



Turkey River Recreational Corridor Vision Plan

2010-Present
(Updated October, 2022)

Turkey River Recreational Corridor
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1 Mission

To connect Clermont, Elgin and Elkader to develop and enhance the existing natural resource base through the creation of land and water trails to serve as the catalyst for economic growth and development.

2 2010-2017

In 2010 the Turkey River Recreational Corridor prioritized 18 projects within their Iowa Great Place Application. 13 of those projects were completed. Those projects included development of the Turkey River Water Trail, Construction of the Elkader Whitewater Park, Elkader Riverfront Improvement, Restoration of the Motor Mill Bridge, Improvement of the Clermont Public Canoe Access, Clermont Community Trail Enhancement, Clermont Highway 18 Beautification, Installation of Elgin Public Art, Completion of the Elgin/TRRC Trail, Elgin Streetscape Upgrade, Motor Mill Trail Construction, Motor Mill Flood Control, and Elgin Trail Signage.

The remaining 7 projects have been partially completed or are currently in progress. These projects include Completion of the TRRC Land Trail from Elgin to Elkader, Clermont Dam Mitigation, Elkader Wayfinding Signage Development, Elkader City Trail Development, and Motor Mill Building Restoration.

3 2018-Present

The Turkey River Recreational Corridor Board continues to work towards completion of every aspect of the aforementioned 7 projects. Following re-designation in 2017, the TRRC finalized an updated vision plan for future progress.

Strategic Priorities

The following strategic priorities have been identified for development of new projects as opportunities and partnerships present themselves:

- TRRC Expansion and Promotion
- Natural Resource Conservation and Enhancement
- Recreational Opportunity Expansion
- Historic and Archaeological Preservation and Restoration
- Community and Regional Development
- Economic Development and Tourism
- Art and Cultural Support and Expansion

Work Plan

Annually, the TRRC acts on the above strategic priorities through the following work plan tasks:

1. Small Project Grant Writing and Facilitation: Implementation of small projects funded through local and state grants.
2. Marketing and Advertising Promotion: Market and advertise the TRRC and its communities.
3. Program and Event Coordination: Facilitate, coordinate, and partner with events in the TRRC.
4. Online Content Maintenance and Development: Develop content for TRRC social media and the TRRC website.
5. Board Management/Partnerships: Foster and maintain the TRRC Board and build upon partnerships with organizations and groups that will promote and work with the TRRC.
6. Trail Counting and Economic Study: Conduct trail user analysis in the TRRC to utilize for economic impact purposes.
7. Iowa Great Places Status Upkeep: Maintain Iowa Great Places status for the TRRC.
8. Accountability and Sustainability: Communicate regularly with partners and TRRC board members to maximize leveraged funds and resources.
9. Large Infrastructure Grant Writing: Write a large infrastructure grant annually to further the development of land trails within the TRRC.



Priority Projects

The following projects have been identified as priorities by the TRRC Board. New projects and priorities are being added regularly as opportunities for partnership and funding opportunities arise.

TRRC Expansion and Promotion

- Website: Interactive Map (COMPLETE) and Attraction Listings
- Events: Recreational Club Support/Workshops, Partnership Events (ONGOING)
- Promotional Materials/Advertising:
 - Regional Trail Map/Hiking Guide (IN PROGRESS)
 - Turkey River Video (COMPLETE) & 360 Video (COMPLETE)
 - Turkey River Water Trail Guide Update (COMPLETE)
 - Introduction to the TRRC Packet (IN PROGRESS)
 - Marketing and Advertising Partnerships (ONGOING)

Natural Resource Conservation and Enhancement

- Clermont Dam Mitigation (STUDIES IN PROGRESS)
- Osborne Village Interpretation (COMPLETE)
- Gilbertson Conservation Education Area Interpretation (COMPLETE)
- Osborne Welcome Center 3rd Floor Development (COMPLETE)
- Turkey River Watershed Management Authority Signage (COMPLETE)

Recreational Opportunity Expansion

- Elkader to Motor Mill Trail (COMPLETE)
- Pony Hollow Trail (FUNDING PENDING)
- Elkader to Elgin Trail (FUNDING PENDING)
- Elkader Community Trail System Development (VISIONING COMPLETE)
- Land Trail Signage/Mile Markers
- Turkey River Water Trail Safety/Canoe Launch Improvements
- Gilbertson Visitors Lodge
- Trout Fishing Access Improvement and Signage
- Elkader Whitewater Park Feature Improvement/Additions

Historic and Archaeological Preservation and Restoration

- Larrabee Building Windows (IN PROGRESS)
- Keystone Bridge (IN PROGRESS)
- Elkader Train Depot (COMPLETE)
- George Maier Rural Heritage Center Interpretation
- Osborne Train /Pioneer Village/Pony Hollow Trail History
- Regional Train Restoration
- Define Motor Mill Campground into Historic Town Layout
- Motor Mill Inn Building Improvements (IN PROGRESS)
- Elgin Historical Society Museum Improvement and Expansion (IN PROGRESS)

Community and Regional Development

- Community Catalyst Assistance – Clermont (COMPLETE)
- Elkader Wayfinding/Welcome Signage (IN PROGRESS)
- Elgin Bandstand Improvement (COMPLETE)
- City/County Playground Improvement/Enhancement (COMPLETE)

Economic Development and Tourism

- New Business Development (Hotels, Recreation Outfitters, etc.)
- Osborne Wayfinding Improvement
- Attracting Success Young Professionals Project (COMPLETE)

Art and Cultural Support and Expansion

- Trail Art – Native Flower Lights, Mile Markers
- StoryWalks (TABLED)
- Elkader Art in the Alley (COMPLETE)



