



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Iowa DNR News

Conservation and Recreation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Trout stocking in northeast Iowa streams starts April 1

The popular trout stream stocking season starts on April 1. Find a list of stocked trout streams on the DNR trout stream map or the [DNR trout fishing webpage](#).

The DNR Trout Program offers Iowa anglers a variety of trout fishing opportunities, including catchable stockings, fingerling stockings, wild trout, streams with restrictive regulations, easy universal access areas and remote streams with difficult access.

About 320,000 catchable-sized rainbow trout and 30,000 fingerling brook trout will be stocked into hundreds of miles of northeast Iowa streams from the beginning of April through the end of October. Funding to support the trout stocking program comes from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and trout fees. About 50,000 Iowans and 7,000 nonresidents go trout fishing in Iowa each year.

Iowa's trout streams are open year-round and meander through some of the most scenic areas of the state. Get the most out of your trout fishing trip with information about each stream's location, qualities, and other fun facts on the [Iowa trout streams webpage](#).

Media Contact: Mike Siepker, Regional Fisheries Supervisor, Northeast Iowa, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 563-382-8324.

Gull Point State Park lodge and shelter to open for 2024

OKOBOJI – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is opening the Gull Point State Park lodge and shelter for reservations, starting March 20. The facilities were initially closed for the 2024 season due to a planned renovation project, including upgrades to roads and campsite infrastructure. That project is on hold due to construction delays.

The lodge and shelter can be reserved beginning at 9 a.m. on March 20 on the DNR's reservation site at iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com.

For more information, contact the Gull Point Park Office at (712) 337-3211.

McIntosh Woods State Park to install new docks

VENTURA – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be installing four new docks at McIntosh Woods State Park this spring, providing boaters improved access for the upcoming recreation season. Installation is expected to be completed by the end of April.

“We are very excited to provide visitors with new, stronger docks that will be more resilient to the strong wind and wave actions of Clear Lake,” said Northeast Iowa district park supervisor Detra Dettmann.

With the early warm temperatures in Iowa, boaters are anxious to get on the water, according to DNR park staff who are fielding questions from the public.

“We are asking boaters to be patient,” Dettmann said. “The new docks are arriving on site in late March, and our crews need about a month to install them, depending on the weather.”

In the meantime, Dettman encourages boaters to use the dock at The Ritz for lake access.

For more information contact Detra Dettmann, at Detra.Dettmann@dnr.iowa.gov; or (563) 608-4597.

DNR to host public meeting on Fort Atkinson Preserve historic fort

FORT ATKINSON-- The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will host an open house on March 22, from 6 to 8 p.m., at Fort Atkinson State Preserve, 303 2nd Street, Fort Atkinson, to discuss upcoming repairs to several of the historic structures at the preserve. The open house will begin with a short presentation, with DNR staff on hand to answer questions. In case of inclement weather, the event will be moved to the Fort Atkinson Community Center at 303 3rd Street NW, Fort Atkinson.

Fort Atkinson is a nationally significant military post from the 1840s now managed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources as a state preserve. The historic site includes several original buildings such as barracks and a gunpowder house, along with archaeologically significant artifacts. The upcoming repairs are funded in part through a grant from the National Park Service Save America's Treasures program and donations from the Friends of Fort Atkinson.

For more information, or questions about the open house, contact Detra Dettmann, Detra.Dettmann@dnr.iowa.gov; or (563) 608-4597.

Help Iowa DNR expand walleye collection data

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is partnering for a third year with MyCatch by Angler's Atlas to conduct a statewide walleye fishing challenge from March 30 through June 30.

The MyCatch mobile app maintains anonymous location data, so anglers' secret spots stay secret. Iowa DNR fisheries biologists receive only generalized lake and river catch data entered to assess and manage walleye populations. Specific catch locations from anglers are not listed on public leaderboards.

This year's walleye challenge has been expanded to other states across the Midwest and into Canada as part of a larger fisheries research project funded by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Iowa anglers compete only against other Iowa anglers for biweekly prizes, while all catches from across the Midwest qualify for the grand prize drawings at the end of the event. Grand prizes for 2024 include a week-long fishing trip to Lac Seul Evergreen Lodge in Canada, as well as equipment from companies such as St. Croix Rods.

Anglers can register for the Midwest Walleye Challenge at <https://www.anglersatlas.com/event/767>. New this year, participants can choose the free entry option to qualify for non-cash prizes or pay the \$25 fee to qualify for all prizes including cash payouts.

"The data we collected the last two years is very informative and valuable, both where anglers are reporting catches and systems that do not seem to have the walleye fishing pressure we expected," said Jeff Kopaska, DNR fisheries research biometrician. "We encourage anglers to participate in this challenge to help us align future management decisions, such as stocking priorities with angler desires and expectations."

Learn about the data collected the first two years of the walleye challenge and new incentives for this year's challenge online with the [DNR YouTube video](#).

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