

1. OAK GROVE PARK

Oak Grove Park is a 101- acre multi-opportunity picturesque outdoor recreation area located 6-½ miles northeast of Hawarden on county highway K-18.

Approximately 50% are rolling hills and about 75% consist of dense timber. It is adjacent, and provides excellent fishing access, to the Big Sioux River. Oak Grove Park contains several scenic observation points. There are two large outcroppings of Sioux Quartzite in the southwest corner and a mound of slag, which is the remains of a 100 year old coal bed, that provide geological interest.

Facilities available to the park-user include tables, grilles, trash receptacles, water supply, pit toilets, and hiking trails. There is a camping area located in the park, which provides concrete parking pads, 39 electric hookups, 3 non-electric camping sites, and a modern comfort station. There are also designated tent sites. The park contains two open shelters with lights and electric outlets. Also, an enclosed all-weather shelter is located in the upper area of the park and may be reserved on a rental basis. This building is also used for environmental education programs.

Oak Grove Park is leased from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and

is maintained in conjunction with Big Sioux Park, which is adjacent to, and therefore provides access to facilities contained in Big Sioux Park. The administrative office and maintenance headquarters of the Sioux County Conservation Board are located within the park and a Park Officer is on duty at all times. Park closing time is 10:30 PM.

2. BIG SIOUX PARK

Big Sioux Park is approximately 278 acres, and is adjacent to Oak Grove Park. The flat ridge along the east edge of the park lends itself to a panoramic view of the Big Sioux River Valley. A wide variety of wild flowers may be viewed on the hillsides during spring and summer.

Facilities available include tables, grilles, trash receptacles, hiking trails, and pit toilets. There are several picnic sites located at various observation points. A camping area, located in the upper portion of the park, provides concrete parking pads, 39 electric hookups, 9 non-electric camping sites, a modern comfort station, and a trailer dump. There is also an enclosed shelter, which may be reserved on a rental basis. Park closing time is 10:30 PM.

3. ROCK SIOUX ACCESS

This access is located 1-½ miles north of Oak Grove Park and is leased from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. It contains 30 acres of dense timber and

provides fishing access to the Big Sioux and Rock Rivers. It is established as a game management area; thereby permitting hunting in compliance with Iowa laws. Since it is underdeveloped it is somewhat limited to hunting and fishing; however, it may also be used for horseback riding.

4. FAIRVIEW AREA

This 94- acre site is located in the northwest corner of Sioux County, adjacent to county highway A54B. It contains a 10-acre water impoundment, which has been stocked with crappie, channel catfish, bass and bluegill. The remaining portion of this site contains dense timber and game cover. This area is recognized locally as containing some of the better deer habitats in Sioux County. It will be retained in its existing natural condition, thereby providing excellent hunting and fishing opportunities. Other activities, which may be enjoyed within this area, are horseback riding and nature study. This site and its surrounding area are picturesque during the fall season.

5. WINTERFIELD BOATING AND FISHING AREA

This area is located on the north edge of Rock Valley, just off of county highway K-30. It is a 22-acre reclaimed gravel quarry, which contains a 17-acre lake. This lake has been stocked primarily with channel catfish, but also contains several

other species. This area also provides boating access to the lake and has an open shelter with picnic facilities.

6. OTTER CREEK PUBLIC AREA

Otter Creek Public Area is a 56.4-acre area, which contains a 10-acre pit and Otter Creek. It is located approximately 4 ½ miles north of Boyden on county highway L14. The pit has been stocked with channel catfish, but contains several other species. This area is available for picnicking, fishing, nature studies, and hunting in designated areas. Park closing time is 10:30 PM.

7. ROCK RIVER ACCESS

This river access is located two miles northeast of Rock Valley along the Rock River and is comprised of approximately 640 acres of bottomland. It is totally undeveloped in order to serve primarily as a wildlife habitat area. Its principle attractions are hunting and fishing.

8. ALTON ROADSIDE PARK

This 11- acre park is ideally situated at the junction of Iowa highways 10 and 60, one-half mile north of Alton. Facilities provided include complete picnic facilities, an enclosed shelter, playground equipment, toilets, and water supply. Also, camping is permitted. The area is adjacent to a small lake, which enhances the beauty of the park.

9. SIOUX COUNTY HISTORICAL SITE

This small area, located 2 ½ miles south of Hawarden on Iowa highway 12, serves primarily as a highway rest area. This site is the point of beginning for the original survey of Sioux County, Iowa. It is located on the high bluff overlooking the Big Sioux River.

10. SETTLERS CANOE ACCESS

This is a 1.5-acre site of flat bottomland adjacent to the Big Sioux River, located directly across the river from Fairview, South Dakota. It provides access to the river for canoes and other small boats.

11. ROCK WILDLIFE AREA

This is a 188 acre irregular parcel of land located northwest of Rock Valley, which contains several shallow potholes, and scattered trees consisting of elm, cottonwood, ash and willow. It is designated as a wildlife area, thereby permitting hunting in compliance with Iowa laws.

12. NASSAU WILDLIFE AREA

This is a four acre abandoned gravel quarry, located three miles south of Alton. It contains a shallow two-acre body of water with a few trees and brush around the water's edge. The remaining portion contains various grasses, and serves as a wildlife area.