

Baileys Ford Park and Wildlife Area

(2379 Jefferson Rd, Manchester, Iowa)



Acres: 170.0
 Habitat: 95.0 ac. Upland/Woodland
 75.0 ac. Baileys Ford Park
 Species: Deer, Turkey, Small game, Furbearers
 Open to hunting and trapping according to
 DNR seasons and with county restrictions

Legend

Parking Area	River/Trout Stream
Boat Ramp	Park Boundary
Canoe/Kayak Access	Campground Boundary (campground map available)

Baileys Ford Park and Wildlife Area is located 3 miles southeast of Manchester in section 10 of Milo Township (T88N-R5W) Delaware County, Iowa.

The history of this area goes back to 1838 when a surveyor by the name of Joel Bailey settled and built a cabin on the east side of the Maquoketa River where the park is today. As one of the first settlers in Delaware County his cabin became the first post office. When stagecoach roads were established, the family kept travelers overnight and this location is where the river could be forded on their westward travels. Thus, the area became known as Baileys Ford.

This area has always been a popular location for fishermen, picnickers and campers. In 1959 the Delaware County Conservation Board purchased almost 4.0 acres from Interstate Power Co. Over the next ten years they acquired an additional 73.0 acres.

The Iowa DNR, through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund assisted the Conservation Board with 55.0 of those acres, which became the base for Baileys Ford Park. The park opened to the public in May of 1969.

In 1984 the Delaware County Conservation Board constructed the park office, shop and nature center, making this the headquarters for the county parks and wildlife areas.

In 1988 the Conservation Board entered into a lease agreement on 50.0 acres from Kuhlman Quarries. The Iowa DNR, in 1999, purchased 25.0 acres along the Maquoketa River and entered into a management agreement with the Conservation Board. Together all of these properties total over 170.0 acres as part of the Baileys Ford Park complex.

Today the park provides over 70 camping sites; 32 with water and electric service, 22 with electric service and 16 primitive sites, along with restroom and shower facilities (campground map available). Other amenities include 3 picnic shelters, 3 playgrounds, volleyball court, horseshoe courts and ball diamond for park users to enjoy.

The park has almost 3 miles of improved hiking trails (trail map available) and a half mile of Spring Branch Trout Stream flows through the park before out-letting into the Maquoketa River. Trout fishing is easily accessible along the stream with a handicap fishing platform on the north end of the park. The stream is regularly stocked with trout by the Iowa DNR Fish Hatchery.

The Baileys Ford and Kuhlman Wildlife Area portion contains almost 95.0 acres of wooded upland wildlife habitat available for hunting deer, turkey and small game with county restrictions.

The woodland portion contains a diversity of trees and fauna such as:

- Bur, Black, White, Red Oak
- Basswood
- Hickory
- Elm
- Hackberry
- Walnut
- Silver Maple
- Red Cedar
- Ash
- Cherry
- Box Elder
- Cottonwood
- Willow
- Sycamore
- Ironwood
- River Birch

Along with a variety of evergreen and mixed deciduous trees that have been planted by the conservation staff over the years.

There is over ½ mile of river frontage that is part of the Maquoketa River Water Trail along the south boundary of the park. The river is used extensively by canoers, kayakers, tubers and boaters with river access and boat ramp at the south end of the park. The boat ramp also provides access to the north end of Lake Delhi. Fishing this stretch of river for small mouth bass, walleye, catfish, crappie and blue gill can pay dividends at certain times of the year. Small boats may go up river to fish at the Sand Pit Pond.

Baileys Ford Park and Wildlife Areas provide a diversity of habitat for fish and wildlife. It also provides opportunity for a diversity of outdoor recreational uses for all seasons of the year.



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