

F.W. Kent Park



2048 Hwy 6 NW
Oxford, IA 52322

Overview: F.W. Kent Park is 1,062 acres, the largest property owned by Johnson County Conservation (JCC), and agency's headquarters. High quality relic and reconstructed prairie, oak savanna, and forests cover the landscape, along with numerous wetlands. A 27-acre constructed lake centers the park.

History: Kent Park, established in 1966, was amid the first of JCC's parks. The park started out with a 186-acre acquisition from the Larew family, and a 21-acre parcel from the Woods family. The lake was constructed on these parcels, and surrounding acreage was added over the following decades. Kent Park is named after Frederick Wallace Kent, a prominent photographer and birder in the county. Mr. Kent assisted JCC in the early years by helping to determine wildlife areas for preservation.

Features:

- 13+ miles of hiking trails wind through the landscape. Trails are open to hikers and mt. bikers, and in the winter many are groomed for cross country skiing, fatbiking, and snowshoeing.
- Kent Park Lake is open to canoeing, kayaking, fishing, and swimming at the beach. The beach is free and open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. An accessible fishing pier is located at the Boat Ramp parking area.
- The campground provides 86 electric sites, restroom and shower facilities, and a playground. Additionally, the Youth Group Camp has a lodge and 5 campsites; all can be reserved by organized youth groups.
- The Conservation Education Center (CEC) is used to host educational programs and is open summer weekends for visitation. A Storybook Trail around the 1/2 mile CEC trail loop is a draw for young hikers from spring to fall. Kent Park provides a variety of nature-study opportunities.
- A bird blind is open to the public year-round. It is located on the east end of the CEC parking lot.
- Six picnic shelters (four are reservable), picnic tables, and grills are available throughout the park. A large playground is located near the Bluebird Picnic Shelter.



260TH SW NW

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