



# IOWA

# STATE PARKS & RECREATION AREAS

## REGULATIONS & RESERVATION INFORMATION



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
2024

Ledges State Park

## PLEASE READ ALL OF THIS SYNOPSIS CAREFULLY

This synopsis is not intended to quote complete laws, but rather to present a summary of the various regulations that apply in Iowa's state parks and recreation areas. These guidelines are included as regulations in the Code of Iowa and the Administrative Code and violations may result in immediate removal from the area and/or appropriate legal action. If you have questions, contact any state park office.

Fees and rules quoted in this publication may change between printings. Please refer to the DNR website for a current copy of *Iowa State Parks and Recreation Areas Regulations and Reservation Information*.

## PARK BROCHURES

Information on the facilities available at individual state parks and recreation areas is listed in *Iowa State Parks and Forests*, which contains an overview of the facilities found at parks throughout the state, and a chart listing the facilities available at each park and recreation area. The chart lists the total acreage, number of campsites, dump stations, rental cabins and lodges, trails, swimming facilities, fishing availability, lake acreage, boat ramps, hunting and snowmobiling available at each park or recreation area.

Maps and more detailed information on each park is available online [iowadnr.gov/stateparks](http://iowadnr.gov/stateparks) or by contacting the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), 6200 Park Ave, Suite 200, Des Moines, Iowa 50321, the park of interest, or by calling the DNR at 515-725-8200 and following the instructions to request the publications.

VISIT

**[iowadnr.gov/stateparks](http://iowadnr.gov/stateparks)**

MAKE A RESERVATION ONLINE AT

**[iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com](http://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com)**

OR CALL

**1-877-IAPARKS  
(427-2757)**

For those who cannot read the size of the print in this publication, a larger sized version of the text is available by calling the DNR at **515-725-8200** or writing the DNR at **6200 Park Ave Ste 200, Des Moines IA 50321**

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## DEFINITIONS

1. "Basic unit" or "basic camping unit" means the portable shelter used by one to six persons. Examples of a "camping unit" include tent, travel trailer, pop-up camper, motor home, etc.
2. "Beach" means that portion of state parks or recreation areas designated for swimming including the sand, a 200-foot buffer of land surrounding the sand, or a designated area that is fenced in, and the water area contiguous to the beach as marked by swim buoys and/or swim lines.
3. "Camping" means the erecting of a tent or shelter of natural or artificial material; or placing a sleeping bag or other bedding material on the ground; or parking a motor vehicle, motor home or trailer for the apparent purpose of overnight occupancy.
4. "Centralized reservation system" means a system that processes reservations using more than one method to accept reservations. Each method simultaneously communicates to a centralized database at a reservation contractor location to ensure that no campsite or rental facility is booked more than once.
5. "Chaperoned, organized youth group" means a group of persons 17 years of age and under, which is sponsored by and accompanied by adult representatives of a formal organization including, but not limited to, the Boy Scouts of America or Girl Scouts of America, churches or Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Association. Chaperoned, organized youth group does not include families of members of a formal organization.
6. "Fishing" means the taking of or attempting to take fish, utilizing hook, line and bait as defined in Iowa Code section 481A.72, or use of permitted devices for taking rough fish as determined by Iowa Code section 461A.42 and 481A.76.
7. "Free Climbing" means climbing with the use of hands and feet only and without the use of ropes, pins and other devices normally associated with rappelling and rock climbing.
8. "Immediate family" means spouses, parents or legal guardians, domestic partners, dependent children and grandparents.
9. "Keg Party" means a gathering of two or more persons at which beer is dispensed from a keg or other container larger than one gallon.
10. "Lodge" means a building that is enclosed on all four sides that may have kitchen facilities such as stove, refrigerator, etc., which is available for rent on a daily basis. This item does not include buildings open on two or more sides containing fireplaces only.
11. "Metal detector" means a portable electronic device used only for detecting metal above or below the surface of the ground.

12. "Modern area" means a camping area that has showers and flush toilets.
13. "Nonmodern" means a camping area in which no showers are provided, containing only pit-type latrines or flush-type toilets. Water may or may not be available to campers in a nonmodern camping area.
14. "Open shelter" means a building that is open on two or more sides and that may or may not include a fireplace.
15. "Possession" means exercising dominion or control with or without ownership over property.
16. "Refuse" means trash, garbage, rubbish, wastepaper, bottles, cans, debris, oil, solvents, liquid or solid waste, or other discarded material.
17. "Reservation transaction fees" means fees to process a reservation, change a reservation or cancel a reservation.
18. "Reservation window" means a rolling period of time in which a person may reserve a campsite or rental facility.
19. "Scuba diving" means swimming with the aid of self-contained underwater breathing apparatus or the use of a snorkel.
20. "Swim" or "swimming" means to propel oneself in water by natural means such as movement of limbs, including but not limited to wading and the use of inner tubes or beach toy-type swimming aids.

## **ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

The Department of Natural Resources strives to provide outdoor recreation opportunities for all visitors, including persons with disabilities. Facilities accessible to the mobility impaired may be found in many areas, with efforts underway to provide additional access opportunities. Interested persons should visit the site and/or contact park staff prior to scheduling outings to determine if facilities are adequate to meet an individual's or group's accessibility needs.

Persons with physical disabilities may use certain motorized vehicles to access specific areas in state parks and recreation areas, according to restrictions set out in IAC Chapter 61.7(8)b, so they might enjoy such recreational opportunities as are available to others.

## RECREATION AREAS

The following are designated as recreation areas. Hunting, in accordance with applicable laws, is allowed on these areas and they are usually open for public access 24 hours a day. Beach and camping regulations, as well as campground visiting hours, still apply in these areas and you will find information on these topics in this brochure.

- Badger Creek, Madison County
- Brushy Creek, Webster County
- Clair Wilson Park, Emerson Bay and Lighthouse, Lower Gar Access, Marble Beach, Templar Park, Dickinson County
- Fairport, Muscatine County (no hunting)
- Mines of Spain, Dubuque County (limited hunting, contact park staff)
- Pilot Knob Recreation Area, Winnebago County
- Pleasant Creek, Linn County
- Volga River, Fayette County
- Wilson Island, Pottawattamie County

## HOURS

Parks open at 4:00 a.m. daily and close at 10:30 p.m. Lodge and open shelter users must vacate the area prior to 10:30 p.m. All persons except registered campers, group campers, cabin renters, or yurt renters must leave the park by 10:30 p.m. Visitors in campgrounds, group camps or cabin, yurt and beach areas of parks, forests and recreation areas must leave by 10:30 p.m.

## AFTER-HOURS FISHING

The following specific areas are open to fishing between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. in addition to normal park hours. All fishing must be done from the bank in the areas designated for each lake. Vessels are not permitted on the lakes after 10:30 p.m. Parking is allowed in specially marked lots only.

Black Hawk State Park, Sac County — The area between the road and lake running from the marina at Drillings Point on the northeast end of the lake approximately three-fourths of a mile southwest, to a point where the park boundary decreases to include only the roadway.

Clair Wilson Park, Dickinson County — The entire area including the parking lot, shoreline and fishing trestle facility.

Clear Lake State Park Ritz Unit, Cerro Gordo County — The boat ramp, courtesy dock, fishing dock and parking lots.

Elinor Bedell State Park, Dickinson County — The entire length of the shoreline within the park boundaries.

Elk Rock State Park, Marion County — The area of the dam embankment that is parallel to County Road J20 and lies between the two parking lots located on each end of the embankment.

Geode State Park, Des Moines County portion — The area of the dam embankment between the two parking lots and parallel to the county road and the lake.

Green Valley State Park, Union County — The shoreline adjacent to Green Valley Road commencing at the intersection of Green Valley Road and 130th Street and continuing south along the shoreline to the parking lot on the east side of the dam, and then west along the dam embankment to the shoreline adjacent to the parking lot on the west side of the spillway.

Hattie Elston Access, Dickinson County — The entire area including the parking lot shoreline and boat ramp facilities.

Honey Creek State Park, Appanoose County — The boat ramp area located north of the park office, access to which is the first road to the left upon entering the park.

Lake Keomah State Park, Mahaska County — The embankment of the dam between the crest of the dam and the lake; the shoreline between the road and the lake from the south boat ramp, west and north to the junction with the road leading to the group camp shelter.

Lake Macbride State Park, Johnson County — The shoreline of the south arm of the lake adjacent to the county road commencing at the intersection of Cottage Reserve Road at the north end of the north-south causeway proceeding across the causeway thence southeasterly along a foot trail to the east-west causeway, across the causeway to the parking area on the east end of that causeway.

Lake Manawa State Park, Pottawattamie County — The west shoreline including both sides of the main park road, commencing at the north park entrance and continuing south 1.5 miles to the parking lot immediately north of the picnic area located on the west side of the southwest arm of the lake.

Lower Pine Lake, Pine Lake State Park, Hardin County — West shoreline along County Road S56 from the beach south to the boat ramp access.

Mini-Wakan State Park, Dickinson County — The entire area.

North Twin Lake State Park, Calhoun County — The shoreline of the day-use area containing the swimming beach on the east lakeshore.

Pikes Point State Park, Dickinson County — The shoreline areas of the state park on the east side of West Okoboji Lake.

Prairie Rose State Park, Shelby County — The west side of the embankment of the causeway across the southeast arm of the lake including the shoreline west of the parking area located off County Road M47 and just north of the entrance leading toward the park office.

Rock Creek State Park, Jasper County — Both sides of the County Road F27 causeway across the main north portion of the lake.

Upper Pine Lake, Pine Lake State Park, Hardin County — Southwest shoreline extending from the boat launch ramp to the dam.

Union Grove State Park, Tama County — The dam embankment from the spillway to the west end of the parking lot adjacent to the dam; the area of park that parallels BB Avenue, from the causeway on the north end of the lake southerly to a point approximately .10 of a mile southwest of the boat ramp.

Viking Lake State Park, Montgomery County — The embankment of the dam from the parking area located southeast of the dam area northwesterly across the dam structure to its intersection with the natural shoreline of the lake.

## NOISE

Creating or sustaining any unreasonable noise in any portion of all state parks and recreation areas as well as state forest campgrounds is prohibited at all times. Noise that can be heard at a distance of 120 feet, or three campsites, shall be considered unreasonable between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

This includes the operation or use of motorized equipment or machinery such as an electric generating plant, motor vehicle, motorized toy, or audio device such as a radio, television set, tape deck, public address system, musical instrument or other device causing unreasonable noise.

Quarreling, fighting or use of language that unreasonably interferes with the lawful use and enjoyment of the area by others is prohibited.

## REMOVAL OR DEFACEMENT OF PLANT LIFE AND CULTURAL FEATURES

All Iowa state parks and recreation areas are open for removal of certain types of plant life unless signs posted within the area state otherwise. Mushrooms, asparagus, nuts, fruits and berries are the only types of plant material that can be removed and harvested in state parks and recreation areas. Other types of plant life cannot be removed. Ginseng **cannot** be harvested in Iowa state parks or state preserves. Removal or defacement of other types of natural features such as bird nests and rock formations is prohibited, as is removal or defacement of cultural features such as Native American artifacts and mounds. The use of chainsaws is prohibited in all areas.



## **PAINTBALL GUNS**

The use of paintball guns in all state parks, recreation areas and state preserves is prohibited.

## **GEOCACHING**

Geocaching is allowed in state parks and recreation areas through a permit system. Persons wishing to place a cache must contact park staff prior to establishing the cache to obtain the placement permit.

## **ACCESSIBLE CAMPING AND PICNIC FACILITIES**

Facilities that were designed to be accessible to the mobility-impaired display wheelchair symbol signs. Campsites and picnic tables displaying these signs are intended to be used only by visitors with mobility impairments. Shelters displaying these signs are available to all.

## **DISPOSAL OF TRASH AND GARBAGE**

Iowa state park and recreation area picnic and other day-use areas normally do not feature waste receptacles. Visitors must carry out their trash and are encouraged to bring bags for such purposes.

Waste receptacles are normally provided only at campgrounds, lodges, group camps, cabins and beach concessions.

Household, commercial or industrial refuse brought from private property cannot be dumped in government refuse containers.

## **SWIMMING/BEACH USE**

Swimming must be done in the designated beach area within the boundaries marked by ropes, buoys or signs.

Swimmers may swim outside of the designated beach area under the following conditions:

- Swimming must take place between sunrise and sunset.
- Swimmers must be accompanied by a person operating a vessel and must stay within 20 feet of the vessel at all times during the swim.
- The vessel accompanying the swimmer must display a flag, which is at least 12-inches square, is bright orange and is visible all around the horizon.
- The person swimming must register with the park staff in charge of the area and sign a registration immediately prior to the swim.

Unless otherwise posted as prohibited or limited to the designated beach area, persons may swim within 10 feet of a vessel anchored not less than 100 yards from the shoreline or the marked boundary of a designated beach area. All vessels, except those being uprighted or repaired, must be attended at all times by at least one person remaining on board. Scuba diving may occur outside of the designated beach area, provided the divers flag is displayed as specified in rule 571-41.10 (462A).

Inner tubes, air mattresses and other beach toy-type items may be used only in the beach areas.

Possession or use of glass or other breakable containers, fragments of which could cause injuries, is prohibited within the designated beach areas.

At Brushy Creek State Recreation Area, located in Webster County, and Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area, located in Linn County, swimming is prohibited from 10:30 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. daily.

Animals are prohibited within the designated beach area.

## **TRAILS**

Horseback riding and bicycle riding are restricted to state park and recreation area roadways and designated and signed trails. Maps of the state park and recreation area trails can be obtained from the park office. Persons using the hiking trails are encouraged to stay on designated trails for personal safety and to minimize impacts upon park natural resources.

## **ROCK CLIMBING OR RAPPELLING**

Free climbing, and climbing or rappelling activity, which uses bolts, pitons, or similar permanent anchoring equipment or ropes, harnesses, or slings is prohibited in state parks and recreation areas, except by persons or groups registered with the person in charge of the area. Individuals participating with groups must each sign a registration form before climbing or rappelling.

Climbing or rappelling is not permitted at: Ledges State Park, Boone County; Dolliver State Park, Webster County; Wildcat Den State Park, Muscatine County; Mines of Spain Recreation Area, Dubuque County; Maquoketa Caves State Park, Jackson County; Elk Rock State Park, Marion County, and Stone State Park, Woodbury and Plymouth counties.

## **FIREARMS, FIREWORKS, HUNTING**

The use of firearms, fireworks, explosives or weapons of any kind is prohibited in all state parks and preserves except as authorized by a permit issued by the Iowa DNR. A bow and arrow with attached bow fishing reel and minimum 90-pound test line may be used to take rough fish in accordance with applicable laws. State parks are wildlife refuges. Hunting and trapping are prohibited.

## **FIRES**

Fires are permitted only in designated areas, or where fireplaces or fire rings are provided. Fires must be extinguished when the campsite or picnic area is vacated.

## **METAL DETECTORS**

Metal detector use is prohibited in state parks and recreation areas except in the following areas:

1. Designated beach areas. From May 22 to September 7 inclusive each year, metal detectors may be used on designated beach areas from 4:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. each day. From September 8 to May 21 inclusive each year, metal detectors may be used on designated beach areas from 4:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. each day.
2. Drained lakes. When an artificial lake has been drained or the water level lowered for any reason, metal detector use may be allowed from 4:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. only after the lakebed has been thoroughly surveyed for archaeological resources and a survey report has been completed and approved by the State Historic Preservation Office. Please check with local park staff to ensure this has been done.

Tools used for digging are limited to the following:

1. Probes not over 12-inches long, one-inch wide and one-quarter-inch thick.
2. A sand scoop or sieve not over 10 inches in diameter.

When digging is done to locate an item, the excavation shall be limited to three inches square when using probes, and 10 inches in diameter when using sand scoops or sieves. The disturbed area is to be restored as nearly as possible to its original condition. A litter apron or bag is to be worn or carried during metal detector use and litter dug up is to be disposed in approved trash containers.

All items found are subject to the provisions of Iowa Code Chapter 556F.

Owners of lost items may use a metal detector in areas where their use is normally prohibited only upon special arrangement with the park ranger or with the park manager in charge of the area. A written approval must be granted before metal detector use may begin.

## ROADS AND PARKING AREAS

All driving is confined to designated roadways and restricted to properly registered motor vehicles. Bicycles, both manually operated and electrically powered, are allowed on state highways but are subject to the same operational standards as motor vehicles. The use of electric or battery-operated children's motorized toys, such as motor scooters or power wheels, do not meet the definition of an authorized motor vehicle or device. Thus, they are not approved for operation on Iowa's highways, which include state park roads. Children's scooters and power wheel toys may be operated on a family's individual campsite(s), others' campsites with permission, as well as in picnic and playground areas so long as the toys are not causing damage to the area or jeopardizing either the user's or other's safety. Electric personal assistive mobility devices may be operated in accordance with the requirements of Sec. 321.235A of the Iowa Code.

Parking is allowed only in parking lots. Vehicles may not be left unattended on any park drive, roadway or highway except in the case of an emergency.

## ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

The following beverages can be consumed in state parks, rec areas and forests:

- Beer (with an alcohol content 6.25 percent or less by volume).
- High alcoholic-content beer with an alcohol content of not more than 15 percent by volume. Not more than 1.5 percent of the volume may consist of alcohol derived from added flavors and other nonbeverage ingredients containing alcohol. Added flavors and other nonbeverage ingredients may not include added caffeine or other added stimulants.
- Wine with an alcohol content of 21.25 percent or less by volume.
- Canned cocktails, which are premixed and packaged in a metal can, with an alcohol content of 15 percent or less by volume.

Drinking of these beverages is **not permitted** on roads or in parking areas. Alcohol is **not permitted** on the beaches at Lake Macbride State Park and Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area.

Keg beer is not permitted in campgrounds, on beaches or in parking areas. Persons wishing to hold a "kegger" or keg party in any other portion of a state park are required to obtain a keg beer permit in advance. The permit requires a minimum deposit of \$100 and a responsibility agreement signed by a designated agent. Contact the area park office for more details.

Hard liquor (such as whiskey, vodka, etc.), wine with an alcohol content of more than 21.25 percent by volume, or other alcoholic liquors are **not** to be consumed in parks and recreation areas.

## SMOKING

Smoking is prohibited in public buildings. This includes toilet and shower buildings and other facilities in state parks and recreation areas.

## ANIMALS OR PETS

The use of horses, mules and other equine animals is limited to roadways or to trails designated for such use. No horse or other animal shall be hitched or tied to any tree or shrub, or in such a manner as to result in injury to state property. Animals may be hitched to trailers for short periods of time for grooming and saddling. Animals must be stabled inside a trailer, at a hitch rail or in stalls or corrals, if provided. Portable stalls, pens or electric fences are not permitted.

Privately owned animals shall be kept on a leash with a maximum length of six feet, or be kept confined. Animals are not allowed to run at large. Pets shall not be left unattended in campgrounds.

Only dogs or assistive animals are allowed in designated cabins/yurts. All other cabins/yurts are pet-free. A limit of two dogs is allowed at each designated dog-friendly cabin/yurt.

# RESERVATION GENERAL INFORMATION

All cabins, day-use lodges, and most open shelter rentals are available to make reservations on the centralized reservation system. In most parks, three-quarters of campsites are available for camping reservations on the centralized reservation system. Advance camping reservations are not accepted at Fort Defiance and Preparation Canyon State Parks.

### **Making Reservations**

Internet reservations are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at [iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com](http://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com). Credit card and debit cards backed by Visa, MasterCard or Discover are accepted.

Telephone reservations are available 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. CST, Monday through Friday and 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST on Saturday and Sunday. The phone center is closed New Year's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas. The toll-free number is (877) 427-2757. Credit/debit card, money order or paper check is accepted for telephone reservations. Payments made by money order or paper check must be received within 10 days from the date the reservation was made.

Checks should be mailed to:  
Iowa State Park Reservations  
PO Box 310302  
Minneapolis, MN 50331-0302

Customers should write their reservation number in the memo section of the check to facilitate faster payment processing.

### **Reservation Transaction Fees**

A nonrefundable reservation fee will be charged for each campsite, cabin, lodge or open shelter reserved, regardless of the length of stay. (Example: if a camper reserves three campsites, a reservation fee will be charged for each of the three campsites.) Payment of all camping or rental fees plus the reservation fee is due at the time the reservation is made.

- Internet reservation fee—\$4.50
- Telephone reservation fee—\$6
- Reservations can be changed for \$5 online and \$6.50 through phone center, per reservation item.
- Reservations can be cancelled online for a \$6 cancel fee, per reservation item. (This service depends upon the date the reservation will be cancelled.)
- Reservations can be cancelled through the phone center for a \$7 cancellation fee, per reservation item.

Depending upon the date of cancellation, forfeiture of camping/rental fees may also apply.

### **When to Reserve**

#### Campsites:

Reservations can be made three months in advance (count back three months from the arrival date to determine opening window). For arrivals beginning on May 29, 30 and 31, the opening window shall be March 1. For arrivals beginning on July 31, the opening window shall be May 1.

If paying by credit/debit card, the last day to make a reservation is two days prior to arrival, except at parks that accept same day reservations. If paying by check or money order, the last day to make a reservation is 21 days prior to arrival.

#### Cabins, Lodges, and Shelters:

Reservations can be made 12 months in advance. Count back 12 months from the arrival date to know how early you can reserve.

- Peak Season Rentals (May 1 to October 15) – If paying by credit/debit card, the last day to make a reservation is 4 days prior to arrival. If paying by check or money order, the last day to make a reservation is 21 days prior to arrival.
- Off-Season Rentals (October 16 to April 30) – If paying by credit/debit card, the last day to make a reservation is 7 days prior to arrival. If paying by check or money order, the last day to make a reservation is 21 days prior to arrival.

### **Changing a Reservation**

Reservation changes can include change of arrival/departure date (with limitations), entire trip dates (must be within reservation window), switching from one cabin/campsite to another, etc.

Please be aware that for a single camping reservation stay or lodge rental, the arrival date cannot be changed to a later date without losing the reservation. However, you may change your reservation arrival to an earlier date.

A change fee (\$5 online; \$6.50 through phone center) will be charged to make a change to each reservation item. The fee is not covered by the original reservation transaction fee paid.

The last day to change any reservation if paying by check or money order is 21 days prior to arrival. The last day to change a camping reservation if paying by credit/debit card is 4 days prior to arrival. The last day to change a cabin, lodge, or shelter rental if paying by credit/debit card is 15 days prior to arrival.

### **Cancellation Policy**

A cancellation fee per campsite or rental facility will be charged for all cancellations (\$6 online; \$7 through phone center). The fee will be deducted from the camping/rental fees paid. The fee is not covered by the original reservation fee. Reservation fees are nonrefundable.

Cancellations taking place after the arrival date will result in no refund unless extenuating circumstances have been approved by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Anytime the cancellation fee and forfeiture amounts exceed the total amount of camping/rental fees paid, you will not receive any refund and the Iowa DNR will not collect any additional money.

#### Camping:

Cancellations received up to 2 days before the camping arrival date will receive a refund of camping fees paid. The cancellation fee will apply which will be deducted from the camping fees paid.

Cancellations received 1 day before the camping arrival date will result in a cancellation fee charge and forfeiture of 1 night's camping fee. All remaining camping fees will be refunded.

Cancellations received the day of the scheduled camping arrival will result in a cancellation fee charge and forfeiture of 2 nights' camping fees. All remaining camping fees will be returned.

#### Cabins/Lodges/Shelters:

Cancellations up to 30 days prior to the reservation arrival date will result in a refund of the rental fees and tax paid less the cancellation fee.

Cancellations which occur 15-29 days prior to the reservation arrival date will result in a refund of rental fees and tax paid less the cancellation fee and forfeiture of one day's/night's rental fee and tax.

Cancellations that occur less than 15 days prior to the reservation arrival date, up to the arrival date, will result in a refund of rental fees and tax paid less the cancellation fee and forfeiture of two days'/nights' rental fee and tax.

## **CAMPING GENERAL INFORMATION**

Camping is permitted in designated campgrounds only. All campers must register. Registration must be in the name of a person aged 18 or older who will occupy the camping unit for the full term of the registration. Campers may register for more than one day at a time; however, campers are not allowed to stay in a state park, recreation area or state forest for more than 14 consecutive nights. Campers at Lake Manawa and Walnut Woods State Park may not camp more than 14 nights in any 30-day period. Campsites are considered occupied and registration complete when a registration slip has been placed in the campsite post and payment completed.

Campers are furnished with an area to camp, drinking water (where available) and sanitary facilities. The use of one picnic table per camping unit is permitted. Camping units can use only the electric hook-up designated for their site. Extension cords cannot run from one site to another. Each camping unit is allowed to park one vehicle not being used for camping purposes at their site. Some parks allow a second vehicle to be parked at a campsite and is posted at the campground. All other non-camping vehicles must immediately be placed outside the campground in specially designated parking lots.

One basic camping unit is allowed per site except that a small tent or hammock may be placed on the site with the basic unit. The area occupied by the small tent shall be no more than eight feet by ten feet and the tent shall hold no more than four people.

No more than six persons shall occupy a campsite except the following:

- Families that exceed six persons may be allowed on one campsite if all members are immediate family and cannot logically be split to occupy two campsites.
- Campsites that are designated as chaperoned, organized youth group campsites.

Campers on first-come, first-served sites must vacate or re-register by 3:00 p.m. on their last day. Check-in time for reservable and walk-in campsites is 4:00 p.m. Check-out time is 3:00 p.m.

Modern campgrounds are camping areas that have showers and flush toilets. These campgrounds may or may not have electrical campsites and full hookup campsites. Nonmodern campgrounds are camping areas that do not provide showers and provide only pit-type latrines or flush-type toilets. Water and electrical campsites may or may not be available in these areas. For more information about campsites, please visit the online reservation system at **[www.iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com](http://www.iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com)**



## CAMPING RESERVATION INFORMATION

From November 1 through March 31 each year, campers may not make reservations for camping stays due to unpredictable weather. Check before you go to see if a campground is open in the off season. The exceptions are: Ambrose A Call (April 15–November 15), Clear Lake (April 1–November 30), Lake Ahquabi (March 1–November 30), Lake Manawa (April 15–October 15), Ledges (March 1–November 30), Lewis and Clark (April 1–October 31), Maquoketa Caves (March 1–November 30), Pikes Peak (March 1–November 30), Pleasant Creek (April 1–November 30), and Wilson Island (April 15–October 15).

From May 1 to October 31, campers are required to stay a minimum of two nights (Friday and Saturday) for a weekend stay. A minimum three-night stay is required for the Memorial Day Holiday weekend, Fourth of July Holiday (when July 4 is on a Monday) and the Labor Day Holiday weekend. From November 1 to April 30, there is no minimum stay required.

Camping rates can be found online at: **[iowadnr.gov/stateparks](http://iowadnr.gov/stateparks)** Federal passes (Senior Pass and Access Pass), which may provide discounts for camping at federal parks and recreational lands, are not honored in Iowa state parks, recreation areas and state forest campgrounds.

### REGISTRATION PROCEDURE FOR FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED CAMPSITES AND WALK-IN CAMPING ON UNRENTED RESERVABLE CAMPSITES

All state park, recreation area and forest campgrounds incorporate a self-registration procedure. Instructions are posted at depositories located at campground entrances. Campers must register within one-half hour of entering the campground. Walk-in campers may occupy an unrented reservable campsite beginning at 10:00 a.m. and may register on a night-to-night basis only. This is due to the rolling reservation window for reservable campsites. Walk-in campers should check the arrival roster daily at the kiosk or check-in station for reservable campsite availability. Exceptions to this are at parks that accept same day reservations.

### CHAPERONED ORGANIZED YOUTH GROUP CAMPSITES

Most parks have a designated “chaperoned organized youth group campsite(s),” which is available for use by chaperoned organized youth groups only. Groups may reserve these campsites three months in advance. There is no two-night minimum stay required for these campsites. Campground rates can be viewed online at: **[iowadnr.gov/stateparks](http://iowadnr.gov/stateparks)**

Campsite capacity varies from park to park and site to site. It is recommended that you contact the park office if you have any questions about campsite amenities available and any restrictions regarding the number of tents allowed.

## LAKE KEOMAH GROUP CAMP

The dining/restroom building and adjacent camping space are available for reservation by organized groups. A rental fee for the building and applicable camping fees apply. A reservation deposit of \$40 is required. A damage deposit of \$50 is due upon arrival for the rental period. The total remaining rental fee plus tax is due when the rental period is completed.

The dining/restroom building may be rented for day-use only for a fee of \$90 per day plus tax, only if the park's day-use lodge is not available that day. In this situation, the entire rental fee plus tax is due when the reservation is made, and a \$50 damage deposit is due upon arrival for the rental period. Reservations may be made starting the first business day after January 1, with organized youth groups having priority on reservations.

## CABIN AND YURT RENTALS

Cabins and yurts may be reserved 12 months in advance. Cabin and yurt registration must be in the name of a person aged 18 or older who will occupy the cabin for the full term of the registration.

### **Multifamily Cabins** - Springbrook State Park

The two-story, 4+ bedroom cabin has a full kitchen, full baths, heating and air conditioning, and fireplaces. The cabin accommodates 10-12 people.

### **Deluxe Family Cabins** - Backbone and Black Hawk State Parks

These 2-story, 2- or 4-bedroom cabins have full kitchens, full baths and heating and air conditioning for year-round use. The cabins accommodate nine people.

### **Modern Family Cabins** - Backbone, Lake Darling, Lake Wapello, Nine Eagles, Palisades-Kepler, Pine Lake, Union Grove and Waubonsie State Parks

These cabins have either one, two or three bedrooms, full kitchens or kitchenettes, full baths, and heating and air conditioning. Some cabins are available year-round.

### **Studio Family Cabins** - Lacey-Keosauqua, Lake of Three Fires, Pine Lake and Waubonsie State Parks

These cabins have an open floor plan (no bedrooms), full kitchen or kitchenette, full bath and heating and air conditioning. The cabins accommodate four people. Some of the cabins are available year-round.

### **Basic Family Cabins** - Dolliver State Park

These cabins have an open floor plan (no bedrooms), running water and kitchenette. They are located near a campground (with sanitary facilities) and accommodate four people.

Family cabin renters must provide their own bedding, pillows, towels, toiletry items, dishes and some cleaning items such as paper towels, dish soap, etc. Family cabins are equipped with electricity, water, refrigerator, stove or cook-top range and microwaves. A fire ring or grill and picnic table are also provided outside each cabin.

**Camping Cabins** - Green Valley, Honey Creek, Lake Darling, Prairie Rose, Stone and Waubonsie State Parks, and Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area  
These cabins have an open floor plan, electricity and are located near campgrounds. Some cabins have a microwave and dorm-size refrigerator and heating and air conditioning. They do not have water or sanitary facilities but renters may use the campground sanitary facilities. Renters must provide their own bedding, pillows, towels, etc.

**Yurts** - McIntosh Woods State Park

Yurts are circular tent-like structures on a platform with windows and a front door. They do not have kitchenettes, running water or sanitary facilities; however, a restroom/shower is located within 100 feet of yurts.

Yurts and camping cabins are equipped with electricity, futons, bunk beds, table and chairs, outdoor fire ring or grill and picnic table outdoors. Renters must provide their own bedding, pillows, towels, etc.

**Tents in camping cabin/yurt areas**

Tents are not allowed in the cabin areas except at Green Valley, Lake Darling (camping cabins only), Pleasant Creek and Prairie Rose. One small tent, no larger than 8' x 10' in size, may be placed at each cabin site so long as the persons occupying the second unit are under 18 years of age and dependent members of the immediate family occupying the cabin.

## **CABIN/YURT RESERVATION INFORMATION**

Multifamily cabins must be rented for a minimum of two nights throughout the entire rental season. A three-night stay is required for the Memorial Day holiday, Fourth of July holiday and Labor Day holiday weekends. All deluxe, modern and studio family cabins must be rented for a minimum one-week stay from the Friday of the national Memorial Day holiday weekend through the Thursday evening after the national Labor Day holiday. Cabins may not be reserved for more than two weeks. Basic family cabins, camping cabins and yurts are available for a two-night minimum reservation any time of year. Vacant cabins are rented for less than one week (two-night minimum) on a first-come, first-serve basis.

A damage deposit equal to the daily rental rate or \$50, whichever is greater, is required upon arrival for a rental period. The damage deposit will be returned upon verification of the satisfactory care of the cabin and its contents by park staff.

The rental week begins and ends on Friday. Check-in time is 4:00 p.m. and check-out time is 11:00 a.m.

Persons reserving cabins/yurts should refer to the confirmation letter received after the reservation has been made or refer to the alerts available on the reservation system regarding the check-in procedures and payment of the damage deposit.

## CABIN AND YURT RATES

Cabin rates can be found online at: [iowadnr.gov/stateparks](http://iowadnr.gov/stateparks)

<b>Occupancy Limits</b>	<b>Normal</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
Four-bedroom Cabins	10-12 people	14
Two-bedroom Cabins	6-9 people	11
One-bedroom Cabins	4 people	4-6
Studio Cabins	2-4 people	4
Camping Cabins and Yurts	4 people	4-6
Two-bedroom Camping Cabins	6-10 people	12

## LODGES

Lodges may be reserved 12 months in advance. Renters wishing to decorate the facility the day before must also rent the lodge for that day. All lodge registrations must be in the name of a person aged 18 or older who will be present for the full term of the registration.

A damage deposit equal to the weekend daily rental fee is required upon arrival for a rental. Some parks may require the damage deposit be mailed in advance. This information can be found on the reservation website at: [iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com](http://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com). The damage deposit will be returned upon verification of the satisfactory care of the lodge and its contents by park staff.

Persons may access the lodge beginning at 10:00 a.m. each day. Persons may make prior arrangements with local park staff to enter the lodge before 10:00 a.m. The lodge must be cleaned and vacated by 10:30 p.m.

There are 29 lodges available for rent, which are ideal for gatherings such as family reunions. Facilities normally include electricity, water, flush toilets and a kitchen. These facilities are for day-use only. Lodge rental rates are available online at [iowadnr.gov/stateparks](http://iowadnr.gov/stateparks)

## OPEN SHELTERS

Open picnic shelters may be reserved 12 months in advance for group use, and must be in the name of a person aged 18 or older who will be present for the full term of the reservation. Shelter rentals rates can be found online at [iowadnr.gov/stateparks](http://iowadnr.gov/stateparks)

Most **open shelters** rent for \$30 if no electricity is available and \$35 if electricity is available, per day plus tax.

**Open shelters with kitchenettes**, available at Elinor Bedell, Geode, Lake Manawa and Viking Lake, each rent for \$125 per day plus tax.

**Beach house open shelters** rent for \$50 per day plus tax. These shelters are located at Lake Ahquabi and Springbrook state parks.

**Beach cabanas** are available at Big Creek State Park (9) and Brushy Creek State Recreation Area (4). Each has a maximum capacity of 10 and rents for \$25 per day plus tax.

**Large open shelters** are available at Big Creek State Park (3), Brushy Creek State Recreation Area (1) and Lake Manawa State Park (1). Each has a maximum capacity of 165, and rents for \$125 per day plus tax. Each shelter has an adjacent modern restroom facility.

To view photos of cabins, shelters and other rental facilities, or to make a reservation, visit [iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com](http://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com) or call 1-877-IAPARKS (427-2757).

### **KEG BEER PERMITS**

Persons or groups desiring to consume beer dispensed from a keg (or other container holding more than one gallon) in state parks and recreation areas are required to have a keg beer permit. Permits must be requested through the park office at least 30 days prior to the event taking place. Keg beer may not be consumed in state park, state forest and recreation area campgrounds, beach areas and parking areas.

A damage deposit of \$100 per 100 or fewer persons is required. The keg beer damage deposit may be waived for lodge rentals if the lodge rental damage deposit is greater than the keg beer damage deposit amount.

### **SUPERVISED SWIMMING**

Parks with supervised swimming areas have a beach facility that includes a beach house. The concessionaire may charge a fee for swimming, which varies from park to park.

<b>STATE PARK OR RECREATION AREA</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>
Ambrose A. Call.....	641-581-4835
Backbone.....	563-924-2527
Badger Creek.....	515-285-4502
Banner Lakes at Summerset.....	515-961-7101
Beeds Lake.....	641-456-2047
Bellevue.....	563-872-4019
Big Creek.....	515-984-6473
Black Hawk.....	712-657-8712
Brushy Creek.....	515-543-8298
Brush Creek Canyon Preserve.....	563-425-4161
Cedar Rock.....	319-934-3572
Clear Lake.....	641-357-4212
Dolliver Memorial.....	515-359-2539
Elinor Bedell.....	712-337-3211
Elk Rock.....	641-842-6008
Fairport.....	563-263-4337
Fort Defiance.....	712-337-3211
Geode.....	319-392-4601
George Wyth.....	319-232-5505
Green Valley.....	641-782-5131
Gull Point Complex*.....	712-337-3211
Honey Creek.....	641-724-3739
Honey Creek Resort.....	877-677-3344
Lacey-Keosauqua.....	319-293-3502
Lake Ahquabi.....	515-961-7101
Lake Anita.....	712-762-3564
Lake Darling.....	319-694-2323
Lake Keomah.....	641-673-6975
Lake Macbride.....	319-624-2200
Lake Manawa.....	712-366-0220
Lake of Three Fires.....	712-523-2700
Lake Wapello.....	641-722-3371
Ledges.....	515-432-1852
Lewis and Clark.....	712-423-2829
Maquoketa Caves.....	563-652-5833
Marble Beach.....	712-337-3211
McIntosh Woods.....	641-829-3847
Mines of Spain.....	563-556-0620
Nine Eagles.....	641-442-2855
Okamanpeden.....	712-337-3211
Palisades-Kepler.....	319-895-6039
Pikes Peak.....	563-873-2341
Pilot Knob.....	641-581-4835
Pine Lake.....	641-858-5832
Pleasant Creek.....	319-436-7716
Preparation Canyon.....	712-456-2924
Prairie Rose.....	712-773-2701

Red Haw.....	641-774-5632
Rice Lake.....	641/581-4835
Rock Creek .....	641/236-3722
Shimek Forest Campground .....	319/878-3811
Springbrook .....	641/747-3591
Stephens Forest Campground.....	641/774-5632
Stone.....	712-255-4698
Twin Lakes.....	712-297-7131
Union Grove .....	641-473-2556
Viking Lake.....	712-829-2235
Volga River .....	563-425-4161
Walnut Woods .....	515-285-4502
Wapsipinicon .....	319-462-2761
Waubonsie.....	712-382-2786
Wildcat Den .....	563-263-4337
Wilson Island... ..	712-642-2069
Yellow River Forest Campground.....	563-586-2254

\*Gull Point includes Clair Wilson, Emerson Bay and Lighthouse, Lower Gar Access, Marble Beach, Mini-Wakan, Pikes Point, Templar Park, Trappers Bay

## STATE PARKS MANAGED BY OTHER ENTITIES

Several state park areas are managed by county conservation boards. Please contact those offices for more information on recreational opportunities, regulations and fees.

Bobwhite .....	Wayne Co .....	641-872-2004
Browns Lake .....	Woodbury Co.....	712-258-0838
Cold Springs .....	Cass Co .....	712-243-6665
Crystal Lake.....	Hancock Co.....	641-923-2720
Eagle Lake .....	Hancock Co.....	641-923-2720
Echo Valley .....	Fayette Co.....	563-422-5146
Frank A Gotch .....	Humbolt Co .....	515-332-4087
Galland School .....	Lee Co .....	319-463-7673
Heery Woods.....	Butler Co .....	319-278-4237
Kearny.....	City of Emmetsburg.....	712-852-4030
Lake Cornelia.....	Wright Co.....	515-532-3185
Lake Odessa Campground (Snively Access) .....	Louisa Co.....	319-523-8381
Margo Frankel Woods .....	Saylorville Township.....	515-289-1428
Oak Grove.....	Sioux Co .....	712-552-1047
Pammel .....	Madison Co.....	515-462-3536
Pioneer .....	Mitchell Co.....	641-732-5204
Sharon Bluffs.....	Appanoose Co.....	641-856-8528
Silver Lake .....	Worth Co.....	641-324-1524
Spring Lake.....	Greene Co.....	515-386-5674
Swan Lake.....	Carroll Co.....	712-792-4614



### **Equal Opportunity**

Federal and state regulations prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disability. State law also prohibits discrimination on the basis of creed, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, pregnancy or public accommodation. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or for more information, write: Director, DNR, 6200 Park Ave Ste 200, Des Moines IA 50321 or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Washington, DC 20240.



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