

# Rathbun Lake

Iowa

## Managing the Lake

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages the 55 square miles of land and water at Rathbun Lake. Land management practices include native prairie reestablishment, controlled burning, tree planting, and restricted vehicle access on 22,900 acres of public lands. These practices not only help conserve soil and benefit wildlife but also provide outdoor recreation opportunities for birders, hikers, hunters, fisherman, and wildlife viewers. Parking areas are located at various locations that provide foot access to Rathbun Lake's of public lands.

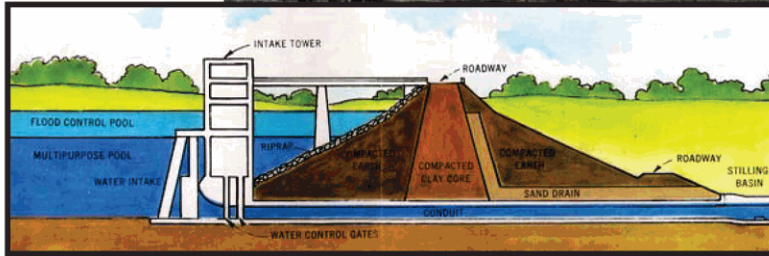
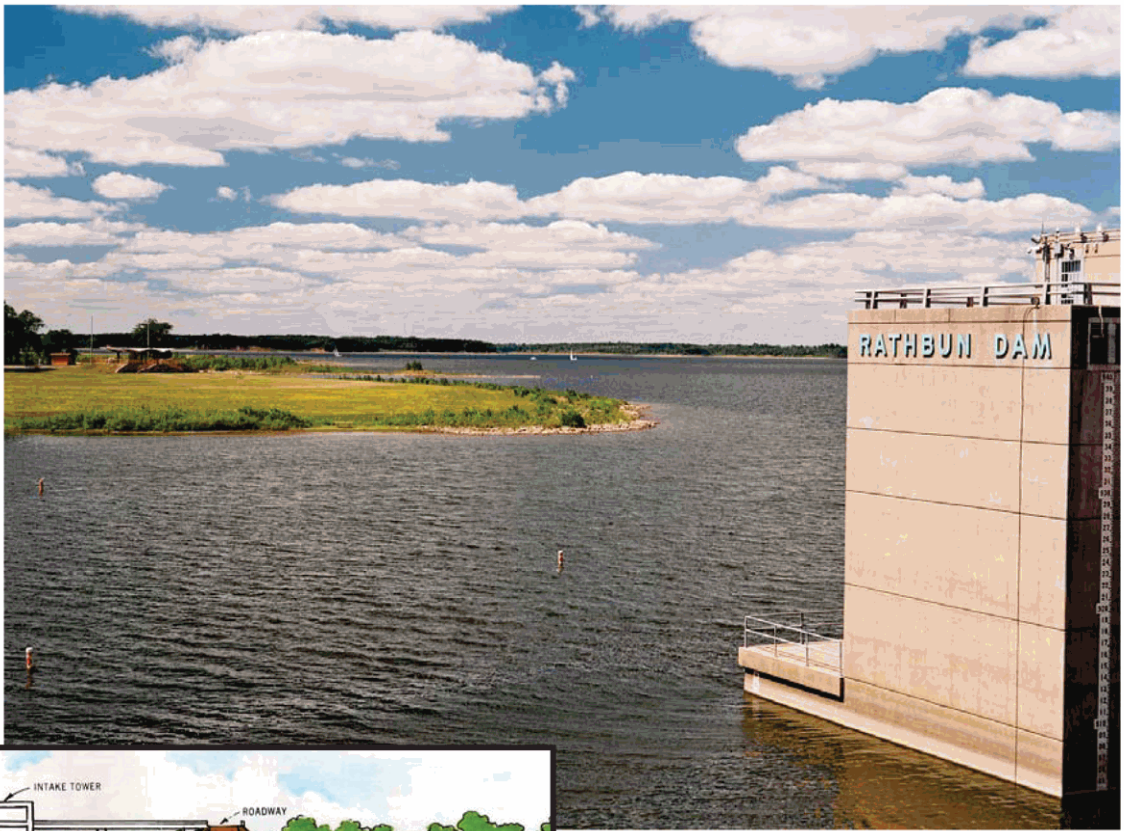
The Corps also manages six park areas for day use activities, camping, swimming, fishing and boating access. Additional facilities and campsites have been developed to meet the increasing needs of the lake visitor. The Corps strives to maintain its park areas and facilities to meet the needs of its visitors. Concessionaires operate two marinas and two camp areas.

14,500 acres of land for wildlife management, 375 acres for operation of Rathbun Fish Hatchery and Fisheries Research Facility, and two state parks, Honey Creek State Park and Honey Creek Resort Park are licensed to Iowa Department of Natural Resources from the Corps. Additional wetlands are being established on DNR licensed ground on the South Fork of the Chariton River.



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Kansas City District





## The Lake

Elevation, feet above mean sea level:

Top flood control pool.....926

Top multipurpose pool .....904

Surface Area, acres:

Top flood control pool.....21,000

Top multipurpose pool.....11,000

Drainage area: (square miles).....549

Shoreline miles, (multipurpose pool).....155

The Dam

Type.....rolled earth fill

Length, ft. (overall).....10,600

Height, ft. (above streambed).....101

Width, ft. (crown).....30

Width, ft. (base).....800

Emergency Spillway.....Uncontrolled chute



## Rathbun Lake Facts

- Rathbun Lake was dedicated in 1971 by President Richard Nixon
- The initial cost to construct Rathbun Dam was \$26 million.
- Authorized purposes include:

### ***Flood Reduction***

- Since lake began operations in 1969, prevented over \$142 million in flood damages

### ***Recreation***

- 8 park areas

### ***Fish and Wildlife Management***

- 22,900 acres of public lands
- 11,000 acres of water multipurpose pool

### ***Water Quality***

- Monitoring

### ***Water Supply***

- Rathbun Regional Water Association

### ***Navigation***

- Rathbun Lake and land includes 4 counties of Southern Iowa

### ***Appanoose***

### ***Lucas***

### ***Monroe***

### ***Wayne***

- Draws more than one million visitors a year



## Location Map

From Rathbun Dam to:

- Albia, IA – 18 miles
- Cedar Rapids, IA – 141 miles
- Centerville, IA - 9 miles
- Chariton, IA – 44 miles
- Columbia, MO – 158 miles
- Corydon, IA – 29 miles
- Davenport, IA – 173 miles
- Des Moines, IA – 85 miles
- Kansas City, MO – 185 miles
- Omaha, NE – 200 miles
- St. Louis, MO – 280 miles
- Waterloo, IA – 144 miles

### **Additional Information**

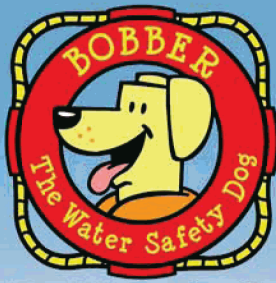
If you have additional questions concerning activities at Rathbun Lake, please write to:

Rathbun Lake Office,

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 20112 Hwy J5T,  
Centerville, Iowa 52544-8308, or call 641-647-2464  
or visit the Rathbun Lake Website at:

[www.nwk.usace.army.mil/rathbun/rathbun\\_home.htm](http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/rathbun/rathbun_home.htm)





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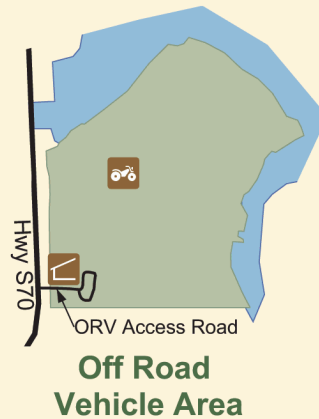
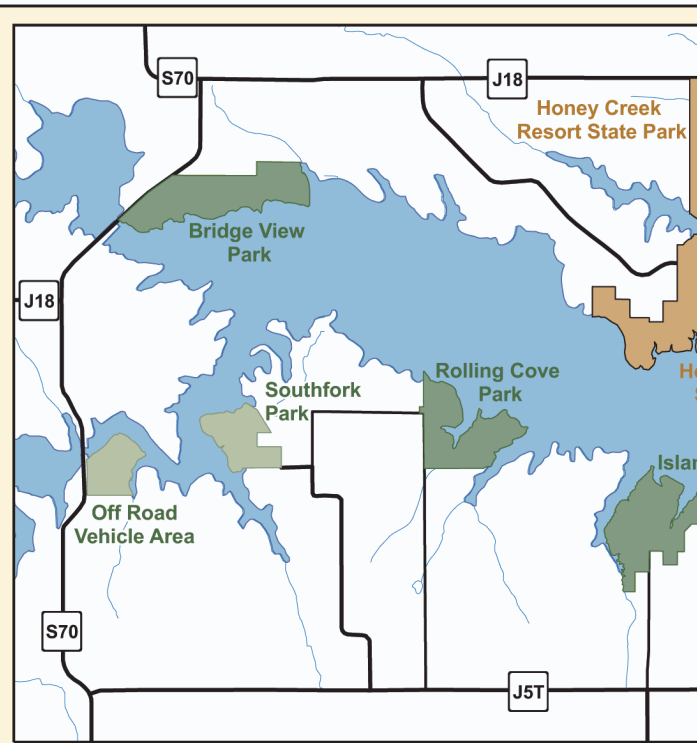


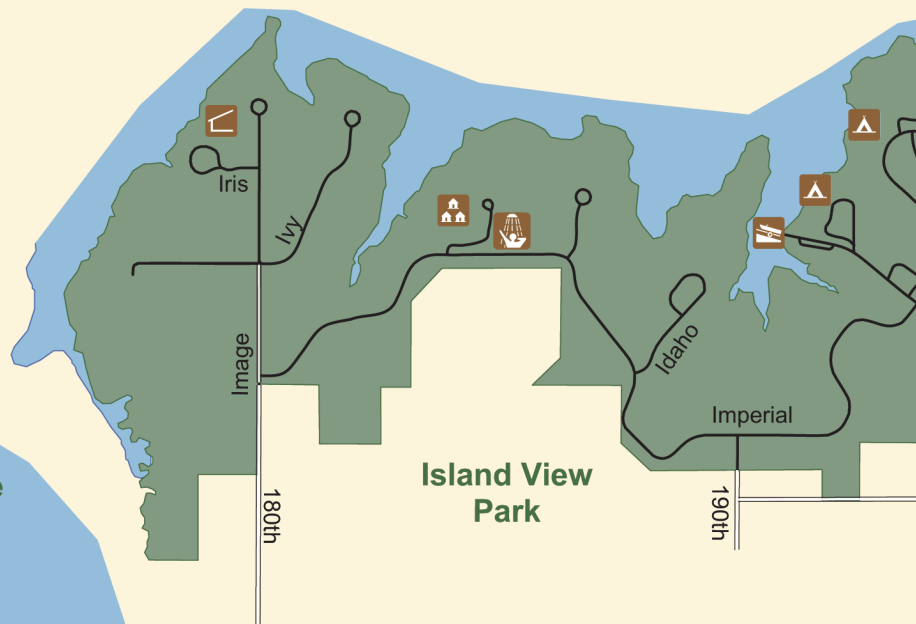
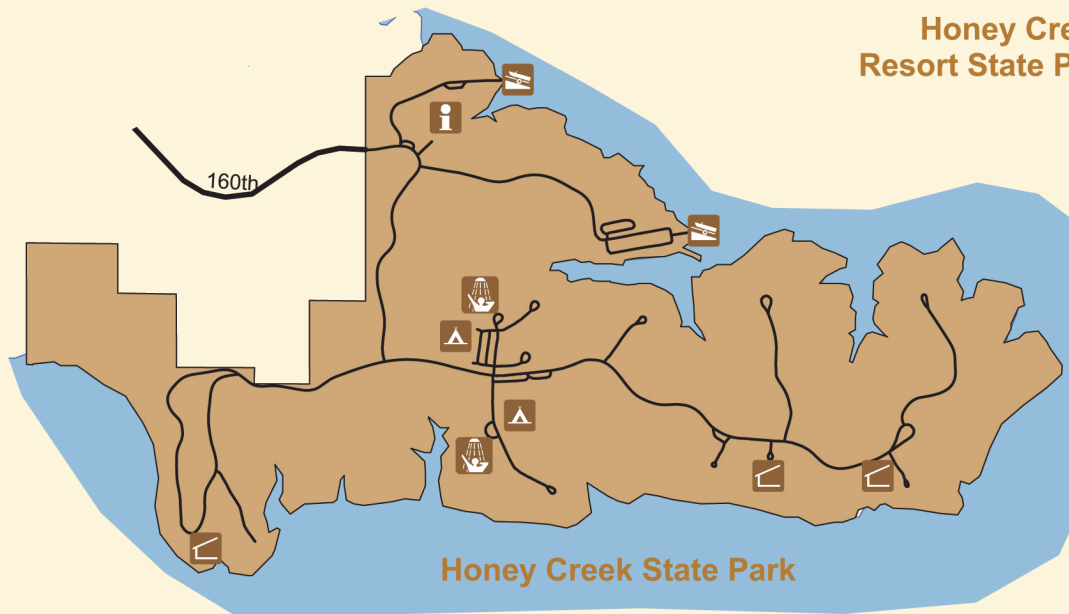
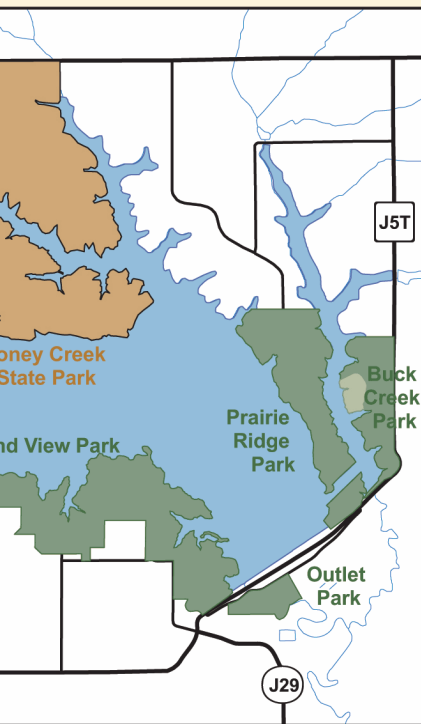
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Honey Creek  
Resort State P

Honey Creek State Park

Sand View Park

















Rolling Cove Park

Island View Park

Peak  
Park



## Legend

 COE Park	 All Terrain Vehicle Area	 Lighthouse (Proposed)
 State Park (No Hunting)	 Camping	 Lodging
 Recreation Area (No Hunting)	 Group Camping	 Shelter
 Marina	 Handicap Fishing	 Shower
 Boat Ramp	 Hiking Trail	 Swimming
	 Information	

