

WAUBONSIE STATE PARK

In this magnificent park, with its steep ridges and scenic overlooks, visitors can see hills 50 miles away, and view four states: Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri, as well as the Missouri River.

Waubonsie is located in the unique "Loess Hills," a landform found only along the Missouri River in Iowa and Missouri and in China. As glaciers melted 14,000 to 28,000 years ago, the Missouri River became a major channel for huge volumes of water and sediment during the summer. In winter, the volume of the meltwater was reduced, leaving the deposited sediments exposed to the wind. This sediment of silt, clay and very fine sand particles called loess, was then carried by strong westerly winds and deposited when these winds encountered the steep slopes of the east valley wall.

There are several distinctive features of loess hills topography. Because of the fine texture of the soil, deep, steep-sided and very narrow ridgetops have been eroded in the hills. Small, step-like terraces called "cat steps" resulting from repeated slipping of the soil can be seen on many west-facing slopes. Because the soil drains rapidly, almost vertical cuts can be made in the soil without erosion. The unique topography of the park resembles the "badlands" of the west and harbors plants like the yucca which are normally found in more arid climates.

Named for Chief Waubonsie of the Pottawatamie Indian tribe, the park is much the same today as it was when it was purchased in 1926. Seven miles of foot trails and eight miles of equestrian trails wind along wideswept ridges down into gorges and valleys.

The changing seasons complement the beauty of this countryside. Spring brings the blossoms of dozens of varieties of flowers and shrubs. Summer beckons with cooling breezes on the high places and in shady glens. Nowhere in Iowa are there more brilliant splashes of color than at Waubonsie in the fall, and in the winter the bluffs and ridges are sometimes beautifully blanketed with snow.

TRAILS

Waubonsie offers the hiker a wonderful experience. The scenery along the trails is incomparable.

The horseback rider will likewise enjoy the bridle trails and the opportunity to use the equestrian campground. The Sunset Ridge interpretive trail provides the visitor a chance to learn about many of the park's important plants and trees, as well as enjoy some tremendous views.

PICNICKING

Waubonsie is a great place for a family picnic. A scenic shelter may be reserved for \$15 through the park ranger.

CAMPING

There are 96 campsites, 22 with electrical hook-ups, modern shower and rest room facilities, and a trailer dump station. The equestrian campground contains 32 campsites and nonmodern rest room facilities. Camping permits are issued through self-registration at the campground.

FISHING

There is no fishing in the park. However, the Missouri River and other streams are close by. Forney Lake is only 15 miles away on the scenic bluff road. It is nationally known for the thousands of geese that stop annually to feed and rest on their migrating route.

NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Sidney is six miles north and is the home of the largest rodeo in North America, held each August.

Hamburg is nine miles south of the park.

Nebraska City is nine miles west across the Missouri River. It is the home of J. Sterling Morton, founder of Arbor Day. A museum is in Arbor Lodge State Park.

EQUAL RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

All persons are entitled to full and equal enjoyment of the recreational opportunities, privileges and advantages available in Iowa's great outdoors. The rest room building in the south picnic area is accessible to persons with varying abilities.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Wallace State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034

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Rural Route #2, Box 66
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A Park User Permit is required. Annual permits are available at the park office or at county recorders' offices. Daily permits are available at posted locations in the park.

