

## LAKE KEOMAH STATE PARK

Lake Keomah State Park has 366 acres of beautiful woods and water. Lovely shaded picnic areas are nestled between the arms of the 83 acre man-made lake.

During the summer, the open water, grasslands, deep woods and marshy areas provide habitat for all types of wildlife. Hikers along the park's scenic hiking and nature trails may catch a glimpse of bullfrogs blowing and puffing bass solos, a great blue heron wading the shallows in search of minnows, or a covey of quail rising at the approach of human footsteps. In the fall, the lake is surrounded by a mass of color from a variety of trees and shrubs.

"Keomah" sounds like an Indian name, but is derived from the first syllables of the two counties that helped finance the park over 50 years ago — Keokuk and Mahaska. A portion of the south side of the lake was reserved for private development and many homes dot this side of the lake.

## TRAILS

The park's wooded terrain provides great hiking year-round. There is a self-guided nature trail, and a "fitness trail" runs along the lakeshore. In winter, snowmobiles may be operated on designated trails.

## FISHING, BOATING AND SWIMMING

Spring and summer fishing for crappies, bluegills, largemouth bass and channel catfish is excellent. Electric motors are allowed and two boat ramps provide easy access to the lake. Ice fishing is permitted in winter.

Lake Keomah has a supervised swimming beach with bathhouse and concession stand offering refreshments, bait and rental rowboats, paddle boats, and canoes.

## PICNICKING

Lake Keomah's scenic beauty has long made it a very popular picnic spot. Open shelters may be reserved for \$15 through the park ranger.

## CAMPING, ENCLOSED SHELTER AND GROUP CAMP

The campground has 88 campsites (52 with electrical hookups), modern showers, restrooms, and a trailer dump station. Camping permits are obtained by self-registration at the campground.

An enclosed shelter is available on a reservation only basis. It is an ideal place for a special event such as a wedding reception or family reunion.

Lake Keomah also has a dining/restroom building available on a reservation basis to organized youth groups. Camping for groups is allowed nearby.

## NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Oskaloosa is six miles west of the park and the site of beautiful William Penn College.

University Park is a neighboring town where Vennard College is located.

Sigourney is 20 miles east.

Pella is 21 miles northwest. Pella is the home of Central College and the annual spring Tulip Festival.

Rose Hill, Cedar, Wright, Fremont, Beacon, New Sharon, Eddyville, and Delta are small towns close to 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.

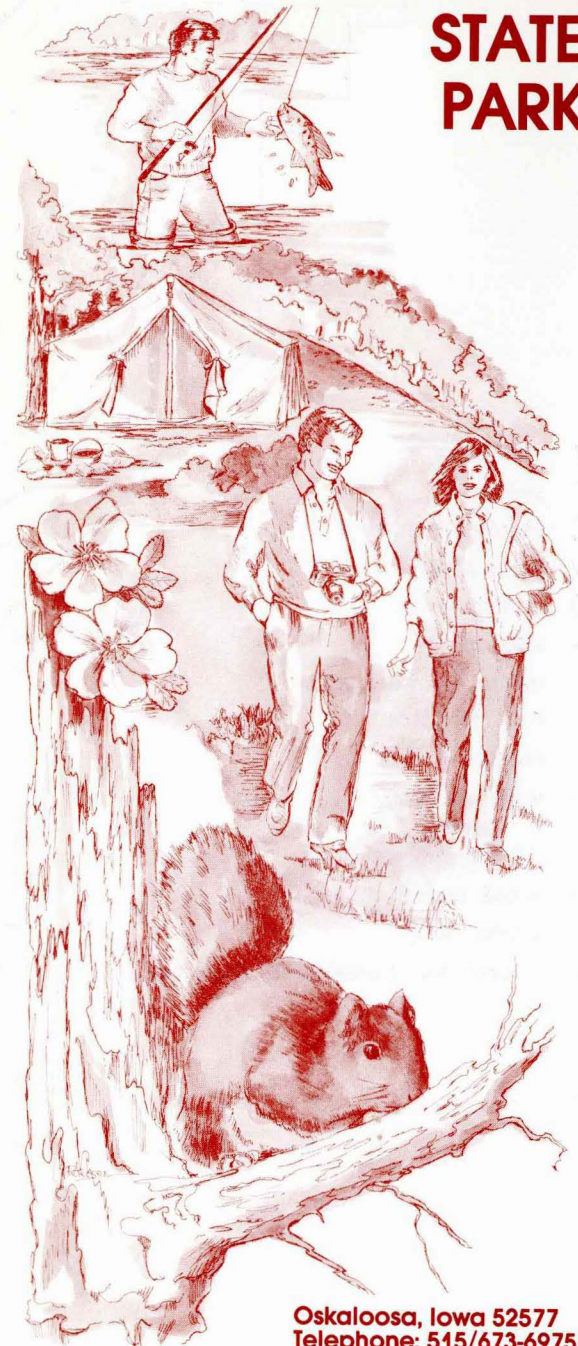
All funds raised through the sale of user permits are deposited in a trust fund to be utilized solely for the renovation and replacement of state park facilities.

## 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

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Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577  
Telephone: 515/673-6975



