



IOWA STATE PARKS

WAPSIPINICON STATE PARK

21301 County Rd E-34, Anamosa IA 52205

Welcome to Wapsipinicon State Park. In 1921, caring citizens gathered to save this scenic timbered area across the river from the town of Anamosa. The group purchased approximately 180 acres of land and, in turn, presented it to the State of Iowa, making Wapsipinicon one of the first parks given as a gift. Prisoners from Anamosa State Penitentiary were used to construct the roads and bridges throughout the park. Through the years, the park has grown to approximately 400 acres, with steep limestone bluffs and rolling hills waiting for you to explore.

PARK AMENITIES/POINTS OF INTEREST/THINGS TO DO

A trip to Wapsipinicon isn't complete without visiting bowl-shaped Horse Thief Cave. The excitement of years past exists in the legend of the two horse thieves who, as the story goes, used the cave for their camp. Prior to use by these horse thieves, the cave was apparently occupied as a shelter by prehistoric American Indian cultures. While improving the entrance to the cave, in 1923, workers found the remains of nine human skeletons dating to the Archaic Period 4,000 years ago. In Ice Cave, visitors can crawl back into cool temperatures during the summer's heat. There is no ice in the cave; it gets its name from the cool air in the cave as you enter it.

The Wapsi River has long been famous for its channel and flathead catfish, crappies, bullheads and smallmouth bass, especially below the dam near the park entrance. Dutch Creek meanders through the park and empties into the Wapsi.

The shaded campground has several campsites (half with electrical hookups), modern rest rooms and showers. There are two [lodges](#) ideal for group events such as wedding receptions and family reunions. The Rotary lodge may be reserved online, as well as two open shelters in the park.

Don't forget your golf clubs. There is a nine-hole golf course within the park boundaries, maintained by the Wapsipinicon Country Club. For information, call 319-462-3930.

The newest addition to the park has its own unique history laid out on an informational kiosk in the west side parking area. This three-span bowstring arch bridge is on the National Registry of Historical Places and is the last one in Iowa. With this historic bridge and the rest of Wapsipinicon's unique history, the park is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

SPECIAL PARK RULES

About 120 acres, on the south edge of the park, are open to public hunting. Pick up the rules/regulations booklet for more information on general park rules.

LOCAL EVENTS/ATTRACTIONS

The City of Anamosa has many events scheduled throughout the summer and fall; visit www.anamosachamber.org to learn more about these and other events in the area. While in town, visit the State Penitentiary Museum showcasing the history of Iowa's largest maximum-security prison. In June, there is Dinner on the Bridge hosted on Hale Bridge as well as Pink in the Park 4K in October.

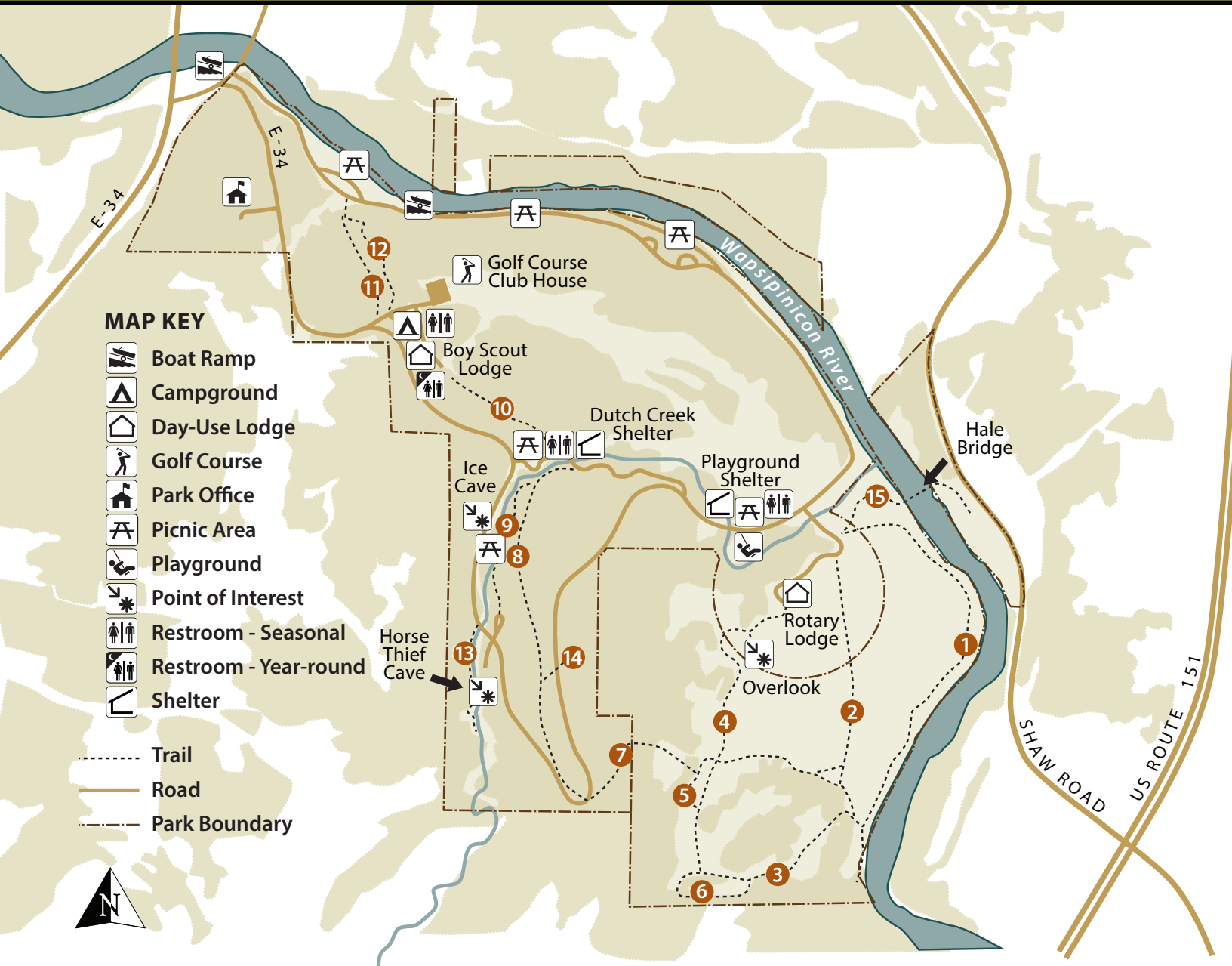
LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Park Office: 319-462-2761
Park Ranger: Alex Knockel

For emergencies, please call 911.

SEVERE WEATHER

There are no designated storm shelters at the park. The city of Anamosa's tornado siren can be heard in the park. When the siren is heard, visitors and campers should leave the park to find proper shelter.



Trail Name	Trail Activity	Length	Level of Difficulty	Estimated Hike Time
1 River Trail	Hike, Bike, X-Country Ski, Snowmobile	.63 mi.	Easy	15 min.
2 Prairie Trail	Hike, Bike, X-Country Ski, Snowmobile	.73 mi.	Moderate	18 min.
3 Prairie Trail 2	Hike, Bike, X-Country Ski, Snowmobile	.45 mi.	Hard	11 min.
4 Vista Trail	Hike, Bike, X-Country Ski, Snowmobile	.03 mi.	Easy	1 min.
5 Pond Loop Trail	Hike, Bike, X-Country Ski, Snowmobile	.08 mi.	Moderate	2 min.
6 Pipeline Trail	Hike, Bike, X-Country Ski, Snowmobile	.16 mi.	Easy	4 min.
7 Pond Trail	Hike, Bike, X-Country Ski, Snowmobile	.19 mi.	Moderate	5 min.
8 Pine Trail	Hike, Bike, X-Country Ski, Snowmobile	.49 mi.	Hard	12 min.
9 Dutch Creek Trail	Hike, Bike	.19 mi.	Easy	5 min.
10 Waterline Trail (west)	Hike	.15 mi.	Hard	4 min.
11 Overlook Trail	Hike	.17 mi.	Hard	4 min.
12 Overlook Return Trail	Hike	.13 mi.	Hard	3 min.
13 Horse Thief Cave Trail	Hike	.15 mi.	Easy - Mod.	4 min.
14 Pine Spur Trail	Hike, Bike, X-Country Ski, Snowmobile	.01 mi.	Moderate	1 min.
15 Hale Bridge Trail	Hike, Bike, X-Country Ski, Snowmobile	.22 mi.	Moderate	5 min.

Walking times are figured at a rate of 2.5 mph.
www.iowadnr.gov/Places-to-Go/State-Parks