

Get full details, make reservations,
and learn about activities at
Matsell Bridge Natural Area and all Linn
County Conservation facilities at
LinnCountyParks.com



Natural resource protection and management continues to be a priority for Linn County Conservation. Matsell Bridge, the largest natural area in Linn County with nearly 2000 acres, provides unique habitat for many species of wildlife with woodlands, prairies and wetlands. Public hunting and trapping is allowed in season for some locations. The nearby Wapsipinicon River is known not only for its diversity of aquatic life, but several recreational opportunities.

Matsell Bridge is named for George W. Matsell, a New York City Chief of Police from 1845-1857, who owned nearly 4,000 acres at one time in this area. He built a mansion and other buildings starting in 1856 near the present-day equestrian area. Today, only the icehouse remains.

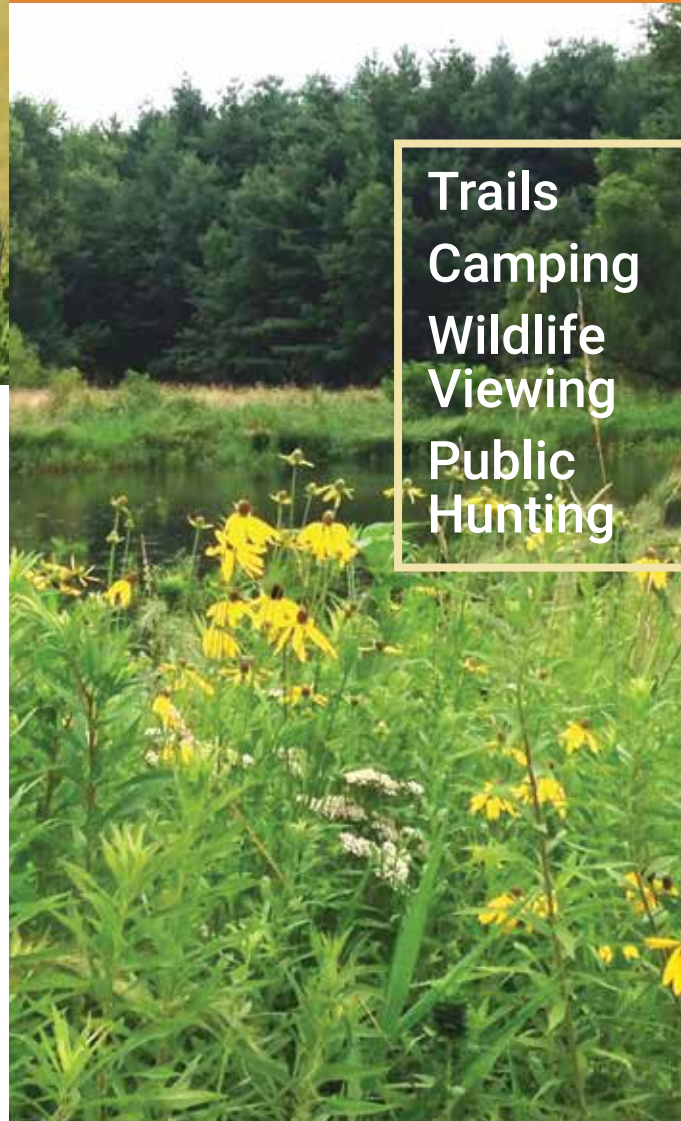


Americans with Disabilities Act

The Linn County Conservation Board intends to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and all other local, state and federal laws pertaining to equal treatment. If anyone believes he or she has been subject to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability, they may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Linn County Conservation Board or the Office for Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

MATSELL BRIDGE NATURAL AREA

LINNCOUNTYPARKS.COM



Trails
Camping
Wildlife
Viewing
Public
Hunting



Questions, comments or
more information, phone
(319) 892-6450 or email at
Conservation@LinnCounty.org



Camping



PRIMITIVE CAMPING ALONG THE WAPSIPINICON RIVER | 15 campsites include 2 pack-in or paddle-in areas. No electricity or water is available on site. Each site has a picnic table and fire ring. This campground is first come-first served. Mount Hope, located along Stone City Road just west of Stone City, has 6 primitive sites.

EQUESTRIAN CAMPING | This campground for equine enthusiasts features hitching posts with direct access to the 12+ miles of equestrian/multi-use trails within the Matsell Bridge Natural Area.



This campground is first come-first served. No electricity or water is available on site.

WATER AND FIREWOOD | Potable water (April–October) and a self-serve firewood box (year round) is available next to the maintenance shop at 3742 Matsell Park Road.

RIVER ACCESS | A concrete boat ramp is provided for access to the Wapsipinicon River. It is approximately a 3-hour float for paddlers to historic Stone City.

Red Oak Cabin



Located on a bluff overlooking the Wapsipinicon River, this 20 x 29 ft. cabin is located approximately ½ mile from the parking area at the shooting range. The opportunity to “get away from it all” and the primitive amenities (no electricity or water) makes Red Oak Cabin a popular destination, especially in the winter. This cabin includes two sets of bunk beds that can sleep 6. This is a hike-in only facility. Visit LinnCountyParks.com to link to the Annual Permit. For more details or to reserve this cabin, click on “facilities” at LinnCountyParks.com

Trails



Over 12 miles of multi-use trails provide opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, biking and cross-country skiing. Trails are open year round. Horses are not allowed on the designated trails for them during December firearms deer-hunting season.



Shooting Range

The Matsell Bridge Shooting Range, at 200 Range Lane, features a 200, 100, and the pistol only 50 and 15-yard ranges. The 50-yard range was developed in partnership with the Linn County Sheriff's Department, Marion Police Department and Linn County Pistol Club. The 50-yard range is occasionally reserved for law enforcement training or Pistol Club public shoots. For a full list of rules, details regarding hours, and the calendar showing 50-yard range reservations, please visit LinnCountyParks.com.

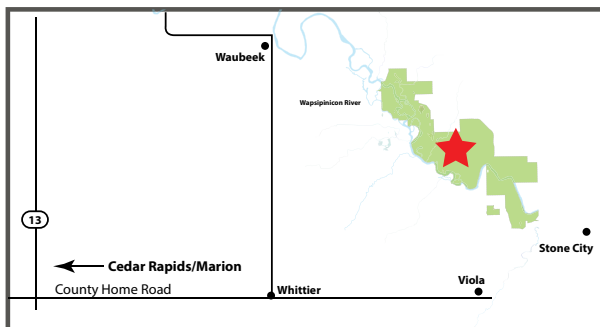
A Paid Permit is Required. An individual or family may purchase a day permit onsite, or an annual permit online. Visit the website LinnCountyParks.com to link to the Annual Permit.



MATSELL BRIDGE NATURAL AREA

Rules to Remember

1. Matsell Bridge Natural Area is open from 4:00 AM until 10:30 PM. Some roads and public access areas may be closed due to weather conditions and season.
2. Keep all vehicles on roadways.
3. Build fires in designated areas only.
4. Do not litter; carry out your trash.
5. Trail usage may include hiking, skiing, biking and horse riding. Please respect other users.
6. Horses must stay on designated trails. During December firearms deer season, horses are not allowed on the trails.



Matsell Bridge Natural Area

Linn County, Iowa

