

WALNUT WOODS STATE PARK

Walnut Woods encompasses 260 acres of wooded bottomland along the Raccoon River. Within the park lies the largest surviving natural stand of black walnut trees in North America. More than 90 species of birds have been identified along the numerous foot and bridle trails throughout the park and along the river.

The valley in which Walnut Woods is located was created by the meandering of the Raccoon River. Since the park elevation is not much higher than the normal river level, constant changes can be seen in its banks. The most dramatic is where the river channel runs against the western edge of the park. Constant churning and washing in the past removed tons of soil, sand and gravel. In the mid-1980s, the most vulnerable areas of the river-bank were protected by rock "riprap" and special jetties designed to minimize erosion.

Located only minutes southwest of Des Moines, the park provides shaded picnic areas with fireplaces and tables and peaceful spots for river fishing. The park is open year round and is perfect for cross-county skiing, with two and one-half miles of ski trails. A pleasant equestrian trail is also located in the park.

WALNUT WOODS LODGE

The popular lodge is an outstanding feature of the park. It is a beautiful setting for weddings, family reunions, holiday parties and business meetings. The lodge was built in the 1930s of limestone brought in from an eastern Iowa quarry and rough-cut, hand-filled lumber. It is available for rental on a reservation basis.

CAMPING

The shady campground is a popular place for a family "get-a-way." There are 28 campsites (eight with electrical hookups) and non-modern sanitary facilities. The campsites are nestled among shade trees and have gravel pads, picnic tables and fireplaces. Camping permits are obtained by self-registration at the campground.

NEIGHBORING TOWNS

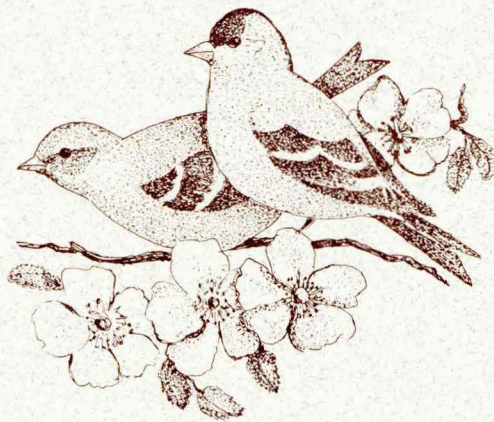
Walnut Woods is located within the Des Moines metropolitan area at the southern edge of West Des Moines.

EQUAL RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

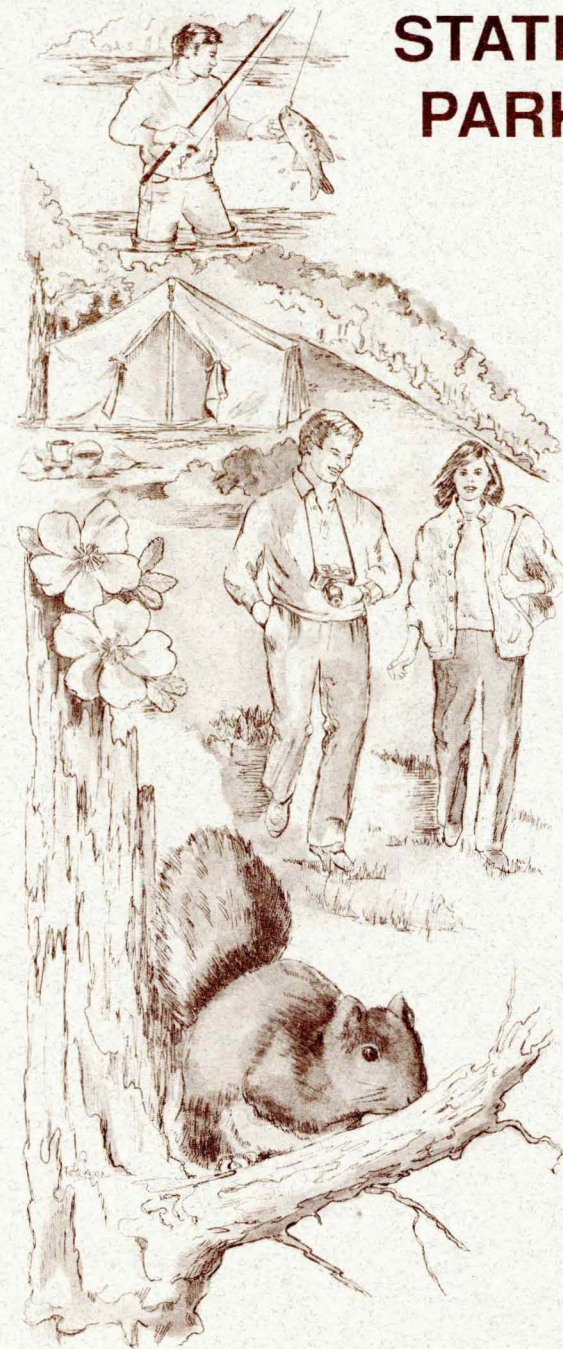
All persons are entitled to full and equal enjoyment of the recreational opportunities, privileges and advantages available in Iowa's great outdoors. The lodge, but not its restroom, are accessible to persons of varying abilities.



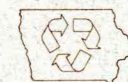
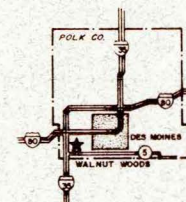
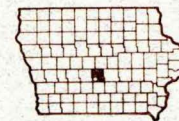
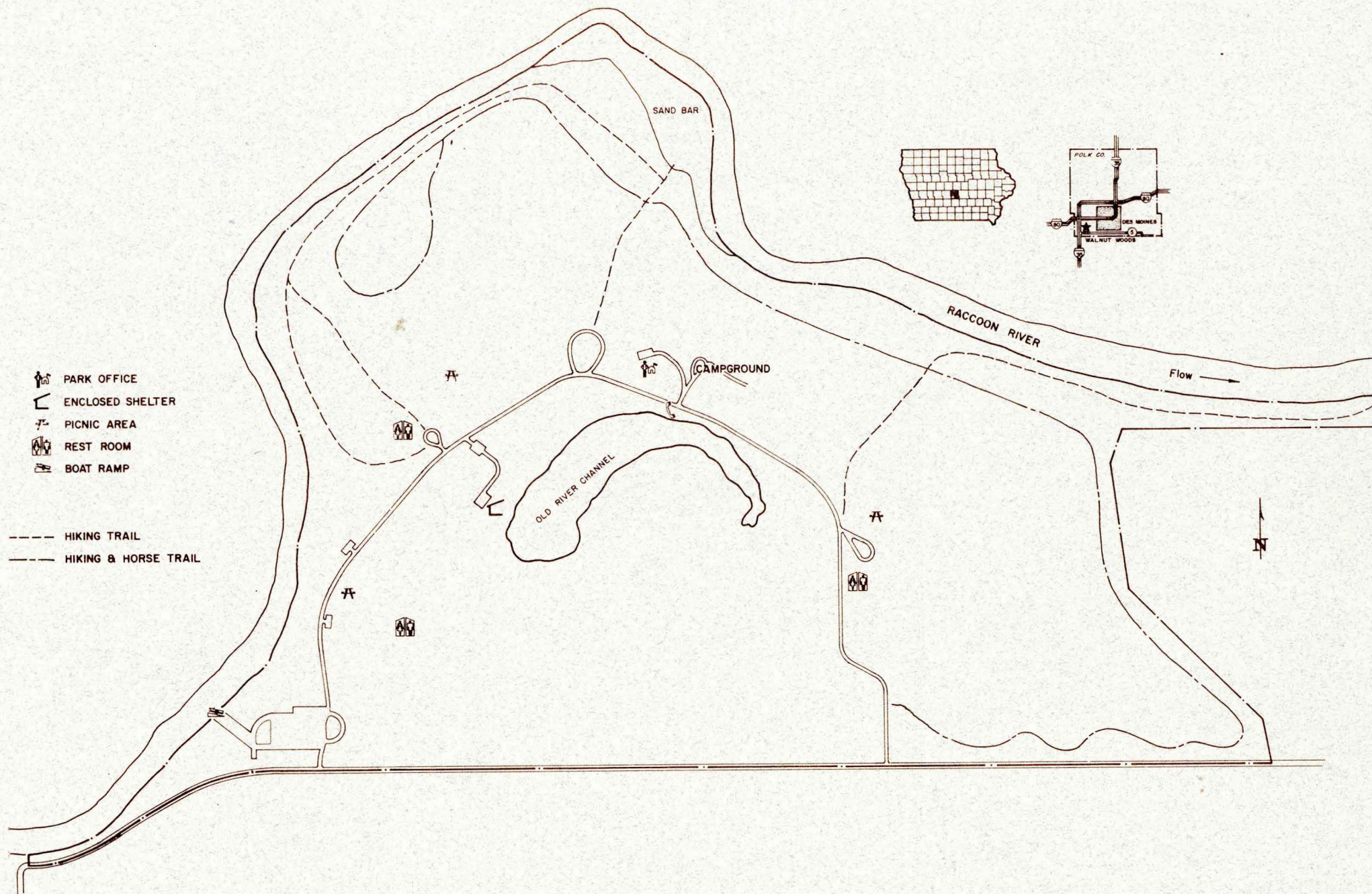
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