



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 1, 2024

- [Fall community trout stocking starts October 18](#)
- [Grants available for community tree plantings](#)
- [Drivers stay alert for deer movement](#)
- [Wait until after Oct. 15 to prune oak trees](#)

Fall community trout stocking starts October 18

Eighteen lakes across Iowa are gearing up to receive trout this fall. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will release between 1,000 to 2,000 rainbow trout at each location as part of its cool weather trout program that brings trout to areas that cannot support them during the summer months.

The fall community trout stockings are a great place to take kids to catch their first fish. A small hook with a night crawler or corn under a small bobber or small simple spinners, such as a Panther Martin or Mepps, is all you need to get in on the fun.

Bringing trout to cities and towns offers a “close to home” option for Iowans who might not travel to northeast Iowa to discover trout fishing. A family-friendly event is often paired with the stocking to help anglers have success and fun while fishing. Check the [Iowa DNR Trout Fishing website](#) to see which lakes are having events.

The popular program is supported by the sales of the trout fee. Anglers need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. The daily limit is five trout per licensed angler with a possession limit of 10.

Children age 15 or younger can fish for trout with a properly licensed adult, but they must limit their catch to one daily limit. The child can purchase a trout fee which will allow them to catch their own limit.

2024 Fall Community Trout Stocking Schedule

- Oct. 18, [Moorland Pond](#), Fort Dodge, Noon
- Oct. 18, [Big Lake](#), Council Bluffs, 3 p.m.
- Oct. 18, [Sand Lake](#), Marshalltown, Noon
- Oct. 24, [Ottumwa Park Pond](#), Ottumwa, 11 a.m.
- Oct. 25, [Prairie Park Fishery](#), Cedar Rapids, 10 a.m.
- Oct. 25, [Liberty Centre Pond](#), North Liberty, 10:30 a.m.
- Oct. 26, [Emma Young Pond](#), Clinton, 10 a.m.
- Oct. 26, Industrial Park Pond, Fairfield, 11 a.m.
- Oct. 26, [Discovery Park Pond](#), Muscatine, Noon
- Oct. 28, [Terra Lake](#), Johnston, Noon
- Oct. 28, [Triumph Park East & West](#), Waukee, 1:30 p.m.
- Oct. 31, [Ada Hayden Heritage Park Lake](#), Ames, Noon
- Oct. 31, [Lake Petocka](#), Bondurant, Noon
- Nov. 5, [Scharnberg Pond](#), Spencer, Noon
- Nov. 5, [Bacon Creek](#), Sioux City, 1:30 p.m.
- Nov. 8, [Heritage Pond](#), Dubuque, 11 a.m.
- Nov. 8, [North Prairie Lake](#), Cedar Falls, 11:30 a.m.
- Nov. 27, [Blue Pit](#), Mason City, 11 a.m.

Find more information about trout fishing in community lakes on the [DNR trout fishing webpage](#).

Media Contact: Mike Siepker, Regional Fisheries Supervisor, Northeast Iowa, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 563-380-3424.

Grants available for community tree plantings

Through the USDA Forest Service Inflation Reduction Act, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received funds for tree planting grants for communities.

The Iowa Tree Planting Grant provides reimbursable grants to purchase trees, mulch, tree staking/protection and supplemental watering by contractor or city staff. The grant is a two-year program allowing for planting to take place in the spring and fall of 2025 and 2026. Grant funding is competitive, non-match, and awarded in amounts between \$10,000 to \$30,000 per applicant.

The Iowa Tree Planting grants are available to community governmental entities, volunteer organizations, and service organizations involved with local urban and community forest services, to plant trees on publicly owned properties within the community to diversify the tree canopy, increase tree benefits, and help disadvantaged populations with energy costs and health disparities, and increase access to parks and nature. Eligibility is determined by the [Forest Cover and Socioeconomic Assessment Tool](#).

To Apply, go to the [Iowa DNR Urban Forestry website](#). Iowa Tree Planting applications are due by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 30, 2024. Award recipients will be notified by Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2025.

For questions about the application, reimbursement and rules, contact Chip Murrow at chip.murrow@dnr.iowa.gov or 515-822-1031.

For application assistance or to set up a site visit, contact Laurie Dams at lauren.dams@dnr.iowa.gov or 515-782-6414

Drivers stay alert for deer movement

Drivers are advised to stay alert as they travel Iowa's roadsides over the coming weeks. Autumn deer behavior, crop harvest and peak travel times for motorists combine to hike the risk of vehicle-deer collisions in Iowa.

From the middle of October until the third week of November, Iowa bucks become more active in the pursuit of does during the breeding season. Motorist may be distracted by the first deer that crosses not seeing the pursuing buck. This adds to multiple scenarios of fast moving, unpredictable deer crossing highways.

The crop harvest is already in full swing, concentrating deer into remaining cover that is often brushy creeks, trees or fence lines which often intersect with roads. A third factor will be the change away from daylight savings time on November 3, placing more Iowans behind the wheel during the deer-heavy dawn and dusk periods.

A few ways to give drivers an edge during this period are to reduce speed, increase following distance from other cars, and to sweep eye movements from ditch to ditch, especially during those low light periods and when approaching those brushy or tree lined 'funnels' near roads. Drivers are also encouraged not to 'veer for deer,' leaving the lane of traffic could cause a collision with another vehicle or a roadside obstacle, such as a utility pole or culvert.

Iowa's deer herd is managed to balance recreational opportunities, such as wildlife viewing and hunting, with negative impacts like crop and property damage. Iowa's deer management relies on an engaged stakeholder process to make science-based decisions for the benefit of all Iowans.

Media Contact: Jace Elliott, State Deer Biologist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-249-7056.

Wait until after Oct. 15 to prune oak trees

The best way to prevent the spread of oak wilt is to not prune any oak tree during the growing season.

"It's best to wait until after Oct. 15 to start pruning oak trees," says Tivon Feeley, with the Iowa DNR's forest health program. "Then you can prune your oaks all winter long with the goal to stop pruning by March 1."

Oak wilt, caused by a fungus, has been present in Iowa for many years. Iowa's red, black, and pin oak are more susceptible to oak wilt, but it can also infect white and bur oak. Black, pin, or red oak usually die within the same summer they are infected. White oak and bur oak can often take a number of years before they succumb to this disease.

Oak wilt can spread from infected trees to healthy trees in two ways: a small beetle that carries spores of the fungus from a diseased tree to a healthy tree with an open wound during the growing season, and through root grafts connecting nearby oaks. For example, if a red oak is infected and there is another red oak within 50 to 100 feet there is a good chance that the roots of these trees are grafted and the fungus can move from the diseased tree to the healthy tree.

Feeley says symptoms to look for on infected trees usually include leaves turning a bronzed brown along the outer margins of the leaves. These leaves can often still have some green on them as they fall from the tree. The defoliation tends to start at the top of the tree.

If a tree is wounded from storm damage or pruning is required during the growing season, treat the wounds immediately with a wound dressing such as acrylic paint. Do not purchase pruning paints/sealants. Those products slow the tree's ability to seal over the wound.

Learn more about oak wilt prevention and control at www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/Forestry/Forest-Health/Oak-Wilt.

Media Contact: Tivon Feeley, Forest Health Forester, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-669-1402.