



WILDCAT DEN STATE PARK

1884 Wildcat Den Rd, Muscatine, IA 52761

Wildcat Den State Park is one of the most unique parks in Iowa, combining natural beauty and solitude, unique trails, preservation of historical structures, and picnic areas for recreational use.

PARK AMENITIES/POINTS OF INTEREST/THINGS TO DO

The park has two historical focal points and each of these attractions has an active friends group.

One of the historical attractions is the “turn of the century” Melpine one-room schoolhouse, which is located in the park and offers visitors a glimpse of Iowa’s past. The Melpine School is open Saturday & Sunday in May – September from 12:30pm to 4:30pm. The other historical attraction is the Pine Creek Grist Mill, which was built in 1848. The mill was built by Benjamin Nye, one of Muscatine County’s first settlers. He also built the county’s first store and post office in 1838. The mill is one of the finest examples of mid-19th century mills left in the country and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The mill is being restored to its original condition. Great strides have been made in renovating the mill. It is now grinding corn for the first time in more than 75 years. The Mill is open for tours, five days a week, Wednesday – Sunday from Memorial Day to Labor Day from 12:30pm to 4:30pm. In the months of May and September, the Mill is open Saturday & Sunday 12:30pm to 4:30pm.

One of the major features of Wildcat Den State Park is the trail system. Trails wind through a variety of terrains and lead to such fascinating sites as “Steamboat Rock,” and “Devil’s Punch Bowl.” The majestic cliffs are composed of 300 million-year-old sandstone. The beautiful bluffs and rock formations provide spectacular views for hikers.

Wildcat Den offers a variety of picnic areas ideal for a family gathering or pleasant outdoor cookout. There are two open shelters that can be reserved. The park’s campground has several primitive campsites and 1 youth group site, all with non-modern rest room facilities.

SPECIAL PARK RULES

Pick up the rules/regulations booklet for more information on general park rules.

LOCAL EVENTS/ATTRACTIONS

A 5K run takes place in the park on the second Saturday of September. The Buckskinners Rendezvous is held annually on the third weekend of September.

For a different type of camping experience, try the Fairport Recreation Area modern campground located 4 miles away on Hwy 22. Fairport is located right on the Mississippi River and offers 42 modern campsites, all with electrical and water hookups. Modern shower and rest room facilities and a dump station are available at the Fairport campground. Two boat ramps provide plenty of boating access to the “Father of Waters.”

Muscatine is located 10 miles west of the park, and Davenport, the third largest city in Iowa, is located 15 miles east of the park. Both cities provide a wide variety of shopping, dining, visitor attractions, festivals and church opportunities.

LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION

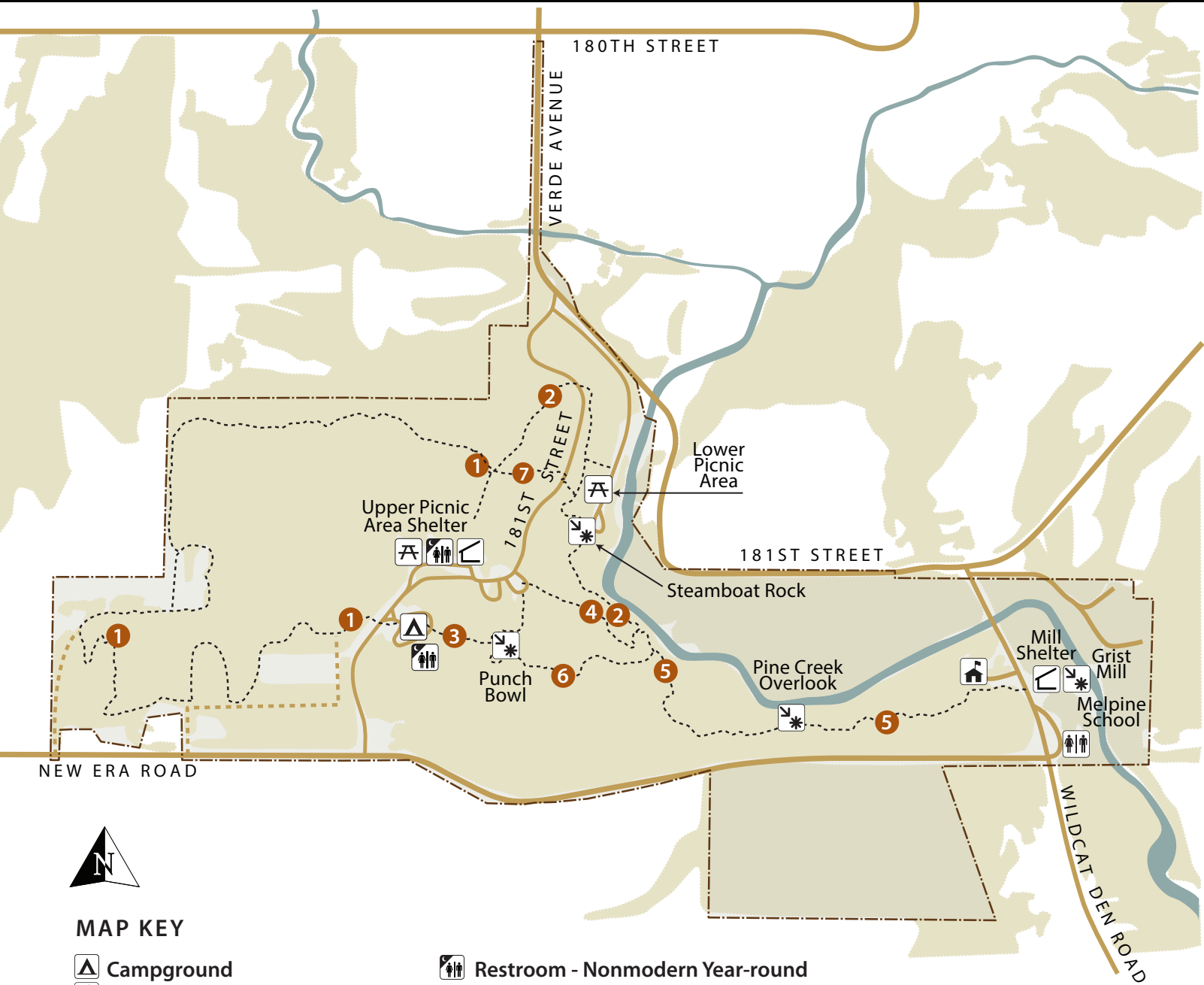
Park Office: 563.263.4337
Park Ranger: Ben Marcus
Park Technician: Erik Acker

SEVERE WEATHER

There are no designated storm shelters in Wildcat Den State Park. The parks staff will make every effort to notify visitors of approaching severe weather.

For emergencies, please call 911

For reservations, visit <http://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com> or call 877-427-2757



MAP KEY

- Campground
- Park Office
- Picnic Area
- Point of Interest
- Restroom - Modern Seasonal
- Restroom - Nonmodern Year-round
- Shelter
- Trail
- Road
- Service Road
- Park Boundary

| Trail Name | Trail Activity | Length | Level of Difficulty | Estimated Hike Time |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Park Boundary Trail | Hiking | 1.7 mile | Moderate | 41 min. |
| 2 Lower Picnic Area Trail | Hiking | 0.8 mile | Moderate | 19 min. |
| 3 Campground Trail | Hiking | 0.1 mile | Hard | 2 min. |
| 4 Canyon Ridge Trail | Hiking | 0.2 mile | Hard | 5 min. |
| 5 Mill Trail | Hiking | 0.6 mile | Hard | 14 min. |
| 6 Punch Bowl Trail | Hiking | 0.3 mile | Hard | 7 min. |
| 7 Cave Trail | Hiking | 0.17 mile | Hard | 5 min. |