



## **WALNUT WOODS STATE PARK** 3155 SE Walnut Woods Dr, West Des Moines, IA 50265

Welcome to Walnut Woods State Park. Iowans and visitors from across the U.S. can find a quality outdoor recreation experience in the forested natural setting at Walnut Woods. Whether you are here to fish or float the Raccoon River, camp, hike a trail or just relax, we hope you enjoy your stay.

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

Walnut Woods is one of the only parks close to Des Moines with a designated campground. Its close proximity to Interstate 35 and the State Highway 5 bypass make it a convenient camping area for visitors to Des Moines meeting friends and relatives, or attending one of the many special events and other activities around the metro area. The campground offers full hookup sites and electric sites. There are modern rest room facilities but no showers.

Walnut Woods boasts the largest surviving natural stand of black walnut trees in North America. Many of these stately trees can be seen along the main park roadway.

Whether you're just passing through or camping overnight at Walnut Woods, take time to hike some of the 2.5 to 3 miles of trails along the Raccoon River. The trails are popular for cross-country skiing during winter months.

Bird watching is popular year-round, but especially in the spring and fall as the entire park is a great place to observe migrating warblers, flycatchers and a variety of other songbirds, hawks and owls. A bird observation and feeding station facility is located west of the park office building.

Picnic sites are located throughout the park along the main road. A beautiful stone and timber day-use lodge is available year round to rent for family reunions, weddings, graduations and other functions.

### **SPECIAL PARK RULES**

No harvesting or picking up walnuts is allowed. Pick up the rules/regulations booklet for more information on general park rules.

### **LOCAL EVENTS/ATTRACTIONS**

The bridges of Madison County are located near Winterset, less than an hours drive southwest. The world-renowned Iowa State Fair is held each August in Des Moines. The Great Western multi-use trailhead is located approximately 3 miles from the park. This paved trail links Des Moines trails to the town of Martensdale, and is 16.5 miles long. Living History Farms with cultural indoor and outdoor farm displays and activities is located off Interstate 35 at the Hickman Road exit. Other Des Moines attractions include the State Historical Building, Botanical Center and Blank Park Zoo.

### **LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION**

Park Office: 515.285.4502  
Park Manager: Josh Shipman

### **SEVERE WEATHER**

The park does not have a designated emergency shelter. Visitors are encouraged to monitor weather forecasts and vacate the park when severe weather events are forecasted.

**For emergencies, please call 911**

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

## MAP KEY

- Boat Ramp
- Campground
- Day-Use Lodge
- Park Office
- Picnic Area
- Playground
- Restroom - Modern Seasonal
- Restroom - Nonmodern Year-round
- Wildlife Viewing
- Trail
- Road
- Park Boundary



## TRAIL INFORMATION

Trail Name	Trail Activity	Length	Level of Difficulty	Estimated Hike Time
<b>1</b> Bottomland Trail	Hiking, Biking, Cross-country Skiing, Equestrian	2.2 mi.	Easy	53 minutes
<b>2</b> Tree Swallow Trail	Hiking, Biking, Cross-country Skiing	1.7 mi.	Easy	40 minutes

Walking times are figured at a rate of 2.5 mph.

[www.iowadnr.gov/Places-to-Go/State-Parks](http://www.iowadnr.gov/Places-to-Go/State-Parks)