



LAKE DARLING STATE PARK

111 Lake Darling Rd, Brighton, IA 52540

Welcome to Lake Darling State Park. Lake Darling was dedicated in 1950 and named after J. N. Ding Darling, a champion of conservation and editorial cartoonist for the *Des Moines Register*. Whether you are here to fish, camp, swim or just relax, we hope you enjoy your stay! Lake Darling was officially re-dedicated on September 17th, 2014 after undergoing a complete renovation.

PARK AMENITIES/POINTS OF INTEREST/THINGS TO DO

Lake Darling has a number of fishing jetties located around the 302-acre lake that provide great shoreline access. We also have more than 20 stocked silt retention ponds for anglers seeking solitude. Anglers can try their luck fishing for bluegill, crappie, largemouth bass and channel catfish. Two boat ramps are located around the lake for convenient lake access. Anglers without boats may rent them from the boat house located between the two shelters from Memorial Day until Labor Day.

Lake Darling opened six new modern family cabins in the fall of 2016. These year-round cabins are ADA accessible and sleep six. Their floorplan consists of two bedrooms with queen sized beds, a kitchen with modern appliances, and a bathroom with a tub/shower. The timber and lake provide a scenic background for the large deck that spans the entire length of the backside of the cabin. Lake Darling also has five camping cabins which each sleep four and are equipped with bunk beds, futons and tables with chairs. They are located only a short distance from the modern rest room and shower building in the campground. The Lake Darling Lodge, completed in 2008, has quickly become a popular place for reunions, parties and weddings. Reservations can be made for the cabins and lodge up to a year in advance.

The campground has several campsites with full hook-up sites, electrical sites, and non-electric sites. The campground has a playground as well as a conveniently located dumping station. Lake Darling has a swimming beach with a playground and several picnic areas including an open shelter available to rent.

A 13.6-mile trail encircles the entire lake. If you plan to walk the entire trail, please take water and sunscreen. The trail takes you through a variety of habitats, from wetland areas around the fringes of the lake, through successional woodlands and remnants of native prairie. The keen observer will likely see some of the wide variety of wildlife species that reside in these various habitats. The trail is a combination of grass and crushed rock and is open to hikers, cross-country skiers, runners, snowmobilers and mountain bikers.

SPECIAL PARK RULES

Lake Darling is a no-wake lake. Pick up the rules/regulations booklet for more information on general park rules.

LOCAL EVENTS/ATTRACTIONS

The Skunk River is located 3 miles north of Lake Darling and is popular for catfishing. Contact park staff for seasonal events. The Washington and Fairfield chambers of commerce also have calendars of events in the area.

LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Park Office: 319.694.2323
Park Ranger: Zachary Haworth
Park Manager: Nick Young

SEVERE WEATHER

The park does not have designated storm shelter. The shower buildings would provide the most protection. Monitor FM 106.1 or text "DARLING" to 67283 to receive severe weather information. Park staff will make every effort to notify campers of incoming severe weather.

For emergencies, please call 911.

For reservations, visit: <http://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com> or call 877-427-2757



LAKE DARLING STATE PARK

EXPLORE IOWA STATE PARKS!

Founded in 1920, Iowa's state park system boasts 87 state parks for you to explore and enjoy.

Lake Darling State Park, dedicated in 1950, is named after cartoonist J. N. "Ding" Darling for his devotion to conserving Iowa's natural beauty. Come for a scenic picnic or celebration at the lodge, or enjoy an extended stay in our camping cabins. Lake Darling abounds with wildlife. Anglers will encounter a wealth of fish at the lake, from catfish to bullheads, bluegill to largemouth bass. Hike through a re-established prairie, or trek through the woods to a historic cemetery. Journey through a variety of Iowa's natural scenery at Lake Darling State Park.

Plan ahead and prepare –

- Make sure 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.

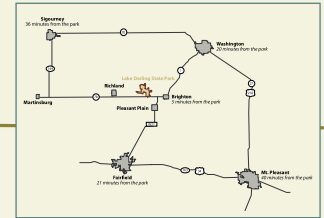
Dispose of waste properly –

- 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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- Restroom - Modern Seasonal
- Restroom - Nonmodern Year-round
- Park Office
- Shelter
- Picnic Area
- Campground
- Boat Ramp
- Cabins
- Beach
- Concession
- Day-Use Lodge
- Fishing Pier/ Jetty
- Cemetery

- Multiuse Trails
- Roads
- Water
- Park Boundary

TRAIL INFORMATION

TRAIL NAME	TRAIL ACTIVITY	LENGTH	LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY	ESTIMATED HIKE TIME
East Loop	Hiking, Snowmobiling	1.8 mi	Moderate	50-60 min
Rubio Loop	Hiking, Snowmobiling	1.3 mi	Moderate	35-45 min
Main	Hiking, Snowmobiling	10.2 mi	Moderate	5-5 1/2 hr
ADA Fishing	Hiking, Snowmobiling	1.2 mi	Easy	30-40 min
Lake Shore Loop	Hiking, Snowmobiling	0.8 mi	Easy	20-30 min
Prairie	Hiking, Snowmobiling	0.5 mi	Easy	10-20 min

Walking times are figured at a rate of 2 mph.

For more information visit:
www.iowadnr.gov/destinations

