



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Iowa DNR News

Conservation and Recreation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 4, 2020

- [Walleye season closes Feb. 14 on Iowa Great Lakes](#)
- [Family trout fishing event this Saturday in Ames](#)
- [DNR finalizes public meeting locations to recap hunting seasons, discuss possible rule changes](#)
- [Campground hosts needed for upcoming recreation season](#)

Walleye season closes Feb. 14 on Iowa Great Lakes

Spirit Lake, Iowa – The walleye fishing season on Spirit, East and West Okoboji lakes is open through Feb. 14. It will close after that date and reopens on May 2. These are the only Iowa lakes that have a closed season for walleye.

For more information on fishing regulations, go to www.iowadnr.gov/fishing.

Family trout fishing event this Saturday in Ames

Ames, Iowa – A family-friendly trout fishing event will be held at Ada Hayden Heritage Park this Saturday, Feb. 8 at noon.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will stock 2,200 rainbow trout in the north lake, at three locations along the north shore.

Anglers are encouraged to bring their own ice fishing and safety gear. A limited number of fishing poles will be available for kids to use.

Anglers must have a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. The daily limit is five trout per licensed angler with a possession limit of 10. Children age 15 or younger can fish for trout with a properly licensed adult, but they must limit their catch to one daily limit. The child can purchase a trout fee which will allow them to catch their own limit of five trout.

Hot dogs and hot chocolate, donated by JAX Outdoor Gear, will be available with a free will donation.

This free event is sponsored by Jax Outdoor Gear, City of Ames, Story County Conservation, Iowa State University, and other local businesses.

Media Contact: Ben Dodd, Fisheries Biologist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 641-891-3795.

DNR finalizes public meeting locations to recap hunting seasons, discuss possible rule changes

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is hosting a series of town hall-style meetings where local staff will provide updates on recently completed hunting seasons, discuss possible changes to hunting rules and regulations, and address other topics as requested.

“We want people to come out to these meetings, listen to the hunting seasons reviews, ask questions and hear directly from our staff,” said Todd Bishop, chief of the Iowa DNR’s Wildlife Bureau. “Part of the meeting will be devoted to discussing potential rule changes and collecting feedback as we work through the rules process.”

The meetings are open to the public. Comments collected from these public meetings will be considered along with other related comments received by the Iowa DNR prior to proposing changes to hunting rules and regulations. Proposed rules will be presented to the Natural Resource Commission during a regular public meeting for consideration and additional public comment.

These meetings replace the one-night listening session held in late winter over the past 15 years.

Meeting date, time and location

- Sioux City, Feb. 19, 7 p.m., Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, 4500 Sioux River Road
- Chariton, Feb. 20, 7 p.m., Pin Oak Lodge, 45996 Hwy. 14
- Council Bluffs Feb. 25, 7 p.m., Fish and Game Club, 531 Commanche Street
- Okoboji, Feb. 25, 6:30 p.m., Dickinson County Nature Center, 22785 Nature Center Road
- Burlington, Feb. 26, 7 p.m., Starr's Cave Nature Center, 11627 Starr's Cave Road
- Iowa City, Feb. 26, 7 p.m., Johnson County ISU extension building, 3109 Old Highway 218 South (search “Johnson County Fairgrounds”)
- Algona, Feb. 27, 7 p.m., Water’s Edge Nature Center, 1010 250th Street
- Bloomfield, Feb. 27, 7 p.m., Pioneer Ridge Nature Center, 1339 Hwy. 63
- Creston, Feb. 27, 7 p.m., Multi-Purpose Room adjacent to the YMCA, Southwestern Community College, 1201 West Townline Street
- Decorah, Feb. 27, 7 p.m., Decorah City Hall, 400 Clairborne Drive
- Dubuque, Feb. 27, 7 p.m., Swiss Valley Nature Center, 13606 Swiss Valley Road, Peosta
- Jefferson, Feb. 27, 7 p.m., The Jefferson Depot, 509 East Lincoln Way
- Ventura, Feb. 27, 7 p.m., Clear Lake Wildlife Unit headquarters, 15326 Balsam Ave.

- Waverly, Feb. 27, 7 p.m., Waverly Public Library, 1500 W Bremer Ave.
- Des Moines, March 3, 7 p.m., Izaak Walton League, 4343 George Flagg Parkway
- DeWitt, March 5, 7 p.m., DeWitt Community Center, 512 10th Street
- Sac City, March 5, 7 p.m., Sac County Conservation Center at Hagge Park, 2970 280th Street
- Toledo, March 5, 7 p.m., Tama CCB Nature Center at Otter Creek Lake Park, 2283 Park Road

Any person attending the public meeting that has special requirements, such as those related to mobility or hearing impairments, should contact the Iowa DNR or ADA Coordinator at 515-725-8200, Relay Iowa TTY Service 800-735-7942, or Webmaster@dnr.iowa.gov, and advise of specific needs.

Campground hosts needed for upcoming recreation season

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking people who enjoy the outdoors, camping and meeting new people, to consider becoming volunteer campground hosts for the upcoming recreation season.

Volunteer campground hosts live in state parks from one to four months assisting DNR staff with light maintenance duties, checking in campers, and being a resource for visitors who are enjoying state parks and forests.

Campground hosts are provided a free campsite while they are actively hosting during the camping season. Hosts volunteer 20 – 40 hours per week, including weekends and holidays, while living on site in their own camper.

Campground hosts general duties include greeting visitors, assisting campers checking in and with reservations, cleaning bathrooms, light maintenance and administrative duties, acting as a liaison between campers and DNR staff and answering questions and disseminating information to campers.

Host positions are available at:

- Brushy Creek State Recreation Area
- Clear Lake State Park
- Geode State Park
- Gull Point State Park
- Lacey Keosauqua State Park
- Lake Ahquabi State Park
- Lake Macbride State Park
- Nine Eagles State Park
- Red Haw State Park
- Springbrook State Park

- Volga River State Recreation Area

Information on state parks is available online at www.iowadnr.gov/stateparks. To discuss the host position, contact the state park directly, or call 515-725-8489.