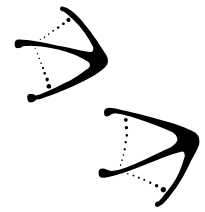


# ANKENY NWR TRAILS

## Trail Descriptions



### **Eagle Marsh Kiosk**

**Open: Year Round**

On the south side of Buena Vista Rd, the kiosk looks out onto Eagle Marsh. Eagle Marsh is the biggest marsh on the refuge and provides viewing opportunities of many species. Canada geese, cinnamon teal, and northern pintail are a few of the waterfowl you might see. Shorebirds like to spend time feeding along the edges of the marsh. You might see osprey and bald eagles flying high above looking for food. This is a great place for kids and adults who want to see various native wildlife species. There are great interpretive signs at the kiosk that describe the seasons on the marsh.

### **Ankeny Overlook**

**Open: Year Round**

The Ankeny overlook is located on the south side of Ankeny Hill Rd. The overlook is a great place to get a good view of the entire refuge. Take a look at the different marshes, crop fields and wetlands that are on the refuge. There are great interpretive signs at the overlook that provide information about the refuge. Look towards the sky and you might see a turkey vulture soaring high about the fields. Public restrooms are located at the Ankeny Overlook.

### **Pintail & Egret Marsh Boardwalk**

**Length: .25 miles**

**Open: Year Round**

The boardwalk begins at a parking area on the north side of Wintel Rd. An interpretive sign at the turnout describes Pintail and Egret Marshes. The boardwalk follows a creek where red-legged frogs are often seen. Stop along the way and read the boardwalk's interpretive signs. You will learn about many different animals that utilize marsh habitats. At the end of the boardwalk there is an observation blind that looks out onto Pintail and Egret Marshes. If you are real quite you may see many types of ducks, Canada geese, great blue herons, and egrets. Red-tailed hawks and turkey vultures are often seen soaring in the sky.



### **Rail Trail to Observation Blind**

**Length: .75 mile**

**Open: Year Round**

The start of Rail Trail is at a parking area on the south side of Wintel Rd. Here there is an information kiosk with maps and information about Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge. The boardwalk takes you through an Oregon Ash wetland. This wetland floods in the winter and dries out in the summer. Look closely into the wetland and you might see a frog floating at the surface. Stop at one of the benches and listen for black-capped chickadees and spotted towhee. There are many interpretive signs along the boardwalk that are well worth the stop to read. At the end of the trail there is an observation blind that looks out onto Wood Duck Pond. Wood ducks and hooded mergansers are often seen on the pond. Great blue herons, Canada geese, egrets and many shorebirds can be seen from the blinds. Turn around and head back the way you came. Keep a look out, you might see something you missed the first time.

### **Rail Trail Loop**

**Length: Various**

**Open: April 1<sup>st</sup> - Sept 30<sup>th</sup>**

Rail Trail loop continues on from the observational blind on the Rail Trail boardwalk. The boardwalk continues to wrap around wood duck pond. Here you can get a closer view of ducks and geese that are wading on the water. The boardwalk ends at a dike and here is where you have some options.....

You can head straight across the dike and walk along a trail that takes you into a forest habitat. Listen for birds singing on the branches. This is a enjoyable trail to do in the summertime because most of the trail is under the forest canopy. After hiking about a quarter mile you come out of the forest onto a dike. Take a right and walk along the dike another quarter mile back to the boardwalk junction.

If you would like to see another pond we have on the refuge turn left when the boardwalk ends and follow the dike along Dunlin Pond. Here you can see great blue herons and egrets wading in the water. Look towards the edges of the pond to see if there are shorebirds feeding on the mudflats. This trail will loop around and connect you back to where the boardwalk begins on Rail Trail. This three quarter mile loop from the observation blind is best in the early morning or evening due to lack of shade.

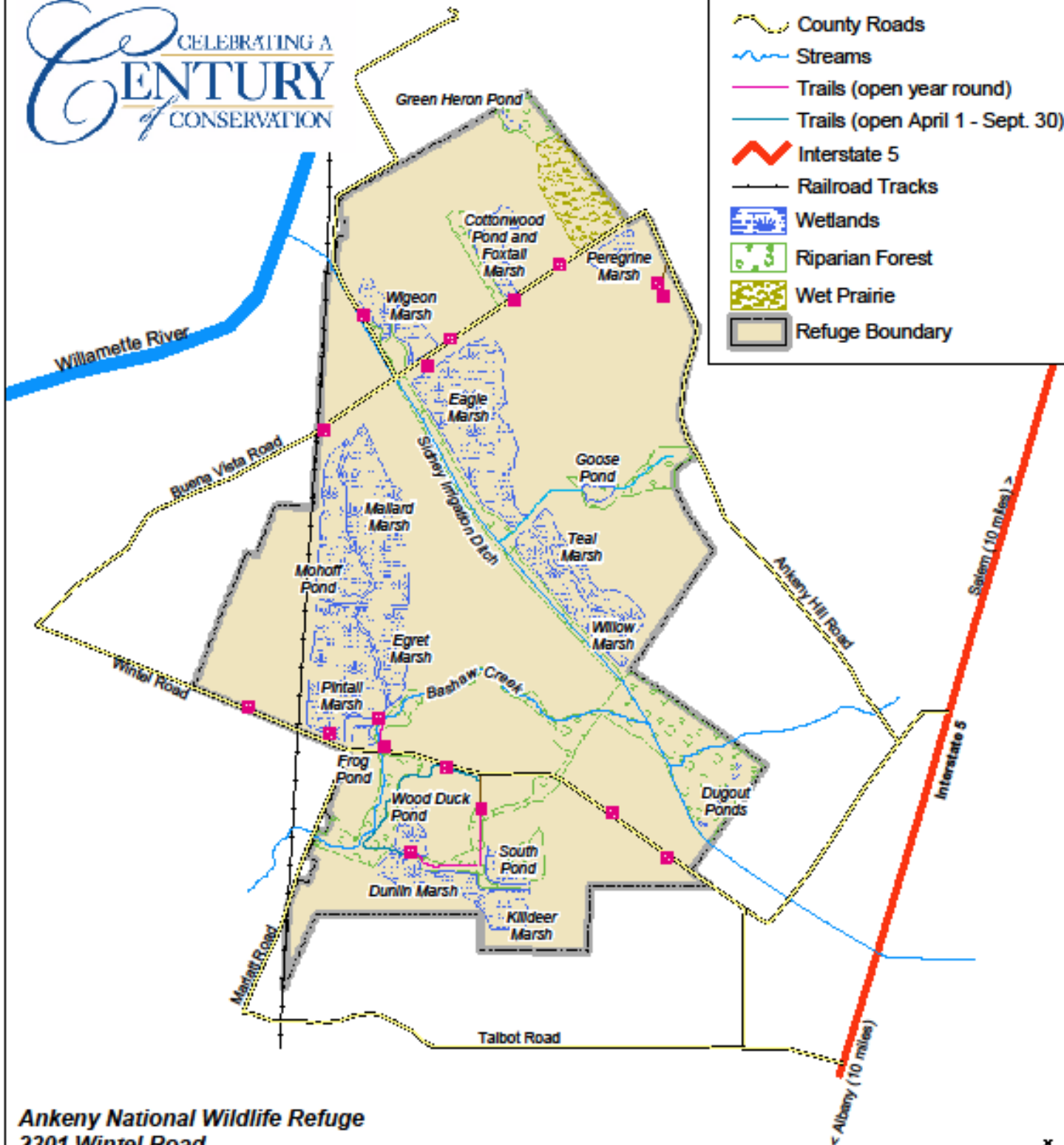




CELEBRATING A  
**CENTURY**  
of CONSERVATION

### Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge: Public Use Facilities

- Trailhead
- Wildlife Viewing Sites
- Restroom
- County Roads
- Streams
- Trails (open year round)
- Trails (open April 1 - Sept. 30)
- Interstate 5
- Railroad Tracks
- Wetlands
- Riparian Forest
- Wet Prairie
- Refuge Boundary



**Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge**  
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