

WILDCAT DEN STATE PARK

Wildcat Den State Park lies 12 miles from Muscatine and 18 miles from Davenport. The park is one of the most unique in Iowa. Just driving there is an experience in itself, for river life along the Mississippi presents a striking contrast between past and present.

One of the first settlers in Muscatine County, Benjamin Nye, is credited for having built the county's first store and post office in 1838. In 1848, Nye built the old grist mill on Pine Creek, now the focal point of the park. The Pine Creek Grist Mill is one of the finest examples of mid-nineteenth century mills left in the country. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is working to slowly restore the mill to its original condition. The Pine Creek Grist Mill has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. A restored "turn of the century" schoolhouse is located near the mill and offers park visitors another glimpse of Iowa's past.

The park area was donated to the state by the Brandt sisters who actually lived there at one time. A bronze tablet dedicated to their memory has been placed in sandstone in a lovely setting where centuries-old pine trees line 75-foot cliffs.

TRAILS

One of the major features of Wildcat Den State Park is its trail system. Trails wind through a variety of terrain and lead to such fascinating sites as "Steamboat Rock," "Devil's Punch Bowl," "Fat Man's Squeeze," and "Horseshoe Bend." The beautiful bluffs and outcroppings provide spectacular views to hikers.

The park is also notable for its tree, shrub and plant communities. As many as 25 varieties of ferns have been found in Wildcat Den, as well as innumerable types of flowers and shrubs. It is not uncommon to see a variety of wildlife in the park, including white-tailed deer and innumerable species of songbirds.

PICNICKING

Wildcat Den State Park offers a variety of picnic settings ideal for a pleasant outdoor cookout. Two open shelters are available for use and may be reserved for \$15.00 by the park ranger.

CAMPING

Wildcat Den State Park is a great place for a family to "get away from it all" for a weekend or a family vacation. The campground has 28 campsites and non-modern rest room facilities. Camping permits are obtained through self-registration at the campground.

FAIRPORT CAMPGROUND

For a different type of camping experience, why not try the Fairport Campground located 6 miles away from Wildcat Den State Park on Highway 22. Fairport is located right on the Mississippi River and offers 44 campsites, all of which have electrical hook-ups. A trailer dump station is available at the Fairport Campground. Two boat ramps are available at Fairport and provide plenty of boating access to the "Father of Waters."

NEARBY CITIES

Muscatine, Iowa, is located 12 miles southwest of Wildcat Den. **Davenport**, third largest city in Iowa, is located 18 miles northeast of the park.

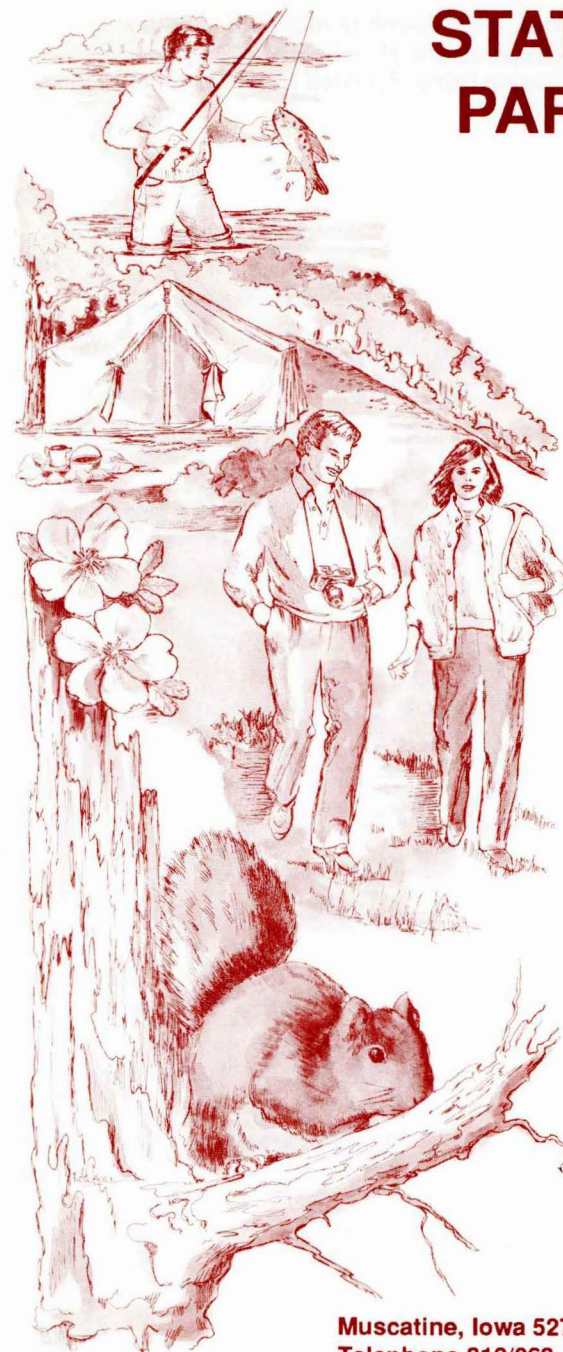
EQUAL RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

All persons are entitled to full and equal enjoyment of the recreational opportunities, privileges and advantages available in Iowa's great outdoors.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Wallace State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034



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Muscatine, Iowa 52761
Telephone 319/263-4337

A Park User Permit is required. Annual permits are available at the park office. Daily permits are available at posted locations in the park.

