

River Bluffs SCENIC BYWAY



RIVER BLUFFS
SCENIC BYWAY



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Winter 2013 Newsletter

Point of Interest

There are over 100 sights and locations of interest along the River Bluffs Scenic Byway. Each newsletter will give you an insight into a unique opportunity one can experience along the byway.

Elkader Whitewater Park



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As a result from years of planning and public input, the River Bluffs Scenic Byway board is excited to officially have a new attraction along the roadway that will cater to paddle sport enthusiasts and fishermen alike. The new Whitewater Park, which was completed in the fall of 2013, is the byway community of Elkader's newest signature project. Located at the low-head dam, or "Little Dam," near the former fire station on South Main Street, the Whitewater Park is the centerpiece for the new 6.5 acre Founders' Park which is currently under construction.

To create the park, over 2,000 tons of large and small habitat boulders were placed about 50 feet above and below the current...

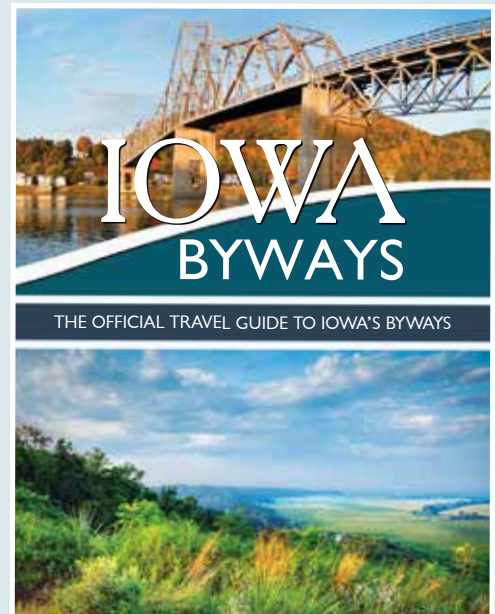
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Pick up your Byway Brochures



1. Iowa Byways Travel Guide

If you are planning a trip in 2014 and need some ideas on where to go, pick up a copy of the Iowa Byways Travel Guide. Browse through this guide and you'll find the distinct flavor of what is available along Iowa's two national scenic byways and nine state scenic or heritage byways. Included in this guide are descriptions and photos of each byway to give you a glimpse of what makes these designated roadways special. Discover recreational, historic, cultural and scenic attractions using the maps and lists provided in the guide. You'll also find numbered attraction for each byway, making it easy to plan out an itinerary of things to see and do while on your road trip. This is an excellent tool to help you plan your next vacation in Iowa. To order your free Iowa Byways Travel Guide, or to view the guide online, visit www.iowabyways.org.

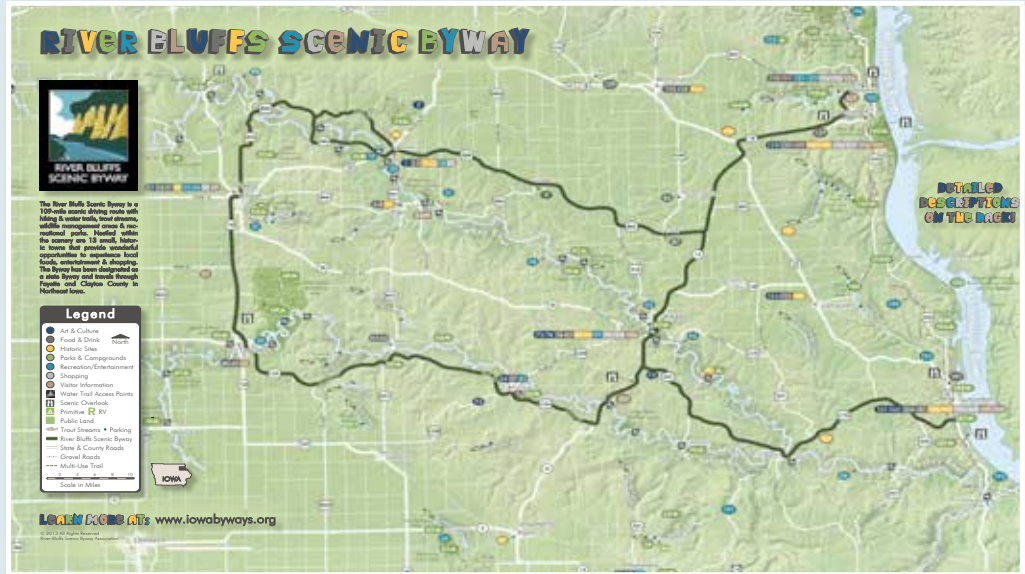


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Byway Brochures continued...

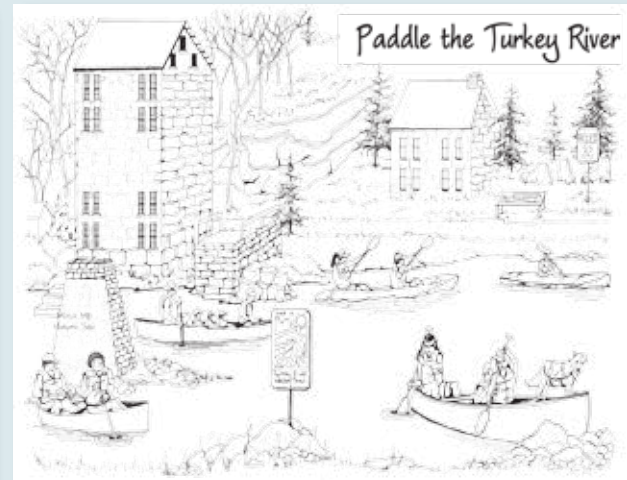
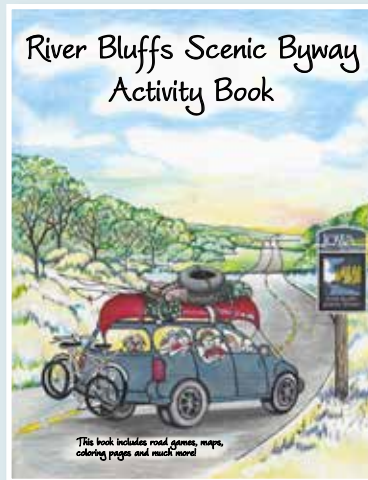
2. Tear-Off Map

More than simply a wayfinding map, the River Bluffs Scenic Byway tear-off map was established in Fayette and Clayton County as a convenient 11"x17" map that is often found on a store's countertop. The map front marks the rivers, trout streams, towns, water trail access points, scenic overlooks, public land and most byway friendly businesses in the categories of art & culture, food & drink, historic sites, parks and campgrounds, recreation/entertainment, shopping and visitor information. The back of the tear off map features a brief description of each point of interest along with contact information. This is a great publication for visitors who inquire about sites in the area or are specifically interested in the River Bluffs Scenic Byway.



3. Childrens Activity book

The first of its kind in Iowa, the River Bluffs Scenic Byway Activity Book was created to help children gain an understanding of what the byway is and what they will likely experience from traveling along the 109-mile roadway. The book features 40 pages of original artwork from a local artist, Carol Lange of Postville. The illustrations showcase all of the activities, places and unique features along the River Bluffs Scenic Byway. The book also provides a variety of games and activities that include coloring pages, crossword puzzles, sign find bingo cards and much more. Funding provided by UMGC.



Point of Interest

...little dam. Facing downstream, the swifter right channel was designed for whitewater paddlers while the more placid left channel was designed for canoeists and fish passage. The swifter right side was developed using techniques designed to create current breaks, scout holes and eddies within a compact area. The end result is a whitewater "park and play" that is ideal for kayakers, boogie boarders, tubers, fishermen and others who just want

to enjoy the rush of the rapids. For the byway traveler who would like to check this out, an entry point to the Whitewater Park can be found on the east side of the river, across the street from the Rural Heritage Museum at the site of the little dam.

Now that the Whitewater Park is complete, other riverfront plans are underway. Shoreline improvements currently under consideration include an improved access point, stepped limestone seating area and recreational trail along the river.

Elkader City Administrator Jennifer Cowser said that the total cost of the Whitewater Park, including engineering, was \$387,496. Those funds came from a state River Enhancement Community Attraction and Tourism (RECAT) grant and donations, highlighted by a \$75,000 donation from the project coordinator, C.J. Moyona and Sons of Elkader. Cowser said shoreline development to improve river access, including a downstream trail, will cost



an additional \$231,797, funded in part by state grants from Main Street Iowa Resource Enhancement and Protection and Iowa Great Places. The Elkader project will be a key component of the byway and Turkey River Water Trail, which features 21 access points and 250 signs along its 93-mile course.



Recently Awarded Grants

1. IBSP Phase III Project from IDOT

On April 1, 2014, phase three of the highly successful Iowa Byways Sustainability Project (IBSP) will officially begin. Having started in 2008, the program is a cooperative effort between the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Resource Conservation & Development Councils (RC&Ds) across Iowa whose goal is to promote the long-term sustainability of Iowa's Byways. Deliverables through IBSP Phase III will include the facilitation of stakeholder meetings, the inventory of byway signage, identification and prioritization of locations for developing scenic overlooks, development of byway marketing materials, assisting stakeholders in preparing grants, development of an interpretive master plan and completing an inventory of roadside vegetation along the byway. Funding of the IBSP Phase III also means that River Bluffs Scenic Byway Coordinator, Jared Nielsen, will continue to be able to work on byway-related projects.

2. CIG Project from NRCS

In an agreement between the Iowa League of RC&Ds, Inc. and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a conservation innovation grant (CIG) was awarded to Northeast Iowa RC&D to help the River Bluffs Scenic Byway Board demonstrate promising conservation technologies, practices, systems

and approaches through interpretive panels along the River Bluffs Scenic Byway. The project will help promote landscape-based systems that tell the story of environmental protection and natural resource enhancement. Through this project, staff at Northeast Iowa RC&D will work with at least two EQIP eligible producers, a representative from NRCS and River Bluffs Scenic Byway board members to obtain pictures and create text that will tell the story about these conservation systems and how they help protect the resources, manage nutrients, enhance grasslands, reduce sediment loads and enhance wildlife habitat. At the completion of this project, two interpretive panels will be installed along the River Bluffs Scenic Byway. This project is scheduled to begin in March of 2014 and be completed in September of 2015.

3. Fall 2013 Grant from UMGC

The River Bluffs Scenic Byway Board of Directors was awarded funding from the Upper Mississippi Gaming Corporation (UMGC) for the design and fabrication of one professional display banner. This banner and stand will be used to promote the byway at conferences, welcome centers, events and other public and private venues. This project is currently underway and will be completed by August of 2014.



See photos, stay informed about upcoming projects and share your personal stories along the byway. Fund us at "River Bluffs Scenic Byway Experience."

Order Byway Material

We are happy to supply any of the River Bluffs Scenic Byway publications to businesses along the byway. If your business is in need of information about the byway to pass along to visitors, please contact Jared Nielsen at 563-864-7112 or jared@northeastiowarcd.org and we will make arrangements to have them delivered to you. Below is a list of publications and resources that currently offer information about the River Bluffs Scenic Byway:

- RBSB Tear-Off Map
- RBSB Promotional Handout
- RBSB Children's Activity Book
- Iowa Byways Travel Guide
- Website: www.iowabyways.org
- Northeast Iowa Travel Guide
- Clayton County Travel Guide
- Clayton County Conservation Brochure
- Historical Tour of Clermont Brochure
- Historical Tour of McGregor Brochure
- Turkey River Safari Brochure
- Kiosks on the Turkey River Water Trail
- Kiosks in Clermont and on TRRC Trail



Stakeholder Meeting

On Tuesday, November 19th at 6:00pm, the River Bluffs Scenic Byway Board hosted a meeting at Central State Bank in Elkader to gather information from local community members for inclusion in the River Bluffs Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan (CMP). This meeting provided a chance for participants to learn more about the River Bluffs Scenic Byway and for board members to gather ideas and input from the public. The Corridor Management plan will be used to guide the RBSB Board's work and to help them secure grant funding for partners and communities along the designated route. The River Bluffs Scenic Byway board used the meeting to gather input for the following four sections of the Corridor Management Plan:

- History: Inventory, interpretation, and preservation of historic sites and structures
- Art: Inventory, marketing, and development of existing and new art along the byway
- Recreation: Development, marketing, and interpretation of current and planned recreational opportunities
- Interpretation: Interpretive themes, inventory existing & needed wayshowing signs



If you would like to be notified of future stakeholder meetings, or join a sub-committee to help provide input for any of the four sections above, please contact Jared Nielsen at 563-864-7112 or jared@northeastiowarcd.org. Sub-committees are being formed NOW and will meet quarterly until the section is complete.

New Kiosks along the Byway

Working with the Turkey River Recreational Corridor and Clermont Visioning Committee, staff at Northeast Iowa RC&D completed the design of eight kiosks for the byway community of Clermont. After much discussion, three locations along or near the newly paved 4.8 mile Turkey River Recreational Corridor Trail were selected. The first location, located at the intersection of Highway 18 and the Great River Road, features a double-sided display case. On one side, a "Welcome to Clermont" kiosk was installed that features a town map identifying the business district and historic sites. The backside of the kiosk is titled "Turkey River Recreational Corridor Trail" and features a map of the trail from Nims Bridge to Elgin.

The second location, located at the intersection of County Road W51 and Olive Street, also features a double-sided display case, with one "Welcome to Clermont" kiosk and one "Turkey River Recreational Corridor Trail" kiosk.

The third location selected was in front of the Larrabee School at 505 Larrabee Street in Clermont. Here, two double-sided display cases were installed next to one

another. On one side of the display-case, a "Welcome to Clermont" kiosk and "Historic Sites of Clermont" kiosk was installed. The "Historic Sites of Clermont" kiosk features 15 of the most well known historic sites, structures and monuments in Clermont. The backside of the display-case features a "River Bluffs Scenic Byway" kiosk and a "Northeast Iowa Regional



Trails" kiosk. The "River Bluffs Scenic Byway" kiosk features a map of the byway with a list of things to see and do in each of the byway communities. The "Northeast Iowa Regional Trail" kiosk provides information about multi-use trails, equestrian trails, paved trails, water trails and scenic byways within Clayton, Fayette, Allamakee, Winneshiek, Chickasaw and Howard County.

Calendar of Events

March 2014

4	Rocky Mtn Oyster Fry - Riverside Bar & Grill	Waucoma	563-776-7262
9	Classics at Montauk Concert Series	Clermont	563-423-7173
17	Saint Patricks Day Parade	Elkader	563-245-2770
22	Elgin's Got Talent Karaoke - Barney's Tavern	Wadena	563-774-2525
29	Fire Fighter Dance - Lakeside Ballroom	Guttenberg	563-252-2323
28-30	Elkader Opera House - Love Thy Neighbor	Elkader	563-873-2378

April 2014

3-5	Elkader Opera House - Love Thy Neighbor	Elkader	563-873-2378
12	IRRMA Rock the River Road Show	Guttenberg	563-252-2323
19	Elgin's Got Talent Karaoke - Irish Shanti	Gunder	563-864-9289
19-20	Eagles Landing Winery - Spring Fling	Marquette	563-873-2509
20-28	National Park Week - Effigy Mounds	Marquette	563-873-3491

May 2014

3	Redhorse Fisheree	Elkader	563-245-2336
3-4	Arts & Crafts Fair - Heritage Farm Park	Clermont	563-380-1950
8-10	Elgin City Wide Garage Sales	Elgin	
17-18	Uff Da Fest - Eagles Landing Winery	Marquette	563-873-2509
17-18	Civil War Living History Camp	Osborne	563-245-1516
23-25	Dancefest	Guttenberg	563-252-2323
24	Elgin's Got Talent Karaoke - Elgin Tap	Elgin	563-426-5996
24-26	35th Annual Spring Arts & Crafts Festival	McGregor	563-873-2186
24-26	Motor Mill Historic Tours	Elkader	563-245-1516
26-oct	Turkey River Safari	Fayette County	563-422-1083
Fridays	Races at the Fayette County Speedway	West Union	319-327-2733
Sundays	Live Music Sunday's - Promiseland Winery	Guttenberg	563-252-2665

Byway Staff

The River Bluffs Scenic Byway is a non-profit organization of diverse stakeholders that work voluntarily and collaboratively to protect and promote the qualities, features, recreation and scenic beauty of the byway. Coordinated by staff at Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation & Development, the RBSB Board of Directors meets at least quarterly to conduct board business and to discuss, consider and/or recommend actions that support and promote the following vision:

The byway corridor will enhance the experience of visitors, the quality of life for residents, and the economic vitality of the byway community by preserving and improving the corridor's resources and offering extraordinary experiences.

Questions?

Contact RBSB Coordinator Jared Nielsen at Northeast Iowa RC&D
101 East Greene Street, PO Box 916
Postville, IA 52162

Phone: 563-864-7112

Email: jared@northeastiowarcd.org