

## STONE STATE PARK

Stone State Park is located just north of Sioux City in both Woodbury and Plymouth Counties. The 1,085-acre park is named for the Thomas Jefferson Stone family. A Mr. Hector Talbot actually started the park privately in the 1880s. Talbot had a keen interest in nature and developed a zoo at the present site of the park. In 1895, Thomas Jefferson Stone acquired the area. His family continued development of the zoo and park and, in 1911, his widow donated the area to the City of Sioux City.

In 1935, the city deeded the area to the state of Iowa. After the transfer, portions of the zoo were taken to Riverside Park in the city. The bears were left at Stone Park and were still there until 1940. In the thirties, a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp was established in the park. The CCC constructed a number of park improvements including two shelters, a lodge, rest room buildings, service building, and two residences.

Stone Park is located entirely in the unique Loess Hills of western Iowa. The Loess Hills were formed many thousands of years ago by the deposition of windblown soil. The Loess Hills are unique to the eastern Missouri River valleys in Missouri and Iowa. Only in mainland China are loess deposits of this magnitude found. The Loess Hills provide a rugged, wooded landscape that seems more appropriate to the far West than Iowa. In the hills, native prairie areas and woodland communities blend together to show off many species of the wildflowers, including yucca, penstemon and nearly a hundred other species. A number of unique plant species are also found in the Loess Hills due to the unusual topography and soil types.

## PICNICKING

Stone State Park is a picnicker's delight with many grassy and shaded picnic areas. Although located only minutes from the Sioux City metropolitan area, Stone Park offers a real "away-from-it-all" picnic experience. Three open picnic shelters are available and may be reserved for \$15.00 through the park ranger.

## CAMPING

Stone Park has a small but very attractive campground with 49 sites, 24 with electrical hookups. Camping permits are obtained through self-registration at the campground.

## LODGES

Stone State Park is unique in that two enclosed shelters or lodges are available for public use. These offer excellent opportunities for such group activities as wedding receptions and family reunions. The lodges may be reserved through the park ranger.

## BUR OAK NATURE CENTER

A fine nature center has been developed at Stone State Park. The center, which is open seasonally, contains a variety of exhibits and displays on the plant and animal life of the park and the Loess Hills.

## TRAILS

Stone Park is a great place to hike. Approximately 25 miles of bridle and hiking trails are available for use. On the trails, hikers, horseback riders, and, in the winter, snowmobilers and cross-country skiers, can see a variety of natural features. Wildlife abounds in the park and deer are often sighted as are innumerable species of songbirds.

The Carolyn Benne Nature Trail offers opportunities for visitors to learn more about the natural communities of the park using the attractive trail brochure available at the trailhead.

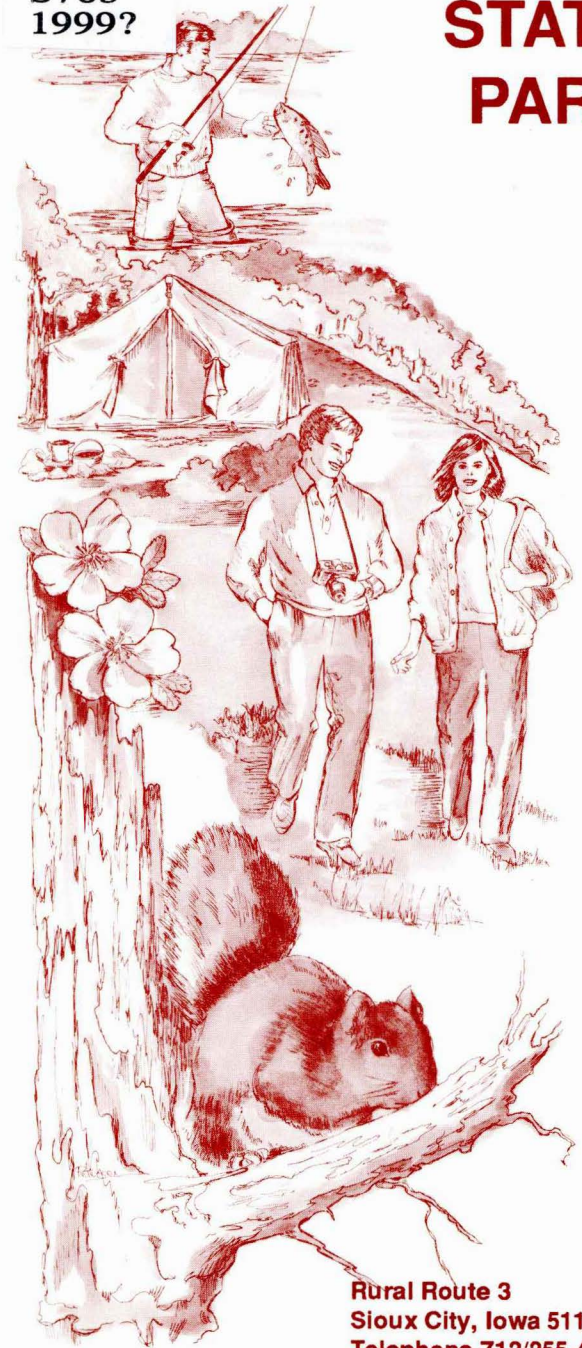
## EQUAL RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

The rest room at Rickett's Glen is accessible to mobility-impaired persons.

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

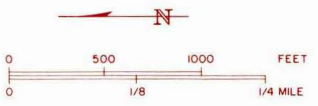
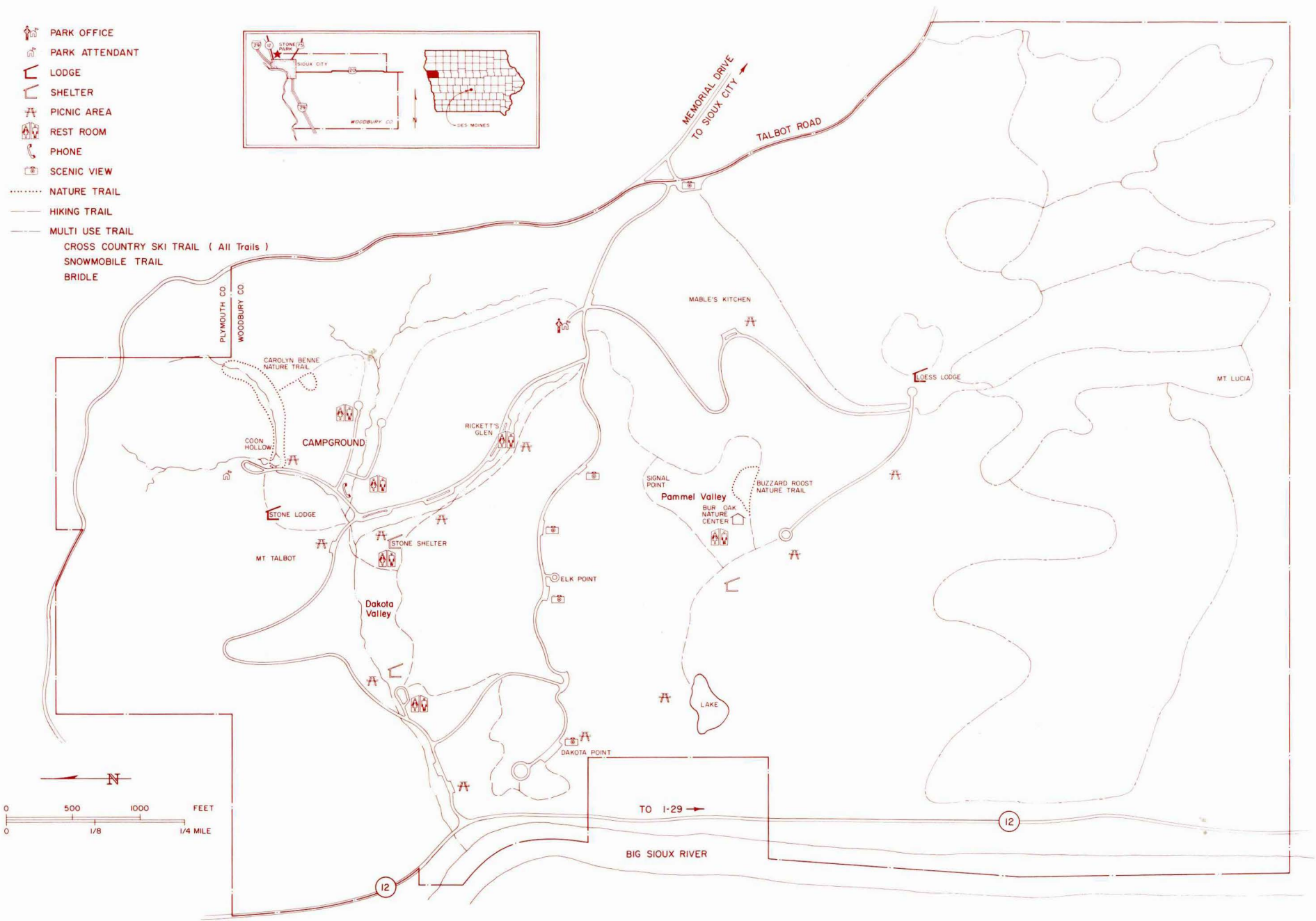
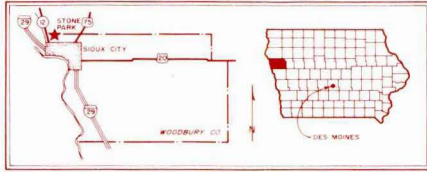
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# STONE STATE PARK

Rural Route 3  
Sioux City, Iowa 51103  
Telephone 712/255-4698

-  PARK OFFICE
-  PARK ATTENDANT
-  LODGE
-  SHELTER
-  PICNIC AREA
-  REST ROOM
-  PHONE
-  SCENIC VIEW
-  NATURE TRAIL
-  HIKING TRAIL
-  MULTI USE TRAIL
-  CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAIL ( All Trails )
-  SNOWMOBILE TRAIL
-  BRIDLE



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