

# COVID 19 PARKS LANDS & PARK FACILITY PUBLIC ACCESS POLICIES

**Updated: May 11, 2020**

Due to the Coronavirus, and in an attempt to do our part to keep the virus from spreading, the Madison County Conservation Board has approved the following public access policies **effective May 11, 2020.**

**ALL PUBLIC ACCESS POLICIES AND CLOSURE DATES LISTED HERE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
PENDING REVISED STATE OR LOCAL DELCARED SAFETY PROTOCOLS.**

## ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDINGS

- Head Quarters Office/Shop: Closed to the public with the exception of scheduled appointments through **May 15.**
- Pammel Park Nature Center: Closed to the public with the exception of scheduled appointments through **May 15.**
- Pammel Park Shop Facilities: Closed to the public through **May 15.**

## PARKS

All Madison County Parks are open and we want the public to be able to continue to enjoy the outdoors as an opportunity to enhance both your physical and mental health, especially during this period that can create increased anxieties. We ask that you remain diligent in taking steps to make your visit as safe and enjoyable as possible.

- Avoid popular areas where people may congregate
- Limit your group size to less than 10
- Avoid groups in general
- Maintain distance between you and other park visitors according to guidelines recommended by public health officials
- Take into consideration the health of others when spending time outdoors
- Additional information on best practices for keeping you and your family safe can be found online:
  - State Link to COVID19 Iowa Updates: <https://idph.iowa.gov/emerging-health-issues/novel-coronavirus>
  - Federal Link to COVID19 National Updates: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

## CAMPING/RESERVATIONS

All campgrounds will open on **Wednesday, May 12, 2020**.

- No new reservations will be accepted through **May 15**.
- Those holding “existing” reservations through **May 15, and having made the reservation prior to March 27, 2020**, will be offered either a refund (minus administrative fees) or allowed to reschedule later in the season.

## CABIN RESERVATIONS

Yurt cabins will open on **Wednesday, May 13, 2020**.

- No new reservations will be accepted through **May 15**.
- Those holding “existing” reservations through **May 15, and having made the reservation prior to March 27, 2020**, will be offered either a refund (minus administrative fees) or allowed to reschedule later in the season.

## SHELTERS

All shelters will be open for non-rental purposes, but due to current Public Health Disaster Emergency declaration issued on March 17, 2020 by the State of Iowa limits group size gatherings to 10 or less.

- No new reservations will be accepted through **May 15**.
- Those holding “existing” reservations through **May 15, and having made the reservation prior to March 27, 2020**, will be offered either a refund (minus administrative fees) or allowed to reschedule later in the season.

### Pammel Lodge:

- Porch area open for non-rentals and limited to a maximum of 10 people

### Middle River Park Shelter:

- Open for non-rentals and limited to a maximum of 10 people

### Cedar Bridge Gazebos:

- Open for non-rentals and limited to a maximum of 10 people

### Fellowship Forest Shelter:

- Open for non-rentals and limited to a maximum of 10 people

### Pammel Backbone Shelter:

- Open for non-rentals and limited to a maximum of 10 people

## BATHROOMS/SHOWER FACILITIES

- Bathroom/shower facility at Pammel Park campground will open on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 and it's use will be restricted to paid campers
- Bathroom facility at Criss Cove campground will be open on Wednesday, May 13, 2020.
- All other bathrooms will remain closed through **May 15**

## PLAY EQUIPMENT

All playgrounds will be posted with "Advisory" signage that playground areas are closed through **May 15**.

- This will be managed as self-policing – no fencing planned for now

## PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

- All indoor Environmental Education programs are cancelled until **May 15, 2020**. All fee-based programs will be refunded for that period.
- The use of technology will be utilized to its capacity for EE programming when viable.
- All outdoor Environmental Education programs will continue if **"physical distancing" can be safely maintained** but may be cancelled due to inclement weather and not be relocated indoors.
- These policies may be extended pending ongoing virus containment protocols

*While we are in an unprecedented time in our nation's history, we need to remain positive and continue the great work and services we provide the public. We will be encouraging the public to get outdoors and use our parks to exercise, get fresh air and enjoy nature's beauty! We promise to remain diligent and intentional in protecting you and making your visit a great experience. As conditions change, so may our policies on park visitation and overnight stays. We will keep you informed of any changes moving forward. Thank you for your patience and flexibility. We appreciate your support of County, Municipal and State parks.*

*We are still here to serve you for essential business through phone, emails, websites, Facebook and scheduled appointments.*

*Please call 515-462-3536 for assistance. Also, stay updated with County Park programming and County Park events by following us on Facebook @ Madison County Conservation Board or our website; [www.madisoncountyparks.org](http://www.madisoncountyparks.org)*