

WALNUT WOODS

Walnut Woods encompasses 260 acres of wooded bottomland along the Raccoon River. Within the park lies the largest surviving natural stand of black walnut trees in North America. Over 90 species of birds have been identified along the self-guided nature trail and numerous foot and bridle trails throughout the park and along the river.

The valley in which Walnut Woods is located was created by the meandering of the river. Since the park elevation is not much higher than the normal river level, constant changes can be seen in its banks. The most dramatic is where the river channel runs against the western edge of the park. Constant churning and washing in the past removed tons of soil, sand, and gravel. In the mid-1980's, the most vulnerable areas of the riverbank were protected by rock riprap and special jetties designed to minimize erosion.

Located only minutes away from Des Moines, the park provides shaded picnic areas with fireplaces and tables, and peaceful spots for river fishing. The park is open year round and is perfect for cross-country skiing, with two and one-half miles of ski trails.

WALNUT WOODS LODGE

The popular lodge is an outstanding feature of the park. It is a beautiful setting for weddings, family reunions, holiday parties, and business meetings. The lodge was built in the 1930's of limestone brought in from an eastern Iowa quarry, and rough-cut, hand-fitted lumber. It is available for rental on a reservation basis.

CAMPING

There are 48 camp sites (seven with electrical hookups) non-modern sanitary facilities. The campsites are nestled among shade trees and have gravel pads, picnic tables, and fireplaces. Camping permits are obtained by self-registration.

STATE PARK USER PERMIT

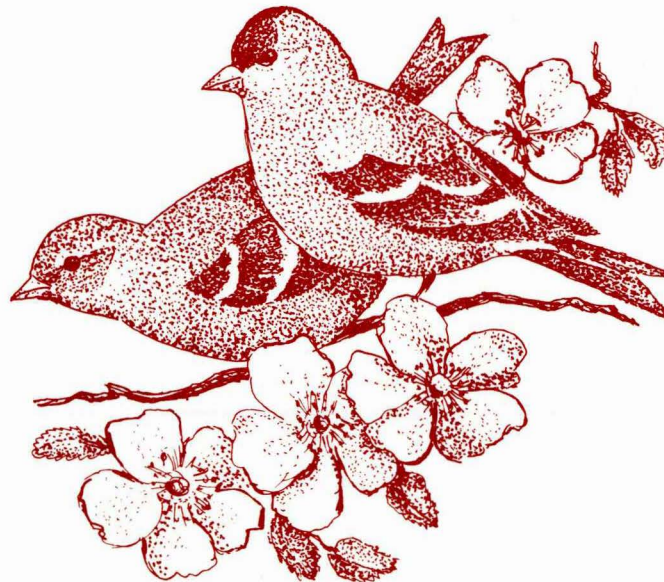
Motorized vehicles parked in state parks, recreation areas, and state forest campgrounds are required to have either annual or daily user permits on display. Annual permits are available at the park rangers' offices, county recorders, state park concessions, and other locations. Daily permits, good through 10:30 p.m. the following day, may be purchased on a self-service basis at posted locations in each park. Vehicles with Iowa Department of Transportation handicapped license plates or rear-view mirror tags are exempt from the user permit requirement. Iowa residents 65 and older, on Medicaid, or receiving food stamps, are eligible for free user permits available only at county recorders' offices. Park user permits are not required for simply driving through a park without stopping.

All funds raised through the sale of user permits are deposited in a trust fund to be utilized solely for the renovation and replacement of state park facilities.

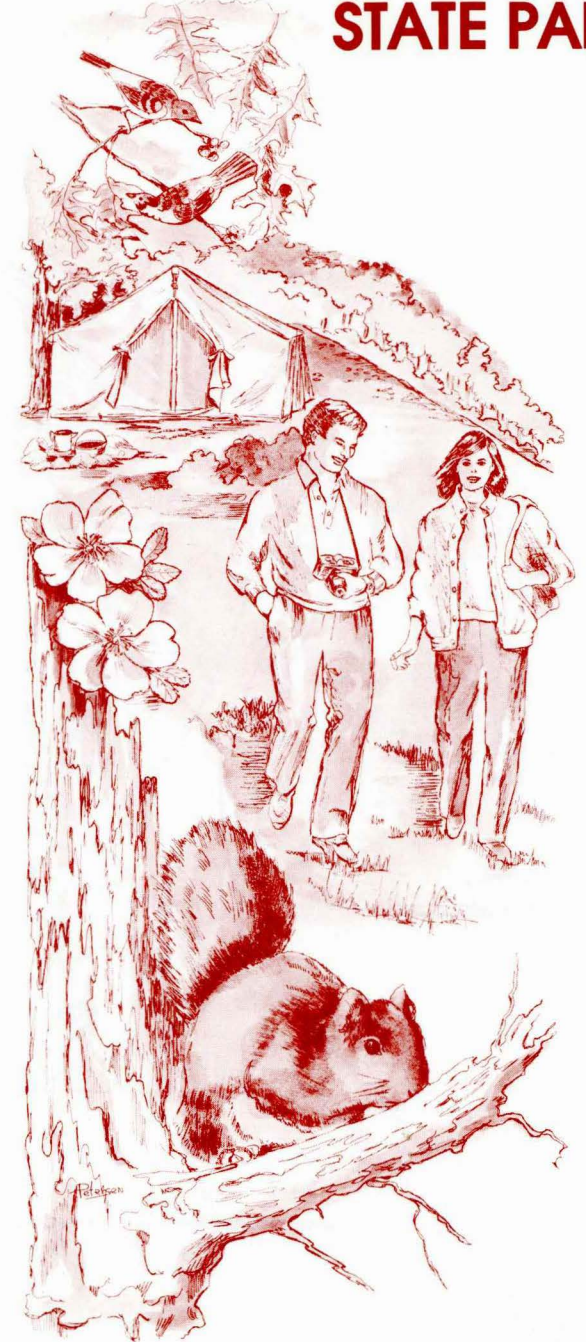
EQUAL RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

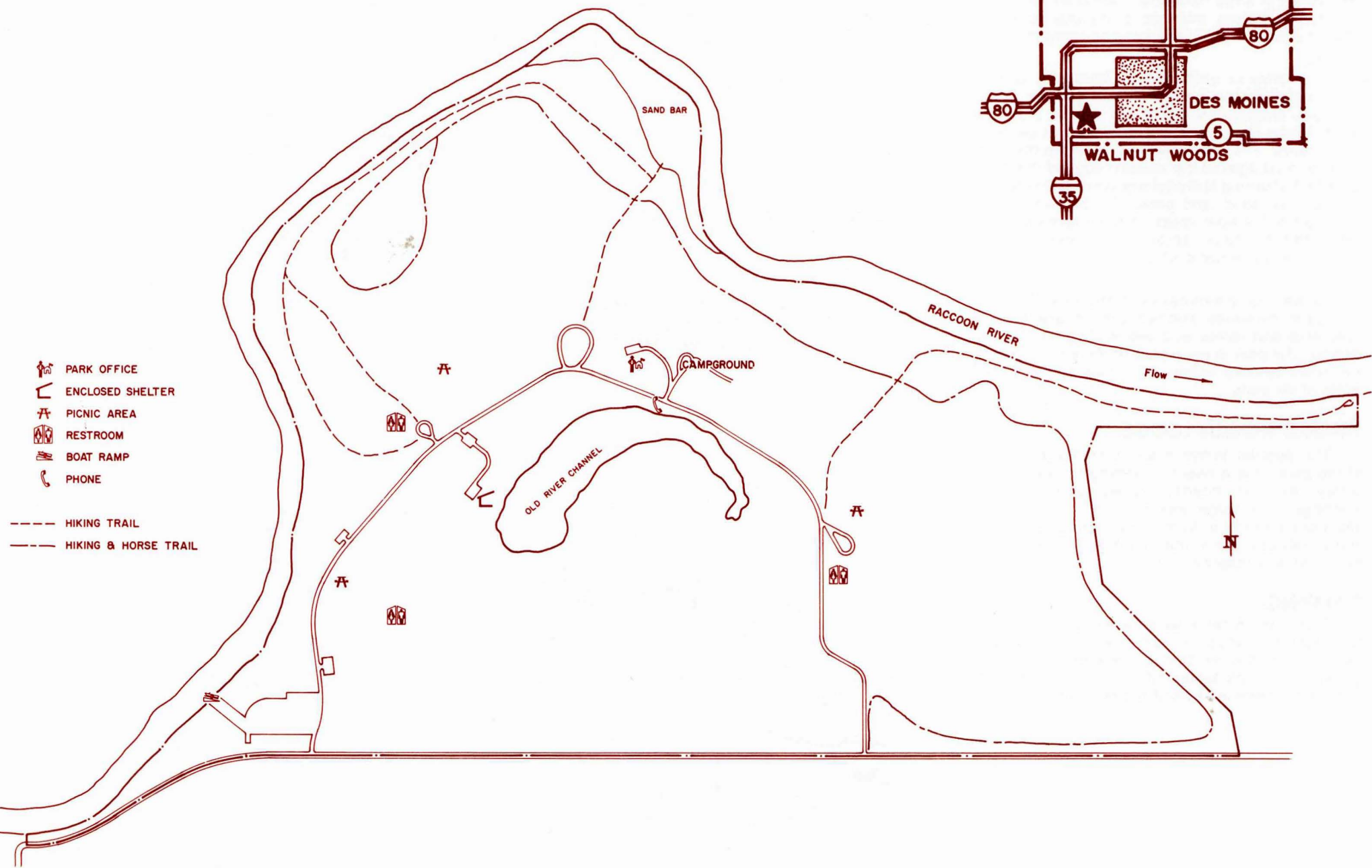
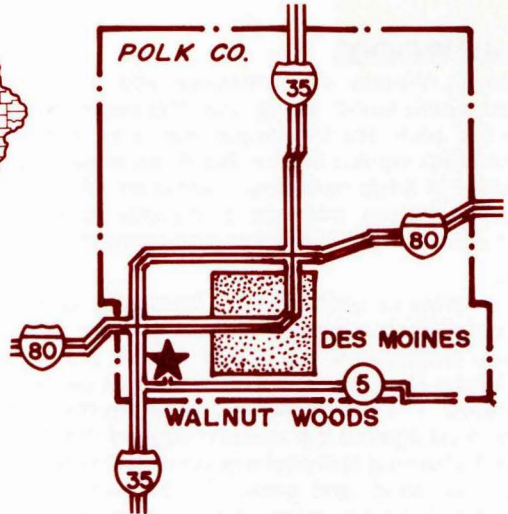
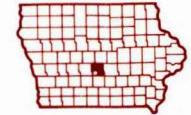
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Wallace State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034





WALNUT WOODS STATE PARK



Box 133, Route 3 Des Moines, Iowa 50321
Telephone : 515/285-4502



-  PARK OFFICE
-  ENCLOSED SHELTER
-  PICNIC AREA
-  RESTROOM
-  BOAT RAMP
-  PHONE

-  HIKING TRAIL
-  HIKING & HORSE TRAIL

