







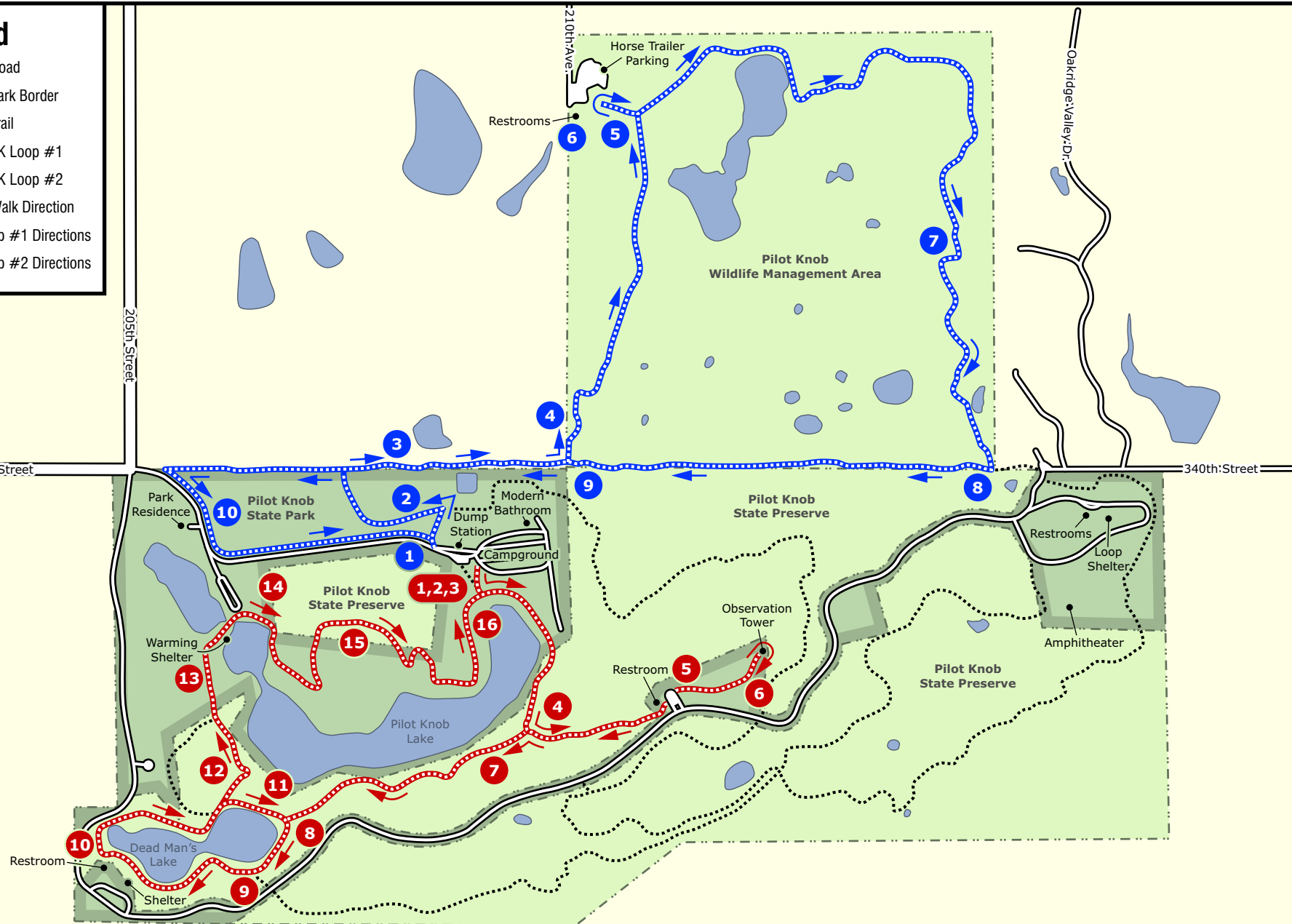


# Legend

-  Road
-  Park Border
-  Trail
-  5K Loop #1
-  5K Loop #2
-  Walk Direction
-  5K Loop #1 Directions
-  5K Loop #2 Directions



## Pilot Knob State Park 5K Loops

Hancock County & Winnebago County, Iowa



# Pilot Knob State Park 5K Loops

43.254086, -93.559312

2148 340th Street, Forest City, IA 50436

## 5K Loop #1 (red trails)

To start the walk, drive from the Ranger Station to the campground visitor parking. Turn right from the Ranger Station entrance, bear left at the Y and park on the right across from the RV Dump Station. The only modern restrooms in the park are in the campground. Long pants and walking sticks are recommended especially for Loop #2. The 700-acre Pilot Knob State Park is one of the oldest units in the state park system. It was dedicated in 1923. 5K Loop #1 (Red trail)

**1.** Facing the Campground Kiosk, turn right and walk to the movie screen.

**2.** Enter the trail left of the screen.

**3.** Left on the Plum Alley Trail.

**4.** Left at Tower Trail #1 to Tower Trail #3.  
(Restrooms available)

**5.** Cross parking lot and continue up the hill on Tower Connector Trail. *The tower built by the Civilian Conservation Corps [CCC] in the summer of 1934. offers great views of the countryside.*

**6.** Turn around and return to intersection of Tower Trail #1, Plum Alley Trail #1 and Lake View Trail #3.

**7.** Left on Lake View Trail. Pilot Knob Lake will be on your right.

**8.** Left on Deadman's Trail. Deadman's lake will be on your right. *Deadman's Lake is a four-acre floating sphagnum bog, only one of its kind in Iowa. Has three species of pond lilies, one found nowhere else in Iowa.*

**9.** Pass the steps going up to the road.

**10.** Restrooms available at the Stone Shelter.

**11.** Continue on Deadman's Trail. Go completely around Deadman's Lake, passing Dead Man's Trail #s 3, 4, & 5 and back past the Stone Shelter a second time.

**12.** Left at the Forked Trail #4 sign. (By DM #4)

**13.** Follow Fork Trail to the Warming Shelter.

**14.** Bear Right after the Warming Shelter keeping Pilot Knob Lake on your right. *The 15-acre man-made lake offers fishing and boating with electric motors. It is a popular site for ice skating.*

**15.** Right on Plum Alley Trail.

**16.** Left at Plum Alley Trail #3 back to Campground Kiosk.

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## 5K Loop #2 (blue trails)

1. With your back to the Campground Kiosk walk straight ahead past the RV Dump Station. Enter the trail to the right of the Speed Limit 20 Sign.
2. Left at the gate Equestrian Trail #10.
3. Right on East/West Trail (EQ #11).
4. Pass the Private Property sign and signs for hunters.
5. Left at Horse Trailer Parking sign onto the McGrady Trail. (You will return to this spot.) *The Pilot Knob Recreation Area is available for public hunting, horseback riding, hiking, and snowmobiling.*
6. Restrooms available at the Horse Trailer Parking area to the left.
7. Continue on the McGrady Trail as it meanders up and down through the Recreational area. *(At any time, if you feel the trail becomes too difficult to continue, turn around and retrace your steps.)*
8. Right on East/West Trail back to the Hunter signs you saw before.
9. Continue on East/West trail past EQ#11 sign to entrance road to campground (EW #1).
10. Left on road. Walk on the left side of the road facing traffic back to the finish.