the Wapsi River below Anamosa, the rocky areas of this stretch. Channel catfish enjoy the areas near log jams and drinking water near river. Here, the Wapsi passes through some of the most rugged little cliffs and limestone formations on the entire river.

There are eight low-head dams along the Wapsipinicon River, indicated with the dam icon:

- Quasqueton Dam
- Pinicon Ridge Park Dam
- Troy Mills Dam
- Undertow Dam
- Littleton Dam
- Double Dams
- Newport Mills Dam
- Olin Access Dam

The abundant number of sandy beaches offers numerous places for camping, fishing, and swimming. Another popular section to paddle lies between Central City and Stone City, but Anamosa to the Newport Mills Dam (danger!) is a real growing area and the fishing is fantastic. Here, the Wapsi passes through some of the most rugged little cliffs and limestone formations on the entire river.
The Wapsipinicon River begins its journey from Taopi, Minnesota and flows for 255 miles through Northeastern Iowa until it empties into the Mississippi River where it forms the border between Scott and Clinton counties. The stretch that flows through Mitchell, Howard, and Chickasaw counties is too small to support large populations of gamefish or float a canoe during normal water levels. However, like any natural stream, the “Wapsi” is a great place for wildlife viewing and a variety of other recreational activities along its entire length.

In Bremer and Black Hawk counties, the Wapsi flows through a long, swampy greenbelt of lowland river birch and silver maple woods, with backwaters extending over most of the flat bottomed valley. The river corridor between Sweet Marsh and the confluence with the Mississippi River has been designated a Protected Water Area by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources because of its scenic and natural qualities. Northern pike are common in the backwater areas of this river stretch. Channel catfish are abundant and can be caught near the numerous log jams and trees that have fallen into the river. Smallmouth bass and walleye are also common in the rock riffle areas. The Littleton Dam is an historic structure that has always been a popular place to fish.

Sweet Marsh, originally created with hunters in mind in the 1940s, also serves as one of the top bird watching areas in the state and offers many other types of recreational opportunities, such as, fishing, paddling, hiking, and wildlife viewing. The Wapsi above Independence has been designated a Bird Conservation Area (BCA) due to its great diversity of bird species.

**Legend**
- Hard-surface boat ramp
- Carry down access
- Unmaintained access
- Fishing access
- Campground
- Watercraft campsite
- Restroom
- Drinking water near river
- Dam (danger!)
- Rapids or rock dam
- 5-mile markers, from mouth
- Federal or state highway
- Paved or unpaved roads
- City or town
- Public lands

**Expedition & Fishing Guide**

**Be safe out there!**

- Wear a life jacket! They really do save lives. It won’t work if you don’t wear it.
- Don’t boat under the influence For your safety, don’t use alcohol or drugs on the water.
- Watch for hazards On rivers, hazards like dams, fences, snags, rocks, and bridge abutments may be present. Dams and snags in particular can be killers. Avoid them!
- Plan to get wet! You may capsize, so dress for the weather. When the water and/or weather get cold, warm-weather clothing and a wet suit are needed.
- Stay legal! Camping on sandbars is allowed on the Wapsipinicon River from Central City to the Mississippi River. Above Central City the Wapsi is privately owned – these waters are navigable, but you must respect private property.
- Littering is a crime – pack out everything you bring in. Report littering or dumping by calling 888-NOCILITR.

**Resources**
- Water trails and recent listing of canoes/kayaks
  - www.iowawdr.gov/watetrails/
- River gages
  - waterdata.usgs.gov or www.rivergages.com

Federal regulations prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap. State law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to the Iowa DNR, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. North St., Des Moines, Iowa, 50319.