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July 1 Iowa Outdoors - State Parks Update

1 message

Press Releases from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources

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To: Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards <IACCB@mycountyparks.com>



IOWA DNR NEWS

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES | CONSERVATION AND RECREATION DIVISION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JULY 1, 2014

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1. State Parks Damaged by Wind, Flooding
2. Few State Parks Campsites Remain for Last Minute Reservations

STATE PARKS DAMAGED BY WIND, FLOODING

- The campground at Dolliver State Park, in Webster County continues to be closed due to flooding. Other park facilities remain open.
- George Wyth State Park, in Black Hawk County, will be closed likely through the weekend due to flooding.

- Most of Wapsipinicon State Park, in Jones County, is closed due to flooding and the campground has been closed due to downed trees.
- Lake Macbride State Park, in Johnson County, is in the process of restoring its electricity. The Coralville Reservoir is high and within inches of back flowing into Lake Macbride. If it does, it could impact the Lake Macbride beach, concession and some trails.
- Most of the campsites at Fairport State Recreation Area, in Muscatine County, are flooded from the Mississippi River. The campsites not flooded are currently filled with campers. Fairport will be removed from the reservation system until floodwater recedes and all campsites are available. Trails at nearby Wildcat Den will likely have some damage.
- The lakefront campsites at Rock Creek State Park, in Jasper County, are not available due to high water. Campers were moved to other sites until the water recedes.
- The lower road leading to the beach and boat ramp at Palisades-Kepler State Park, in Linn County, is closed due to flooding. The rest of the park is open.
- In Ledges State Park, in Boone County, Lower Ledges Road and Canyon Drive are closed to vehicle traffic due to flooding, but the park and campground remain open.
 - Mines of Spain State Recreation Area, in Dubuque County, has three trails closed due to flooding - Calcite Trail, Mesquakie Trail and Cattesse Trail.
- Maquoketa Caves State Park, in Jackson County, is clearing trees from roads downed by the wind.
- The lower road at Backbone State Park, in Delaware County, is closed due to flash flooding. The campground is unaffected and is open.
- Wildcat Trail, at Pine Lake State Park, in Hardin County, is closed due to flooding.
- Neal Smith Bike Trail, in Polk County, remains closed. The outflow from Saylorville Lake is expected to increase from 17,000 cubic feet per second (CFS) to 21,000 CFS later this week.

Campers with reservations in Iowa state park campgrounds closed due to flooding or storm damage will be contacted by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Many state parks will be cleaning and clearing downed limbs and other damage caused by Monday's storm. For the latest information on state park closures, go to www.iowadnr.gov/parks and click on the Closure Information link in the column on the left.

FEW STATE PARKS CAMPSITES REMAIN FOR LAST MINUTE

RESERVATIONS

Six state parks have a campsite or two with electricity available for reservation for the upcoming holiday weekend.

Lacey-Keosauqua has two sites, Rock Creek has buddy site (two campsites adjoining that is reserved as one), and Black Hawk, Marble beach, Pine Lake, and Prairie Rose state parks each have one. Reservations must be made two days in advance.

To reserve a site, go to <http://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com/>

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