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# coralville lake lake macbride

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## Coralville Lake • Lake Macbride

2012 AREA RECREATION GUIDE

Published by The Gazette, in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Special thanks to: Terry Escher, Janet Lewis, Kathy Atkinson, Rick Knoke & Mary Sue Bowers: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Coralville Lake; Ron Puettmann, Park Manager, Lake Macbride State Park

Special Sections Editor: Karen Klinkefus; Graphic Designer: Bryan Willger  
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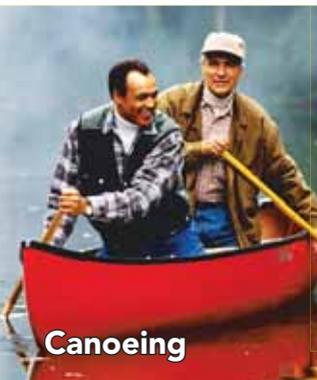
Hiking



Rock  
Climbing



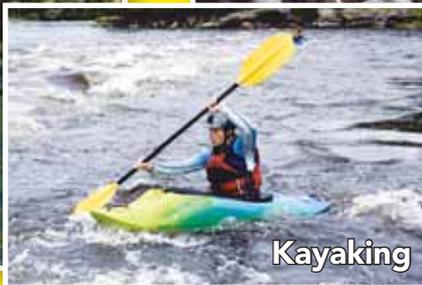
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# Coralville Lake & Lake Macbride

Just north of Iowa City, Coralville Lake and Lake Macbride together offer a dynamic mix of recreational activities.



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**Pelicans, Raptors**

**Coralville Lake** or Reservoir, sometimes lovingly referred to as “the Res,” was formed in the 1950s when the Coralville Dam was built to control the flooding of the Iowa River. Today, the 23-mile-long Coralville Lake offers seven campgrounds and a number of beaches and boat ramps.

Located to the north and east of Coralville Lake, **Lake Macbride State Park** is Iowa’s largest state park. With two campgrounds, seven boat ramps and a public beach, you’ll find it easy to enjoy the day or even a whole week at Lake Macbride.

## contact info:

### Coralville Lake

#### CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Administrative office . . . . . (319) 338-3543, ext. 6300  
Visitor Center. . . . . (319) 338-3543, ext. 6300  
Campgrounds . . . . . (319) 338-3543, ext. 6300  
Campsite Reservations . . . . . 1-(877) 444-6777  
Shelter Reservations . . . . . (319) 338-3543, ext. 6300  
Lake Level Information . . . . . (319) 338-3543  
District office, Rock Island. . . . . (309) 794-4200

#### MARINAS

Mid-River Marine . . . . . (319) 626-3625  
Coralville Lake Marina . . . . . (319) 351-8343  
Scales Pointe Marina . . . . . (319) 665-2383  
Scales Pointe Campground . . . . . (319) 665-3474

### Lake Macbride

#### DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Office . . . . . (319) 624-2200  
Boat Rental. . . . . (319) 624-2315  
Fisheries Mgmt. Station . . . . . (319) 624-3615  
DNR headquarters. . . . . (515) 281-5918  
Campsite, lodge and shelter reservations . . . . . (877) 427-2757

#### UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Macbride Nature Recreation Area . . . . . (319) 335-9847  
Macbride Raptor Project. . . . . (319) 398-5495

To report a non-emergency problem after hours, call the Johnson County Sheriff’s Office routine business line at (319) 356-6020.

**CORALVILLE LAKE**  
[www.coralvillelake.org](http://www.coralvillelake.org)

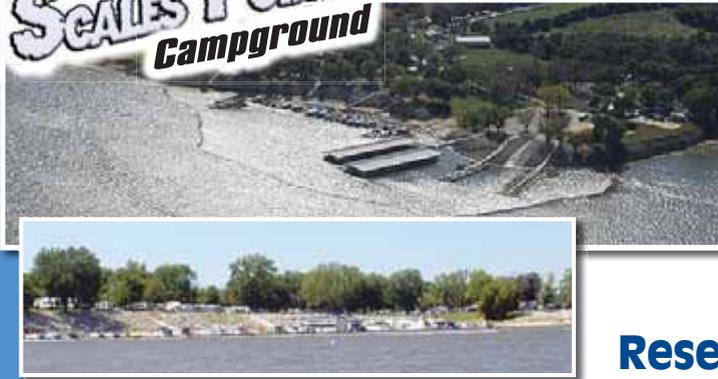
**LAKE MACBRIDE**  
[www.exploreiowaparks.com](http://www.exploreiowaparks.com)



[www.facebook.com/coralvillelake](https://www.facebook.com/coralvillelake)

Once You're Here...  
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the page 5 map*

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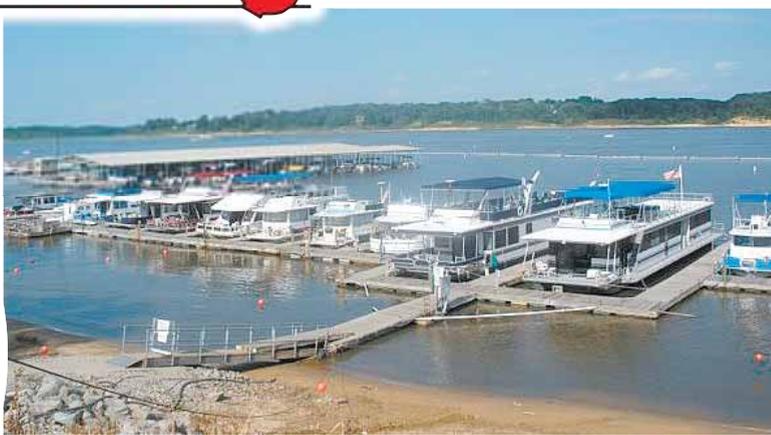
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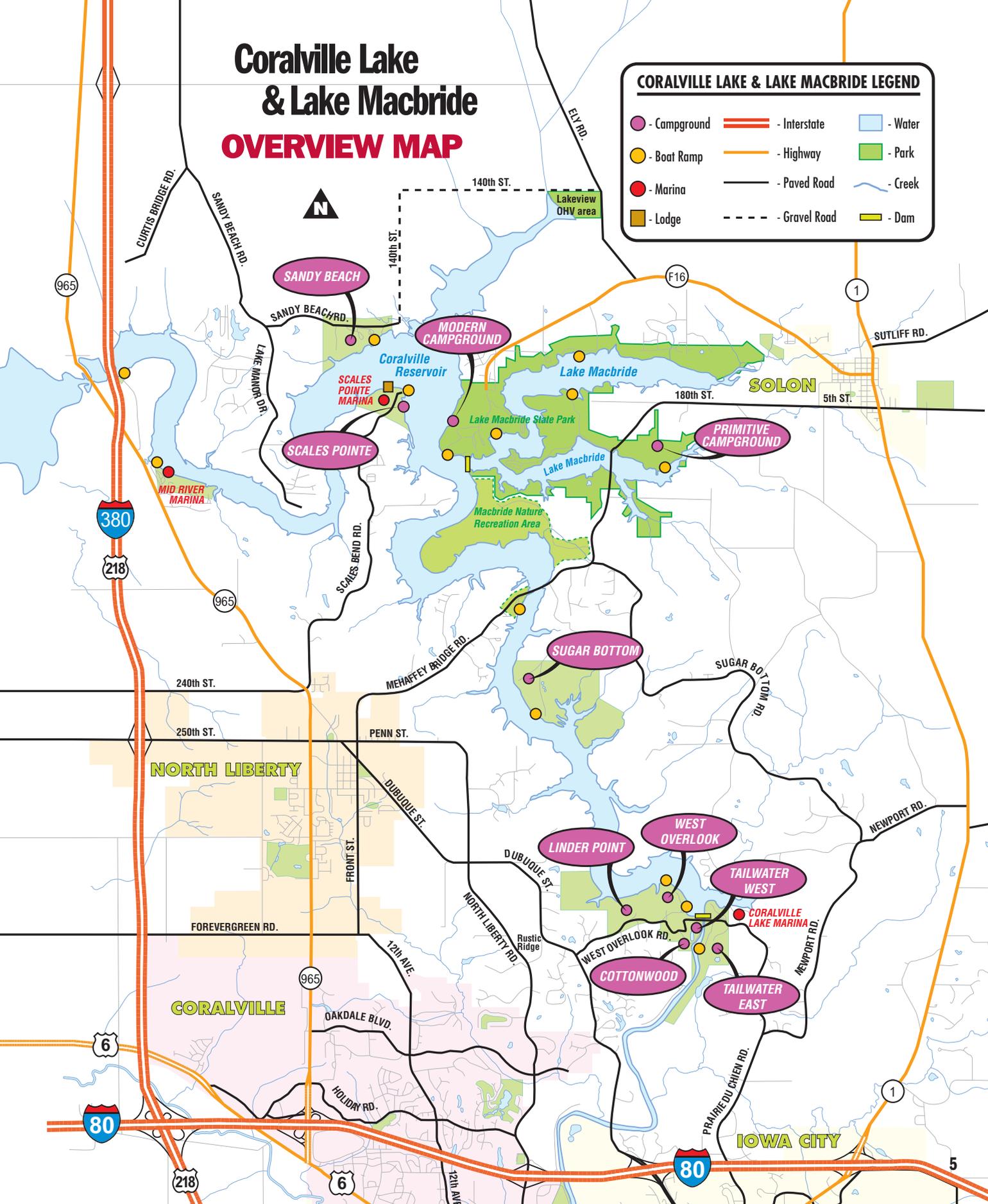
 Find us on Facebook - Scales Pointe Marina

# Coralville Lake & Lake Macbride

## OVERVIEW MAP

### CORALVILLE LAKE & LAKE MACBRIDE LEGEND

- - Campground
- - Boat Ramp
- - Marina
- - Lodge
- Interstate
- Highway
- Paved Road
- Gravel Road
- Water
- Park
- Creek
- Dam



# Mid-River Marine



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# Camping

## At Lake Macbride

Lake Macbride's modern campground features a shower/restroom facility, back-in site pads complete with 20 to 50 amp electrical service, picnic tables and fire rings. Eleven sites have full hook-ups, and an additional 17 sites have hydrants for potable water. From May 1 to Sept. 30, full hook-up sites are \$19 and all other sites are \$16. After this time, prices are reduced to \$14 and \$11 respectively. 75% of these sites are reservable.

The primitive campground in the southern portion of the park has 57 campsites, and both flush and non-flush restrooms. This campground is situated in a shaded/semi-timbered area near the lake. During the recreational season all sites are \$9. After this time, all sites are \$6. You may reserve a site in either campground by calling (877) 427-2757 or going online to [www.exploreiowaparks.com](http://www.exploreiowaparks.com). Walk-in camping is also available, and permits can be obtained by self-registering for a non-reservable site at the entrance of the campground.

**CHECK-IN TIME: 4 p.m. • CHECK-OUT TIME: 3 p.m.**  
**QUIET HOURS: 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.**



## At Macbride Nature Recreation Area

At the Macbride Nature Recreation Area (MNRA) there are two areas designated for camping. The primitive group campsites, Wolf sites 1-5, can accommodate 10 to 20 people for \$20 per night. The Fox sites 1-8 are individual campsites available for \$10 per night. Campsites may be reserved in advance at the Field

House Membership Desk on the UI campus in Iowa City. Sites that are not reserved, other than Bluestem Campsite & Social Center, are available on a first come/first served basis. For more information, call (319) 335-9847 or go online to <http://recserv.uioa.edu/Apps/Facilities/MacBrideNatureRecreationArea.aspx>

## At Coralville Lake

The Dam Complex is made up of five campgrounds: West Overlook, Linder Point, Cottonwood, Tailwater East and Tailwater West. Tailwater East and Tailwater West are located below the dam along the Iowa River. The Tailwater West Campground received extensive damage during the 2008 flood, and has been renovated to include a new handicap-accessible combination restroom and shower building, plus a separate new vault toilet. The Tailwater West campground has 20 campsites complete with concrete pads. Some sites have full hook-ups; water, electric and sewer. Other sites only have water and electrical hookups. The tent only sites are consolidated at the north end of the area.

Sugar Bottom and Sandy Beach campgrounds are located upstream from the Dam on the 23-mile long lake.

Campers can choose from primitive walk-in tent sites to full service sites. All campsites have a picnic table and fire ring. Sites suitable for RVs have a gravel or concrete camp pad. All campgrounds offer modern restrooms and showers, a sanitary dump station and at least one fish cleaning station. Many have boatlaunch facilities and a beach. Fees range from \$12 to \$24.

For more information on Coralville Lake campgrounds, go online to [www.coralvillelake.org](http://www.coralvillelake.org) or call (319) 338-3543 ext. 6300.

**CHECK-IN: 6 p.m. • CHECK-OUT: 5 p.m.**  
**QUIET HOURS: 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.**

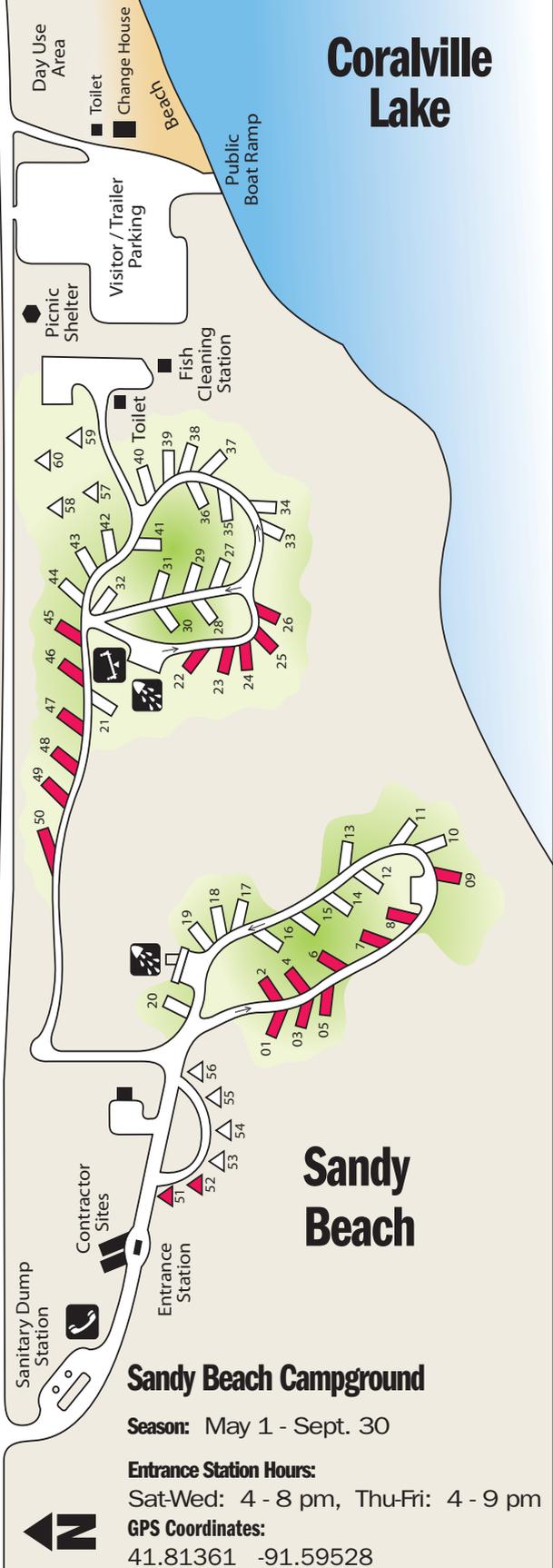
2012 Coralville Lake Campsite Fees							
	\$12	\$14	\$16	\$18	\$20	\$22	\$24
	Tent	Non Electric	Standard Electric	Premium Electric	50 amp Electric	30 amp Water Sewer or 50 amp Water	50 amp Water Sewer
<b>Cottonwood</b>	<b>C1-C15</b>						
<b>Linder Point</b>	<b>L19-L25</b>	<b>L13-L16</b>	<b>L9-L12 L17-L18</b>				<b>L1-L8</b>
<b>Sandy Beach</b>	<b>51-60</b>			<b>1-19, 22-50</b>		<b>20, 21</b>	
<b>Sugar Bottom</b>	<b>1-7, 95-104</b>		<b>16-31</b>	<b>8-15 32-94 105-190</b>	<b>192-214</b>		<b>191 300-311</b>
<b>Tailwater East</b>	<b>E1-E5</b>			<b>E6-E19 E25-E28</b>	<b>E20-E24</b>		
<b>Tailwater West</b>	<b>T21-T25</b>					<b>T1, T2, T4, T6, T8-T12 T14, T15, T17</b>	<b>T3, T5, T7, T13, T16 T18-T20</b>
<b>West Overlook</b>			<b>W34-W38</b>	<b>W1-W33 W39-W89</b>			

To Solon, Hwy 1 via CR / F16

County Road W4F / Sandy Beach Road

To Shueyville, I-380 / Hwy 218, Hwy 965

# Coralville Lake



## Sandy Beach

### Sandy Beach Campground

**Season:** May 1 - Sept. 30

**Entrance Station Hours:**

Sat-Wed: 4 - 8 pm, Thu-Fri: 4 - 9 pm

**GPS Coordinates:**

41.81361 -91.59528

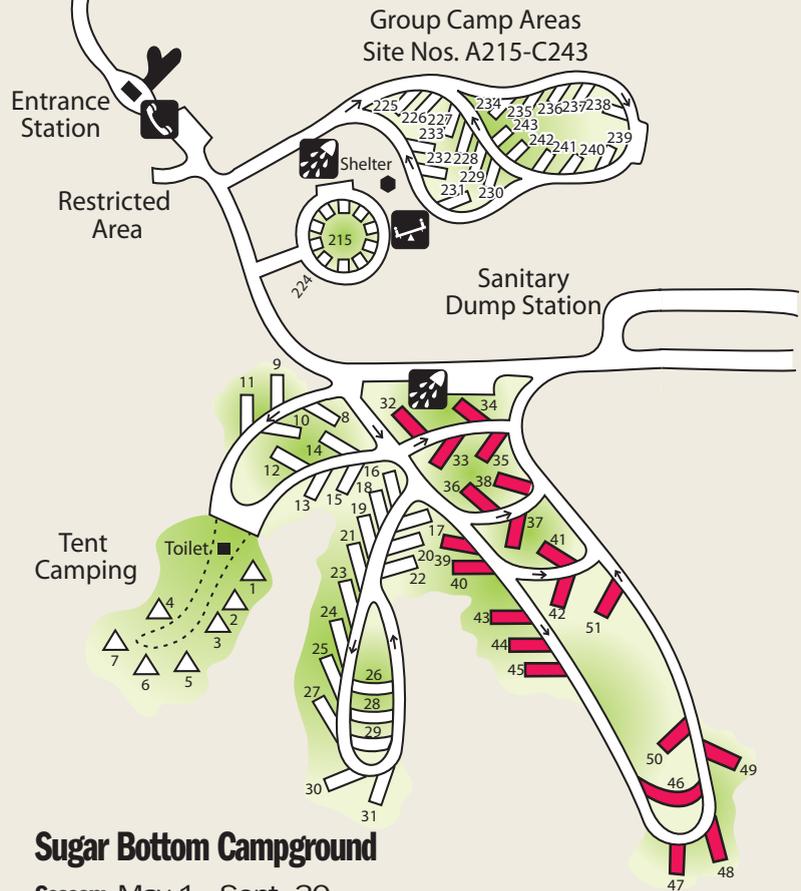


### You can recycle at Coralville Lake

Look for the recycling waste stations next to the garbage dumpsters. No sorting required.

 First-come, first-served campsites

# Sugar Bottom



## Sugar Bottom Campground

**Season:** May 1 - Sept. 30

**Entrance Station Hours:**

Mon-Sat: 9-11 am & 2 - 10 pm

Sun: Noon - 8 pm

**GPS Coordinates:**

41.75639 -91.55917



**The Sugar Bottom Group Camp Area has four loops, “A”, “B1”, “B2” and “C”. Individual group loops range from 4 to 10 sites. Large groups may reserve more than one group loop for a maximum of 29 campsites. To make a group campground reservation, call 1-877-444-6777 or [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)**

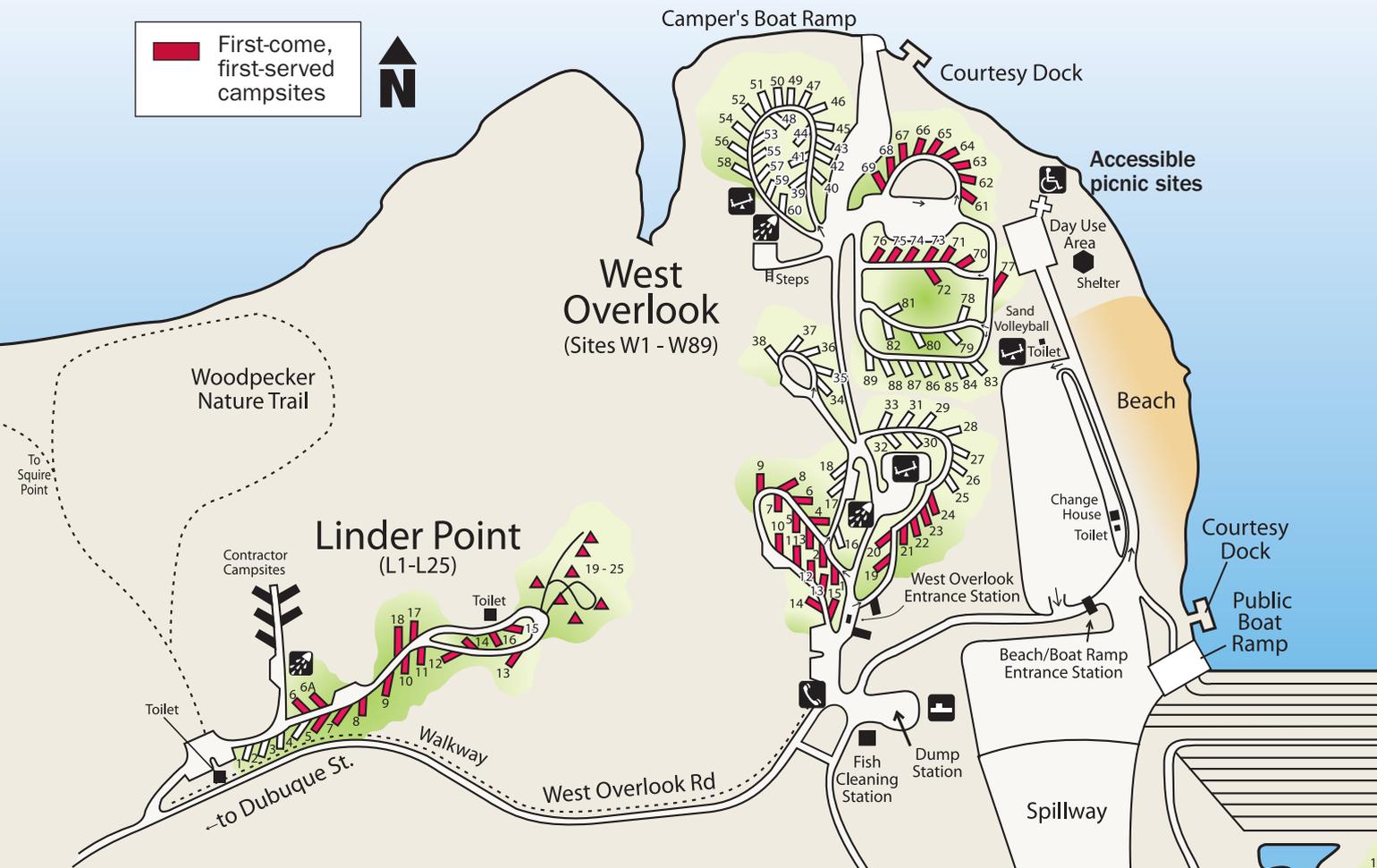
**Group Loop A**  
Reserving site A215 includes the remaining sites in Group Loop A, A216-A224, for a total of 10 sites. The fee is \$180 per night.

**Group Loop B1**  
Reserving site B225 includes the sites in Group Loop B1, B226-B228, for a total of four sites. The fee is \$72 per night.

**Group Loop B2**  
Reserving site B229 includes the sites in Group Loop B2, B230-B233, for a total of five sites. The fee is \$90 per night.

**Group Loop C**  
Reserving site C234 includes the sites in Group Loop C, C235-C243, for a total of 10 campsites. The fee is \$180 per night.

 First-come, first-served campsites



## West Overlook Day Use

Season: May 5 – Sept. 15

Entrance Station Hours:  
10 am - 6 pm daily

## Dam Complex Campgrounds

Season: April 15 – Oct. 15

Entrance Station Hours:  
Mon-Sat: 9 am - 11 am  
2 pm - 10 pm  
Sunday: Noon - 8 pm

## GPS Campground Coordinates:

**Linder Point:** 41.725633 -91.540997  
**West Overlook:** 41.726325 -91.535167  
**Cottonwood:** 41.722775 -91.435719  
**Tailwater East:** 41.720897 -91.527817  
**Tailwater West:** 41.722472 -91.529536

## Campsite Reservations

Call ReserveAmerica:  
1-877-444-6777  
TDD: 1-877-833-6777  
Online: [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

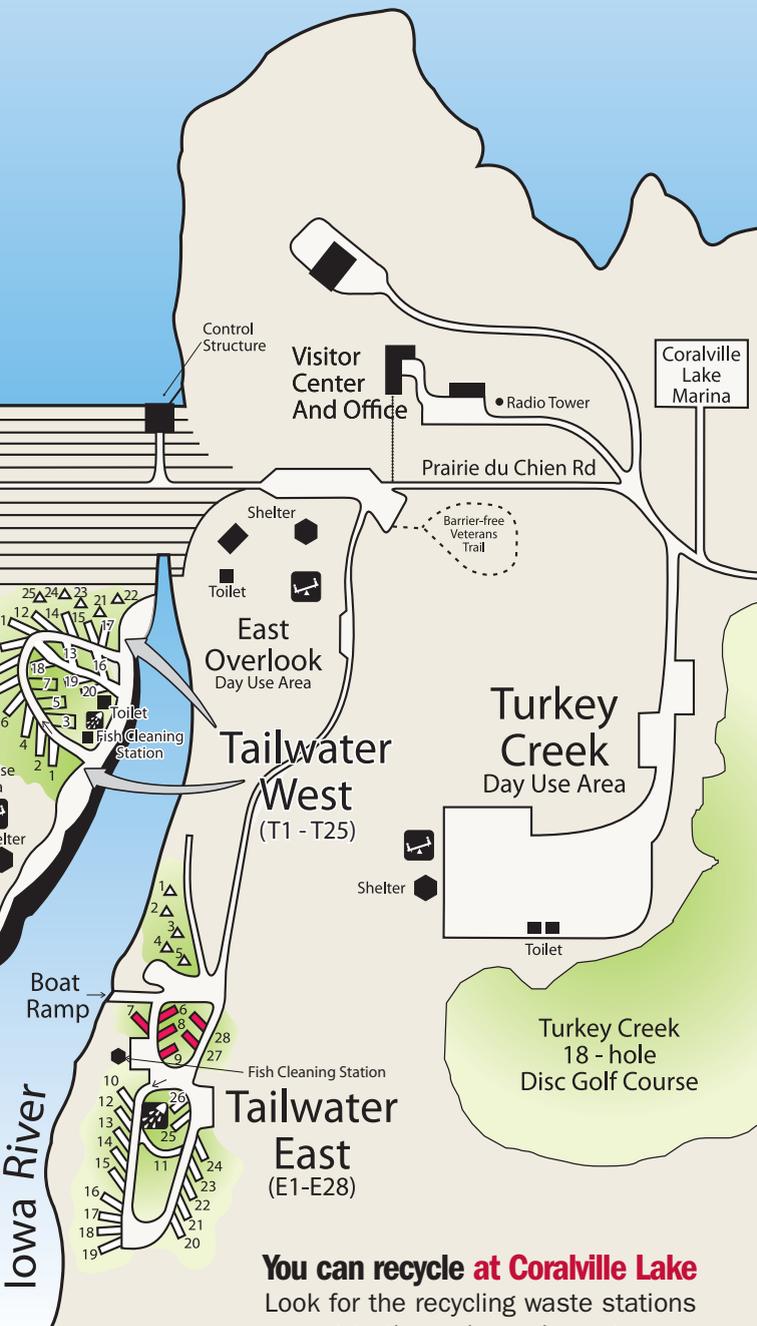
## Devonian Fossil Gorge

The Floods of 1993 uncovered a hidden treasure near Coralville Lake, the Devonian Fossil Gorge, located south west of the dam spillway. In 2008, flood waters struck again, exposing even more new discoveries.

Check out the markers and interpretive panels that have been installed, as well as a brochure that explains the fossils you'll see.

A fascinating spot is #9, the Cave Collapse. Geologists have determined that a section of colonial corals from the overlying biostrome collapsed into a cave and were then "cemented" to the cave floor. Erosion has revealed the cave and exposed the fossils and cave walls.

# Coralville Lake



**You can recycle at Coralville Lake**  
Look for the recycling waste stations  
next to the garbage dumpsters.  
No sorting required.

## Got e-mail?

Getting away from it all doesn't mean lake visitors can't occasionally check in back home at one of these nearby sources:

### North Liberty Community Library

520 W. Cherry St., North Liberty • (319) 626-5701

### Solon Public Library

320 W. Main St., Solon • (319) 624-2678

Wireless coverage can also be found in downtown Iowa City near the Old Capitol Town Center and the Pedestrian Mall; in Coralville on the City Campus, Iowa River Landing (including the Coralville Marriott Hotel & Conference Center) and North Ridge Park.

## Interested in volunteering as an interpretive guide?

Coralville Lake is always looking for volunteers to help with everything from pulling weeds to staffing the Visitor Center.

The interpretive program at Coralville Lake is now looking for volunteer tour guides to develop and present a variety of programs including Visitor Center and Dam tours and guided walks in the Devonian Fossil Gorge. Other programs may include water safety presentations at the beach, nature walks, nature craft programs and outdoor skills workshops.

If you are sincerely interested, contact Terry Escher, Park Ranger, at (319) 338-3543 x6308 or email [Terry.J.Escher@usace.army.mil](mailto:Terry.J.Escher@usace.army.mil)

# SOLON AMERICAN LEGION

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- ★ Open 7 Days-a-Week ★

222 West Main St., Solon ★ 319-624-2277

# Lake Macbride

## DETAIL MAP

**LAKE MACBRIDE LEGEND**

- Boat Ramp
- Park Office
- Lodge
- Shelter
- Picnic Area
- Rest Room
- Play Ground
- Private Property
- Beach/Boat Rental
- Fish Cleaning Station
- Dam
- Handicap Fishing Pier
- Bike Trail
- Nature Trail
- Multi-Use Trail

**MODERN CAMPGROUND**

**PRIMITIVE CAMPGROUND**

**SOLO**

The northern part of Lake Macbride State Park lies at the end of County Road F-16, four miles west of Solon.

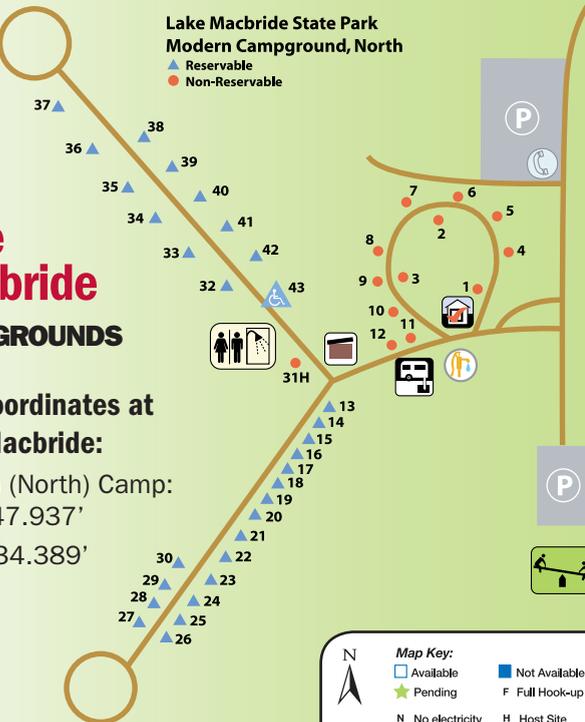
The southern part of the park is located off County Road F-28 (5th Street in Solon), three miles west of Solon.

# Lake Macbride

## CAMPGROUNDS

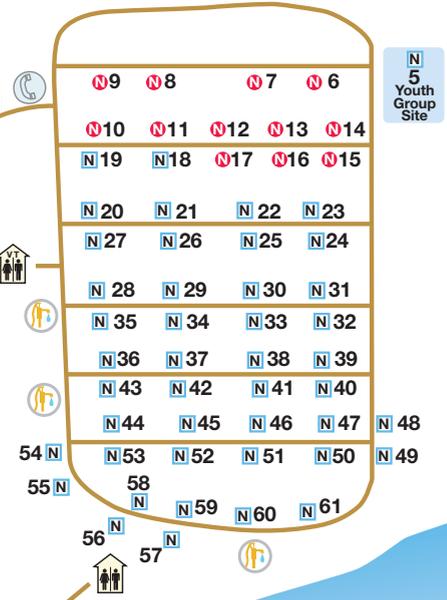
**GPS Coordinates at Lake Macbride:**  
 Modern (North) Camp:  
 N 41° 47.937'  
 W 91° 34.389'

Lake Macbride State Park  
 Modern Campground, North  
 ▲ Reservable  
 ● Non-Reservable



Lake Macbride State Park  
 Primitive Campground, South

Primitive (South) Camp:  
 N 41° 47.709'  
 W 91° 32.132'



**Map Key:**

- Available (blue square)
- Not Available (dark blue square)
- Pending (yellow star)
- No electricity (circle with slash)
- Playground (playground icon)
- Parking lot (P icon)
- Phone (phone icon)
- Not Available (dark blue square)
- F Full Hook-up (F icon)
- H Host Site (house icon)
- Vaulted toilet (toilet icon)
- Boat ramp (boat icon)
- Youth Site (youth icon)
- Non-reservable (red dot)
- E Electrical (E icon)
- Hydrant (H icon)
- Check-in station (check-in icon)
- Dumpster (dumpster icon)

# Coralville Lake Visitor Center

The Coralville Lake Visitor Center is located at the east end of the dam high atop the hill overlooking the lake and features exhibits about the history and natural resources of the Coralville Lake area. You'll also find a replica of an eagle's nest and a fossilized bony neck plate of one of the largest and oldest fish, Dunkleosteus. This fossil was found just below the spillway after the flood of 1993. An assortment of taxidermy mounts allow visitors a close-up look at some of the area's native wildlife.

Displays include an interactive exhibit featuring "The Corps Story". Another touch-screen display further expands on the Devonian fossils and the gorge. Take the "Quacker Quiz" to test your skills identifying various water fowl calls. A movie about Coralville Lake,

the Devonian Fossil Gorge and the floods of 1993 and 2008 is shown in the theatre upon request.

Other movies, which may be requested by groups if arranged in advance, include "America's Lost Landscape: The Tallgrass Prairie," "On the Wings of the Wind" (about eagles in Iowa), "Listen to the Eagle's Message," "Wings of America-Birds of Prey Show," and "Coexisting with Beavers: Nature's Habitat Engineers."

A small gift shop area sells DVDs of the movie, postcards, Corps camping guides, T-shirts, loose polished fossils or stones and fossil necklaces (real fossils from legal local private sources).

**Coralville  
Lake  
VISITOR CENTER:**

**April 14 – Oct. 14, 2012:**  
8 am to 4 pm, Mon – Fri,  
10 am to 5 pm, Sat, Sun, holidays

**Oct. 15 – April 12, 2013:**  
8 am to 4 pm, Mon - Fri,  
Closed weekends

**The staff at Coralville Lake wished Operations Manager John Castle a happy retirement at the end of 2011. Mr. Castle served 35 years for the Corps of Engineers and will be missed for his knowledge about the lake and experience he amassed over the years.**

**Howard D. ("Dee") Goldman has been selected as the new Operations Manager for Coralville Lake.**

**Dee comes to us from the Louisville District, where he has been serving as Assistant OPM and Supervisor, Natural Resource Project Manager at Buckhorn Lake since 2007. Dee has experience working with natural resources, park management and flood damage reduction.**

## Watch for these happenings at Coralville Lake

Watch for some new programs and some returning old favorites in the campgrounds. All programs are free to the public. A special treat this year will be National Park Service rangers from the Herbert Hoover National Historic site presenting a variety of evening campground programs at Sugar Bottom.

### Returning campground favorites include:

- live birds of prey from the Macbride Raptor Center;
- Perry Ross, an exceptional story teller with true stories;
- The Pella Wildlife Company will be back, this time with a live adult bobcat;
- Professor McEntaffer, the "rocket man," promises to be back.

Evening campground programs are scheduled on Saturdays from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, usually starting at 7 p.m. and ending at 8 p.m. This year we may start some at a later time to better accommodate the audio/visual presentations. Check the weekly flyers posted on the bulletin boards, ask a ranger or call our office.

### DATES TO KEEP IN MIND:

#### Sunday, April 15

Disc Golf Tournament at Turkey Creek

#### Monday, May 28

Don't forget the annual Memorial Day Veteran's Trail Ceremony. This is an extra special event, as we honor local living veterans for their service to our country.

#### Saturday, July 28

The second annual Turkey Vulture Festival, held at the East Overlook Picnic Area, will again have fun activities for kids and adults, various environmental clubs will have displays, and Iowa City Bird Club members will have their spotting scopes set up.

#### Saturday, Aug. 4

Disc Golf Tournament at Sugar Bottom Recreation Area

#### Sunday, Sept. 9

Iowa Audubon Pelican Festival at the Hawkeye Wildlife Area north of North Liberty

#### Winter 2012/2013

The first Eagle Watch Day at the Coralville Lake Visitor Center



**Find more information on any program at [www.coralvillelake.org](http://www.coralvillelake.org) or [www.culturalcorridor.org](http://www.culturalcorridor.org).**

**You may also call (319) 338-3543, ext. 6300, (M-F 7:30-4) During the summer, you can also call on Sat/Sun between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.**

Remember, all programs are free to the public and you do not have to be camping to attend a campground program.

In the event of inclement weather, some programs may have to be cancelled. Please call (319) 338-3543 ext. 6300 in advance if you have a question about possible cancellations.

# Borrow a life jacket, save a life

Playing in and around the water with your kids or grandkids can be a lot of fun, but you need to keep safety in mind. Drowning is one of the leading causes of death for children. Wearing a life jacket has proven to be one of the best safety measures when children are around water.

There is no charge to borrow a life jacket. The only requirement is parents need to know the weight of their child so that they borrow the right size of life jacket.

When you are finished using the life jacket, simply return it to the self-serve kiosk, to any park ranger, park entrance station, or the Visitor Center.

The Corps of Engineers would like to thank Coralville Lake Marina for generously donating the life jackets. Without them, this program would not be possible.

For more info on kids and water safety, go online to [www.bobber.info](http://www.bobber.info) to learn more from Bobber, The Water Safety Dog.



Look for this self-serve kiosk to borrow life jackets for your kids at Coralville Lake.

You can borrow a life jacket for children weighing up to 90 pounds free of charge from a self-serve kiosk that's located near the Coralville Lake West Overlook Beach.

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# Hit the trails: Hike, bike or run

## AT CORALVILLE LAKE

**The Cedar Valley Nature Trail**, located along the entrance road to the Sugar Bottom Recreation Area, winds its way past a cave used by ancient Native Americans, through tall timber, into lush ravines and over scenic bridges.

Squire Point and Woodpecker Trails connect to form a five-mile network. The **Woodpecker Nature Trail** entrance, located by the Linder Point Recreation Area off of Dubuque Street, offers marked stops along the trail. The **Squire Point Trail** is located north of the dam off Dubuque Street.

**Tailwater Riverwalk** is a hard surfaced trail that provides great access for fishing downstream on the west bank. It is also a pleasant half-mile walk roundtrip on a warm sunny day as it is mostly well shaded. Along the trail you

will also find three picnic sites complete with a picnic table and a grill.

**The Veterans Trail**, located near the park office, is a barrier-free 1/4-mile looped trail. Each year on Memorial Day, a dedication ceremony is held to honor local veterans.

Mountain bikers of all skill levels can bike nearly ten miles of one-way trails on the **Sugar Bottom Mountain Bike Trail**, which are marked by level of difficulty. For a Sugar Bottom trail map, go to [www.icorrmtnb.org](http://www.icorrmtnb.org). Other trail maps can be found at [www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Coralville/hiking\\_trails.htm](http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Coralville/hiking_trails.htm).

## AT LAKE MACBRIDE

A 17-mile trail system provides spectacular views of shorebirds, waterfowl and osprey. During winter months, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling are popular.



Lake Macbride also features a five-mile rock surface trail along the lake from Solon to the park entrance.

Another scenic 1.5-mile pedestrian trail runs between the park beach and the dam.

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# Swimming and Boating

## Lake Macbride

There's no place better than Lake Macbride's beach for cooling off on a hot summer day. No lifeguards are provided, so park visitors swim at their own risk. Swimming is restricted to the designated beach area.

A variety of boats are available for rent near the beach. The boat rental office is open daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Reservations can be made at (319) 624-2315. Pontoon boats seat up to 10 passengers and rent for \$42 an hour. Motorboats seat up to four and rent for \$20 per hour. Paddleboats, canoes and kayaks rent starting at \$8.95 an hour.



There are seven boat ramps on Lake Macbride (see pg. 12). A 10-horsepower motor limit is in effect from the Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day. At other times, there is an unrestricted horsepower motor limit operated at no-wake speed (5 mph maximum speed).

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## Coralville Lake

Offering more than 5,000 acres of water, Coralville Lake can't be beat for pleasure boating, water skiing and swimming.

Swimming beaches are located on Coralville Lake at the Sugar Bottom Day Use, Sandy Beach Day Use, and West Overlook Day Use areas. The Sugar Bottom Day Use beach, which is located by the mountain bike trail, is free. The other two beaches charge \$1 per person for persons 12 years of age and older; up to \$4 per car. No alcohol is allowed on any of the swimming beaches at Coralville Lake.

Boat ramps for registered campers are located within two of the three main campgrounds, West Overlook and Sugar Bottom. Registered campers may launch at any of the boat ramps free of charge with their camping receipt displayed in the vehicle window. Boat ramps for non-campers are located at Mehaffey Bridge, West Overlook Day Use, and Sandy Beach Day Use. The daily boat launch fee for non-campers is \$3. The Tailwater East campground has a free boat ramp for access to the Iowa River below the dam. Annual passes good for launching and beach use are available at the Coralville Lake office on the east side of the dam, at any entrance station, or call (319) 338-3543 ext. 6300 or online at [www.coralvillelake.org](http://www.coralvillelake.org). The cost for an annual day-use pass is \$30.

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# Fishing

In both Lake Macbride and Coralville Lake, you can expect to find largemouth bass, walleye, bluegill, crappie and channel catfish.

In order to fish, you need to purchase an annual fishing license for \$19. (One-week or one-day licenses are also available. Fees are higher for non-residents.) You can purchase your license at various stores in the area including: Funcrest Bait & Tackle, Sam's Main Street Market in Solon and L.D. Express and Corridor Convenience in North Liberty. Or you may purchase and print a fishing license from the DNR Web site, [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov).

Check out [www.takemefishing.org](http://www.takemefishing.org) for tons of info about what's biting and how to get your family hooked on fishing.

*A new fish grinder has been installed at the fish cleaning station in Tailwater West. This convenience will be especially helpful if you have large numbers of fish to clean, and you do not need to be camping at Tailwater West to use it. The grinder can handle up to a 10-pound fish. Check it out.*



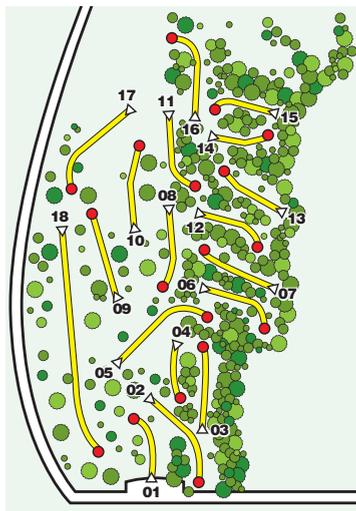
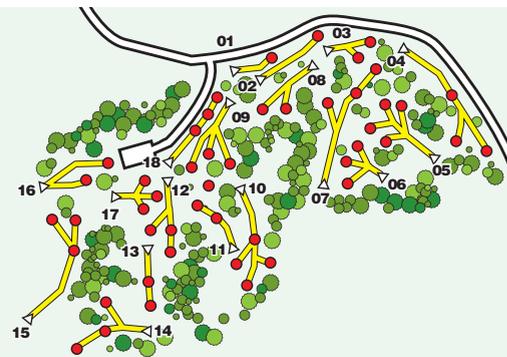
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# Disc golf

A disc golf course at Turkey Creek, located on the east side of the Coralville Dam, offers 18 holes on sloped terrain with bordering wooded areas.

The disc golf course located in the Sugar Bottom Recreation Area offers a mix of open and wooded areas on rolling terrain that makes for a challenging 18 holes. The access road to Sugar Bottom is off Mehaffey Bridge Road.

Both disc golf courses at Coralville Lake are free and available on a first-come, first-served basis except when tournaments are scheduled.



▲ Sugar Bottom  
Disc Golf Course

◀ Turkey Creek  
Disc Golf Course

## Be safe on your boat:

- Take a safe boating course.
- Put on your life jacket and leave your alcohol behind.
- Check the weather forecast.
- File a float plan with a friend.
- Check your boat for all required safety equipment.
- Check your electrical system and fuel system for gas fumes.
- Follow manufacturer-suggested procedures before starting up.
- Carry a navigational chart and know your waterway.
- Follow the navigation rules of the road, buoys and other aids to navigation.
- Be a safe boater, always post a sharp look-out.

## Iowa's boating speed and distance regulations:

- Don't exceed 5 mph within 100 feet of craft going 5 mph or less.
- Keep a distance of 50 feet when both are going over 5 mph.
- Don't exceed 10 mph when vision is not clear 200 feet ahead.

## Geocaching:

### High tech treasure hunt

If you're looking for an adventure to coax your kids away from their high tech toys and get them outdoors, geocaching may be just what you are looking for.

Geocaching is a high tech treasure hunt that uses a handheld GPS unit to lead you in the direction of a hidden treasure (the cache).

Each cache consists of a container that holds a log book and various small prizes left by other geocachers to reward you for your find. The idea is to take a prize and leave a prize.

The hidden beauty of geocaching is in the location of the caches. We have many natural areas that are off the beaten path and seldom seen. Geocachers enjoy helping you to discover their own favorite areas by hiding caches in those places.

There are numerous geocaches located around Coralville Lake and Lake Macbride, just waiting for a new adventurer to find them.

If you want to set a geocache on public lands around Coralville Lake or Lake Macbride, you need to obtain a permit from the governing agency. For information about getting a permit at Coralville Lake call (319) 338-3543, x6319. For Lake Macbride, call (319) 624-2200.

For more information on local caches, go online to [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) or [www.iowageocachers.org](http://www.iowageocachers.org)

# Reserve a shelter

## Lake Macbride

The Civilian Conservation Corps constructed a number of facilities at Lake Macbride during the 1930s including a beautiful enclosed stone shelter, which is available for rent for \$70 a day, which includes electricity, water, modern restrooms, kitchen facilities, and oak tables and benches. The main lodge and beach lodge may be reserved online at [www.exploreiowaparks.com](http://www.exploreiowaparks.com). Four open picnic shelters are also available for rent. For locations, please see the map in this guide or view the online map at [www.exploreiowaparks.com](http://www.exploreiowaparks.com). Open shelters may be reserved online at [www.exploreiowaparks.com](http://www.exploreiowaparks.com) for a \$25 fee plus tax.



## Coralville Lake

Six picnic shelters are available. The daily fee to reserve a shelter from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. is \$30 and is non-refundable. Each shelter has pedestal grills, water, electrical outlets and restroom facilities nearby.

For reservations or more information, call (319) 338-3543, ext. 6300, Mon-Fri from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Shelters can be used on a first-come, first-served basis when not reserved.

There are individual picnic tables and grills throughout each picnic area. Three concrete, universally-accessible picnic sites at Coralville Lake's West Overlook Day Use Area are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Buy locally harvested firewood

Firewood can harbor invasive insects and other tree pests that can kill other trees. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District, which includes the Coralville Lake Project, has a regulation restricting firewood from being brought into our recreation areas from outside the state.

If you brought firewood with you from another state, please contact a park ranger or gate attendant and they will assist you. You can help protect Coralville Lake's trees and forests by using local sources of firewood; by purchasing only the amount that you need and by burning it

all before you leave the campground. If you have a branch or part of a tree you would like to have removed because it is touching your camping equipment, please contact a ranger or the gate attendant at the entrance station so that it can be removed correctly.

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# Pelicans celebrated at Coralville Lake

Pelicans in Iowa? At Coralville Lake? You bet! Thousands of American White Pelicans make their annual migration right through the state of Iowa, and Coralville Lake is a favorite rest stop along their more than 1000-mile journey.

These huge, gangly, and mostly white seabirds have an enormous wingspan, measuring up to 9 feet. Unlike the Brown Pelican, this bird does not dive for food. White pelicans fish in groups by floating atop the water. They simply dip their heads below the surface to troll for gizzard shad and emerald shiners, using their feet and wings to corral fish. They consume an average of three pounds of fish per day.

The American White Pelican is awkward on the ground, but a graceful flyer. A flock turning in unison is a mesmerizing sight. Adults are usually silent, making little sound.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, Sept. 9. The Iowa Audubon Society will celebrate the second Pelican Festival at Coralville Lake. Bring your family and friends to DNR's Hawkeye Wildlife Area on Amana Road, Swisher, Iowa (just west of Iowa Highway 965). Check [www.coralvillelake.org](http://www.coralvillelake.org) or call (319) 338-3543, x6300, for more information.



Photos courtesy Cecil Organ

## See raptors up close at the Macbride Raptor Center

At the Macbride Nature Recreation Area (south of Lake Macbride on Mehaffey Bridge Road), a large enclosure called a flight cage is used to prepare injured birds for release back into the wild. The Macbride Nature and Recreation Area also serves as a home to several species of permanently disabled eagles, hawks, owls and falcons. The public is welcome to visit year round.

**Macbride Raptor Center:** Open April to Oct.: 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Nov. to March: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Guided tours may be arranged by calling (319) 398-5495 <http://recserv.uiowa.edu/Apps/Programs/MacbrideRaptorProject.aspx>

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