

## STONE STATE PARK

Stone State Park is located in the northwest corner of Sioux City with 1,085 acres in Woodbury and Plymouth Counties. The park is named for the Stone family. Hector Talbot established a private park in the area in the 1880s. Talbot had a keen interest in nature and developed a zoo at the present site of the park, which the Stone family continued after acquiring the area in 1895. Stone family heirs donated the area to Sioux City for it to be kept as "Stone Park."

In 1935, the city deeded the area to the state so a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp could be established there. Portions of the zoo were transferred to other parks in the city but the bears were left at Stone Park 1940. The CCC program developed the park with buildings, water and sewage, roads and landscaping. Some or all of this construction may be added to the National Register of historic places.

Stone Park is located entirely in the unique Loess Hills of western Iowa. The Loess Hills were formed many thousands of years ago by the deposition of windblown soil. The loess deposits are found in the eastern Missouri River valleys in Missouri and Iowa. Loess deposits of this magnitude are found only here and in China.

Native prairie and woodland communities blend together to show off many species of the wildflowers, including yucca, penstemon and nearly a hundred other species. The recently discovered "Hills fern" is native only to loess soil. In September 1989, a 90-acre portion of Stone park was added to the preserves section of the DNR because of its exceptional prairie preservation.

## PICNICKING

Stone State Park is a picnicker's delight with many grassy and shaded picnic areas. Although located only minutes from Sioux City, Stone Park offers a real "away-from-it-all" picnic experience. Three open picnic shelters are available and may be reserved for \$15.00 through the park ranger.

## CAMPING

Stone Park has a small but very attractive campground with 49 sites, 24 with electrical hookups. Camping permits are obtained through self-registration at the campground.

## LODGES

Stone State Park is unique in that two enclosed shelters or lodges are available for public use. These offer excellent opportunities for such group activities as wedding receptions and family reunions. The lodges may be reserved through the park ranger.

## BUR OAK NATURE CENTER

A fine nature center has been developed at Stone State Park. The center, which is open seasonally, contains a variety of exhibits and displays on the plant and animal life of the park and the Loess Hills.

## TRAILS


Stone Park is a great place to hike. Approximately 25 miles of bridle and hiking trails are available for use. On the trails, hikers, horseback riders, and, in the winter, snowmobilers and cross-country skiers, can see a variety of natural features. Wildlife abounds in the park and deer are often sighted as are innumerable species of songbirds.

The Carolyn Benne Nature Trail offers opportunities for visitors to learn more about the natural communities of the park using the attractive trail brochure available at the trailhead.

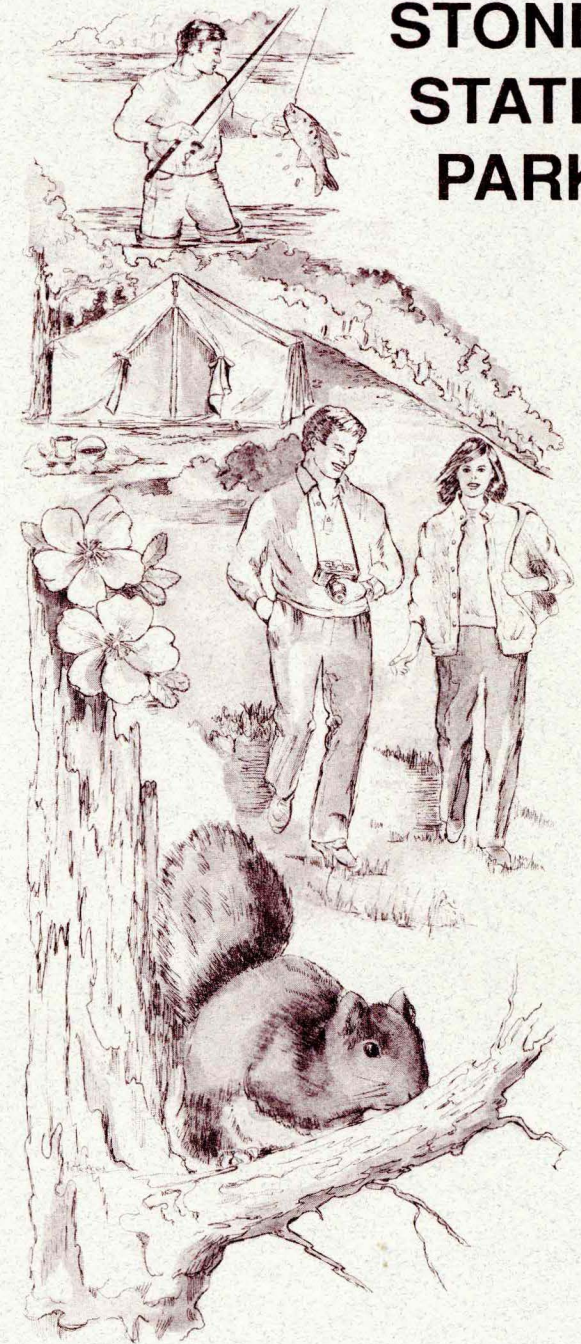
## EQUAL RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

The rest room at Rickett's Glen is accessible to mobility-impaired persons.

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

# STONE STATE PARK



Rural Route 3  
Sioux City, Iowa 51103  
Telephone 712/255-4698

-  PARK OFFICE
-  PARK ATTENDANT
-  LODGE
-  SHELTER
-  PICNIC AREA
-  REST ROOM
-  PHONE
-  SCENIC VIEW

-  NATURE TRAIL
-  HIKING TRAIL
-  MULTI USE TRAIL
-  CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAIL ( All Trails )
-  SNOWMOBILE TRAIL
-  BRIDLE

