**COVID-19 RESPONSE – update March 30, 2020**

**Pocahontas County Conservation Office, Nature Center, and Shop**

Offices, Nature Center, and Shop buildings are **CLOSED** to the Public. Employees are currently still working and can be reached by phone at 712-335-4395

or email conservation@pocahontas-county.com

**Pocahontas County Parks, Trails, Wildlife Management Areas, and Historical Sites**

At this point, Pocahontas County Parks are open. Our highest priority is the health and well-being of our visitors, volunteers and employees. During this time, we remain diligent in taking steps to make your visit as safe and enjoyable as possible

Use of playgrounds and Shelter Houses is not recommended since they will not be able to be cleaned according to CDC guidelines by park staff. User discretion is advised. PCCB strongly recommends visitors avoid playgrounds to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 - user discretion is advised.

**Campgrounds**

Currently Closed Seasonally until April 15, 2020. Please check back for any changes to policies for Camp Ground usage.

If Campgrounds open on April 15 they will be limited to self-contained (enclosed) campers that have their own bathrooms. NO tent camping. Groups will be limited to less than 10 people.

**Public Restrooms and Shelter Houses**

Bathrooms will remain closed and tentatively scheduled to open April 15, 2020. At that time a decision will be made if they will remain closed or opened to the Public.

Pit latrines and port-a-potties will now be closed until April 15, 2020. This means no bathroom facilities will be available in County parks through that date.

**Camping Cabin – Meredith Park**

Closed until Further Notice – Reservations are accepted but availability will be determined when Reservation date comes around. Notification will be given to Renter two weeks prior to rental date and full refund will be given if Cabin is still closed.

**Tree Sales and Pickup and Mulch**

When the Trees arrive a Staff member will contact you to set up a Pick-up time for your trees and explain the procedure for picking them up at that time.

Mulch is available by appointment only. Please contact office

**Here’s how you can help:**

* **According to State of Iowa recommendations,**limit your group to less than 10 people when visiting a Pocahontas County Conservation Area.
* **If you have been sick** in the last two weeks, please stay at home for your health and the safety of others.
* **Avoid popular areas where people may congregate,** and also **avoid larger groups** in general. Areas to avoid may include scenic overlooks, buildings, playgrounds, etc.
* **Please maintain distance** between you and other park visitors according to guidelines and recommendations by health officials. Please take into consideration the health of others when spending time outdoors.
* **Pack extra soap or hand sanitizer**. Please be aware that bathrooms and showers are closed seasonally every year. Approximate re-open date of **April 15**. Soap or sanitizer will not be available.
* Additional information on best practices for keeping you and your family safe can be found online at the [CDC website](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDAzMTguMTg5NDQ3OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5jZGMuZ292L2Nvcm9uYXZpcnVzLzIwMTktbkNvVi9pbmRleC5odG1sP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.4LtVirmjxiDeaCr6FVYw1RXczXNSW586SzTnvICQp5g/br/76298426612-l).

 **Here’s what we are doing**

* **If you feel** cancelling your Shelter Rental, Picnic Table, or Cabin Rental is the safest choice, we will waive cancellation fees
* **We are implementing additional cleaning procedures**, according to CDC guidelines, such as more stringent and frequent cleaning of cabins and other public areas.
* **We are postponing programs and events** at all county parks through April 30, 2020. This will help keep visitors safe, and we will reassess this policy in mid-April.
* **We are monitoring the situation.** We promise to remain diligent and intentional in protecting you and making your visit a great experience. As conditions change, so may our policies on park visitation and overnight stays. We will keep you informed of any changes moving forward.

If you have any questions or concerns, please fell free to contact the office at 712-335-4395 or email conservation@pocahontas-county.com

Please check County Website for updates: <https://pocahontas-county.com/conservation/>

Or our Facebook page at: Pocahontas County Conservation

Thank you for your patience and flexibility. We appreciate your support of Pocahontas County Conservation as we all work together to keep each other safe.