

Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt

Office Phone: (515) 967-2596

Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt, comprised of more than 8,000 acres, is located in northeast Polk County and eastern Jasper County along meanders and oxbows of the old South Skunk River. It is managed primarily for its wildlife, land, and natural resources. Polk County Conservation Board began acquiring land at Chichaqua in 1960 in an effort to practice and demonstrate sound wildlife and natural resource management. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has become a partner with Polk County, sharing in the purchase and management of new acquisitions. Management's goal is to improve habitat in an effort to increase game and non-game populations. This is done by managing existing or adding new habitat for increased usage through food, water and cover; all basic and equally important needs for all wildlife species.

Activities found at designated sites at Chichaqua include camping, picnicking, canoeing, hiking, fishing, hunting, dog training, environmental education, wildlife observing, and a controlled waterfowl hunting program. A trap range, located west of the office, may be reserved for a fee through the Chichaqua office or walk in users may use the self registration station.

REGULATIONS

Regulations and laws adopted by the Polk County Conservation Board and State of Iowa are enforced at all recreation areas in Polk County. Special Board regulations governing hunting, trapping and dog training/trialing, on wildlife management and hunting areas are as follows:

Hunting Restrictions

It is unlawful to hunt, trap, pursue, or in any manner molest any wildlife, or to use or carry firearms, explosives and weapons of any kind in or on any area not designated as a public hunting area.

Non-Toxic Shot

It is unlawful to possess any shot other than non-toxic (non-lead) shot while using a shotgun on hunting areas except for deer and turkey hunting. Lead shot may be used while trap shooting on the designated range west of the office.

Training and Exercising Dogs

It is lawful to permit dogs to run at large for the purpose of training or exercising on any area designated as a public hunting area by the Board or DNR (except between March 15 – July 15). Several year-round training areas are located along NE 126th Ave. Organized field and retriever meets shall be conducted at designated sites on approved dates (permits required).

Controlled Site Hunting Area and Refuges

- 1) A portion of Chichaqua north of NE 118th Ave. is designated and signed as a controlled hunting area where waterfowl hunting blinds may be reserved in person or by calling the Chichaqua office beginning the first Monday after Labor Day annually. No person shall enter upon this area between September 1 and November 30 without a special-use permit.
- 2) An area south of NE 118th Ave. is designated as a wildlife refuge. No person shall enter upon this area between September 1 and November 30 without a special-use permit.

Blinds

A blind for the purpose of hunting or wildlife observation may be constructed, but its construction will not give that person any proprietary right to use it. Only portable self-contained blinds may be used on any recreation or hunting area. No nails or other metal may be driven into any tree.

Trapping

It is unlawful to trap or use snares without a special-use permit.

Decoys

Decoys are prohibited on all areas between one hour after legal shooting time and midnight or each day.

Horses, all motorized vehicles (including ATV's and snowmobiles), camping, and fires are prohibited on all hunting areas.

Additional County, State, and Federal regulations are enforced at all Polk County Conservation Board and Iowa Department of Natural Resources recreation areas.