

Follow Iowa highway 175 east out of Eldora to the intersection of highway 118, turn north toward Steamboat Rock and you are in Pine Lake State Park.

This popular park is approximately 50 miles from Waterloo, 40 miles from Marshalltown and 75 miles from Des Moines.

Pine Lake State Park comes doubly equipped in outdoor enjoyment by having two lakes, 50 acre Lower Pine and 69 acre Upper Pine.

From a 200-acre tract of land when the Lower Lake was constructed in 1921-22 to today's 572 acre heavily-timbered area, Pine Lake State Park has grown and prospered.

Before the establishment of the park, this area was swampy pastureland drained by Pine Creek, with bluffs and timber on each side. Eldora citizens began to envision a park in the area as early as 1919, but they had to do some selling of their idea to conservation officials in Des Moines.

The park size was doubled to 400 acres in 1935 with the addition of land around what is now the Upper Lake. It has continued to grow and change, but it still holds its ageless charm of woodland and lake in the midst of prairie land.

Still abundant in the park are the ancient white pine, the popular white-barked birch, and rare ferns along the Iowa River. The pine-scented air of the campgrounds and picnic area is a definite rarity in Iowa.

Picnickers find many beauty spots awaiting them. The lowest level picnic area is located near the assistant park ranger's residence, featuring a quiet river setting, with both Pine Creek and the Iowa River nearby beneath towering trees. The Hogsback picnic area, located directly west of the Lower Lake, rambles and terminates at the tip of the "hogsback," a bluff-top with a breathtaking view out over the Lower Lake. The Hogsback Shelter has long been a favorite with local residents. Excellent picnic facilities are also located just west of the golf course, at the Upper Lake boat ramp, and on the Upper Lake circle drive, with its fine view up and down the length of the lake. In all these picnic areas, fireplaces, stoves, tables, sanitary facilities, and shelters are available.

Lake enthusiasts enjoy the concessions on both lakes, offering boat rentals and a fine swimming facility at Lower Lake. From here a foot trail leads to the Upper Lake. This trail is an interpretive trail, with points of interest marked with numbered posts. A nature trail brochure identifying the various trees and shrubs is available at the Park.

Nearby, the Iowa River Greenbelt affords canoeing,

fishing and woodland scenic enjoyment at its finest. Pine Lake offers fishing for bass, crappies, bluegills, northerns and bullheads. Fishing is popular throughout the year, with lunger catches not uncommon. White Amur (grass carp) were introduced into Lower Pine Lake in 1981 to help control the vegetative problem. The Iowa River borders part of the park and is noted for its fine angling for channel catfish and smallmouth bass. Visitors who bring their own boats may launch them on either Upper or Lower Lake boat ramps.

Off 118 is the lodge which was built in the mid-30's by the Civilian Conservation Corps. This rustic lodge or enclosed shelter is ideally located high on a hill overlooking Lower Pine with its tree-covered island. Hiking enthusiasts will find over 10 miles of well-established trails, and more primitive ones to keep their interest going. They may take the well-defined, rock trail around Lower Pine where they cross stone bridges over Pine Creek, pass grand old pines known to be 250 years old, and view wildlife and the varieties of wildflowers, trees and shrubs. Hikers find a camera and a field guide come in handy at Pine Lake.

Past the lodge road is a nine-hole golf course managed by the country club and open to all. The picturesque course offers a challenge over the rolling bluffs above both Upper and Lower lakes. The Pine Lake golf course is regarded by many as "Iowa's most beautiful nine hole golf course."

#### LODGE (Enclosed Shelter)

The lodge, overlooking Lower Pine is popular for reunions, church and other groups, and can be rented through the park ranger.

#### CAMPING INFORMATION

Pine Lake State Park will accommodate 128 camping units. There are electrical hook-ups available for those who prefer the modern touch. Pine Lake camp sites are classified as modern as there are flush toilets and shower facilities available. All camping permits are issued by the park ranger. For camping rates, see the enclosed insert.

#### IN THE VICINITY

**Pine Ridge** - four miles northeast of the park on 118, is a county park. Shelter, picnicking and fishing are available, plus camping facilities.

**Pictured Rock** - between Pine Lake and Steamboat Rock, this county conservation area offers primitive camping and fishing on the Iowa River.

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# PINE LAKE

## State Park



#### PARK RANGER'S ADDRESS

**Pine Lake State Park**

Route 3, Box 45

Eldora, Iowa 50627

Telephone: 515/858-5832 (Office)

858-2556 (Home)








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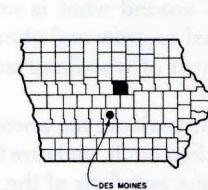
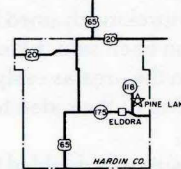
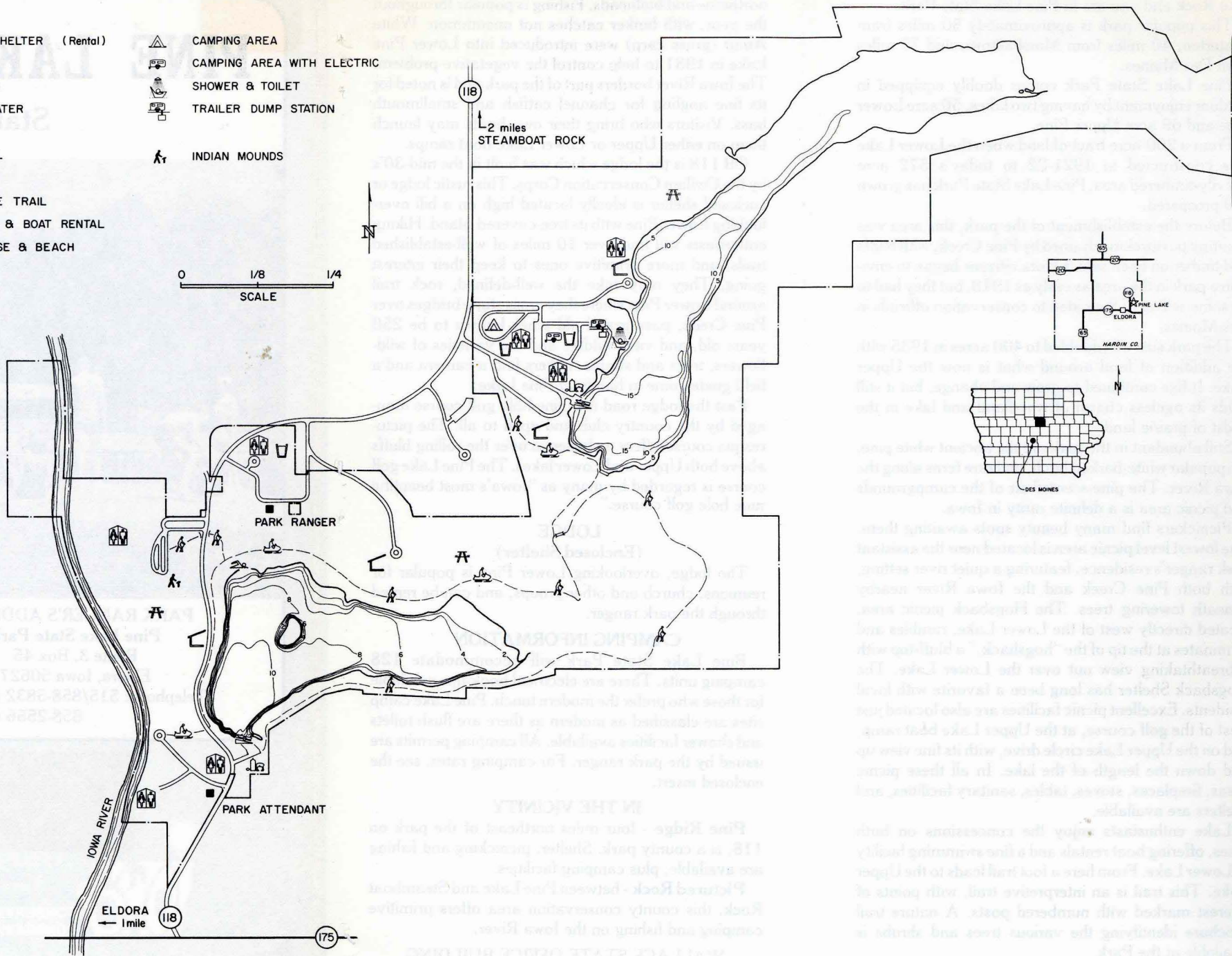
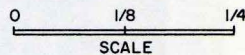
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-  ENCLOSED SHELTER (Rental)
-  SHELTER
-  PICNIC AREA
-  DRINKING WATER
-  LATRINE
-  HIKING TRAIL
-  BOAT RAMP
-  SNOWMOBILE TRAIL
-  CONCESSION & BOAT RENTAL
-  BEACH HOUSE & BEACH

-  CAMPING AREA
-  CAMPING AREA WITH ELECTRIC
-  SHOWER & TOILET
-  TRAILER DUMP STATION
-  INDIAN MOUNDS



IN THE VICINITY

Pine Ridge - four miles northwest of the park on  
 118, a county park. Shelter, picnic area and lounge  
 are available. Picnic camp facilities.  
 Pottawack Rock - between Pine Lake and Steamboat  
 Rock. This county concession area offers primitive  
 camping and fishing on the Iowa River.

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