

## BACKBONE STATE PARK

Backbone State Park was dedicated in 1919. It was Iowa's first state park and remains one of the most significant. Backbone is named for the high ridge of rock in the center of the 1,750-acre park. The ridge resembles a huge backbone with boulders and rocky humps for the vertebrae. This feature, bounded by the Maquoketa River, is aptly called the "Devil's Backbone."

Many of the park's buildings were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930's. These structures lend a sense of history and charm to this beautiful park.

## TRAILS

Backbone has an extensive system of hiking trails. Visitors can hike along trails winding through old twisted and windblown cedars and up rough, rocky staircases to one of the highest points in northeast Iowa, the "Devil's Backbone." During winter, visitors can cross-country ski and snowmobile. There is also a self-guided nature trail where hikers can learn about the plants and animals found in the park.

## SWIMMING, BOATING AND FISHING

Backbone Lake offers supervised swimming and a concession stand for refreshments. A boat ramp is located near the boat house where boats may be rented. Motors are limited to electric only. Trout fishing is popular in the clear, cold stream. A fish exhibit is located at the old fish hatchery site.

## CABINS

Backbone family cabins are very popular. There are 18, each of which will accommodate four people comfortably. Renters must provide their own bedding, pillows and linens. Cooking facilities, dishes and cooking utensils are provided. The cabins are available on a reservation basis through the park ranger. Reservations are accepted starting the first working day in January.

## PICNICKING

Backbone is a beautiful place for a family picnic. Several open shelters may be reserved for \$15 through the park ranger.

## CAMPING

There are 160 camping units located in two campgrounds. The main campground has 32 sites with electrical hookups and modern showers and rest rooms. The other campground located near the west entrance to the park has nonmodern facilities.

## IOWA CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS MUSEUM

The Iowa Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Museum, opened in 1990, tells the story of the CCC in Iowa. Backbone was the site of two CCC camps and contains many buildings and structures built by the CCC. The museum is open seasonally and by special arrangement through the park ranger.

## NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Backbone State Park is located 2 miles south of Strawberry Point in northwestern Delaware County. **Dundee** lies several miles to the south and **Lamont** several miles to the west.

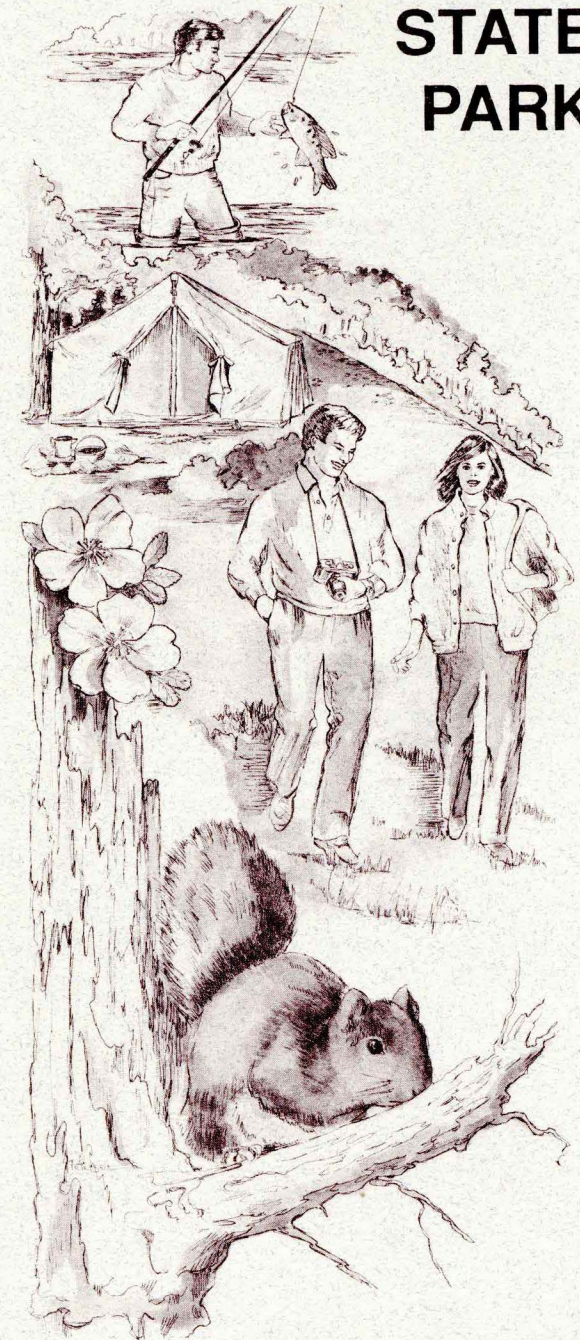
## EQUAL RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

All persons are entitled to full and equal enjoyment of the recreational opportunities, privileges and advantages available in Iowa's great outdoors

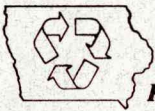


Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Wallace State Office Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034

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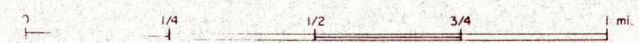
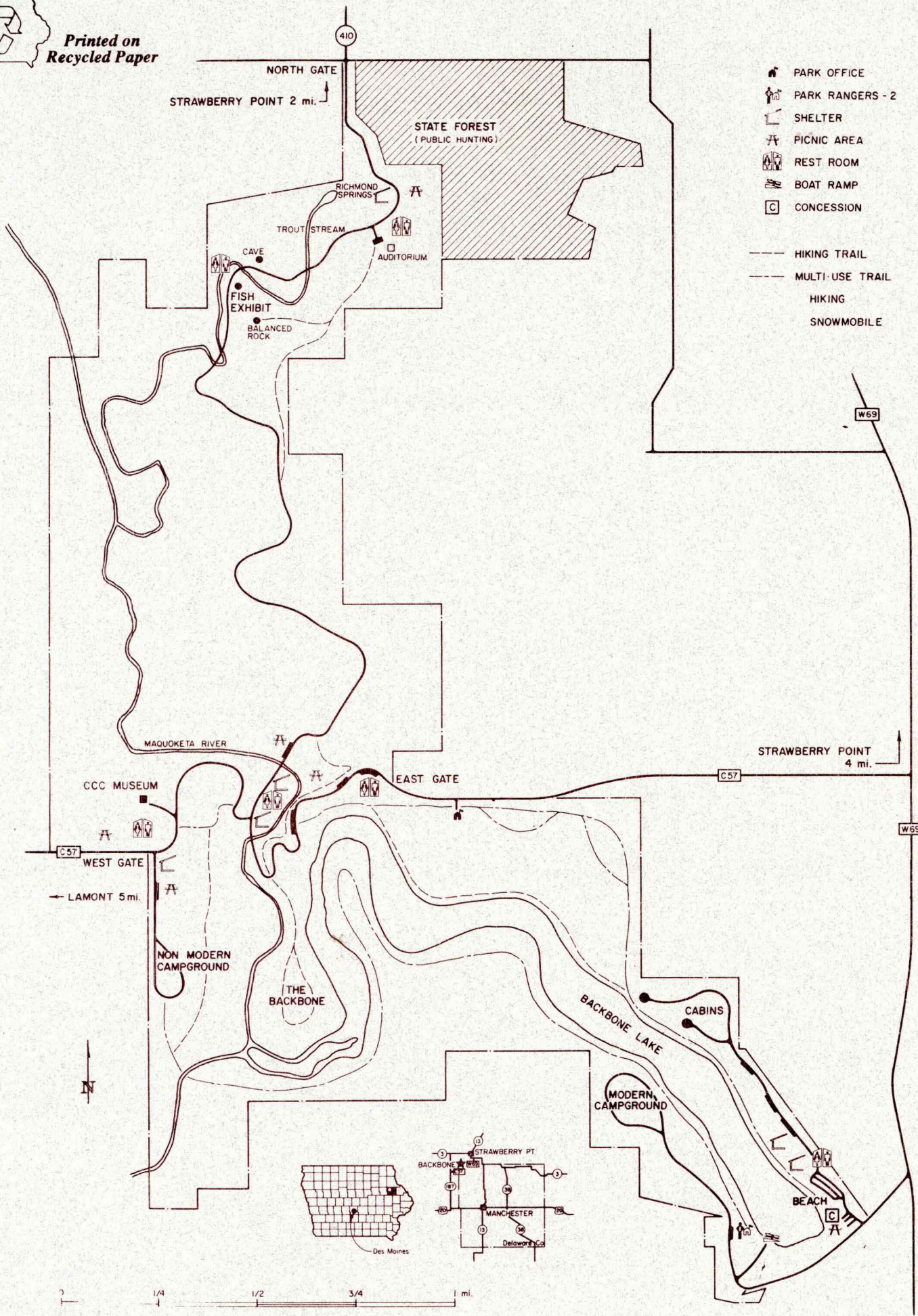
Dundee, Iowa 52038  
Telephone 319/924-2527



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- PARK OFFICE
- PARK RANGERS - 2
- SHELTER
- PICNIC AREA
- REST ROOM
- BOAT RAMP
- CONCESSION

- HIKING TRAIL
- MULTI-USE TRAIL
- HIKING
- SNOWMOBILE



W69

STRAWBERRY POINT 4 mi.

W69

LAMONT 5 mi.

