

# Athene North Shore Recreation Area

## Accessibility For All.

The Athene North Shore Recreation Area is the most accessible experience and greatest opportunity for individuals of all ages and abilities in Central Iowa to enjoy water-based recreation that promotes overall health and wellbeing. Amenities include a beach walkway and zero entry dock, accessible canoe/kayak launch, swimming beach expansion, wheelchair accessible pontoon fishing boat, adaptive recreation equipment, inclusive natural playscape, beach concessions, and space for environmental education.



To begin the project, a feasibility Study began in the summer of 2020, after fundraising was complete and renovations began the park opened in May of 2024

The **final cost** of the project was **\$8.1 million**. Campaign co-chairs Bob Myers and Ric Jurgens pushed the idea of raising an additional **\$500K** to hire a full-time programming specialist. Thanks to public and private donors, Athene, and Destination Iowa for making this project possible.





## All welcoming.

Recreation areas facilitate social interaction, increase community connectedness, and improve individual health. There is no other park of this kind in the United States, and the site has the potential to serve as a model for other cities across the country seeking to develop all-inclusive and universally designed recreation spaces. In addition to making outdoor recreation accessible for all, the park's location on the diverse south side of Des Moines will draw attention and economic investment to the surrounding neighborhoods, providing opportunities or new jobs, expanding businesses, and promoting development. Existing among an overall lack of accessible outdoor recreation opportunities, Easter Lake Park and the diverse experiences it offers has become a favorite destination for local residents and tourists alike.



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