



IOWA STATE PARKS

WILSON ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

32801 Campground Ln, Missouri Valley IA 51555

Welcome to Wilson Island State Recreation Area. Wilson Island, named after former Governor George Wilson, came into existence as an island sandbar around 1900.

PARK AMENITIES/POINTS OF INTEREST/THINGS TO DO

The spacious campground offers 41 campsites, 31 with electricity. Three-fourths of electric and nonelectric sites can be reserved through the reservation system. Other amenities include one dump station, three youth group areas, shower and flush toilet facility and a playground. Firewood for sale can be found near the shower building.

The Missouri River is another large draw for visitors. You can cast a line into the “mighty Mo” with the hopes of hauling in a catfish. The area also offers boat ramps to the backwater chute and river, allowing anglers, hunters and recreational boater’s access to the water. An Iowa or Nebraska fishing license is accepted on the Missouri River; however, an Iowa license is needed for the backwater chute. Two open shelters are found near the river. Both offer electricity, water hydrants, and waist-high grills and can be reserved through the reservation system.

Six miles of multi-use trails are a great way to experience Wilson Island’s 544 acres. Biking, hiking, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling are all acceptable means of travel. Depending on the route, the trail may wind along the backwater chute and river or run through cottonwood stands that cover most of the area.

Mushroom hunting in the spring attracts large numbers of visitors looking for tasty morels. As a recreation area, most of Wilson Island is open for public hunting. Deer hunting and waterfowl hunting along the chute are among the most popular.

SPECIAL PARK RULES

As a recreation area, Wilson Island is open for public hunting. Hunting is prohibited within 200 yards of residences and the campground. Care should be exercised by both hunters and non-hunters during hunting seasons. Pick up the rules/regulations booklet for more information on general park rules.

LOCAL EVENTS/ATTRACTIONS

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge is located just to the north. The 7,800-acre area includes a seven-mile-long oxbow lake, which provides a great fishery and stopover for migratory waterfowl. The area is well-known for the Bertrand Steamboat exhibit located at the visitor center. For further details call the visitor center at 712-388-4800.

The Watson Steam Train is located in the Missouri Valley city park. Restored in 2009, the 1948 Ottaway steam and 1953 Ottaway diesel engines are housed in a new museum and available for rides on summer weekends.

LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Park Office: 712-642-2069

Park Manger: Grant Carstens

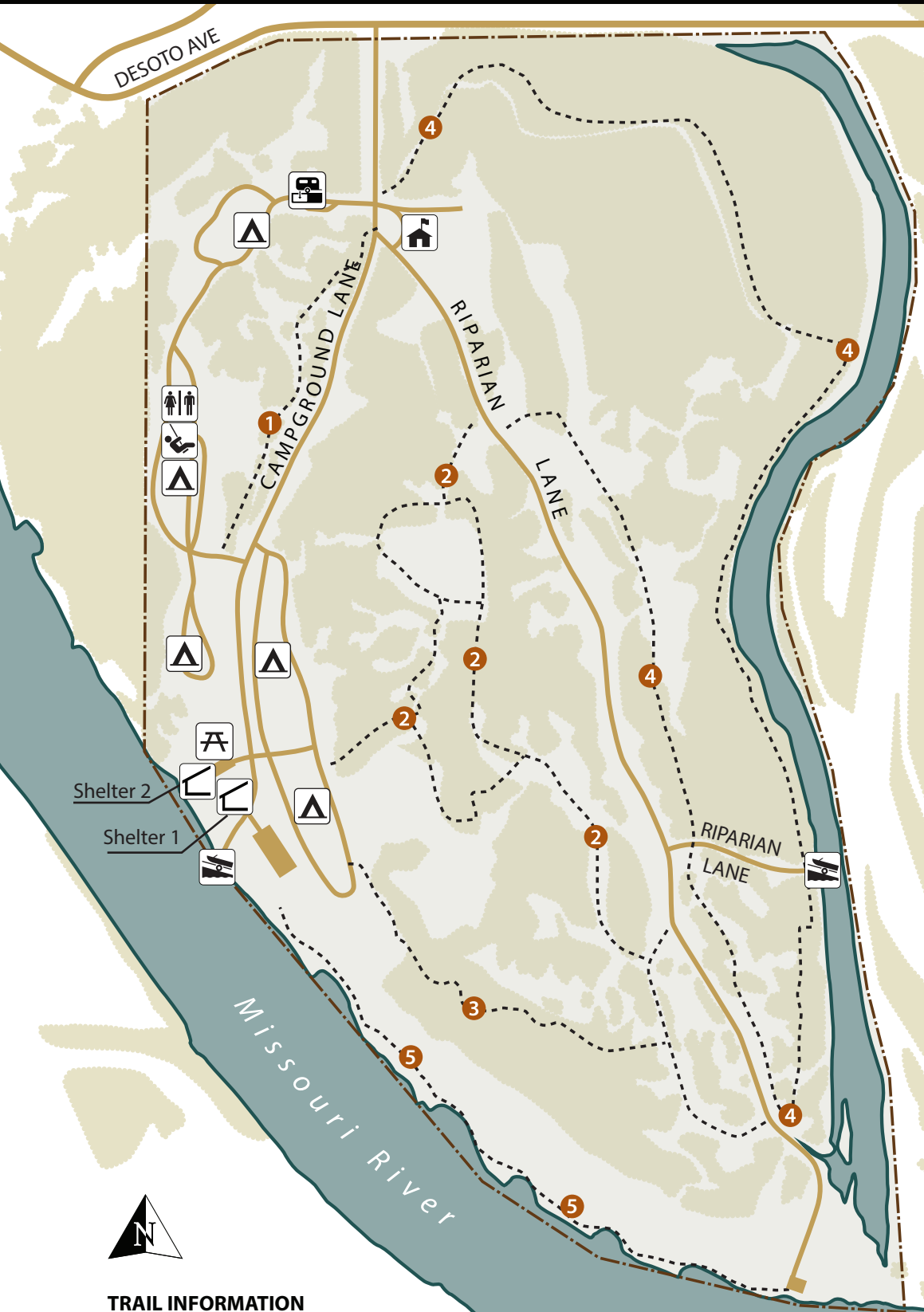
Park Technician: Gavin Campbell

Park Technician: Mason Rohatsch

SEVERE WEATHER

The shower building and pit latrines can be used for emergency shelters during severe weather.

For emergencies, please call 911



MAP KEY

- Boat Ramp
- Campground
- Dump Station
- Park Office
- Picnic Area
- Playground
- Restroom - Modern Seasonal
- Shelter
- Trail
- Road
- Park Boundary

TRAIL INFORMATION

Trail Name	Trail Activity	Length	Level of Difficulty	Estimated Hike Time
1 Mushroom Trail	Hiking, Biking, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling	.4 mi.	Easy	10 min.
2 Whitetail Trail	Hiking, Biking, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling	1.4 mi.	Easy	34 min.
3 Dogwood Trail	Hiking, Biking, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling	0.6 mi.	Easy	14 min.
4 Chute Trail	Hiking, Biking, Cross-country Skiing, Snowmobiling	2.6 mi.	Easy	1 hr.
5 Riverside Trail	Hiking	0.7 mi.	Moderate	17 min.

Walking times are figured at a rate of 2.5 mph.