



# PILOT KNOB STATE PARK

2148 340th St, Forest City, IA 50436

Pilot Knob State Park was dedicated in 1924 and has drawn many visitors to explore its hidden treasures and historical structures. Camping, fishing, hiking, and bird watching are just a few of the activities Pilot Knob provides.

## PARK AMENITIES/POINTS OF INTEREST/THINGS TO DO

The Civilian Conservation Corps constructed several structures in 1934. The entrance portals, stone shelter, three stone bridges and observation tower are all listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The observation tower is the second highest point in Iowa at 1,450 feet above sea level. It is 30 feet tall and was suppose to be 40 feet tall but winter set in and the CCC had to stop construction.

Pilot Knob has the only sphagnum bog in the state of Iowa. The bog is four acres and is home to many unique species, one of which is the carnivorous sundew plant. Adjacent to the bog is a four-acre lake. Because of its high acidity only specially adapted species can survive in the lake.

Pilot Knob is listed in the *Iowa Wildlife Viewing Guide*. The park is a wonderful area for bird watching, particularly during migrations. Deer and turkeys are prevalent and readily seen. Turkeys were reintroduced into the area in 1979 and have flourished. Much of the wildlife can be seen while walking the trails through the park. The park also offers one multi-use trail open to equestrian and bicycle use. Riders can enjoy over two miles of trails as they weave through the park on the multi-use trail.

There are several campsites (including electrical hook-ups available), modern showers, restroom facilities and a trailer dump station. A playground is located near the campground. Two open picnic shelters are available to reserve.

Pilot Knob has a 15-acre lake that has good bass and bluegill fishing. It is also a popular spot for ice fishing and ice skating.

Winter activities include cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, sledding and snowmobiling. In winter, a warming house with electricity and heat is available for renting through the reservation system.

The Pilot Knob Recreation Area, just north of Pilot Knob State Park is available for public hunting, hiking, snowmobiling, bicycle riding and horseback riding.

## SPECIAL PARK RULES

Electric trolling motors only on the lake. Pick up the rules/regulations booklet for more information on general park rules.

## LOCAL EVENTS/ATTRACTIONS

Winnebago Industries is located in Forest City, 4 miles away, and hosts the Annual Winnebago Itasca Travelers (W.I.T.) Rally in July.

## LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Park Office: 641.581.4835

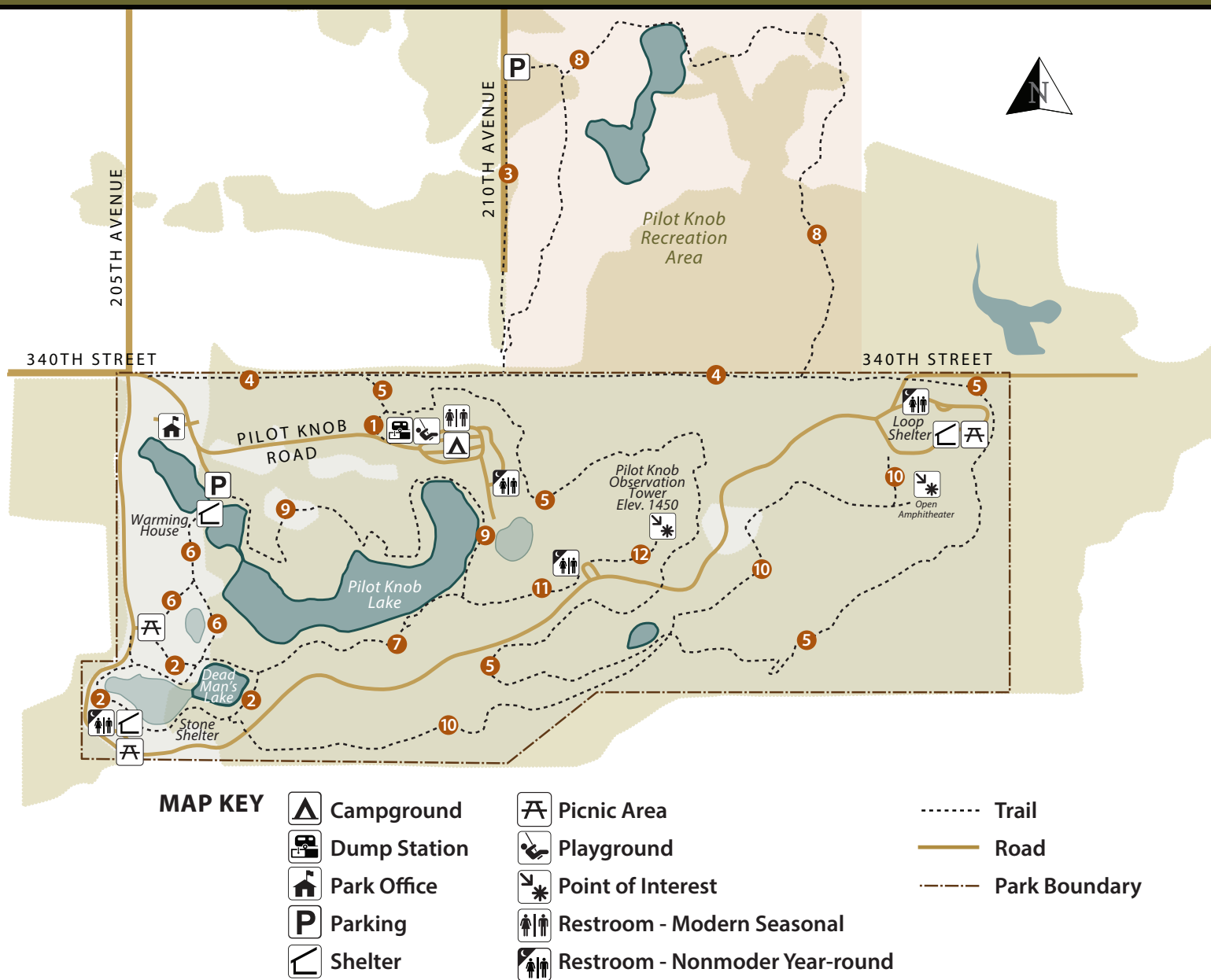
Park Manager: Katherine LaDage

**For emergencies, please call 911**

For reservations, visit: <http://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com> or call 877.427.2757

## SEVERE WEATHER

There are no designated storm shelters at the park. The shower building can be used in an emergency



### TRAIL INFORMATION

Trail Name	Trail Activity	Length	Level of Difficulty	Estimated Hike Time
1 Connector Trail	Hike, X-Country Ski	0.1 mile	Moderate	2 minutes
2 Dead Man's Lake Trail	Hike, X-Country Ski	0.7 mile	Easy	17 minutes
3 Dead End Trail	Hike, Bike, Equestrian, Snowmobile, X-Country Ski	0.45 mile	Easy	11 minutes
4 East-West Trail	Hike, Bike, Equestrian, Snowmobile, X-Country Ski	1 miles	Moderate	24 minutes
5 Equestrian Trail	Hike, Bike, Equestrian, Snowmobile, X-Country Ski	2.4 miles	Mod.-Hard	58 minutes
6 Fork Trail	Hike, X-Country Ski	0.3 miles	Moderate	7 minutes
7 Lake View Trail	Hike, X-Country Ski	0.3 mile	Moderate	7 minutes
8 McGrady Trail	Hike, Bike, Equestrian, X-Country Ski	1.4 miles	Moderate	34 minutes
9 Plum Alley Trail	Hike, X-Country Ski	0.8 mile	Moderate	19 minutes
10 Three Bridges Trail	Hike, X-Country Ski	1.2 miles	Moderate	29 minutes
11 Tower Trail	Hike, X-Country Ski	0.2 mile	Mod.-Hard	5 minutes
12 Tower Connector Trail	Hike, X-Country Ski	0.2 miles	Moderate	5 minutes

Walking times are figured at a rate of 2.5 mph. [www.iowadnr.gov/Places-to-Go/State-Parks](http://www.iowadnr.gov/Places-to-Go/State-Parks)