



# IOWA STATE PARKS

## LACEY-KEOSAUQUA STATE PARK

22895 Lacey Trl, Keosauqua IA 52565

Welcome to Lacey-Keosauqua State Park. The park is one of Iowa's largest and is the second oldest state park. Dedicated in 1920 and originally known as Big Bend State Park, Lacey-Keosauqua's 1,662 acres of oak-hickory bluffs and valleys are located alongside a large bend in the Des Moines River. Whether you are here to fish, hike, camp, swim or just relax, we hope you enjoy your stay.

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

Lacey-Keosauqua has a 22-acre lake and 2 miles down the road is the much larger 575-acre Lake Sugema for anglers to try their luck. Several cabins and campsites are available for park visitors to stay and enjoy more of the park. Lacey-Keosauqua's lodge is available year-round; perfect for weddings, family reunions, company picnics, meetings and other gatherings. The Beach House Lodge is available from April 15 - October 31. The park also has several picnic areas with two open shelters available to rent.

The park has 13 miles of trails that wind among the valleys and cliffs along the Des Moines River, under the canopy of oaks, hickories and other tree species. It is common to see a number of wildlife species in the park, particularly birds. Many bird enthusiasts flock to Lacey-Keosauqua in the spring to see the first tanager or warbler of the year.

One 3-mile trail segment follows a bluff of the Des Moines River and touches on some of the history of the area, from the river crossing of the Mormon's western trek in the mid-1800s, to the structures built by the young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the Great Depression. Hikers may also see a series of 19 ancient American Indian mounds overlooking the river in the northwest section of the park. These burial mounds were built by the ancient Woodland Culture between 750 and 2,500 years ago.

The park has dedicated a statue commemorating the invaluable contributions of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to Lacey-Keosauqua State Park and many other Iowa state parks. The statue, produced by the Civilian Conservation Corps Legacy organization and purchased by the Friends of Lacey-Keosauqua State Park, is displayed at the gatehouse, a CCC structure near the northwest entrance. To date, more than 50 of these statues have been purchased and erected across the United States. Lacey-Keosauqua is the first site in Iowa with the commemorative statue.

### **SPECIAL PARK RULES**

Only electric motors are allowed on Lacey Lake. Pick up the rules/regulations booklet for more information on general park rules.

### **LOCAL EVENTS/ATTRACTIONS**

Lacey-Keosauqua is within convenient driving distance of the historic, picturesque settlements of Bentonsport and Bonaparte on the Des Moines River. Van Buren County is a tourist's delight with its quaint villages and their unique histories. The area really comes alive during the Scenic Drive Festival held each year on the second weekend of October. Arts and crafts, antiques, food, music and demonstrations can be enjoyed in several villages as you drive to each one enjoying the fall foliage. Lacey-Keosauqua participates in the festival with a buckskinners camp and a 5K/10K Run/Walk within the park. Visit [www.villagesofvanburen.com](http://www.villagesofvanburen.com) for more information.

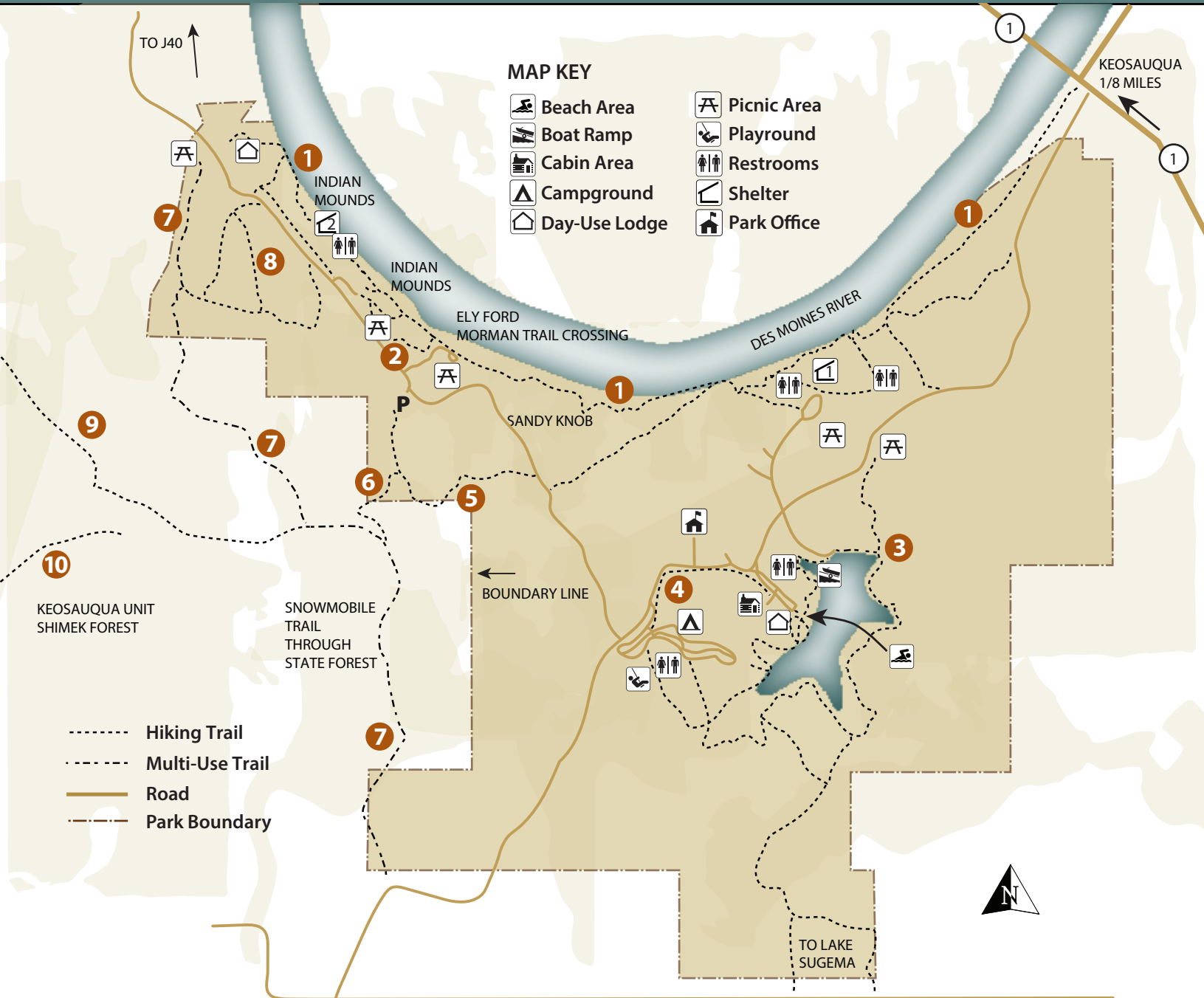
### **LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION**

Park Office: 319-293-3502  
Park Manager: Justin Pedretti  
Park Technician: Patrick Thomas

### **SEVERE WEATHER**

There are no designated storm shelters at the park. The concrete shower building can be used as an emergency shelter if necessary.

**For emergencies, please call 911**



**TRAIL INFORMATION**

Walking times are figured at a rate of 2.5 mph.

Trail Name	Trail Activity	Length	Level of Difficulty	Estimated Hike Time
1 River	Hike	5.1 mi.	Moderate	1.7 hours
2 Ely Ford	Hike	0.03 mi.	Easy-Moderate	10 minutes
3 Lake	Hike	5.15 mi.	Easy-Moderate	1.1 hours
4 ADA Concrete Trail	Hike/Bike/ADA	0.38 mi.	Easy	10 minutes
5 Sandy's Knob	Hike	0.65 mi.	Easy-Moderate	15 minutes
6 Access Trail	Hike	0.26 mi.	Easy-Moderate	5 minutes
7 Gate House Trail	Hike/Ski/Snowmobile	2.13 mi.	Easy	1.7 hours
8 Gatehouse	Hike	0.98mi.	Easy	30 minutes
9 Fire Lane Trail	Hike	1.51 mi.	Easy-Moderate	2 hours
10 Shimek Forest-Keosauqua Unit Trails	Hike	0.38 mi.	Moderate	12 minutes