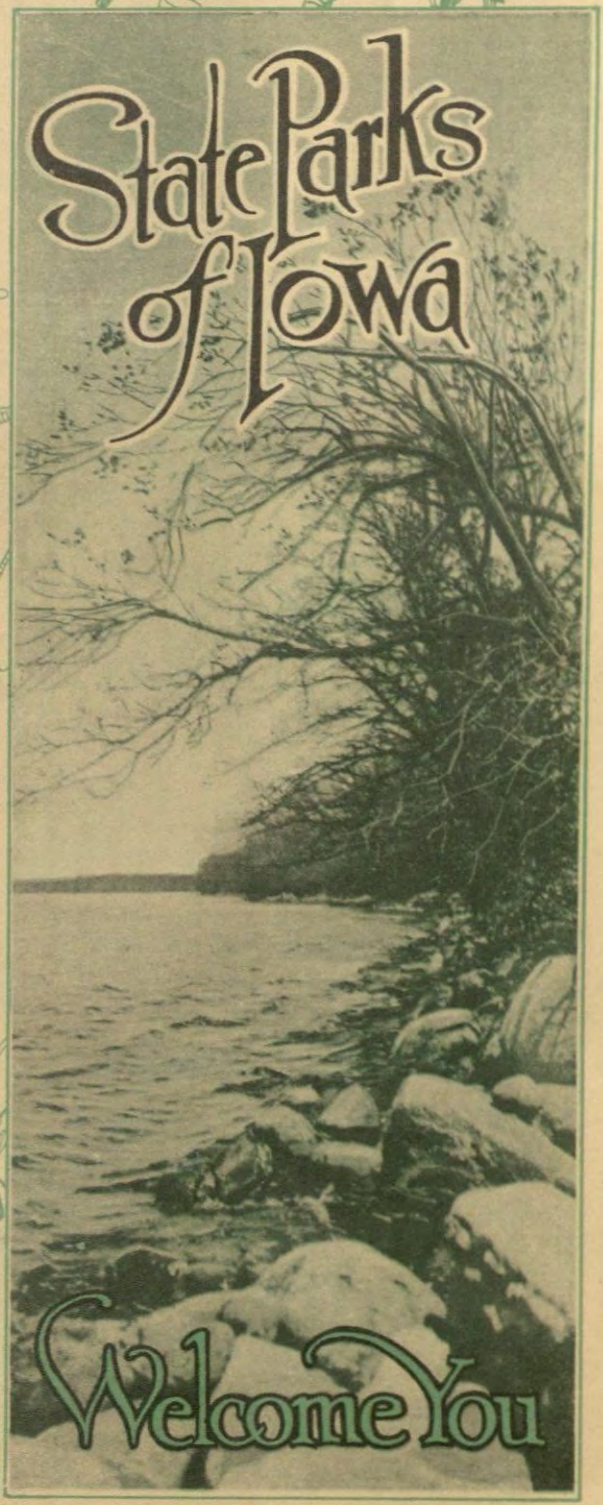
State Parks of Iowa



Welcome You

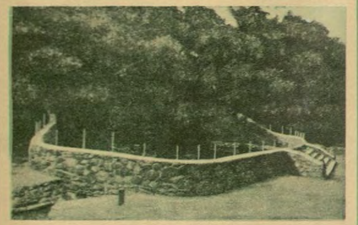
IOWA State Parks

A PANORAMA OF NATURE'S HANDIWORK

DO you know what beauty there is around you? Perhaps you would be surprised to know, that dotted all over the entire state are parks that have been chosen for their scenic beauty as well as for their historic and scientific value.

The State Parks of Iowa form a vital connecting link between the vast number of city parks and the great National Parks thru' out the country.

With their creating founded as it was upon a four-fold purpose—the purpose of offering channels for recreation, for the conservation of plant and animal life, and for the study of history and natural science, the State Parks have been so chosen that they offer the Vacationist a most varied natural setting for his enjoyment. Parks may be found in the state whose great rock formations are a delight to the mountain climber; there are parks with placid lakes or sparkling and swift-moving streams where the fisherman may try his luck; there are majestic, vineclad heights; rolling lowlands with sheltered nooks promising quiet rest. The State Parks, —created and maintained for all Iowa and her visitors are calling you to enjoy the countless beauties and pleasures that they offer.



Backbone Park

Holds Forth Countless Ways to Delight the Nature Lover

THE largest of Iowa's State Parks—Backbone—with its 1279 acres in Delaware County! A wonderful vista offering infinite diversions for the nature-loving vacationist.

Of easy access with good roads . . leading thru' a gentle rolling prairie land to Backbone proper with its great rugged limestone promentories jutting to imposing heights of 80 and 100 feet 'til they overlook Maquoketa River.

A host of surprises invite the "explorer", —deep caves and crevices amongst the rocks . . then suddenly, the delightful Richmond Spring and stream peopled with speckled trout; farther on, —the imposing wall of masonry that surrounds the new fish hatchery; and as you tramp along, ferns and wild flowers, everywhere, in profusion . . with maples, sycamores, walnuts and great pines towering over all!

Fort Atkinson

Presents Points of Interest From a Historical Standpoint

DOES early history hold a fascination for you? Do you like to delve about among the remnants of a past that has left its mark upon our plastic present? Then you must visit Fort Atkinson soon!

An historical site, chosen in the late 30s, whereon was erected a fort for protection against the Indians. The four original buildings and two gun houses were built of native stone into a square formation. Four of the original six structures are left standing together with an old chapel.

Winneshiek County in the vicinity of Fort Atkinson abounds in beautiful trees and shrubs and in a great variety of plant life. Here too, the motorist will find roads abounding in charming and historic settings—Colonial Iowa at its best!

Dolliver Park

—With Great Ravines and Lowlands Cut Thru' . . by Prairie Creek

FOURTEEN miles northwest from Fort Dodge lies Dolliver, one of the most imposing of the state parks.

Deep ravines notable among them, "Boneyard Hollow" and limestone and copperas gullies are well worthy of a long journey to see! Five hundred and eighty-seven acres offering every opportunity for out-door recreation! Long stretches of beautiful tracts alternate suddenly with huge rock formations . . only to be followed by inviting little trails leading along the picturesque Prairie Creek . . . here and there cozy log shelters for use during inclement weather.

Dolliver State Park . . a memorial to one of Iowa's illustrious statesmen . . an outstanding example of the state's natural beauty.

Ledges Park

ONE of the most picturesque of all Iowa's State Parks . . presenting a kaleidoscopic picture of wooded lands, floral shrubs . . and great cliffs rising to a height of over a hundred feet, a-drip with a myriad of ferns and wild flowers.

Wonderful views for miles and miles from a-top the hills . . an endless variety of plant and bird life to be found all along the slopes . . then a moment's rest at the bank of meandering Pease Creek that winds its way in and out and about as if just for your pleasure.

A park of 644 acres in Boone County, lying partly on the east . . partly on the west of the Des Moines River.

Lacey-Keosauqua

A Park of Majestic Beauty Stretching Along the Des Moines River

AT Keosauqua—where the Des Moines River makes a surprising horse-shoe bend, lies one of the most delightful of the Iowa State Parks. A full four miles of river frontage for those who enjoy scenic beauty . . a nine hole golf course, that your game may not go stale . . or if you prefer, tramp about the great limestone ledges where all sorts of wild life abounds, and from which there are wonderful panoramic view of water and land —and at Lacey-Keosauqua are to be seen Indian mounds . . together with an old Indian village site where primitive pottery has been found. The old Mormon trail crosses the Des Moines River and passes thru' the park. From a historical standpoint, this is one of the most interesting in the entire state.

Near by, you'll find the famous old Church elm, under which the first Christian church services were held in Iowa.

Wildcat Den

—One of the Most Unique of all Iowa's State Parks

IN Muscatine County lies one of the most interesting and unique vacation spots you will find.

Seventy acres in all . . . characterized by precipitous cliffs . . vine clad ledges . . and great canyons overhung with hickory, elm, maple and chestnut oaks . . and under foot, native wild flowers and rare ferns . . the meeting place of the flowers of the North and South. Native animals too, at Wildcat Den! Foxes, coyotes, coons, opossum and gopher . . the home too of practically every specie of Northern songster. An old mill used up to the present time is a reminder of early settlers in Iowa. At Wildcat Den, all the wondrous handiwork of Nature, —rugged, untrampled and unmarred, holding forth promise of a delightful sojourn for all who visit there.

Rules and Regulations of Iowa State Parks

1. Public property in park shall not be defaced.
2. The removal of shrubs, trees, and flowers is prohibited.
3. The digging of flowers and ferns is not allowed.
4. Animals and plants may be removed from the park for scientific purposes, when written permission is given by the park custodian.
5. The removal of signs or parts of buildings or fences is a public offense. Persons violating this rule will be prosecuted.
6. Fires may only be built in places designated by the park custodian and all fires must be extinguished before leaving the park.
7. All rubbish used in the park, waste paper, etc., shall be placed in cans provided for that purpose.
8. Rubbish shall not be dumped in the park.
9. Persons caught carelessly starting a fire in the park will be prosecuted.
10. The use of the park to exhibit wild animals in custody or the placing of curios is not permitted, except by a resolution by the State Board of Conservation.
11. The exploring of Indian mounds and other relics of antiquity will not be allowed except on express sanction of the State Board of Conservation.
12. It is unlawful to remove wood, fruit, or other products from state parks.
13. Keep the park neat and clean.
14. The park custodians are ordered to remove all unlawful weeds from the park areas.
15. Persons using offensive language or guilty of any other unlawful acts are subject to arrest by the police officer.
16. Separate areas will be used for picnics and camps.
17. Please register with the custodian.

Lost Island Lake

—A Charming Spot for the Vacationist

SUCH a restful place, —Lost Island Lake and State Park, —the waters of the lake furnishing opportunity for water sports. Shore-lines and banks are wonderfully picturesque with their purple iris, and marsh grasses. Twenty-seven acres of timber land, should you prefer a hiking jaunt; modern bathing and shelter facilities make your sojourn perfect.

Lewis and Clark Park

—Combines Nature's Beauty with Historical Interest

LYING in Monona County, right at an oxbow lake, formerly the channel of the Missouri River, —you'll find the Lewis and Clark State Park. A good fishing lake . . and formerly a good lake for hunting. Three hundred acres of beautifully wooded areas laden with all the native trees and flowering shrubs.

Eldora Pine Creek

LOCATED on the Iowa River, —a park of some 200 acres with all sorts of interesting outcrops of coal, sandstone and fine clay deposits. Good bathing and swimming to be enjoyed here. Rough topography—lending to the beauty of the whole; remarkably rare island plant life to be seen, —a delight to the nature-lover.

Gitchie Manito Park *and* Okamanpedan State Park

GITCHIE MANITO—a small park with stone ledges and quarries surrounding the pools of water.

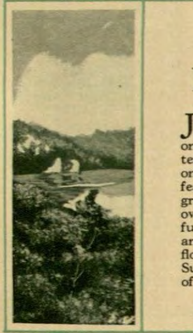
IN Emmet County, is Lake Okamanpedan bi-sected by the Iowa-Minnesota state line. Of historical interest, the name was given the lake by the Sioux Indians. The name was later recorded and maintained by the first early French explorer, Nicollet. The historic nesting place of the great herons . . a beautiful wooded tract adjoining the lake.

Wapsi-pinicon Park

NEAR the city of Anamosa along the Wapsipinicon River, there's a park of 168 acres that holds infinite ways to entertain its visitors including golf links and a swimming pool. Rugged bluffs on all sides to explore, most of them skirting the river. An abundance of fine Spring Water is to be had . . and the clear, sparkling Dutch Creek flows thru' adding to the beauty of the vine-clad ledges.

Guthrie County Tract

IN Guthrie County you'll find one of those fascinating historical parks of which the state of Iowa is rightfully boastful. Thru' this park runs the old road used by the pioneers in 1848 —the overland trails used by the early gold-seekers.



The Palisades

JUST 16 miles from Cedar Rapids lies one of Iowa's most interesting state parks . . one of the outstanding features being the great palisade rocks overhung with wonderful old white oak trees and beautiful native flowers and ferns. Superb views from any of these promentories!

Bellevue Park

Offers Beauty and Historical Interest

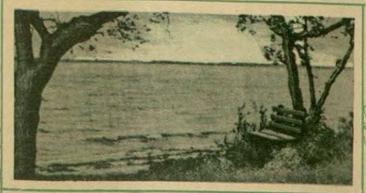
A GREAT, high bluff from which one has a wonderful view up and down the Mississippi. A government Fish Hatchery is to be established on the river at the entrance. There is much of historical interest in Bellevue Park . . Father Marquette and his associates having stopped at this point. Here is where the first Indian converts were made from the tribe of the Winnebagos.

Ambrose A. Call Park

A PARK profuse in all the beauties of Nature lies on the east fork of the Des Moines River. Its rolling hills covered with wild flowers make it one of the treasured spots of the vicinity. A park easily accessible—a highway to the east and one at the west—and most conveniently located.

Farmington Park

THE park has an area of 100 acres surrounding Big Duck Lake being reclaimed and stocked with gamefish. Most picturesque and really note-worthy spots are the beautiful lotus beds to be found in the still waters of the lake that adjoins the outlet to the Des Moines River.



Clear Lake

ALTHO' it is a state park of but 20 acres of land with lake frontage, Clear Lake Park holds a marked appeal for the naturalist in as much as it borders a fine marsh and a wonderful plant and bird refuge, also affords free access to Clear Lake.

Eagle Lake

ONE of the most charming of the Iowa State Parks lies in Hancock County at Eagle Lake. Here, the lake is an integral part of the park—in fact, if you're a fisherman at heart, you'll not want to miss the treat of visiting Eagle Lake!

Pilot Knob

ONE of our most important parks! Heavily wooded highlands reflected in the lake below. A remarkable work of Nature, —The knob itself rises 300 feet above the valley of Lime Creek and forms a wonderfully picturesque promentory.

Elbert Tract

IN Polk County, only 10½ miles west of Des Moines is the Elbert Tract, the largest black walnut grove in the state. Coon River forms one of its boundaries . . A favorite picnic spot . . easily accessible.

Rice Lake

A BEAUTIFUL shore line along Rice Lake. Heavily timbered with hard maple and oaks; carpeted in the spring with woodland flowers.

Devil's Backbone

A PARK of 210 acres near Winterset, so-named because of the high rock ridge jutting 200 feet above the surrounding plains and winding river. Beautiful roads thru' the timber above the wonderful panoramic views to be had from a-top the "Backbone".

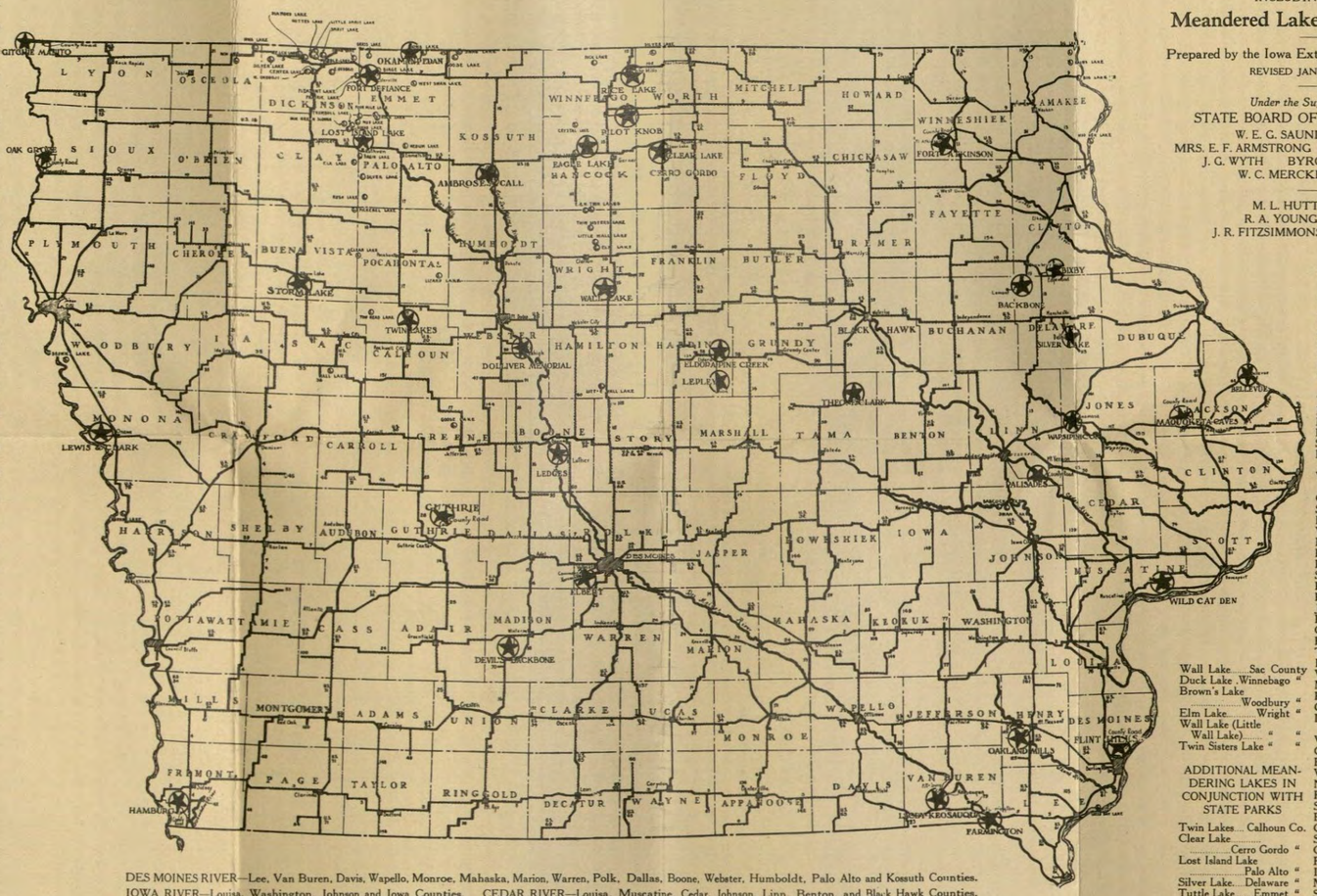
Maquoketa Caves

Boasts Rare Rock Formations

RIGHT in the heart of a fine agricultural country, it is most surprising to find a distinct and unique rock formation as may be seen at Maquoketa. Great limestone caves, —most remarkable for their depth and beauty, entice the visitor . . . and a vast limestone arch forms a huge natural bridge over which automobiles now travel. Rare plant and bird life are to be seen on all sides, a further enjoyment for the nature lover.

Iowa State Parks

Name	County
Ambrose A. Call Area 134 Acres	Kossuth
Backbone Area 1,279.59 Acres	Delaware
Bellevue Area 66 Acres	Jackson
Bixby Area 69 Acres	Clayton
Theo. F. Clark Area 24.38 Acres	Tama
Clear Lake Area 20 Acres	Cerro Gordo
Devil's Backbone Area 224.87 Acres	Madison
Dolliver Memorial Area 544.38 Acres	Webster
Eagle Lake Area 27 Acres	Hancock
Elbert Tract Area 261.37 Acres	Polk
Eldora Pine Creek Area 236.42 Acres	Hardin
Farmington Area 102.4 Acres	Van Buren
Flint Hills Area 101 Acres	Des Moines
Ft. Atkinson Area 5 Acres	Winneshiek
Ft. Defiance Area 53 Acres	Emmet
Gitchie Manito Area 47.5 Acres	Lyon
Guthrie Co. Tract Area 130.85 Acres	Guthrie
Hamburg Tract Area 200 Acres	Fremont
Lacey-Keosauqua Area 1,222.1 Acres	Van Buren
Ledges Area 584.28 Acres	Boone
Lepley Area 9 Acres	Hardin
Lewis & Clark Area 675 Acres	Monona
Lost Island Area 27.63 Acres	Palo Alto
Maquoketa Area 16.91 Acres	Jackson
Oak Grove Area 101.9 Acres	Sioux
Oakland Mills Area 110.79 Acres	Henry
Okamanpedan Area 10 Acres	Emmet
Orleans Area 20 Acres	Dickinson
Palisades-Keplar Area 151.5 Acres	Linn
Pilot Knob	Hancock-Winnebago
Rice Lake Area 288 Acres	Winnebago-Worth
Silver Lake Area 15 Acres	Delaware
Storm Lake Area 18 Acres	Buena Vista
Twin Lakes Area 15 Acres	Calhoun
Wall Lake Area 12.08 Acres	Wright
Wapsipinicon Area 220 Acres	Jones
Wildcat Den Area 220.78 Acres	Muscatine



LOCATION MAP OF
IOWA STATE PARKS
INCLUDING THE
Meandered Lakes and Streams

Prepared by the Iowa Extension Service at Ames
REVISED JANUARY 1, 1927

Under the Supervision of
STATE BOARD OF CONSERVATION
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R. A. YOUNG, Asst. Engineer
J. R. FITZSIMMONS, Landscape Architect

MEANDERING LAKES AND STREAMS

Big Lake (No. 1)	Allamakee County
Big Lake (No. 2)	" "
Kain's Lake	" "
Mud Hen Lake	" "
Storm Lake	Buena Vista "
Pickerel Lake	" "
Tow Head Lake	Calhoun "
Trumbull Lake	Clay "
Round Lake	" "
Dan Green's Slough	" "
Elk Lake	" "
Spirit Lake	Dickinson "
East Okoboji Lake	" "
West Okoboji Lake	" "
Center Lake	" "
Silver Lake	" "
Diamond Lake	" "
Welch Lake	" "
Marble Lake	" "
Hottes Lake	" "
Little Spirit Lake	" "
Swan Lake	" "
Prairie Lake	" "
Pleasant Lake	" "
Jefferson's Slough	" "
Four Mile Lake	Emmet "
Grass Lake	" "
Birge Lake	" "
Tuttle Lake	" "
Iowa Lake	" "
West Swan Lake	" "
Mud Lake	" "
High Lake	" "
Goose Lake	Greene "
Little Wall Lake	Hamilton "
Wood Lake	Hancock "
Crystal Lake	" "
E. Twin Lake	" "
W. Twin Lake	" "
Noble's Lake	Harrison "
Round Lake	" "
Swan Lake	Johnson "
Babcock Lake	" "
Goose Lake	Kossuth "
Swag Lake	" "
Green Bay Lake	Lee "
Rush Lake	Osceola "
Iowa Lake	" "
Medium Lake	Palo Alto "
Silver Lake	" "
Rush Lake	" "
Virgin Lake	" "
Clear Lake	Pocahontas "
Lizard Lake	" "
Wall Lake	Sac County
Duck Lake	Winnebago "
Brown's Lake	Woodbury "
Elm Lake	Wright "
Wall Lake (Little Wall Lake)	" "
Twin Sisters Lake	" "

ADDITIONAL MEANDERING LAKES IN CONJUNCTION WITH STATE PARKS

Twin Lakes	Calhoun Co.
Clear Lake	Cerro Gordo "
Lost Island Lake	Palo Alto "
Silver Lake	Delaware "
Tuttle Lake	Emmet "
Eagle Lake	Hancock "
Blue Lake (Lewis & Clark)	Monona "
Wall Lake	Wright "

DES MOINES RIVER—Lee, Van Buren, Davis, Wapello, Monroe, Mahaska, Marion, Warren, Polk, Dallas, Boone, Webster, Humboldt, Palo Alto and Kossuth Counties. IOWA RIVER—Louisa, Washington, Johnson and Iowa Counties. CEDAR RIVER—Louisa, Muscatine, Cedar, Johnson, Linn, Benton, and Black Hawk Counties. RACCOON RIVER—Polk County. WAPSIPINICON RIVER—Scott, Clinton, Jones, and Linn Counties. MAQUOKETA RIVER—Jackson County. SKUNK RIVER—Lee, Des Moines, Henry and Jefferson Counties. TURKEY RIVER—Clayton and Fayette Counties. NISHNABOTNA RIVER—Fremont County.

Bixby Park Ice Cave

NEAR Edgewood, one of the really scientific wonders of the State of Iowa. Numerous fine streams of pure water and a fine spring—come from the adjacent outcrop of limestone. Many unusual plants and tree life are to be seen here.

Flint Hills

A Charming Spot to Visit

ANOTHER of our 100 acre parks, this one located north of Burlington about 3 miles. Visitors will find there picturesque picnic spots and a good golf course. The hills around are known as flint hills whence the Indians secured their material for arrow heads.

Oak Grove Park

Offers Interesting Diversion

COMPRISED of 100 acres, and situated in Sioux County, Oak Grove Park borders the east bank of Big Sioux River. A delight to Nature lovers, as it forms a natural meeting place of prairie, woodland and imposing rocky bluffs whose steep slopes contain a great variety of native shrub and tree life.

Freemont County Park

Holds Numerous Attractions

ON the summits of the Missouri Bluffs Near Sudney, you'll find a most interesting park. Two hundred acres in all, much of it beautifully wooded with superb views to be had of all the surrounding country and the Missouri shore line from a-top the great bluffs that the whole park abounds in.