

# Dyersville Park and Recreation Department

## I.P.R.A. Article Exchange

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### Floods of 2008 Wreak Havoc on Summer Programs

The summer of 2008 has presented more than its fair share of obstacles to the Dyersville Parks and Recreation Department. Five different flooding events brought the summer baseball and softball season to a screeching halt and has clean up crews working feverishly to re-open the parks by August 16<sup>th</sup> for the start of the fall soccer season.

On five different occasions, water from the North Fork of the Maquoketa River and Bear Creek spilled onto Westside Park and Candy Cane Park covering nearly 50 acres of parks and athletic fields. Five of the city's 6 baseball fields were left out of commission forcing 34 baseball, softball and T-ball teams to either reschedule on the same diamond along with Beckman High School, play their opponent on the road, or play in nearby towns such as Farley, Petersburg or Peosta. Circumstances were less than ideal, but all of the coaches and teams made the best of a bad situation and did everything possible to make sure that their kids got a chance to play their season regardless of the price of gas, or the distance that they had to travel just so their team could bat in the bottom of the inning for a change!

Two softball fields at Candy Cane Park were opened to the public prior to the fourth of July, just as most departments are ending their programs and families are preparing for their summer vacations. Westside Park, A 32-acre complex with 3 baseball fields and 7 soccer fields, is on schedule to re-open for the 300 games that will be played in this fall's soccer season starting in mid August.



*Above: North Fork of the Maquoketa River overflows onto the baseball and soccer fields at Westside Park.*



*Above: Soccer fields at Westside Park are submerged for the 5<sup>th</sup> time in 2008.*



*Above: The North Fork of the Maquoketa River spills over its banks*



*Above: Bear Creek dumps into Westside Park and Candy Cane Park.*