

# IOWA STATE PARKS & FORESTS



Ledges State Park

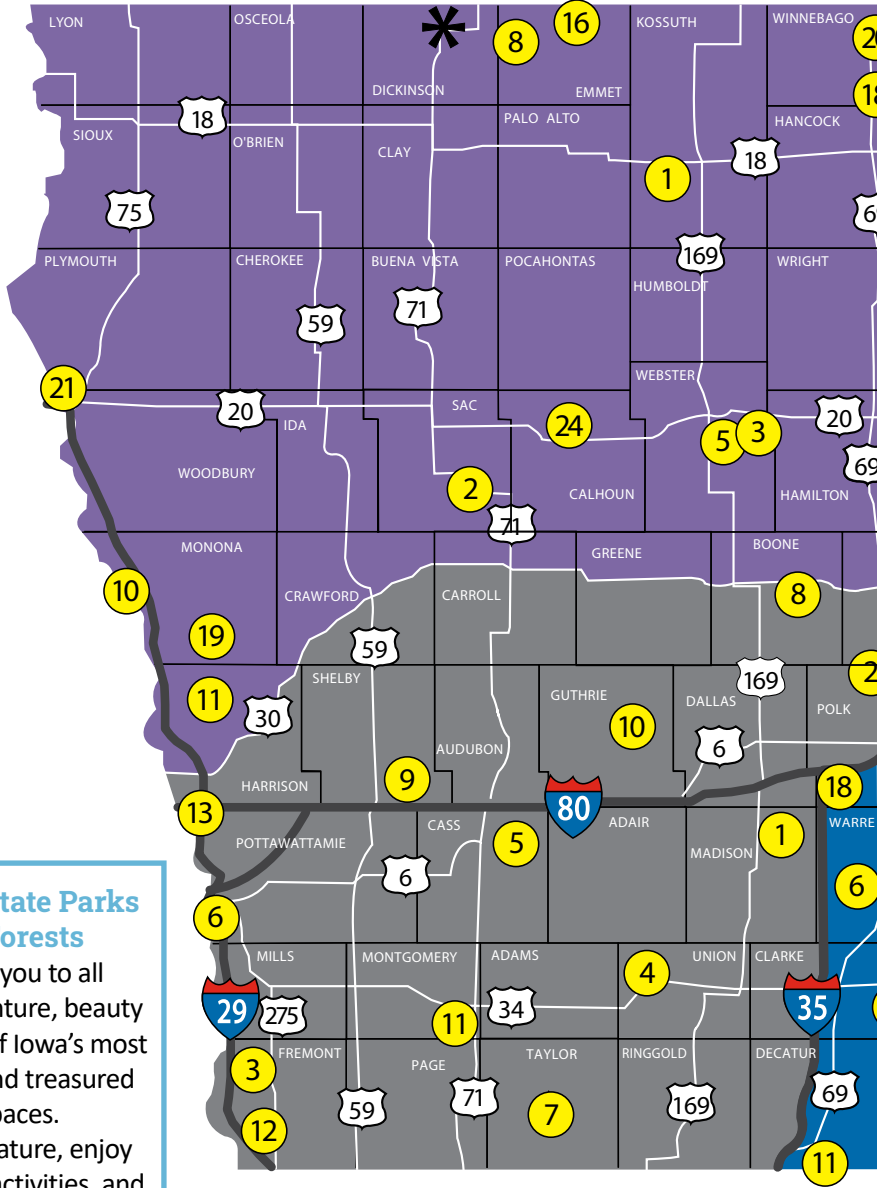


IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
2024

IOWADNR.GO

# NORTHWEST (pages 8–11)

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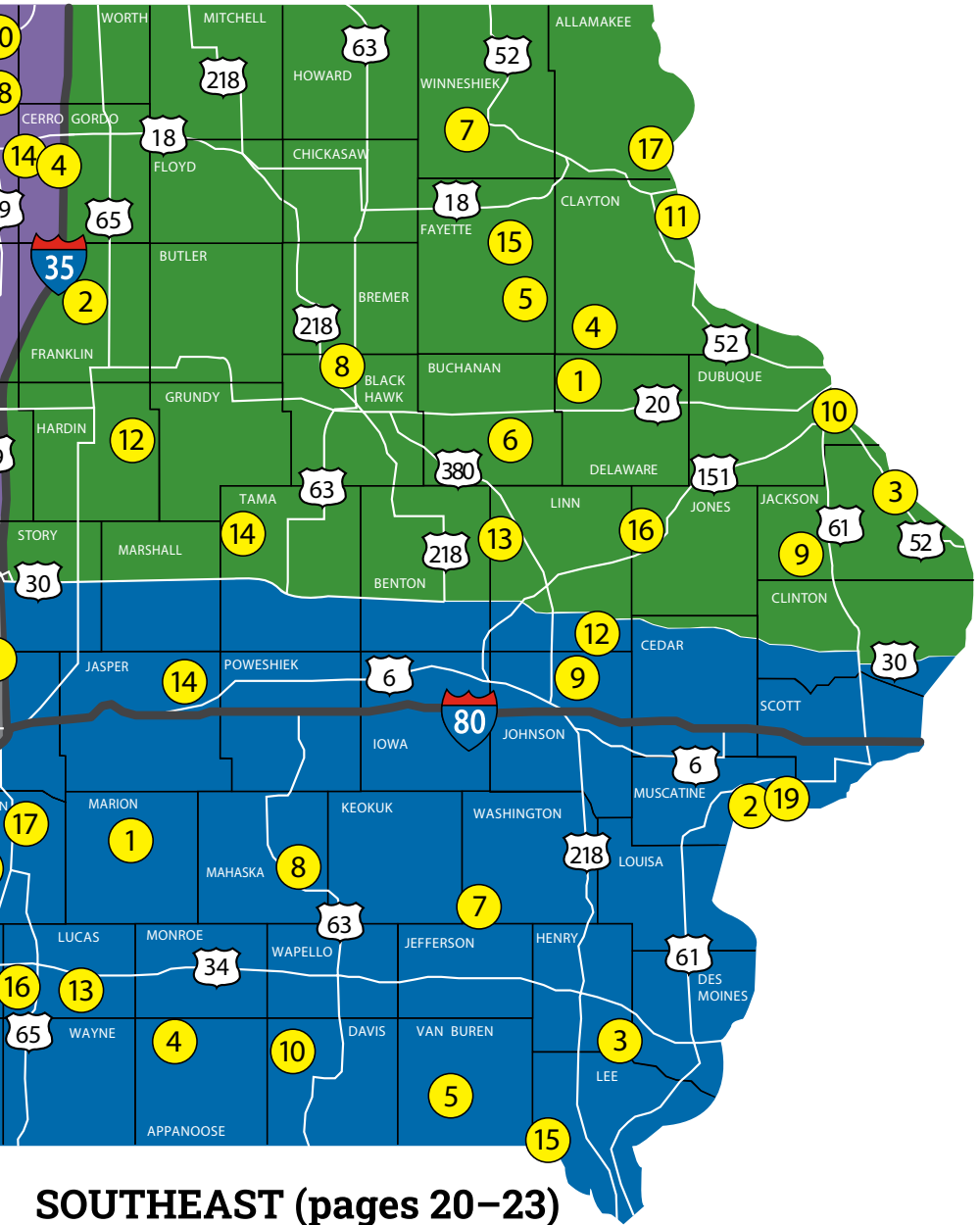


## Iowa State Parks and Forests

welcome you to all the adventure, beauty and fun of Iowa's most unique and treasured natural spaces. Explore nature, enjoy outdoor activities, and make memories in Iowa's 69 state parks and 4 state forests.

# SOUTHWEST (pages 12–15)

# NORTHEAST (pages 16–19)



# SOUTHEAST (pages 20–23)

## PLAN YOUR STAY

The best place to start is the website: [iowadnr.gov/stateparks](http://iowadnr.gov/stateparks) to pick a park, find maps and reserve a cabin, campsite, lodge or shelter. You also can learn about each state park's history, features and amenities.

## RESERVATIONS:

Whether you are planning a weekend camping trip, family vacation, wedding or reunion, Iowa state parks and forests offer several facility options to meet your needs.

**Cabins:** Stay in one of more than 90 cabins, including year-round, rustic camping cabins, yurts and more. Many cabins offer full kitchens and can accommodate varying party sizes. Cabins can be rented for a minimum of a 2-night stay during the off-season, and for a variety of lengths of stays during the summer.

**Lodges and Shelters:** Reserve a lodge for your next special event. Lodges are enclosed structures, many historic, that normally include electricity, water, restrooms and a kitchen. Or enjoy an open-air shelter for a day-use family gathering. Iowa state parks have 29 lodges and 157 shelters available to reserve.

**Campsites:** Enjoy an overnight stay in a tent or RV. A few things to know:

- Reservations can be made online for most campsites up to 3 months in advance, with limited walk-in availability on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Facilities vary from park-to-park. Most campsites have picnic tables and fire rings. Many campgrounds offer full-hook up amenities for RVs, pull-through sites, electricity and modern shower facilities.

# MAKE A RESERVATION

Go to:

**[iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com](http://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com)**  
to make a reservation and  
find specific amenities for each  
park and facility.



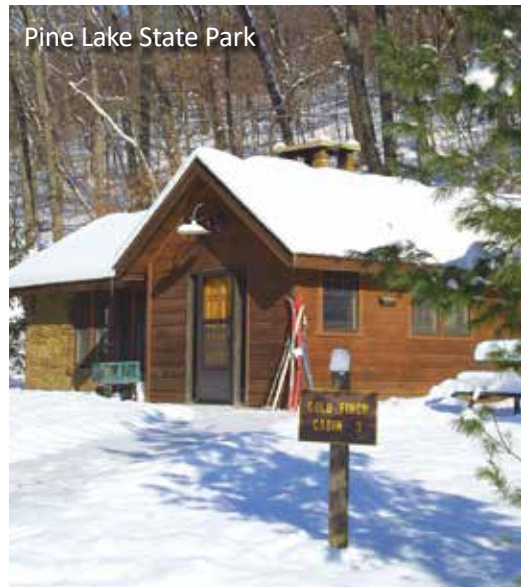
Prairie Rose State Park

Some parks offer a more rustic experience with pit toilets but no shower facilities. Be sure to check the reservation website when planning your visit.

- Other unique camping opportunities include 100 percent reservable/same-day reservation sites.

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

Iowa state parks want to keep visitors safe and your experience enjoyable. Please follow posted rules and learn more at [iowadnr.gov/stateparks](http://iowadnr.gov/stateparks).



Pine Lake State Park

# HOW DO YOU DO THE OUTDOORS?

HIKE A TRAIL



Whatever your favorite pastime or outdoor pursuit, Iowa state parks are your gateway to fun, adventure and relaxation. **EXPLORE IOWA STATE PARKS YOUR WAY!**

PITCH A TENT



ENJOY THE VIEW



PLAN A PICNIC



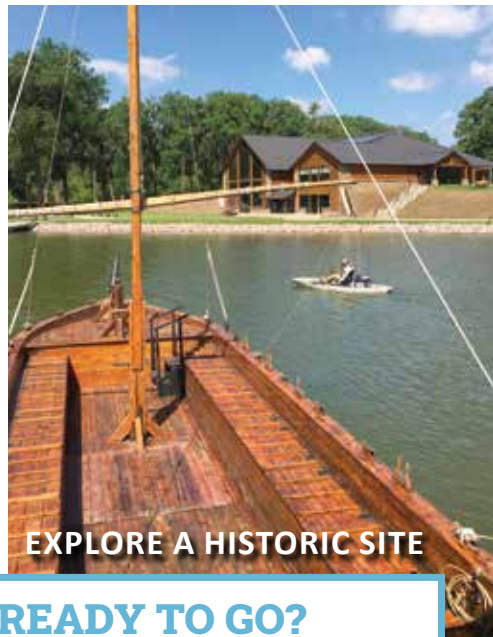
**MAKE FAMILY MEMORIES**



**STAND UP  
AND PADDLE**



**DISCOVER  
WILDFLOWERS**



**EXPLORE A HISTORIC SITE**

**READY TO GO?**

**Use this guide to discover  
Iowa state parks and their  
amenities by region.  
Or visit [iowadnr.gov/stateparks](http://iowadnr.gov/stateparks).**

# NORTHWEST



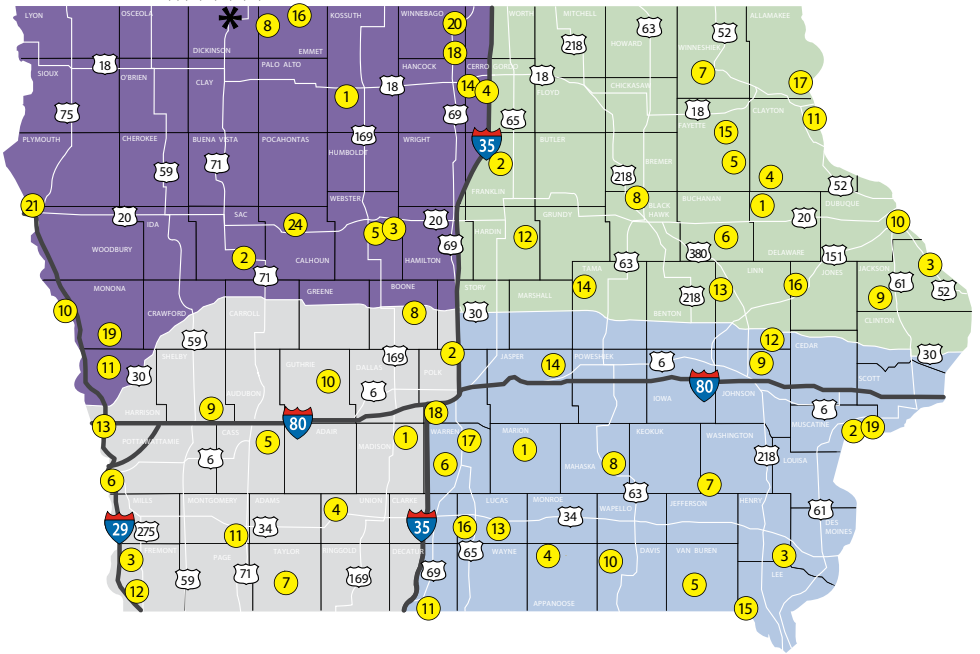
Loess Hills State Forest

**E**xplore the prairies, forests and lakes of northwest Iowa when you visit state parks. One of Iowa's most popular tourist destinations, the Great Lakes region, is home to a dozen state parks and recreation areas, including **Gull Point State Park** on the shore of Lake Okoboji. Travel to the western border to find **Stone State Park** near Sioux City, a natural enclave on the edge of a city, along with **Loess Hills State Forest**, both showcasing the

unique Loess Hills terrain of the region. Iowa's natural lake parks, including **Black Hawk State Park** and **Clear Lake State Park**, offer plentiful boating and fishing opportunities. Climb a CCC-era tower at **Pilot Knob State Park** in northern Iowa. And in the heart of Iowa's prairies, find hidden gems with geological discoveries at **Ledges State Park** and **Dolliver Memorial State Park**. These are just a few of the areas to explore in northwest Iowa.



6,7,9,12,13,15,17,22,23



Brushy Creek State Recreation Area



Pilot Knob State Park





# SOUTHWEST

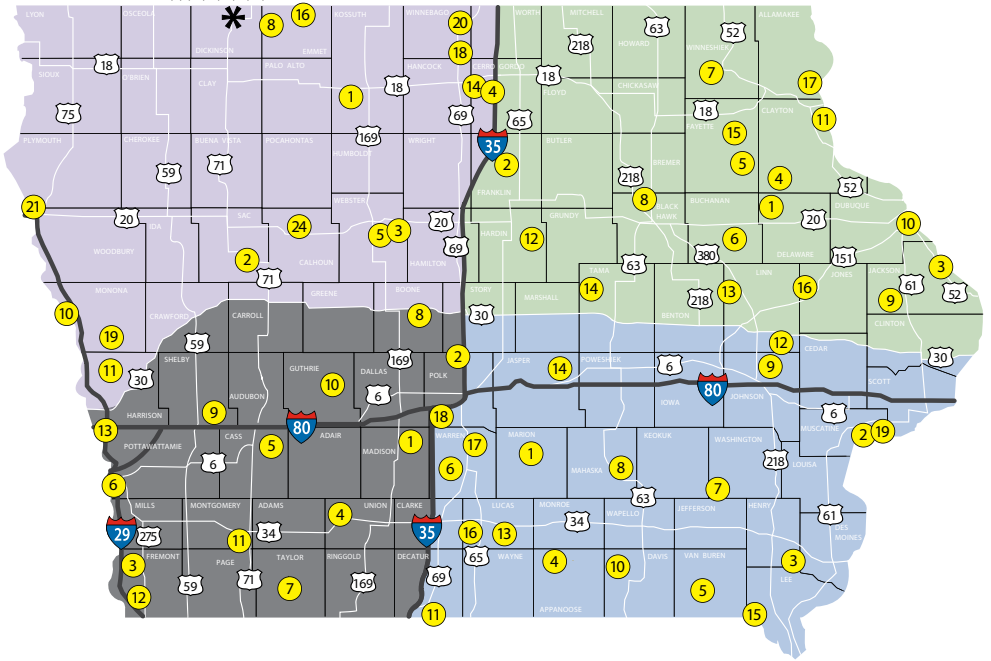


Green Valley State Park

Enjoy lake recreation, popular campgrounds and scenic hills in the state parks of southwest Iowa. Journey to the farthest corner of the region to explore **Waubonsie State Park**, with some of Iowa's most spectacular Loess Hills trails and views. Fish, boat and enjoy outdoor recreation opportunities at

popular **Green Valley State Park**, **Lake Manawa State Park**, or **Viking Lake State Park**. Experience CCC-era lodges and bridges at **Springbrook State Park** and **Lake of Three Fires State Park**. Travel to central Iowa to visit Iowa's largest beach at **Big Creek State Park**. These are just a few of the areas to visit in southwest Iowa.

6,7,9,12,13,15,17,22,23



Lake Anita State Park



Springbrook State Park





# NORTHEAST

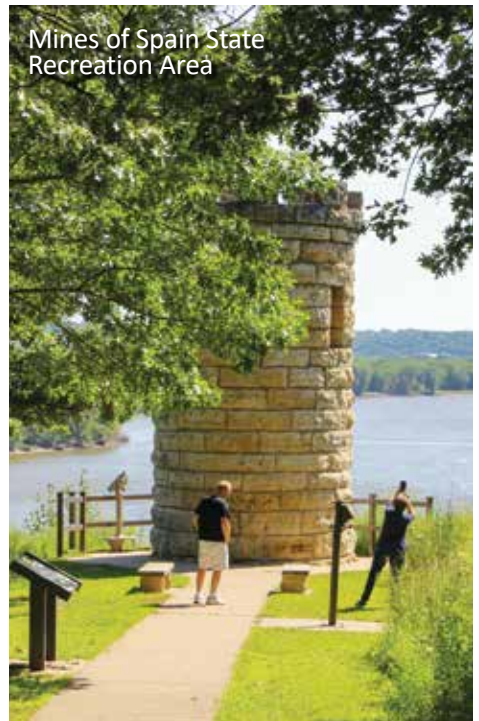
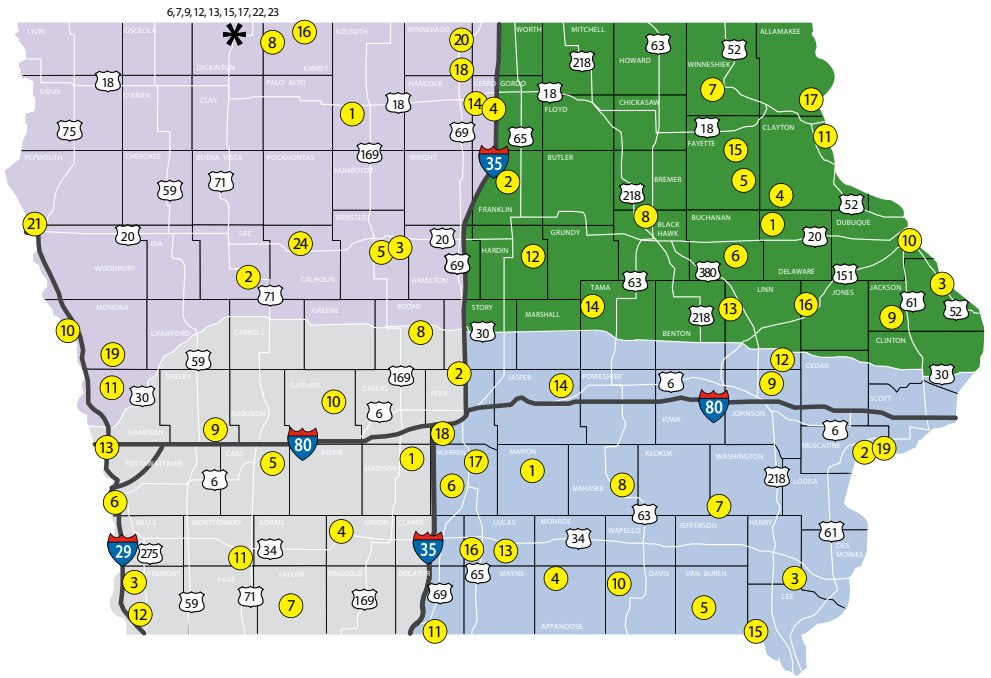


Cedar Rock  
Photo by: Emiline Leone

**S**cenic byways, stunning views and natural wonders mark the state parks and forests of northeast Iowa. **Backbone State Park** is a gem in the park system as the oldest state park, featuring trout streams, trails, rocky terrain, and historic CCC-era structures. Meander to the Mississippi River for breathtaking overlooks at **Pikes Peak State Park** and **Bellevue State Park**. Enjoy a historical monument

at **Mines of Spain State Recreation Area** near Dubuque honoring one of Iowa's earliest settlers. Hike on miles of backcountry trails in **Yellow River State Forest** and **Volga River State Recreation Area**. Stay in a cozy cabin in **Pine Lake State Park**, or trek through **Maquoketa Caves State Park**, home to some of Iowa's most unique caves and rock formations. These are just a few of the areas to discover in northeast Iowa.





# NORTHEAST



1	<b>Backbone</b> (2000 acres) Dundee. 563-924-2527	●				5Y, 11Y	○	5	●	C, M, S	●	B, P	●	85A	B, R
2	<b>Beeds Lake</b> (319 acres) Hampton. 641-456-2047	●						2	●	B, C		B, P	●	99A	R
3	<b>Bellevue</b> (770 acres) Bellevue. 563-872-4019	●						4	●	B, C		P	●		R
4	<b>Bixby Preserve</b> (184 acres) Edgewood. 563-924-2527														
5	<b>Brush Creek Canyon Preserve</b> (217 acres)   Arlington. 563-425-4161														
6	<b>Cedar Rock</b> (423 acres) Independence. 319-934-3572														
7	<b>Fort Atkinson Preserve</b> (5 acres) Ft. Atkinson. 563-425-4161														
8	<b>George Wyth Memorial</b> (1200 acres) Cedar Falls. 319-232-5505	●						3	○	B, C, M		B, P	●	260A	B, R

Rugged woodland with stream, ice cave and trails. No camping.

Forested steep wooded terrain with diversity of habitats, flora and fauna. No camping. Snowmobile trails available.

Frank Lloyd Wright designed home. Call or email cedar\_rock@dnr.iowa.gov to reserve a tour Memorial Day weekend–Oct. **Visitor Center and Walter House are ADA friendly, boat house and council fire are not accessible.**

Reconstructed fort built in 1840.



# SOUTHEAST

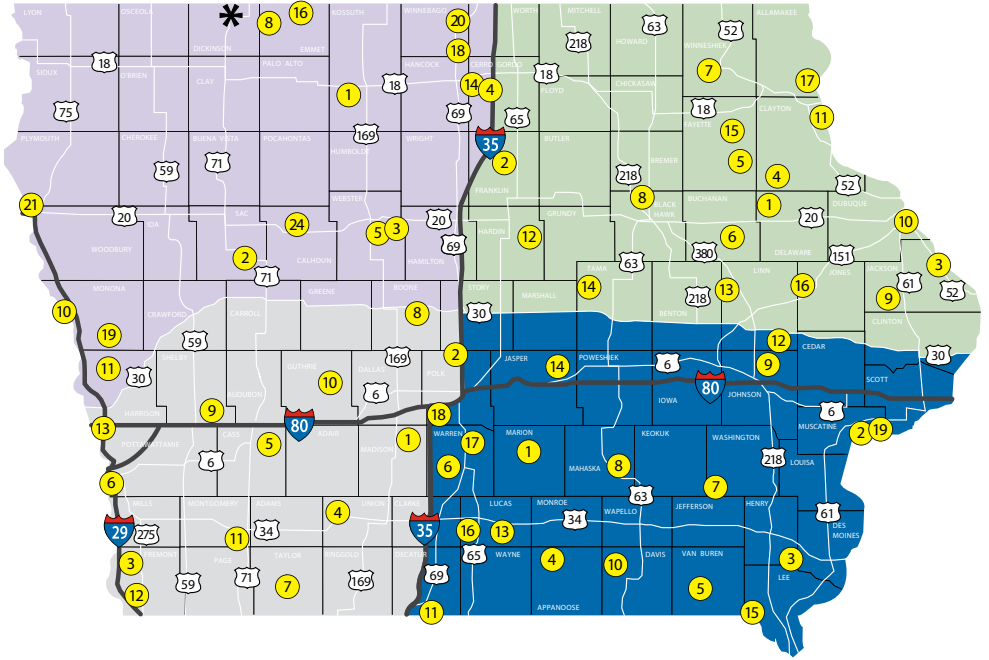


Lacey Keosauqua State Park

**T**he rolling hills of southeast Iowa are home to some of Iowa's oldest and most scenic state parks and forests. **Lacey-Keosauqua State Park** is the site of a river crossing on the Mormon Trek, along with forests and trails to explore. **Wildcat Den State Park** features the oldest-running grist mill west of the Mississippi River. Travel to **Lake Darling State Park** to

stay in a cabin, or visit **Lake Wapello** to see a one-of-a-kind CCC-era beach house. In the central part of the state, explore **Walnut Woods State Park** and **Lake Ahquabi State Park** as easily accessible state parks to the Des Moines metro area. Get lost in the woods in **Stephens and Shimek State Forests**. These are just a few of the areas to enjoy in southeast Iowa.

6,7,9,12,13,15,17,22,23



Lake Macbride State Park



Maquoketa Caves State Park

# SOUTHEAST



1	<b>Elk Rock (Red Rock)</b> (850 acres) Knoxville. 641-842-6008	●	●	1	●	M, S	●	P	●	19,000R	R
2	<b>Fairport</b> (17 acres) Muscatine. 563-263-3197	●						P	●		R
3	<b>Geode</b> (1641 acres) Danville. 319-392-4601	●		4	●	M		B, P	●	200A	R
4	<b>Honey Creek (Rathbun)</b> (828 acres) Moravia. 641-724-3739	●			●	S			●	11,000R	R
5	<b>Lacey-Keosauqua</b> (1653 acres) Keosauqua. 319-293-3502	●		2	●	B, C		B, P	●	22A	R
6	<b>Lake Ahquabi</b> (770 acres) Indianola. 515-961-7101	●		3	●	C, M, S		B	●	115A	B, R
7	<b>Lake Darling</b> (1387 acres) Brighton. 319-694-2323	●		2	●	B, C, M, S		B, P	●	299A	B, R
8	<b>Lake Keomah</b> (366 acres) Oskaloosa. 641-673-6975	●		2	●	C, S		B	●	84A	R





Palisades-Kepler State Park



[iowadnr.gov/stateparks](http://iowadnr.gov/stateparks)  
[iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com](http://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com)  
1-877-PARKS (427-2757)