



BACKBONE STATE PARK

EXPLORE IOWA STATE PARKS!

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

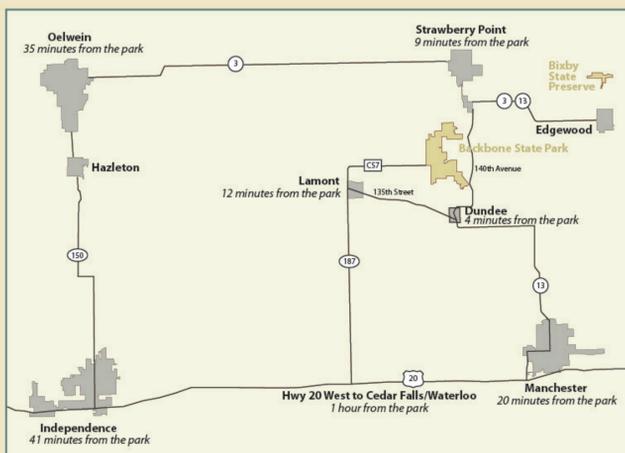
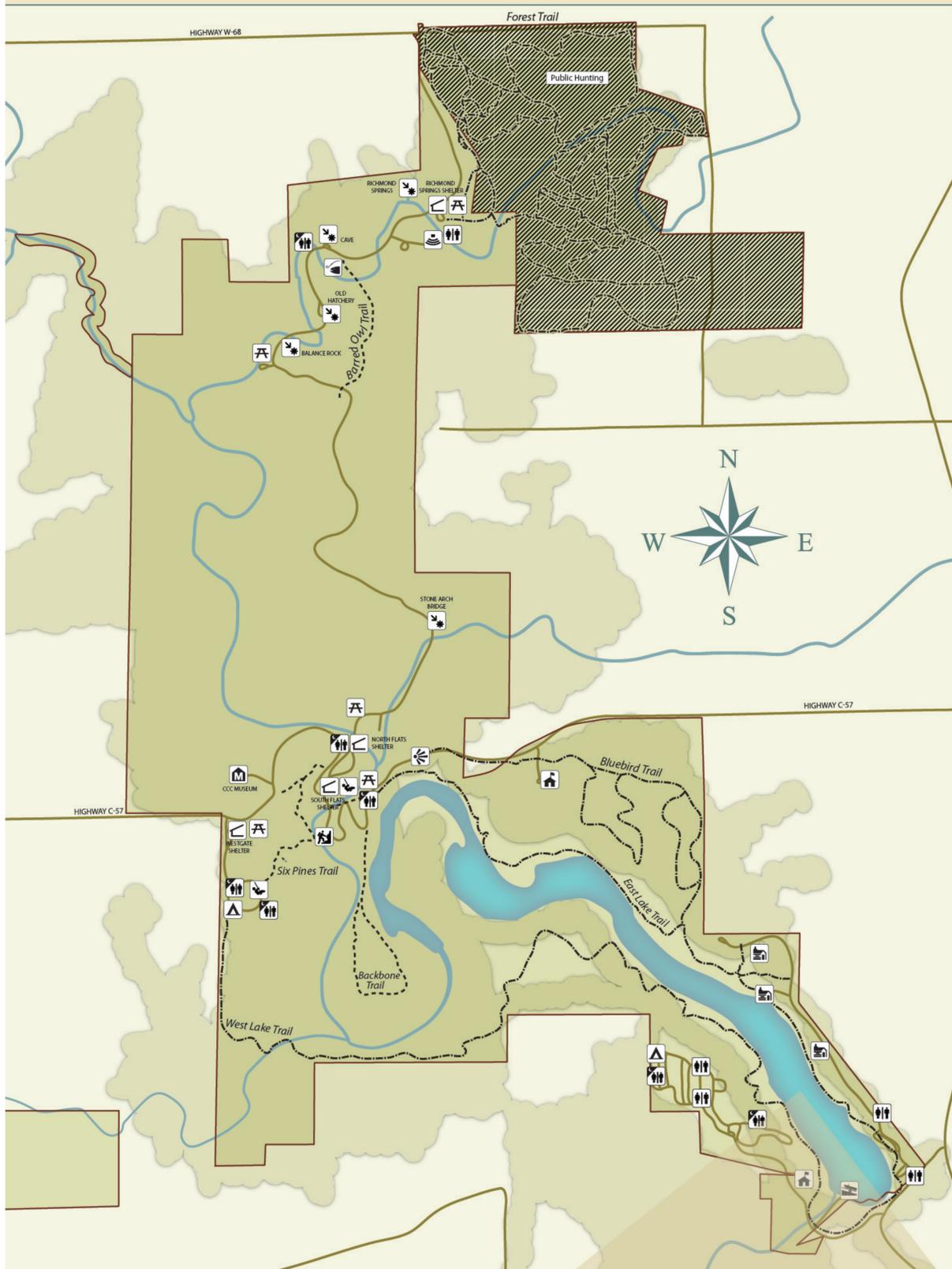
It all began here with Backbone State Park, dedicated on May 28, 1920 as the first state park in the system. Named for the Devil's Backbone, a steep rocky ridge that divides the park, the area is unique in its natural as well as its cultural history. Stand in awe before massive rock formations, tread quietly through an ancient cave, or discover the natural wonders of nearby Bixby State Preserve. Take a step back in time as you uncover the hidden treasures of Backbone State Park.

- Restroom - Modern Seasonal
- Restroom - Nonmodern Year-round
- Park Office
- Shelter
- Picnic Area
- Campground
- Boat Ramp
- Cabins
- Concession
- Day-Use Lodge
- ADA Fishing
- Playground
- Overlook
- Rock Climbing
- Museum
- Dump Station
- Point of Interest
- Auditorium
- Beach
- Hiking Trails
- Multiuse Trails
- Roads
- Water
- Park Boundary

TRAIL INFORMATION

TRAIL NAME	TRAIL ACTIVITY	LENGTH	LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY	ESTIMATED HIKE TIME
Bluebird	Hiking, Biking, Snowmobiling	2.2 mi	Easy	1-1 1/4 hr
West Lake	Hiking, Biking, Snowmobiling	3 mi	Moderate	1 1/4-1 1/2 hr
East Lake	Hiking, Biking, Snowmobiling	2.4 mi	Moderate	1-1 1/4 hr
Backbone	Hiking	0.8 mi	Moderate	30-45 min
Barred Owl	Hiking	0.4 mi	Moderate	10-15 min
Six Pines	Hiking	0.6 mi	Difficult	10-15 min
Forest	Hiking, Biking, Equestrian, Cross-country Skiing	7.39 mi	Moderate	3-3 1/2 hr

Walking times are figured at a rate of 2 mph.



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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www.iowadnr.gov/destinations



STATE PARKS
IOWA DEPARTMENT
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