



## **MINES OF SPAIN STATE RECREATION AREA**

8991 Bellevue Hts, Dubuque, IA 52003

Welcome to the Mines of Spain State Recreation Area, the crown jewel of Dubuque County, and where it all began in Iowa. The Mines of Spain is your stop for learning about the cultural history and the natural resources of eastern Iowa. Whether you are here to bird watch or hike the trails, we hope you will enjoy your stay at the 1439 acre Mines of Spain

### **PARK AMENITIES/POINTS OF INTEREST/THINGS TO DO**

Julien Dubuque, credited as the first European to settle in Iowa (1788), received a land grant from the Governor of Spain in 1796. The grant gave Dubuque permission to work the 189-square mile area owned by Spain and named the "Mines of Spain." Lead mining was a major part of this area's history, first by Native Americans, and later (late 1830s through the 1850s) by European miners and farmers. The Civil War renewed lead mining activity for a while, but it eventually ended in 1914.

Today, Mines of Spain State Recreation Area consists of 1,439 acres of forests and prairies along 3 miles of Mississippi River shoreline. Points of interest include the Julien Dubuque Monument constructed in 1897 and the Horseshoe Bluff Interpretive Area consisting of rock cliffs, a wetland and prairies. The E. B. Lyons Interpretive Center serves as your visitor center with exhibits and displays about the history and nature of the area. The center is a scenic byway center on the Great River Road. The America's State Tree Woodland Walk has trees planted representing the 50 states. Join our interpreters for nature and history-related programs and hikes all year long.

The area has 16.5 miles of trails designated as "National Recreational Trails; that extend throughout the park. There are 14 individual trails interconnected to create one long trail. The trails take you through a variety of habitats, from wetland areas in the Horseshoe Bluff area to forests and tallgrass prairies throughout. A keen observer will likely see some of the wildlife species that reside in these various habitats. The trails are a combination of grass, crushed rock and stairs. During the winter months, 3.5 miles of the trails are groomed for cross-country skiing. Grooming is done for inline and skate skiing.

The area has limited facilities. Rest rooms are located at the E. B. Lyons Interpretive Center and the Horseshoe Bluff area. Bring drinking water along on your hike. Drinking water is only available at the interpretive center.

The Mines of Spain is designated as the Julien Dubuque's National Historic Landmark, Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area Partner Site, Watchable Wildlife Area, Important Birding Area, a National Wildlife Federation Area, and Catfish Creek State Preserve.

### **SPECIAL PARK RULES**

Limited deer hunting is allowed in portions of the recreation area. Ask for a map and rules at the Interpretive Center. Trails are for hiking and cross-country skiing only. Horses and bicycles can use the park road only. Metal detector use is not allowed in the park due to the historic designations. Pick up the rules/regulations booklet for more information on general park rules. Rock climbing and rappelling are not permitted.

### **LOCAL EVENTS/ATTRACTIONS**

Crystal Lake Cave and Czipers Apple Orchard are within 2 miles, south on Hwy 52. One mile north is the city of Dubuque, with the Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium and Port of Dubuque, Fenelen Place Elevator, Dubuque Arboretum, Dubuque River Rides and Lock & Dam #11. Sundown Ski Resort is west of the Dubuque. For more information go to [www.traveldubuque.com](http://www.traveldubuque.com)

### **LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION**

Park Office: 563.556.0620

Park Ranger: Jason Gilmore

Park Manager: Elli Lineburg

**For emergencies, please call 911.**

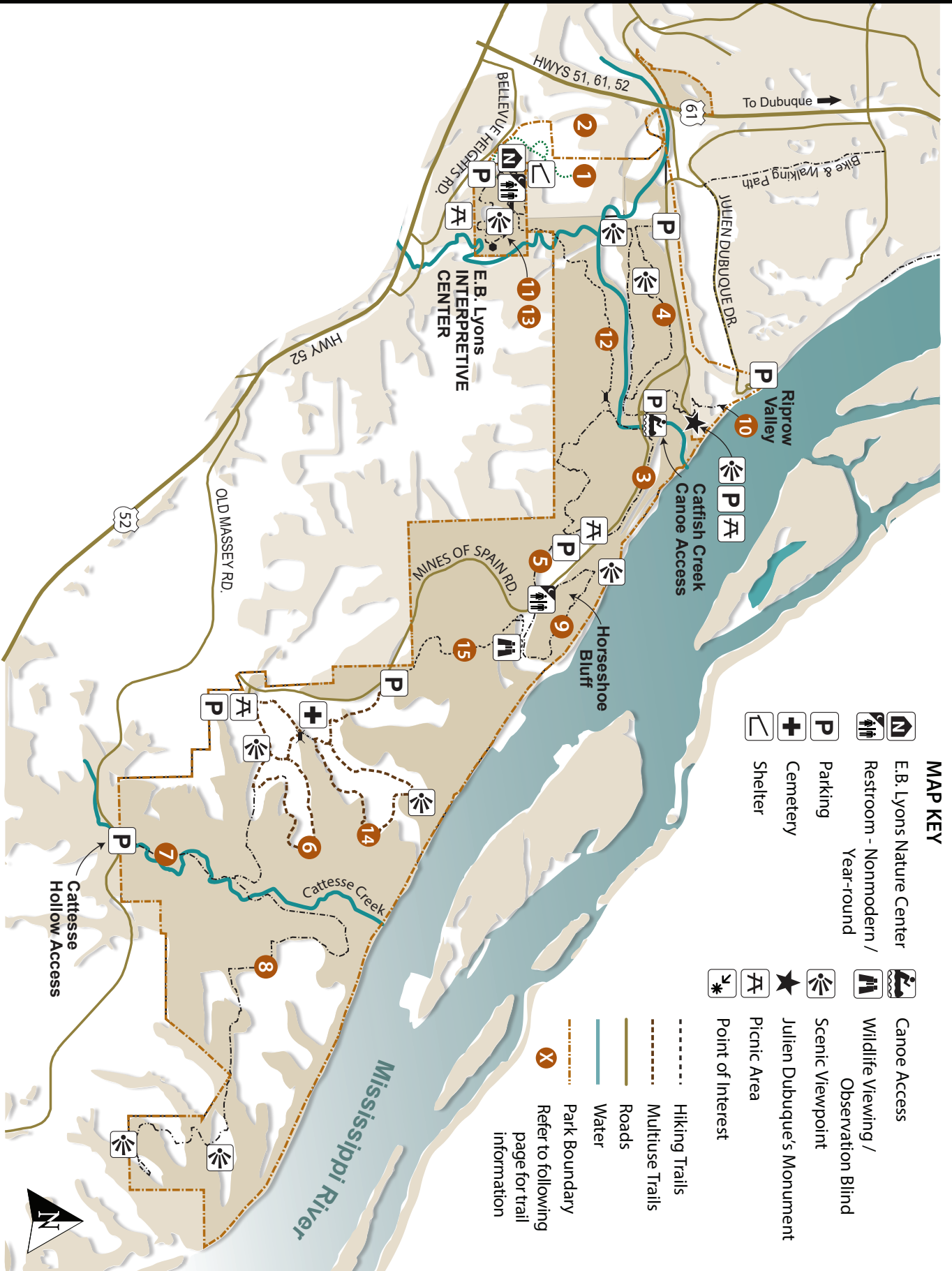
### **SEVERE WEATHER**

The parks have no designated storm shelters. Although the park does not have a severe weather siren, sirens from Dubuque and East Dubuque can normally be heard.

For Interpretive Center Room Reservations, call: 563-556-0620 or visit the Friends Group website at [www.minesofspain.org](http://www.minesofspain.org).



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### MAP KEY

- E.B. Lyons Nature Center
  - Restroom - Nonmodern / Year-round
  - Parking
  - Cemetery
  - Shelter
  - Canoe Access
  - Wildlife Viewing / Observation Blind
  - Scenic Viewpoint
  - Julien Dubuque's Monument
  - Point of Interest
  - Hiking Trails
  - Multiuse Trails
  - Roads
  - Water
  - Park Boundary
- Refer to following page for trail information





## TRAIL INFORMATION

	Trail Name	Trail Activity	Length	Level of Difficulty*	Estimated Hike Time
1	America's State Tree Woodland Walk (ADA)	Hiking	0.5 mi	Easy	15-20 min
2	America's State Tree Woodland Walk (spur trail)	Hiking	0.3 mi	Easy	5-10 min
3	Calcite Trail	Hiking	1.4 mi	Moderate	40-50 min
4	Catfish Trail	Hiking	1.7 mi	Moderate	45-55 min
5	Cattesse Trail	Hiking	0.4 mi	Easy	10-15 min
6	Cedar Ridge Trail	Hiking & Cross Country Skiing	1.5 mi	Easy	40-50 min
7	Chief Peosta Trail	Hiking	0.5 mi	Moderate	10-15 min
8	Eagle Scout Trail	Hiking	2.8 mi	Moderate	1 ¼ -1 ½ hr
9	Horseshoe Bluff Trail	Hiking	1.6 mi	Moderate	40-50 min
10	Julien Dubuque Trail	Hiking	0.5 mi	Moderate	10-15 min
11	Lead Mine Trail	Hiking	0.5 mi	Moderate	15-20 min
12	Mesquakie Trail	Hiking	0.9 mi	Moderate	25-35 min
13	Pine Chapel Trail	Hiking	0.5 mi	Moderate	15-20 min
14	Prairie Ridge Trail	Hiking & Cross Country Skiing	1.5 mi	Easy	40-50 min
15	Sauk and Fox Trail	Hiking	0.5 mi	Moderate	15-20 min
<b>* Difficulty index</b> <i>Easy: Predominantly flat, even terrain</i> <i>Moderate: Sometimes steep or uneven terrain, may encounter significant elevation change</i>					