



LINN COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
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LinnCounty.org



July 16, 2020

Linn County Conservation strives to make outdoor recreation experiences and amenities available in a healthy and responsible way. Efforts will continue through this COVID-19 pandemic to provide opportunities and access for all to obtain the numerous mental, physical and quality of life benefits that nature can provide.

Wickiup Hill Learning Center

The Wickiup Hill Learning Center, the indoor facility, is allowing visitors on a limited basis by **reservation only** starting July 20, 2020 to help manage group sizes and maintain social distancing practices. Staff have implemented additional health and sanitation protocols to allow for this indoor facility to open for guests.

Restrictions/Guidelines for the Wickiup Hill Learning Center include:

- To reserve a space for you, your family, or small group, contact the Wickiup Hill Learning Center at 319-892-6485. Reservations are made by phone only.
- Reservation times available are 9 - 11 a.m., 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., or 1 - 3 p.m. You may drop in any time during your reservation slot.
- Visitors will be asked to answer a health questionnaire, wash their hands, and will have their temperatures taken before entering the building.
- Visitors are required to wear masks while using the building, and continue to practice social distancing of at least 6 feet between you and others not in your household.
- Reservation groups must begin their visit inside the learning center for proper check-in.

These guidelines are subject to change, as we continue to work through the issues regarding COVID-19 in an effort to keep employees and visitors safe, while offering a positive experience at the Wickiup Hill Learning Center.

Public Programs:

The Linn County Conservation education team is now offering public programs for all ages this summer. Space is limited due to the current pandemic, and extra precautions are taking place for these outdoor and indoor programs. To register or find out more, click on *Events* at LinnCountyParks.com

Additional Wickiup Hill Information:

The outside areas of Wickiup Hill continue to be open from sunrise to sunset, including the Wickiup Wandering Woods nature playscape. All visitors should continue to practice social distancing, avoid large groups, and wash hands frequently. Use hand sanitizer when hand-washing is unavailable.

The side entry door on the northwest portion of the Wickiup Hill Learning Center will be open during normal business hours (8 - 4:30 p.m. M-F) for access to the indoor restrooms. Current Linn County Conservation operations in response to COVID-19 can be found at LinnCountyParks.com. You do not need to be part of a reservation group.

Facility Reservations

Shelters and Lodges Events and gatherings may now be held at park shelters and lodges. Park staff have implemented additional measures to help provide a safe and healthy event. The gathering organizer must ensure the following (Per [Proclamation of Disaster Emergency](#), signed June 10, *Mass Gatherings* -Section Three {A})

- **Social distancing** At least 6-feet of physical distance between each group or individual attending alone.
- **Hygiene and public health measures** The gathering organizer shall implement reasonable measures to also increase hygiene practices and other public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, consistent with guidance issued by the Iowa Department of Public Health and, for any food service, the Iowa Department of Inspection and Appeals.
- **Camping Cabins and Group Camps** Online reservations are accepted.

Online Reservations Only Shelters, lodges, camping cabins and group camps are reserved online by visiting LinnCountyParks.com. Click on [facilities](#) for additional details, availability, and to complete your reservation.

[COVID-19 Lodge and Shelter Use Guidelines](#)

Campgrounds

Campgrounds at Buffalo Creek Park, Morgan Creek Park, Pinicon Ridge Park and Squaw Creek Park continue to be open with additional sanitation and safety protocols. Non-modern (primitive) campgrounds at Matsell Bridge Natural Area (including Mt Hope) and Wakpicada Natural Area are also open.

Current camping guidelines include:

- **Social Distancing** Within the campgrounds and other areas of the park, keep 6 feet between you and other patrons not within your own household and wear a mask when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- **Camping units** Campsites are open to all camping units normally permitted under current department rules and regulations.
- **Shower house** Shower houses with modern restrooms are open for registered campers. Those camping with self-contained units are encouraged to continue using their own shower and restrooms.
- **First-come, first-served** The long standing policy of first-come, first-served camping continues. Reservations are only accepted for Squaw Creek Park A-Loop online at LinnCountyParks.com.

Additional Linn County Conservation information

Linn County Conservation's Parks, Trails, Natural Areas and Preserves are open. In addition:

OPEN

- **Drinking Fountains**
- **Matsell Bridge Shooting Range**
- **Observation Tower at Pinicon Ridge Park**
- **Playgrounds** The playgrounds at Buffalo Creek, Pinicon Ridge, Morgan Creek and Squaw Creek Parks are open, as well as the Wickiup Wandering Woods nature playscape at the Wickiup Hill Learning Center.
- **Restrooms** Pit toilets and flushable restrooms in our outdoor areas and along trails are open. Sanitizer is not available and users who choose to use these facilities should bring their own product.
- **Watercraft Concession** In-park watercraft rentals are open at Pinicon Ridge Park. The canoe shuttle program is operating on a limited basis.

CLOSED

- **Abbe Creek School Museum**
- **Various areas under construction** Some areas or park facilities may be closed to the public due to construction, development, cleaning, flooding, and/or for other safety concerns.

Keep Linn County Healthy *COVID-19 is still here*

Social Distancing Maintain social distancing by keeping a distance of at least 6-feet between yourself and anyone you encounter outdoors. Have a cloth face covering or mask on hand when social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. Bicycle riders are encouraged to ride in single file when possible while keeping your distance. Avoid large groups.

Continue to Practice Good Hygiene Use sanitizer or soap and water after being in contact with any surfaces.

Illness If you feel sick and regardless of how mild the illness is, please stay home for your health and the safety of others.

Where will you explore next?

Linn County Conservation manages over 28 areas with a lot to see and do! Check out some of these sites at LinnCountyParks.com, and sign up for our [ENews!](#)

Follow us on:

[Facebook](#) at LinnCountyConservation

[Twitter](#) at @LinnCoConserv

Please visit Linn County's website LinnCounty.org regarding awareness and recommendations to COVID-19.