COVID-19 Impact to State Parks

State Park Closures Due to COVID-19 by State — As of April 13, 2020

*Note: In most states if parks are open for day use, visitor’s centers and other facilities are often closed. Washington D.C. has closed all parks, outdoor spaces, and athletic courts.

Iowa COVID-19 Parks Guidance:

- Effective April 7, Governor Reynolds signed a proclamation that orders the closure of all public campgrounds, cabins and yurts, and all outdoor playgrounds through April 30.

- 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the Iowa State parks system. Unfortunately the majority of events are cancelled due to social distancing mandates; however, some events have gone “virtual”. Check here for event updates: www.iowadnr.gov/Places-to-Go/Parks-2020
  For a virtual celebration of parks through art, see: iowaculture.gov/arts/get-involved/20-artists-20-parks

- Many national parks nationwide have closed, particularly the larger, more crowded parks. In Iowa, Herber Hoover National Historic Site is closed, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail visitors center is closed, and Effigy Mounds is open to the public but the visitor’s center is closed.

- The Army Corps of Engineers have closed all visitors centers, beaches, day use areas, and project offices to the public. Boat ramps and trails remain open (this includes Coralville Lake, Lake Red Rock, Rathbun, and Saylorville).

- Iowa county parks are closed to camping through April 30; however, the majority are open to day-use activities such as hiking. Nature centers and most restroom facilities are closed. To find updates on county park closures, visit: www.mycountyparks.com/Info/COVID-19-UPDATES.aspx

- For the latest information on Iowa State park closures due to COVID-19, visit: www.iowadnr.gov/Places-to-Go/State-Parks/Alerts-and-Closures

Sources: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, various individual State government websites
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