

# Iowa Forestry Today

CONSERVATION AND RECREATION



Autumn brings a welcoming crispness to the air. Fun abounds statewide for those in search of color and good times outdoors.

From fall festivals to apple orchards, Iowa has many fall activities to celebrate local traditions and create memories with your family. Start planning your autumn excursions today with these great resources:

- [Travel Iowa](#) - lists of apple orchards and pumpkin patches, must-visit fall attractions, fall festivals, scenic drives and more
- [MyCountyParks.com](#) - attend a fun fall program for the whole family at a local county park
- [Iowa State Park Passport](#) - discover your new favorite parks, check in to track your outdoor adventures and earn prizes



[Sign up](#) to get fall color reports emailed to you weekly **starting Oct. 2** through the last week of October. Get details on where to see the best fall color in Iowa, along with fall travel ideas and other fun ways to get outside.

Iowa offers some stunning views during the fall months along with various ways to experience them - whether you're on a [bike or hiking trail](#), on the [water](#) or in a car.

The northern third of Iowa peaks, depending on weather, the weekend closest to Oct. 10. The center third peaks the first to third weeks of October, and the southern third peaks the second through fourth weeks of October.

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## October State Forest Field Days

Explore the rich insights forests can offer and the responsibilities tied to their stewardship this fall. Whether you are seasoned or just beginning your exploration of forestry, these forestry field days aim to enrich your knowledge and ignite passion for woodland management.

### **Shimek State Forest Forestry Field Day**

Oct. 1, 9 a.m. to noon.

**Register Deadline: Sept. 25:** call the Lee County Extension Office at 319-835-5116 or email [ellison1@iastate.edu](mailto:ellison1@iastate.edu)

\$15 registration fee per participant payable the day of the event

Engage with forestry professionals and practioners from across Iowa, as well as fellow forest stewardship enthusiasts and woodland owners. Learn about tree and plant ID, tree selection, planting and pruning, tree damage assessment, general forest stewardship, and more.

Find information about additional fall forestry days on the [ISU Forestry Extension Upcoming Events webpage](#).



Join Iowa state park and forest staff on **Saturday, Sept. 28** for Statewide Volunteer Day. Come lend a hand and help care for Iowa's natural areas, freshen up campgrounds and facilities, and spend time outdoors.

Clean-up efforts will be unique for each park depending on needs, and may include litter pick-up, staining or painting buildings, removing invasive species, rebuilding picnic tables, harvesting prairie seeds and more.

Find a park near you to volunteer on the [DNR Volunteer opportunities webpage](#).