



## BACKBONE STATE PARK

1347 129th St, Dundee, IA 52038

Welcome to Backbone State Park. Dedicated in 1920, Backbone was Iowa's first state park and remains one of the most geographically unique. Backbone is named for the steep and narrow ridge of bedrock cut by a loop of the Maquoketa River and forming the highest point in northeast Iowa – the Devils Backbone. If you enjoy bicycling, boating, camping, climbing, fishing, hiking, picnicking or if you want to take a walk back in time to the days of the Civilian Conservation Corps, this is the place for you.

### **PARK AMENITIES/POINTS OF INTEREST/THINGS TO DO**

While visiting, take advantage of the rugged and winding 21-mile multi-use trail system. During warmer weather, hike along twisted and windblown cedars and up rough, rocky staircases. In the winter, take advantage of the exclusive snowmobiling and/or cross-country skiing opportunities the trails offer.

If mountain biking is your pleasure, the designated trails of Barred Owl, Bluebird, East Lake and West Lake offer a robust trek through picturesque natural beauty.

Climbers and rappellers will find many challenges at Backbone with its cliffs of rugged dolomite limestone throughout the park. The most popular climbing spots are located near the popular Backbone Trail.

Take some time to investigate the unique masonry work of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), including the dams on the Maquoketa River forming Backbone Lake, family cabins, beach building and boat house, an auditorium, bridges, roads, picnic shelters, rest rooms and trails. In addition, take a nostalgic walk back in time by visiting the CCC Museum located just within the park's west gate. The museum is open on weekends, Memorial Day through Labor Day and by special arrangement through the park office depending on staffing. Please call ahead to ensure the museum is open.

If trout fishing is your passion, you're in the right place. Backbone is well known for its exceptional trout fishing. Backbone's cold, clear, quick-flowing stream is fed by Richmond Springs, which pumps more than 2,000 gallons per minute and is located near the north end of the park. A variety of shady and universally accessible trails (portions paved) are available for enthusiastic anglers looking for their "secret spot."

Backbone is a great vacation destination with several overnight accommodation options, including a large campground with campsites and several different modern cabins to reserve. A boathouse for renting boats, a swimming beach and concession stand are all located near the southeast end of the lake.

### **SPECIAL PARK RULES**

Only electric trolling motors are allowed on the lake. All climbers must register at the park office before climbing. Pick up the rules/regulations booklet for more information on general park rules.

### **LOCAL EVENTS/ATTRACTIONS**

Cedar Rock, approximately 30 miles southwest, is one of the most complete Frank Lloyd Wright-designed homes. Take in the Strawberry Day Festival (June) the Strawberry Jam/Blue Grass Festival (July).

### **LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION**

Park Office: 563.924.2527

Park Ranger: Jeff Hildebrand

Park Manager: Nate Detrich

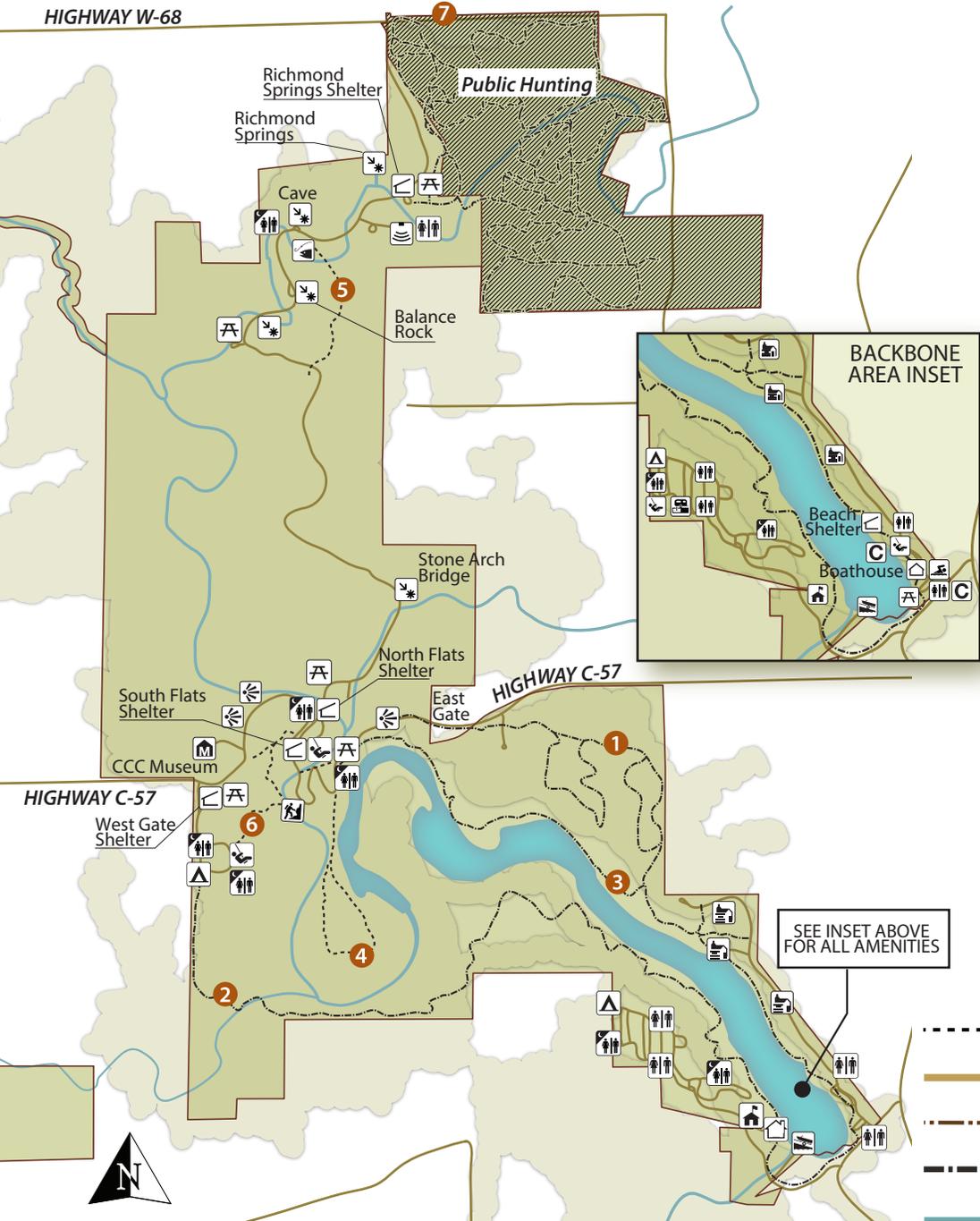
### **SEVERE WEATHER**

When severe weather occurs, park staff will make every effort to alert you. Listen to local weather on 94.7 FM or 600 AM.

Shower buildings, stone/concrete rest rooms or low-lying areas are recommended for emergency shelters.

**For emergencies, please call 911.**

For reservations, visit <https://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com/> or call 877.427.2757



## MAP KEY

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

## TRAIL INFORMATION

Trail Name	Trail Activity	Length	Level of Difficulty	Estimated Hike Time
1 Bluebird Trail	Hike, Bike, Snowmobile	2.2 mi	Easy	1-1.25 hr
2 West Lake Trail	Hike, Bike, Snowmobile	3 mi	Moderate	1.25-1.5 hr
3 East Lake Trail	Hike, Bike, Snowmobile	2.4 mi	Moderate	1-1.25 hr
4 Backbone	Hike	0.8 mi	Moderate	30-45 min
5 Barred Owl	Hike	.4 mi	Moderate	10-15 min
6 Six Pines	Hike	.6 mi	Difficult	10-15 min
7 Forest	Hike, Bike, Equestrian, Cross-country Ski	7.39 mi	Moderate	3-3.5 hr