

WAPSIPINICON STATE PARK

Wapsipinicon State Park, dedicated in 1923, was one of Iowa's first state parks. It lies just south of Anamosa on the Wapsipinicon River. The sandstone and limestone bluffs in the 251-acre park are covered with moss and columbine. Hiking through a multitude of flowers, trees and wildlife leads one to splendid views from the bluffs.

The quiet walker along the Wapsi or Dutch Creek, which runs through the park, will often see a deer stop to drink, a beaver ambitiously constructing a dam, or a wild turkey strutting through the forest. Mushrooms, nuts and berries may be harvested in the park.

There are unforgettable views from the road that winds between the river and bluffs. The white pine forest, the oldest planting in Iowa, creates a feeling of being "way out west" or in Paul Bunyan's "far north" territory.

CAVES

Hiking along the bluffs reveals rocky staircases, crevices and caves. 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 used the cave for their camp. In the Ice Cave, visitors can crawl back into cool temperatures during the height of summer's heat.

FISHING

The Wapsi River has long been famous for its channel and flathead catfish, spring crappies, bullheads and smallmouth bass, especially below the dam near the park entrance. Dutch Creek meanders through the park and empties into the Wapsi. At its mouth, fishing is good almost anytime. This is also a feeding area for walleye and northern, providing anglers with a great challenge.

LODGE

An enclosed shelter or lodge, ideal for group events such as wedding receptions and family re-

unions, is available by reservation from the park ranger. A gas stove, refrigerator, tables and running water are included.

CAMPING

The shaded campground has 30 campsites (15 with electrical hookups), modern rest rooms and showers. Camping permits are obtained by self-registration at the campground.

PICNICKING

Wapsipinicon is a great place for a family picnic. Several open shelters are available and may be reserved for \$15 through the park ranger.

GOLF

Don't forget your golf clubs. There is a nine hole golf course maintained by the Wapsipinicon Country Club in the park.

NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Anamosa is immediately north of the park. The State Men's Reformatory is here.

Cedar Rapids is 20 miles southwest on U.S. 151. This is Iowa's second largest city and is the home of Coe College.

Mount Vernon, Monticello and Stone City, birthplace of the artist Grant Wood, are all close to the 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 lodge and the rest rooms and showers in the campground are accessible to persons of varying abilities.



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