

LACEY-KEOSAUQUA

...largest of Iowa State Parks
"Its ancient mounds and the still-
warm charcoal fire testify to its
grandeur throughout the ages."



"In this land of wooded bowers,
Climb a ledge or cross a glen,
Find its flowers and share its waters
In this book from Nature's pen."

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

This is Iowa's largest state park. Among its 1653 acres of flower 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 the beauty of calm, restful water when seen from the cottages and camping areas.

Nature trails abound and the wildlife sheltered here includes deer, raccoon, opossum, gray squirrel, red fox and every species of bird-life found anywhere in the middle-west, as well as some rare birds that seem to reside only in this park.

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.

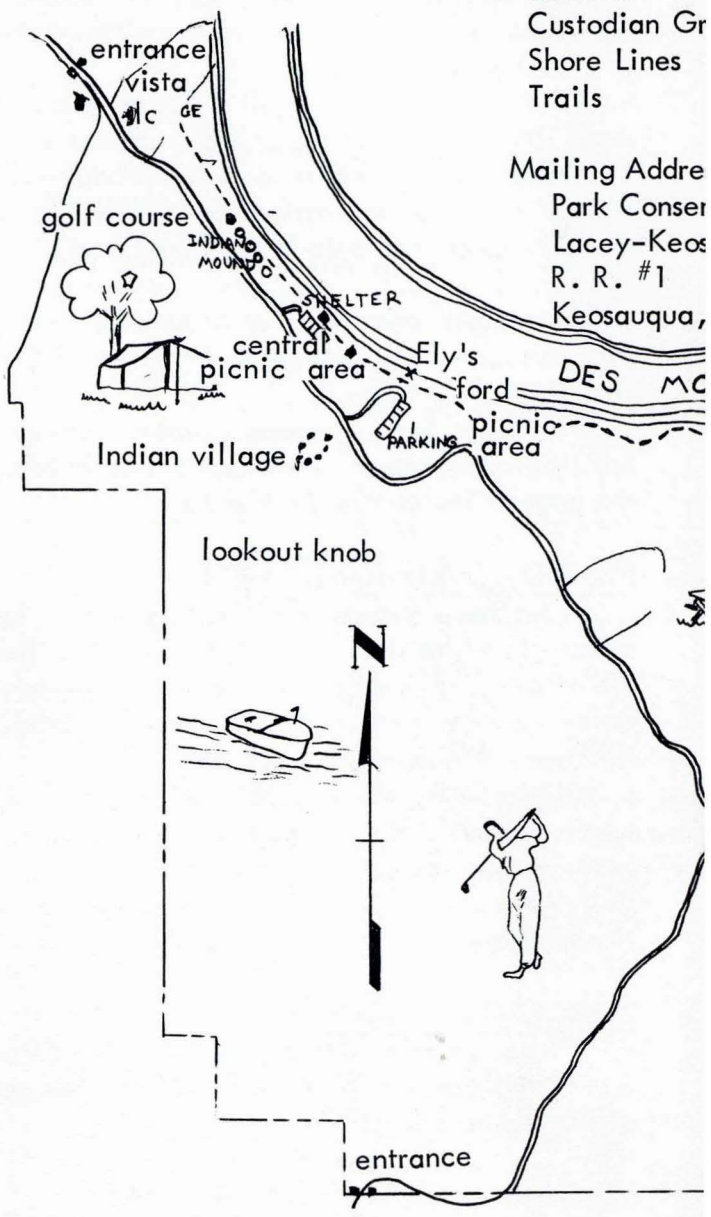
A lovely and very exacting golf course is also within the park's boundaries. Its rough consists, in part, of a species of cottony prairie grass found only in this area of the state.

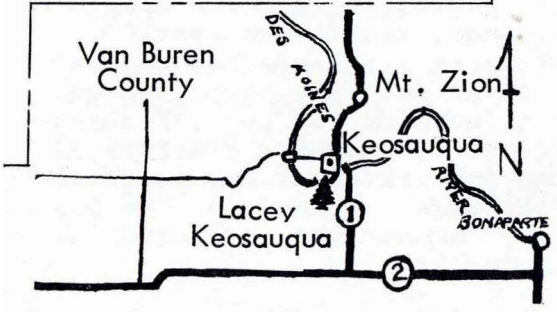
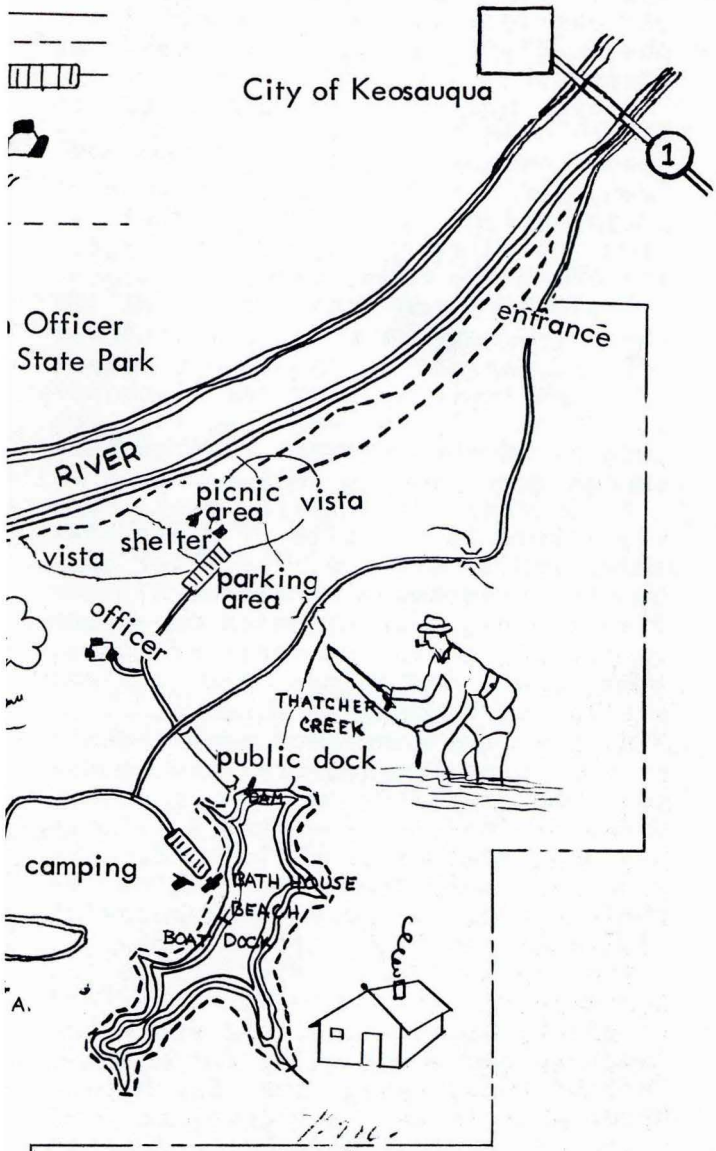
(A map of the park follows.)

-LEGEND-

- Roads
- Property Line
- Parking Area
- Latrines
- Custodian Gr
- Shore Lines
- Trails

Mailing Address
 Park Conserv
 Lacey-Keos
 R. R. #1
 Keosauqua,





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 Morman 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.

A quarter of a mile back from Ely's Ford is the site of a pre-historic Indian village. The river bank by the Ford has a chain of six Indian mounds, most of which have been opened and their contents of bones, both human and animal, and ancient artifacts, removed to museums.

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 Bentonsport hold much of historical interest. Dams, locks, old steamboat landings and power mills (or what is left of them) along the Des Moines River when it was a highway to the interior of Iowa before the days of the railroads, recall the past.

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

TENT AND TRAILER CAMPING

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

\$1.50 per day, per unit. There is a two week limit. (A camping unit is a shelter used by the members of ONE household; a tent, trailer, station wagon or combination of any of them.) Camping permitted only in the camp area.

Overnight camping for organized groups such as scouts, etc., there is a charge of 15¢ per person, per night.

Facilities include space, water, sanitary facilities and shower. Firewood is available at the park office at 25¢ per bundle.

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.

Daily Rate\$6.00 per cabin
Weekly Rate\$35.00 per cabin

SURROUNDING TOWNS

Keosauqua and all towns mentioned on page 5 of this folder have churches, shopping centers and amusement facilities.