

# Black Hawk County Parks Guide

Black Hawk County, IA



# Welcome!



I would like to welcome you to Black Hawk County Conservation parks and recreational areas. Our mission is to enhance the quality of life and stimulate economic development in Black Hawk County by providing open space, outdoor recreation, education and resource management. Black Hawk County Conservation maintains nearly 9,000 acres including river accesses, public gun & archery ranges, wetlands, wildlife areas, prairies, parks, campgrounds, cabins, lodges, bike trails, geological sites, wildlife exhibits and a nature center.

We strive to offer our visitors a wide variety of recreational opportunities, programs and quality services. Our organization continues to meet the challenges of a changing world and I invite you to explore our impressive natural and developed areas.

Black Hawk County is unique with its seamless merging of metropolitan areas with natural areas. You don't have to travel far from the luxuries of modern amenities to have a wilderness or outdoor experience. We believe you will find Black Hawk County to be a recreational destination meeting the recreational needs for a variety of outdoor enthusiasts.

Black Hawk County Conservation welcomes you and we look forward to providing you with an enjoyable and memorable recreational experience.

With regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Executive Director  
Black Hawk County Conservation



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*For detailed listings and photos of our parks, natural areas, and facilities, or to view a video tour of all Black Hawk County areas Visit - [www.BlackHawkCountyParks.com](http://www.BlackHawkCountyParks.com)*



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# Big Woods Lake Campground

1501 E. Lake Street, Cedar Falls, IA 50613

This campground is a partnership between the City of Cedar Falls and Black Hawk County Conservation. Big Woods Lake Campground sits on the bank of a 65 acre lake that offers no wake boating and fishing. Wrapping around the lake is the Cedar Valley Trail System that offers trail connections to historical downtown Cedar Falls and makes it easy to explore the Cedar River. Bring your bikes, boats, and fishing poles and plan your next getaway at Big Woods Lake Campground!

## Trails & Sports

- Paved trail circling the lake
- Connects to the Cedar Valley Trails network:
  - Black Hawk Park
  - George Wyth State Park
  - Downtown Cedar Falls
- Disc golf course
  - 18 holes and shaded



## Cabins

- Big Woods Lake Cabin (sleeps 6)
  - Complete kitchen, bathroom, & living room
  - Master bedroom w/queen bed
  - Second bedroom w/2 sets of bunk beds
  - Heated and air conditioned
  - Sofa, TV, and DVD player
- 2 Rustic-Style Cabins (Each sleeps 6)
  - Kitchenette w/sink, cold running water, dorm size fridge, microwave and hot plate, two sets of bunk beds
  - Booth style table converts to another bed



## Camping

- 53 Full hookup sites
  - Level Pads
  - 30 and 50 amp outlets
- Space for tents and electric only sites.
- Boating (no-wake)
- 2 boat ramps
- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- 10 Sites available for reservation online
- Free WiFi

## Lake

- 65 acres
- Boating (no-wake)
- Kayaking
- Canoeing
- 2 boat ramps
- Canoe/Kayak Launch



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# Big Woods Lake Campground

1501 E LAKE ST,  
CEDAR FALLS, IA 50613

**Legend**

- Shower House
- Tent Area
- Cabin
- Ranger Residence

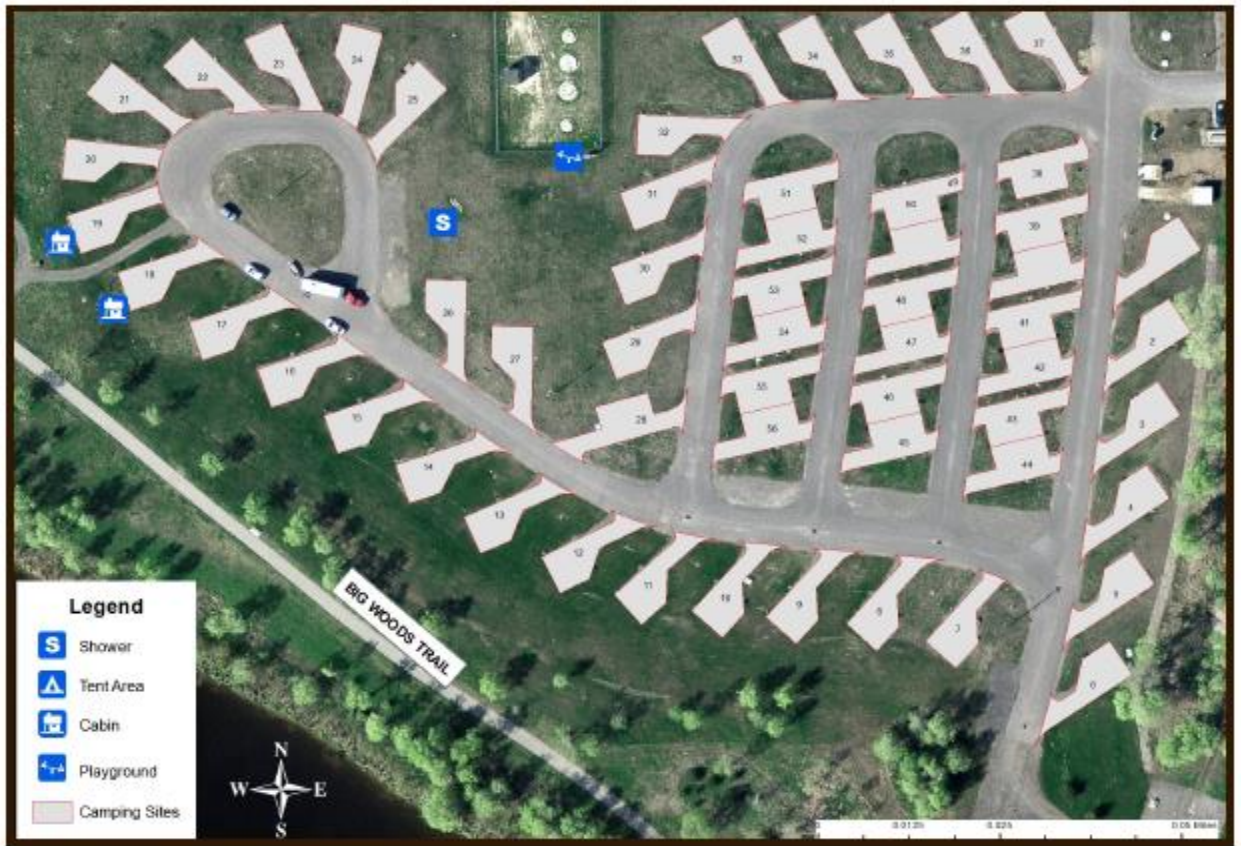
**Reservable**

- Camp Host
- Yes
- No
- Park Boundary



**Legend**

- Shower
- Tent Area
- Cabin
- Playground
- Camping Sites





# Black Hawk Park

2410 W. Lone Tree Road, Cedar Falls, IA 50613



Located only minutes from historical downtown Cedar Falls, Black Hawk Park is situated on the banks of the Cedar River and offers visitors a variety of recreational opportunities in a natural setting close to the metropolitan area. Black Hawk Park features two campgrounds, a group camp area, gun ranges, a trap shooting range, an archery range, boat ramp to the Cedar River, and multiple shelters as well as several picnic areas to relax and enjoy the scenic views of the river. In addition, the park is connected to the Cedar Valley Trail System, which includes well over 100 miles of hard-surfaced trails connecting Cedar Falls/Waterloo and the Cedar Valley Nature Trail to Cedar Rapids.

## Camping

### Fogdall Campground

- 13 Electric sites
- 21 Full hookup
- Dump station
- Shower house



### Cedar Campground

- 176 Electric sites
- Multiple tent sites
- Shower house

\*No camping reservations available

### Snag Creek Group Camp

- 24 RV or tent sites

## Trails & Sports

- Public hunting (designated area)
- Basketball court
- Volleyball court
- Gun, Trap & Archery ranges
- Fishing
- Multi-use trail-Connects to historic downtown Cedar Falls.

BlackHawkCountyParks.com



## Shelters

### • Picnic Shelters

- Cottonwood Shelter (seats 100)
- Riverview Shelter (seats 150)
- Wood Duck Shelter (seats 100)

- All shelters have playground equipment, pit toilet restroom facilities and grills near them.
- Cottonwood and Riverview Shelter areas also offer sand volleyball courts.

\*Shelters are on a first come, first served basis. No shelter reservations available.



## Gun/Archery Ranges

Ranges are open 9am-Sunset

- 15, 25, 50, 100 & 200-yard firearm ranges  
Only cardboard targets allowed;  
available at entrance to park
- Trap shooting range-Shotguns Only
- 10, 20, 30, 40 & 50-yard Archery targets



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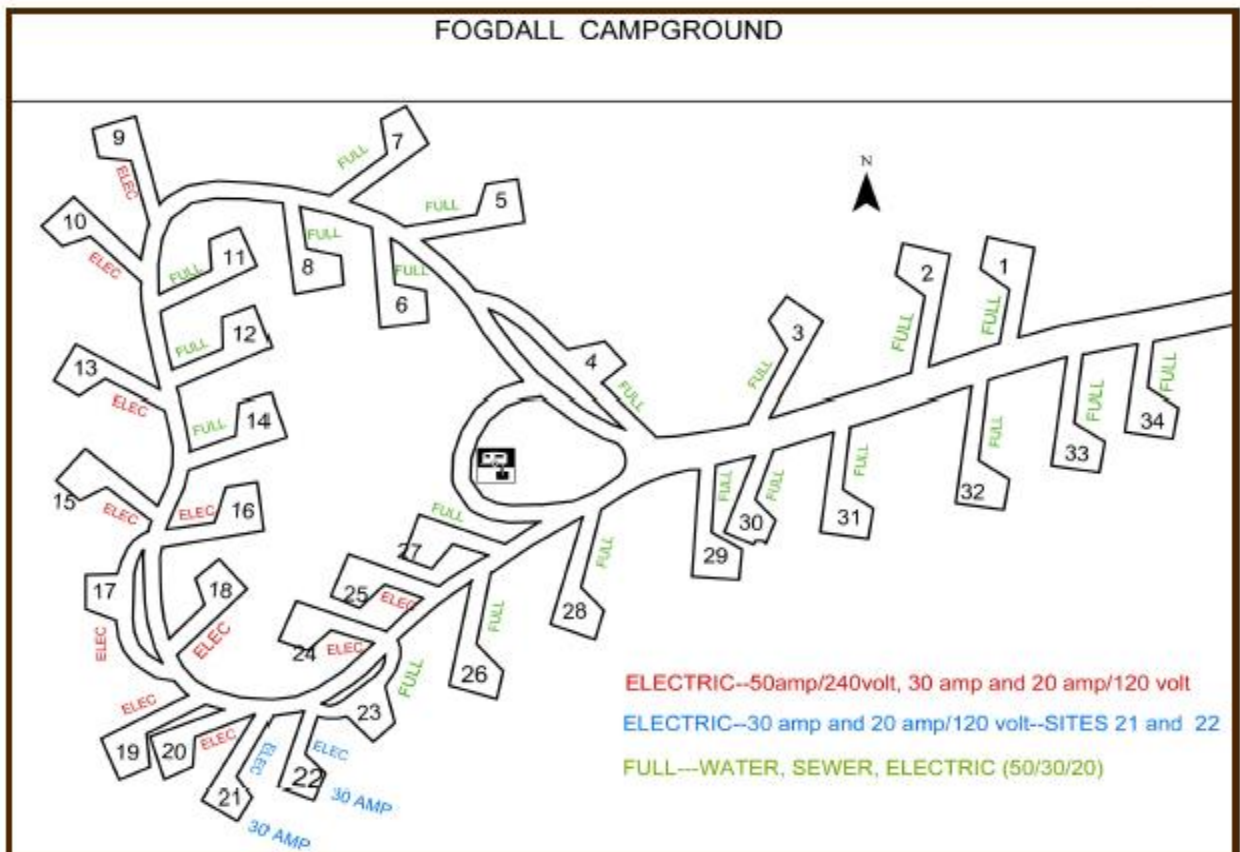
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# Hartman Reserve Nature Center

657 Reserve Drive, Cedar Falls, IA 50613 (319) 277-2187

Monday—Friday, 8:00am—4:30pm and Sundays 1:00pm—5:00pm



Hartman Reserve Nature Center is a 340 acre wooded oasis located in the heart of Metropolitan Black Hawk County. This area extends from an upland bluff, overlooking the Cedar River, down to the banks of the river. Within the forest area, there is a series of ponds, vernal depressions, remnant prairie, open meadows, and the largest tract of upland forest in the County. This high quality woodland is home to a wide variety of plants and animals. Visit the Interpretive Center to learn about the various ecosystems, plants and animals that can be found within the 340 acres. Be sure to visit the live animal exhibits.

## Programs

Visit [www.BlackHawkCountyParks.com](http://www.BlackHawkCountyParks.com) and click on the "Events" tab for a full listing of current public programs being offered for adults and youth.



Hartman Reserve has been designated as an Iowa Watchable Wildlife Site and an Important Bird Area. In addition, the *Hartman Bluff State Preserve* is certified by the Iowa DNR Preserves Board to recognize the significance of the 46 acre tract of upland and lowland forest.

## Events

**Maple Syrup Festival** - This festival is held the first full weekend in March each year. Join us for an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast. See the tapped Maple trees, collect sap, and watch a demonstration on how the sap is boiled into syrup.

**Halloween Hikes** - Designed to delight families, youth groups, scouts and kids of all ages. This guided, light-hearted adventure is complete with illuminated trails and nature related stories. Guests may also enjoy tasty treats.

**Under the Harvest Moon** - An annual fundraiser to support Black Hawk County Conservation efforts. Guests enjoy a catered meal, live and silent auctions.



Hartman Reserve Nature Center

## Trails & Sports

- Multiple hiking trails
- Bird watching
- Snowshoeing
- Cross-Country Skiing



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-John C. Hartman, 1938

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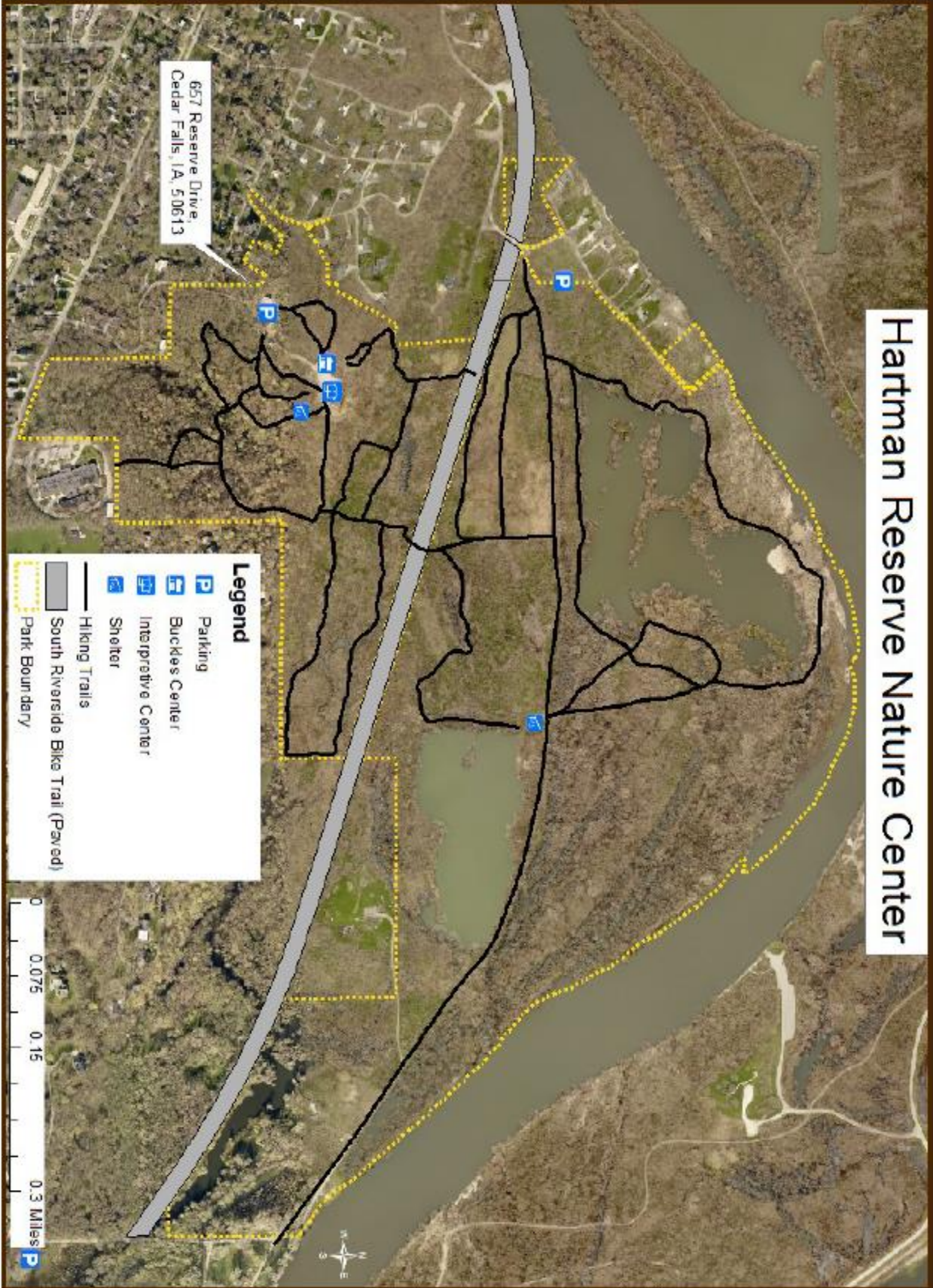
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# Hartman Reserve Nature Center





# Hickory Hills Park

3338 Hickory Hills Road, La Porte City, IA 50651



Strategically located between Waterloo, La Porte City, and Dysart, Hickory Hills Park offers natural beauty and diverse recreational opportunities. Learn about the area on a hike around Casey's Paha, visit the live animal display or spend the day on the water of Casey Lake. Stay the weekend or the week in the modern campground, reserve a cozy cabin, or book a special event at the Lakeview Lodge. Plan your get-a-away today!

## Camping

- 82 Electric sites
  - 27 Full hookup
- On-premise dump station
- Shower house & storm shelter
- 20 sites available for reservation online
- Group camping
  - 20 RVs or tents



## Cabins & Shelters

- 4 All-Season Cabins (each sleeps 6)
  - Complete kitchen, bathroom, living room
  - Master bedroom w/queen bed
  - Second bedroom w/2 sets of bunk beds
  - Heated and air conditioned
  - Sofa, TV, and DVD player
- 3 Rustic-Style Cabins (each sleeps 6)
  - Kitchenette w/sink, cold running water, dorm size fridge, microwave and hot plate
  - Two cabins have 3 sets of bunk beds
  - One cabin has 2 sets of bunk beds and a booth style table that converts to another bed
- Picnic Shelters  
(First come, first served or reserve in advance)
  - Archer's Shelter (seats 150)
  - Hickory Shelter (seats 150)
  - Sunset Shelter (gazebo, seats 25)
- Convention Facility
  - Lakeview Lodge



Hickory Hills Park

## Trails & Sports

- Public hunting areas
- Basketball court
- Volleyball court
- Disc golf course
- Mowed trails
- Playgrounds
- Fishing
- Boating (electric motors only)

## Casey Lake

Casey Lake is a 39 acre lake famous for bass, catfish, crappie and bluegill fishing. The lake offers a boat ramp as well as a canoe/kayak launch. Casey Lake is open to electric motor boats, kayaks, canoes, and paddle-boats.



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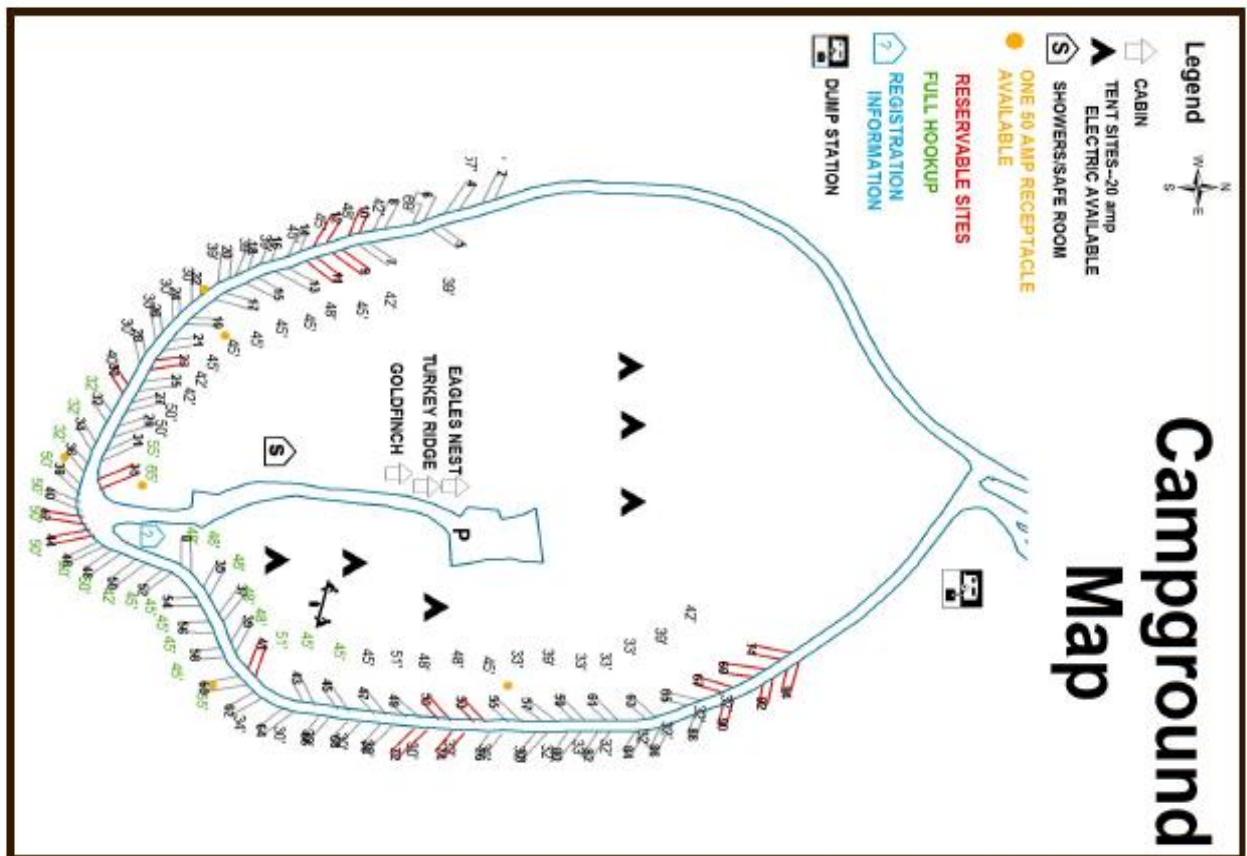
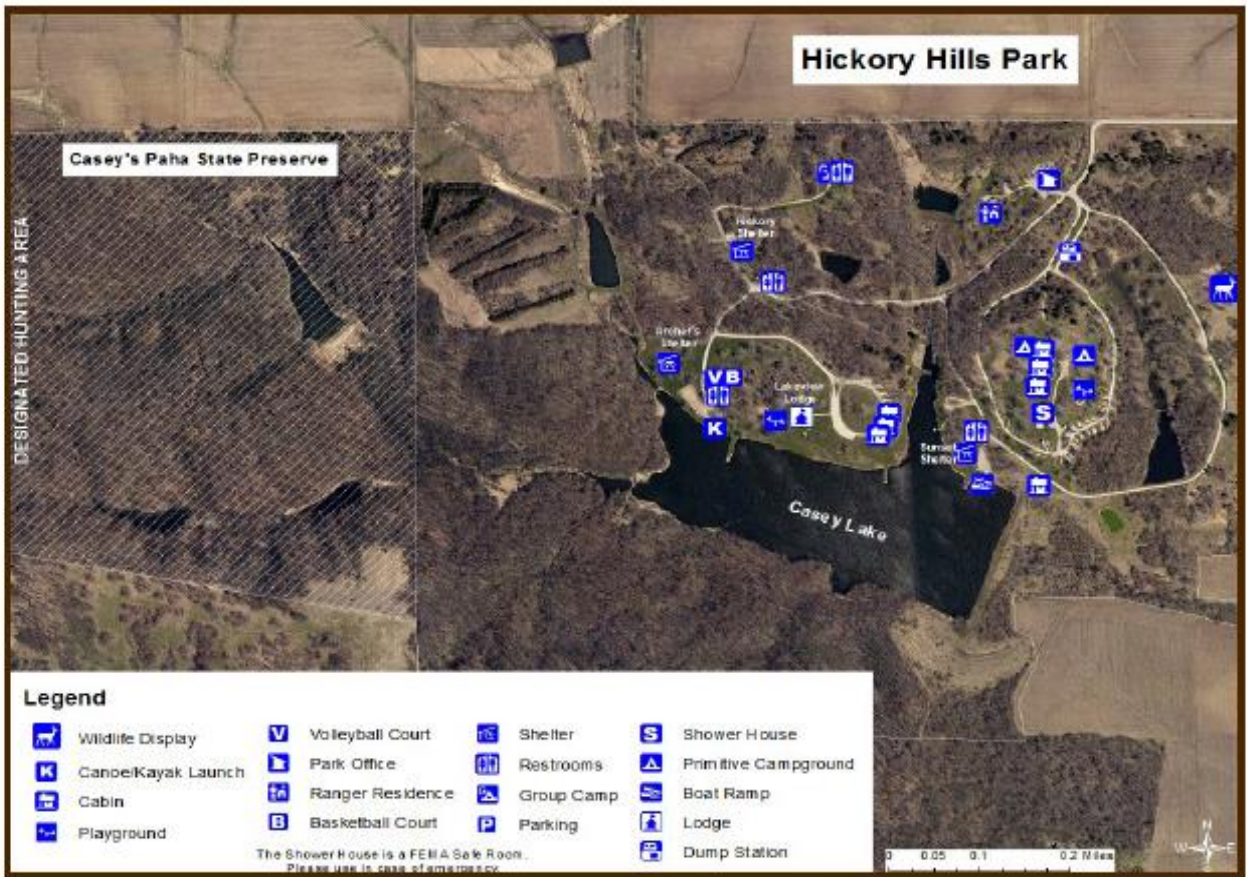
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# McFarlane Park



McFarlane Park

13619 King Road, La Porte City, IA 50651

Located southeast of downtown La Porte City, McFarlane Park is a beautiful 150 acre timbered park named after a local conservationist, Arch McFarlane. The park serves as a trailhead for the 52 mile Cedar Valley Nature Trail which represents the first rail to trail conversion in the state of Iowa. Nestled on the banks of the Cedar River, McFarlane Park offers river access for boating, fishing, kayaking, and canoeing.

## Camping

- 64 Electric sites plus tent sites
- On-premise dump station
- Shower house & storm shelter
- 2 Group camping areas
  - 16 electric sites plus tent sites in each group area
- 19 sites available for reservation online
- Free WiFi



## Cabin & Shelter

- Wolf Creek Rustic-Style Cabin (sleeps 6)
  - Kitchenette w/sink, cold running water, dorm size fridge, microwave & hot plate
  - Two sets of bunk beds
  - Booth style table converts to another bed
- McFarlane Shelter -Seats 200
  - Available on a first come, first served basis or reserve in advance



## Cedar Valley Nature Trail

Part of the National American Discovery Trail, the Cedar Valley Nature Trail bisects many miles of natural habitat representing Iowa's historical and current landscapes. The diversity of habitat provides a corridor for wildlife, especially bird species. The trail also connects numerous Black Hawk County Conservation wildlife areas. Plan your stay at McFarlane Park and be sure to include a ride or stroll on your itinerary.

## Sports

- Public hunting (designated area)
- Basketball court
- Volleyball court
- Playground
- Horse Shoe pits
- Disc golf course



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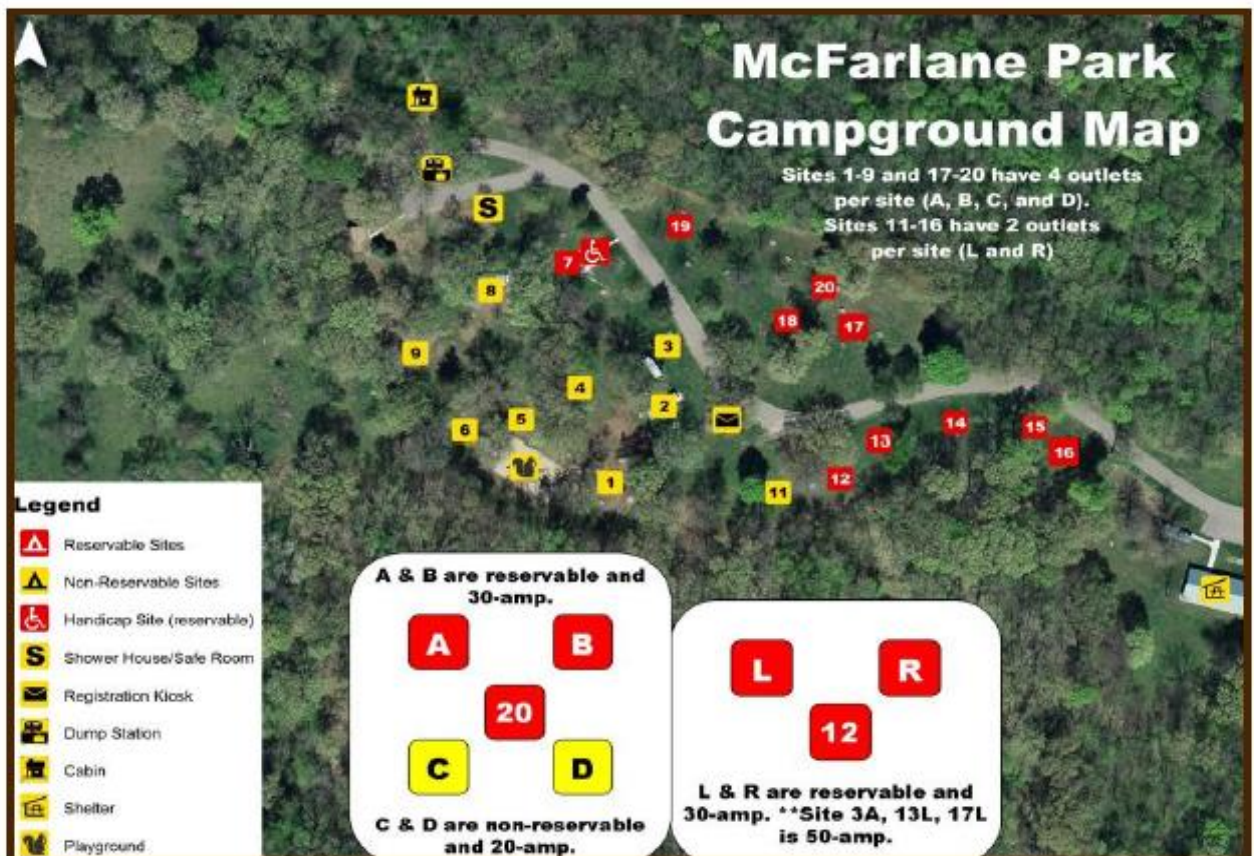
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# Siggelkow Park

9905 Fairbank Road, Fairbank, IA 50629

Scenic Siggelkow Park is located on the banks of the Wapsipinicon River north of Dunkerton. This park offers visitors a secluded, rustic camping experience. If you prefer primitive camping experiences, this is the place for you.



## Camping

- 20 Electric sites
- Lots of room for tents
- On-premise dump station



## Sports

- Fishing
- Horse Shoe Pits
- Kayaking/Canoeing

## Shelter



- Siggelkow Shelter is an open air shelter providing a space for your gathering out of the sun and/or rain. The shelter is available for use on a first come, first served basis.

## Watertrail

Siggelkow Park is the first launch location in Black Hawk County for the Wapsipinicon Water trail. It offers sandy beaches from which to start or end your trip. Siggelkow Park to Wapsi Bluff Wildlife Area is a half day trip for a paddler with beginner to intermediate skills. Find more information and brochures about all of Iowa's Water Trails at; [www.IowaDNR.gov](http://www.IowaDNR.gov)

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# Meeting & Banquet Spaces



Lakeview Lodge

Black Hawk County offers several venues perfect for weddings, wedding receptions, family reunions, business meetings, graduation parties, birthday parties and much, much more. See pages 8-9 "Features" to review all the amenities each venue offers including seating capacity.

Take a virtual tour of the venues at [www.BlackHawkCountyParks.com](http://www.BlackHawkCountyParks.com)



Hartman Community Room



Airline Community Room



Rotary Reserve Lodge



Buckles Center

These venues may be reserved by calling the contact numbers listed on pages 8-9.

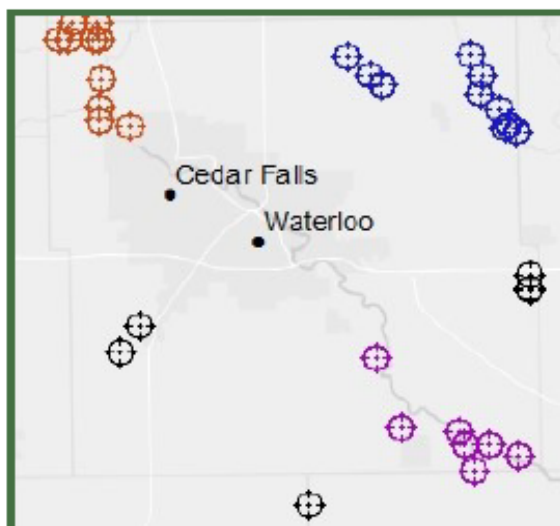
Portable Recycling Bins can be checked out for your event through the Waste Trac Education Team. Visit [www.wastetrac.org/event-recycling](http://www.wastetrac.org/event-recycling) for more details.



# Hunting & Natural Areas

## Northeast

- Bruce Childs Wildlife Area
- Bruggeman Wildlife Area
- Crane Creek Access
- Rigdon Wildlife Area
- River Birch Bottoms Wildlife Area
- Sage Sanctuary
- Segebarth Wildlife Area
- Wapsi Bend Wildlife Area
- Wapsi Bluff Wildlife Area
- Wilson's Woods



## Southeast



- Brett Klima Wildlife Area
- Cedar Island Wildlife Area
- Cedar River Access
- Cedar River Natural Resource Area
- McFarlane Park (Designated areas)
- Popp Wildlife Area
- Spring Creek Flats
- Twin Springs Natural Area

## Northwest

- Falls Access
- Black Hawk Park (Designated areas)
- Cornelius Access
- Beaver Creek Access
- Marquis Road Access
- Potratz Natural Area  
-Bow Hunting Only
- Railroad Lake Access
- Thunderwoman Wildlife Area  
-Bow Hunting Only
- Turkey Ridge Wildlife Area
- Washington Union Access
- West Fork Wildlife Area
- Winslow Road Access
- Rotary Reserve (Designated areas)



## Other Areas

- Edgerton Reserve
- Fox Township Wildlife Area
- Franta Wildlife Area
- Hickory Hills (Designated areas)
- Blackhawk Greenbelt (Designated areas)



## Gun and Archery Ranges

- Black Hawk Park (9am -Sunset)
- Cedar River Natural Resource Area (9am-7pm or Sunset whichever comes first)

Before you go!  
Hunting is licensed and regulated by State, County, and City law. Be sure you have checked all regulations and have acquired all necessary licenses before you go!

*For printable maps of all areas, visit; [www.BlackHawkCountyParks.com](http://www.BlackHawkCountyParks.com) and simply click on "Parks", choose the area in which you are interested in and click the link at the bottom of the page for a PDF aerial map of that area.*



# Park Rules & Regulations

A full listing of all Black Hawk County Conservation Rules & Regulations can be found at [www.BlackHawkCountyParks.com](http://www.BlackHawkCountyParks.com). The following is just a portion of the rules & regulations that apply to all Black Hawk County parks;

- Parks are open daily from 6:00am—10:30pm
- Campground quiet hours are from 9:30pm—7:00am
- All pets must be on a leash, 6' or shorter in all areas
- All fires must be in provided rings or grills only
- No driving off of designated roadways
- Hard Liquor is NOT allowed in any Black Hawk County area



## Printable Maps & Virtual Tours

Visit; [www.BlackHawkCountyParks.com](http://www.BlackHawkCountyParks.com) to view, download and print aerial maps of any Black Hawk County Conservation area. Simply click on "Parks", choose the area in which you would like more information on then click the link at the bottom of the page for a PDF aerial map for that area.

Virtual Tours are available for the meeting & banquet spaces as well as the cabins. You may view the tours at [www.BlackHawkCountyParks.com](http://www.BlackHawkCountyParks.com) by clicking on "facilities", choose the facility that you would like to view then click the link for the virtual tour.



Swans at Beaver Valley Wetlands  
Photo By John Shepard

*For detailed listings and photos of our parks, natural areas, and facilities, or to view a video tour of all Black Hawk County areas visit-*  
**[www.BlackHawkCountyParks.com](http://www.BlackHawkCountyParks.com)**



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Cover Photo of Casey Lake at Hickory Hills Park



**Black Hawk County Conservation**