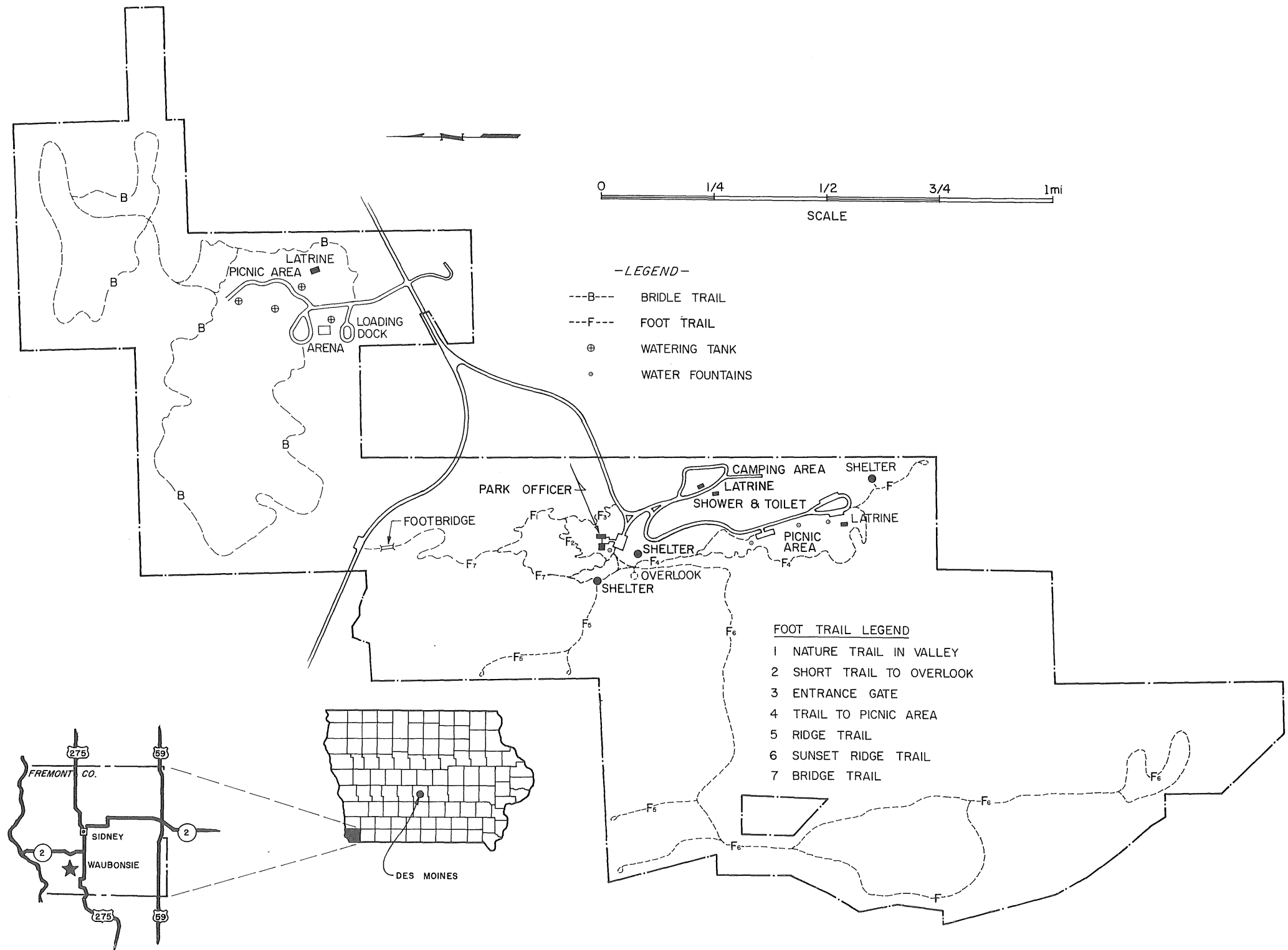
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# WAUBONSIE



IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
300 4th STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319





# WILDCAT DEN

Twelve miles from Muscatine and eighteen miles from Davenport lies Wildcat Den, one of Iowa's most intriguing state parks. Just driving to the park is an experience in itself, for river life along the Mississippi presents a striking contrast between past and present-shanties and ultramodern houses intermingled, late model automobiles and boats line the river against a background of buildings out of the past.

Benjamin Nye, one of the first settlers in Muscatine County, is credited for having built the county's first store and post office in 1838. In 1850 he built the old grist mill on Pine Creek. It's one of the few such buildings left in the country. The millrace babbles along just as it did over a century ago. Buried in a cemetery just south of the mill, Nye's body lies in one of the most ancient burial grounds in the state.

Open for visitors on Sundays, or for groups when accompanied by the resident park officer, the mill is in good condition; and most of its machinery is still intact.

The original area was donated to the state by the Brandt sisters who lived there at one time. A bronze tablet dedicated to their memory has been placed in sandstone in a lovely dell where centuries old pine trees lift their boughs to the tops of 75 foot cliffs.

Many of the rock formations and flora cannot be reached except on foot. Over two miles of trail lead to such fascinatingly named sites as "Steamboat Rock" "Devil's Punch Bowl", "Fat Man's Squeeze", and "Horseshoe Bend."

The heavily timbered terrain filled with undergrowth warns visitors not to stray from the trails. Drop-offs from cliffs as high as 100 feet are apt to be completely obscured right to their precipitous edges. It is not uncommon to find pines and other trees growing out of the seemingly bare faces of rocks high on a bluff.

As many as 25 varieties of ferns have been found in Wildcat Den. Juniper moss, moccasin flowers, trillium, asters, and many other wild flowers are here in abundance, as are every species of blossoming shrub native to the area. As for the ferns, a few of the varieties not often found elsewhere in the state include walking-leaf, polypody, woodsia, maiden hair, Goldie's fern, small aspidium, spleen wort, and brake.

Few, if any, wildcats have been seen in the park in recent years, but the rock caves and crannies that once housed them are still in evidence, and now and then on a still, moonless night, their cries may be heard echoing through the trees and valleys.

## TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING

No reservations are needed, but campers must secure a camping permit from the park office. The rate is \$2.00 per night per unit. Camping is limited to two weeks.

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25 cents per person per night.

Facilities furnished are space, water, sanitary facilities, shelter, fireplaces, and tables. Firewood is available at the park office for 25 cents a bundle.

For chaperoned, organized youth groups, 15 cents per person per night is charged. There is a minimum charge of \$2.00 per night in a Non-Modern area.

All rates are subject to state sales tax.

## NEARBY CITIES

Muscatine, one of Iowa's larger cities, has all modern conveniences and is 12 miles southwest of Wildcat Den.

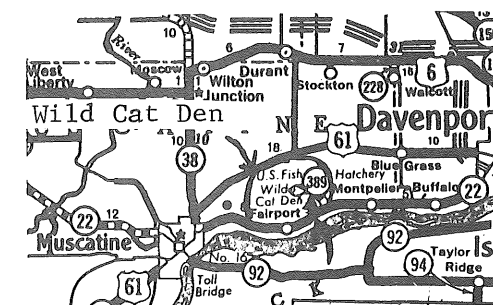
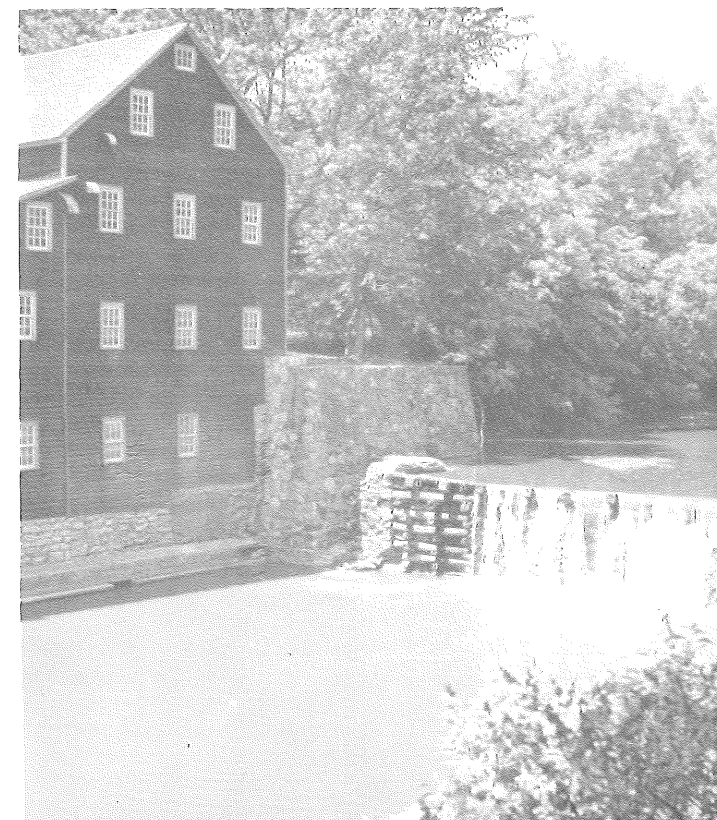
Davenport, the third largest city in Iowa, is 18 miles north-east of the park.

## ADDRESS

Park Conservation Officer  
Wildcat Den State Park  
Muscatine, Iowa 52761

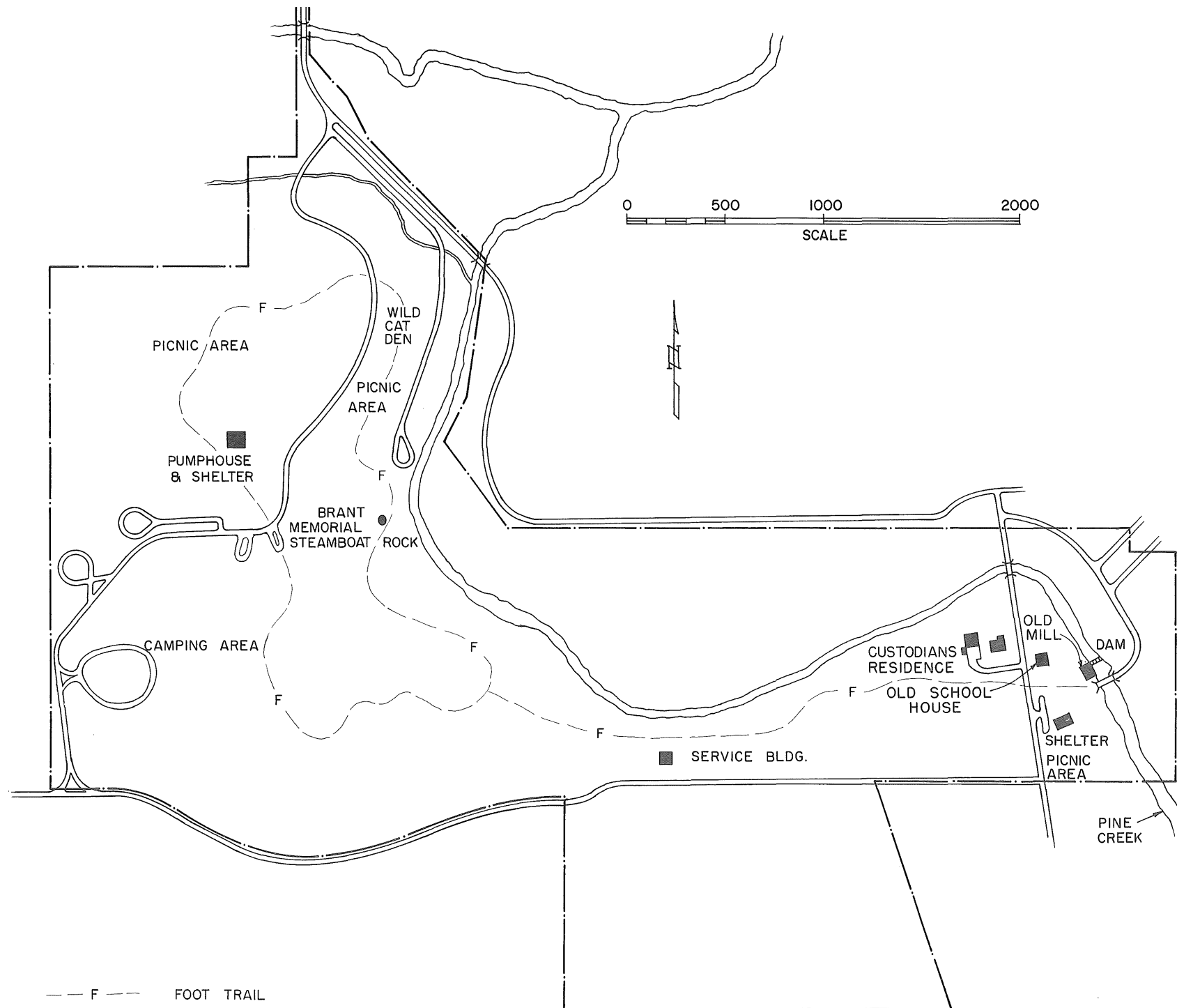


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IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

300 4th STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319



Wilson Island, opened in 1964, might well be called the camper's gateway to the west. Located along the historic Missouri River, Wilson Island offers a variety of things to do for the weekend visitor and a good night's sleep for the camper passing through.

Seclusion is one of the area's greatest assets. Hidden among the dense stands of cottonwood trees is a huge campground and picnic area. Both primitive and modern camping facilities are provided. Tables and fireplaces are available for the picnicker.

Wilson Island is six miles west of Interstate 29 and six miles south of U.S. Highway 30 west of Missouri Valley. Enroute to Wilson Island visitors will see the huge wave-like loess hills which overlook the great Missouri River floodplain.

Hunting is permitted in the 500 acre Wilson Island area with deer being the primary quarry. The island serves as hunting headquarters to those who prefer archery.

Two fishing access areas and boat launching sites are located on the island, and fishermen will find the Missouri River a new challenge.

Wilson Island attracts naturalists, artists, sightseers, and bird watchers every year. Pleasantly cool temperatures pervade the island even in the warmest weather. The Missouri River Water Safety Patrol Headquarters is located on the island, and the Lewis and Clark Trail lies 7 miles east.

### TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING

No reservations are needed for camping, but campers must secure a camping permit at the park office upon arrival. The Commission has fixed the fees for tent and trailer camping as follows:

Modern Area .....\$2.50 Per Night Per Basic Unit  
Modern Area W-Elect.....\$3.00 Per Night Per Basic Unit

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons and may include a tent, trailer, motor home or station wagon. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25c per person per night.

For chaperoned, organized youth groups, 15c per night is charged. There is a minimum charge of \$2.50 per night in a modern area.

Facilities furnished are space, water, sanitary facilities, and electric outlets. Firewood is available at the park office for a nominal fee. There are no cabins or lodges.

All prices quoted are subject to State Sales Tax.

### DE SOTO BEND

Immediately north of Wilson Island is the De Soto National Wildlife Refuge. Part of the refuge is open to the public from 6:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m., April 15 to September 15. Some of the recreational facilities available are fishing, boating, swimming, water-skiing, picnicking, and a concession stand which offers boats, fish bait, and refreshments.

NOTE: home of the sunken riverboat "Bertrand".

### SURROUNDING TOWNS

**MISSOURI VALLEY**, six miles north and six miles east of the park, has excellent restaurants, grocery stores, drug stores, and churches.

**COUNCIL BLUFFS**, a city of over 60,000, is located about 25 miles south of Wilson Island. Churches of all faiths, theaters, shopping centers, and restaurants are available there.

### PARK ATTENDANT ADDRESS:

Wilson Island  
R.R. No. 2  
Missouri Valley, Iowa 51555

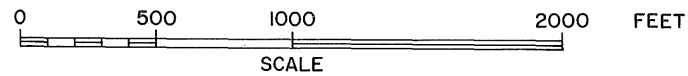


# WILSON ISLAND



## IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

300 FOURTH STREET  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319



TO THE LOVELAND INTERCHANGE  
AND INTERSTATES 29 & 80

BOAT RAMP & DOCK

SAND BAR

MAY BE  
RESERVED  
GROUP  
FOR  
CAMPING

MISSOURI  
RIVER

CAMPING FOR CHAPERONED, ORGANIZED YOUTH GROUPS

SERVICE BLDG.  
AND RESIDENCE

WATERS SECTION  
SERVICE BLDG.  
AND RESIDENCE

TRAILER CAMPING

SHOWER BLDG

TRAILER CAMPING

BOAT RAMP & DOCK

3 SHELTERS

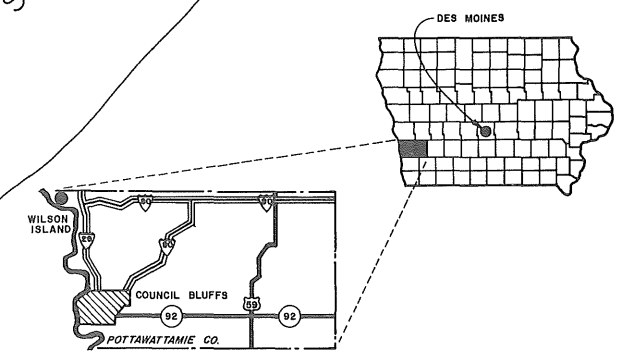
TENT  
CAMPING

CAMPING AREA

SERVICE BLDG

CUSTODIAN RESIDENCE

DESOTO  
REFUGE



In the areas not specifically designated as recreation areas, an operating program of forest and game management is underway.

Areas currently accessible have been inventoried to determine the kinds of trees, number of trees, quality and volume in board feet that are growing on the forest unit. The Paint Creek Unit of the forest has been divided into areas and management plans are in effect to regulate the periodic cutting of these areas.

On managed forest areas, game management practices are followed. Adequate den trees are left, food patches are cleared and planted with corn, milo and other grains for game birds. Deer use these areas in the fall and winter. There are two marshes and thirty-five water erosion and wildlife ponds on the unit.

The state sawmill, near the forest headquarters, is active year-round although most sawing is done in winter months. When trees are marked for cutting, all possible products are considered. In a normal year, such things as veneer logs, barrel stave bolts, railroad tie cuts and pulpwood will all be sold from the forest area to commercial outlets. Most lumber logs are brought to the sawmill and the lumber produced is used by various sections of the Conservation Commission.

The Paint Creek Unit of the Yellow River Forest is a plan in action where the visitor enjoys the views and natural benefits such as hunting and fishing near his campsite while at the same time, development projects, commercial forest operations, game management and research go on all around him.

#### FACILITIES OFFERED AT THE PAINT CREEK UNIT

Facilities include fire places, picnic sites, excellent trout streams, hiking trails, primitive camping spots, drinking water supply at the sawmill, twelve toilets, areas for seasonal hunting, horse trails and unloading ramps for horses. Camping privileges are for overnight, weekend or a maximum one week period.

#### FOREST FIRE WARNING

The area contains one of the largest continuous stands of forest cover in the state. One careless campfire or discarded match can cause a fire which can ruin the area for everyone. Build fires only at established fireplaces and use care in discarding matches or cigarettes.

Report all wild fires at the forest headquarters building. All fires should also be reported to the nearest town fire department.

#### IN THE VICINITY EFFIGY MOUNDS NATIONAL MONUMENT:

Iowa's only national Monument, is located 3 miles north of

Marquette on Iowa 76. This 1,200 acre area was established to preserve a group of ancient Indian burial mounds. At the Visitor Center, a short slide program is presented explaining what is known of the mounds and the Indians who made them. A pleasant walk takes visitors to the mounds and to a scenic view of the Mississippi River. The Visitor Center is open 8-5 daily or 8-6 June through August.

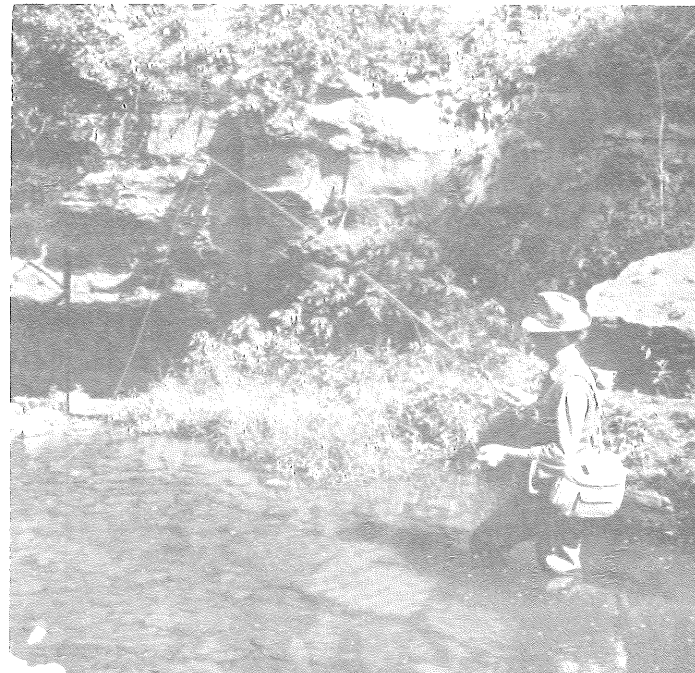
#### PIKES PEAK STATE PARK:

About 13 miles from the forest this is the highest bluff on the Mississippi. Available to visitors are camping, picnicking, refreshments, shelter, and sanitary facilities. Effigy mounds, trails, hiking and scenic views are excellent.

#### HARPERS FERRY, MARQUETTE:

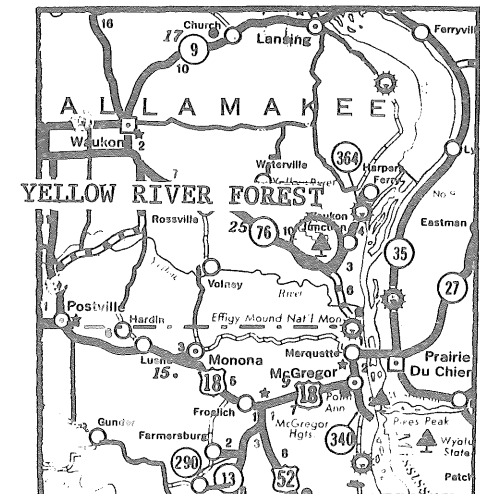
Tourists cross the Mississippi River at Marquette. River trips offered.

ADDRESS: **YELLOW RIVER STATE FOREST**  
**AREA FORESTER**  
**BOX 115**  
**MCGREGOR, IOWA 52157**



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# YELLOW RIVER FOREST



**PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS**  
**IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**300 4th STREET**  
**DES MOINES, IOWA 50319**



In the heart of northeast Iowa, one of the nation's most picturesque regions, lay the timbered hills and valleys of the Yellow River State Forest, north of McGregor just off Iowa 76. This 5,000 acre forest, in the midst of spectacular bluffs along the Mississippi River, offers outdoor recreation in its most primitive form.

Of primary recreation interest is the Paint Creek Unit. Hiking through the acres of native timber, one marvels at the sheer limestone bluffs, clear trout streams, wildlife and the quiet beauty of Mother Nature undisturbed.

This 3,500 acre, timbered area has two bubbling trout streams, Big Paint and Little Paint Creeks. Campers at the Paint Creek Unit are lulled to sleep by the gurgling of the clear, cold water and awoken in the morning to try for some trout.

A quiet walk along one of the creeks often brings a visitor upon a deer stopping to drink. Stop and listen, and with luck, romance fills the air at the yelp of gobble of a wild turkey along the hills and valleys. In Indian Days, this region was a Utopia for this noble bird, but with white man's pressure and over-shooting, it was exterminated. The wild turkeys are successfully being brought back.

A hike to the bluff tops on the north side of the Unit brings the sawmill, operated by the Forestry Section of the Conservation Commission, to view across the road. The pine plantings edging the campground and the picnic area are also seen from this point.

A drive south from the sawmill on a narrow, winding road takes you to the fire tower, Iowa's first. The tower is for use by Conservation Commission employees only. A wide view of the countryside from the tower makes it possible to locate fires quickly. The tower is manned in extremely dry periods.

Continuing on this road eventually takes you to Iowa 76 toward Waukon and east to Iowa 364 toward Waukon Junction and Harpers Ferry, old river towns rich in history. Pioneer explorations of Marquette and Joliet, Zebulon Pike, Indian battles, fur traders and tales of the Mississippi River are a few contributing examples of this region's great past.

UNITS OF THE YELLOW RIVER STATE FOREST	
Lost 40 Unit	160 acres
Luster Heights Units	638 acres
Mudhen Unit	196 acres
Paint Creek Unit	3,514 acres
Paint Rock Unit	714 acres
Waukon Junction Unit	196 acres
Yellow River Unit	192 acres
Yellow River Forest - Total	5,610 acres

