

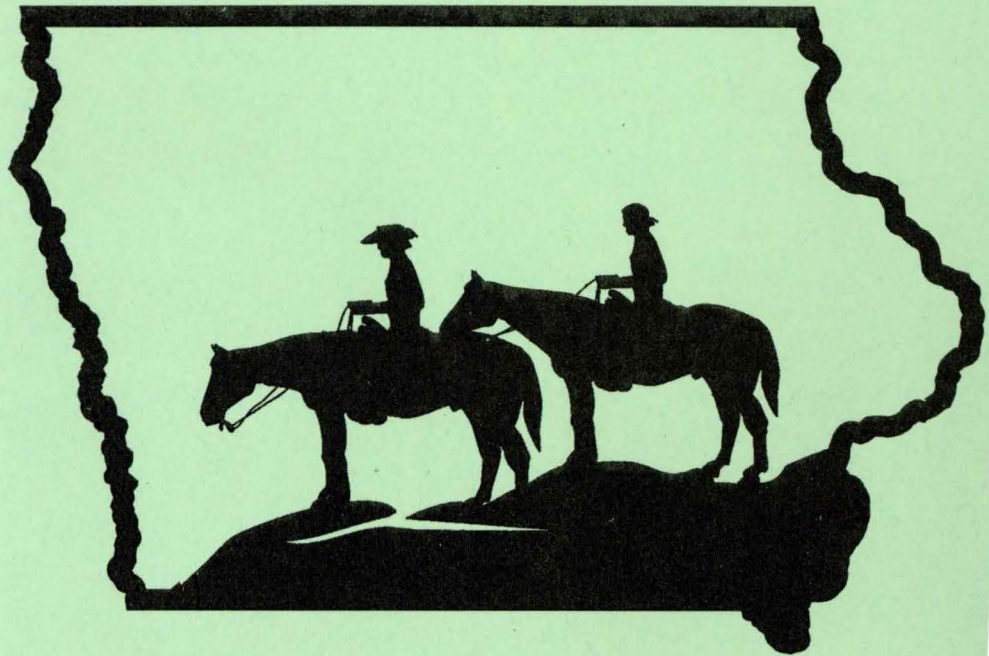
STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA



3 1723 02104 9200

GV
199
T681
2001

Trail Riding In Iowa



*A Guide to Iowa's
Equestrian Trails*

For those who cannot read the size of the print in this publication, a larger sized version of the text is available by calling the DNR at 515/281-5145 (TTY/TDD number 515/242-5967) or writing the DNR at 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-0034.

Equal Opportunity

Federal regulations prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Director, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034 or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Washington, D. C. 20240



2001

Contents

General Rules and Recommendations for State Parks, Recreation Areas and Forests	2
Map of Iowa Trail Locations	20-21
Northwest Region Trails	4
<i>Brushy Creek State Recreation Area</i>	<i>6</i>
Northeast Region Trails	10
<i>Volga River State Recreation Area</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Yellow River State Forest</i>	<i>16</i>
Southwest Region Trails	18
<i>Waubonsie State Park</i>	<i>22</i>
Southeast Region Trails	24
<i>Elk Rock State Park</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Stephens State Forest</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Shimek State Forest</i>	<i>32</i>
Organized Trail Riding Activities in Iowa	35
About this Trail Guide	36



Trail riders at Brushy Creek State Recreation Area

TRAIL RIDING IN IOWA

The State of Iowa offers a wide variety of equestrian trail opportunities on 58 state and county areas. These trails vary in length from one to 50 miles. Equestrian camping is provided in 39 areas, which range from modern to primitive.

This trail guide was developed to provide detailed information regarding equestrian facilities throughout the state so visitors will know what to expect when they arrive with their horses for a day's ride or a camping adventure. Equestrian trails are generally open in early spring until the first snow fall. However, trails may be temporarily closed throughout the season if they are determined to be too wet for riding. Call ahead for trail conditions as additional information is available from individual area managers at the phone numbers provided.

General Rules and Recommendations for State Parks, Recreation Areas and Forests

Equestrian camping facilities are available in nine state areas which are described further in this guide. The facilities may vary from area to area. Following are some general rules and recommendations, as well as area specific regulations.

To Prevent Erosion & Preserve Your Natural Resources

- Call ahead for current trail conditions.
- Always stay on marked equestrian trails - do not make short cuts. Trail renovation is costly. By staying on designated trails, you are doing your part to protect these natural areas for the future.
- Cross streams only at designated areas.
- After camping, the hitch rail area or stall should be raked and left clean.
- Tying animals to any vegetation is prohibited.
- State park and recreation areas have a "Carry In and Carry Out" litter policy in all areas except campgrounds.

For Safety

- Be careful with campfires. Clear the area around the fire ring and never leave fires unattended.
- Horse racing or running in camp areas is strictly prohibited for your safety.
- Recognize that other park users such as hikers or hunters may be unfamiliar with or afraid of horses.
- All pets must be leashed or caged.
- Be aware that hunting is permitted in all state recreation areas and forests except within developed facilities such as campgrounds.

Stabling

- In designated campgrounds in all state areas, animals must be stabled inside a horse trailer; or at a hitch rail, in individual stalls or a corral, when provided. This practice reduces unnecessary damage to the campsites.
- Animals may be hitched to trailers for short periods of time to allow for grooming and saddling.
- Animals may be stabled at trailers where no hitching facilities are provided.
- Portable stalls/pens are not allowed.
- Staking out or hobbles prohibited.

Department of Natural Resources Equestrian Facilities

- Please notify DNR staff of any dangerous areas or conditions.
- Campers must self register in the campground.
- Equestrian day-users must park in the equestrian day-use area if provided, not in the campground.
- These public lands are for your use and enjoyment. Do what you can to help maintain and preserve these trails.

NORTHWEST REGION TRAILS

MAP#	AREA NAME	MANAGING AGENCY	PHONE#
1	Bennett Area	Carroll County	712/792-4614
2	Bertram Reservation	Clay County	712/543-8292
3	Brushy Creek Rec Area	DNR	515/543-8298
4	Burt Lake	Kossuth County	515/295-2138
5	Butrick Bluff Area	Carroll County	712/792-4614
6	Dickson Timber	Carroll County	712/792-4614
7	Fort Defiance State Park	DNR	712/362-2078
8	Hillview Recreation Area	Plymouth County	712/947-4270
9	Kindlespire Little Sioux Access	Clay County	712/262-2187
10	Lime Creek Conservation Area	Cerro Gordo County	641/423-5309
11	Martin Area Access	Cherokee County	712/225-5959
12	Merritt Access	Carroll County	712/792-4614
13	Middle Raccoon River Access	Carroll County	712/792-4614
14	Moorehead Park	Ida County	712/364-3300
15	Oneota Little Sioux Access	Clay County	712/262-2187
16	Pilot Knob State Park	DNR	641/581-4835
17	Riverside Park	Carroll County	712/792-4614
18	Russ Wildlife Area and Thorpe Park	Winnebago County	641/565-3390
19	Russell White Nature Trail	Carroll County	712/792-4614
20	Shell Rock River Green Belt	Cerro Gordo County	641/423-5309
21	Southwood Conservation Area	Woodbury County	712/258-0838
22	Stone State Park	DNR	712/255-4698
23	Swan Lake State Park	Carroll County	712/792-4614

DIRECTIONS	MILES OF TRAILS	CAMPING	TOILETS	WATER	PARKING	HITCH
4 mi. E, 2 mi. N of Glidden	3	mc			+	
2 mi. E of Peterson	4				+	
5 mi. E of Lehigh on D46	50	mc	+	+	+	+
2 mi. S, 1 mi. W of Algona	1.5				+	
3 mi. N of Glidden	4				+	
3.5 mi. NE of Glidden	3	pc	+	+	+	
1 mi. W of Estherville, Hwy. 9	4.3		+	+	+	+
1 mi. W of Hinton	3		+	+	+	
5 mi. W of Webb	3	pc	+		+	
1 mi. N of Mason City	4.5	pc	+	+	+	+
4.7 mi. E of Larrabee	2.5	pc	+	+	+	
4 mi. NE of Glidden	2	pc	+	+	+	
3 mi. NW of Coon Rapids	5				+	
.5 mi. N of Ida Grove	2.5	pc	+	+	+	
1 mi. E of Spencer	5		+		+	
4 mi. E of Forest City, Hwy. 9	8		+	+	+	+
NE Edge of Coon Rapids	2.0		+	+	+	
6 mi. W of Forest City	3		+	+	+	
Lanesboro to Hwy. 286	3					
295 SE of Co. S62, S of Rock Falls	7.5	mc	+	+	+	+
1 mi. SW of Smithland	5	mc	+	+	+	+
8 mi. NW of Sioux City on Hwy. 12	7.2		+	+	+	+
2 mi. SE of Carroll	3	pc	+	+	+	

pc= primitive camping mc= modern camping

BRUSHY CREEK STATE RECREATION AREA

Lehigh, Iowa

515/543-8298

Consisting of more than 6,000 acres, Brushy Creek Recreation Area is located 14 miles southeast of Fort Dodge. This area has been known for many years as one of the nicest places in the state for horseback riding. Riders come from all across Iowa and surrounding states to enjoy the rugged, challenging and beautiful trails in one of Iowa's largest tracts of public recreation land. A network of trails winds through a variety of terrain which includes forests, grasslands and cropfields, with Brushy Creek meandering through the entire area. There are approximately 35 miles of trails with more being planned, including a trail around the north end of Brushy Lake.

In the early years, there was no formal trail system which resulted in a large complex of trails being developed by the recreation area visitors. In many cases, trails were located on fragile soils of excessive steepness. Because of an absence of formal design, heavy use and little or no maintenance, trail erosion became a serious problem. In recent years, the DNR has worked with equestrian groups in order to provide quality riding opportunities and at the same time, ensure that impacts on soils and vegetation are minimized. A Brushy Creek Trail Advisory Board was established by the Governor and Legislative Council in 1989 for the purpose of providing input on trails and other recreation facilities at Brushy Creek. Trail maps are available at the Park Office and north campground

Day Use

Currently there is a day-use area near the existing equestrian campground in the northern portion of the recreation area and one in the southern portion including rest rooms. Planned construction projects for the 2001 recreation season include potable drinking water and a picnic shelter for the southern equestrian day-use area.

Camping

Equestrian users enjoy one of the most modern camp facilities in the Midwest. The northern equestrian campground has a modern shower and rest room, 125 campsites (50 electrical), horse wash area, ample shade, a substantial hitch rail at every site (users are required to tie animals to rails) and a 100' by 200' arena. Water hydrants with potable water are available, as are picnic tables and grills. In the future, a playground and another shower/toilet building will be constructed.

Currently, the southern equestrian campground is under construction. The 70 electric sites and the shower and restroom facilities are expected to be completed and open for public in late July 2001. Thirty-five non-electric sites are also slated to be completed.

Future Plans

Lake construction began in the spring of 1993, with completion of the 690 acre lake in 1999. The lake has 21 miles of shoreline, with an average depth of 29 feet and is popular for fishing and boating. The lake itself is open to all varieties of water craft, although the "any motor at no wake speed" rule applies. Additional non-equestrian facilities will be developed as the lake construction proceeds. Picnic areas, a five mile paved, accessible trail and family cabins are included in the plans.

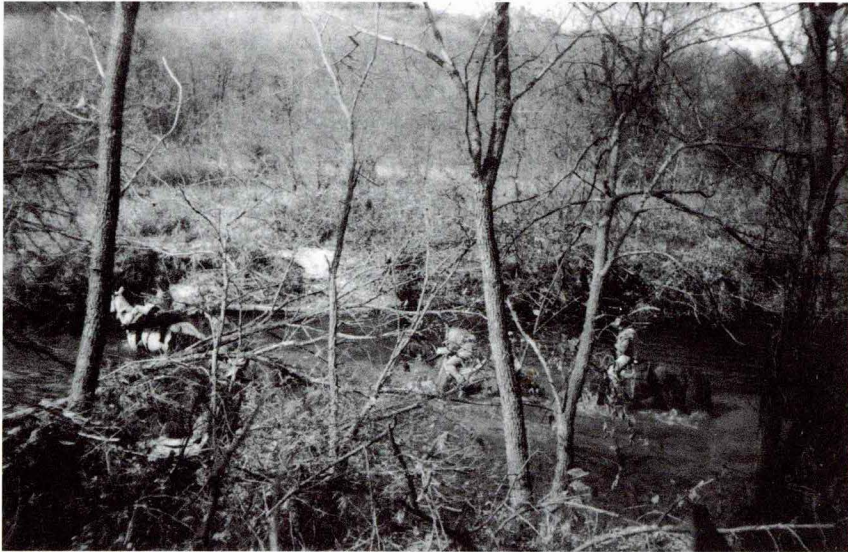
The non-equestrian campground and camppads, restroom and picnic shelter at fish pier point and boat ramp restrooms will be under construction during the 2001-2002 recreational seasons.

Acquisition of additional land in the south occurred in the early 1990's. This area will provide for multiple recreation opportunities with a special emphasis on equestrian camping and trail development. Since Brushy Creek State Recreation Area is crossed by a paved road, an underpass has been constructed to avoid riding across the road.

Hunting is allowed at Brushy Creek State Recreation.

Brushy Creek State Recreation Area is located 4 miles east of Lehigh on County Hwy. D46 or 15 miles southeast of Fort Dodge off of State

Hwy 20 or 12 miles west of Webster City off of State Hwy 20.

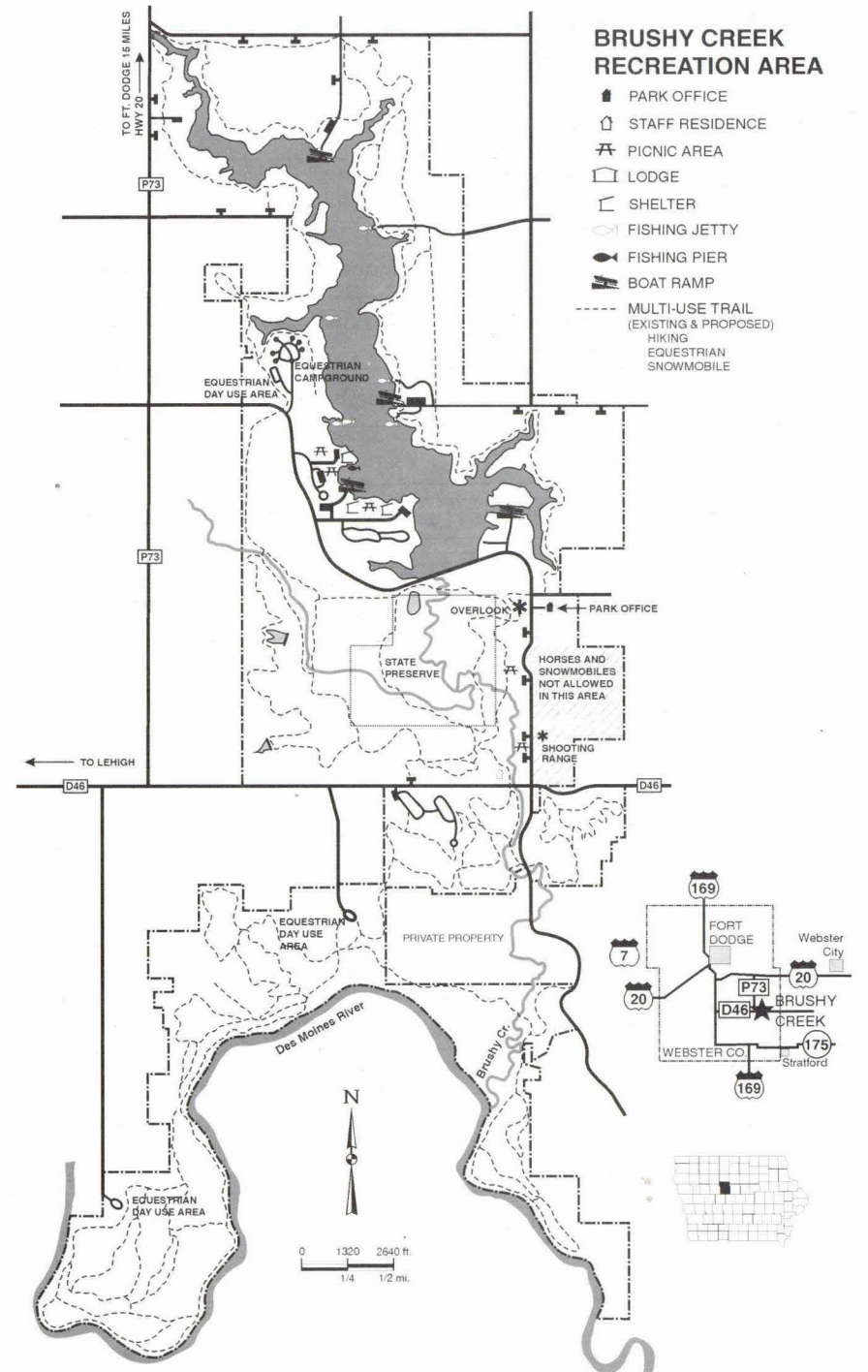


Brushy Creek



Brushy Creek

Equestrian Trails 8



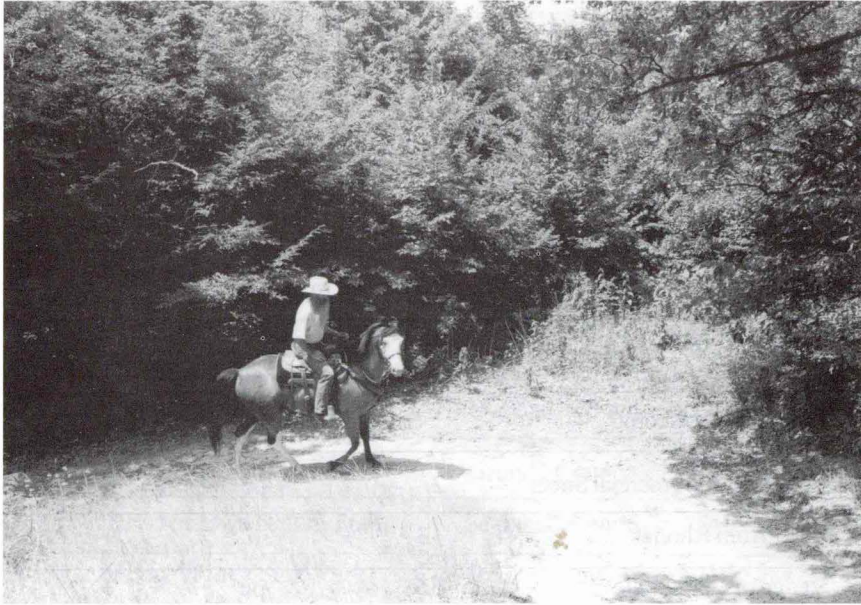
Equestrian Trails 9

NORTHEAST REGION TRAILS

MAP#	AREA NAME	MANAGING AGENCY	PHONE#
24	Backbone State Forest	DNR	563/924-2527
25	Central Park	Jones County	319/487-3541
26	Gilbertson Conservation Education Area	Fayette County	563/426-5740
27	Grammer Grove	Marshall County	641/754-6303
28	Grundy County Greenbelt	Grundy County	319/345-2688
29	Heart of Iowa Nature Trail	Marshall County	641/754-6303
30	Heery Woods State Park	Butler County	319/278-4237
31	Matsell Bridge Natural Area	Linn County	319/398-3505
32	Maynes Grove	Franklin County	641/456-4375
33	Pine Ridge Rec Area	Hardin County	641/858-3461 or 641/648-3825
34	Pioneer Trail	Grundy County	319/345-2688
35	Pleasant Creek State Rec Area	DNR	319/436-7716
36	Pony Hollow Trail	Clayton County	563/245-1516
37	Price Wildlife Habitat	Chickasaw County	641/394-4714
38	South Cedar Natural Area	Linn County	319/398-3505
39	Squaw Creek Park	Linn County	319/398-3505
40	Twin Ponds	Chickasaw County	641/394-4714
41	Volga River Rec Area	DNR	563/425-4161
42	Wakpicada Natural Area	Linn County	319/398-3505
43	Yellow River Forest	DNR	563/586-2254

DIRECTIONS	MILES OF TRAILS	CAMPING	TOILETS	WATER	PARKING	HITCH
2 mi. SW of Strawberry Point, adjacent to Backbone State Park	5		+		+	
2 mi. W of Center Junction	2 (ride on road only)					
E edge of Elgin	5		+	+	+	
3 mi. SW of Liscomb	1	pc*	+	+	+	
Reinbeck, Commercial Street	2	pc	+		+	
Enter from Rhodes	4.3					+
S edge of Clarksville	1.5	pc	+	+	+	
2.5 mi. N of Viola	6.3	pc	+	+	+	+
1.5 mi. SW of Popejoy	2					+
.5 mi. W of Steamboat Rock	4	mc	+	+	+	+
Grundy Center to Holland, Marion to Reinbeck	5.5	pc	+	+	+	
4.5 mi. NW of Palo	12	pc	+	+	+	
Elkader City Recreation Area	3					+
9.5 mi former RR right-of-way	10					
3 mi. SW of Mount Vernon	.5-1	pc	+	+	+	
1 mi. S of Marion	7	mc	+	+	+	+
2 mi. S, 3 mi. E of Ionia	.5		+	+	+	
4 mi. N of Fayette	22.3	pc	+	+	+	+
1 mi. S of Central City	1	pc	+	+	+	
14 mi. SE of Waukon	11	pc	+	+	+	

pc= primitive camping *not maintained mc= modern camping



Stone State Park



Pleasant Creek

VOLGA RIVER STATE RECREATION AREA

Fayette, Iowa

563/425-4161

Volga River State Recreation Area is located in one of the most scenic parts of the state. Northeast Iowa is often referred to as “Little Switzerland” because of its rugged topography, geologic features and substantial forest cover which are in sharp contrast to the majority of the state. The heavily wooded, rugged landscape of Volga River is an exciting setting for a variety of outdoor recreation pursuits.

Volga River State Recreation Area has become a popular center for a number of trail activities including equestrian usage, hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. The multi-use trail system is 23.5 miles in length. Numerous trail rides and camp-outs are held here by saddle clubs all year long. A self-guided nature trail begins at the park office. A day-use area, one half mile north of the campground, is available which includes picnic tables, hitch rails and portable toilets.

The rugged beauty of Volga River provides a picturesque setting for camping. There are 14 equestrian campsites available in the “Albany” non-modern campground (the campground covers what once was the little town of Albany). A pit vault toilet was constructed in 1993, but currently there is no water available. The river is close-by for watering of animals. In the future, it is hoped that a well can be installed for potable water in the campground.

The 135-acre Frog Hollow Lake provides fishing and boating opportunities. Any size boat motor may be operated at “no wake” speeds.

The area provides excellent habitat for fish and wildlife. Frog Hollow Lake and the Volga River, which meanders through the 5,420 acre area, hold a variety of fish species. Their banks harbor nesting wood ducks and shore birds. A multitude of birds may be seen such as chickadees, finches, bluebirds, woodpeckers, hawks, great horned owls, wild

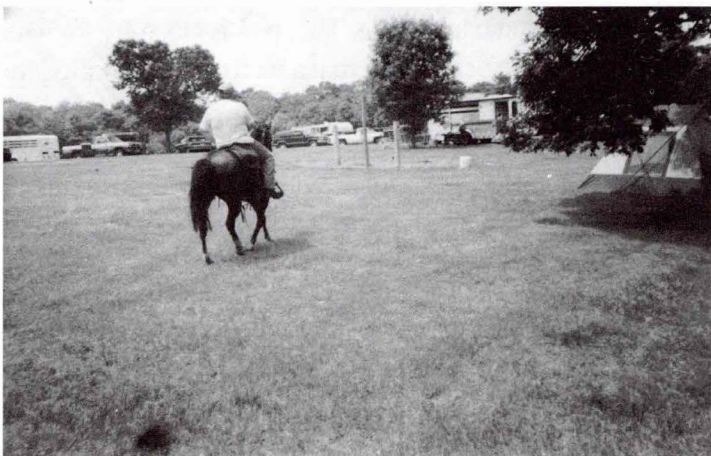
turkey, ruffed grouse and woodcock. Other wildlife species of the area include: white-tailed deer, red fox, raccoon, opossum, muskrats, mink, beaver and fox and gray squirrels. Most of the Volga River Recreation Area is open to hunting.

Scenic features include: the Volga River and the old steel bridges which cross it; striking limestone outcrops, prairie areas and woodlands with unusual stands of aspen and Canadian yew. Changes of season provide vivid contrasts in snowy winter, bright spring wildflowers, shady emerald woodlands in summer and vivid autumn colors.

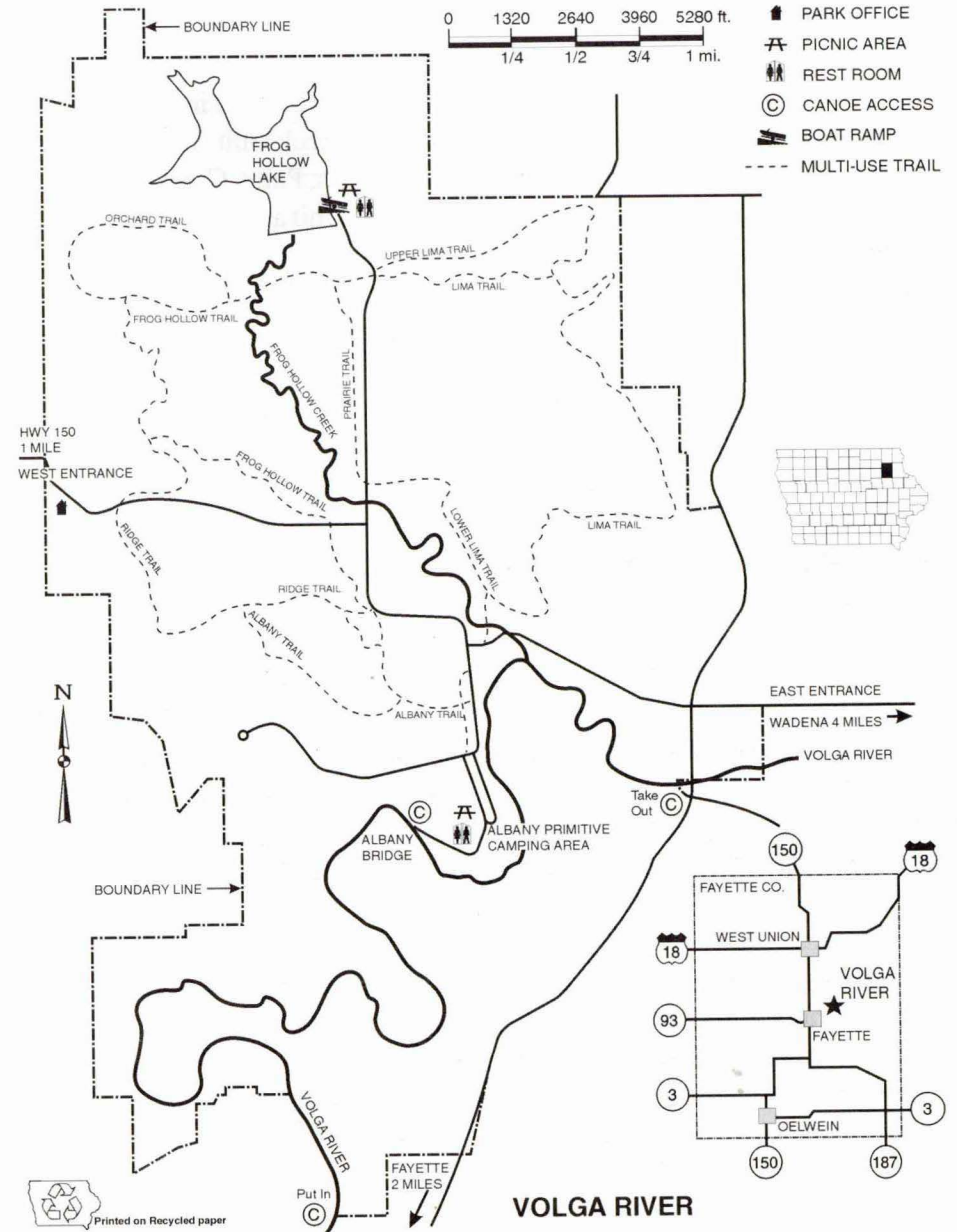
Future Plans

A master plan for future development has been completed. Plans include: the development of a lakeside picnic area with two picnic shelters, a modern rest room and play structure; a beach; a partially enclosed shelter for an overlook/winter sports area; a modern equestrian campground; a modern non-equestrian campground with 48 sites; eight family cabins (four cabins for equestrian use and four non-equestrian cabins); an eight site hike-in camp area; an eight site ride-in camp area; an archery range; a shooting range; and an additional canoe access to the Volga River.

Volga River Recreation Area is located 4 miles north of Fayette on State Hwy 150.



Waubonsie



VOLGA RIVER

YELLOW RIVER STATE FOREST

Waukon, Iowa

563/586-2548 (Park Manager) or
563/586- 2254 (State Forest Office)

In the heart of northeast Iowa lay the timbered hills and valleys of Yellow River State Forest. This 9,000 acre forest is divided into five units. Of primary recreation interest is the Paint Creek Unit. This 5,000 acre timbered area has two bubbling trout streams, Paint Creek and Little Paint Creeks. Campers at the Paint Creek Unit are lulled to sleep by the gurgling of the cold water. Riding or hiking through acres of native timber, one marvels at the sheer limestone bluffs, clear trout streams, wildlife and the quiet beauty of mature oak-hickory forests.

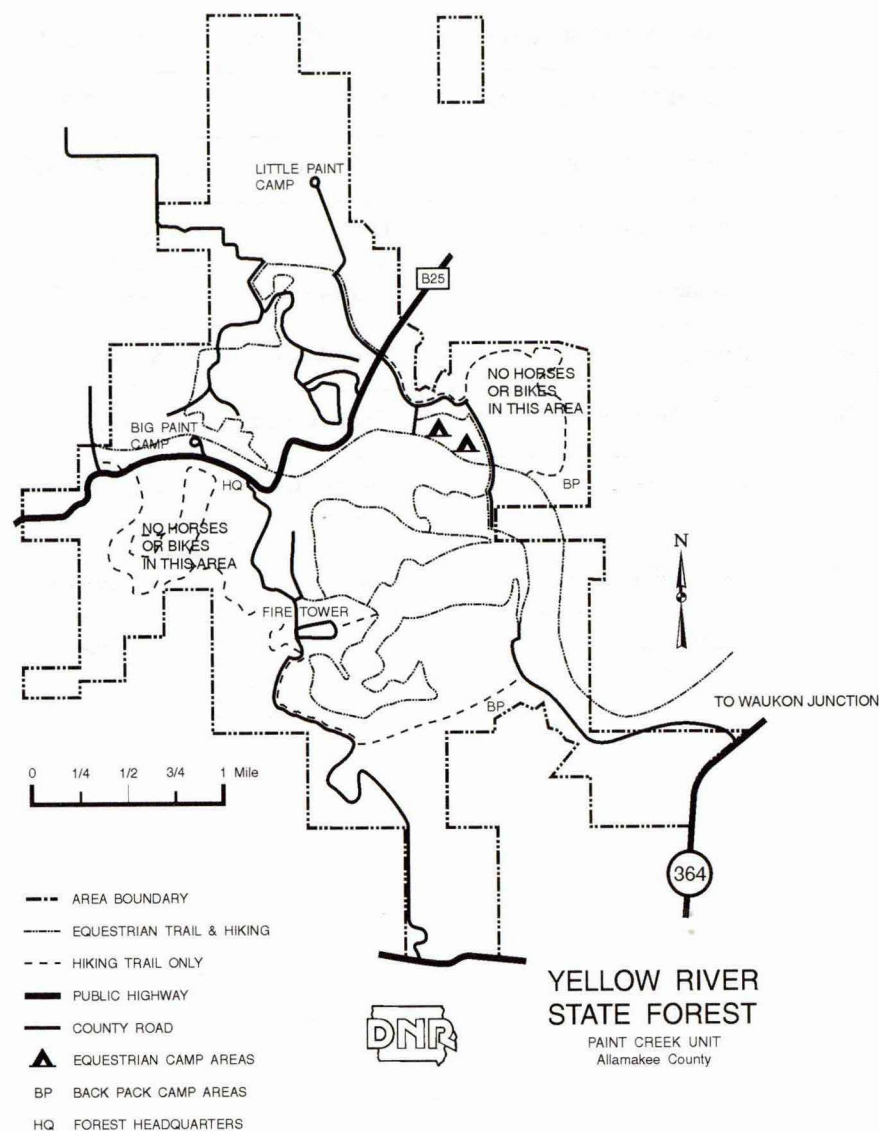
All units of the forest are operated under a system of multiple use management, which aims at providing the best mix of timber, wildlife, recreation and soil & water conservation values. All areas of the forest have been inventoried to determine forest stand and tree characteristics, as well as presence of unique habitats, archaeological sites, and endangered species of wildlife for protection.

Wildlife management practices are part of the operating plan. During timber management activities, care is taken to preserve den trees and provide natural browse plants for wildlife. Food patches for wildlife are planted as part of a crop lease program. There are also two marshes and 52 erosion and wildlife ponds on the Paint Creek Unit providing excellent habitat for migratory songbirds as well as game species of wildlife.

A non-modern equestrian campground is located here with 40 sites. Hitching rails, pit-vault latrines and picnic tables are available. Potable water is available at the headquarters and information kiosk, however, horses may be watered in the cold water stream which runs near the campground.

There are 20 miles of scenic trails with varying levels of difficulty. Most trails traverse old logging roads and fire lanes which offer a variety

of riding experiences. Some trails may be rocky, so be sure to have your horse shod when you arrive. Day-use parking is allowed in the wayside near the Paint Creek Bridge. Hunting is allowed at Yellow River State Forest so be sure to check for seasons and hunting regulations. The Paint Creek Unit of Yellow River State Forest is located 14 miles southeast of Waukon off of State Hwy 76.



SOUTHWEST REGION TRAILS

MAP#	AREA NAME	MANAGING AGENCY	PHONE#
63	Arrowhead County Park	Pottawattamie County	712/328-5638
64	Heart of Iowa Nature Trail	Story County	515/232-2516
65	Lake of Three Fires State Park	DNR	712/523-2700
66	Lewis a Jester Park	Polk County	515/323-5300
67	Nine Eagles State Park	DNR	641/442-2855
68	Pammel Park	Madison County	641/642-3536
69	Prairie Rail Trail	Story County	515/232-2516
70	Sands Timber	Taylor County	712/542-3864
71	Wabash Trace	Pottawattamie County	712/328-5638
72	Walnut Woods State Park	DNR	515/285-4502
73	Waubonsie State Park	DNR	515/382-2786

DIRECTIONS	MILES OF TRAILS	CAMPING	TOILETS	WATER	PARKING	HITCH
1 mi. E of Neola, Co. Rd. 255	3	pc	+	+	+	
Slater, Co. Rd 255	32		+	+	+	
3 mi. NE of Bedford, Hwy. 49	8	pc	+	+	+	
3 mi. NE of Granger	12-15	pc			+	
6 mi. SE of Davis City	6		+		+	+
4 mi. SW of Winterset	1		+		+	+
Roland to Zearing	10.5		+	+	+	
3 mi. NW of Blockton	3				+	
Council Bluffs to Mineola	10					
4 mi. SW of Des Moines, Hwy. 5	3	pc	+	+	+	
6 mi. SW of Sidney on Hwy. 2	7	mc	+	+	+	+

pc= primitive camping mc= modern camping



WAUBONSIE STATE PARK

Hamburg, Iowa

712/382-2786

Waubonsie State Park is located in the southwest corner of the state, near the Missouri River. From the steep ridges and scenic overlooks visitors can see hills 50 miles away and view parts of Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri.

Waubonsie is located in the unique "Loess Hills". These hills were formed 12,000 to 31,000 years ago when glaciers melted, carrying huge volumes of sediment and water down the Missouri River in summer months. The volume of this melt water reduced in winter months, exposing the sediments to the wind. The sediment, called loess, is a mixture of silt (composed of closely packed grains of quartz), with some clay, and fine sand particles. It was carried by strong westerly winds and deposited when the winds encountered the steep slopes of the valley wall. The only other place in the world where such massive deposits of loess can be found is in China.

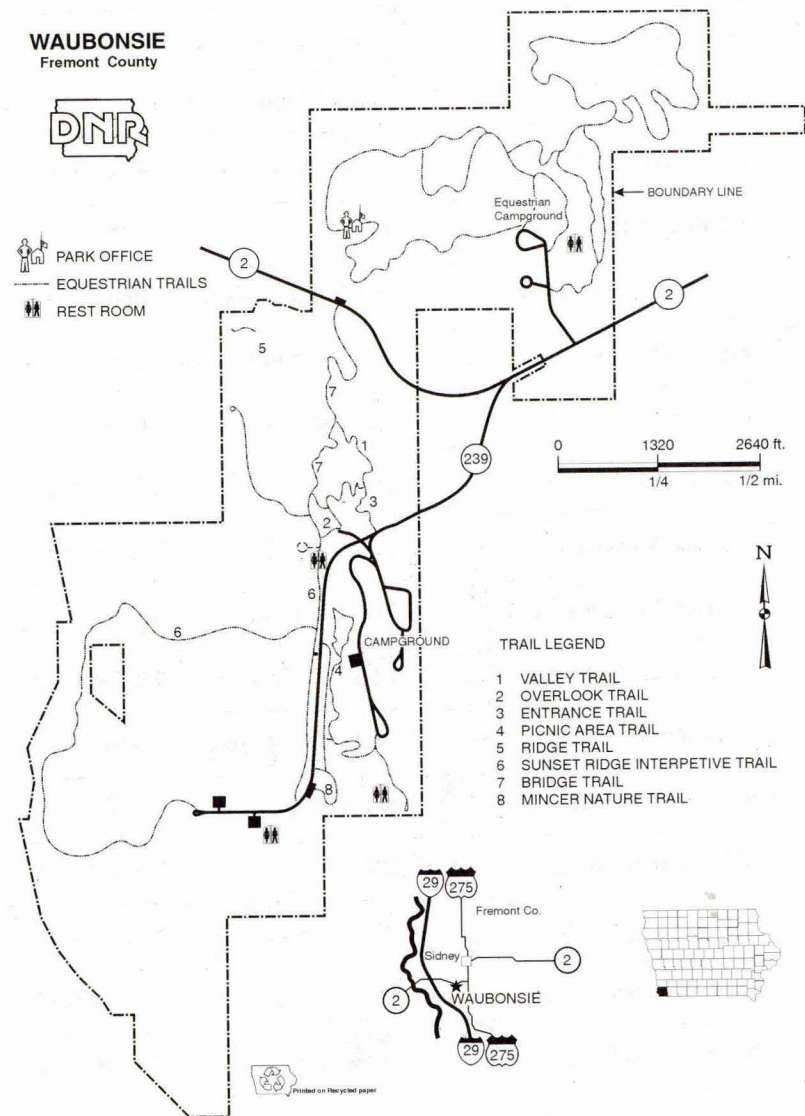
There are several distinctive features of loess hills topography. Because of the fine texture of the soil, deep steep sided and extremely narrow ridgetops have been created. Small, step-like terraces called "cat steps" are a result of repeated slumping of the soil. The deposits are porous, lightweight and easily eroded. They are vulnerable to collapse when wet, yet when dry are quite stable in nearly a straight up and down position. Two distinctive plant and animal species, the Spine-leaved Yucca and the Plains Spade Foot Toad, can be found in the loess hills, but are more typically found in desert environments.

There are eight miles of multi-use trails which allow equestrian use and seven miles of hiking trails which wind along windswept ridges into gorges and valleys providing fantastic views. Facilities in the park include a picnic area; a scenic shelter which is available for rent; and a 60 site non-equestrian modern campground.

The equestrian campground and day use area is one quarter mile east of the junction of Hwys 2 and 239. Facilities include 32 campsites, a

corral, potable water, and a non modern restroom.

The park is located seven miles southwest of Sidney on Hwys 2 and 239.



SOUTHEAST REGION TRAILS

MAP#	AREA NAME	MANAGING AGENCY	PHONE#
44	Amborn-Pagin Wildlife Area	Lee County	319/463-7673
45	Big Hollow Creek Rec Area	Des Moines County	319/753-8260
46	Briton Timber	Washington County	319/657-3547
47	Cinder Path	Lucas County	641/774-2314
48	Deep River Timber Reserve	Poweshiek County	641/623-3191
49	Elk Rock State Park	DNR	641/842-6008
50	English River Wildlife Area	Washington County	319/657-3547
51	Fern Cliff Area	Washington County	319/657-3547
52	Fox Forest Area	Poweshiek County	641/623-3191
53	Gibson Rec Area	Henry County	319/986-5067
54	Oakland Mills Park	Henry County	319/986-5067
55	Pioneer Ridge Nature Area	Wapello County	641/682-3091
56	Rock Creek State Park	DNR	641/236-3722
57	Saulsbury Bridge Rec Area	Muscatine County	563/649-3379
58	Scott County Park	Scott County	319/381-1114
59	Shimek State Forest	DNR	319/878-3811
60	Sockum Ridge	Washington County	319/657-3457
61	Stephens State Forest	DNR	641/774-5632
62	Werner Woods	Lee County	319/463-7673

DIRECTIONS	MILES OF TRAILS	CAMPING	TOILETS	WATER	PARKING	HITCH
Argyle Rd. (Hwy. 82) 340th St.	1.5					+
2.5 mi. W, 5 mi. N of Dodgeville	5	pc	+	+	+	
5 mi NW of Brighton	4	pc	+		+	
West Court Ave., Chariton	13		+		+	
2 mi. E, 1 mi. N of Deep River	.5					
7 mi. N of Knoxville	13	mc	+	+	+	+
5 mi. SE of Wellman	2					+
12 mi. SE of Washington	1	pc	+		+	
.5 mi. W of Montezuma	1.5					+
6 mi. SW of Mt. Pleasant	1.5					+
4 mi. SW of Mt. Pleasant on W55	1.5					+
6 mi. S of Ottumwa	15	pc	+		+	
6 mi. NE of Kellogg	12					
8 mi. NE of Muscatine	6	mc	+	+	+	
3 mi. E of Long Grove	3	mc	+	+	+	
3 mi. E of Farmington, Hwy. 2	27	pc	+	+	+	+
5 mi. SE of Washington	2	pc	+		+	
3 mi. W of Lucas off Hwy. 65	31	pc	+	+	+	+
Hwy. X32, 5 mi. N of Ft. Madison	4					+

ELK ROCK STATE PARK

Knoxville, Iowa

641-842-6008

Elk Rock is located on Lake Red Rock, Iowa's largest artificial lake. Elk Rock has become a favorite camping and riding area for many because of the excellent camping facilities and other attractions.

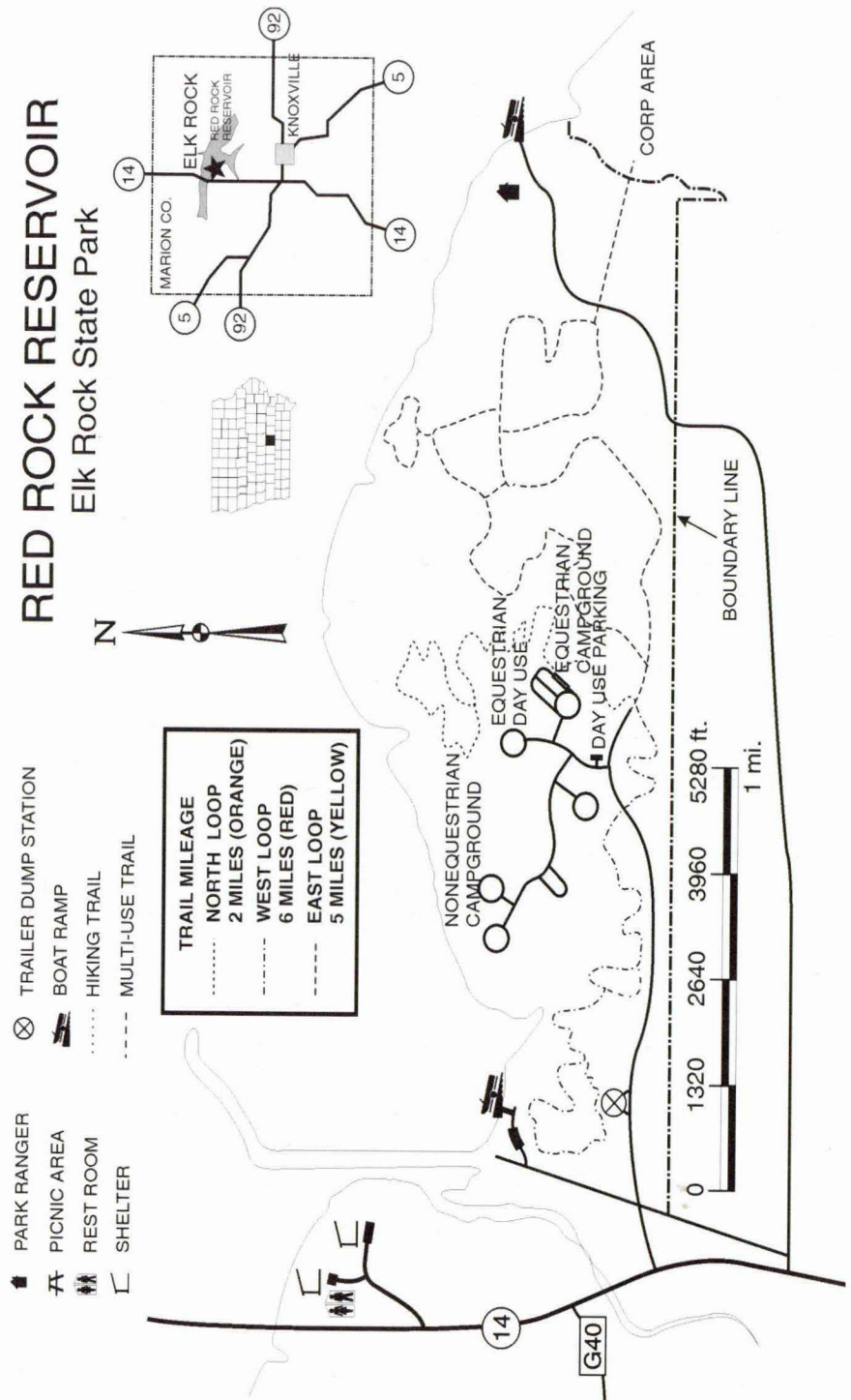
There are nearly 13 miles of equestrian trails at Elk Rock. These trails are excellent for starting young horses, for newcomers to the sport of trail riding and for those who merely wish to enjoy a pleasant ride through the woods. Most of the trails are wide, and relatively flat with some rolling hills. The trails loop around the campground area, through the trees, along the bluffs overlooking the lake, through grassy fields and along service roads. When the water level of the lake is not excessively high, riders have access to several miles of old earthen bike trails on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property. Day-use parking is available near the campground.

Elk Rock's excellent camping facilities make weekend outings a real pleasure. There are 60 equestrian campsites, 24 of which are electric, a modern shower building, water hydrants, picnic tables and fire rings. Animals are required to be stabled in the covered horse shelters, at individual hitching rails or inside their horse trailers. Animals may be hitched to trailers for short periods of time for grooming or saddling.

A riding arena, built by a local saddle club, is also available. Special events at Elk Rock each summer include the Frontier Days, which features a fun show at the arena. Other organized events include competitive trail rides, trail ride clinics and 4-H clinics.

While the length of trails is limited, the opportunities for seeing wildlife, wild flowers and enjoying nature are abundant. Elk Rock is a favorite place for mushroom hunters every spring. Fishing is also a popular activity at Lake Red Rock.

The park is located 7 miles north of Knoxville on Hwy 14.



STEPHENS STATE FOREST

Lucas, Iowa

641/774-5632 or

641/774-4559

Located near Chariton, in south-central Iowa, Stephens State Forest is divided into six separate units totaling 13,639 acres: Lucas Unit (1,208 acres), Whitebreast Unit (3,207 acres), Cedar Creek Unit (1,625 acres), Chariton Unit (1,513 acres) 1000 Acre Unit (1,616 acres), Woodburn Unit (2,011), Reicheit Unit (450) and the Unionville Unit (2,009 acres). The forest is named after Dr. T.C. Stephens, a prominent educator and Sioux City native.

Stephens Forest serves as an example of forest management. It was a base of operations for the Civilian Conservation Corps program, with demonstration plantings of hardwoods and conifers. Commercial sales of saw timber have been made since 1972. Ongoing cultural practices improve the forest for firewood production, wildlife habitat, erosion control and watershed protection.

Stephens Forest has large numbers of white oak, red oak, and hickory trees on the upland sites. Bottom land timber contains red and white elm, cottonwood, hackberry, green ash, silver maple and black walnut trees. Some coniferous and deciduous trees which are non-natives such as Douglas fir, spruce, pines, osage orange and tulip poplar have also been planted here.

The forest is abundant with wildlife including white tailed deer, fox and gray squirrel, raccoon, woodchuck, muskrats, red and gray fox, coyote, beaver, opossums and many other small mammals. There is an equally large variety of birds including those native to woodlands and its borders. A wild turkey stocking program began in 1968. This was so successful that the first hunting season in modern times was held in 1974 and continues today.

Trails and Day Use

An extensive 30 mile network of trails is available for riding in the Lucas and Whitebreast Units. The Lucas Unit is smaller with only seven miles of trails. Most of these trails are flat to gently rolling on old forest service roads which are relatively easy to ride. The 23 miles of trails in the Whitebreast Unit are more challenging due to the terrain.

Occasionally trails may be closed due to excessive erosion or wet conditions. If closed, they are clearly marked. It is important not to ride on trails while they are being repaired or rested to prevent further erosion.

There are two large ponds in the Lucas Unit and also two in the Whitebreast Unit. Watering horses in these ponds is not allowed to prevent bank erosion. A water hydrant is available in each campground and horses should be watered in camp.

Day-use parking is located in a mown area south of the campground in the Whitebreast Unit. Day-use parking in the Lucas Unit is allowed in the equestrian campground.

Camping

Equestrian campgrounds are located at both the Lucas and Whitebreast Units. Both campgrounds have hitching rails, drinking water, lovely flat shady campsites and non-modern restrooms. Fire rings and picnic tables are provided, with use of dead and down wood permitted for camping and cooking. Camping is allowed only at the designated campgrounds.

Stephens State Forest has become a popular riding area, especially among those who prefer non-modern camp areas. The quality of trails and beauty of the forest make it an ideal location for an enjoyable ride.

As in all forested areas, it is important to be careful with fires. Never leave a fire unattended and make sure your fire is out before leaving it.

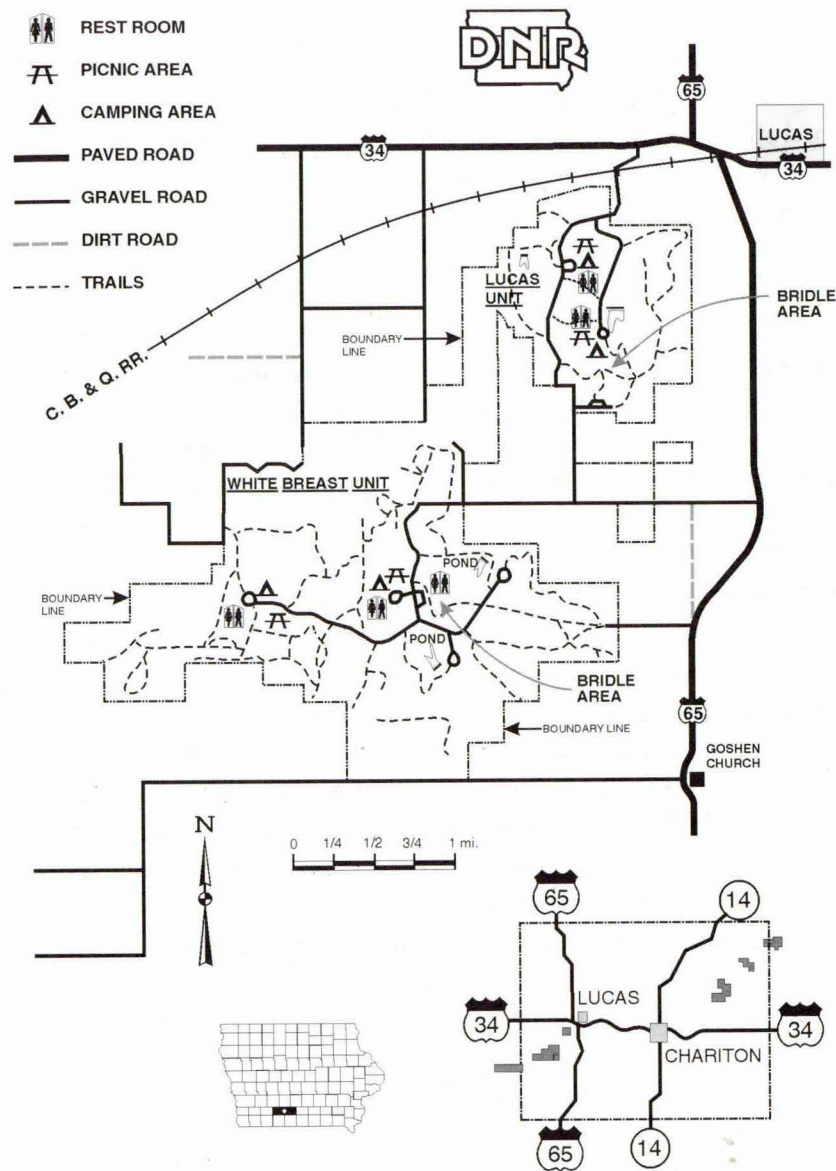
Hunting is allowed at Stephens State Forest. The four large ponds on

the Lucas and Whitebreast Units provide opportunities for fishing pleasure.

Stephens State Forest is located just west of Lucas and 12 miles west of Chariton off of U.S. Hwy 65 & 34.



Stephens Forest



STEPHENS STATE FOREST

SHIMEK STATE FOREST

Farmington, Iowa

319/878-3811

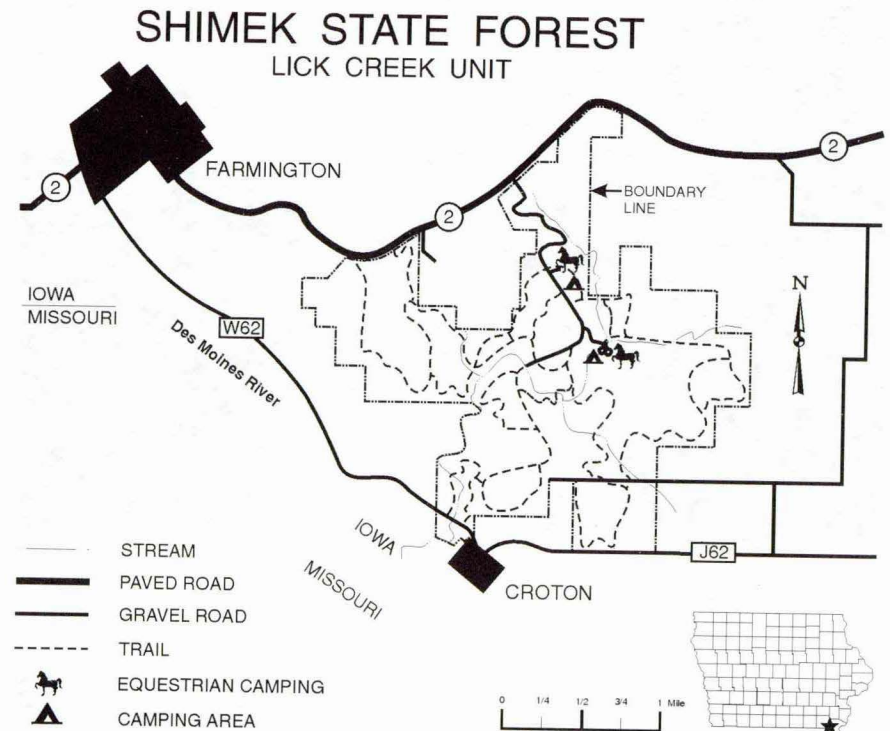
Located in historic southeast Iowa, Shimek State Forest is the largest contiguous stand of forest cover in the state. This 9,200 acre forest is named after Dr. Bohumil Shimek, naturalist, one-time botany department head at the University of Iowa and one of the state's early conservationists.

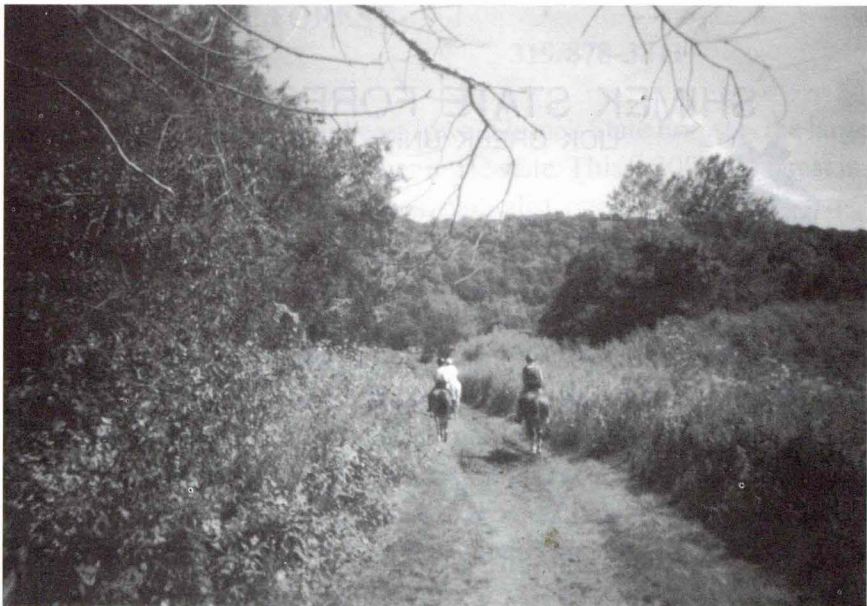
Shimek Forest is managed as a multiple use demonstration area, producing wood for timber products, wildlife habitat and recreation. Timber is properly managed on a rotation basis. An important part of forest management is carrying out cultural practices that provide wildlife habitat, including harvesting trees to provide forest openings, thinning to increase growth of tree foliage, designating and retaining den trees and establishing wildlife food sources.

Equestrian facilities have been developed in the 2,846 acre Lick Creek Unit which include a 35 site non-modern campground and a non-modern saddle club camp area for groups and individuals. Both campgrounds have hitching rails, pit toilets, fire rings and picnic tables. Animals are required to be stabled in the individual stalls provided. Animals may be hitched to trailers for short periods of time for grooming and saddling. A day-use area adjacent to the campground is also available for those not camping. There are 25 miles of equestrian trails which are part of an extensive multi-use trail system. There is a wide variety high quality trails available. Water is available at both campsites and horses may also be watered in Lick Creek, a short distance from both campgrounds and day use area.

Hunting is allowed at Shimek State Forest.

Shimek State Forest is located one mile east of Farmington off of Hwy 2. The Lick Creek Unit entrance is located three miles east of Farmington off Hwy. 2.





ORGANIZED TRAIL RIDING

There are dozens of trail riding groups, saddle clubs and other horse-related organizations in the state that hold trail ride outings. These range from short pleasure rides, to overnight camping trips and competitive events.

Endurance and competitive trail riding, sanctioned by the Upper Midwest Endurance and Competitive Trail Riding Association, is done at some of the public areas in eastern Iowa. The Manchester Riding Club in northeast Iowa has trail rides in their area every couple of weeks.

Competitive trail rides sanctioned by the North American Trail Ride Conference and pleasure rides are held mostly in public areas in central Iowa by the Iowa Trail Riders Association. ITRA has also sponsored 4-H clinics and competitive trail clinics at different locations throughout the state. For more information on these, contact Barb Schmidt at 515/277-7075.

The Iowa Equestrian Trails Council was designed to strengthen communication between equestrians and government officials regarding the provision and maintenance of quality equestrian trails and to provide a contact source for persons interested in supporting these trails. Donations to IETC go towards special trail projects and may be designated for a specific park, recreation area or forest. To support the IETC and for further information, contact Beth Aswegan at 515/367-2331.

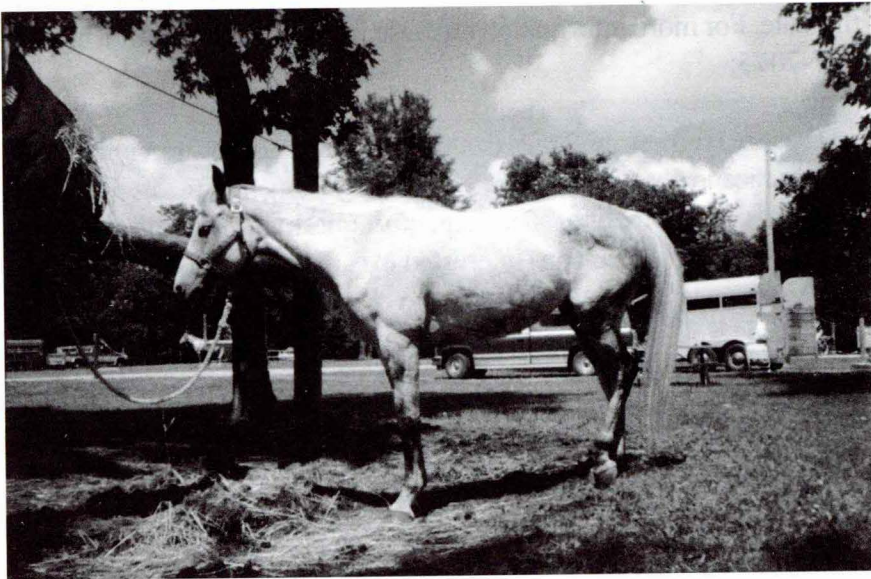
There are numerous other groups that have specialized trail events, volunteer work days and activities at parks and forests with equestrian facilities. Contact the area managers for a schedule. A special events permit must be obtained from the DNR prior to holding an organized event in parks, recreation areas and forests under DNR management.

Ample and diverse trail riding opportunities are provided within the state. Enjoy the beauty of Iowa from equestrian trail riding!

ABOUT THIS TRAIL GUIDE

The Trail Riding in Iowa guidebook was produced as a cooperative effort by several groups and individuals. It is designed to provide information on trail riding opportunities and equestrian camping in the state, with enough details to give readers an idea of the conditions they may expect, before they head out for a trail ride or camping adventure.

For more information on individual parks, a phone number has been provided for each area manager. Individual park, recreation area and forest brochures are available from the DNR office at 515/281-5145 or from the individual areas.



Equestrian Campground at Brushy Creek State Recreation

IOWA EQUESTRIAN TRAILS COUNCIL



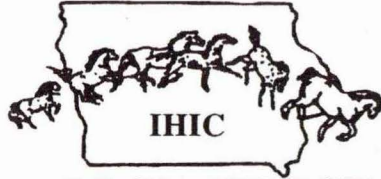
The Iowa Equestrian Trails Council (IETC), a state-wide organization was designed to strengthen communication between equestrians and government officials. The IETC is a small group of trail advocates concerned with the maintenance of existing trails, development of new trails and promoting good will between park staff, workers and other trail users.

The IETC directors hold regular meetings and attend public meetings regarding trails. The IETC's newsletter, Iowa Trailrider, provides news updates, special event dates and general trail riding information.

The IETC supports Iowa equestrian trails through funding projects. Donations to IETC may be designated for a specific park, recreation area or forest, such as the Arena Fund for Brushy Creek in 1994. IETC also organizes and promotes trail riding through the Iowa Horse Fair in cooperation with the DNR.



Rock Creek



IOWA HORSE INDUSTRY COUNCIL

Serving the Horse People of Iowa

- IHIC Annual Horse Fair featuring:
 - The state's largest equine trade show*
 - Recognition of the large variety of horse breeds*
 - Nationally know clinicians*
 - Many youth contests and clinics*
- Educational Seminars
- The Iowa Horse Newsletter
- IHIC Scholarships
- State-wide Directory
- Legislation information affecting horsemen
- Funding for State 4-H and FFA Horse Judging Teams to
- National Contests
- Funding for State 4-H Hippology Team to attend Nationals in Denver
- Funding to expand 4-H video library
- Horse Proclamation Week
- Member of the American Horse Council
- Networking with other state Horse Councils
- Co-Sponsor for providing the *Horse Industry Handbook* in every County Extension Office
- Contributor for printing costs of the DNR's *Trail Riding in Iowa* guidebook

The IHIC is a volunteer based, non-profit organization that believes in the value of horses and horse activities. The IHIC serves and supports the entire horse industry through communication, education and promotion.

IOWA HORSE INDUSTRY COUNCIL

\$5.00 Junior (15 & under) Date of birth: _____
 \$20.00 Breed Groups, Saddle Clubs, Associations, Colleges, Universities

\$7.00 Youth Adult (16- 21) Date of birth: _____
 \$25.00 Bussiness/Professional/Farm/Ranch

\$10.00 Individual Membership
 \$100.00 Individual Lifetime Membership

\$25.00 Family Membership
 New
 Renewal

Name _____

Association/Business Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone: Work () _____ Home () _____ Fax() _____

What are your horse related interests or activities _____

What breed(s) do you own or are interested in? _____

SEND COMPLETED MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TO: BARB ALBERT, 1122 - 198TH ROAD, BOONE, IA 50036

The *Trail Riding Guide* was designed by Ruth Bourgeois, Design Graphics of Boone, Iowa, who donated her time and information from years of trail riding experience. Area maps were provided by the DNR, who was also responsible for the final layout and printing of the guide. The Iowa Equestrian Trails Council provided photos and assisted in the update of the guide. The Iowa Horse Industry Council made a donation to cover a portion of the printing costs.



Trail Riding at Waubonsie State Park



Iowa Department of Natural Resources

502 E. 9th Street

Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

www.state.ia.us/parks

STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA



3 1723 02104 9200

GV
199
T681
2001

Trail Riding In Iowa



*A Guide to Iowa's
Equestrian Trails*