



**SIERRA
CLUB**

IOWA CHAPTER

Iowa's parks and natural areas provide many benefits

Iowa does not have oceans and mountains, but Iowa does have prairies, woods, lakes and streams. Iowa's natural areas

- o Provide habitat for wild plants and animals
- o Offer recreation opportunities for hiking, camping, canoeing, viewing wildlife
- o Cleanse the air, retain and absorb water, sequester carbon
- o Supply beautiful scenery for relaxation, stress relief and spiritual needs
- o Contribute economic benefits to the neighboring communities when visitors spend money for things such as hotels, gasoline and restaurants
- o Furnish jobs and careers to people who work in parks and recreation, both in the public and private sector
- o Preserve places where children can learn about nature, can play safely and can enjoy being outdoors



Pinicon Ridge Park, Central City, Iowa. Photo by Pam Mackey Taylor

Support Iowa's parks and recreation areas

- o **Support fully funding Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) at \$20 million, extending it beyond 2026, and retain current funding formulas.** REAP funds are used for protection of Iowa's natural areas, soil conservation, water quality and historical resources.
- o **Purchase a natural resource license plate (also called the REAP license plate) for your vehicle.** You have several choices of pictures printed on the license plates – an eagle, a Brook trout, a pheasant, a buck deer, or an American goldfinch perched on a wild rose. The proceeds from these license plates fund the Wildlife Diversity Program.
- o **Contribute to the Fish/Wildlife Fund (also known as the Chickadee Check-off) on your state income taxes.** This money funds the Wildlife Diversity Program.
- o **Support the Natural Resources & Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund.** Iowa voters approved a constitutional amendment authorizing funding the trust fund with an increase in the sales tax by 3/8 of a cent; all that remains is establishing and begin collecting the tax. The money collected for the trust fund will protect and enhance water quality and natural areas in Iowa, including parks, trails, and fish and wildlife habitat, and conserving Iowa's agricultural soils.



Palisades-Kepler State Park. Photo by Pam Mackey Taylor