



FROM ROCK QUARRY TO BEAUTIFUL STATE PARK

Edness K. Wilkins State Park is a serene day-use park located 6 miles east of Casper off Interstate 25, where families, nature lovers and those looking for solitude can enjoy the huge cottonwoods as they cast reflections on the historic North Platte River and lend shade to visitors. With its sandy beach, the pond is an oasis in the summer months and the North Platte River provides a natural habitat for wildlife, fishing, canoeing and rafting.

The park is named after Edness Kimball Wilkins, a 25-year Wyoming legislator and area resident who died in 1980 at the age of 84. In 1981, the land was purchased and almost entirely funded with General Fund monies. The purchase price was approximately \$380,000.

Containing 362 acres, Edness K. Wilkins State Park was once nothing but a rock quarry. However, since master planning began in 1982, the area has taken on a massive transformation. Initial efforts focused on the installation of a road system and parking areas. Plantings, seeding and pruning improved the vegetation in the area. Barriers, fencing and signage allowed for continued use of designated roads, while certain areas returned to their natural state. Like the master potter with a lump of unworked clay, the designers, planners and operators combined their energies to provide

citizens with one of the most attractive small parks in the Wyoming state park system.

Today, a visitor can utilize picnic tables, grills, group shelters, playgrounds and a launching ramp for canoes or rafts. The handicapped accessible fishing pier – the only one like it in the state – has become one of the finest amenities provided to visitors. An additional 2.8 miles of handicapped accessible hard-surfaced paths provide visitors with an opportunity to view some of the best wildlife in the area. Anglers can try their luck fishing in the North Platte River. Swimmers can take a refreshing dip at the park swimming area.

BIRDS, BIRDS, BIRDS

This park is a gem for birdwatchers looking to add to their life lists. The park contains several different habitats: it offers a river, as well as a cottonwood grove and open areas. Therefore, many bird varieties are drawn to the park year-round.

In a cooperative effort with the Wyoming Game & Fish Department, a variety of nesting ponds and wildlife viewing blinds have been developed in conjunction with the Wyoming Wildlife Worth the Watching program. A riparian habitat area for water-type birds has been included.

The local chapter of the National Audubon Society has identified over 50 different kinds of nesting birds and a list of more than 200 different species of smaller birds. It is possible to see yellow billed cuckoos, cormorants, bald eagles, golden eagles, sharp shinned hawks and as many as 16 species of ducks. In 2004, the chapter designated EKW as an Important Bird Area.

As you walk along the paths through the park, notice the many bird houses placed on trees at strategic heights to attract specific birds. Patient bird watchers may be rewarded with sightings of birds from both the eastern and western areas of the United States.

PARK RULES

- Motorized vehicles must operate on designated roads and trails only. A valid driver's license or permit is required.
- All pets must be kept on a leash and remain in designated areas.
- No motorized boats allowed in the ponds.
- No fishing allowed in the swimming pond.
- Obey posted signs, traffic barriers and speed limits.
- The use of firearms and fireworks is prohibited.
- Parks closed between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.
- No digging or leveling of ground.
- Unauthorized camping, including motorhomes, is not permitted within the state park.
- Park dumpsters are for park refuse only – litter and trash must be disposed of in provided containers.
- Bicycles are restricted to the roadways and paved trails only (no off-road).
- Destroying or removing any tree, shrub or plant is prohibited.
- Metal detectors are prohibited.
- For a complete listing of state park rules and regulations, visit the nearest Park Headquarters.

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Edness Kimball Wilkins State Park provides many handicapped-accessible amenities. The Park features 2.8 miles of handicapped-accessible hard-surfaced paths and a handicapped-accessible fishing pier, the only one like it in the state.

PARK FEES

An annual daily use permit is available for both residents and non-residents, and valid for the holder and occupants of the holder's vehicle. Without the annual daily use permit, visitors must pay daily use fees.

WYOMING STATE PARKS, HISTORIC SITES & TRAILS

Edness K. Wilkins State Park



Birdwatching, hiking, fishing and relaxing are just a few of the many ways you can enjoy your stay.

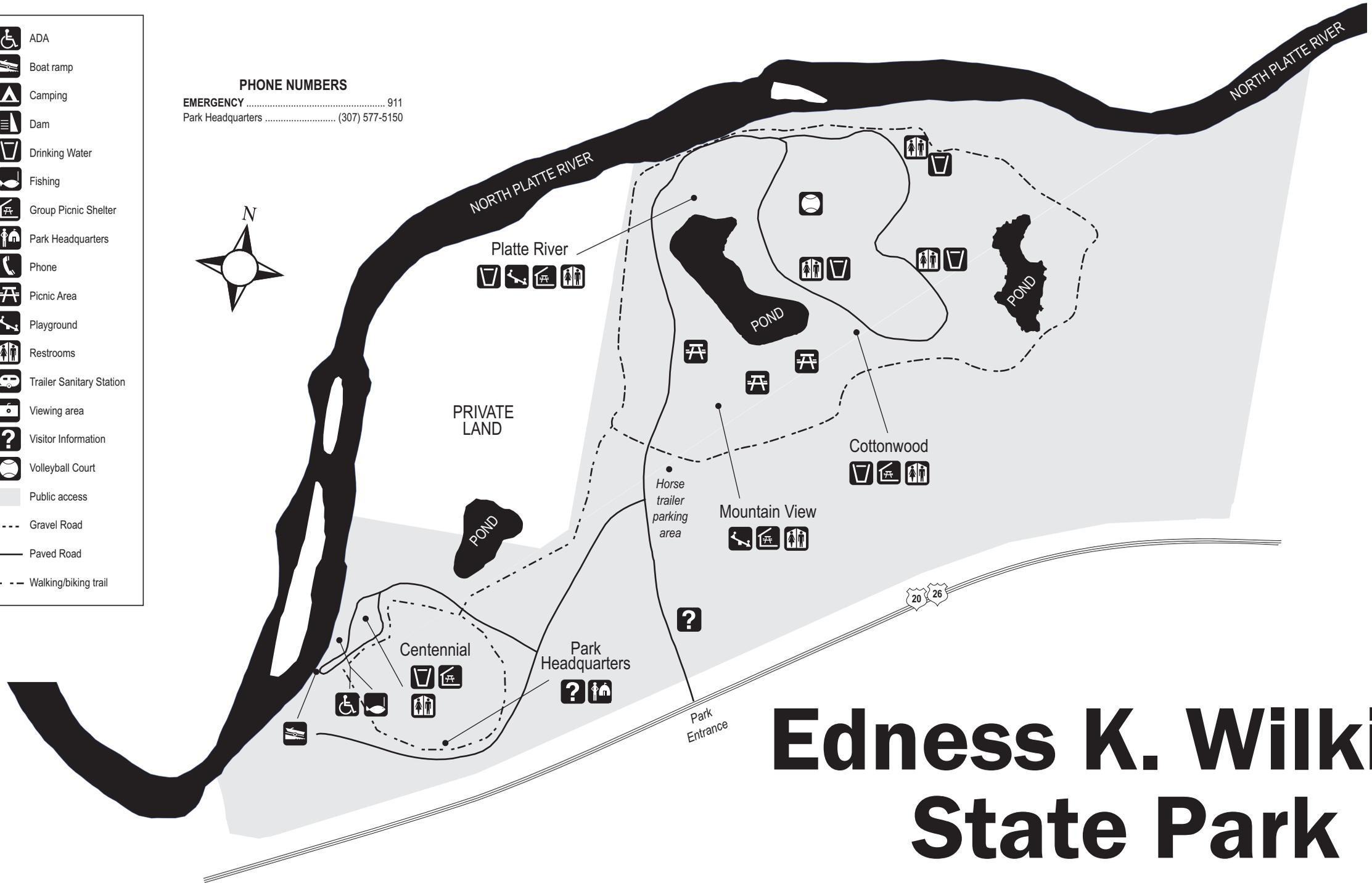
ARTS. PARKS. HISTORY.

Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources

Edness K. Wilkins State Park is administered by the Division of State Parks and Historic Sites, Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources. <http://wyoparks.state.wy.us/>

- ADA
- Boat ramp
- Camping
- Dam
- Drinking Water
- Fishing
- Group Picnic Shelter
- Park Headquarters
- Phone
- Picnic Area
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Trailer Sanitary Station
- Viewing area
- Visitor Information
- Volleyball Court
- Public access
- Gravel Road
- Paved Road
- Walking/biking trail

PHONE NUMBERS
 EMERGENCY 911
 Park Headquarters (307) 577-5150



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