

## DOLLIVER MEMORIAL STATE PARK

Bluffs, canyons, the Des Moines River, Prairie Creek and Indian mounds are all part of the natural and man-made history that make Dolliver State Park so valuable to the people of Iowa. Purchased for \$38,500, the 457-acre park was dedicated in 1925. During the dedication ceremonies, a memorial plaque, the work of noted sculptor Laredo Taft, was unveiled before a crowd of 13,500 people.

## COPPERAS BEDS

A unique facet of the sandstone formations at Dolliver are the "Copperas beds." The towering 100-foot bluff on Prairie Creek is a cross-sectional view of the ancient river bed that is over 150 million years old. Over the ages, the erosive power of Prairie Creek uncovered this unique feature. The porous nature of the sandstone has caused many minerals such as calcite and sulfur to dissolve as the water seeps through. As the water evaporates, the mineral deposits are left behind. You can see many of these deposits in the sandstone cliffs, as well as petrified logs and sticks.

## INDIAN MOUNDS

There are three Indian mounds located on an upland timbered ridge between the Des Moines River and Prairie Creek. They were ceremonial or burial mounds. All three mounds have a geometric shape, one linear, the other two conical. The mounds probably date back to the Woodland Indian culture of 1100 A.D. The mounds in Dolliver have been dug into and robbed in the past, and any knowledge that might have been gained by proper excavation has been lost.

## BONEYARD HOLLOW

This narrow ravine running between rock walls was given its name by early settlers who found large amounts of buffalo bones in the canyon. It is possible the area's first inhabitants drove herds of buffalo from the prairie over the cliff to their death. Or perhaps, they drove the herds into the narrow ravine and then slaughtered them.

In 1912, a family picnicking in the area found a lead tablet at the mouth of the creek that runs through Boneyard Hollow. Inscribed in Latin, it stated that it was deposited in 1701 by Father Hennepin, a French explorer, often credited with discovering the Des Moines River. The tablet was eventually found to be a hoax, planted by people from the nearby community. However, Edgar Harlan, then curator of the state archives, went to the site

where the tablet was found. His interest in the beauty of the area helped spark the state's interest in eventually purchasing the park.

## CAMPING

The Dolliver campground is located in a pleasant setting overlooking the Des Moines River. There are 42 campsites with electrical hookups, modern shower and restroom facilities, and a trailer dump station. Camping permits are obtained through self-registration.

## LODGES, CABIN, GROUP CAMP, PICNIC SHELTER

The two enclosed lodges at Dolliver, built during the 1930's, may be rented for day use. They accommodate groups of 100 people and are ideal for group events.

Dolliver's newly renovated family cabin is available for overnight stays on a reservation basis. The cabin sleeps four, and is equipped with a refrigerator, sink and dishes.

The group camp has a mess hall, modern shower and toilet facility, and separate sleeping cabins for large groups on overnight camping. The camp is available on a reservation basis.

An open picnic shelter may be reserved for \$15 through the park ranger.

## NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Lehigh is three miles southeast of the park. Fort Dodge is ten miles north of Dolliver.

## STATE PARK USER PERMIT

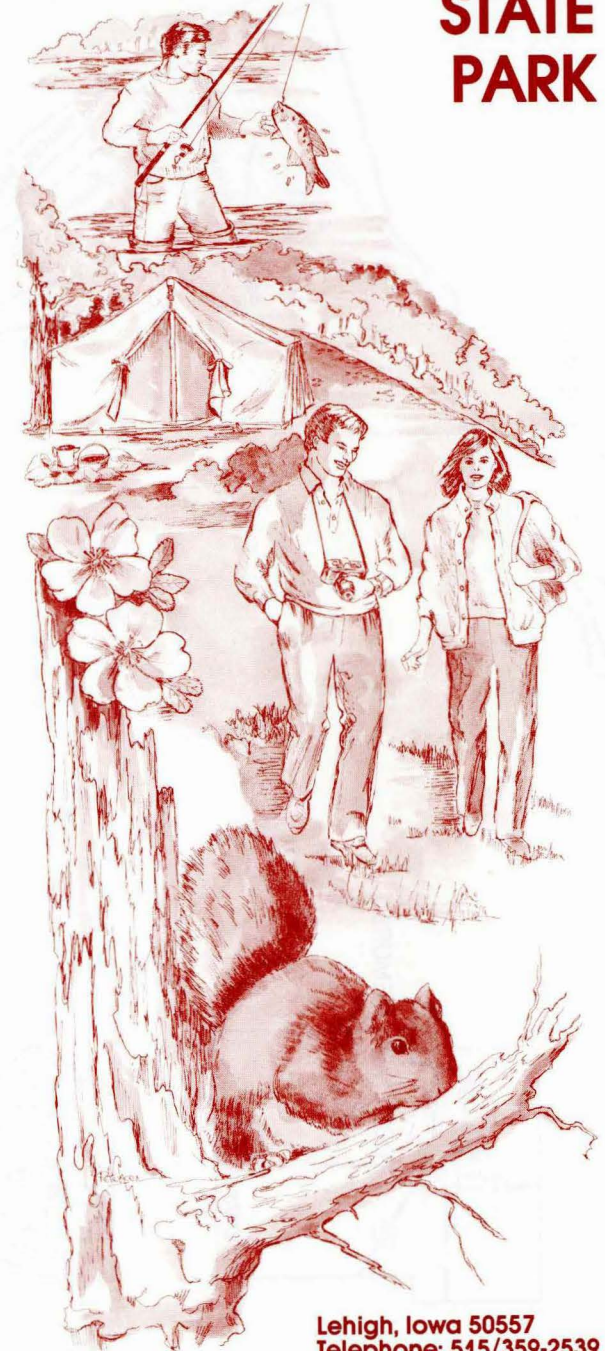
Motorized vehicles parked in state parks, recreation areas, and state forest campgrounds are required to have either annual or daily user permits on display. Annual permits are available at the park rangers' offices, county recorders, state park concessions, and other locations. Daily permits, good through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

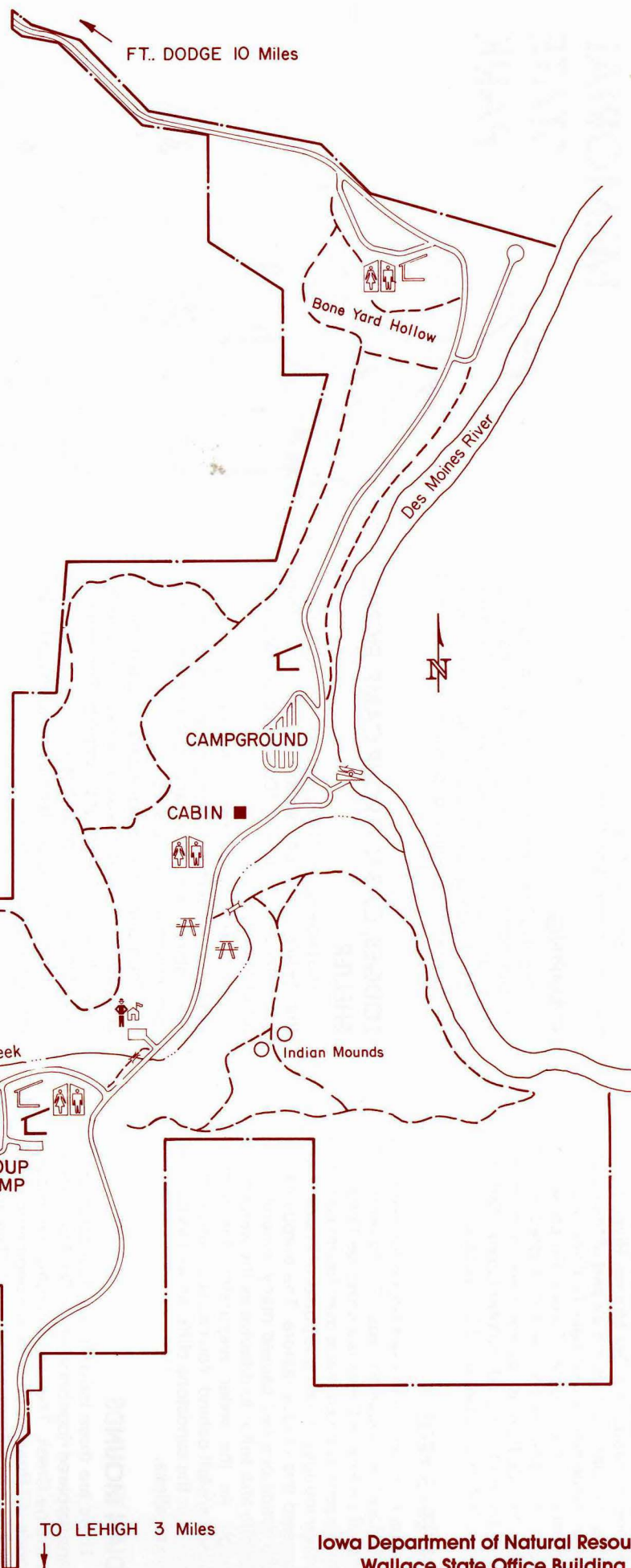
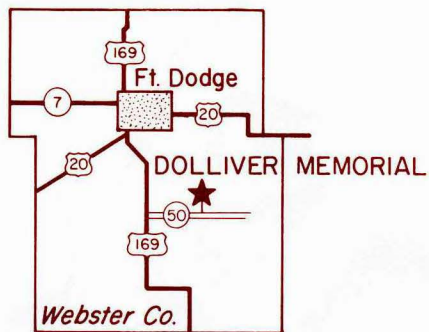
All persons are entitled to full and equal enjoyment of the recreational opportunities, privileges and advantages available in Iowa's great outdoors.

# DOLLIVER MEMORIAL STATE PARK



Lehigh, Iowa 50557  
Telephone: 515/359-2539





- PARK OFFICE
- SHELTER
- ENCLOSED SHELTER
- PICNIC AREA
- RESTROOM
- BOAT RAMP
- HIKING TRAIL

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