

## LEDGES STATE PARK

Sandstone rock formations are the focal point of Ledges State Park. These miniature cliffs, from 25 to 75 feet high, border Pease Creek, named for a prominent pioneer settler. Hiking trails lead up and down steep slopes to scenic overlooks offering breathtaking views of the "canyon" and the Des Moines River Valley. A winding road provides motorists excellent views of the Ledges.

The Ledges, dedicated in 1924, encompasses 1,200 acres, and is one of Iowa's original state parks. Thousands of visitors enjoy its beautiful picnic areas from early spring until late fall and hikers use the trails year around. Its natural beauty and historical interest make the Ledges one of central Iowa's most popular playgrounds.

Some of the largest trees in the state are found here, including giant maples, cottonwoods and ash. A variety of flowers includes rare species such as the closed gentian, walking ferns pussytoes and snow orchids. Juneberry, ninebark, blue beech and nannyberry are a few of the small trees and shrubs growing here. Birds are plentiful and varied due to the excellent cover and food provided by the abundant plant life.

## HISTORY

Long before picnickers and sightseers came to the ledges, Indians used the site for their councils and pow-wows. "Sentinel Rock" commands a view for miles in every direction. According to legend, chiefs and warriors of the Sioux and later the Sac and Fox (now the Mesquakie) and other tribes gathered at this Indian council ledge to boast of their wars and adventures.

The older park facilities were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. These include the Oakwood picnic shelter and the large stone shelter in the lower Ledges.

## PICNICKING AND FISHING

Ledges is one of central Iowa's most popular picnic spots. Two open shelters may be reserved for \$15 through the park ranger. These shelters were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930's.

The Des Moines River flows through the west edge of the park and offers fine stream fishing and canoeing opportunities.

## CAMPING

There are 94 campsites (40 with electrical hookups) with modern rest rooms, showers, and a trailer dump station. Also, 12 "hike-in" sites for more adventurous campers are available. Camping permits are obtained by self-registration at the campground.

## TRAILS

Hikers at Ledges have an opportunity to explore one of Iowa's premier natural areas. An intensive multi-year trail renovation effort, started in the early 1980's, resulted in one of the finest trail systems in the midwest. The steps, bridges, and walkways provide access to spectacular views of the Pease Creek "canyon," an experience that changes with each season.

## SCOUT AND CAMPFIRE CAMPS

The Camp Fire Girls and Boys Camp Hantesa is just north of the park. The Boy Scout area, Camp Mitigwa, the State 4-H Camp, and the State Arboretum are located south of the Ledges.

## NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Boone is four miles from the park. It has a golf course and is the birthplace of Mamie Eisenhower, wife of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Her home is now a museum. The Boone Scenic Valley Railroad is also based in Boone.

Ogden is ten miles west. Don Williams County Park is five miles north of Ogden.

Ames is 15 miles east and is the home of Iowa State University and the State Forest Nursery.

Madrid is 11 miles south. Two campgrounds, Swede Point, a Boone County park and Green Acres, a privately owned area, are just west of Madrid on Highway 210.

## EQUAL RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

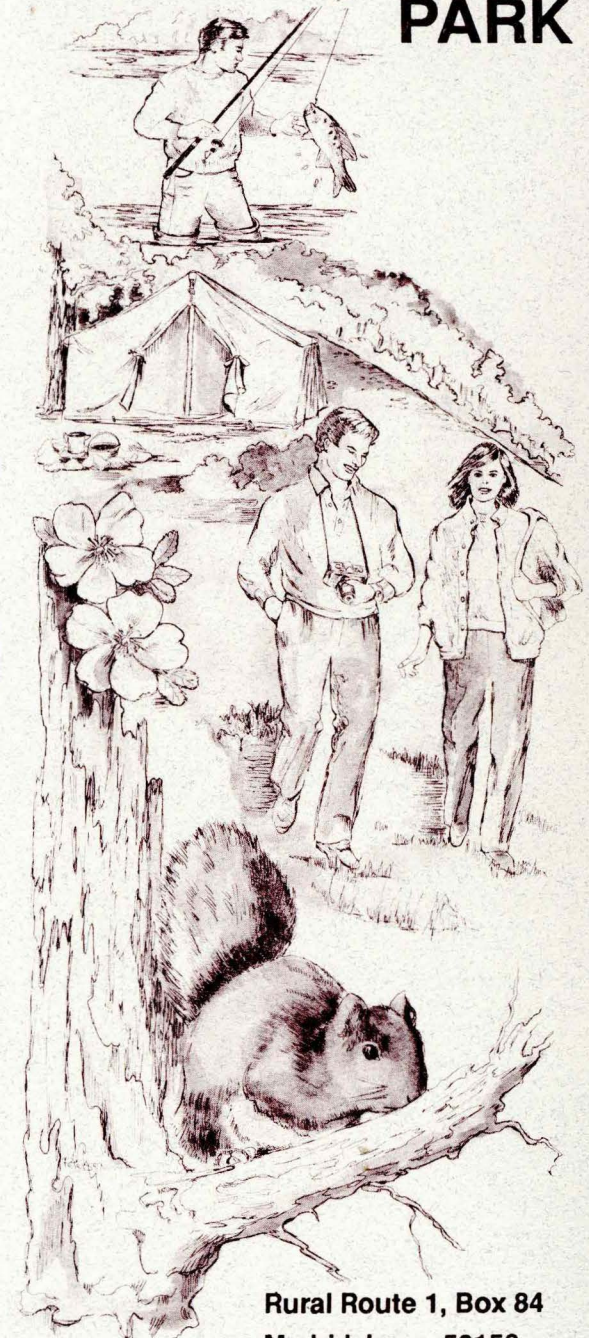
All persons are entitled to full and equal enjoyment of the recreational opportunities, privileges and advantages available in Iowa's great outdoors. There are accessible shower buildings in the campground and accessible rest rooms in the eastern and southern picnic areas.



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



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Rural Route 1, Box 84  
Madrid, Iowa 50156  
Telephone 515/432-1852



