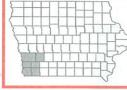
NISHNABOTNA RIVER

Avoca (West) and Atlantic (East) to Hamburg

A GLANCE AT A MAP of southwest lowa reveals two streams snaking southward, nearly paralleling one another for 20 miles, until merging north of the lowa-Missouri boundary. These are the East and West forks of the Nishnabotna River. They make up the third largest tributary of the Missouri River in lowa.

BOTH THE EAST AND WEST
Nishnabotnas originate in Carroll
County, but not until two tiers of
counties south
do the streams
become sufficient in flow to
provide

provide canoeing or fishing under normal



conditions.

MUCH OF THE NISHNABOTNA'S character and fish habitat were stripped away in the early 1900s when the river was channelized under the guise of flood control. With the passage of time, the streams have returned to a meandering state in some areas. The best fishing habitat is generally found along the outside of the more severe bends and around log jams.

ALTHOUGH THE TWO STREAMS are quite similar in appearance, the west arm is somewhat larger. It drains a larger area and is supplemented by larger feeder streams. The principal fishing in the

Nishnabotna River is provided by channel catfish and carp. Wading or floating stretches of the river are popular and productive methods of fishing the Nishnabotna. Drifting bait through the deeper holes and troughs is also productive.

UNFORTUNATELY, EASY ACCESS to the East and West Nishnabotna is lacking in many areas. Public ownership is scarce along the river, leaving the alternative of entering or exiting the streams at bridges.

A FLOAT TRIP DOWN the Nishnabotna lacks the spectacular scenery offered on some northern lowa streams. Instead, it is a rather leisurely journey, requiring some degree of skill to follow the main channel of the river as it weaves its way through a series of sandbars typical of this stream. The Nishnabotna exits the state just below the city of Hamburg and empties into the Missouri River another 10 miles downstream.

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Access Name	Location
River	
1. Elliott Boat Ramp	.5 mi W Elliott
2. Red Oak Boat Ramp	W edge Red Oak
3. Riverton Boat Ramp	.5 mi W Riverton
	1 River 1. Elliott Boat Ramp 2. Red Oak Boat Ramp

West Nishnabotna River

west Nishnabotha	River	
0 miles	1. Botna Bend Park	W edge Hancock
6 miles	2. Chataqua Park	Oakland
5 miles	3. Old Town Park	1 mi. W Macedonia

