

GEODE STATE PARK

"Hey! come on, we're going out to Geode!" This is repeated time after time in southeast Iowa as families and friends pack picnic baskets and swimsuits and head for a fun day in the sun at one of southeast Iowa's most popular state parks.

The geode stone for which this park is named brings "rock hounds" to the area in search of this elusive prize. A display of geodes, with mysterious crystal formations in their hollow cavities, can be seen at the campground. Please remember that it is illegal to remove geodes and other natural materials except mushrooms, nuts, fruits and berries from state parks.

Several hiking trails challenge the outdoor lover at Geode. The main trail starts at the north end of the lake and follows it all the way to the dam. Part of this trail has been developed into a nature trail with a printed brochure identifying points of interest. This trail is accessible from several picnic areas along the lake. Another trail begins at the dam on the west side of the lake and ends at picnic shelter number one.

The Skunk River forms a portion of the south boundary of the park. Years ago, the Skunk was a highway to riverboats as they traveled up river from the Mississippi to the towns of Lowell and Oakland Mills. A pioneer cemetery once overlooked the scenic river in this area.

FISHING

The prime attraction of the 1,640-acre park is Lake Geode, a 186-acre lake built in 1950. Over the years, the lake has become well known for excellent fishing for largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie, channel catfish, bullhead, red-eared sunfish and tiger muskie.

SWIMMING AND BOATING

The beautiful beach is a popular spot for sun-bathers and offers supervised swimming. Refreshments can be purchased at the modern beach concession building. Bait can be purchased at the

boathouse where boats and canoes may be rented. A boat ramp is nearby.

PICNICKING

Geode State Park is one of the most scenic and popular picnicking spots in southeast Iowa. Several open picnic shelters are available for group use. These may be reserved for \$15 through the park ranger.

CAMPING

There are 187 campsites with enough variety to suit anyone's tastes (96 sites have electricity). There are two modern shower buildings and a sewage dump station in the campground. No reservations are necessary, but campers must obtain a camping permit by self-registration at the campground.

NEIGHBORING TOWNS

New London is about six miles north of the park. Just east of New London on U.S. 34, a county road turns south and leads to the main entrance.

The park may be reached from **Middletown** on Iowa Highway 79 or from **Lowell** on County Road J-20. **Denmark** and **Danville** are also close to the park.

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 campground rest rooms are accessible to persons with varying abilities.

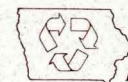
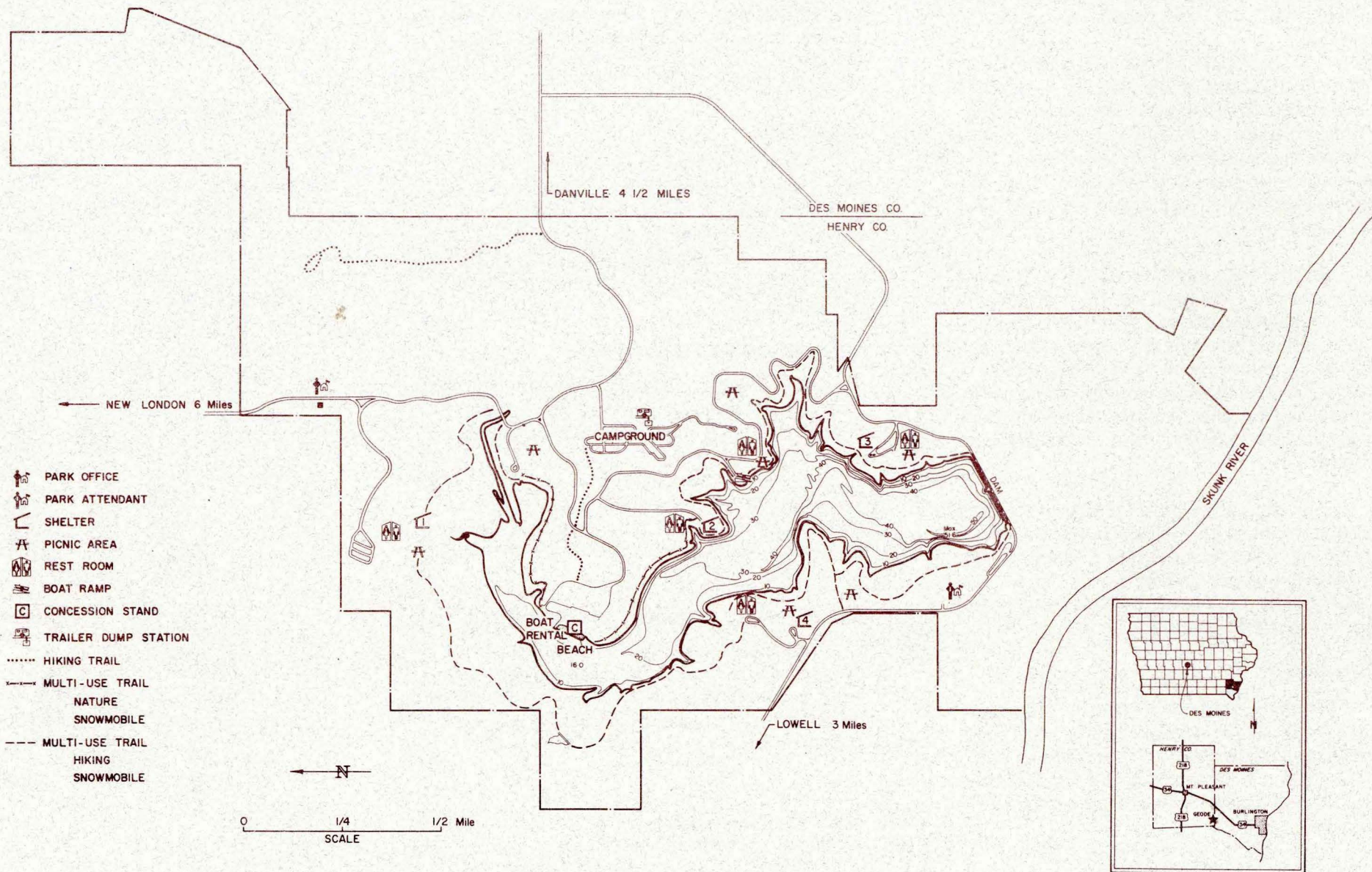


Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Wallace State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034

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Danville, Iowa 52623
Telephone 319/392-4601



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