



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 28, 2023

- [As one-year anniversary of tornado approaches, cleanup continues at Red Haw State Park](#)
- [April 21-23 Becoming an Outdoors-Woman workshop now accepting registrations](#)

## As one-year anniversary of tornado approaches, cleanup continues at Red Haw State Park

**Editor's Note:** *Chad Kelchen, DNR Central Iowa Parks, Forests and Preserves supervisor, will be available at Red Haw State Park March 2, from 10 a.m. to noon, for visiting media. RSVP to (515) 371-6018; or email to [Chad.Kelchen@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Chad.Kelchen@dnr.iowa.gov) for those planning to attend.*

**CHARITON, Iowa** -- Nearly one year ago, an EF 3 tornado cut an 11-mile swath of destruction through Lucas County causing extensive damage to Red Haw State Park, and claimed one life.

The March 5 tornado, with speeds reaching nearly 140 miles per hour, destroyed a beach building, campground shower building, three shelters, three storage buildings and the campground's electrical system. It also destroyed approximately 20 acres of trees. Total damage estimates top \$500,000.

Today, work continues to clean up the park, said Chad Kelchen, central Iowa supervisor for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Parks, Forests and Preserves Bureau.

"Most of Red Haw State Park is open to visitors, including access to the 70-acre lake and the multi-purpose trail system," Kelchen said. "Visitors also will be able to enjoy the park's famous redbud trees around the lake, a draw for many in the spring."

Professional crews will continue removing damaged trees and debris over the next several months. The campground received most of the damage and is expected to re-open in 2024. The DNR is in the planning stages for replacing the buildings and shelters that were destroyed, work that could take up to two years before completion.

"Last year, we were fortunate to have widespread community support, with dozens of volunteers and local organizations helping to clean up debris and tree damage," said Kelchen. "We greatly appreciate the assistance, and we understand Red Haw State Park is an important and beloved outdoor destination in the local area."

Upcoming park cleanup activities will be planned in 2023. Volunteers can check with the park office for event details.

**Photos available upon request.**



*Red Haw State Park campground prior to tornado damage.*



*Red Haw State Park campground after March 5, 2022 tornado.*

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## April 21-23 Becoming an Outdoors-Woman workshop now accepting registrations

Registration is now open for the April 21-23 Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) workshop at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, near Solon.

While the focus of BOW is primarily for women, the workshop is an opportunity for anyone 18 years or older to learn outdoor skills.

In partnership with Johnson County Conservation, the workshop courses include boater education, driving and trailer backing, shotgun shooting, turkey hunting and a mentored turkey hunt, bowfishing, canning and preserving, fly fishing, Dutch oven cooking, kayaking, foraging, basket weaving and more.

The cost of the workshop is \$280 (shared bunk lodging) before April 3, and \$320 (no lodging) beginning April 3. The fee includes program materials, equipment, lodging and meals. Enrollment is limited to 120 participants. A limited number of scholarships are available that can reduce the fee by \$140.

“This workshop is an excellent opportunity to try activities under the guidance of our top-notch instructors,” said Rachel Alliss, with the Iowa Departments of Natural Resources. “Our workshop is popular because we keep our class sizes small with a focus on hands-on learning. We’re looking forward to showcasing the beauty of the Iowa River, Coralville Lake and Lake MacBride in the spring.”

Go to [www.iowadnr.gov/bow](http://www.iowadnr.gov/bow) to download a registration form, select classes and for more information on applying for a scholarship.

For more information, contact Rachel Alliss at 515-729-6037 or [Rachel.Alliss@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Rachel.Alliss@dnr.iowa.gov).