

Lake Wapello could easily be called the "country club" of Iowa state parks. Its buildings, hard-topped roads, neatly trimmed foliage and picnic areas hold a quiet elegance that compares favorably with the private sports clubs of the nation.

One of the park's attributes is its remoteness. Nestled in the heavily-wooded northwest corner of Davis County, the park lies 13 miles from Bloomfield, the county seat. The nearest populated areas are Drakesville, six miles east, and Unionville, six miles west, both with populations under 300 people.

Despite its isolation, Lake Wapello draws great numbers of people who come to take advantage of its camping and recreational facilities. The twelve modern overnight cabins are constantly occupied during the season. The campground is busy from April until late September. The picnic areas, grassy and shaded, are most attractive, especially "Smith Knoll" with its unique stone shelter. The view from this overlook is exceptional anytime; but at night, when the many lights of the beach on the north shore cast dancing reflections on the water of the lake, the view is incomparable.

The southern arm of the lake is called Scouts Bay Camp Wapello. A Boy Scout camp occupies an area to the east of the bay. The 143 acre Camp Wapello property was purchased by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation in 1982 and leased to the Iowa Conservation Commission. The area is utilized for scout activities, as well as other authorized group uses. See the park ranger for details.

A map of the park is included in this folder, showing that the only entrance is at the northeast corner of the park. At this point begin two and a half miles of hard-top roads.

The city of Ottumwa, 30 miles north and east of Lake Wapello, has taken much interest in the park's development from the beginning. The "Ottumwa Daily Courier" of July 30, 1936, carried the following headline across its front page: "Lake Dedication Draws Big Crowd." Over 8,000 people were present to hear the dedication speeches and presentation of a monument commemorating the late Dr. W.C. Boone, a member of the former Fish and Game Commission, and later a member of the State Conservation Commission.

The park has a land area of 1,150 acres and 285 acres of sparkling blue water. It possesses seven miles of shore, a beautiful rough stone and hewn timber bath house, and adequate parking facilities for all areas.

Bass, crappies, catfish, bullheads and bluegills abound in this lake. Photos by the score adorn the walls of the concessionaire who rents boats and motors and sells bait and gear. The concession also offers food and refreshments for park visitors.

A large room (enclosed shelter) is available for rental which is ideal for gatherings such as family reunions. The facility is equipped with electricity, water, flush toilets, cooking stove and refrigerator, for rental rate check the enclosed insert.

CAMPING INFORMATION

Lake Wapello State Park will accommodate 128 camping units. Lake Wapello camp sites are classified as modern as there are flush toilets and shower facilities available. All camping permits are issued by the park ranger. For camping rates, see the enclosed insert.

MODERN OVERNIGHT CABINS

All reservations must be made through the park ranger.

Rates are for a maximum of four persons.

Cabins accommodate four comfortably. The renter must provide his own bedding, pillows, and linens. The rental of cabins does not entitle the tenant to free use of beach or boating privileges. Arrangements for these may be made with the concessionaire. Electricity is included in the basic rates, for rate information, check insert.

State park maintenance and operation funds are derived solely from legislative appropriation and receipts from camping and concession revenue, cabin and lodge rental and boat dock fees.

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.

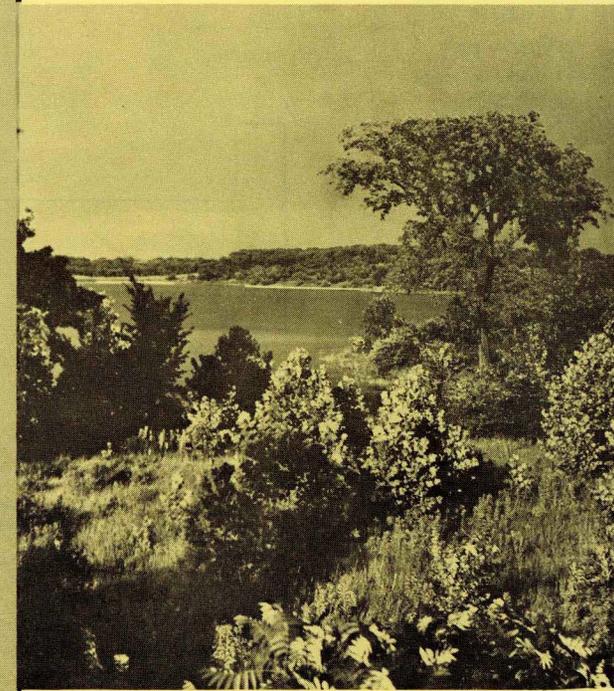
IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION
WALLACE STATE OFFICE BLDG.
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

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LAKE WAPELLO STATE PARK



PARK RANGER ADDRESS:

Lake Wapello State Park
RR No. 1
Drakesville, Iowa 52552
515-722-3371

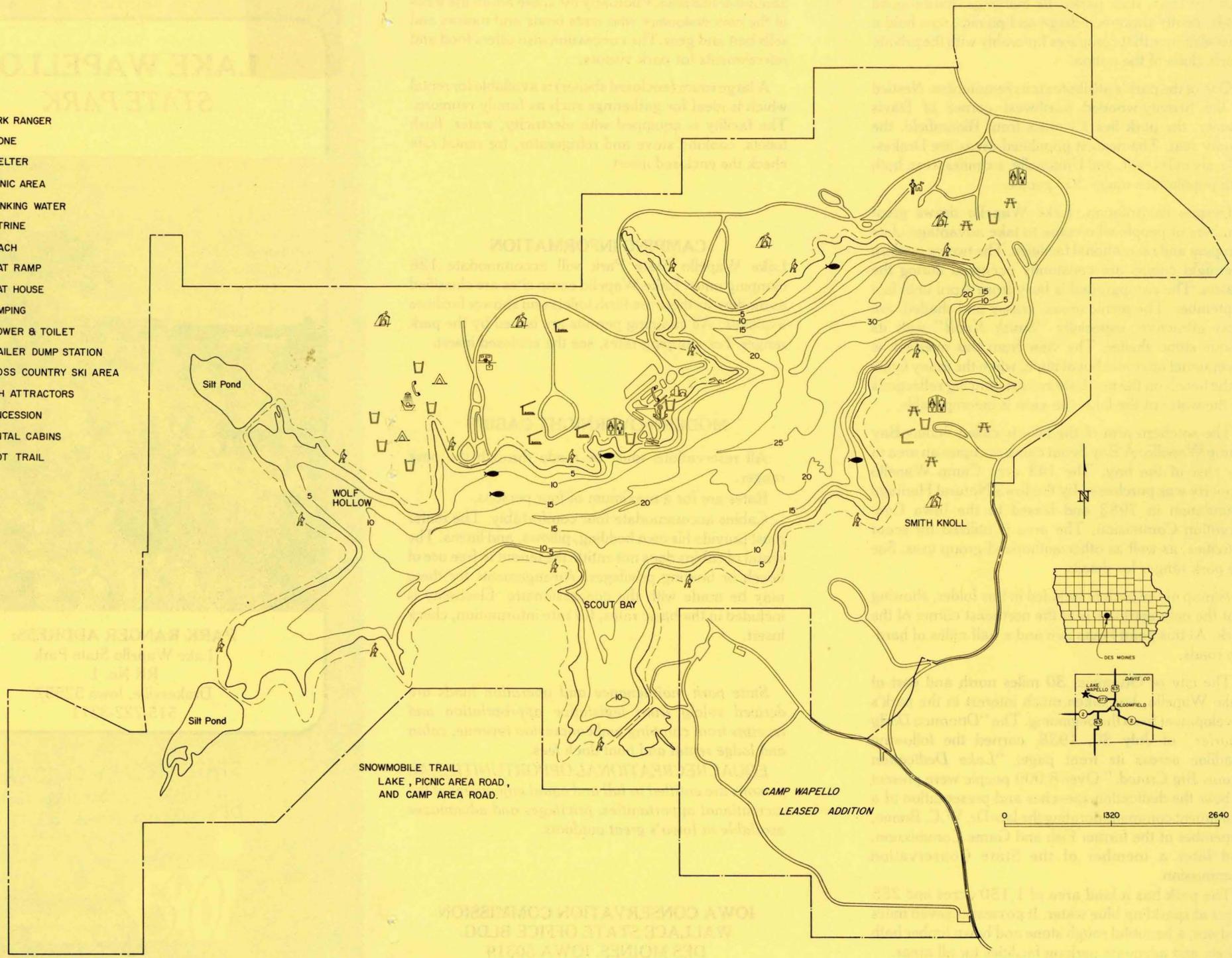
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DES MOINES, IOWA 50319



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-  PARK RANGER
-  PHONE
-  SHELTER
-  PICNIC AREA
-  DRINKING WATER
-  LATRINE
-  BEACH
-  BOAT RAMP
-  BOAT HOUSE
-  CAMPING
-  SHOWER & TOILET
-  TRAILER DUMP STATION
-  CROSS COUNTRY SKI AREA
-  FISH ATTRACTORS
-  CONCESSION
-  RENTAL CABINS
-  FOOT TRAIL



SNOWMOBILE TRAIL
LAKE, PICNIC AREA ROAD,
AND CAMP AREA ROAD.

CAMP WAPELLO
LEASED ADDITION

0 1320 2640 Ft.