

PAMMEL STATE PARK

Pammel State Park is 281 acres of peaceful and picturesque beauty located five miles southeast of Winterset in Madison County. The park offers a wide range of year-round activities ranging from picnicking and camping to hiking and snowmobiling.

Pammel State Park was acquired by the state in 1923 and was originally named Devil's Backbone State Park because of the unique limestone ridge that cuts through the park. In 1930, the park was re-named in honor of Dr. Louis Pammel, former head of the Botany Department at Iowa State University and an active conservationist. Cutting through the ridge is the Harmon Tunnel, the only highway tunnel in the state of Iowa. It was originally constructed in the 1850s by settlers named Harmon who built it to divert water from the Middle River to operate a grist mill and a sawmill. After the state acquired the land, the tunnel was enlarged to accommodate vehicles and the park road was built through it.

In a study done in the 1970s, Pammel was found to have some of the oldest oak trees in Iowa, some of which date back to the 1640s. These are primarily located in the timber around the Backbone Picnic Area.

PICNICKING AND HIKING

Park visitors will enjoy relaxing under shady trees in the park's picnic areas. The Backbone Picnic Area near the campground has an open shelter with a fireplace, which may be reserved for \$15.00 through the park ranger. Pammel has several miles of hiking trails which wind through the woods and along the ridgetops. A self-guided nature trail begins across the road from the lodge. Snowmobiling and horseback riding are also permitted on the trails which begin in the lodge area.

LODGE

The beautiful rustic enclosed shelter or lodge is located in the picnic area west of the ford. It is an ideal location for group activities such as wedding receptions and family reunions. The lodge is available for rental on a reservation basis through the park ranger.

CAMPING

Pammel has 32 shaded campsites which are perfect for those seeking a quiet, relaxing atmosphere away from home. Camping is non-modern, with rest room facilities but no shower facilities. Water is available at the ranger's residence. Camping permits are obtained through self-registration at the campground.

FISHING AND SWIMMING

The Middle River flows through the park and crosses the "ford," a low-water crossing which provides an ideal place for wading or playing in the river. Channel and flathead catfish can be caught in abundance at the ford, especially in the spring. Carp, bullheads, and occasionally, bluegills, can also be caught in the river. Canoeing on the Middle River is an activity that grows in popularity every year.

LOCATION

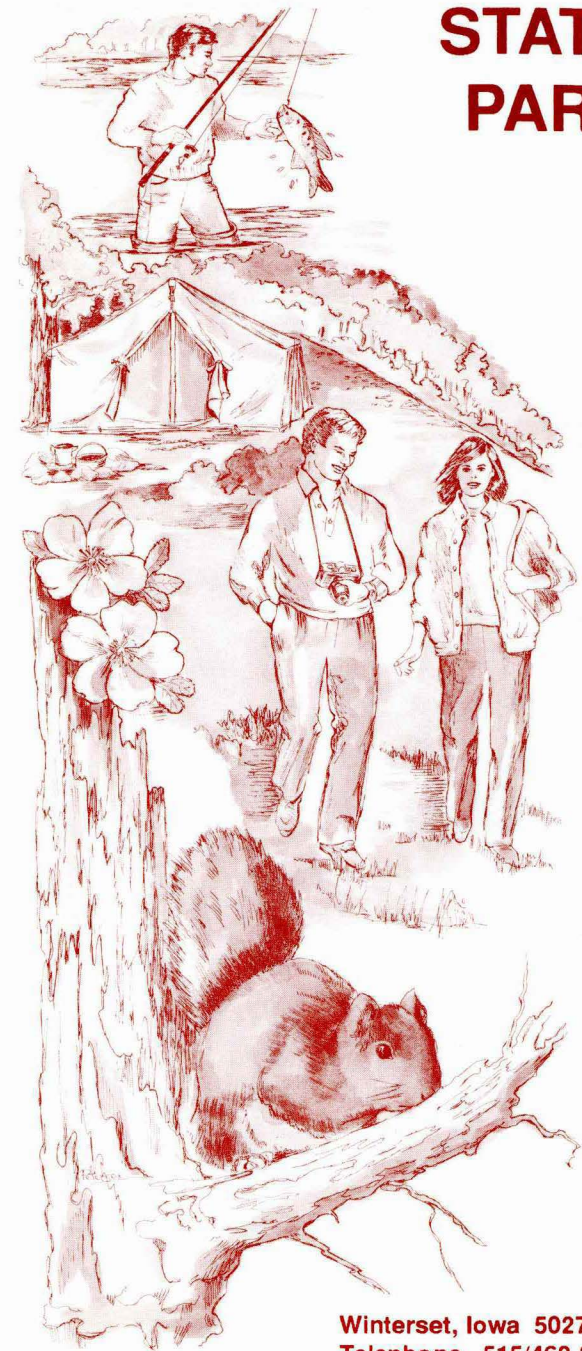
Pammel State Park is located two miles west of Winterset, on Highway 92, then three miles south on Highway 322. Winterset is the birthplace of actor John Wayne, whose home has been restored for public visitation. Madison County is also well-known for the historic covered bridges located around the county, several of which are still being used. The Covered Bridge Festival attracts thousands of visitors to the county every October.

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

PAMMEL STATE PARK



Winterset, Iowa 50273
Telephone 515/462-2188

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

-  PARK OFFICE
-  SHELTER
-  LODGE (Rental)
-  PICNIC AREA
-  REST ROOM
-  NATURE TRAIL
-  HIKING TRAIL
-  MULTI USE TRAIL
-  HIKING TRAIL
-  EQUESTRIAN
-  SNOWMOBILE

