

PARK HOURS



SUMMER HOURS: 6:30 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.
April 1 - October 31
Unless Otherwise Posted

WINTER HOURS: Sunrise to Sunset
November 1 - March 31
Unless Otherwise Posted

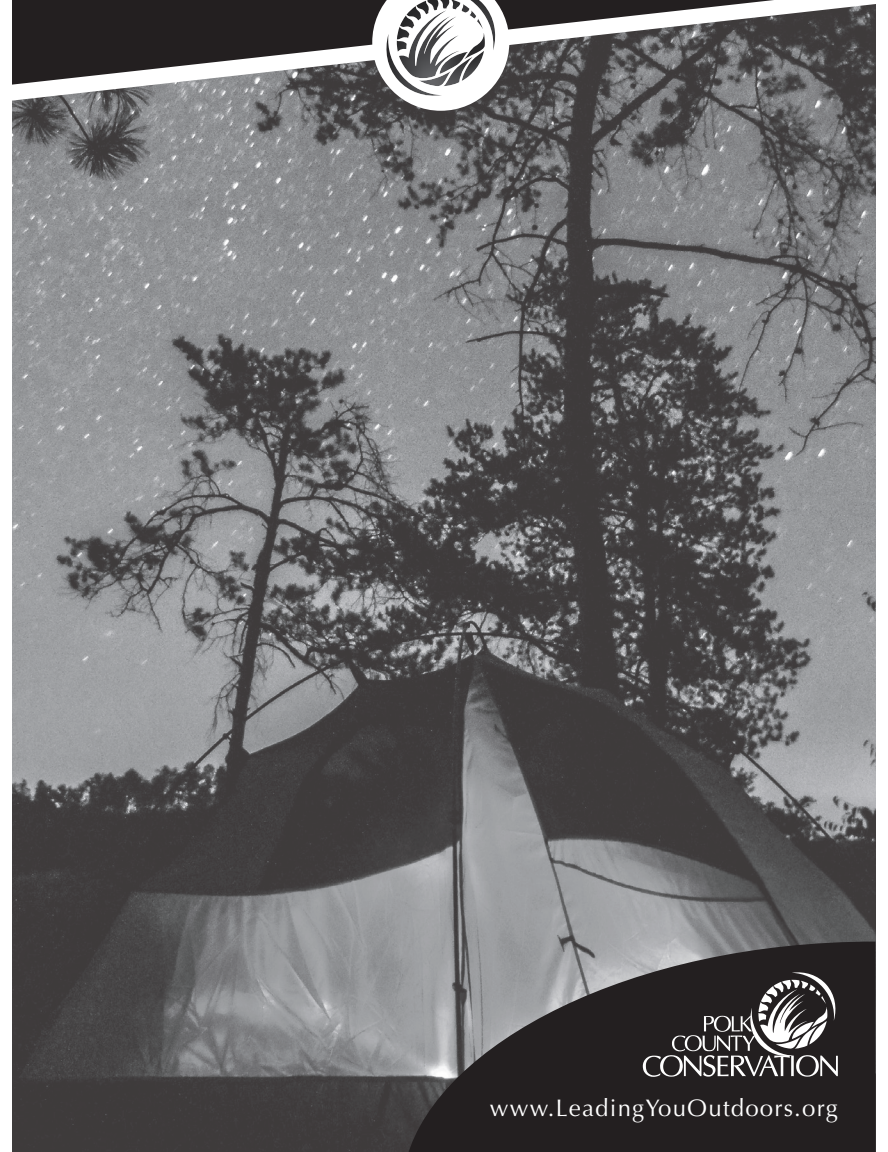


FOR MORE INFORMATION

Polk County Conservation's Administration Office is located inside of the Jester Park Nature Center.

Polk County Conservation Board
12130 NW 128th St.
Granger, Iowa 50109
515.323.5300
pccb_info@polkcountyiowa.gov
www.leadingyououtdoors.org

PARK INFORMATION RULES & REGULATIONS



www.LeadingYouOutdoors.org

WELCOME TO YOUR PARKS & TRAILS!



Welcome to Polk County Conservation'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. Operation of an UTV/ATV within PCC parks must meet State Law to operate on the roadway.

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 at all times.

FIREARMS: Use permitted only in areas open for public hunting or target shooting.

KEG BEER: Restricted to reserved shelters. Keg permit required.

**Violation is a simple misdemeanor*

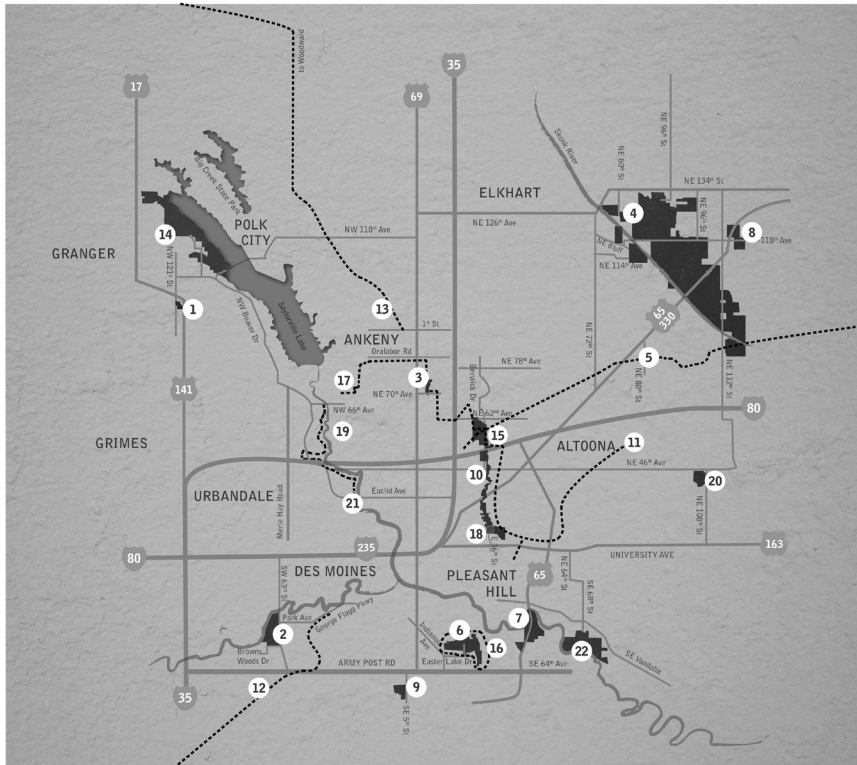
LEADING YOU OUTDOORS

Explore more than 15,000 acres of prairies, wetlands, woodlands, trails, and parks! Located in the state's most populated county, Polk County Conservation manages 22 parks, wildlife areas, and recreational trails.

Polk County Conservation offers the public year-round education and recreation programs, volunteer opportunities, and trips. Explore and learn about Iowa's natural heritage at the Jester Park Nature Center, plan a family picnic, golf on an 18-hole championship course or miniature golf course, paddle down the river, reel in a trophy fish, ride horseback along Saylorville Lake, use public hunting areas, bike on multi-use trails, and more!



POLK COUNTY CONSERVATION AREA MAP



1. Beaver Creek Greenbelt
2. Brown's Woods
3. Carney Marsh
4. Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt
5. Chichaqua Valley Trail
6. Easter Lake Park
7. Eagle Roost Wildlife Area
8. Engeldinger Marsh
9. Fort Des Moines Park
10. Fourmile Creek Greenway
11. Gay Lea Wilson Trail
12. Great Western Trail
13. High Trestle Trail
14. Jester Park
15. Mally's Park
16. Mark C. Ackelson Trail
17. Oralabor Gateway Trail
18. Strasser Woods State Preserve
19. Sycamore Trails
20. Thomas Mitchell Park
21. Trestle to Trestle Trail
22. Yellow Banks Park

Conservation & 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 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.

SECTION 5. HITCHING TO TREES

No animals, camping equipment or other items shall be tied to trees or shrubs. Camping Hammocks are allowed only with approved tree safe straps.

SECTION 6. FIRES

Fires are restricted to grills or metal rings provided and must be put out before leaving the site. The burning of trash or construction materials is prohibited.

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.

It is unlawful to harvest ginseng, ramps, and scallions from any Board Area.

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 fish/game on designated hunting areas and waters.

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 at any time.

SECTION 12. CLOSING TIME

All visitors are required to leave the park prior to closing time. Park hours are posted at the front entrance of each area.

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 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.
- F. Camp Area – any area designated by the Board for camping.
- G. Campsite – a segment of the camp area designated by the Board for camping by a camping unit or camping party.
- H. Youth Group – an established organization under the leadership of at least one adult for every eight minors.

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 of any kind shall occupy any camp area for more than 14 days out of any 17-day period. All personal property in addition to the camping unit must be removed from the campsite for three nights prior to returning to the campground.
- 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. A trailer is considered a vehicle.

- 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. There will be no taking down or putting up of camping units after 10 p.m. Check-out time is 3 p.m.
- L. All campers must maintain a clean and orderly campsite.

SECTION 15. HUNTING RESTRICTIONS

- A. It is unlawful to hunt, trap, pursue, or in any manner molest any wildlife, or to use explosives, and weapons of any kind in or on any area not designated as a public hunting area.
- B. A portion of the Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt, where posted, is designated as a controlled hunting area. No person shall enter upon this area between September 1 through November 30 with the exception of a special-use permit.
- 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. Portable blinds placed in trees and used for purposes other than hunting waterfowl may be left on an area for a continuous period of time beginning seven days prior to the open season for hunting deer or turkey and ending seven days after the final day of the season. 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 15. HUNTING RESTRICTIONS [CONTINUED...]

- G. Target Shooting is the discharging of a rifle, shotgun, pistol, air rifle, bow and arrows, sling shot, air soft gun, and paintball gun at either a fixed or inanimate object. It shall be unlawful to target shoot on any property owned or managed by the Board except those areas designated by the Board as target shooting areas. The Board shall post all target shooting areas with official signs to notify the public that this activity is lawful.
- H. It is unlawful to harvest for commercial purposes any natural resource on PCCB managed land without a special use permit.

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. Devices used in such a manner as to create excessive noise and/or disturb other persons are prohibited.

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.

SECTION 19. USE OF HORSES

Horses are restricted to designated areas.

SECTION 20. ATV

Operation of an UTV/ATV within PCC parks must meet State Law to operate on the roadway.

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 *40 ounces* without having reserved a facility offered for reservation and having paid a deposit.

SECTION 27. INTOXICATING LIQUORS

A person shall not use or consume alcoholic liquor in any public place. 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 TRAIL

Electric bikes are allowed on Board managed bike trails as long as the bike has fully operable pedals and meets the definition of an electric bicycle in accordance to current Iowa Law.

SECTION 31. METAL DETECTING

- A. Allowed in areas that are not reserved. (no occupied campsites or shelter houses).
- B. Must report all valuables found to park ranger to determine whether or not the item has been reported lost/stolen.
- C. Must repair all holes, no digging more than 6" deep or 6" diameter.