

BEEDS LAKE



Fed by the cold waters of never-ending springs; dammed over a century ago to form a race that supplied power to a grist and saw mill; drained to give rich land for wartime farming, and reborn for your pleasure and mine.

PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS
State Conservation Commission
East 7th & Court Ave. Des Moines 8,
IOWA

Beeds Lake, just north of Hampton in Franklin County, has everything anyone could wish for in a state park, and then some. The "then some" is a wonderful dike that bisects the lake from southeast to northwest to form 650 yards of the best bank fishing anywhere. In fact, the distance can be doubled because it's possible to fish both sides at once without leaving a line untended. Bridges at either end allow easy boating access to the west end of the lake.

Another extra is the dam's unusual spillway, so beautiful with its varicolored stone in horizontal layers that slope abruptly for 40 feet to the rock foundation. The spillway is 170 feet long.

The bathing beach is on the west side of the tree-covered dike. It is well sanded and supervised and the bathhouse is one of the finest.

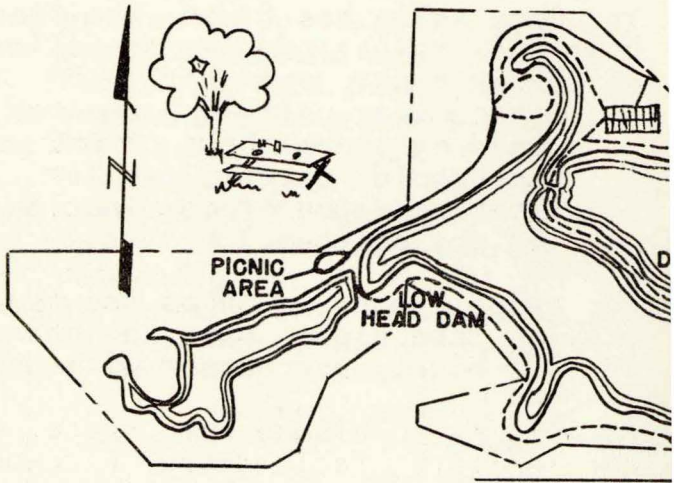
Concessionaires rent boats, motors, sell refreshments and fishing supplies to the thousands who come by car or plane to enjoy this most rewarding of state parks. A pair of concrete boat ramps lead down to a sheltered bay with adequate docking at its entrance.

Visitors who come by plane can park their aircraft just across the county road south the park's portals in the Hampton Airport and walk only a block or two to picnic, swim, or fish from dike or boat.

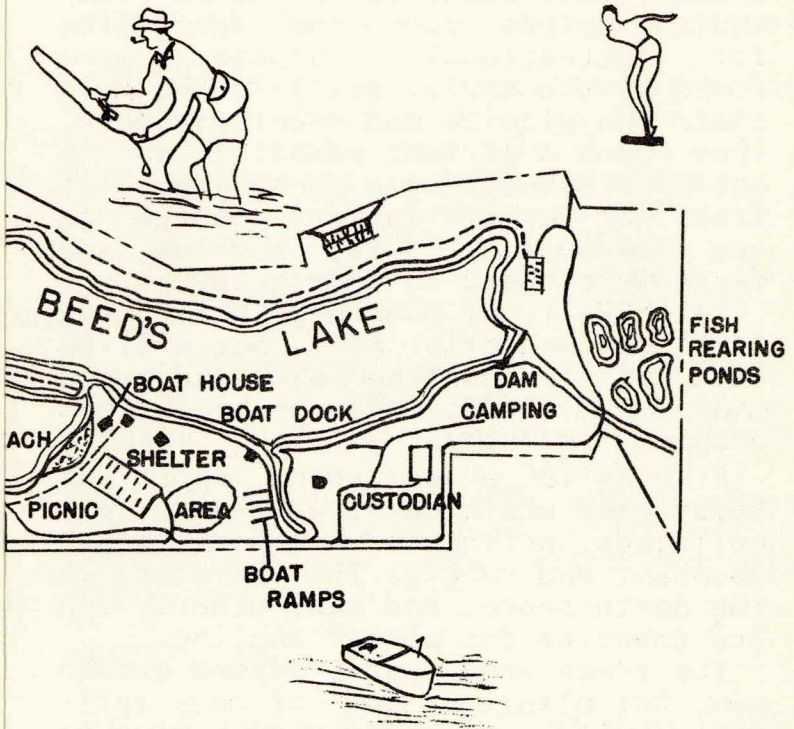
There are several clean, level picnic areas; shady and provided with adequate parking, tables, and fireplaces

There is a rustic shelter for family reunions that offers a splendid view of the lake.

The camping area is near the Park Officer's residence and is well provided with fireplaces and tables.



Park Officer's Mailing Address:
Beeds Lake State Park
Hampton,
Iowa



Accessible by auto or air, this beautiful lake lures fishermen, bathers, campers and hikers by the thousands to its clear waters and tree-lined shore.

Spring Creek is from 12 to 14 miles long and is fed by numerous cold water springs that have continued to flow regularly, summer and winter, since long before the white men penetrated this country. Evidence that Indian tribes used the lake site for recreational purposes were found by the early settlers who held their own picnics and reunions there. They found a perfect paradise in this basin surrounded by a dense growth of trees of every variety native to the midwest. Nuts, berries and fruit were there in abundance.

In 1857, T. K. Hansbury built the first dam and grist mill, but William Beed put in the long dike and made many improvements when he bought the property in 1864.

Fishing is a year round sport at Beeds Lake where bass, walleyes, cat, bullheads, northerns and panfish are abundant and hungry. The residents on the north shore, and many others, own ice shanties for winter angling.

The trees are mostly second growth now, but plentiful and of many varieties. Flora of every kind native to the area flourishes, providing excellent cover for birds and wildlife. There is a refuge at the west end of the lake where many species of waterfowl and shore birds may be studied.

Whether you come for a day's outing or two weeks of camping, your stay at Beeds Lake State Park will be well worthwhile anytime.



TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING

No reservations are necessary but campers are requested to secure a camping permit at the park office upon arrival.

The Commission has fixed the fees for tent and trailer camping as follows:
\$1.50 per night, per unit.

(A camping unit is a shelter used by the members of ONE household; a tent, trailer station wagon or combination of any of them.)

For group campers such as scouts, etc. staying one night only, a charge of 15¢ per night, per person will be made.

Facilities furnished are space, water and sanitary facilities. Firewood is available at the park office for 25¢ per bundle.

NEARBY TOWN

HAMPTON has a population of over 5,000 and is a few miles from the park. The town is famed for its nurseries. Necessary facilities for picnicking and camping are found here.

