

# Mahoney State Park

INFORMATION + EXPLORATION GUIDE 2022 - 2023





## *Here's To Your State Parks*

Here's to days spent roaming Nebraska's incredible state parks. To sleeping beneath the stars and soaking up the natural beauty of each part of our state — from the buttes of Fort Robinson State Park to the forested hills of Platte River State Park.

Here's to casting a line, and then another. To always jumping in feet first. To letting time float by as you enjoy campgrounds and beaches, trails and open water.

From Chadron State Park to Indian Cave State Park, and every recreation area, historical and state park in between, Nebraska's state parks are the place for your adventures, for your memories.

*Here's to going out and enjoying your  
Nebraska State Parks.*



## Explore your state at Mahoney Park

This modern state park is the perfect year round destination for a family escape. Families can visit the aquatic center and indoor playground, explore the park's hiking and biking trails, adventure through the treetop ropes course, climb the observation tower and, when the weather turns cold, enjoy indoor rock climbing, sledding and ice skating. Athletic facilities include an aquatic center, 18-hole disc golf course, tennis and basketball courts, softball fields, and sand volleyball.

The jewel of the park is Peter Kiewit Lodge, which offers 40 guest rooms, most with balconies that offer a stunning view of the Platte River valley. The park also offers an arts and crafts center, an array of cabins, as well as camping opportunities. Mahoney State Park is located midway between Lincoln and Omaha.

BIKING  
CAMPING  
CABINS  
FISHING  
HIKING  
LODGING  
MARINA  
PICNICKING  
PLAYGROUND  
SWIMMING  
TRAIL RIDES



### JAMES FAMILY CONSERVATORY

The James Family Conservatory and surrounding Butterfly Garden help play a part in the conservation of plants and insects at Mahoney Park. Walk through the observatory and enjoy the 100+ species of plants, a miniature waterfall, fish swimming in the pond, and several species of butterflies flying around the area.



## Activity Center + Ice Skating

Weather can dictate the outdoor fun at Mahoney, but there is year-round recreation at the Activity Center. The Activity Center hosts a large indoor playground with fun tubes, slides, net bridges and ball pit. The Activity Center also serves pizza which can be delivered to cabins and lodge rooms. Activity Center birthday parties are currently closed.

Connected to the Activity Center is the ice skating pavilion, which is open during the winter and provides great family fun. Ice skate rental is available during Activity Center business hours. The ice skating season generally begins in mid-November, weather permitting.

### SUMMER HOURS

Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Monday: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: Closed



## Swimming

The Family Aquatic Center includes a swimming pool with two water slides, diving area, zero-entry wave pool, sun deck and concession area. This park is sure to entertain the whole family, kids and adults both.

### SUMMER HOURS

Monday, Wednesday & Friday: Noon – 5 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday: Noon – 5 p.m; 6 – 8 pm.  
Tuesday & Thursday: Closed.

## Playgrounds

The park has several playgrounds, one of the most popular ones is located directly in front of the Aquatic Center. We take pride in the cleanliness of our park and the playgrounds, making sure they are routinely sanitized for the safety of your children.

## Bicycles

The park has many pavilions for you and your family to host parties, have a picnic or grilling with your friends. Pavilions are available for reservations. When one is reserved, there will be a sign posted the morning of. If there is no sign, feel free to kick back and enjoy the shade of our pavilions any time.



## Owen Marina

Paddle boating and fishing are popular activities at this charming marina. Owen Marina on Baright Lake offers a concession stand, rental of paddle boats and has fishing and camping supplies, basic groceries and sundry items for sale. The marina serves sandwiches, snacks and drinks daily from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Some concession items may be limited.

Owen marina also offers a soccer balls, footballs, basketballs, volleyballs, bocce balls, horseshoes, softballs, bats, bases, tennis balls and rackets and fishing rods and reels for loan free of charge during business hours. Nebraska's landscape is dotted with lakes, rivers and streams, providing plentiful and diverse fishing opportunities for serious anglers, youth trying the sport for the first time and everyone in between. The following resources are designed to help anglers of all abilities and interests find the perfect spot.

### FISHING

There are many great fishing spots that are open to the public across the state of Nebraska. Use this interactive map to find locations and plan your next outing. Information on water body size, fish species, regulations and more is also available for each map location.

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### PADDLE BOAT RENTALS

Paddle boating and fishing are popular activities at this charming marina. Owen Marina on Baright Lake offers a concession stand, rental of paddle boats and has fishing and camping supplies, basic groceries and sundry items for sale. The marina serves sandwiches, snacks and drinks daily from Memorial Day.



## Go Ape Ropes Course

Looking for the ultimate outdoor adventure? Get ready for a totally unique outdoor experience. Way more than just zip lines, Go Ape is a 2-3-hour journey through the forest canopy. Our high-ropes adventure course features suspended obstacles, breathtaking zip lines and incredible views.

Go Ape provides a portion of their proceeds and stewardship services back to the park. To see what the fun is all about, check out this video! Go Ape is great for both novice and experienced climbers and is ADA-accessible. Admission is \$11 for adults and \$10 for child.

Personal equipment is permitted but must first be inspected and approved by a Go Ape employee. There is no time limit for climbing. Those who wish to use the facility must fit into a harness provided by the park. All climbers must sign a waiver in person prior to using the facility. A parent must sign the waiver for climbers 18 and younger.

### SUMMER HOURS

**Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Monday:** 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
**Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday:** Closed



## Venture Climb

Mahoney State Park's Venture Climb, housed in a new, state-of-the-art addition to the Activity Center, features a 42-foot climbing wall with both auto- and top-rope belays, as well as a bouldering structure. Climbers are treated to scenic views of the park through the facility's floor-to-ceiling windows.

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### SUMMER HOURS

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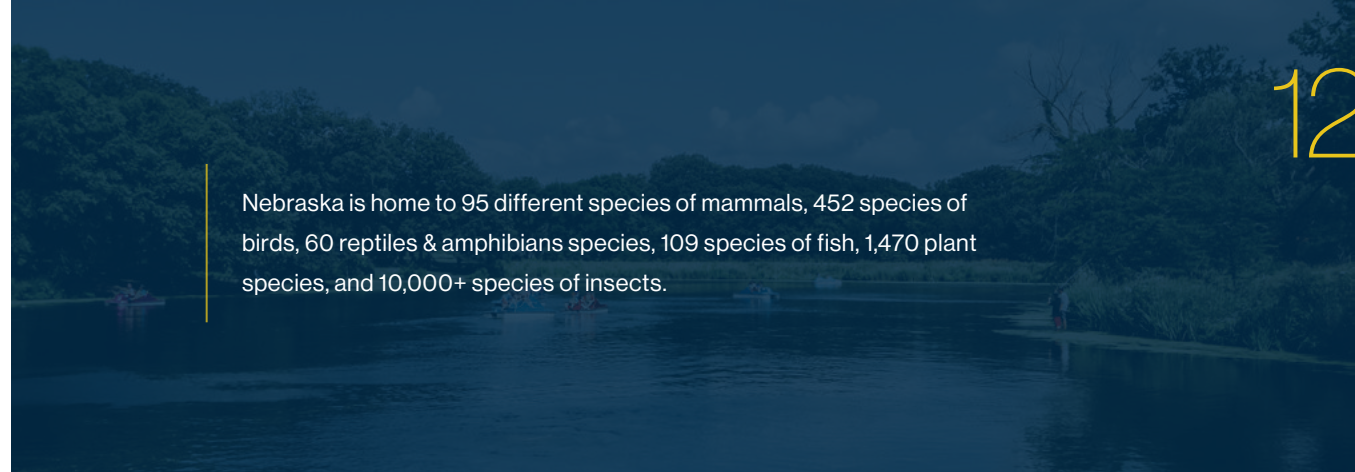
## Biodiversity + Conservation

Nebraska is a large, deceptively diverse state. Nebraska is a mixing ground where mid-continental species merge. Eastern woodland species like wild columbine are found along our eastern border, while bighorn sheep scramble through the western escarpments, and meadowlarks sing throughout Nebraska's grasslands. Shorebirds and waterfowl rely on our many wetlands during migration.

Nebraska is home to more than 100 species of fish, 78 of which are presumed to be native. Nebraska was originally a land of streams and rivers, but immigrants began building dams almost as soon as they arrived, resulting in thousands of ponds, lakes and reservoirs. Fish stocking into these ponds and lakes, which began in the 1880's, continues to this day. So, in addition to the native species we now have an additional 25 introduced fishes as well as six exotic species.

As stewards for the next generation, it is our responsibility to ensure the treasures that were handed to us by nature and our predecessors are still here for future Nebraskans. As stewards for the next generation, it is our responsibility to ensure the treasures that were handed to us by nature and our predecessors are still here for the future.

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Nebraska is home to 95 different species of mammals, 452 species of birds, 60 reptiles & amphibians species, 109 species of fish, 1,470 plant species, and 10,000+ species of insects.

### BIRDS

From eastern oak woodlands to western pine forests, Nebraska is home to more than 400 species of birds, including more than 200 breeding species. Situated between wintering areas to the south and wintering areas to the north, Nebraska is a critically important primarily during spring migration, for millions of waterfowl, hundreds of thousands of shorebirds and half a million Sandhill Cranes. Nebraska also provides important habitat for endangered species.

### MAMMALS

There are more than 80 species of mammals native to Nebraska. They range in size from a bull elk, which can be 5 feet high at the shoulder and weigh more than 700 pounds, to the least shrew, which may be 2 1/2 inches long. Nebraska mammals are adapted to a wide variety of habitats. Some are runners adapted to escaping predators on the open prairie. Others, like the river otter, are exceptional swimmers.

### FISH

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### PLANTS

Nebraska's nearly 1,500 species of native plants occupy habitats ranging from eastern Nebraska tall grass prairies to Sandhill wetlands to dry rocky outcrops in the Panhandle. Though many of these species are common and widespread, many are restricted to unique habitats such as Sandhill fens and alkaline marshes. Nearly 400 plant species are considered at-risk in the state, while only seven species are listed as threatened.



## Camping + Reservations

Mahoney State Park offer Full Hookup, Electric Plus and Electric campsites. There are a total of 148 campsites. Lakeside Campground (100-148 campsites) are located close to Baright Lake and Owen Marina. Little Creek Campground (1-99 campsites) is close to a playground, basketball court and the coin operated laundry facility. Both campgrounds have drinking water, showers and modern restrooms. A dump and fill station is located conveniently near the park entrance.

Tent camping is available at Mahoney State Park in the two modern campgrounds. Tent campers will use the grassy area next to the pad site to set up their tent. Those tenting will pay the camping fee applicable to the site occupied. If making reservations, look for the site description of "tentable." This means there is a level grassy space for a tent.

### RESERVATIONS

Reservations are accepted for half of the campsites in Lakeside and Little Creek campgrounds up to 180 days in advance of arrival date and paid in full at the time the reservation is made. Campers with advance reservations must stop at the Lauritzen Administration building located at the park entrance to check-in or register to camp prior to setting up on a campsite.



## Peter Kiewit Lodge

### CABINS

Secluded on wooded ridgetops, Mahoney State Park offers 57 cabins, 49 of which have two bedrooms, three of which have four bedrooms and five of which have six bedrooms. Each cabin has air conditioning/heat, fireplace, TV, refrigerator, range, cable TV, outdoor deck and grill and are open year round. The larger cabins are popular spots for extended families to get together.

### RESTAURANT

The new restaurant, The View, is now open at Eugene T. Mahoney State Park. Keep up-to-date with the restaurant and its offerings and hours of operation through its Facebook page.

The View at Mahoney, located inside Peter Kiewit Lodge, has a main menu, fine dining menu and kids menu. A gluten-free menu is available upon request. The View also offers catering, to-go purchasing of sandwiches and sodas, and delivery to cabins, lodge rooms, campsites and the Ashland area.



## Other Activities

### HORSE TRAIL RIDES

Mahoney State Park offers horse trail rides May through Labor Day for adults and children age 6 and over. Trails begin at the John Wayne Stables. Tickets may be purchased at the Administration Office. Pony rides are available for children age 3 to 9.

### WINTER ACTIVITIES

Sledding, cross country skiing, ice skating, ice fishing, special holiday activities and many other family events are all available during the winter months, depending on the weather. Please call the park office at to check current weather conditions for these activities.

### THEATER

Live performances take place at the Denman and Mary Mallory Kountze Memorial Theater year round, and the building is also available for group functions. Information on upcoming performances is available on the theater's website. For ticket information, call the park office.

### ARTS AND CRAFTS CENTER

Located at the Owen Marina convenience store, the arts and craft center is a spot where kids can paint ceramics, learn the art of leather tooling and create wood crafts and other projects.





## Nearby Parks + Attractions

Ready for some adventure? Ditch your hotel room this summer and stay somewhere a bit unconventional – like a tepee or a remodeled caboose. Nebraska's state parks have several unexpected opportunities like these that you might want to try.

This modern state park is the perfect year round destination for a family escape. There are a variety of great places to go and enjoy outdoor Nebraska. Near Mahoney there are many other attractions available within a few minute drive. This variety of parks and amenities is sure to have a little something for everyone. Explore the options below to discover something new. Visit website at [outdoornebraska.gov/mahoney](https://outdoornebraska.gov/mahoney) to learn more or make a reservation.

SAC MUSEUM

WILDLIFE SAFARI PARK

QUARRY OAKS GOLF COURSE

PLATTE RIVER STATE PARK

SCHRAMM STATE PARK

LOUISVILLE STATE PARK

BLUE STEM RECREATION

THE BEND STEAKHOUSE



### OBSERVATION TOWER

This 70 foot tower stands on a high river bluff above the Platte River at the north west corner of Eugene Mahoney State Park, midway between Lincoln and Omaha. There's a great view in all directions of the river, I-80 and the wooded hills of the park.





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[outdoornebraska.gov/mahoney](https://outdoornebraska.gov/mahoney)