

CITY OF BURLINGTON - PARKS & RECREATION



A Guide to Burlington's Parks

Burlington offers an array of parks located throughout the community, with an array of facilities offered. Crapo and Dankwardt serve as the most significant parks in the community, both in size and amenities. Please contact the Parks and Recreation office for further questions about the various parks (704 Dankwardt Drive, (319) 753-8117).

Crapo Park

This 85-acre park was established in 1895 through the efforts of Philip Crapo, a local businessman and philanthropist. There was a great flurry of activity in 1896 to ready the park for the Iowa semi-centennial. The roads and plantings were designed at that time by the landscape-engineering firm of Earnshaw and Punshon of Cincinnati, Ohio. In addition to the four shelter houses and walking trails through the arboretum and a number of beautiful gardens, the park includes:

Lake Starker

This 1.5-acre lake was completed in 1905. It contains goldfish and is frequented by Canadian geese.

Hawkeye Natives Log Cabin

This log cabin is a replica of the one constructed in 1910 by the Hawkeye Natives, an organization whose membership was limited to people born in Des Moines County who had attained the age of 50. Custody of the cabin was given to the Des Moines County Historical Society in 1971; it is maintained as a museum by this group.

The Pike Memorial

Lt. Zebulon Pike stopped here on the shore of the Mississippi river and unfurled the United States flag in 1805 while he was searching for defensible positions for forts in the new Louisiana Purchase.

The Foehlinger Fountain

This electrically operated fountain changes spray patterns and the colors of its lighting during its annual operation between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

The Band Shell

Located on the bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, the band shell is the setting for regular outdoor concerts by the Municipal Band on Sunday evenings, 2nd week of June to 2nd week of August, 7:30 p.m. Program information available at: www.muniband.org. Individuals or groups wanting to reserve the

band shell for other events can call the Parks Office (753-8117) for further information.

Crapo Park Arboretum

Tree listings for Crapo Park are available at the Dankwardt Park Office, 704 Dankwardt Drive or on the Parks website.

Dankwardt Park

These 72-acres were given to the city of Burlington in 1937 by Miss Lydia Dankwardt as a memorial to the members of her family. This park, which is directly adjacent to Crapo Park, includes tennis courts, ball diamonds, and the municipal swimming pool.

Frisbee Golf Course

An eighteen hole disc golf course is located in Dankwardt Park. The course begins at the park entrance off of Madison Street and winds through Dankwardt Park offering a challenging and scenic Disc Golf experience. For league or tournament information please call 753-8134.

Municipal Swimming Pool

Dog Park

An off-leash dog park is located in Dankwardt Park.

Tennis Courts

Tennis courts are located in Crapo Park, Dankwardt Park and Perkins Park.

Skate and Bicycle Ramp

Archery

40-yard three-lane archery range is available for archers during daylight hours. No broad heads are allowed.

Sand Volleyball

Playgrounds

DeEdwin and Gladys White Memorial Park

The 1.3 acres in this park, adjacent to the 300 block of Angular Street, offer large shade trees, basketball courts, tables, and playground equipment.

Kersch Park

Picnic tables, playground equipment, and a basketball court are tucked into this "pocket" park (under one-half acre) located in the 500 block of South Sixth.

Mosquito Park

This park, which dates from the earliest days of the city, is located at the junction of North Third and Franklin Streets offering a spectacular view of the Mississippi River as it flows into the Burlington area. This is a popular spot for weddings and, in the winter months, for watching the eagles that soar overhead in search of their daily meals.

Nancy Neafie Park

Dedicated to the memory of the first woman mayor of this city, the Nancy Neafie Park occupies the corner of Sixth and Jefferson in downtown Burlington. This newest "pocket" park, just one block south of Snake Alley, will contain a low limestone wall, boulder of native Iowa stone, benches, tables, an attractive walkway, and a space for public art.

North Hill Park

Located on North Fourth between Court and High Streets, this is one of the two original city parks. This park was the site of the first Methodist church in Iowa (founded in 1833). Although the log cabin, which housed the church and the first school in Burlington is no longer standing, the land has been used for a public park since the original platting of the city.

Perkins Park

An 18-acre tract, part of the Perkins estate, was given to the City of Burlington in 1927 to be used as a public park. The land, which was purchased by Mr. Charles Elliot Perkins (associated with the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad) in 1867, was the site of his home "The Apple Trees." This park includes a shelter house, gazebo, playground, tennis courts, and several attractive footbridges.

Riverside Park

The Mississippi riverfront was the focus of activity in early Burlington. The river traffic (which could dock at the cobblestone steamboat landing) brought a tremendous number of people into the community and provided strong social and commercial links to the eastern part of the United States. Today's visitors to the riverfront can walk along the river from the south boat ramps to the welcoming gazebo at the north end of the park. This park will be linked with the Flint River Trail, which terminates in Big Hollow, nearly 20 miles north in Des Moines County.

Saunderson Park

This 1.7-acre park was established in 1997 in the Saunderson Heights area at the site of the Saunderson Elementary School at Marshall and Valley Streets. The school building at this location was also the home of the Burlington Junior College in 1961 and with its name change to Burlington Community College. By 1972 all programs eventually were moved to West Burlington and is now known as Southeastern Community College. The amenities of the park include an open shelter, picnic tables, playground equipment, and basketball court.

Snake Alley

This local landmark was constructed in 1894 to help horses scale the steep change in elevation that occurs between the Jefferson Street commercial district and the Heritage Hill residential district. The alley, which features seven curves within one block, was designed and built by the team of Charles Starker, William Steyh, and George Kriechbaum.

South Hill Park

South Hill Park was the other park that was originally platted within the city limits. By an act of the legislature, North Hill and South Hill parks were made "parks for the use of the public" in July 1836. In 1924 the Stars and Stripes Chapter of the DAR dedicated a bronze marker in this park to commemorate the spot where the United States Department of the Navy set their instruments to observe a total eclipse of the sun on August 7, 1869. This park offers an outstanding view of the downtown commercial district and the river beyond.

Summer Street Park

Another of Burlington's "pocket" parks, this little (½-acre) park, located on Summer Street between Pine and South Streets, includes a picnic table and some playground equipment.

Sunnyside Park

Adjacent to Sunnyside School at 2000 Sunnyside, this 4-acre park contains three Little League ball diamonds, playground equipment, an open shelter, and picnicking amenities