

PIKES PEAK STATE PARK

Follow Highway 340 at the south end of McGregor's Main Street, wind upward about 1 1/2 miles, and you arrive at Pikes Peak State Park, the highest bluff on the Mississippi River. Pikes Peak, in the heart of one of the nation's most picturesque regions, offers a unique combination of scenic beauty, history, and outdoor recreation opportunity.

From the top of the 500-foot bluff, the confluence of the Wisconsin River and the mighty Mississippi may be seen to the south. To the north, the view of the twin suspension bridges connecting Iowa and Wisconsin is breathtaking.

Pikes Peak State Park is located in the "Paleozoic Plateau" that was missed by the glaciers that flattened and molded so much of Iowa. This area, often called the "Driftless" region, is noted for its natural beauty. Its hills and valleys offer great vistas, large timbered tracts, spring-fed streams and a natural beauty unique to northeast Iowa. In this area, Native Americans of the Woodland Culture of 800 to 1200 A.D. sculpted earthen "effigy" mounds, on ridge tops, in the shapes of animals, to celebrate their oneness with Mother Earth. Many of these mounds remain today as a monument to these people and a reminder to us that we are also of the earth.

In 1673, the first white men to see what is now Iowa, explorer Louis Joliet and Father James Marquette, reached the mouth of the Wisconsin River and beheld the great, unknown river now known as the Mississippi. After the Louisiana Purchase, the government sent Zebulon Pike in 1805 to explore the Mississippi valley and select locations suitable for military posts. Pike recognized the park site as an important, strategic point, and an excellent location for a fort. The government agreed on the vicinity but selected the prairie around Prairie du Chien (now Wisconsin) for the fort. Several years later, Pike was again sent westward by the government and named Pikes Peak in Colorado.

In 1837, Alexander McGregor established a ferry across the Mississippi River. McGregor's Landing was established at the site of the town that now bears his name. When Mrs. Munn, the grand-niece of McGregor, died, her will provided that Pikes Peak be given to the federal government as a gift. The land had been inherited from McGregor. It was later conveyed by Congress to the State of Iowa and became Pikes Peak and Point Ann State Parks. Mrs. Munn had never allowed settlers on the land and as a result, the landscape at Pikes Peak today probably does not vary much from the way it was hundreds of years ago.

PICNICKING

Pikes Peak State Park offers excellent picnicking opportunities. Visitors can enjoy a leisurely outdoor meal and, at the same time, enjoy some of the finest views in the upper Midwest from the overlooks and trail viewing platforms. A rustic stone shelter is located in the main picnic and overlook area as well as two open "gazebo" shelters. The stone shelter and one of the gazebo shelters may be reserved for \$15 through the park ranger. A playground located near the stone shelter, offers fun for younger visitors.

CAMPING

Pikes Peak State Park has an attractive campground with 80 campsites. Electrical hook-ups are provided at 60 of these sites and modern shower and rest room facilities are present as is a trailer dump station. The park concession, located just a short distance from the campground, offers a variety of refreshments, ice and souvenirs to campers and other park visitors. Camping permits are obtained by self-registration at the campground.

TRAILS

Pikes Peak State Park is a hiker's delight. On its trails, hikers can explore beautiful wooded bluffs and valleys. Along the Pictured Rocks

Trail, hikers will see sheer walls of Trenton limestone, ridge and fossil remains including brachropods, gasteropods and cephalopods. The pictured rocks are a fine display of St. Peter's sandstone - cliffs banded, molded and fancifully figured in a multi-colored coat of yellow, red, white, black, green and brown with mixed tones and shades in a variety of patterns. The trail goes past the painted walls to Bridal Veil Falls, a refreshing spring. The other trail leading to the Point Ann overlook offers an invigorating hike with breathtaking views at Point Ann.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Effigy Mounds National Monument, 7 miles north on Iowa 7G.

Villa Louis Historical Site, Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin.

Ft. Crawford Medical Museum, Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin.

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge District Office and Visitor Center, between McGregor and Marquette.


Yellow River State Forest, 15 miles north on Iowa 7G.

The cities of **McGregor** and **Marquette**, Iowa, located 2 to 3 miles north of the park offer a variety of sightseeing, shopping and dining opportunities.

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.

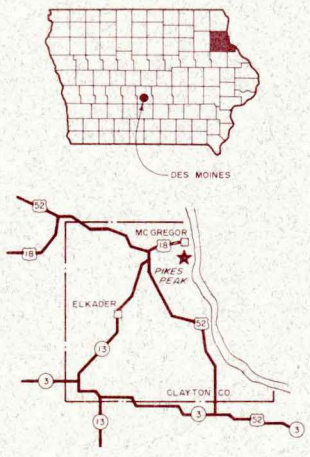
The sidewalk and shelter in the picnic-overlook area are accessible to the mobility impaired, are the shower buildings, the overlook structures and the "effigy mound."

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

PIKES PEAK STATE PARK



McGregor, Iowa 52157
Telephone 319/873-2341



UNDEVELOPED PARK AREAS

TOWN OF Mc GREGOR

WATER RESERVOIR

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

OLD QUARRY

SAND CAVE

BRIDAL VEIL FALLS

CAMPGROUND

- PARK OFFICE
- SHELTER & CONCESSION
- PICNIC AREA
- REST ROOM
- BOAT RAMP
- SCENIC VIEW
- INDIAN MOUNDS
- HISTORICAL MARKER

- HIKING TRAIL
- MULTI USE TRAIL
- HIKING
- CROSS-COUNTRY SKI

