

VOLGA RIVER STATE RECREATION AREA

The Volga River Recreation Area is located in one of the most scenic parts of the state. Northeast Iowa is often referred to as "Little Switzerland" because of its rugged topography, geologic features and substantial timber cover which are in sharp contrast to the majority of the state's rolling hills, farmland and scattered stands of timber. The heavily wooded, rugged landscape of the Volga River is an exciting setting for a variety of outdoor recreation pursuits.

The area provides excellent habitat for fish and wildlife. The Volga River, which meanders through the 5,420-acre area, holds smallmouth bass, rock bass, channel catfish and white suckers. Its banks harbor nesting wood ducks and shorebirds. Song birds, chickadees, finches, bluebirds, and woodpeckers (including the impressive pileated) are plentiful. Raptors include red-shouldered and red-tailed hawks and great horned owls. Wild turkeys are numerous and ruffed grouse and woodcock are occasionally seen. Red fox, raccoon, skunk, opossum, muskrat, mink and beaver use the area and both fox and gray squirrels are found in the timbered hills. The timber and croplands in northeast Iowa provide excellent habitat for white-tailed deer and many deer trails in the Volga area attest to the abundance of this popular animal.

Scenic features include the Volga River and the old steel bridges that cross it, striking rock formations, prairie areas and natural woodlands with unusual stands of aspen and Canadian yew. Changes of season provide vivid contrasts in snowy winter, bright wild flowers and foliage in spring, shady woodlands in summer and vivid colors in autumn.

The story of the Volga River State Recreation Area began in the 1950s, when the Iowa Conservation Commission (now the Iowa Department of Natural Resources) purchased the 333-acre Big Rock Wildlife Area along the Volga River in Fayette County. In the 1960s, the Commission acquired

approximately 5,000 more acres adjacent to the Big Rock area for development as a state recreation area. The original concept called for construction of a 1,000-acre lake on the Volga River itself. However, a 135-acre man-made lake on Frog Hollow Creek, a tributary to the Volga River, was eventually constructed.

ACTIVITIES

The Volga River Recreation Area has become a very popular center for a number of trail activities. Hiking, cross-country skiing, snowmobile and equestrian trails wind through the area. The total trail system is more than 30 miles in length. A self-guided nature trail begins by the park office. In addition to the Volga River, beautiful Frog Hollow Lake provides fishing and boating opportunities. Any size boat motor may be operated in "no wake" speeds. The area is also open to public hunting. White-tailed deer and wild turkey are popular quarry.

CAMPING

The rugged beauty of Volga River provides a picturesque setting for camping. There are 32 non-modern campsites at the "Albany" campground area (once the site of the town of Albany). A portion of the camping area is available for equestrian campers.

NEIGHBORING TOWNS

The area lies just east of State Highway 150 and about five miles south of U.S. Highway 18. The Volga River Recreation Area is in Fayette County. **Cedar Rapids** is 70 miles south. **Dubuque** is 55 miles southeast. **Waterloo** is 40 miles southwest.

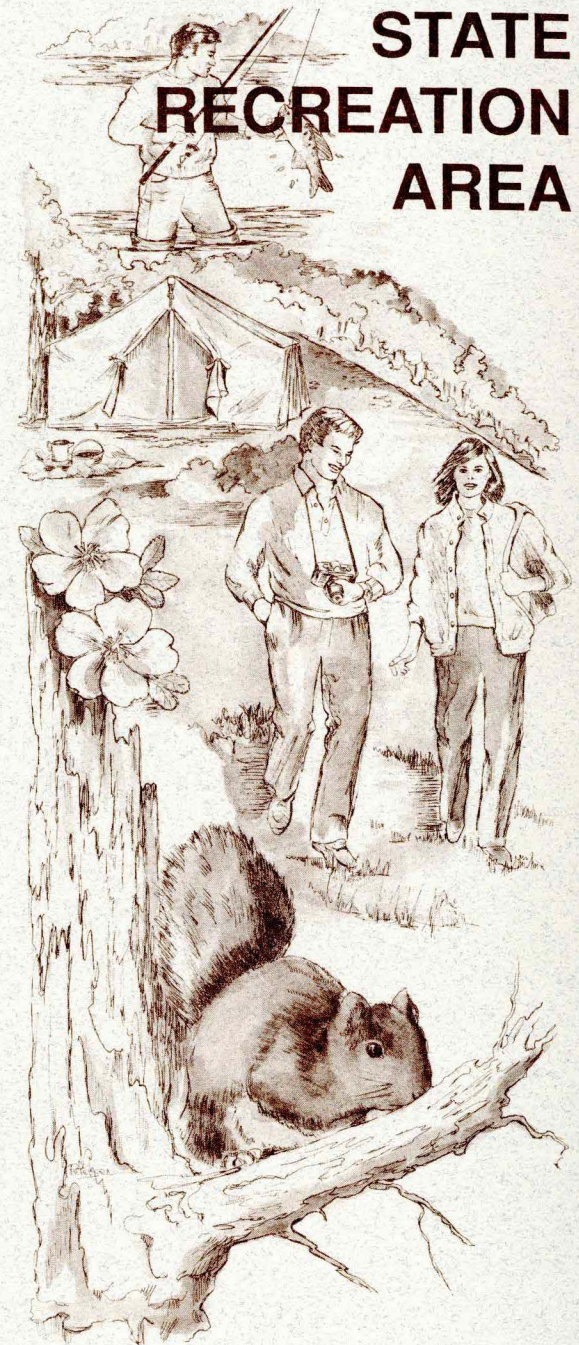
EQUAL RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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 near the lake is accessible to persons of varying abilities.



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

VOLGA RIVER STATE RECREATION AREA



Fayette, Iowa 52142
Telephone 319/425-4161

