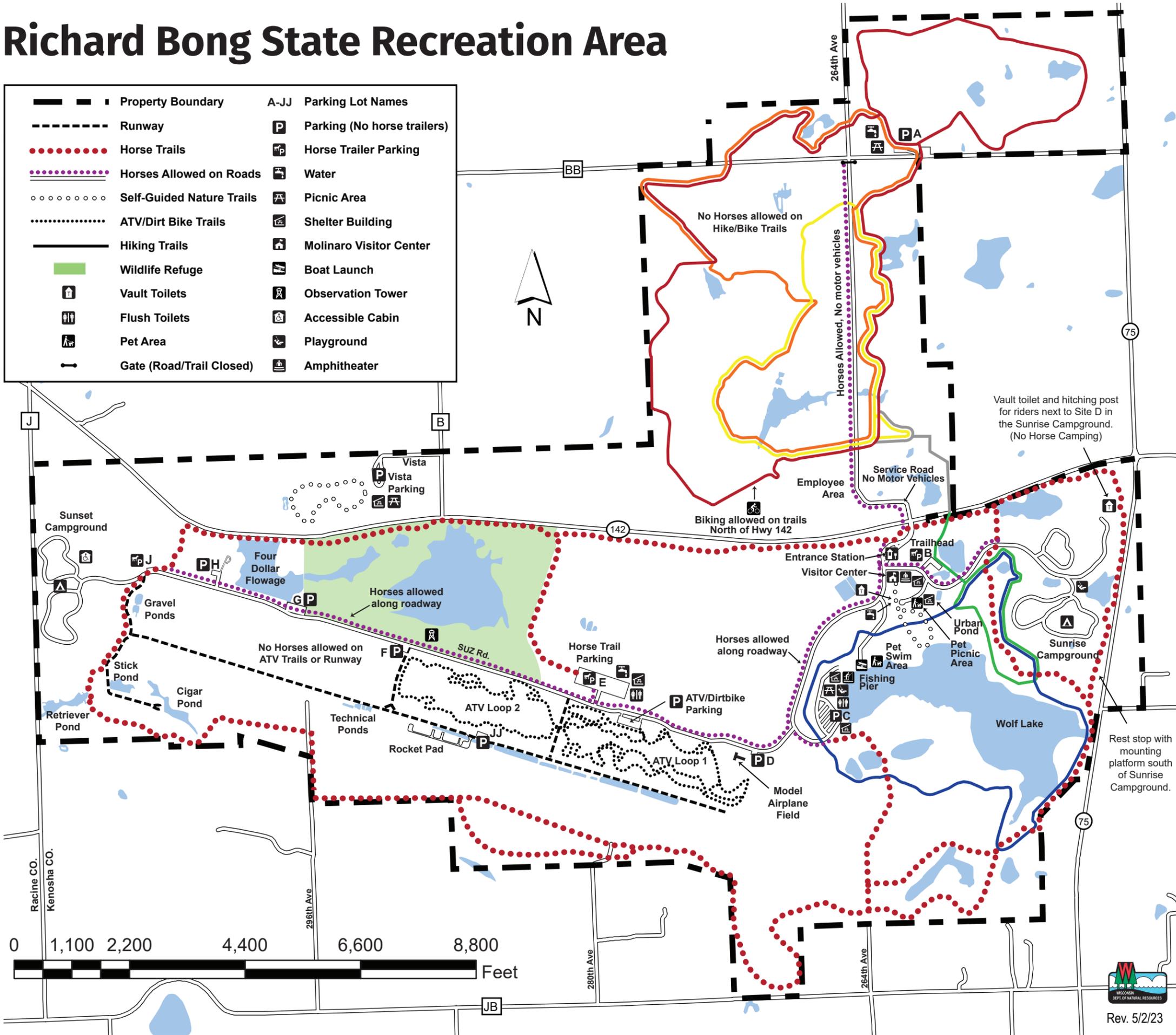


# Richard Bong State Recreation Area

	Property Boundary	A-JJ	Parking Lot Names
	Runway		Parking (No horse trailers)
	Horse Trails		Horse Trailer Parking
	Horses Allowed on Roads		Water
	Self-Guided Nature Trails		Picnic Area
	ATV/Dirt Bike Trails		Shelter Building
	Hiking Trails		Molinaro Visitor Center
	Wildlife Refuge		Boat Launch
	Vault Toilets		Observation Tower
	Flush Toilets		Accessible Cabin
	Pet Area		Playground
	Gate (Road/Trail Closed)		Amphitheater



## Trail Descriptions

### Trails north of Highway 142

**Gray Trail (1.7 miles):** The Gray Trail is relatively flat with no steep grades. Crossing Highway 142, the trail passes a nice pond to the west before heading through a semi-wooded area. At the turnaround point, the trail turns south through a heavily wooded area then turns east again to complete the loop and rejoin the initial trail section leading back to the parking lot.

**Yellow Trail (4.4 miles):** The Yellow Trail is a generally level to moderately rolling trail traversing a nice mixture of grassland, woodland and wetland. This is a good trail for birding. The trail crosses a paved road at the north and south ends of the loop. The raised ridge portion of the trail was built as the entrance road to the planned Bong Air Force Base. The trail exits on the west side of the ridge via stairs.

**Orange Trail (6.4 miles):** The Orange Trail crosses Highway BB twice as well as a county road at its northern end. This trail provides benches that overlook wetlands and it winds through grassland punctuated with scattered brush. There are wooded areas as well. This trail gets very wet in the spring.

**Red Trail (8.3 miles):** The park's longest trail touches on many vegetative types. On its far north end, the trail gives a nice overview of what much of the park's topography looked like before the landscape was altered by the Air Force. After the trail leaves the west junction of the Red and Orange loops, it passes through some nice wetland areas before turning east toward the parking lot.

**Vista Nature Trail (1.0 miles):** This trail is closed in winter. Enjoy its peacefulness of this less-used, self-guided nature trail. It can be walked in about 60-90 minutes. The trail is closed in winter. To get to the trail, park at the Vista parking lot off County Highway B. The trail enters a beautiful hardwood forest and goes past a small pond. This is an excellent birding area for woodland species.

### Trails south of Highway 142

**Green Trail (1.8 miles):** The Green Trail is entirely north of Wolf Lake. A boardwalk between two small ponds is at the start of the trail, a good place to look for waterfowl. This trail travels through a beautiful restored prairie and a small woodlot with good spring wildflowers. One of the finest overviews of Wolf Lake exists on the return part of the loop, just past the turnoff for the Blue Trail.

**Blue Trail (4.2 miles):** The Blue Trail is one of the nicest trails, it takes you through prairie and woodland, past wetlands and around Wolf Lake. The trail crosses the dam (near Highway 75) that impounds Wolf Lake. The trail just south of the dam dips rather steeply towards the south shore of the lake. This is an incredible place for spring wildflowers. The trail enters grassland after leaving the shore, skirting several small ponds before crossing the paved access road to the beach. Rest rooms, water and a playground are available at the beach.

**Visitor Center Nature Trail (0.7 miles):** This nature trail is a limestone-surfaced trail. It can be walked in about 15-30 minutes. The trail is almost completely in the open grasslands and goes through a restored prairie. There is a small oak woodlot. This is a great place to see bobolinks in summer. A boardwalk overlooks beautiful Wolf Lake where you can spot migrating and resident waterfowl.

**Horse Trails (13.0 miles):** You can get to the horse trails within the park from Parking Lot B. The horse trails are usually open year-round, but may be closed in the spring when it is very wet. It's best to call before coming at that time of the year. You must possess a valid state trail pass to use these trails.

