

MUNICIPAL PARKS

In Hardin County



Hardin Soil Conservation District

1969

FORWARD

The growth and development of the Hardin County natural resources is of prime concern to the Hardin Soil Conservation District. To do an adequate job of planning for future development, information relating to our potential resources and their present development must be obtained. The Hardin Soil Conservation District has cooperated with agencies of the federal government in inventoring our resources. One of the cooperating groups has been the Hardin County Technical Action Panel, made up of four agencies in the Department of Agriculture; Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Farmer's Home Administration, Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service.

A by-product of one of the inventories is the information in this brochure covering available municipal recreation facilities in Hardin County.

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Commissioner of
the Hardin Soil
Conservation
District

ACKLEY

The city of Ackley has four park areas. First is Victory Park. This small park is on the same block as the Municipal Hall, dividing the main street of Ackley at the east end of the business district. The grounds are grassed and mowed and shaded by elms, maples and one pine tree. A bandshell with a raised, cement platform faces the park. A public telephone booth is at the west end of the park.



Another park area is Ackley City Park. It is one block south of Highway 20 on Franklin Street. This area covers an entire city block. The park is grassed and mowed and shaded by elms, maples and basswood. Hardwood plantings of pin oak, maple, red oak and green ash have been started to provide shade and beauty after the elms are gone. A new, modern, enclosed shelterhouse has been built at the southwest corner of the area, and an older, open-sided shelterhouse lies near the center of the park. Picnic tables are furnished. Three horseshoe courts are near the eastern side of the park with electric lights furnished to them. Modern restrooms are provided on the west side of the park. The northwest side of the park is a children's playground, complete with slide, merry-go-round, horizontal bars and two sets of swings. A round, shallow, cement pool lies in the center of the park.

A third Ackley park is the Boy Scout Park, three blocks south of Highway 20, west of the Geneva blacktop. A small dam has been constructed by the scouts and helpers to back up a small pool of water. This park serves mainly as a camp ground for the Boy Scouts. A new building for the scouts will be erected by the scouts and volunteer labor. A good share of this area should be shaded to a shade and traffic tolerant grass such as a tall fescue.



The Ackley Swimming Pool Park is the fourth park. The area is mostly parking except for a small, grassed area to the west of the pool. Two tree plantings, honeysuckle and some dogwood border this grassed spot. Here also is a set of swings and a slide for the children. The swimming pool is a fully modern, "L" shaped pool, complete with a bathhouse, diving boards, underwater lights and filter system. The entire area is lit for night use. Public restrooms open to the outside of the bathhouse.

ALDEN

Alden has two city parks; the Laude Memorial Swimming Pool and the River Front Park.

River Front Park is a grassed and shaded area about the size of two city blocks. It lies one block west of the business district on the north side of the street. The entire north side of the park is the Iowa River. A log shelterhouse, complete with fireplace and picnic tables is provided next to the river. Other picnic tables are scattered throughout the park. A brick and cement platform is in the center of the park, providing a place for public gatherings. Electric lights here permit use after dark. Restrooms, litter barrels and drinking water are available in the park. A small wooden gazebo sits in the southeast corner of the area. Numerous small tree plantings have been planted in the area to replace the elms.

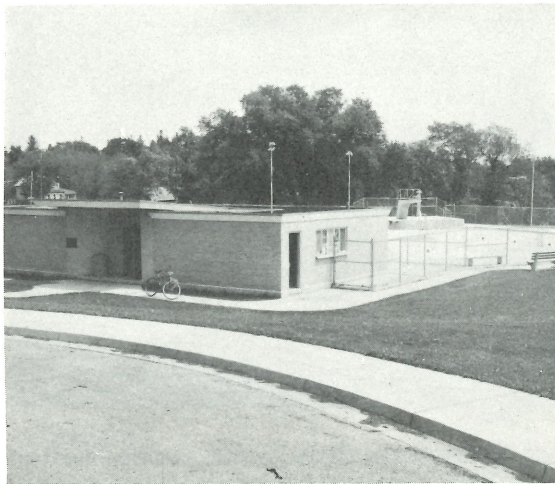


Three blocks south of River Front Park is the Laude Memorial Swimming Pool. It is a newly constructed, modern, "L" shaped pool, with two diving boards, brick enclosed bathhouse and locker room, filtering system, cement sun deck and a kiddies' wading pool. Ample parking is provided as well as benches outside the fenced pool for spectator use.

ELDORA

The city of Eldora maintains three parks; the Eldora Swimming Pool Park, the Eldora Ball Park and the Eldora City Park. The Swimming Pool Park is in the southeastern part of Eldora, one block south of Highway 57. Most of the area is grassed and mowed. Oak trees shade the park. A large, crushed rock parking lot is provided. No picnic facilities are provided. The main attraction is the modern, "L" shaped swimming pool. The pool is equipped with underwater lights, filtering system, two diving boards, wading pool for the kiddies, concession stand and a modern bathhouse and locker room. Park benches are furnished outside the pool fence for spectator use. The park area covers seven to eight acres.

The Eldora Ball Park is one block west and two blocks south of the courthouse. The park covers two city blocks. The entire area is grassed and mowed. The ball playing area has bleachers, a concession stand, scoreboard, night lights and a parking area. To the east of the ball diamond are two cement tennis courts with fenced backstops. Basketball facilities are equipped with night lights.



The Eldora City Park is east of the fair grounds and north of Highway 57. This twenty acre area is well shaded with elms, oaks and maples. The Iowa River forms the eastern boundary of the park. The high ground on the west side of the park is grassed and mowed. Twenty large picnic tables and eight metal grills are provided here. Drinking water is available. Two enclosed shelterhouses and one screened shelterhouse are available for public use. Ten litter cans

are furnished for the area. A ravine divides the park into northern and southern areas. A children's playground is in each of the two sections. Modern restrooms are centrally located. One of the main attractions of the park is the white-tail deer that are fenced in on the south side of the park. Parking is provided on the west side of the park.

HUBBARD

The two Hubbard parks are the Brubaker-Hoelscher City Park and the Walter L. Keller Athletic Field. These two parks are adjacent to form an area several acres in size. They lie at the east end of the town's main street.



The Brubaker-Hoelscher City Park is well shaded with elms and maples. Several fireplaces and litter cans are furnished. Drinking water is available. A large, enclosed shelterhouse, complete with picnic tables, electricity and a fireplace is centrally located. Modern restrooms are provided. A fountain-fed, small pool with a surrounding rock garden and many species of flowers add to the beauty of the area. A well equip-

ped, children's playground is also furnished. Adequate parking is provided around the park.

The Walter L. Keller Athletic Field contains two ball diamonds and one football field, all equipped with bleachers, scoreboards, announcing booth, concession stand, restrooms, and lights for night use. Just to the south of this area lies the Hubbard Swimming Pool. It is a fully modern pool equipped with underwater lights, two diving boards, kiddies' wading pool, filtering system and a cement block bathhouse and basket room. Spectator benches are provided outside the fenced pool.

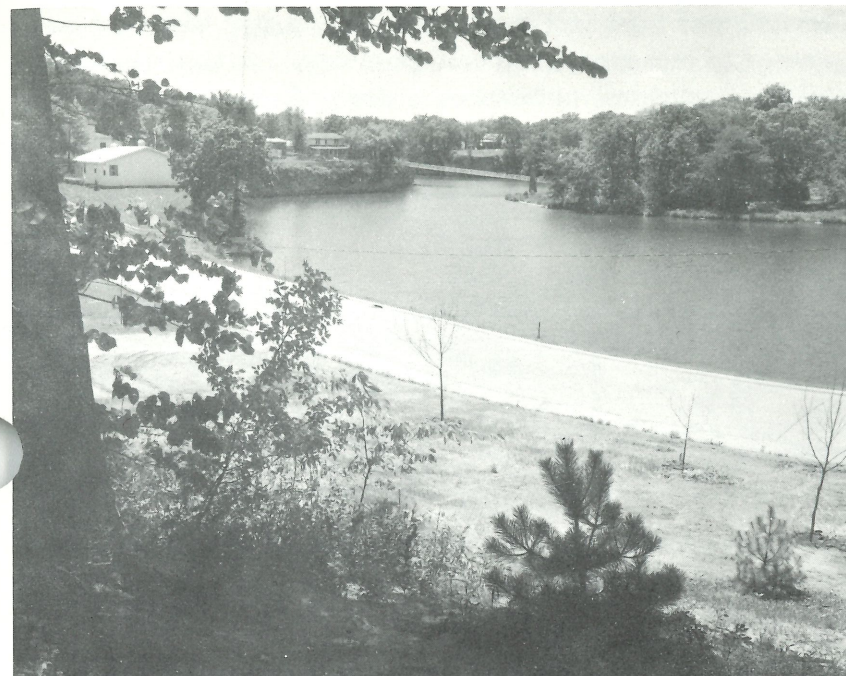
IOWA FALLS

The city of Iowa Falls maintains twelve parks totaling forty-one acres. North Park lies one block north of the senior high school. The park is grassed and mowed and covers approximately two acres. About two dozen small tree plantings have been made to provide future shade and beauty. A children's playground equipped with a slide, merry-go-round and swings are furnished. Also provided is a basketball hoop and bankboard and a picnic table.

Water Works Park is a new, primarily undeveloped park, lying along Highway 65 and 20 on North Oak Street in Iowa Falls. The Iowa Falls Park Board has plans to develop this area into a roadside park. Willow trees are growing along Rock Run Creek, which flows through the area. A public telephone is furnished.

Rock Run Park has been left nearly in a natural state. The park is four acres in size. It is covered with a natural growth of trees and shrubs. Rock Run Creek flows through the area. The park is primarily a bird sanctuary. Access is provided at the corner of Iowa Street.

River Bend Park is on Cedar Street bordering the Iowa River. This park provides river access and a view of the river's limestone bluffs. Sixty pine trees and two dozen hardwoods have been planted here to enhance the natural beauty of the area.



Dougan's Landing was named in honor of the late Forrest Dougan, former City Manager of Iowa Falls. This was once the site of White's Mill and Dam, which was in operation from 1853 to 1915. Part of the old mill can still be seen as an island downstream from the landing. Dougan's Landing provides access to the Iowa River for boaters. The area has a cement boat loading ramp and walkway. The parking surface is crushed rock. This area is at the north end of the River Street Bridge.

Estes Park in Iowa Falls lies just north of the city hall on Estes Street. This park is one city block square. The facilities include a large bandshell with an adjoining outdoor, cement floor, which is used for teenage dances, band concerts and other social gatherings. Basketball hoops are placed at both ends of the cement floor to provide another recreational use. At the center of the park a small sculpture pours water into a pool below. The benches surrounding the pool have been a meeting place for generations of townsfolk. Other benches in the park provide a resting spot in the shade of the park's elms and ma-

ples. Other trees in Estes Park include oaks, hickorys, evergreens and numerous small tree plantings. A well equipped children's playground includes a slide, merry-go-round, two



swing sets and four spring horses. Mounted in the park on a cement foundation is one of the kids' favorite toys, an old retired fire truck purchased by Iowa Falls in 1917.

Adjoining Rocksylvan Avenue and Rock Run Creek in Iowa Falls is Jones Park. This park is approximately six acres in size. The area is grassed and mowed and mostly shaded by elms, oaks, hickorys and scattered overgreen plantings. Honey-suckle and numerous smaller tree plantings are in the area. Three metal grills, one stone fireplace, trash barrels and a dozen picnic tables are furnished. Playground equipment includes a swing set, slide, jungle gym, two merry-go-rounds, overhead bars and a basketball hoop with a poured cement playing area. This park also contains the Iowa Falls Swimming Pool (see cover). This large pool meets Olympic standards for swim-

ming meets held here during the summer months. The pool has its own filter system, modern bathhouses, three diving boards, concession stand, wading pool, underwater lights and benches and bleachers for the spectators. A large, hard surface parking lot serves the entire area. On the west side of the park a high footbridge, known as Rainbow Bridge, spans the scenic Rock Run Gorge and Creek and connects the park with the east end of Washington Avenue, the main street of Iowa Falls.

Foster Park is one of the city's larger parks. It can be reached by turning north off Highway 20 (Washington Avenue) at Dale Drive and by going north to the end of the street. This



park covers nearly ten acres. The entire area is being grassed and mowed. The grounds are well shaded by an older growth of elms, maples, oaks and evergreens. Several dozen trees have been planted to provide shade and beauty. Older lilac and honey-

suckle clumps add to the landscape. Several dozen picnic tables, grills and trash containers are provided. In addition there are two open-sided shelterhouses, one has a large, stone fireplace. Drinking water and modern restrooms are also furnished. The Iowa River is the northern boundary of the park, providing scenery, fishing and boating access. An open recreation area at the south edge of the park is equipped with a softball diamond and a children's playground. Playground equipment includes two swing sets, jungle gym, merry-go-round, slide, badmitten-volley ball net and a cement basketball area. Ample parking is provided to serve the area, and a large, circular, blacktopped road provides

motor access to all areas of the park.

Ellsworth Park is another large Iowa Falls park. This ten acre area is east on Park Avenue, directly across from the Highland Country Club. A log shelterhouse with a stone fireplace is set in the center of the picnic area. Several picnic tables, four metal grills, two stone fireplaces and trash barrels serve the area. Two children's swing sets are just west of the main gate. The park's gravelled roads are oiled to keep dust to a minimum. The grounds are grassed and mowed, and a stand of native oak trees provide plenty of shade. The entire park is fenced. There are high limestone bluffs overhanging the river. Numerous chipmunks inhabit the limestone out-croppings in the area.



Iowa Falls Oak Park is four acres in size and is located one block west of the Ellsworth Park. It lies adjacent to and north of Park Avenue. The Iowa River is the northern boundary. The river in this area is deep due to the large, concrete dam downstream. Steep foot trails at the northeastern corner of Oak Park lead to fishing access both above and below the 26' high river dam. The park is grassed and mowed. Oaks, elms and a few evergreens shade the area. Half a dozen picnic tables, a few grills and trash cans are furnished. Modern restroom facilities are available in the park. A children's playground near the west end of Oak Park consists of two swing sets, two merry-go-rounds,

a slide and horizontal bars.

Linear Park is so named because it is approximately eight blocks long and from 20' to 60' wide. The park begins just west of the River Street Bridge and on past to the end of Walnut Street. The entire area is grassed and mowed and serves its purpose offering views of the Iowa River and surrounding area. The length of the park is bordered by Foster and Park Streets on the south and west, and the limestone river bluffs on the north and east. A statue of Chief Black Hawk overlooks one of the high points in the park.

Seven Gables Park is one and one half blocks south of Pennsylvania Avenue on West Third Street. This small area is named after an old house with seven gables that used to be on the grounds. This area is shaded by a few elms, and it is grassed and mowed. One picnic table and a children's swing set are provided.

NEW PROVIDENCE

The New Providence Park covers approximately one half of a city block. It lies one block north and one block east of the New Providence business district. The area is grassed and mow-



ed. Half a dozen tree plantings are present for future shade and beauty. Facilities include a cement basketball-tennis court combination, light for night use, a children's swing set and a semi-enclosed shelterhouse, complete with a cement patio and sunroof. An ample number of picnic tables are provided. The cement basketball court is flooded in the winter to provide an ice skating rink.

RADCLIFFE

The Radcliffe Memorial Park lies one block north of the business district. The park covers one city block. The entire area is grassed and mowed and shaded by elms and maples. The



park has four horseshoe courts, a tennis court and a basketball court. The area is equipped with lights for evening use. Modern restrooms are furnished near the southern edge of the park. An old-fashioned, stone and cement gazebo with a frame roof

lies at the north edge of the park. Several picnic tables and two grills are furnished in the area. A large, modern, newly constructed shelterhouse is near the northwest corner of the park. It is equipped with a sink, stove, picnic tables, fireplace and electric lights. The children's playground has a swing set, slide and merry-go-round.

STEAMBOAT ROCK

Franklin Square is one city block square. This park was laid out in the plat of Steamboat Rock years ago and is undeveloped. It lies west of Steamboat Rock, just over the lower bridge and on the south side of the blacktopped road.

UNION

The Kauffman Memorial Park is just across from the Union business district. It furnishes an outdoor, cement basketball court with attached band and speaker's platform. A children's



playground is equipped with swings, merry-go-round and teeter-totter. Lights permit evening use of the facilities. The park is shaded by American elms and Norway spruce.

WHITTEN

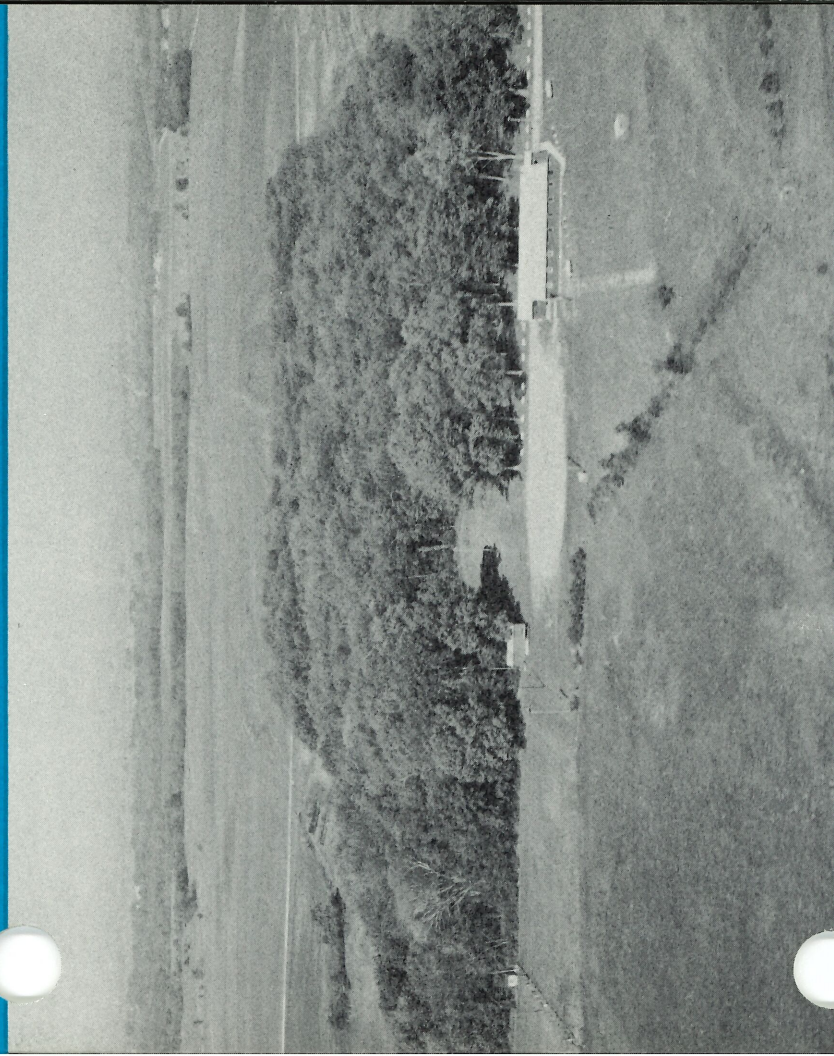
The Whitten Park is just south of the Kauffman Hall. It is equipped with an outdoor, hard-surfaced basketball court and a speaker's platform. Picnic tables, swings, merry-go-round



and a teeter-totter are provided. Electric lights permit evening use of the area. The grounds are shaded by American elms. There are two permanently installed grills for public use.

Private Outdoor Recreation Areas

In Hardin County



**Hardin Soil Conservation District
1970**