

## MAQUOKETA CAVES

Maquoketa Caves State Park contains less than half a mile of surfaced road. Visitors reach the caves by foot on well marked and sometimes rugged trails. In the center of the 272 acre park is a steep ravine with sheer cliffs ranging from 10 to 75 feet high. Trails lead around the top of the cliffs to overlooks which offer beautiful views of the valley below. Hikers will experience a mild form of "mountain climbing" as they view spectacular geological formations above and below the ground. The cave trail is unique and the balanced rock and natural bridge are features found nowhere else in the state.

In the spring, the whole area is carpeted with hepaticas. In the summer, wildflowers are everywhere. Fall brings out the bright orange of bittersweet which can be seen climbing tall white pines until they appear to be decorated for Christmas. Winter snows cover the evergreen and aspen, and the gnarled cedars in clefts of rock on the cliffs appear as ghostly mountain climbers.

## HISTORY

Maquoketa Caves became a state park in 1921, but the initials and names carved in its limestone walls date back to 1835. Indian pottery, arrowheads, spears and other relics found in the caves provide proof that they were used by tribes hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years ago.

When the caves were discovered before the Civil War, beautiful milk white stalactites hung from the ceilings and stalagmites rose from the floor. Souvenir hunters have robbed the caves of this rare beauty, but many fascinating formations remain. Electric lights are strung through the main cave and cement walkways are easily followed. Flashlights are necessary at other caves like "Hernando's Hideaway", "Ice Cave", "Rainy Day", "Window", "Shinbone", "Bat Passage" and the exciting "Steel Gate Passage". The park ranger will be glad to tell you about the caves, most of which are marked by signs.

## PICNICKING

The unique beauty of Maquoketa Caves State Park provides a lovely setting for picnicking. There are three picnic shelters which may be reserved for \$15 through the park ranger.

## CONCESSION

There is a concession stand at the park where refreshments and information on the caves and trails are available.

## CAMPING

The campground has 29 campsites. There are no flush toilets or shower facilities. Camping permits are obtained by self-registration at the campground.

## NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Maquoketa is six miles southeast of the park.

## STATE PARK USER PERMIT

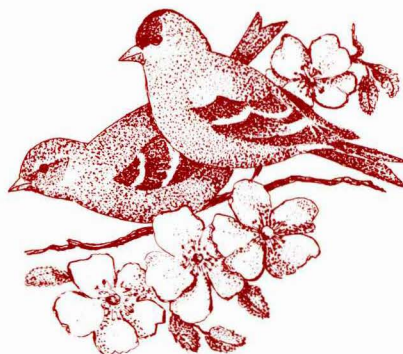
Motorized vehicles parked in state parks, recreation areas, and state forest campgrounds are required to have either annual or daily user permits on display. Annual permits are available at the park rangers' offices, county recorders, state park concessions, and other locations. Daily permits, good through 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.

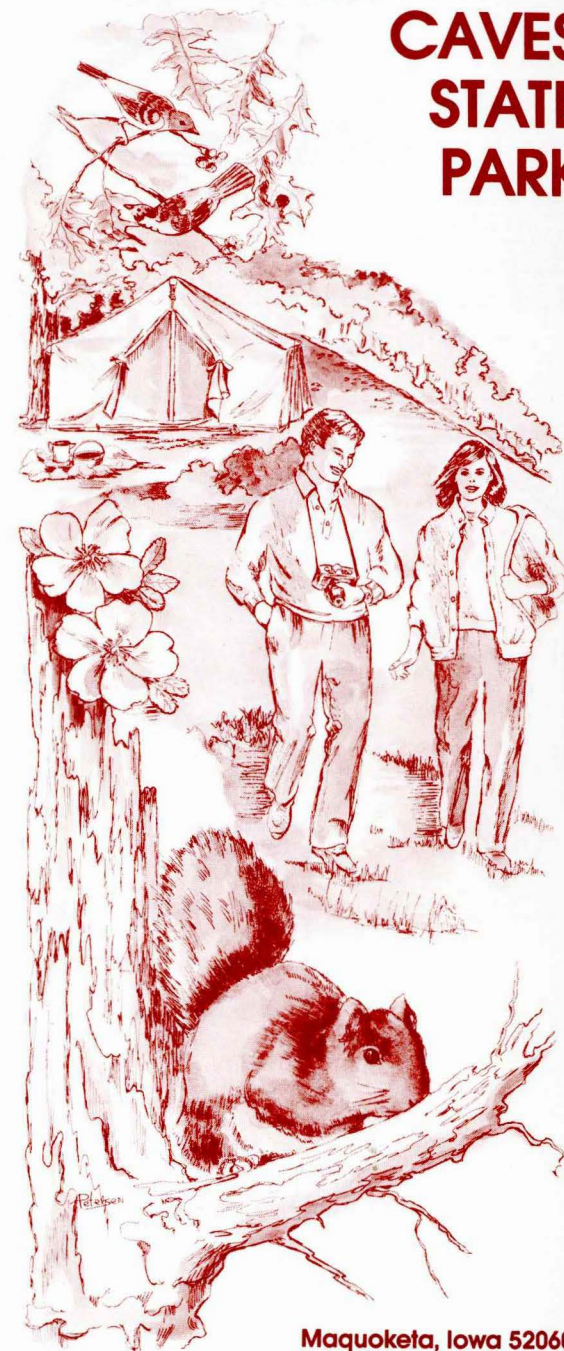
## EQUAL RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

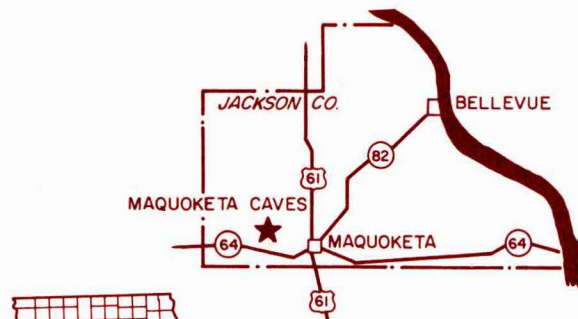


# MAQUOKETA CAVES STATE PARK



Maquoketa, Iowa 52060  
Telephone: 319/652-5833





- 1 WIDE MOUTH CAVE
- 2 TWIN ARCH CAVE
- 3 HERNANDO'S HIDEAWAY CAVE
- 4 UP-N-DOWN CAVE
- 5 DUG OUT CAVE
- 6 WINDOW CAVE
- 7 MATCH CAVE
- 8 TOURIST DELIGHT
- 9 BARBELL CAVE
- 10 SHINBONE CAVE
- 11 WYE CAVE
- 12 BALANCED ROCK
- 13 UPPER CAVE ENTRANCE
- 14 MIDDLE CAVE ENTRANCE
- 15 LOWER CAVE ENTRANCE
- 16 RAINY DAY CAVE
- 17 ICE CAVE

