Park Hours

Summer Hours: 6:30 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.
(from daylight savings time in the spring until standard time in the fall)

Winter Hours: Sunrise to Sunset
(from standard time in the fall until daylight savings time in the spring)

*Front gates are closed at the posted times unless otherwise indicated.

Polk County Conservation Office
11407 NW Jester Park Drive
Granger, IA 50109
Phone: (515) 323-5300
Fax: (515) 323-5354
Website: www.leadingyououtdoors.org
Email: pccb_info@polkcountyiowa.gov

Park Information

Polk County Conservation

POLK COUNTY CONSERVATION

Introduction and General Information

Welcome to Polk County Conservation Board's parks and natural areas. We invite you to explore and enjoy these beautiful areas. We take great pride in visitor safety and park beautification. For our parks to remain a safe and enjoyable place, we ask that you follow these rules and regulations. Thank you!

Rules and Regulations Summary*

Traffic:	Motorized vehicles must stay on roadways or in designated parking areas. Park roads are public roads and operators of motor vehicles must have a valid driver's license.
Speed Limit:	As posted.
Camping:	Designated areas only. Fees are required. Sites are reservable where posted.
Picnics:	Allowed in the designated areas except in campgrounds.
Fires:	Authorized only in the provided metal rings or grills
Litter:	"Pack it home if you pack it in" is the best rule, or use containers provided.
Pets:	Keep on a leash at all times. Leash is not to exceed six feet. Pets shall not be left unattended outside the camping unit.
Firearms:	Permitted only in areas open for public hunting.
Keg Beer:	Restricted to reserved shelters. Keg permit required.

*Violation is a simple misdemeanor

Polk County Conservation Board

Explore over 11,000 acres of prairies, wetlands, woodlands, trails, and parks. Located in the state's most populated county, Polk County Conservation Board manages 18 parks, wildlife areas, and recreational trails.

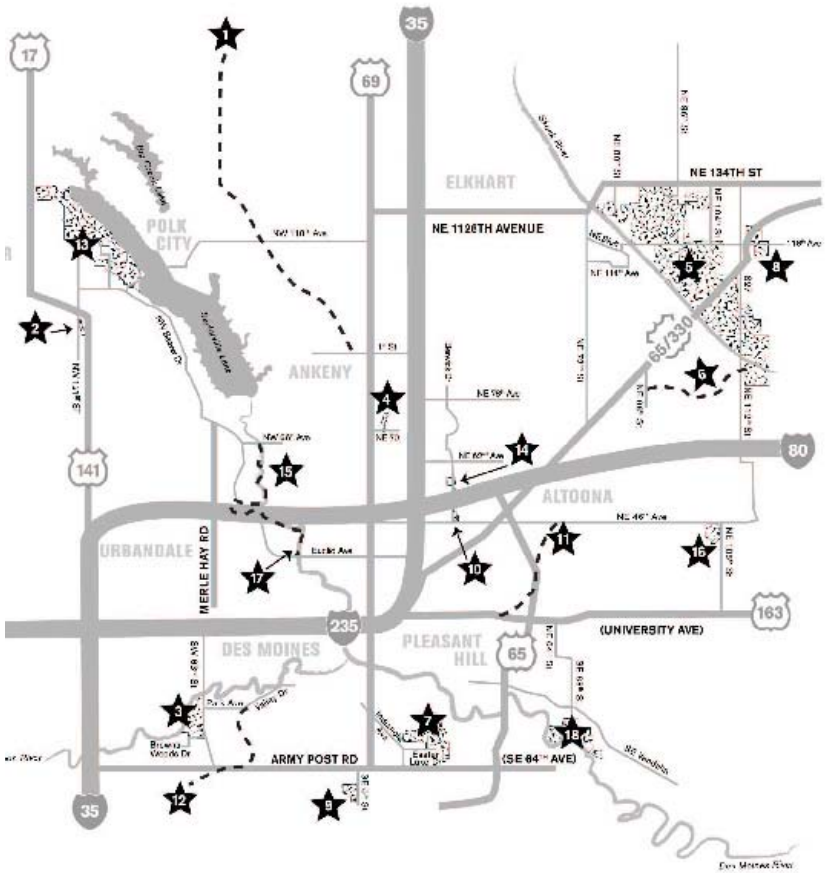
Polk County Conservation Board offers year-round educational programs, volunteer opportunities, and trips to the public. Allow us to provide you with beautiful parks and wildlife areas, along with educational experiences that will add to your knowledge about conservation and the protection of Polk County's natural heritage.

We have something for everyone. Plan a family picnic, golf 18 holes on a championship course, canoe down the river, reel in a trophy fish, ride horseback along Saylorville Lake, utilize public hunting areas or get some exercise biking on a multi-use trail. Come meet our Polk County Conservation Family of Parks.

Mission Statement:

The Polk County Conservation Board's mission is to provide the citizens of Polk County with quality outdoor recreation, conservation education, and long-term protection of Polk County's natural heritage.

Polk County Conservation Board Areas



1. High Trestle Trail
2. Beaver Creek Greenbelt
3. Brown's Woods
4. Carney Marsh
5. Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt
6. Chichaqua Valley Trail
7. Easter Lake Park
8. Engeldinger Marsh
9. Fort Des Moines Park
10. Four Mile Creek Greenbelt
11. Gay Lea Wilson Trail
12. Great Western Trail
13. Jester Park
14. Mally's Weh Weh Neh Kee Park
15. Sycamore Trail
16. Thomas Mitchell Park
17. Trestle to Trestle Trail
18. Yellow Banks Park

Conservation and Public Parks

The following codes and sections are only portions of the State Code. They are identified here for public awareness and safety. It is the intent of Polk County Conservation Board to provide quality outdoor recreation/education while protecting natural resources.

350.10 Statutes Applicable

Sections 461A.35 through 461A.57 apply to all lands and waters under control of a county conservation board. However, these sections may be modified or superseded by rules adopted as provided in Section 350.5.

Section 1. Prohibited Destructive Acts

It shall be unlawful for any person to destroy, injure, deface, or remove any plant life, trees, buildings, or other natural material property.

Section 2. Speed Limit

Speed limit as posted. All driving shall be confined to designated roadways.

Section 3. Excessive Loads

Excessively loaded vehicles shall not operate over park roads or highways.

Section 4. Parking

All vehicles shall be parked in designated areas and not left unattended for more than 72 hours.

Section 5. Hitching to Trees

No animals, camping equipment or other items shall be tied to trees or shrubs.

Section 6. Fires
Fires are restricted to grills or metal rings provided and must be put out before leaving the site.

Section 7. Removing Plants, Flowers, or Fruit
Unless otherwise posted, it is lawful to collect fruit, nuts, berries and mushrooms for non-commercial home use, provided the collector does not otherwise damage the parent plant.

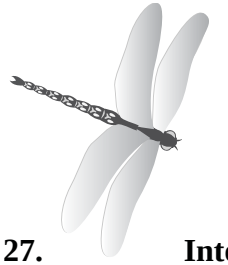
Section 8. Use of Firearms, Explosives, Weapons, and Fireworks Prohibited
The use by the public of firearms, fireworks, explosives, and weapons of all kinds is prohibited. Nothing in this provision prohibits the use of firearms or bow and arrows in the legal pursuit of game on designated hunting areas.

Section 9. Littering Grounds
It is unlawful to bring any garbage, refuse, or litter into any area for the purpose of disposal.

Section 10. Prohibited Areas
It is unlawful for any person to enter, use or occupy any area or facility within said area in disregard of any official sign, gate or barricade.

Section 11. Animals on Leash
Keep animals on a leash at all times. Leash is not to exceed six feet. Pets shall not be left unattended outside the camping unit.

Section 12. Closing Time
All visitors are required to leave the park prior to closing time, which is 10:30 p.m. during summer hours and by sunset during winter hours.



Section 27. Intoxicating Liquors
A person shall not use or consume alcoholic liquor in any public place, except at a reserved event at the Jester Park Lodge or at the Jester Park Golf Course with intoxicating liquors provided through Polk County Conservation's designated Lodge caterer or contracted manager at the golf course, respectively. Both the Lodge caterer and contracted golf course manager are required by Iowa State law to have all necessary licenses and permits. A public place is anywhere outside the camping unit within the park.

Section 28. Exceptions
Nothing in these rules and regulations shall prohibit or hinder the Conservation Board, its Director, Park Rangers, or duly authorized agents or any other peace officers from performing their official duties.

Section 29. Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages at Easter Lake Park
It is unlawful for any person to use, possess or consume beer, wine, or alcoholic liquors in Easter Lake Park, including all park roads and parking areas, except by approval of the Polk County Conservation Board Director by special permit for special events such as a charitable fund-raising events or if a shelter is rented. Use of beer or wine as part of shelter rental shall take place in the shelter or the immediate vicinity of the rented shelter.

Section 30. Bikes on Trails
The use of all mechanized modes of transport including non-motorized vehicles (except for Americans with Disabilities Act reasons) is unlawful and prohibited on all Polk County Conservation Board trails expect those trails specifically posted as open to mechanized modes of transport by the Polk County Conservation Board.

Section 19. Use of Horses
Horses are restricted to designated areas.

Section 20. ATV
The use of ATV's or similar vehicles is prohibited in county parks.

Section 21. Snowmobiles
Snowmobiles are permitted in designated areas when snow cover has reached a four-inch minimum depth. Such snowmobiles must be operated and equipped in accordance with Chapter 321G of the Code of Iowa. Access to any area may be denied for just cause.

Section 22. Sledding Equipment
It is unlawful to use any part of a car body, plywood or metal sheet, or any similar unsafe device in any winter sport activity in or on any area.

Section 23. Swimming
It is unlawful to swim, wade or engage in related water activities except at designated ponds or waters. Wading for the purpose of hunting, trapping, bird watching, fishing, etc. is allowed.

Section 24. Reservations
A minor may not reserve any facility.

Section 25. Unattended Boats
It is unlawful to leave any unattended boat or other water conveyance on or attached to any area except those so designated.

Section 26. Beer
No person or group shall bring, use, or have in possession beer in a keg or any other container larger than one quart without having reserved a facility offered for reservation and having paid a deposit.

Section 13. Definitions

A. "Board" - the Polk County Conservation Board
B. "Director" – the Director of the Conservation Board
C. "Authorized Representative" – includes Park Rangers and other persons designated by the Director
D. "Area" – all or any part of the land and/or water owned, leased, managed or by other means under control of the Board.
E. "Camping unit or camp" – a tent, trailer or motor vehicle specifically designed for such use as a temporary residence at a camp area. A camper with an additional tent or a tent with a second tent is an extra $6 fee.
F. "Camping Party" – any individual group of not more than six persons or immediate family occupying one camp site and must include at least an adult eighteen years in age or older.
G. "Camp Area" – any area designated by the Board for camping.
H. "Campsite" – a segment of the camp area designated by the Board for camping by a camping unit or camping party.
I. "Youth Group Definition" – All groups reserving this campsite must be composed of persons 17 years of age and under which is sponsored by and accompanied by adult representatives of a formal organization (including but not limited to Boy/Girl Scouts of America, churches, school groups). Chaperoned organized youth group DOES NOT include families of a formal organization. All groups reserving this site are subject to verification from park staff upon arrival.

Section 14. Camping

A. Violation of any state law or county regulation by any member of a camping party is cause for revocation of the camping privilege and the entire camping party may be required to leave the area.
B. Registration is required within one hour of setting up camp.

C. Campsites are reservable where posted.

D. No camping party or camping unit shall occupy any camp area for more than 14 days out of any 17-day period.

E. No camping unit shall be left unoccupied for more than 24 hours. Unattended camping equipment beyond the 24 hour limit is subject to impoundment. Camping equipment which may be impounded shall be removed and disposed of as provided by law.

F. It is unlawful for more than one camping party to occupy a campsite.

G. It is unlawful to park any motor vehicle other than in a designated parking area. Vehicle(s) parked at a camp site must be parked on the camping pad not the roadway. If parking is not available on camping pad, vehicle(s) must park in designated areas.

H. All park visitors/campers must avoid excessive noise and maintain the quiet hours of 10 p.m. – 9 a.m. in the park.

I. No refunds will be issued.

J. "Excessive Noise" means any loud, confused or senseless shouting or outcry; a sound lacking in agreeable musical quality or which is noticeably unpleasant.

K. Unless otherwise stated, there will be no taking down or putting up of camping units after 10 p.m. Check-out time is 3 p.m.

Section 15. Hunting Restrictions

A. It is unlawful to hunt, trap, pursue or in any manner molest any wildlife, or to use or carry firearms, explosives, and weapons of any kind in or on any area not designated as a public hunting area.

B. Controlled Site Hunting Area. A portion of the Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt, where posted, is designated as a controlled hunting area. No person shall enter upon this area from September 10 through the Thursday before opening day of the first shotgun deer season.

C. A blind for the purpose of hunting or wildlife observation may be constructed, but its construction will not give that person any proprietary right to its use. Only portable, self-contained blinds may be installed on any recreation or hunting area. No nails or other metal may be driven into any tree.

D. It is unlawful to trap or use snares without a special-use permit.

E. Decoys are prohibited on all areas between one hour after legal shooting time and midnight of each day.

F. It is unlawful to possess any shot other than non-toxic (non-lead) shot while using a shotgun on Conservation Board areas except for deer and turkey hunting or trapshooting at the designated trap range at the Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt.

Section 16. Training and Exercising Dogs

It is lawful to permit dogs to run at large for the purpose of training or exercising them in or on any area designated as a hunting area by the Board except between March 15 and July 15. Organized field and retriever meets shall be conducted at designated sites on approved dates.

Section 17. Public Address Systems and Amplified Music

It is unlawful to operate or use any amplified radio, television, stereo, musical or instrument. No electric generating plants, power saws, chain saws, power tools of any kind or public address system whether fixed, portable, or vehicular-mounted, are allowed in any area except by special-use permit.

Section 18. Recreation Uses Only

It is unlawful for any person to occupy any portion of any area for washing or repairing vehicles, advertising/peddling or any other non-recreational activity, except concessionaires acting under the authority of a lease or contract with the Board.