IOWA STATE PARKS

LAKE DARLING STATE PARK

111 Lake Darling Rd, Brighton IA 52540

Welcome to Lake Darling State Park. Lake Darling was dedicated in 1950 and named after J.N. Ding Darling, a champion of conservation and editorial cartoonist for the *Des Moines Register*. Whether you are here to fish, camp, swim or just relax, we hope you enjoy your stay! Lake Darling was officially re-dedicated on September 17, 2014 after undergoing a complete renovation.

PARK AMENITIES/POINTS OF INTEREST/THINGS TO DO

Lake Darling has a number of fishing jetties located around the 302-acre lake that provide great shoreline access. We also have more than 20 stocked silt retention ponds for anglers seeking solitude. Anglers can try their luck fishing for bluegill, crappie, largemouth bass and channel catfish. Two boat ramps are located around the lake for convenient lake access. Anglers without boats may rent them from the boat house located between the two shelters from Memorial Day until Labor Day.

Lake Darling opened six new modern family cabins in the fall of 2016. These year-round cabins are ADA accessible and sleep six. Their floorplan consists of two bedrooms with queen sized beds, a kitchen with modern appliances, and a bathroom with a tub/shower. The timber and lake provide a scenic background for the large deck that spans the entire length of the backside of the cabin. Lake Darling also has five camping cabins which each sleep four and are equipped with bunk beds, futons and tables with chairs. They are located only a short distance from the modern rest room and shower building in the campground. The Lake Darling Lodge, completed in 2008, has quickly become a popular place for reunions, parties and weddings. Reservations can be made for the cabins and lodge up to a year in advance.

The campground has several campsites with full hook-up sites, electrical sites, and non-electric sites. The campground has a playground as well as a conveniently located dumping station. Lake Darling has a swimming beach with a playground and several picnic areas including an open shelter available to rent.

A 13.6-mile trail encircles the entire lake. If you plan to walk the entire trail, please take water and sunscreen. The trail takes you through a variety of habitats, from wetland areas around the fringes of the lake, through successional woodlands and remnants of native prairie. The keen observer will likely see some of the wide variety of wildlife species that reside in these various habitats. The trail is a combination of grass and crushed rock and is open to hikers, cross-country skiers, runners, snowmobilers and mountain bikers.

SPECIAL PARK RULES

Lake Darling is a no-wake lake. Pick up the rules/regulations booklet for more information on general park rules.

LOCAL EVENTS/ATTRACTIONS

The Skunk River is located 3 miles north of Lake Darling and is popular for catfishing. Contact park staff for seasonal events. The Washington and Fairfield chambers of commerce also have calendars of events in the area.

LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Park Office: 319-694-2323
Park Ranger: Zachary Haworth
Park Manager: Nick Young

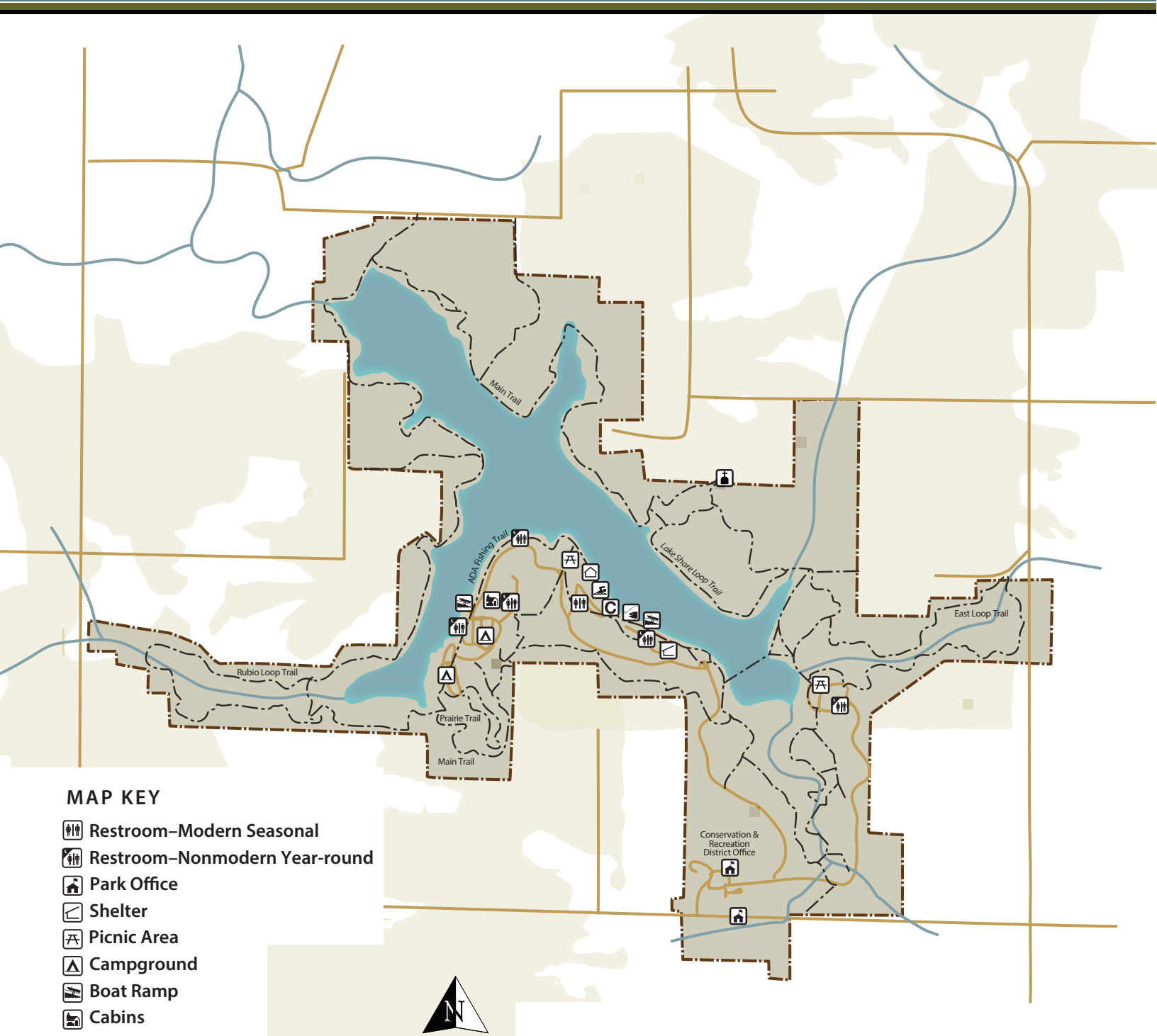
For emergencies, please call 911.

SEVERE WEATHER

The park does not have designated storm shelter. The shower buildings would provide the most protection. Monitor FM 106.1 or text "DARLING" to 67283 to receive severe weather information. Park staff will make every effort to notify campers of incoming severe weather.

IOWA | DNR
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAKE DARLING STATE PARK



MAP KEY

- Restroom–Modern Seasonal
- Restroom–Nonmodern Year-round
- Park Office
- Shelter
- Picnic Area
- Campground
- Boat Ramp
- Cabins
- Beach
- Concession
- Day-Use Lodge
- Fishing Pier/ Jetty
- Cemetery

- Road
- Park Boundary
- Multiuse Trails
- Water

TRAIL INFORMATION

			Difficulty	
East Loop	*Hiking, Snowmobiling*	*1.8 mi.*	*Moderate*	*50-60 min*
Rubio Loop	*Hiking, Snowmobiling*	*1.3 mi.*	*Moderate*	*35-45 min*
Main	*Hiking, Snowmobiling*	*10.2 mi.*	*Moderate*	*5-5½ hr*
ADA Fishing	*Hiking, Snowmobiling*	*1.2 mi.*	*Easy*	*30-40 min*
Lake Shore Loop	*Hiking, Snowmobiling*	*0.8 mi.*	*Easy*	*20-30 min*
Prairie	*Hiking, Snowmobiling*	*0.5 mi.*	*Easy*	*10-20 min*

Walking times are figured at a rate of 2.5 mph.