

VIKING LAKE STATE PARK

Viking Lake is one of the most popular state parks in southwest Iowa due to its accessibility and variety of recreational opportunities. A large portion of the 1,000 acre park has been left in its natural state and has an abundance of wild flowers, plants and wildlife. It is not uncommon to see beavers, turkeys muskrats, ducks, shore birds and white-tailed deer. Many of the park's hills and valleys were once campsites of Indian tribes and artifacts were uncovered when the dam was being constructed.

FISHING AND SWIMMING

The 150 acre lake was constructed in 1957 and is 46 feet at its deepest point with many bays and projecting points on its four and one-half mile shoreline. Viking Lake is well stocked with crappies, bluegills, bass, bullheads and catfish.

A sandy beach is located on the west shore with supervised swimming and a concession building where refreshments may be purchased.

BOATING

The boat concession near the swimming area has bait for sale and motor boats, paddle boats and pontoon boats for rent. A concrete boat ramp is nearby and a docking area is a short distance away in a well protected cove. Rental spaces are available on an annual reservation basis. Any size boat motors may be used on Viking Lake provided they are operated at "no wake" speeds.

PICNICKING

A long sweep of shady, grassy hillside extends down to the water's edge forming a beautiful picnic area. The upper road also goes to an open shelter and overlook with an excellent view of the lake. The shelter may be reserved for \$15 through the park ranger. There is also a large overlook above the beach area.

CAMPING

The Viking Lake campground is one of the most popular in southwest Iowa. The spacious, shady campground is located on the lakeshore. There are 130 campsites (88 with electrical hookups), modern rest rooms and showers and a trailer dump station. Camping permits are obtained by self-registration at the campground.

TRAILS

Hiking trails provide visitors an excellent look at the park's natural features. The Bur Oak nature trail and its accompanying booklet provide insight on many of the important shrubs, plants and trees found at Viking Lake. The one mile trail takes about one hour to walk. In winter, snowmobiles may be operated on designated trails.

NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Stanton is four miles from the park.

Red Oak, the county seat, is 12 miles away.

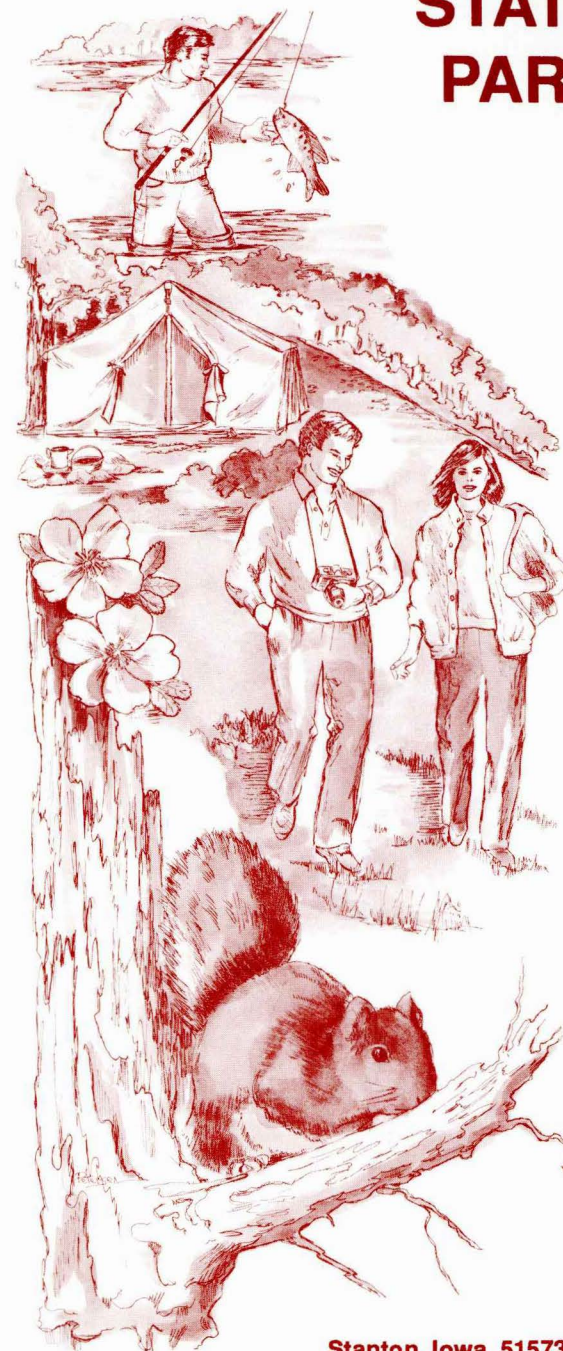
Villisca is ten miles from the park and has a golf course.

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.

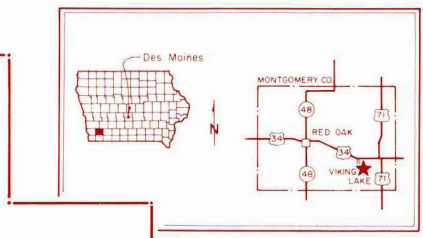
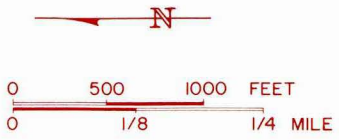
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Wallace State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034

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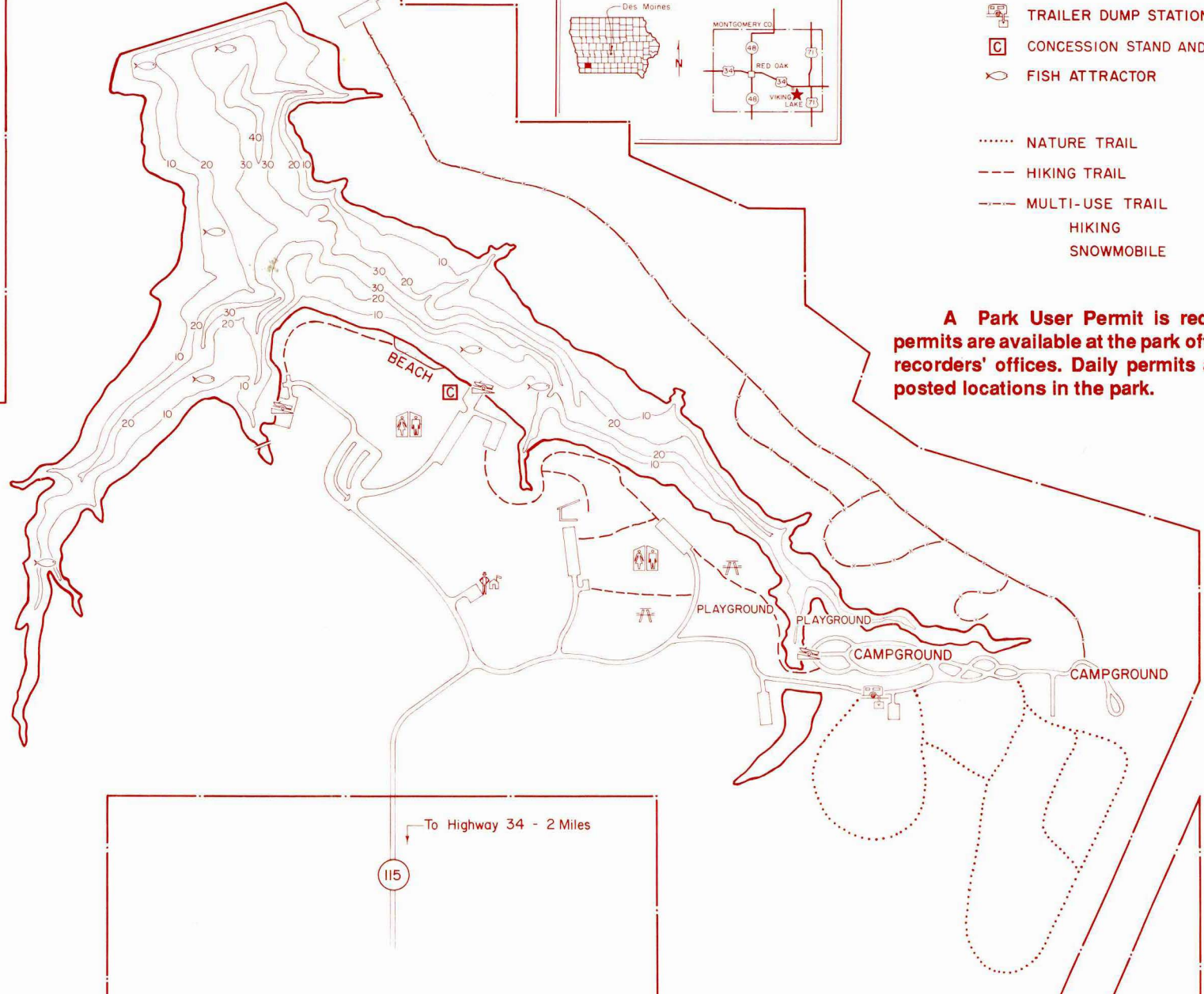


Stanton, Iowa 51573
Telephone 712/829-2235

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- PARK OFFICE
- SHELTER
- PICNIC AREA
- REST ROOM
- BOAT RAMP
- TRAILER DUMP STATION
- CONCESSION STAND AND BOAT RENTAL
- FISH ATTRACTOR
- NATURE TRAIL
- HIKING TRAIL
- MULTI-USE TRAIL
HIKING
SNOWMOBILE



A Park User Permit is required. Annual permits are available at the park office or at county recorders' offices. Daily permits are available at posted locations in the park.