



## PIKES PEAK STATE PARK

32264 Pikes Peak Rd, McGregor, IA 52157

Welcome to Pikes Peak State Park, one of the most photographed places in Iowa. Pikes Peak is rich in natural, cultural and historical resources, and famed for its majestic views of the Mississippi River.

### PARK AMENITIES/POINTS OF INTEREST/THINGS TO DO

Stand atop the 500-foot bluff (1,130-foot elevation) for a breathtaking view and see the confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers. You can understand why people have long referred to this area as the “Little Switzerland of Iowa.”

In 1673, explorer Louis Joliet and Father James Marquette, the first white men to see what is now Iowa, reached the mouth of the Wisconsin River and beheld the great, unknown river now known as the Mississippi. In 1805, the government sent Lt. Zebulon Pike to explore the Mississippi valley and select locations suitable for military posts. Pike recognized the park site as an important, strategic point and an excellent location for a fort. The government agreed on the vicinity but selected a lowland prairie (now Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin) for the fort. Several years later, Pike was again sent westward by the U. S. government where Pikes Peak in Colorado was named after him.

In 1937, Alexander McGregor established a ferry across the Mississippi River. McGregor’s Landing was established at the site of the town that now bears his name. When Mrs. Munn, the grandniece of McGregor, died, her will provided that Pikes Peak be given to the federal government as a gift. It was later conveyed by Congress to the State of Iowa and became Pikes Peak and Point Ann State Parks in 1935. In the late 1960’s, the land between Pikes Peak State Park and Point Ann State Park was purchased by the State of Iowa and the present-day Pikes Peak State Park was formed.

A half-mile wooden boardwalk guides you down to the picturesque Bridal Veil Falls. On your way to the falls, just north of the main overlook, you will notice Bear Mound, an effigy built by ancient American Indians of the Woodland Culture, who inhabited the area from 800 – 1200 AD. There are 63 mounds in the park, most of them conical or linear in shape. For the adventurer, take a longer, remote 4-mile trail to Point Ann, a bluff that overlooks the Mississippi and McGregor. You can shorten the trip by parking at Homestead or McGregor parking lots. There are a total of 11.5 miles of hiking trails, consisting of dirt, grass or crushed rock. The majority of the trails are shaded, as they lead you through old-growth forests of oak-hickory and maple-basswood stands. A portion of the trails is open to mountain bikes.

The park offers picnicking, a stone shelter, a playground and camping. Our shaded campground has a plethora of campsites and includes electric sites, modern shower facilities, a dump station and firewood for sale.

The Park Store is a concession operated by the Friends of Pikes Peak State Park where you can purchase souvenirs, snacks, refreshments, and ice. All proceeds from the non-profit organization benefit Pikes Peak State Park. The Park Store is open 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (closed Mondays & Tuesdays), Memorial Day Weekend through the third Sunday in Oct.

### SPECIAL PARK RULES

Metal detectors are not allowed due to the archeological significance of the park. Climbing/rappelling is also not allowed.

### LOCAL EVENTS/ATTRACTIONS

October is the busiest time of year at Pikes Peak due to the fall colors, which peak around Oct. 9-15. McGregor hosts an Arts & Crafts Festival and Marquette hosts a Flea Market during the first two full weekends in October. Learn more about the ancient Woodland Culture at Effigy Mounds National Monument, 7 miles to the north.

### LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Park Office: 563.873.2341  
Park Manager: Andy Roach  
Park Technician: Joe Vastine

### SEVERE WEATHER

The rest room building near the park store or the shower building in the campground can be used for emergency shelters if necessary.  
**For emergencies, please call 911.**

For reservations, visit <http://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com> or call 877.427.2757



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## EXPLORE IOWA STATE PARKS!

Stand atop the 500-foot bluff for a breathtaking view of the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers. Though beautiful any time of year, fall adorns the trees with spectacular reds and golds. The beautiful park also has historical significance. Native Americans sculpted earthen "effigy" mounds on ridge tops in the shape of animals to celebrate oneness with Mother Earth. In 1805, the government sent Lt. Zebulon Pike to explore the Mississippi River valley and select locations for a military fort. Pike chose the park site which now bears his name. The government agreed on the vicinity but built the fort across the river.



- Park Office / Residence
- Campground
- Parking
- Concessions
- Picnic Area
- Point of Interest
- Overlook
- Restroom - Modern
- Shelter
- Multi-Use Trail
- Hiking Trail
- Roads
- Park Boundary



**TRAIL INFORMATION**

Bluebird	.47 miles
Chinquapin Ridge	2.34 miles
Horn Hollow Loop	1.80 miles
Point Ann	2.79 miles
Myotis	.15 miles
Bridal Veil	.41 miles
Deer Ridge	.21 miles
East Hickory Ridge	.32 miles
West Hickory Ridge	.45 miles
Weeping Rock	1.65 miles

- Be considerate of other visitors –
- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
  - Be courteous and yield to others using the trail.
- Plan ahead and prepare –
- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you're visiting.
  - Make sure that you prepare for the day by bringing plenty of water, sunscreen, bug spray, and comfortable walking/hiking shoes.
  - Always make sure someone knows you are out on the trail.
- Leave what you find –
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
  - Take photos of memorable sightings and family experiences.
- Dispose of waste properly –
- Pack out all trash, leftover food and litter.
  - Pick up any litter you find on the trail and make the place better for the next visitor who comes along.
- Respect Wildlife –
- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them. Leave all young wildlife as you find them and don't assume they've been abandoned. Many adults hide young to keep them safe while they are out feeding or leading predators away.

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STATE PARKS  
IOWA DEPARTMENT  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES