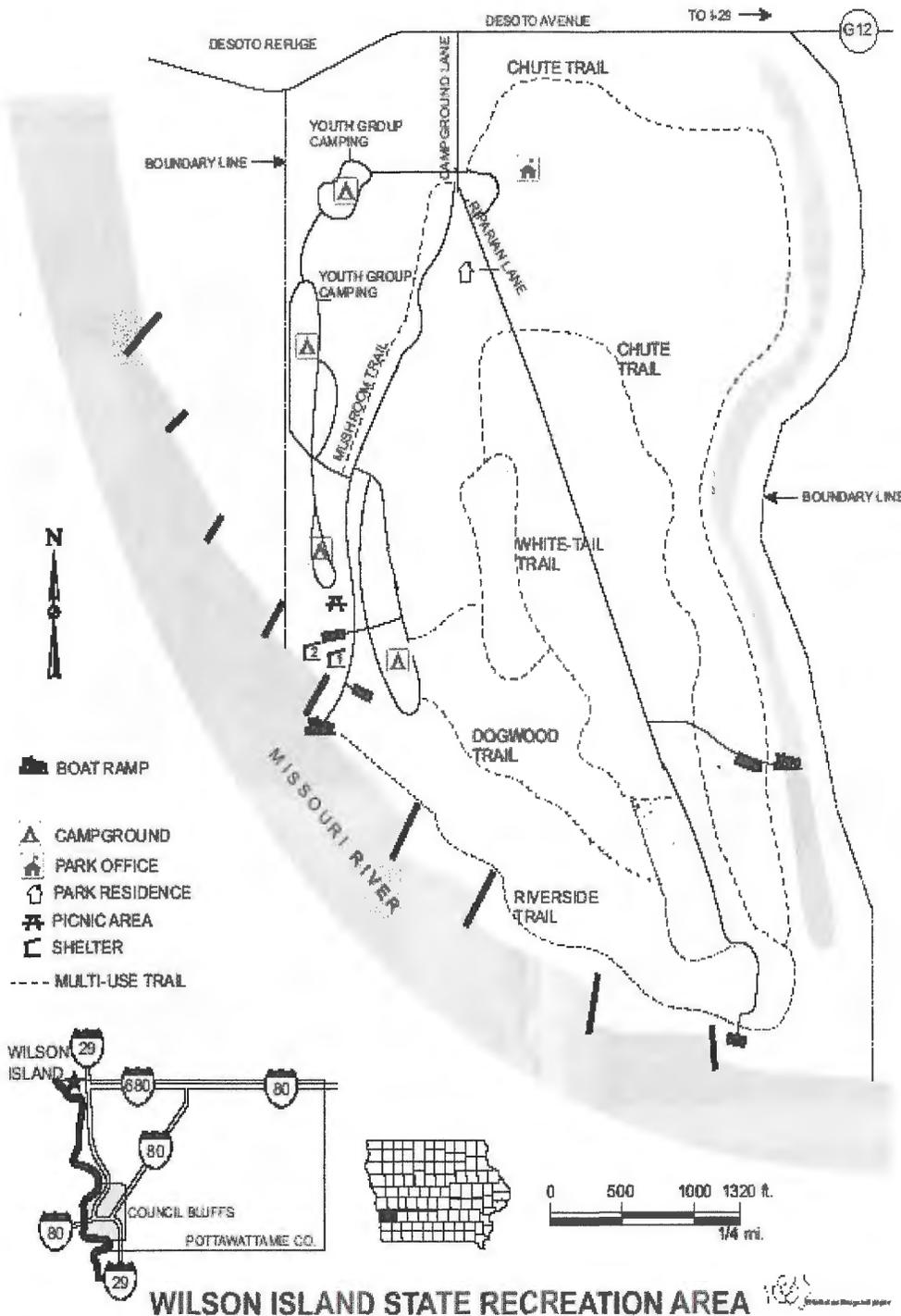




Wilson Island State Recreation Area



32801 Campground Lane
Missouri Valley, IA 51555
712-642-2069
Wilson_Island@dnr.iowa.gov
www.iowadnr.gov



Reservations Campsites and the shelters can be reserved for a fee through the Internet at www.iowastateparks.reserveamericas.com or by calling toll-free **1-877-IA-PARKS**. Half of the campsites are still available on a first come, first serve basis.

**Wilson Island State Recreation Area
Wilson Island Campground**



Picnicking/Shelters A picnic area with shelters is located along the shoreline of the Missouri river. Shelters may be reserved through the reservation system.

Camping Camping is very popular at Wilson Island with 125 spacious campsites. The camp area offers showers, flush toilets, 79 electric campsites, and two youth group camping areas. Firewood may be purchased in the campground. A playground is located near the shower building.

Trails Approximately five miles of trails are used for hiking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and mountain biking.

River Activities A half-mile trail along the shoreline of the Missouri River and boat ramp provide excellent access to the river. An Iowa or Nebraska fishing license is required for fishing the Missouri River. An Iowa license is needed for the backwater chute.

Hunting The entire area, except for the campgrounds and 200 yards around homes is open to hunting. Deer hunting and duck hunting in the backwater area are the primary sports.

Mushroom Hunting Morel Mushroom hunting is a popular activity in the spring. The entire area is open but parking along roadways is prohibited.

Desoto Wildlife Refuge Immediately north of Wilson Island is the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge is open to the public one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset year round. The DeSoto Visitor Center, open year-round 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., displays artifacts of the sunken steamboat Bertrand and programs depicting Missouri River and wildlife conservation history. For further information contact the refuge at ph. 712-388-4800.

Nearby Towns Missouri Valley, Iowa is located 11 miles northeast of Wilson Island. The Omaha-Council Bluffs metropolitan area is located 25 miles south of the park.

History

Wilson Island, named after former Governor George Wilson, came into existence as an island sandbar around 1900. Today, Wilson Island State Recreation Area encompasses 544 acres of dense cottonwood stands. Seclusion is one of the area's greatest assets and spacious shady campsites, hiking trails and picnic spots provide a welcome retreat. On the way to Wilson Island, visitors will see the unique wave-like loess hills, which overlook the great Missouri River flood plain. These rugged hills are found along the Missouri River Valley in Iowa and Missouri. Early history tells us that Lewis and Clark camped on this reach of the Missouri River in 1804 on their historic trip to and from the Pacific Coast.



- Campground hours: 4:00am-10:30 pm
- At 10:30 pm quiet hours start and visitors must leave
- No driving off or parking along roadways
- All pets must be on a leash
- Chainsaw use is prohibited
- For complete regulations refer to rate and regulation brochure