

LAKE OF THREE FIRES STATE PARK

The 97 acre Lake of Three Fires is nearly a mile long and half a mile wide, with scenic inlets ideal for fishing and boating. Surrounding the lake are 691 acres of picturesque woodlands. Although summer is the most popular season, any nice spring or fall day will draw hundreds of picnickers, hikers, photographers and fishermen. Mushrooms, berries and nuts can be harvested and there are 13 miles of marked trails for hikers, horseback riders, and snowmobilers.

HISTORY

The Pottawattamies, a large group of Indians known as the "Fire Nation," once roamed the prairies of southern Iowa. According to legend, two other tribes, the Chippewas and Ottawas, joined the Pottawattamies to form a loose confederacy known as "Three Fires." It is believed the three tribes held a great council meeting to join forces for protection against invading tribes. Runners were sent to wandering Indian nations to tell of the great rendezvous. Smoke from three fires signaled the exact location. The fires were built atop the highest hills so smoke could be seen from any direction. One such point overlooked the valley now covered by the waters of Lake of Three Fires. Three fires were kept burning as long as the three tribes joined together. If any of the fires went out it meant the tribes had left the area to continue on their own. Lake of Three Fires State Park was dedicated in 1935.

SWIMMING AND BOATING

A sandy beach provides swimming fun for everyone. There is a concrete boat ramp near the beach and one in the south area. Motors up to 10hp are allowed.

CABINS

Lake of Three Fires is a fine place for a family vacation at an economical cost! The modern cabins will comfortably accommodate four persons each. They are equipped with refrigerator, stove, cooking utensils and dishes. Renters must provide bedding, pillows and linen. Cabins may be reserved by contacting the park ranger.

PICNICKING

A large picnic area with tables and fireplaces is nestled under trees close to the lakeshore. Two open shelters may be reserved for \$15 through the park ranger. One shelter has electricity, tables and running water.

TRAILS

The park contains 13 miles of marked trails for hikers, horseback riders and snowmobiles. Lake of Three Fires is one of southwest Iowa's most scenic parks and the trails provide great opportunities to experience its beauty year round.

CAMPING

Two modern campgrounds located a short distance from the lake provide 160 campsites (30 with electrical hookups), rest room and shower facilities and a trailer dump station. Camping permits are obtained by self-registration at the campground.

NEIGHBORING TOWNS

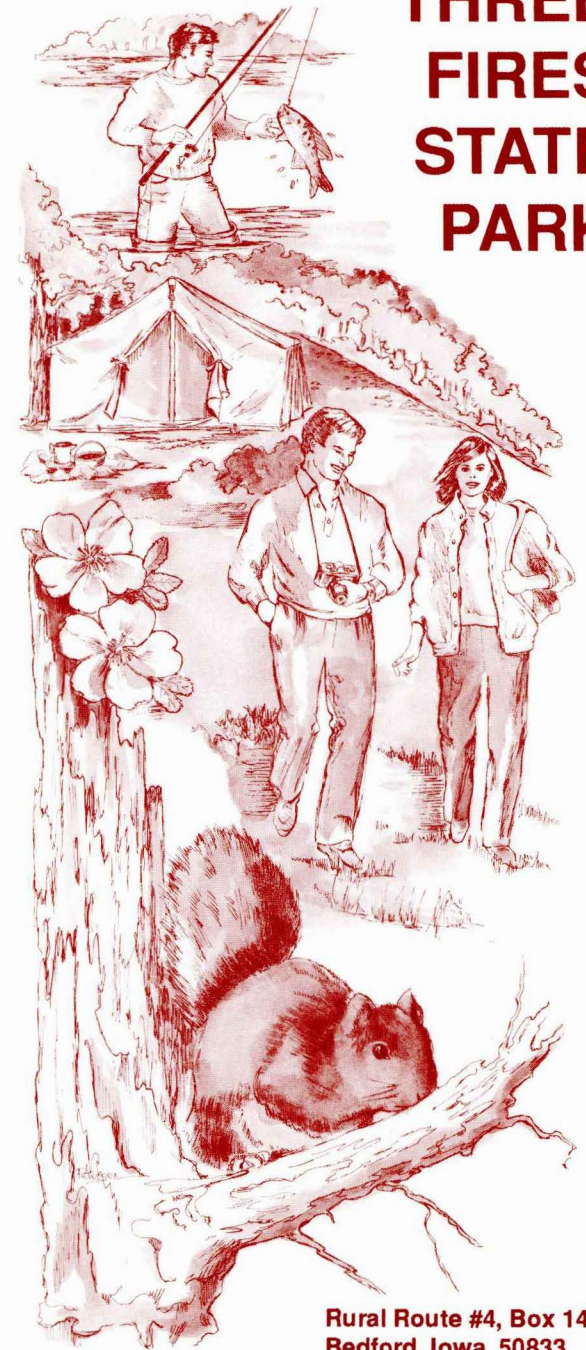
Shopping is available three miles south of the park in historic **Bedford**. Visit the Taylor County Historical Museum at the west edge of Bedford on Highway 2. A beautiful golf course is located near Highway 148 north of Bedford. Bedford is also known for its antique shops.

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 OF THREE FIRES STATE PARK



Rural Route #4, Box 14
Bedford, Iowa 50833
Telephone 712/523-2700

