

PLEASANT CREEK STATE RECREATION AREA

The idea for a state recreation area at Pleasant Creek originated in the early 1960's when the Iowa Conservation Commission began investigating the possibility of a large lake facility to serve the outdoor recreation needs of the Cedar Rapids-Waterloo region. The Pleasant Creek site was found to possess the necessary natural and outdoor recreation potentials for a major state facility. The Iowa Conservation Commission and the Iowa Electric Light and Power Company, that uses water from the lake to cool the nearby Duane Arnold Atomic Energy Center, entered into a cooperative agreement for development of the lake. The resulting state recreation area offers a 410-acre lake surrounded by 1,517 acres of land. It is open year-round for a variety of outdoor recreation activities.

Pleasant Creek is located within convenient access of several of Iowa's major metropolitan areas: Cedar Rapids, Waterloo, and Iowa City. The area serves both urban and rural residents of a multi-county area with a population of over 600,000. The outdoor recreation facilities and activities planned for Pleasant Creek offer a maximum of opportunities.

Camping. Camping is permitted but is primitive at this time (no electricity or latrines are available yet.) There are 70 acres of developed campgrounds and 350 acres of support area available for 101 campsites accommodating a variety of area users on a 24-hour basis.

Boating. Four launch sites are dispersed around the lake, with the main facility near the main control entrance. These launch areas have a total of 7 ramps for fishing access, leisure boating, and sailboating on the 410-acre lake. A 6-horsepower motor limit exists on the lake.

Trails. Fifteen miles of trails are designed to provide a trails system for pedestrian, bicyclist, hiker, snowmobiler, and the equestrian, with interconnecting access to many area facilities and scenic overlooks.

Fishing. The lake was stocked with largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill, channel catfish, tiger musky and walleye. A minimum size limit of 14" has been placed on largemouth bass and 30" on tiger musky. Shoreline fishing is enhanced by the construction of jetties. The lake is one of the highest quality fishing lakes in the region.

Winter Activities. Several areas are designed for cross-country skiing, sledding, skating, snowmobiling, tobogganning, hunting, fishing, and camping.

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Ecological Recreation Areas. Nondeveloped areas are intended for low-intensity recreation use. Activities occurring there will include: educational interpretation and study, hunting, multi-purpose trail use, and general enjoyment of the natural environment.

These areas will be managed to increase wildlife habitat. Programs call for strip-cropping, reforestation, and maintenance of grasslands for erosion control, educational interpretation, aesthetic and visual effect, wildlife cover and food, and shade for picnic and camping areas.

Conservation Education Programs. The opportunity for many ongoing conservation education programs will exist. The site encompasses scenic overviews, woodland areas, meadows and marshy areas, all within a lake environment. The area affords excellent potential for programs oriented to land management, as well as instruction in hunting, fishing, swimming, boating, and recreation safety.

CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT

Park rangers at Pleasant Creek provide protection, law enforcement, safety, visitor assistance, and maintenance, and are an integral function in the organization and control of the area.

"IOWA'S GROWING ENVIRONMENT"

"Iowa's Growing Environment" has been established as a theme for the recreation area. The theme encompasses a diversity of potential activities, facilities, and programs in the Pleasant Creek area.

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.

State park maintenance and operation funds are derived solely from legislative appropriation and receipts from camping and concession revenue, cabin and lodge rental and boat dock fees.

IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION
WALLACE STATE OFFICE BLDG.
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

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PLEASANT CREEK STATE RECREATION AREA



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STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA
Historical Building
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319



CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

PLEASANT CREEK STATE RECREATION AREA

PLEASANT CREEK

-  PARK OFFICE
-  PICNIC AREA
-  BOAT RAMP
-  FISH ATTRACTORS
-  HUNTING AREA
-  LATRINE
-  HIKING TRAIL
-  BRIDLE TRAIL
-  SNOWMOBILE TRAIL
-  SCENIC VIEW
-  INTERPRETIVE TRAIL

