

ACCOMPLISHMENT OF STATE BOARD OF CONSERVATION TO APRIL, 1920

(From the forthcoming report of the State Board of Conservation)

AREAS IN IOWA WHICH HAVE BEEN ACQUIRED OR ARE IN COURSE OF ACQUISITION FOR PUBLIC STATE PARKS

Boneyard Hollow and Woodman's Hollow, Webster County

About ten miles southeast of Fort Dodge on the west bank of the Des Moines river; wild and beautiful scenery; rare plants and forestry; adapted to summer and winter sports; interesting historic associations and unusual prehistoric works and discoveries.

Four hundred and fifty-seven acres purchased for thirty-eight thousand, five hundred dollars, toward which the local citizens paid ten thousand dollars in cash and provided, cost free to the State, two appropriate roadways.

The Devil's Backbone, Delaware County

Twelve miles northwest of Manchester, four miles northeast from Lamont, four miles southeast of Strawberry Point; good roads; purchased almost entirely from funds derived from half the hunting license proceeds, under Chapter 236, Acts of the 37th General Assembly, therefore by the State Board of Conservation characterized as "The Gift of the Iowa Sportsmen to the People of the State." First public state park acquired; most wild and wonderful scenic area in interior of Iowa; great bend of Maquoketa river; immense spring is a constant supply for fine brook trout; Maquoketa river to and including an ancient mill embraced; rare plants and forestry, including best typical growth of native white pines; grotesque weathering of ancient limestone; unusual and rare glacial and erosive effects displayed; ideal camping place when facilities are provided.

All lands purchased.

Near Farmington, Van Buren County

One-half mile south of Farmington near Des Moines River and State roads; unique geology; scenic gem; original timber undisturbed; natural lake and marsh of forty acres proposed to be improved so as to cover sixty acres; perfect for stocking

with bullheads and other fish; rare fields of lotus or chinquapin; throngs of the cardinal and other birds winter and summer; muskrat and other fur bearers numerous.

One hundred acres purchased by local citizens for seventy-five hundred dollars and presented cost free to the State which has engaged to purchase two additional acres, condemn or acquire roadways and improve the same and otherwise render the area enjoyable.

Near Keosauqua, Van Buren County

Extends from the town along the south bank of the Des Moines River at the toe of the horseshoe bend some two miles up stream, thence southward from the stream to include some fourteen hundred acres. Natural wild life sanctuary and set apart to the unmodified and undisturbed use of the natural species of wild animal and plant life; rough, wooded, brushy, the high hills affording rarest of vistas up, down and across stream and crowned with prehistoric mounds; the ruffed grouse observed in summer 1919, with quail most abundant; winter resort and summer breeding place of the cardinal; numerous dens of fox, skunk, mink, raccoon, opossum and groundhog; for a mile in all directions of the State lands, land owners voluntarily engage to assist the State in its protection of wild life, both on their lands and the lands of the State so that there shall be a protected, undisturbed breeding place of approximately 4,000 acres; "Ely's Ford," a historic river crossing of pre-railroad days, famous then and ever since, as a camping site for hunting, fishing, bathing and for winter sports.

Acquired by purchase at an average of less than fifty dollars per acre, to which local citizens contributed in cash something over seventy-six hundred dollars.

Lepley Park, Hardin County

Three miles in a northerly direction from Union; nine acres presented cost free to the people of Iowa by Mr. Irvin Lepley; the State to purchase some additional twenty acres. On the tract presented and that to be acquired are magnificent oak, elm, basswood, walnut and nearly every other native species of timber, wild flowers, woods, river, and important

highways near make of this place an ideal gift to be dedicated to the perpetual use to which it has been devoted from the earliest civilized times, namely, the enjoyment of the great out-doors.

For withholding this area from mercenary disposition and making its transfer to the State for park purpose, the board feels it is warranted in commending Mr. Lepley to the gratitude of the people of the State.

Near Oakland, Pottawattamie County

The Oakland Chautauqua Association donates, cost free to the State of Iowa, its fifteen acres of ground of a high pecuniary and still higher esthetic value as the first roadside park in Iowa, upon the condition that the State acquire a small additional area of ground to complete and perfect the foundation of an ideal roadside park.

The additional ground being held at an exorbitant price is yet to be condemned. The committee commends to citizens in other parts of Iowa the spirit of the Oakland Chautauqua Association as of the most practical, unselfish and farsighted character.

Near Oakland Mills, Henry County

Four miles southwest of Mt. Pleasant on Skunk River; accessible from State roads; resorted to from remotest civilized and even during Indian times, for fishing and sugar making; rare plants and forestry; good boating and bathing; beautiful scenery; interesting history.

— acres in extent, a part of the ground and four thousand dollars donated, the State purchasing — acres. Additional areas on margins of streams should be donated to the State, giving it complete, undisputed control.

Roosevelt Park, Floyd County

Three miles in a northerly direction from Greene and four miles in the southerly direction from Marble Rock in the banks of the Shell Rock River. C. M. Mather donates cost free to the people of the State, some fifteen acres of ground together with an appropriate roadway thereto, providing the State acquire some additional ground, denominate this "Roosevelt Park" and furthermore, that in the use of this area certain

rules deferential to Sunday be established and enforced. A fine growth of woods and flowers; resort of every species of bird, native and migratory in that region; picturesque bluffs and ravines; a dam in the river at Greene affords fine boating and fishing; for years much resorted to for fishing and to some extent for camping.

The State Board of Conservation regards the donation of Mr. Mather as a distinctly public-spirited act and beneficial to the people of the State beyond present valuation. It individually and positively expressed to Mr. Mather, and here records that expression, that the reasonable rules recognizing and differentiating Sunday as the one day on which pastimes and performances of all sorts shall be in harmony with the mental attitude of devout people, is a wholesome and welcome condition precedent to public acceptance of this gift.

Wildcat Den, Muscatine County

Eight miles northeast of Muscatine, near good roads. Misses Emma C. and Clara L. Brandt, nature-loving sisters, present, cost free, sixty acres of the heart of one of the richest floral regions in the State. Picturesque in every way and the resort for years of classes in botany and forestry from the Chicago University and other institutions of learning; fishing, boating and bathing available especially if the area embrace one of the few remaining water power mills on the smaller streams.

The State and local citizens engage to acquire the remainder of three hundred acres along Pine Creek to its confluence with the Mississippi River.

AREAS IN IOWA SUGGESTED BY RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS OF STATE AS SUITABLE FOR PUBLIC STATE PARK PURPOSES AND SO REGARDED BY THE BOARD OF CONSERVATION, FROM WHICH SELECTIONS WILL BE MADE, BUT NONE OF WHICH HAVE AS YET BEEN ACQUIRED FOR THE WANT OF APPROPRIATE CONDITIONS FOUND OR CREATED.

FIRST DISTRICT

Des Moines County—Starr's Cave—Cave and glen near Burlington.
Jefferson County—Cedar Creek—Woods south of Fairfield.

Lee County—Keokuk—Bluffs near Mississippi River.

Lee County—Murray's Landing—Camp ground on Skunk River.

Louisa County—Myerholz Lake—Near Wapello.

Louisa County—Odessa Lake—East of Wapello.

Louisa County—Toolesboro—Indian mounds, mouth Iowa River.

SECOND DISTRICT

Jackson County—Morehead Caves—Northwest of Maquoketa.

Jackson County—Tete des Morts—Historic, picturesque, near Bellevue.

Muscatine County—Park Place Addition—Suburb of Muscatine.

THIRD DISTRICT

Black Hawk County—Cedar Heights—Near Cedar Falls on Cedar River.

Black Hawk County—Island—Above Cedar Falls.

Bremer County—Shell Rock—Southwest of Waverly.

Bremer County—Waverly Park—In suburbs of Waverly.

Dubuque County—Catfish Creek—Two miles from Dubuque.

Dubuque County—Durango Road—North of Dubuque.

Hardin County—Alden-Iowa Falls—Along Iowa River.

Hardin County—Steamboat Rock—Scenic, scientific, on Iowa River.

Wright County—Cornelia Lake—Six miles northeast of Clarion.

Wright County—Elm Lake—Six miles north of Clarion.

Wright County—Twin Sisters' Lake—West of Belmond.

Wright County—Wall Lake—Eleven miles southeast of Clarion.

FOURTH DISTRICT

Allamakee County—The Fish Farm—Indian mounds, near Lansing.

Allamakee County—Waterville—Scenic and scientific.

Allamakee County—Yellow River—Scenic and scientific.

Cerro Gordo County—Huckleberry Grove—Fossil beds, near Portland.

Cerro Gordo County—Clear Lake—Land bordering the lake.

Chickasaw County—Nashua Park—Near Nashua, woods.

Chickasaw County—Nashua Lake—Near Nashua on Cedar River.

Clayton County—Bixby Park—Wooded and scenic, southwest part of Clayton County.

Fayette County—Arlington—Scenic, near Arlington.

Fayette County—Dutton's Cave—Scenic, wooded, six miles from West Union.

Fayette County—Falling Springs—Scenic, four miles northwest of West Union.

Fayette County—Rocky Dell—Scenic, four miles northwest of West Union.

Floyd County—Big Boulder—Biggest boulder in west, near Nashua.

Floyd County—Charles City Park—Suburbs Charles City, Cedar River.

Howard County—Lime Springs—Wooded, on Upper Iowa River.

- Mitchell County—Spring Park—Wooded, near Osage.
Winneshiek County—Bluffton Balsam Grove—Rare woods, near Bluffton.
Winneshiek County—Ice Cave—Near Decorah, famous scenic, scientific.
Winneshiek County—Meader Farm—Woods near Hesper.
Worth County—Silver Lake—Ten miles west of Northwood.

FIFTH DISTRICT

- Cedar County—Cedar Valley—Eight miles southwest Tipton on Cedar River.
Cedar County—Rochester—Seven miles south Tipton on Cedar River.
Jones County—Monticello—Ten miles east of Monticello, pictured rocks.
Jones County—Oxford Junction—Picnic grounds on Wapsie River.
Linn County—Palisades—On Cedar River, ten miles southeast Cedar Rapids.
Tama County—Tama—Partly on Indian Reserve near Tama.

SIXTH DISTRICT

- Mahaska County—The Bluffs—Thirteen miles southwest Oskaloosa on Des Moines River.
Mahaska County—Eveland Park—Wooded, southwest of Oskaloosa.
Wapello County—Chilton Farm—Near Eddyville, Indian mounds.
Wapello County—Eldon—Suburbs of Eldon along river.
Wapello County—Monkey Mountain—Near Ottumwa on Des Moines River, scenic.
Wapello County—The Old Agency and Fort Sanford.

SEVENTH DISTRICT

- Dallas County—Farlow Ford—On Coon River, north of Adel.
Dallas County—Perry—Woods near Perry.
Dallas County—Van Meter—One mile northeast of Van Meter, woods.
Madison County—Devil's Backbone—Scenic, scientific, six miles southwest Winterset.
Marion County—Red Rock—Historic, scientific, six miles northeast Knoxville.
Warren County—Carlisle—On North River, near Carlisle, wooded.
Warren County—Indianola—One mile west of Somerset, on Middle River.

EIGHTH DISTRICT

- Lucas County—Chariton—Five miles southeast Chariton on Chariton River.

NINTH DISTRICT

- Harrison County—Missouri Valley—Woods, scientific, scenic.
Harrison County—Four miles west Pisgah, on Little Sioux River.

Mills County—Buckingham Lake—Southwest corner county.
Pottawattamie County—Council Bluffs—Northwest of city, bluffs and ravines.
Pottawattamie County—Manawa Lake—Near Council Bluffs.
Shelby County—Grove Township—Rare woods, northwest part of county.

TENTH DISTRICT

Boone County—Ledges—Scenic, scientific, on Des Moines River, south of Boone.
Calhoun County—Twin Lakes—Six miles north Rockwell City.
Emmet County—Estherville—Near town, fine woods, on Des Moines River.
Emmet County—High Lake—Three miles east Wallingford.
Emmet County—Iowa Lake—Northeast corner of county.
Emmet County—Swan Lake—Ten miles southeast Estherville, walnut grove.
Emmet County—Tuttle Lake—On north line of county.

Hamilton County—Little Wall Lake—Three miles south of Jewell.
Hancock County—Crystal Lake—In northeast part of county.
Hancock County—Eagle Lake—Timbered banks, four miles east of Britt.
Hancock County—Pilot Knob—Four miles southeast of Forest City, scenic.
Hancock County—Twin Lakes—In southern part of county.
Palo Alto County—Medium Lake—Suburbs of Emmetsburg.
Pocahontas County—Sunk Grove Lake—Four miles northwest of Fonda.
Winnebago County—Duck Lake—In northern part of county.
Winnebago County—Rice Lake—On eastern edge of county.

ELEVENTH DISTRICT

Buena Vista County—Pickerel Lake—In northeastern corner of county.
Buena Vista County—Storm Lake—Land on shore near town of Storm Lake.
Cherokee County—Cherokee—In northwestern suburbs of Cherokee.
Cherokee County—Pilot Rock—Four miles south Cherokee, large boulder.
Clay County—Peterson—Scenic, wooded, on Little Sioux River.
Dickinson County—Okoboji Lake—Adjacent shore.
Dickinson County—Spirit Lake—Adjacent shore.
Lyon County—Gitchie Manitou—Scientific, granite, northwest corner of county.
Monona County—Blue Lake—Four miles west of Onawa.
Osceola County—Ocheyedan Mound—Near Ocheyedan.
Plymouth County—River Sioux Park—Near Westfield, on Big Sioux River.
Sac County—Lake View—Shore of Wall Lake.
Woodbury County—Stone Park—Suburbs of Sioux City.

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