

## BIG CREEK

Big Creek State Park and the adjoining public hunting areas provide recreation for visitors of all ages and interests. The focal point of the 3,550 acre complex is the 866 acre lake. Shelters and picnic areas, a beach, a 2.9 mile surfaced multi-purpose trail linked to the Des Moines-Saylorville Lake trail, two playgrounds, a multi-purpose sports field, and several boat ramps provide a variety of outdoor recreation. Open picnic shelters, located in pleasant settings around the lake, may be reserved for \$15 through the park ranger.

## SWIMMING

Big Creek Lake's clear water provides great family swimming fun. Refreshments are available at the beach and lifeguards are on duty during the swimming season.

## CAMPING

Camping is not permitted at Big Creek State Park. However, there are several large federal camping areas about four miles away on Saylorville Lake.

## FISHING AND BOATING

Big Creek Lake provides excellent fishing year-round. The lake's clear waters are stocked with crappies, bluegills, largemouth bass, walleyes, channel catfish, and tiger muskie.

The lake is popular for a variety of boating activities. From May 20 through September 8, a 10 hp motor size limit is in effect. From September 9 through May 19, any size motors may be operated at "no wake" speed. Five modern boat ramps, three on the west side and two on the east, provide excellent access to the lake. Two more gravel ramps are located on the upper end of the lake. Sailboat rigging zones and vehicle parking areas are at each modern ramp. A 102 berth "dry-dock" area is at the northeast corner of the park. Arrangements for rental of dry-docking space may be at the Big Creek concession. Canoe, motor boat, and sailboat rentals are also available at the boat concession area.

## HUNTING

The state park is a wildlife refuge, where hunting is not permitted. However, hunting is allowed on the lake itself and in designated public hunting areas around the lake. Upland areas open for hunting are marked with public hunting signs. Favorite game includes pheasants, rabbit, deer, and squirrel. Waterfowl hunting is popular on the lake.

## NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Polk City is two miles north on Iowa Highway 415.

Des Moines is 11 miles south.

Ankeny is 12 miles south.

Madrid is seven miles south.

## 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.

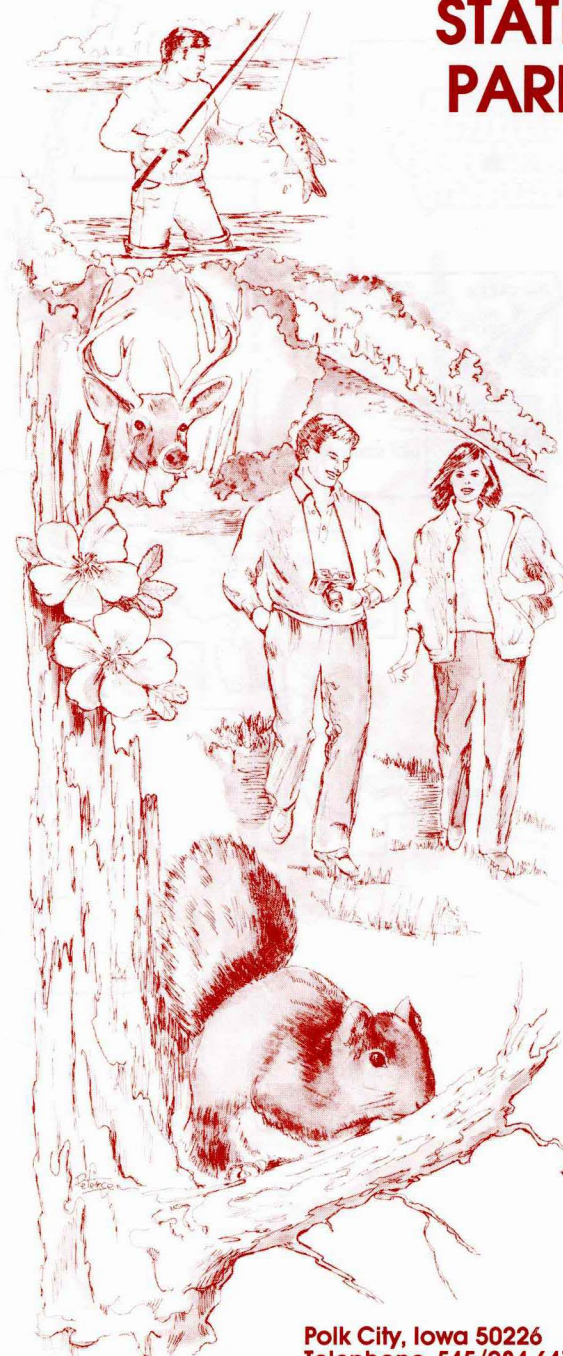
All funds raised through the sale of user permits are deposited in a trust fund to be utilized solely for the renovation and replacement of state park facilities.

## 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.

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# BIG CREEK STATE PARK



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