



# IOWA STATE PARKS

## BIG CREEK STATE PARK

8794 NW 125th Ave, Polk City IA 50226

Welcome to Big Creek State Park, one of the most beautiful recreation areas in central Iowa. Big Creek State Park and the surrounding recreation areas provide a multitude of recreation opportunities. Whether you are boating, fishing, swimming, hunting or enjoying any of the many other outdoor activities this park and the adjacent federal and county parks provide, you are sure to enjoy your stay.

### PARK POINTS OF INTEREST/THINGS TO DO

Big Creek State Park and the adjoining public hunting areas provide recreation for visitors of all ages and interests. The focal point of the 3,550-acre complex is the lake. The 814-acre lake has over a dozen fishing jetties, many fishing access areas, and a universally accessible fishing pier that provide great shoreline access. Anglers can try their luck fishing for walleye, muskie, perch, bluegill, crappie, largemouth/smallmouth bass, and channel catfish. Five boat ramps are located around the lake for convenient lake access.

The Big Creek beach area provides 1,300 feet of swimming opportunity, with a large playground, volleyball court, open areas, 22 shelter and picnic sites, and beach cabanas. The beach concession and boat rental (515-984-6083) are one of the finest concessions in the state offering pontoons, fishing boats, sailboats, canoes, hydra bikes, paddleboats, and kayaks rental. The concession also offers food, bait, fishing tackle and license sales. Dry dock storage is also available near the beach.

A 26-mile paved multi-use trail runs 3 miles through the park and continues south through the Saylorville Lake area and Des Moines River valley, ending in Des Moines. For winter fun, there is an 11-mile snowmobile trail circling the lake and several groomed cross-country ski trails in the Hampton picnic area.

The state park is a wildlife refuge where hunting is not permitted. Hunting is allowed on the lake and in designated public wildlife hunting areas around the lake. The Charles "Butch" Olofson Shooting Range (515-795-2067) offering rifle, handgun, trap and skeet, and hunter safety classes is located 3 miles west of the park off of NW Madrid Dr. Their hours of operation are Monday and Tuesday - closed; Monday and Friday 11am - 5pm; Saturday and Sunday, 8am - 5pm.

### SPECIAL PARK RULES

All motor boats must operate at 5 mph speeds only. No amplified music at shelters or cabanas. The beach closes from sunset to sunrise. Pick up the rules/regulations booklet for more information on general park rules.

### LOCAL EVENT/ATTRACTIONS

The park hosts a number of events throughout the summer: Disc Golf Tournaments (May/July), EMC Dam to DSM Half Marathon (May), Special Person Fishing Days (June), Iowa Games Triathlon (July), and several fishing tournaments. All events provide competition, fun and entertainment.

The Polk City community holds the annual Four Season Festival in July. Park visitors can take in the sights, sounds and tastes of these great events. Please call Saylorville Lake at (515-276-4656) or Polk County Conservation Board (515-323-5300) for more local recreational opportunities.

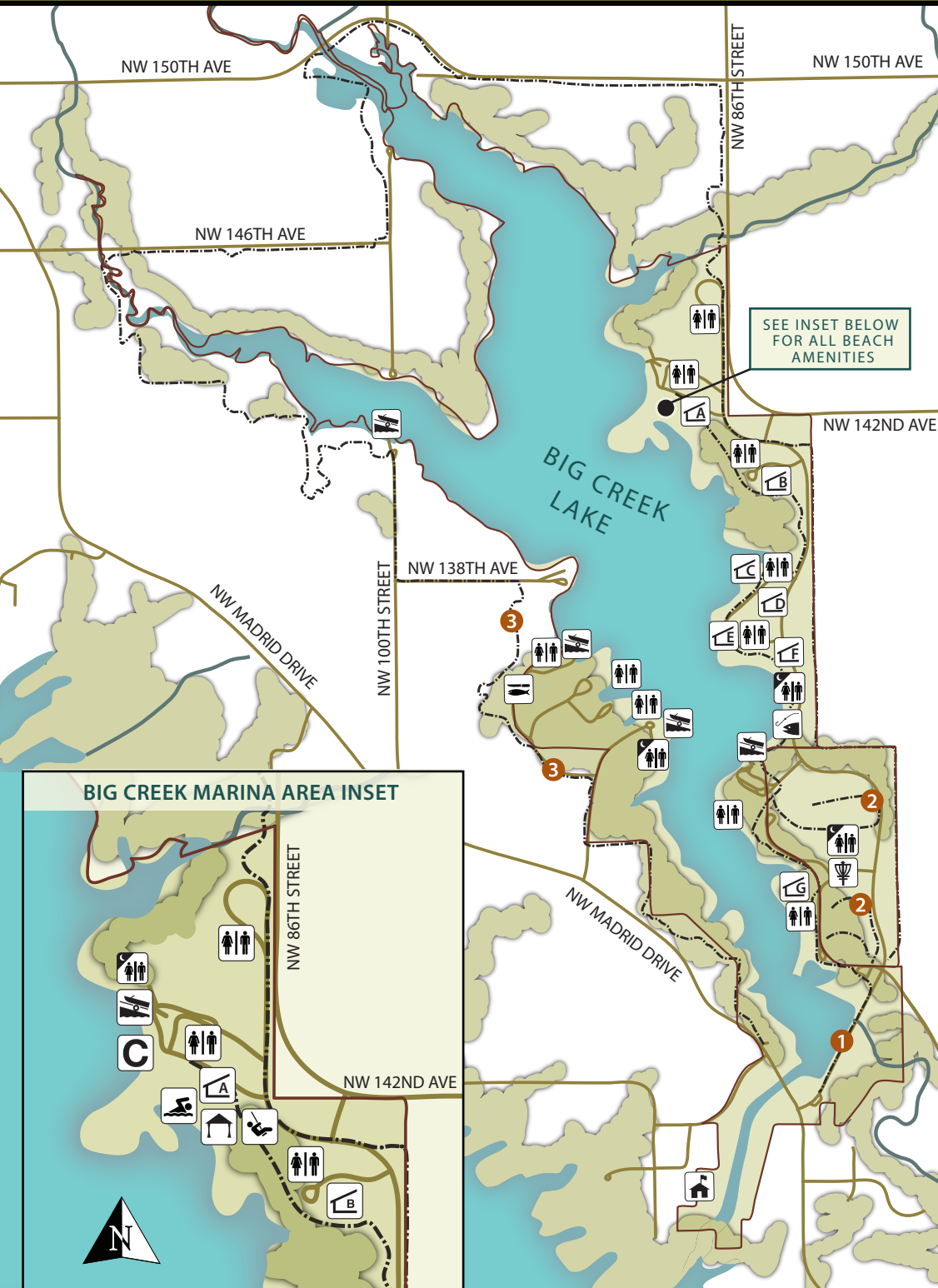
### LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Park Office: 515-984-6473  
Park Manager: Sarah Klein  
Park Ranger: Jeff Poen

**For emergencies, please call 911.**

### SEVERE WEATHER

The park does not have designated storm shelters. Park visitors can use park rest rooms for emergency shelters during severe weather if they do not have time to leave the park. The Polk City siren, located by the dam, will issue a warning for severe weather.



**MAP KEY**

- Beach Area
- Beach Cabanas - 9
- Boat Ramp
- Concession
- Disc Golf
- Fishing Pier / Jetty
- Fish Cleaning Station
- Park Office
- Playground
- Restroom - Modern Seasonal
- Restroom - Nonmodern Year-round
- Shelter

**SHELTERS**

- A. Beach Shelters 1,2,3
- B. Beverly Dinghy Shelter
- C. Cadet Shelter
- D. Duster Shelter
- E. Ensign Shelter
- F. Firefly Shelter
- G. Hampton Shelter

- Trail
- Road
- Park Boundary
- Multiuse Trails
- Water

**TRAIL INFORMATION**

Trail Name	Trail Activity	Length	Level of Difficulty	Estimated Hike Time
1 Neal Smith - Big Creek Portion	Hiking, Biking, Mountain Biking	3 mi	Easy	1.25-1.5 hr
2 Cross-country Ski	Cross-country Skiing	2.5 mi	Easy	1-1.25 hr
3 Snowmobile (Seasonal)	Snowmobiling	10.8 mi	Moderate	6 hr