

Lacey-Keosauqua is one of Iowa's largest state parks. Among its 1,653 acres of flowers and shrub filled woods may be found evidence that it has been used as a park for thousands of years, and no wonder. Ancient Indian tribes must have found its tree-covered slopes, limestone gorges, cliffs, and open meadows just as relaxing as do modern campers and picnickers.

The great horseshoe bend of the Des Moines River, extending for two miles along the northern boundary, offers beautiful vistas and panoramas when viewed from overlooks at different points in the park.

Nestled in one of its many valleys is an artificial lake of thirty acres that provides the summer visitor with bathing, boating, fishing and beauty.

Nature trails abound and the wildlife sheltered here includes deer, raccoon, opossum, gray squirrel, red fox and every species of birdlife found anywhere in the midwest.

Herbaceous plants, ferns of many kinds, shrubs of all varieties, and magnificent trees, many of them over 200 years old, make hiking an endless delight.

The formal opening of Keosauqua State Park took place on October 27, 1921. Six years later a huge boulder overlooking the Des Moines River above Ely's Ford was inscribed as follows:

"This boulder is dedicated to Major John Fletcher Lacey, eminent lawyer, statesman, soldier, and citizen, for his constructive work in conservation, by the Iowa Conservation Association, August 15, 1926." Therefore the name, Lacey-Keosauqua.

Ely's Ford, on the north side of the park, was the river crossing for the Mormon Trail and the pioneers from the south side of the river before the bridges were built. The origin of the present town of Keosauqua goes back to 1839.

Within the memory of many people of Van Buren County, are the woodsmen who resided on the southern slope of one of the park's ridges and made their entire living by cutting and selling timber. Ruins of their cabins may be found by careful hikers on the right trails today.

The nearby towns of Keosauqua and Bentonport hold much historical interest. Dams, locks, old steamboat landings and power mills (or what is left of them) along the Des Moines River, recall the past when the river was a highway to the interior of Iowa.

Waterfowl of all kinds can be seen on the river and lake and are hunted, in season, outside the park. Fishing is permitted by licensed visitors at all times and tales of big catfish and flatheads caught in the Des Moines River are numerous. Panfish can also be caught.

CAMPING INFORMATION

Lacey-Keosauqua State Park will accommodate 176 camping units. There are electrical hook-ups available for those who prefer the modern touch. Lacey-Keosauqua

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.

A basic camping Unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons. Only one vehicle may be used for transportation in the camp area. All other motor vehicles will be parked in the visitor parking area and so marked. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25 cents per person.

MODERN OVERNIGHT CABINS

Rates for a maximum of four persons. The rental of cabins does not entitle tenant to free use of beach or boating privileges. Arrangements may be made with the concessionaire, however. Electricity is included.

Cabins will be rented on a daily rate basis when available but reservations are for a minimum of one week.

See insert for rates.

ENCLOSED SHELTER

The enclosed shelter is available upon reservation with the park ranger. See insert for rates.

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.



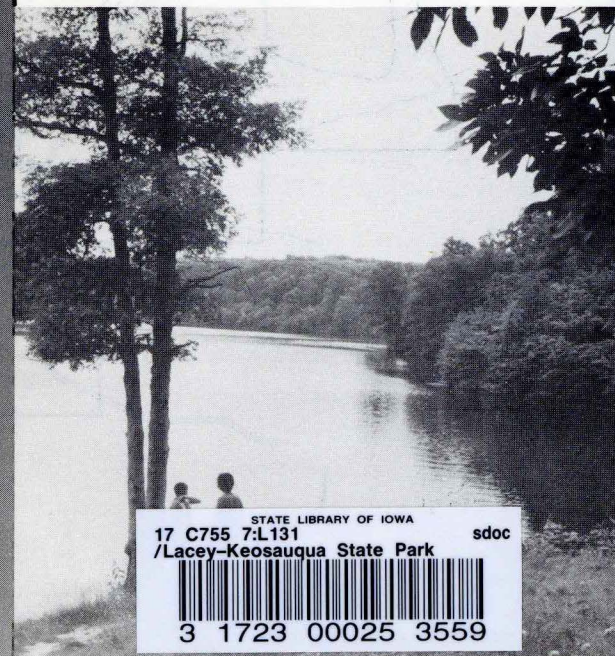
IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Lacey-Keosauqua State Park



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Lacey-Keosauqua State Park
Box 398
Keosauqua, Iowa 52565
Telephone 319-293-3502

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