

www.visitiowa.org eaturing **28** of the **BEST** trails in Northeast lowo



Welcome to Northeast Iowa's Ride-Worthy Routes

Welcome to Northeast Iowa, home to some of the best bike trails and most scenic landscapes in Iowa. Use this guide to navigate more than 200 miles of paved, granular, soft, and single-track trails spread across seven counties.

Don't miss the Points of Interest section where you'll find contact information for local Visitor Welcome Centers that can provide you even more information on the region's abundant lodging, dining, shopping, outdoor recreation, arts and culture, and historic attractions.

Enjoy your time riding across Northeast Iowa. You'll love the

Ride the **BEST** Part of Iowa

Trail Safety

Many bike trails in Northeast Iowa are multi-use trails and you may encounter walkers, joggers, horseback riders, and pets. Some trails have little or no cell phone service, travel along shared roadways and through towns, or may have been modified since the creation of this map. Please follow these guidelines to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all trail users.

1) Share the Trail. Slow down and be courteous of all users. Bikes yield to horses and pedestrians. 2) Ride Right. Ride on the right and pass on the left.

3) Communicate. Signal when you approach others or are turning. 4) Stay Aware. Keep your eyes and ears open for other trail

5) Make a Plan. Know your route and tell others where you are going and when you will be back.

• Leave No Trace. Trash belongs in the garbage.

6) Follow the Signs. Pay attention to trail signs and

directions installed by trail managers. 7) Use Safe Equipment. Wear a helmet and make sure your bike is working properly.

Acknowledgements

This guide was developed by the Northeast Iowa Tourism Association. Input, contributions, grants, and support were fishing. 2321 Siewers Spring Rd. Ph: 563-382-8324 provided by the following organizations:





Allamakee County Economic Development & Tourism. Buchanan County Tourism, Chickasaw County Tourism, Clayton County Development Group, Fayette County Economic Development & Tourism, Howard County Business & Tourism, Turkey River Recreational Corridor, Winneshiek County Development & Tourism, Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission

Map & Publication Designed by Northeast Iowa RC&D. Website: www.northeastiowarcd.org | Ph: 563-864-7112

Best Places to Visit Along Your Ride

Use this trail guide to uncover the BEST ride-worthy businesses, sites, & destinations. For additional information, refer to Visitor Welcome Centers (yellow) as well as other trail guide resources and publications available from Iowa Tourism at www.traveliowa.com, or from the Northeast Iowa Tourism Association at www.visitiowa.org. Always confirm hours of operation before your visit.

Country Bike Shop: New/used bikes & repair service. Tues. k Thurs., 8a-8p; Sat., 8a-3p. 5576 115th St. Ph: 641-985-4072 Lake Hendricks Park: 234-acre park with 54-acre lake, beach, trail access, campground, & playground. 9850 Addison Ave.

(a-b) BACK Western Line & Old

Roadhouse Trail

Alta Vista

4. Plum Creek Bike & Natural Trail

Location of "Pie Sundays," Riceville Farmers Market, & seasonl events. Sat. & Sun., 2-5p, Memorial Day - Labor Day. Lylah's Marsh: Wildlife viewing, picnic shelters, fishing. 5288

Wapsi-Great Western Line Trailhead & Welcome Center:

150th St. Ph: 563-547-3634 Elma Welcome Center: Housed in restored 1952 railroad depot. Daily, 7a-7p, Spring & Summer. 416 Busti Ave. 641-393-2539 Prairie's Edge Nature Center: Live animals & nature exhibits.

Mon.-Fri., 8a-12p & 1p-4p. 11562 Valley Ave. Ph: 563-547-3634 Vernon Springs Park: Campground, rock arch rapids fish ladder & mill pond, playground, picnic area. 11562 Valley Ave. Howard County Freedom Rock: Covered gazebo, pond, benches. 222 2nd Ave SW. Ph: 563-547-3434

9 Howard County Business & Tourism: Mon.-Fri., 9a-5p. 101 2nd Ave SW Ph: 563-547-3434 Pedal & Play Sports: New & used bikes, service & repairs.

Mon.-Thurs., 4p-7p; Sat. 9a-3p. 14 E Main St. Ph: 641-394-2459 Chickasaw Wellness Complex: Variety of indoor sport & classes. Mon.-Thurs., 5a-8p; Fri. 5a-7p.; Sat. 7a-4p; Closed Sun. Memorial Day-Labor Day. 1050 W Hamilton St. Ph: 641-394-5433

Chickasaw County Tourism / New Horizons Chamber: 104 E Main St. Ph: 641-394-2021 Mikkelson Park: Wooden play area, swimming pool & splash pad, picnic shelters, baseball fields, disc golf. East Main St. / Hwy 24

Garnant Park: Picnic shelters, walking trail, pond, fishing, sand beach. 4th Ave. South Robert Mattke Park: Antique "flying" bridge, gazebo shelter,

butterfly garden. 2738 270th St., Fredericksburg Winneshiek County Freedom Rock: Highlights Native American heritage & Winnebago Tribe. 206 Henry St.

Calmar Train Depot: Restored train depot on National Register of Historic Places. 113 Maryville St. Decorah Bicycles: Full-service retail, rental, service, & bike repair shop, including pedal-assist electric bikes. Wed.-Fri., 10a-6p; Sat. 9a-5p; Sun. 12-4p. 101 College Dr. Ph: 563-382-8209

Oneota River Cycles: Bike service and sales shop. Tues.-Fri., 10a-6p; Sat. 9a-3p. 220 E Water St. Ph: 563-382-0421 Decorah Fish Hatchery: Trout raceways, fish food dispensers, Decorah eagles, Seiwers Springs waterfall, picnic area, trout

Dunning's Spring Waterfall: Year-round, 200' waterfall, stone bridge, hiking trailhead. West end of Ice Cave Rd. Palisades Park: Scenic overlooks, picnic areas, hiking trailheads. Park Dr. / East end of Ice Cave Rd.

Pulpit Rock Campground: Electric & tent sites, trout fishing stream, playground. 505 Pulpit Rock Rd. Ph: 563-382-9551 Pulpit Rock / Will Baker Park: Scenic overlook, historic

CCC stonework, picnic shelter. Pulpit Rock Rd. Freeport Park: Playground, picnic shelter, ball field. 3 252nd St. Ph: 563-534-7145 Winneshiek County Development & Tourism: Mon.-Fri., 9a-

4p; Weekends seasonally. 507 W Water St. Ph: 563-382-6061 West Union Recreation Complex: 40-acre greenspace, playground, ball diamonds, catch & release fishing ponds, hand-made bridge. 928 N Pine St. Ph: 563-422-3685 Echo Valley State Park: CCC historic structures, trout fishing,

primitive camping. 9672 Echo Valley Rd. Ph: 563-422-5146 101 W Main St., Waukon. Ph: 563-568-2624 Fri. 8a-4:30n or by appt. 101 N Vine St. Ph: 563-265-5248 Fri., 8a-4:30p or by appt. 101 N Vine St. Ph: 563-265-5248

Visitor Welcome Center Parks & the Outdoors Best Bike Shops Fun Activities 30 Eagle's Nest Public Art: Life-size eagle's nest,

interpretive panel. 23493 Canoe Rd. Gilbertson Park & Campground: Modern campground, bathhouse. 1810 Agate Rd. Ph: 563-426-5740 Gilbertson Nature Center: Outdoor playscape, pond,

HOWARD

COUNTY

3 (a-b). TRIBE Trail & Mikkelson Park

live animal displays, petting zoo (seasonal). Wed.-Sun., Memorial Day-Labor Day. 22580 A Ave. Ph: 563-426-5740 Volga River State Recreation Area: Reservable shelters, campground, paddling. 10225 Ivy Rd. Ph: 563-425-4161

Klocks Island Park & Campground: Playground, large shelters, horsehoes, basketball court. 1000 West Water St. Cardinal Park: Disc golf course, sports complex. Old N. Main St. Ph: 563-425-4316

Veterans Sports Complex: Ball diamonds, soccer fields, shelters, concessions. 155-169 20th St SE. Ph: 319-283-5440 Oelwein City Park: Disc golf, Lake Oelwein, campground, playground, dog park, courts. 2500 S Frederick Ave. Wings Park & Aquatic Center: Fix-It station, ball

diamonds, playground, shelters, skate park, basketball hoops, apple orchard. 209 8th Ave NE. Ph: 319-283-0544 Oelwein Chamber & Area Development: Mon.-Thurs., 9a-4p; Fri. 9a-1p. 6 S Frederick Ave. Ph: 319-283-1105 Fontana Interpretive Nature Center: Wildlife zoo, nature exhibits, observation deck. Mon. & Tues., 8a-12p;

Wed.-Fri., 81-12p & 1-4:30p; Seasonal Weekends, 1-5p. 1883 125th St. **Hazleton**. Ph: 319-636-2617 Circle 8 Cyclery: New and used sales, tune-ups, repairs, accessories. Tues.-Thurs., 6p-8p; Fri. 6p-9p; Sat. 9a-5p; Sun. 9a-1p. (Seasonal). 330 1st St. E. Ph: 563-380-7430

Three Elms County Park: River access, archery range. 2041 Three Elms Park Rd. Buchanan County Visitor Center: Tues.-Sat., 12p-4p,
Mid-May - Mid-Oct. 1111 5th Ave. NE. Ph: 563-920-1900 Main St. Lansing Office: Brochures, publications, &

visitor information. 274 Main St. Ph: 563-538-9229 Driftless Area Visitor Center: Mon.Fri., 8a-4:30p; Sat. & Sun., 12p-4p. 1944 Columbus Rd. Ph: 563-538-0400 Lansing Swimming Pool: Public swimming pool & trailhead parking area. 490 Bench St. Ph: 563-538-4343

tower. 729 State Forest Rd., Harpers Ferry. Ph: 563-586-2254 Monona Chamber & Economic Development: Mon.-Thurs., 9a-5p. 103 W Center St., **Monona**. Ph: 563-539-8340 Pikes Peak State Park: Scenic overlooks of Mississippi

River. 32264 Pikes Peak Rd. McGregor. Ph: 563-873-2341 McGregor & Marquette Chamber of Commerce: 146 Main St. **McGregor**. Ph: 563-873-2186

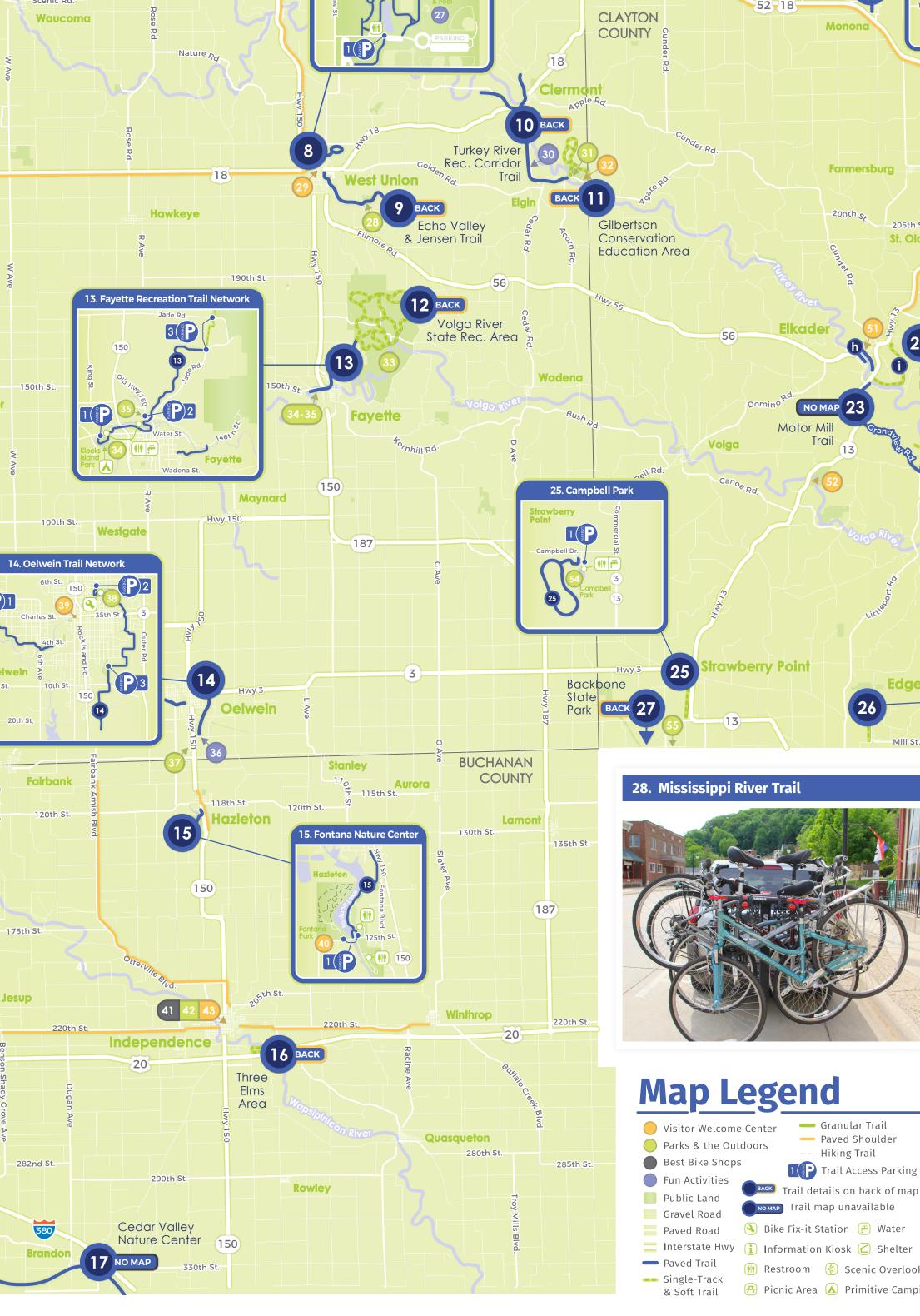
200 E Bridge St. Ph: 563-245-2201 Osborne Visitor Welcome Center: Iowa Welcome Center, nature center, wildlife zoo, pioneer village, picnic areas, fishing pond. Mon.-Sat., 8a-4p; Sun. 12p-4p (Seasonal). 29862 Osborne Rd. Ph: 563-245-1516

Motor Mill Historic Site: Historic mill, hiking trails, river access, campground. 28518 Galaxy Rd. Ph: 563-245-1516 Campbell Park: Playground, tennis courts, pool. 205 Campbell Dr.,

Strawberry Point. Ph: 563-933-4482 Backbone State Park: Swimming beach, fishing, playgrounds, historic CCC structures. 1347 129th St., **Dundee**. Ph: 563-924-2527 Allamakee County Economic Development & Tourism:

Guttenberg Riverwalk: 2-mile paved path with picnic areas & views of Mississippi and barge traffic. **Guttenberg**. Ph: 563-252-1161

CHICKASAW COUNTY Fort Atkinson 14. Oelwein Trail Network 120th St. 175th St Yellow River State Forest: Hiking, trout fishing, historic fire



Pikes Peak State Park Conservation Education Area Riverwalk & Pony 24. Motor Mill Mountain Bike Trails 28. Mississippi River Trail 28a: Allamakee Co. (North) | Length: 11.5 miles 28b: Allamakee Co. (South) | Length: 13.5 miles 28c: Clayton Co. | Length: 16.7 miles **Surface:** Paved Shoulder **Difficulty:** Varies **Description:** The Mississippi River Trail is a nationally-recognized network of shared roadways and bike paths that follows the Mississippi River from its headwaters in Itasca, Minnesota, to its mouth in Venice, Louisiana, at the Gulf of Mexico

WINNESHIEK COUNTY

Decorah "Oe Ridge"

Mountain Bike Trails

ALLAMAKEE

COUNTY

8. West Union Recreation Comple **FAYETTE** COUNTY 14. Oelwein Trail Network

Fitness equipment located along trail **Difficulty:** Easy Trailhead Parking: • Vernon Springs Park, 11562 Valley Ave 2 Prairie's Edge Nature Ctr, 11562 Valley Ave Downtown Cresco, 1st Ave W

3 (a-b). TRIBE Trail - Industrial & Mikkelson Park

Surface: Paved Trail **Difficulty:** Easy to Medium Trailhead Parking: Chickasaw Wellness Complex, 1050 W Hamilton St. Mikkelson Park

Garnant Park, Mission Ave

4. Plum Creek Bike and Nature Trail

Surface: Mix of Granular & Paved Trail **Difficulty:** Easy to Medium **Trailhead Parking:**

Location: Fredericksburg in Chickasaw County

1 Robert Mattke Park, 2738 270th St.

8. West Union Recreation Complex



2. Prairie Springs Recreational Trail

Mt. Hosmer

Length: 1 mile Surface: Paved Trail **Difficulty:** Easy **Trailhead Parking:**

13. Fayette Recreation Trail Network



Location: Fayette in Fayette County Surface: Paved, Granular, & Boardwalk Trails **Difficulty:** Easy Other Notes: Connects to Volga River State Park

1 Klocks Island Park, 150th St. Cardinal Park, Old N. Main St



Location: Oelwein in Fayette County • Red Gate Park, 201 20th St. SE Wings Park, 209 8th Ave NE





Location: Brandon in Buchanan County **Length:** 6.5 miles of a 67-mile trail Surface: Mix of Granular & Paved Trail **Difficulty:** Easy **Trailhead Parking:**

• Fontana Nature Center, 1883 125th St.

20. Monona Butterfly Garden & Prairie Trail

Branard St., Brandon

Trailhead Parking:



Location: Monona in Clayton County Length: 1.5 miles **Surface:** Paved Trail **Difficulty:** Easy Trailhead Parking: • Gateway Park C ound, S. Main St./Hwy 18 2 Aquatic Center / Butterfly Garden

23. Motor Mill Trail



Location: Elkader in Clayton County **Length:** 7.5 miles Surface: Mix of Granular Trail & Paved Shoulder **Difficulty:** Medium Trailhead Parking:



Location: Elkader in Clayton County Surface: Single-Track Trail

25. Campbell Park

The network is one of the longest in the United

States, running through ten states and including

almost 3,000 miles of shared-roadway and bike/

pedestrian paths, all located within ten miles of the

visitiowa.org

Mississippi River. The trail follows the Great River

Road, a National Scenic Byway.

Paved Shoulder

Trail details on back of map

Restroom & Scenic Overlook

🖰 Picnic Area 🔥 Primitive Camping

NO MAP Trail map unavailable

Nater 🕙 Bike Fix-it Station

Trail Access Parking



Location: Strawberry Point in Clayton County Surface: Paved Trail

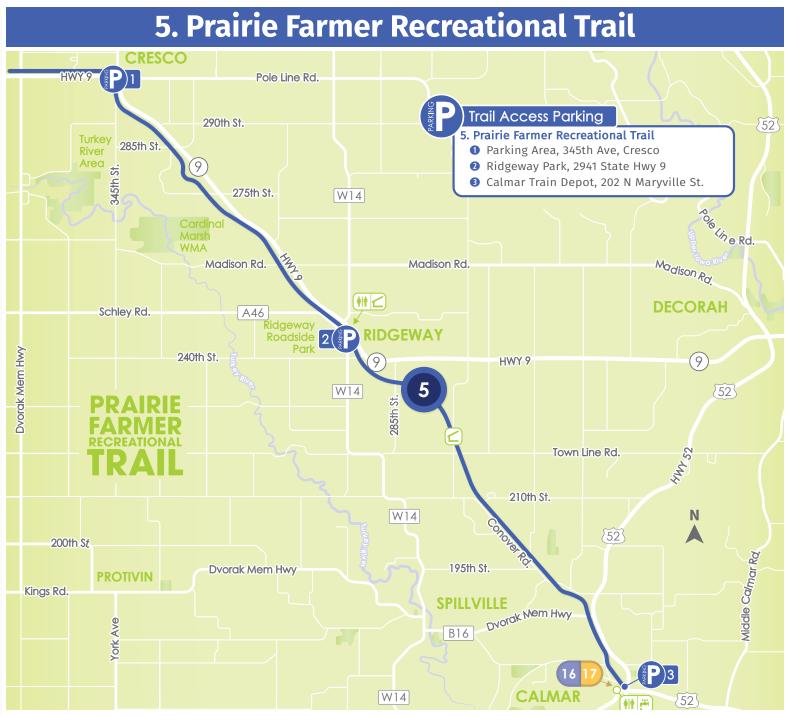
26. Viking Loop



Location: Edgewood in Clayton County Length: 1 mile **Surface:** Paved Trail **Difficulty:** Easy **Trailhead Parking:** • Event Center, 305 North Washington St.



Location: Decorah in Winneshiek County | Length: 11 miles | Surface: Paved Trail | Difficulty: Varies Description: The 11-mile Trout Run Trail loops Decorah, offering stunning views and safe, non-motorized access to trout streams, the Upper Iowa River, art pieces, the Decorah Fish Hatchery / Siewers Spring, the Decorah eagles, a campground, several parks with miles of hiking trails, and the many shops, restaurants, and breweries of Decorah. Half of the trail is flat and half provides challenging climbs. A 3-mile extension akes riders to the playground and shelter at Freeport Park.



.ocation: Winneshiek & Howard County | Length: 20 miles | Surface: Paved Trail | Difficulty: Easy Description: The Prairie Farmer Recreational Trail stretches from Cresco through Ridgeway to Calmar along scenic woodlands, meadows, and agricultural land. The quiet trail primarily follows the abandoned Milwaukee Railroad line for a smooth, flat, and easy twenty-mile ride that offers great opportunities for viewing native wildflowers and wildlife. The trail is named for a radio show once broadcast in the Midwest and is well-marked with emergency signage.



Location: Elgin/Clermont in Fayette County

Recreational Corridor connects three

ommunities (Clermont, Elgin, and Elkader) and two counties (Clayton

and Fayette) that are all linked by

the scenic beauty of the Turkey

River. The trail between Clermont

two downtown communities while

showcasing the wooded hills, rich

farmland, abundant wildlife, historic

landmarks, and cultural and outdoor

experiences found within the Turkey

River Recreational Corridor. A life-size

eagle's nest public art piece, numerous

helters and parks, and interpretive

riosks are located along the trail.

and Elgin takes riders through

Length: 7 miles

Surface: Paved Trail

Description: The Turkey River

This bike guide was sponsored and supported by NEITA, Northeast Iowa Tourism Association. NEITA is a regional collaborative group that works together to promote tourism for the region. We invite you to come explore our beautiful

corner of the state on two wheels and enjoy all of our bike-friendly destinations. Questions? We are happy to assist you with travel planning and would love to answer any questions you might have, mail you a brochure, offer suggestions for your trip, assist with directions, or anything that will make your planning easier. Please allow us to be of assistance! We can be contacted by visiting www.visitiowa.org.

Visitor Welcome Center

Parks & the Outdoors

Best Bike Shops Fun Activities Public Land Gravel Road Paved Road

Interstate Hwy Paved Trail

Granular Trail Paved Shoulder Hiking Trail Bike Fix-it Station Information Kiosk

Restroom

Picnic Area

Scenic Overlook

northeast

Primitive Camping

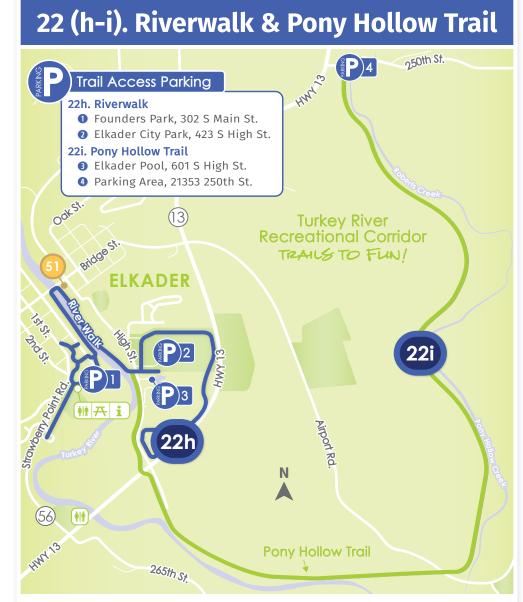
NOMAP Trail map unavailable

Trail Access Parking

Water

Shelter

Single-Track & Soft Trail



Location: Elkader in Clayton Count | Length: 4 miles | Surface: Pony Hollow -Granular; Riverwalk - Paved Trail | **Difficulty:** Varies | **Description:** The River Walk leads you through downtown Elkader, crossing the Keystone Bridge to the City Park and Pony Hollow Trail. The flat, four-mile, lime chipped Pony Hollow Trail offers one of the region's most scenic rides as it meanders the banks of the Turkey River and Roberts Creek. Pony Hollow Trail is a multi-use trail, including horseback riding. Bikers Yield.



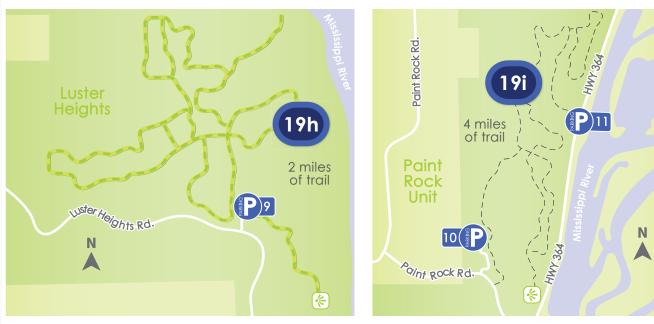
Location: McGregor in Clayton County | Length: 11 miles / 2.8 Miles of Mtn Bike Trail Surface: Single-Track | Difficulty: Varies | Description: Pikes Peak State Park is one of Iowa's premier destinations, located along a National Scenic Byway and famed for its stunning views. The Point Ann Trail offers challenging mountain biking. All other trails are hiking only, but provide breathtaking views of Bridal Veil Falls or the confluence of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers.



through picturesque natural beauty.

Location: Clayton County | **Length:** 15 miles Surface: Single-Track | Difficulty: Varies **Description:** Dedicated in 1920, Backbone was lowa's first state park and remains one of the most geologically unique. It is named for the Devil's Backbone, a steep, narrow ridge of bedrock that is the highest point in Northeast Iowa. The designated biking trails (Barred Owl, Bluebird, East Lake, and West Lake) offer a robust and challenging trek







Location: Harpers Ferry in Allamakee County | Length: 20+ miles | Surface: Single Track & Soft **Difficulty:** Varies | **Description:** The trails at Yellow River State Forest prove that Iowa is anything but flat. Expect steep climbs rewarded with stunning overlooks and views. Biking is allowed only on designated trails in Paint Creek and Luster Heights Units. Some trails are multi-use and bikers should yield to hikers and horseback riders. All trails in Paint Rock





Location: Decorah in Winneshiek County | Length: 30+ miles | Surface: Single-Track & Soft | Difficulty: Varies Description: More than twenty miles of scenic, well-maintained, and challenging single-track and soft trails twist, loop, and climb throughout 450 wooded park acres. Detailed trail signs aid navigation and include loop and route maps, directional arrows, difficulty ratings, safety considerations, and points of interest.



Location: Mitchell & Howard Counties | Length: 27+ miles | Surface: Paved Trail | Difficulty: Varies **Description:** The Wapsi–Great Western Line Trail follows 27 flat miles along the former Chicago Great Western Railroad and meets the Old Roundhouse trail near Elma. The trail passes through a variety of picturesque landscapes, including rolling hills, trestle bridges, agricultural fields, Amish farmsteads, prairies, marshes, and woodlands. Users will ride by numerous parks, playgrounds, lakes, campgrounds, and other amenities.





Location: Fayette County | Length: 20 miles | Surface: Soft | Difficulty: Varies **Description:** Striking rock formations, prairie areas, natural woodlands, and abundant wildlife characterize the rugged topography of the 5,700 acres that make up Volga River State Recreation Area. Two campgrounds, Frog Hollow Lake, and the Volga River provide fishing, paddling, boating, and camping opportunities.

11. Gilbertson Conservation Education Area



Location: Elgin in Fayette County | Length: 10 miles | Surface: Soft Trail | Difficulty: Medium Description: Nine miles of multi-use trails are located within over 1,000 acres situated along the Turkey River and lined with streams, prairies, river bottoms, and limestone bluffs. Other amenities include a campground, pavilion, restrooms, natural playscape, nature center, fishing pond, historic buildings, and a summer petting zoo.

18. Mt. Hosmer City Park Trail Access Parking 8. Mt. Hosmer City Park 1 Mt. Hosmer City Park, 271 Main St. 2 Lansing Pool, 481 Bench St.

Location: Lansing in Allamakee County | Length: 8 miles | Surface: Single-Track **Difficulty:** Varies | **Description:** Mt. Hosmer offers spectacular panoramic views of the Mississippi River. It is named after Harriet Hosmer, a young female passenger on a cargo steamboat in 1851 that won a barefoot race to the top of the bluff against the ship's male crew members.



Location: West Union in Fayette County | Length: 5 miles | Surface: Paved Trail & Granular Trail | Difficulty: Easy Description: Echo Valley State Park preserves many historical structures hand built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. Additional recreational opportunities include picnicking, trout fishing in two streams, and primitive camping. Local farmer Richard Jensen developed sections of the Echo Valley Trail system on an 1890 railroad right-of-way running through his property and later transferred ownership to the

16. Three Elms Area Trail Access Parking 6. Three Elms County Park 1 Parking Area, 20413 Elms Park Rd.

Location: Independence in Buchanan County | **Length:** 1 mile **Surface:** Single-Track | **Difficulty:** Varies | **Description:** The Three Elms Trail is one-way. Be sure to follow arrows and stop at all stop signs. No riding during events at the area's archery range.

Fayette County Conservation Board for permanent protection and public enjoyment.