

Iowa Winter Sport Areas Offer Range of Activities

Although Iowa is not a winter playground like Colorado, a small but growing recreation business is being generated by winter sport areas in the state, according to the Iowa Development Commission.

Everything from skiing to snowmobiling to ice boating is available at several areas in the state, the commission says.

One of the finest winter sports areas in Iowa, commission officials say, is the Big Sioux Park near Hawarden in Sioux County, where

skiers and sledders enjoy the steep hill overlooking the Big Sioux River.

A rope tow with an automatic timer allows visitors to use the facilities day or night and electric heaters and a fireplace warm them at a nearby chalet, the commission says.

Other winter sport areas include a number of skiing spots like Ted's Ski Hill north of Grimes, Humbolt Winter Playground north of Humbolt, Hickory Hills Ski Slope south of Waterloo, Fun Valley west of Montezuma, Holiday

Mountain Ski Area southwest of Estherville, pilot Knob State Park east of Forest City, Nor-Ski Runs near Decorah, Clear Creek ranch near Lansing, Crescent Ski Hills near Crescent and Dexfield Sports Area near Dexter, the commission says.

Other sports for frosty winter fans include an abundance of snowmobile routes in Black Hawk County, and toboggan and sled runs in Greene County's Hyde Park and Seven Hills Forest, Scott County Park, Pinion Ridge Park in Linn County, Badger

Lake in John F. Kennedy Park near Fort Dodge, the Hogsback area near Lake Mills, Dog Creek Park in O'Brien County, Jester Park near Des Moines, F. W. Kent Park near Tiffin and Eagle City near Iowa Falls, which as with some others, also has a ski slope.

Besides the winter fishing on the lakes in northwest Iowa and plenty of hunting areas, the accompanying chart lists winter sports available in Iowa State Parks and Forests.