



Great Blue Heron

flathead catfish, carp, gar, and once in a while, a walleye.

Bring your fishing poles. The Nishnabotna River is always changing, so good fishing holes pop up everywhere. Fish from the canoe, the sandbar, or the bank-you're sure to catch something. Fish species include

homed owl down the river.

possible sightings include: songbirds, white tail deer, beaver, turtles, coyotes, shorebirds, spiders, and insects such as mosquitoes and flies, so don't forget the insect repellent. It's not uncommon to follow a great blue heron, or a

provide excellent habitat.

after, pack your binoculars and field guides and try to count the number of species you see. The river is lined in several spots with wooded areas, which

If relaxation and wildlife viewing is what you are

Fish and wildlife

establishments are also within a short walk of the water trail in each community.

Pack a lunch and make it a day trip. Picnicking and numerous other activities are available near all of the water trail accesses. Camping is also available in each of the communities. Restrooms, water and food

the season, with a sandy and occasionally muddy bottom."

As Nate Hoogveen describes in *Padding In Iowa*,

"Expect no dramatic bluffs or fast water on the West Nishnabotna - it is a very lazily meandering, tree-lined prairie stream, typically brown as cocoa for much of

What to Expect

Safety on the River

Although the Nishnabotna is generally a safe and easy river to navigate, there are some things you need to know:

- Always use your life jacket! Accidents happen, even in shallow water. **Remember, it doesn't work if you don't wear it!**
- Other safety apparel includes: footwear to guard against walking on sharp rocks and other objects; clothing that will protect against rain, sun or cold weather; sunscreen, sunglasses and a hat. **Pack a first aid case - just in case.**

Following periods of heavy rain or snowmelt, the Nishnabotna becomes challenging. Do not attempt to canoe the river when it is quickly rising, or is at or near flood stage.

While navigating the river in a canoe, watch for rocks and logs just below the surface. Look for a "V"-shaped current that marks the best water flow between objects.

Pay attention to the riverbank. Most stretches of river have a "cutbank" side where the current is eroding the riverbank and a "deposition" side where sand and silt are being deposited. You may want to keep to the cutbank side where there is less of a chance of getting stuck on the sand or mud. (Caution: entrance and exit points may be muddy.) However, if the current is moving quickly into a fallen tree, logjam or rock pile, it's best to walk or carry the canoe safely along the shallows or sandbars.

- If you happen to tip a canoe and become swamped, stay on the upstream side of the canoe and walk it to shore or calm shallows before getting back in. Never position yourself in the water between a canoe and a downstream obstacle. **A canoe can exert a lot of force as it is swept into an object.**

- We recommend taking a cell phone in a water-proof bag. In case of emergency, call 911.



Common Carp

Channel Catfish



Muskrat

Nate Hoogveen, Author *Padding In Iowa*

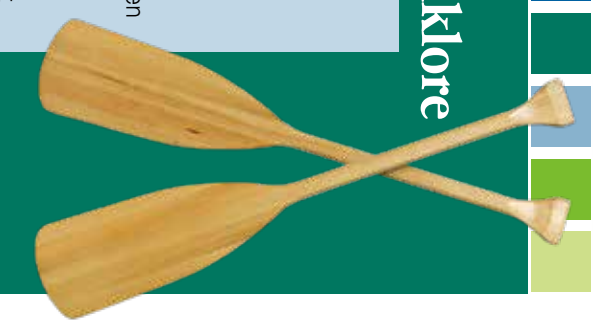
In any case, early explorers had a difficult time spelling it, scribbling anything from "Nishnay Baton" to "Ichinpokina."

"crossed in a canoe," referring to the river's depth at the time, but it also may have meant something more like "river where canoes are built." One Mormon record said it meant "good canoeing river."

The singsong word Nishnabotna derives from a Native American utterance that scholars agree has something to do with canoeing. The word may have been Sioux, or it may have been Ojibwe.

Nishnabotna MEANS Canoeing

Nishnabotna Folklore



WattaWay to See Pottawattamie County (712) 482-3029 www.wattawayiowa.com friends@westnishnabotna.com facebook.com/WestNishWaterTrail/

Please do not harm any of the wildlife!

- OTHER:**
- Fossils
 - Animal Tracks

- FISH:**
- Gar
 - Carp
 - Channel Catfish
 - Flathead Catfish
 - Minnows
 - Walleye

- INSECTS AND INVERTEBRATES:**
- Spider Web
 - Water Beetle
 - Butterfly
 - Leech
 - Mosquito
 - Crayfish
 - Clam (alive)
 - Dragonfly
 - Damselfly

- REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS:**
- Fox Snake
 - Garter Snake
 - Northern Water Snake
 - Bull Snake
 - Tadpoles
 - Frog or Toad
 - Bull Frog
 - Painted Turtle
 - Smooth Soft-Shell
 - Turtle
 - Leopard Frog

- BIRDS:**
- Wood Duck
 - Great Blue Heron
 - Bald Eagle
 - Goldfinch
 - Killdeer
 - Bank Swallow
 - Belted Kingfisher
 - Green Heron
 - Pileated Woodpecker
 - Canada Goose



Belted Kingfisher

Water Trail Checklist:

- MAMMALS:**
- Woodchuck
 - Raccoon (tracks)
 - Bat
 - Muskrat
 - Fox Squirrel
 - White-tailed Deer
 - Beaver

West Nishnabotna River Water Trail Pottawattamie County, Iowa

Made possible through the efforts of the following agencies and organizations:

- IDNR Water Trails
- Iowa West Foundation
- Schildberg Foundation
- Pottawattamie County Conservation Board
- East Pottawattamie County Soil & Water Conservation District
- WattaWay to See Pottawattamie County
- Iowa Tourism Office
- Council Bluffs Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Golden Hills RC&D



This project paid for in part by the Iowa Tourism Office



Access # 185

ENTRY POINTS CONTACT INFORMATION:

- Memorial Park, City of Avoca, Avoca, IA 51521 (712) 343-2424 • www.cityofavoca.com
- Botna Bend Park 42926 Mahogany Road, Hancock, IA 51536 (712) 741-5465 • www.pottcoconservation.com
- Chautauqua City Park, City of Oakland 101 North Main Street, Oakland, IA 51560 (712) 482-6811 • www.cityofoaklandiowa.com
- Millstone City Park, City of Carson 316 S. Commercial Street, Carson, IA 51525 (712) 484-3636 • www.carsonia.com
- Old Town Park (Contact Botna Bend Park)

MORE INFORMATION:

- Western Iowa Development Association 1911 N. LaVista Heights Road, Avoca, IA 51521 (712) 343-6368 • www.wida.org
- Pottawattamie County Conservation Board 223 South 6th Street • Council Bluffs, IA 51501 (712) 328-5638 • www.pottcoconservation.com
- Council Bluffs Convention & Visitors Bureau 400 Willow Ave, Ste 2C • Council Bluffs, IA 51503 (844) 271-6909 • www.unleashcb.com

OUTFITTERS:

- Rubber Duck Outfitters (402) 201-6776 • www.rubberduckoutfitters.com

tubes, tanks, canoes & kayak rentals

UPDATED 3-2018

West Nishnabotna River Water Trail

Access points in the Western Iowa communities of Avoca, Hancock, Oakland, Carson and Macedonia



to see Pottawattamie County

(712) 482-3029 • wattawayiowa.com

WEST NISHNABOTNA RIVER WATER TRAIL

Legend

- West Nishnabotna River
- City & County Parks
- River Mile Markers
- Canoe & Kayak Rentals
- Carry-Down Access
- Camping
- Open Shelter
- Restroom Facilities
- Drinking Water
- Cities
- Interstate
- Highway
- County Route

0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles

Access Points

Access Point	River Mile	Distance to Next Access	Camping	GPS
				Latitude Longitude
Edgington Memorial Park	3 (E. Branch)	8 mi	No	41.4769 -95.3296
Botna Bend County Park	66	8 mi	Yes	41.3918 -95.3688
Chautauqua City Park	58	7 mi	Yes	41.3057 -95.4035
Millstone City Park	51	4 mi	Yes	41.2368 -95.4251
Old Towne County Park	47	N/A	Yes	41.1956 -95.4486

