



Thomas Hazelton <countyparksiowa@gmail.com>

Dec. 2 Iowa Outdoors

1 message

Press Releases from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources

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IOWA OUTDOORS

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES | CONSERVATION AND RECREATION DIVISION

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1. Easy to Catch Trout Too Tempting for Some
2. Work Continues on Maquoketa River Whitewater Park

EASY TO CATCH TROUT TOO TEMPTING FOR SOME

AMES - Conservation Officer Brandon Bergquist was on the phone with a concerned fisherman on Nov. 20, who was reporting seeing someone taking more than his allowed limit of trout at Ada Haden Lake.

The call to the Turn in Poachers hotline started a surveillance project by Bergquist on Nov. 22 that led to six individuals receiving citations for taking too many trout.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has been stocking trout during the cool weather months to bring a unique fishing opportunity to places where trout could not normally survive. The program has

successfully brought new anglers into trout fishing.

Once these fish are stocked, they are aggressive and willing to bite on about any type of bait or lure making them easily exploited. There is a daily limit of five trout and a possession limit 10, plus a required trout fee to fish for or possess trout, in addition to a valid fishing license. Ada Hayden received 2,200 trout for its fall stocking on Nov. 20.

Bergquist eased into the parking lot at Ada Hayden that Saturday morning and for the next 10 hours watched anglers, noted vehicles and their license plates as they came and went. As anglers would return to the vehicles, he would check their catch and if they had a license or not and ask if there was anyone in particular he should watch.

“One guy was 21 fish over his limit. Others caught their limit in the morning and then come back in the afternoon for another limit, and one was placing extra trout in a plastic bag and stuffing it in the waste line of his pants in an attempt to sneak a few extra home,” Bergquist said.

In all, he seized 68 trout, including 43 that were over limit violations, wrote three no trout fees and one no fishing license.

“If we have habitual and frequent over-bag limits it will quickly deplete the resource for other people,” he said.

Individuals could receive a \$100.50 for each over limit violation, and be subject to criminal prosecution, civil damages and face the loss of their equipment used in the act.

“Many of them were surprised,” he said. “They didn’t think officers were around because of the open hunting seasons.”

The public can help protect the resource by calling the Turn in Poachers hotline or their local officer if they see fish or wildlife violation. Provide as much information as possible including a description of the individual or individuals, vehicle description or license plate number.

MEDIA CONTACT: Mark Sedlmayr, Chief of Law Enforcement, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, [515-725-8479](tel:515-725-8479).

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WORK CONTINUES ON MAQUOKETA RIVER WHITEWATER PARK

MANCHESTER, Iowa - Manchester will be home to Iowa’s newest river attraction when the Manchester Whitewater Park opens next summer on the upper Maquoketa River.

Construction began in September on the \$1.8 million project that, weather permitting, will be finished by summer 2015. Crews are modifying the Marion Street Dam and adding five in-stream drop structures to create play areas along the river.

The new river features will be attractive to kayakers, canoeists, rafters, tubers, and standup paddleboard

surfers, but planners wanted the area to appeal to other users as well.

“The Charles City project built in 2011 showed us that anglers and sightseers flocked to the area in even greater numbers than the in-river users,” said Nate Hoogeveen, river programs coordinator with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. “For Manchester, that made the on-bank access doubly important to serve pedestrians, joggers, and picnickers, as well as anglers.”

Whitewater drop structures create drops and pools providing excellent fish habitat in the summer and overwintering holes during the colder months making these areas popular with anglers.

The project that arose from a brainstorming session in 2009 is expected to contribute an estimated \$2 million in local economic activity through increased use and satisfaction from paddlers, anglers and outdoor recreation.

“A critical mass of these whitewater facilities -- along with outfitters and campgrounds that have sprung up along rivers -- is putting Iowa on the map as a destination for active professionals,” said Iowa tourism manager Shawna Lode.

The whitewater park feature is one piece of a plan to improve and conserve the upper Maquoketa River corridor from Backbone State Park to Lake Delhi. Other features under consideration are redeveloping the riverfront through Manchester, habitat improvements, developing a water trail with improved access and signing, and developing a multi-use recreation trail connecting Manchester to the State Trout Hatchery east of town.

MEDIA CONTACT: Todd Robertson, Rivers Programs Outreach Coordinator, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, [515-725-2960](tel:515-725-2960).

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MICK KLEMESRUD Information Specialist

Iowa Department of Natural Resources



P [515-725-8280](tel:515-725-8280) | F [515-725-8201](tel:515-725-8201) | mick.klemesrud@dnr.iowa.gov

Wallace Building | 502 East Ninth Street | Des Moines, IA 50319

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