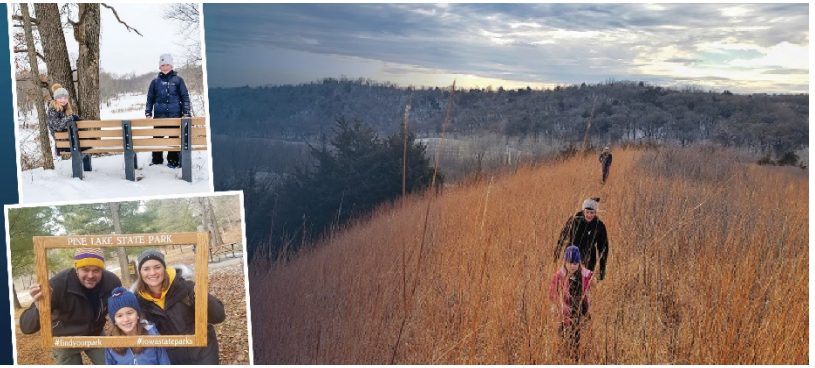


FIRST DAY HIKES
**Start the Year
Outdoors!**
JANUARY 1, 2022



First Day Hikes 2022 in Iowa State Parks & Forests

Spend New Year's Day on a guided hike in your favorite state park! Participating parks and forests listed alphabetically.

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO EXPECTED INCLEMENT WEATHER ACROSS THE STATE, SOME GUIDED HIKES THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED ARE NOW CANCELED OR POSTPONED.

List of Parks and Forests with events (scroll through document for details on each event):

- ~~[Backbone State Park](#)~~ CANCELED
- [Bellevue State Park](#)
- ~~[Cedar Rock](#)~~ - CANCELED
- [Dolliver Memorial State Park](#)
- ~~[Geode State Park](#)~~ - CANCELED
- ~~[Lake Anita State Park](#)~~ - CANCELED
- [Ledges State Park](#)
- ~~[Lewis and Clark State Park](#)~~ - CANCELED
- [Loess Hills State Forest](#) – POSTPONED UNTIL 1/8/21
- ~~[Maguoketa Caves State Park](#)~~ - CANCELED
- [Mines of Spain State Recreation Area](#)
- ~~[Nine Eagles State Park](#)~~ - CANCELED
- [Palisades-Kepler State Park](#)
- ~~[Pikes Peak State Park](#)~~ - CANCELED
- [Pilot Knob State Park](#)
- [Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area](#)
- [Prairie Rose State Park](#)
- [Shimek State Forest](#)
- [Springbrook State Park](#)
- [Stone State Park](#)
- ~~[Waubonsie State Park](#)~~ - CANCELED
- [Wildcat Den State Park](#)
- [Yellow River State Forest](#)

~~Backbone State Park - CANCELED~~

Description: This hike is canceled due to inclement weather. Visitors can still explore the park on their own.

Bellevue State Park

Multiple locations – check out Friends of Bellevue State Park Facebook Page

Meeting Location: Multiple starting locations, hosted by Friends of Bellevue State Park

Park Address: 21466 429th Ave. Bellevue IA 52031

Description: Several self-guided hikes are highlighted on the Friends page for visitors to enjoy. Dress for the weather.

Contact: Check out Friends of Bellevue State Park Facebook page for hike details!

~~Cedar Rock - CANCELED~~

Description: This hike is canceled due to inclement weather. Visitors can still explore the park on their own.

Dolliver Memorial State Park

9:00 AM

Meeting Location: Center Lodge

Park Address: 2757 Dolliver Park Avenue, Lehigh, IA 50557

Description: Join park staff on a one-mile hike through the woods and along the river. This trail is not paved. Dress for the weather.

Contact: (515) 359-2539

~~Geode State Park - CANCELED~~

Description: This hike is canceled due to inclement weather. Visitors can still explore the park on their own.

~~Lake Anita State Park - CANCELED~~

Description: This hike is canceled due to inclement weather. Visitors can still explore the park on their own.

Ledges State Park

4:00 PM

Meeting Location: Oak Woods Shelter

Park Address: 1515 P Ave., Madrid, IA 50156

Description Warm up around the fire at the Oak Woods Shelter and then join park staff as we journey into the heart of the Ledges for a sunset First Day Hike! See a different side of the Canyon Drive and learn about the rich history, geology and resources that the Ledges has to offer. Bring your camera to capture the stunning sunset over the Des Moines River valley and stick around after the hike to learn more about the Ledges' upcoming 100th anniversary as a state park! Dress for the weather.

Contact: Park Office 515-432-1852; email: Ledges@dnr.iowa.gov

~~Lewis and Clark State Park - CANCELED~~

Description: This hike is canceled due to inclement weather. Visitors can still explore the park on their own.

Loess Hills State Forest

POSTPONED UNTIL 1:00 PM on 1/08/2022 due to inclement weather

Meeting Location: Meet at gravel road southeast of Pisgah at 2047 145th Street

Address: 2047 145th Street, Pisgah, IA 50564

Description: The hike will traverse five kilometers of the forest trail system in the Pisgah Unit of Loess Hills State Forest. We will meet afterwards at the Brent S. Olson Visitor Center in Pisgah for refreshments and snacks after the hike. Dress for the weather. Trails will not be groomed so wear appropriate boots.

Contact: <https://www.facebook.com/LoessHillsFriends/>

~~Maquoketa Caves State Park - CANCELED~~

Description: This hike is canceled due to inclement weather. Visitors can still explore the park on their own.

Mines of Spain State Recreation Area

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM

Meeting Location: EB Lyons Nature Center

Park Address: 8991 Bellevue Heights, Dubuque, IA 52003

Description: There will be two guided hike times offered by Dubuque County Conservation. Guided hike will be on the Pine chapel and Lead Mine Trail and cover a short portion of the history at Mines of Spain. This hike will take approximately 45- 60 minutes. A self-guided hike that will take place on the woodland walk. This trail takes approximately 20-30 minutes. Stop by the EB Lyons Nature center after hiking for refreshments provided by the Friends of Mines of Spain. Dress for the weather.

Contact: Please call the EB Lyons Nature Center at 563-556-0620 to RSVP.

~~Nine Eagles State Park - CANCELED~~

Description: This hike is canceled due to inclement weather. Visitors can still explore the park on their own.

Palisades-Kepler State Park

10:00 AM

Meeting Location: Lodge

Park Address: 700 Kepler Drive, Mount Vernon, IA 52314

Description: Join us on a 2-mile hike through the woods over moderate to difficult terrain. Friends of the Pal will provide a warm fire, s'mores, coffee, hot chocolate and other snacks. Dress for the weather. Pets are allowed but must be on-leash.

Contact: Please find details on the Facebook page for Friends of Palisades-Kepler State Park.

~~Pikes Peak State Park~~ - CANCELED

Description: This hike is canceled due to inclement weather. Visitors can still explore the park on their own.

Pilot Knob State Park

1:00 PM

Meeting Location: Warming House

Park Address: 2148 340th Street. Forest City, IA 50436

Description: Choose a 1-mile paved trail, or a 3-mile or 6-mile moderate to difficult trail. Friends of Pilot Knob will provide s'mores and hot chocolate. Dress for the weather.

Contact: Pilot_Knob@dnr.iowa.gov and/or friendsofpilotknob@gmail.com

Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area

1:00 PM

Meeting Location: Playground Area

Park Address: 4530 McClintock Road, Palo, IA 52324

Description: Walk the multi-use trail around the park. The full loop is 9.3 miles but can go whatever distance you like. Dress for the weather.

Contact: (319) 436-7716

Prairie Rose State Park

8:00 AM

Meeting Location: Gravel parking lot for East Trail. North side of the bridge of M47.

Park Address: 680 Road M-47. Harlan, IA 51537

Description: We will begin at the parking lot and hike along the multi-use trail to the bridge and turn around there. Hikers can continue on if they wish. Dress for the weather.

Contact: Park office (712) 773-2701, Prairie_Rose@dnr.iowa.gov

Shimek State Forest

9:00 AM

Meeting Location: Black Oak Parking Lot

Forest Address: 33653 Route J56, Farmington, IA 52626

Description: For a guided hike we will start at the parking lot and go toward marker 6 then to marker 5. At marker 4 go up the long steady hill to marker 3 then out to the road and back down to the parking lot. Please go to www.iowadnr.gov and visit the Shimek Forest page for a trail map and other trail options. Dress for the weather.

Contact: Please email Patrick Thomas in advance at Patrick.Thomas@dnr.iowa.gov, or call (319) 931-7805.

Springbrook State Park

9:00 AM

Meeting Location: Park House/Office

Park Address: 2437 160th Road, Guthrie Center, IA 50115

Description: We will begin at the CCC Shelter and follow the Lake trail back in time through a glimpse of the Paleozoic Era. Hikers will have the option of continuing around the Lake Trail or ascending Bucks Run to the picnic area. At that point, hikers may choose to head back to the nearby CCC Shelter or continue hiking the Fire Trail. A warm fire will be waiting at the CCC Shelter, along with hot drinks and snacks provided by Friends of Springbrook. Planned hike on Lake Trail ~ 1.5 mi, Fire Trail additional 1.2 mi. Dress for the weather.

Contact: If planning to attend, please call in advance to Anne Riordan (641) 295-6028 or email: anne.riordan@dnr.iowa.gov

Stone State Park

10:00 AM

Meeting Location: Park Office

Park Address: 5001 Talbot Road, Sioux City, IA 51103

Description: Join park staff for a short 45-minute hike through the Loess Hills in Stone State Park. Meet at the gravel parking lot across from the office and enjoy a moderate hike through the woods. Dress for the weather.

Contact: Park office (712) 255-4698; Stone@dnr.iowa.gov

~~Waubonsie State Park — Blackburn State Park CANCELLED~~

Description: This hike has been cancelled due to staffing limitations. Visitors can still explore Waubonsie State Park and Blackburn State Park trails on their own.

Wildcat Den State Park

1:00 PM

Meeting Location: Upper Picnic Area Shelter

Park Address: 1884 Wildcat Road, Muscatine, IA 52761

Description: The hike will begin at the Upper Picnic Area Shelter and follow the Punch Bowl trail through the Devil's Punch Bowl. The hike will then follow the Lower Picnic Area Trail along Pine Creek, past Steamboat Rock, then loop back up-hill to the shelter. A warming fire will be lit and hot chocolate will be served in the shelter prior to the hike. Dress for the weather.

Contact: Cancellation information will be posted online at www.iowadnr.gov/wildcatden or you may contact park staff at 563-263-4337.

Yellow River State Forest

9:00 AM

Meeting Location: 481 Luster Heights Rd. Harpers Ferry, IA 52146.

Description: The hike will begin in the parking lot located at 481 Luster Heights Rd, Harpers Ferry, IA. 52146. The trail will head south for 0.3 miles to the south overlook. We will return on this trail back to the parking area and then proceed through white pine and oak hickory forests. There are couple of areas that will provide an excellent view of the Upper Mississippi River Valley. Dress for the weather.

Contact: Call 563-586-2254 or check The Friends of Yellow River State Forest website or FB page