




The CatchList

OUTDOOR THINGS TO DO

When some people think of Greater Des Moines they might think our weather comes in two forms: extreme and unpredictable. And while it's true that our weatherperson's need thick skin, there are plenty of reasons to explore the great outdoors in Greater Des Moines, where the forecast calls for fun, no matter the season.

SPRING:

ACTIVITY:	CATCH THIS:	WHEN TO VISIT:	INFO:
High Trestle Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Stretches 25 miles through five towns. ▶ Named one of the world's "Eight Amazing Footbridges", thanks to 130-foot-tall bridge with 43 twisting steel ribs that glow blue at night. 	Year-round	Trailheads in Madrid, Woodward, Slater, and Ankeny. trailink.com/trail/high-trestle-trail
Neal Smith Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 26 miles of changing landscapes including wildflower prairie meadows. ▶ Passes through Saylorville Lake and Big Creek State Park. 	Year-round	9981 Pacific Street, Prairie City trailink.com/trail/neal-smith-trail
Lauridsen Skate Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Largest skate park in America! ▶ Featuring 88,000 square feet of skate-able terrain. 	Year-round	North end of Principal Riverwalk. dsmskatepark.com
Meredith Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 5-mile trail connecting Gray's Lake and downtown Des Moines. ▶ Incredible views of the Des Moines skyline. 	Year-round	Off-street parking provided at Gray's Lake Park trailink.com/trail/meredith-trail

SUMMER:

ACTIVITY:	CATCH THIS:	WHEN TO VISIT:	INFO:
Saylorville Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 26,000 acres of floating fun. ▶ Rent a pontoon for a half or full day, or check out their public beach. 	Mon - Sun: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	6170 NW Polk City Drive, Polk City saylorvillelakemarina.com
Raccoon River Boathouse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Kayak and canoe rentals. ▶ Easy access to beautiful Blue Heron Lake. 	Sun - Fri: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sat: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.	2500 Grand Avenue, West Des Moines wdm.iowa.gov/Home/Components/FacilityDirectory/FacilityDirectory/158/1433
Gray's Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Kayak and paddle-boat rentals. ▶ 2-mile lakefront loop, an illuminated bridge, and playgrounds for the kids. 	Mon - Sun: 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.	2101 Fleur Drive, Des Moines dsm.city/business_detail_T6_R58.php
Quarry Springs Outfitters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Kayak and canoe rentals. ▶ 240 acres of clear, spring-fed water to explore on a kayak. 	Sat - Sun: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. <i>Weather Permitting</i>	1208 Highway 117 South, Colfax quarryspringsoutfitters.com




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SUMMER - CONTINUED			
ACTIVITY:	CATCH THIS:	WHEN TO VISIT:	INFO:
Seven Oaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Take a seven-mile (2-4 hours) float down the Des Moines River Valley via canoe, kayak, or tube. ▶ Float under the world's highest double-track railway bridge. 	Wed - Thur: 4 - 9 p.m. Fri - Sat: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sun: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.	1086 222nd Drive, Boone sevenoaksrec.com

FALL:

ACTIVITY:	CATCH THIS:	WHEN TO VISIT:	INFO:
Jester Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Over eight miles of trails, and a scenic 5-mile Lakeshore Trail. ▶ Hiking, an equestrian center, golf course, nature center, natural playscape, and elk and bison herds. 	Summer Hours: 6:30 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. Winter Hours: Sunrise to sunset	12130 NW 128th Street, Granger jesterparknaturecenter.com
Ledges State Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Sandstone cliffs, dense forest paths, and creek crossings. ▶ Spectacular views and photo ops for capturing Iowa's breathtaking fall foliage. 	Mon - Sun: 4 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.	1515 P Avenue, Madrid alltrails.com/parks/us/iowa/ledges-state-park

WINTER:

ACTIVITY:	CATCH THIS:	WHEN TO VISIT:	INFO:
Brenton Skating Plaza	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Iowa's premier ice-skating rink. ▶ Views of downtown skyline. 	Skating season typically runs November - March.	520 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines dsmpartnership.com/brentonplaza
Sleepy Hollow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Sledding and tubing. ▶ Multiple 1,000 foot runs with a quad chair lift to whisk you to the top. 	Mon- Fri: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Thur: Noon - 6 p.m. Sat: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sun: Noon - 8 p.m.	4051 Dean Avenue, Des Moines sleepyhollowevents.com
Jester Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Snowshoes and cross-country ski rentals. ▶ 6.1 miles of trails. 	Summer Hours: 6:30 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. Winter Hours: Sunrise to sunset	12130 NW 128th Street, Granger jesterparknaturecenter.com
Chichiqua Bottoms Greenbelt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Flat, groomed trails. ▶ One of the most popular spots for snowshoeing in Central Iowa. 	Summer Hours: 6:30 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. (April 1 - October 31) Winter Hours: Sunrise to Sunset (November 1 - March 31)	8700 NE 126th Avenue, Maxwell polkcountyiowa.gov/conservation/parks-trails/chichaqua-bottoms-greenbelt