

Richard Bong Recreational Area

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Once designated to be a jet fighter base, Richard Bong State Recreation Area is fittingly named after Major Richard I. Bong, a Poplar, WI native who was America's leading air ace during World War II.

The air base was abandoned three days before concrete was to be poured for a 12,500-foot runway. Local citizens had the foresight to protect this open space for future generations.

A recreation area differs from state parks and forests by providing for recreational facilities & activities not traditionally found in state parks or forests. Richard Bong has approximately 4,515-acres available to visitors in this multi-use recreation area in Kenosha County.



Richard Bong State Recreation Area offers something for everyone. Activities available include walking, running, bicycling, swimming, canoeing, fishing, camping, picnicking, in-line skating, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, or snowmobiling, in addition to horseback riding. Richard Bong offers an area where visitors may fly hang gliders, hot air balloons, and model airplanes and rockets. The park also has places to train dogs, train falcons, ride an ATV trail, and hunt in season. This should be considered before deciding to ride these trails.

Richard Bong State Recreation Area has 13 miles of horse trails. The horse trails are usually open year-round from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Trails may be closed in the spring when it is very wet, so it's best to call before coming at that time of the year.

The trail passes through grasslands and near woodlands and wetlands. It is primarily level terrain so it is very easy riding. Some of the trail is gravel, but it does not require shoes or boots.

Unloading for the west end trails is at Parking Lot J. Unloading for the east end trails is at the Trailhead parking lot. There is no area for manure disposal so all manure must be hauled out.

Anyone 16 years of age or older will need a Trail Pass. The cost is \$4.00 per day or \$20.00 for the year. You may purchase that when you arrive if you do not already have a state pass. You will also need a state park vehicle sticker. If you arrive when the office is closed you are able to self-register for an admission sticker.

Unfortunately there is no horse camping available, so this is a day ride only.

Directions

Richard Bong State Recreation Area is eight miles southeast of Burlington, WI on State Highway 142. The entrance is a little less than one mile west of State Highway 75. The latitude is 42° 38' 6.8" north and longitude 88° 7' 36.5" west. It is about 47 miles from Milwaukee, 71 miles from Chicago and 362 miles from Minneapolis.

Pets must be on a leash and tended at all times in the campground and on the trails. Pets are not allowed in any building, in any picnic areas or on the beach. Please ride responsibly to not degrade the trails. You are required to take any droppings and hay with you from the parking lots when you leave so the natural beauty of the park is not compromised. Please pick up and remove your horse waste from parking lots.

Richard Bong Recreational Area is one more riding opportunity in the state of Wisconsin.

"In riding a horse we borrow freedom." – Helen Thompson

Until next time – Happy Trails!

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