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 Ranger: Chris Anunson
- Park Ranger: Grant Carstens
- Park Technician: Brent Martens

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

For emergencies, please call 911

For reservations, visit: [http://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com](http://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com) or call 877.427.2757
WILSON ISLAND STATE RECREATION AREA

MAP KEY
- Boat Ramp
- Campground
- Dump Station
- Park Office
- Park Residence
- Picnic Area
- Playground
- Restroom - Modern Seasonal
- Shelter

TRAIL INFORMATION

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

Walking times are figured at a rate of 2.5 mph.

www.iowadnr.gov/Places-to-Go/State-Parks