

Hardscrabble Wildlife Area

(3165 275th Ave, Hopkinton, Iowa)

The Hardscrabble Wildlife Area is located 1.5 miles southwest of Hopkinton in section 24 and 25 of South Fork Township (T87N-R-4W) Delaware County, Iowa.

In 1964 Delaware County Conservation purchased 42.5 acres and established what is now the Hardscrabble Wildlife Area. This is a narrow tract of land running for over a mile along the bluffs overlooking the Maquoketa River.

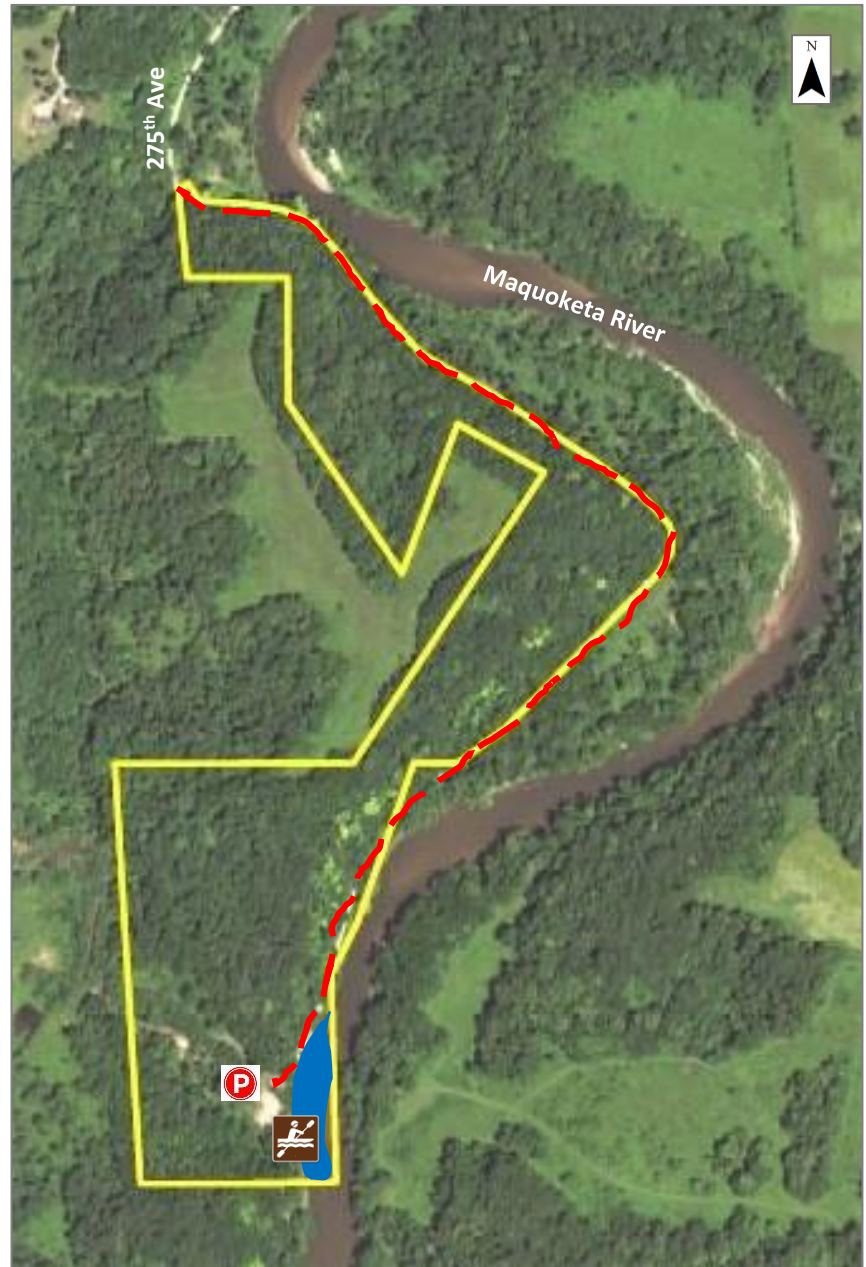
The entrance road (275th Ave) and the Maquoketa River forms the east boundary, with limestone bluffs rising 90 feet above the road. In addition, the area consists of short, steep ravines making it unsuitable for farming.

The diverse flora and fauna help protect this fragile area from erosion. Walking ferns can be found along the north faces of the rock outcropping as well as a diverse hardwood timber covering the entire area.

Upland wildlife found in the area are:

- Deer
- Turkey
- Squirrel
- Raccoon
- Furbearers

A point of interest known as Wildcat Rock is located on the northern edge of the property. Who knows maybe a bobcat or two can still be found here.



Acres: 44.3
Habitat: 44.3 ac. Upland/Forest
Oak, Hickory, Walnut, Butternut, Honey Locust and Elm
Species: Deer, Turkey, Squirrel, Raccoon and other Furbearers

Open to hunting and trapping according to DNR seasons

Legend

- Parking Area
- County Road
- River
- Property Boundary
- Canoe/Kayak Access

In 2019, Delaware County Conservation received a 1.8 acre land donation from the Gates Family. This adjoining parcel is an addition to the parking lot on the southeast corner of the property giving the public access to the Maquoketa River. In 2020, through a grant from the Dubuque Racing Association, County Conservation plans to install a kayak/canoe launch to the river.

Paddlers who put in at Dunlap Park at Hopkinton can do a short 1.8 mile trip to the Hardscrabble Access or those wanting a longer day on the river can launch here and travel to Monticello or further down river to Picture Rocks Access.

Hardscrabble Wildlife Area provides a diversity of outdoor opportunities for public recreation and enjoyment.



Delaware County Conservation

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