

## LAKE DARLING STATE PARK

Lake Darling State Park was dedicated on September 17, 1950. J. N. "Ding" Darling, for whom the park was named, "set the gate," a ceremony in which an honored guest closes the valve on the spillway, completing the impoundment process. Ding Darling was the editorial cartoonist of the Des Moines Register and was a champion of conservation during the early part of this century. Through his efforts, the conservation movement was fostered in Iowa. In recognition of his contributions, Lake Darling State Park was named in his honor.

Lake Darling State Park is 1,417 acres in size, including a beautiful 302-acre lake with almost 18 miles of shoreline. The park, with its beautiful wooded hills and valleys and lovely lake, offers something for outdoor recreation enthusiasts, young and old.

### PICNICKING

Lake Darling State Park is a great place for a family cookout. A number of scenic picnic areas overlook the lake. A shelter is available for use and may be reserved for \$15.00 through the park ranger.

### CAMPING

Lake Darling has a large and well-equipped campground. A total of 118 campsites are present, 52 with electrical hookups. The campground has two modern rest room buildings, as well as a conveniently located trailer dumping station. Camping permits are obtained through self-registration at the campground.

### TRAILS

Hikers will find plenty of opportunity at Lake Darling State Park. Several trails are present and hikers will see a variety of plant, animal and bird species. One of the trails extends through a re-established prairie and another winds through heavily wooded timber to a cemetery dating back to the 1800s.

## SWIMMING, BOATING AND FISHING

The beach at Lake Darling is a fun spot for swimmers and sunbathers, young and old. A concession building is present where refreshments are available and lifeguards are on duty.

Lake Darling is a popular boating lake for both power and non-power boats. The concession offers boat rental opportunities. Any size motor may be operated on Lake Darling at "no wake" speeds.

Lake Darling is an angler's delight. Catfish and crappies are probably the most prevalent catch for most anglers. However, bullheads, bluegills, largemouth bass, carp, and tiger muskies are also plentiful.

### NEIGHBORING TOWNS

**Brighton** is 3 miles east of the park, **Richland** is 5 miles west, **Washington** is 14 miles northeast on Highway 1, and **Fairfield** is 17 miles southwest on Highway 34. These communities offer a variety of shopping, dining and church opportunities.

### 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**



# LAKE DARLING STATE PARK



**Rural Route 1**  
**Brighton, Iowa 52540**  
**Telephone 319/694-2323**

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

-  PARK OFFICE
-  PARK ATTENDANT
-  SHELTER
-  PICNIC AREA
-  REST ROOM
-  BOAT RAMP
-  NATURE TRAIL
-  HIKING TRAIL
-  MULTI USE TRAIL
- HIKING
- SNOWMOBILE
- EQUESTRIAN

