



2023 Guidebook

Family or Group Name: _____

Number of Adults: _____

Number of Children: _____

www.turkeyrivercorridor.com

The Turkey River Safari was created by:

- Turkey River Recreational Corridor Board
- Clayton County Conservation
- Fayette County Conservation

With gratitude towards:

- Winneshiek County Driftless Safari (driftless-safari.org)
- AJ Perling (Snowball Creative Services)
- Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation & Development
- Clayton County Conservation staff
- Fayette County Conservation staff
- Clermont Public Library
- Elgin Public Library
- Elkader Public Library
- Hawkeye Public Library
- West Union Public Library
- Osborne Welcome Center
- Gilbertson Nature Center

Thank you for joining us on our
2023 Turkey River Safari
adventure!



WELCOME

Welcome to the 2023 Turkey River Safari! From Memorial Day to Labor Day, this is a summer-long adventure that will take you and your family to new and favorite places along the Turkey River Corridor. The Turkey River Recreational Corridor is a joint effort between Fayette and Clayton counties and the communities of Clermont, Elgin, Elkader, and Motor Mill Historic Site. As one of Iowa's Great Places, the Turkey River Recreational Corridor is working to create great outdoor adventures throughout the Turkey River Valley.

This is your guidebook. You may visit the sites in any order, and we highly recommend for you to be creative in the ways you get to each site when it is safe to do so—try bike riding on the trails, roller blading, or even paddling!

At each site, you'll be looking for a post like this. The symbols on the pages of this book match the symbols on the rubbing post you will find at specified safari sites. Make a rubbing—crayons work best—in the space provided on the page.

Enjoy! Each site is a chance for you and your family and friends to grow closer, play outside, learn, and enjoy the beauty of the Turkey River Corridor!



Site information

Gouldsburg Park
18649 Sunset Road, Hawkeye

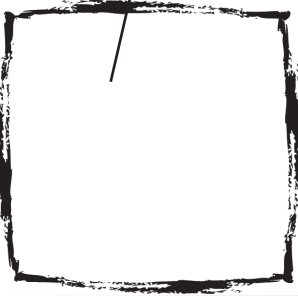
Located 5 miles north of Hawkeye on Sunset Road.

Gouldsburg Park marks the start of the Turkey River Water Trail. The park consists of 64 acres at the confluence of the Little Turkey River and Crane Creek. These streams provide great fishing and canoeing. The hilly area includes great picnic sites and a modern campground with a dump station, showers, flush toilets, and 26 electrical hook-up sites. Enjoy the playground and the hiking trails as you search for the rubbing post.


8

Stewardship message

Place crayon rubbing here



CLUE: Look for the historic mill sign on the north side of the river and you will be very close.



9

Clue Match this symbol

How to Make a Rubbing

1. Find the correct page in your guidebook.
2. Place the designated area of the corresponding page over the symbol.
3. Rub the side of the crayon slowly over the paper and watch the symbol take form!

Tips for Enriching Your Experience:

- Talk to the locals! If you are visiting a site for the first time, explore your community and speak to a trusted adult who works at the site! Some key people to meet may include a park ranger, tour guide, historian, or city staff person.
- Be prepared—always! Keep your guidebook and map with you in your car or backpack all summer long; an adventure is always around the corner! Be sure you don't end up on any level B or C roads!
- Remember: It's summer! We want you and your family to be safe this summer! Remember to wear sunscreen and sun-resistant clothing, bring plenty of water and snacks, and don't forget your camera, first-aid kit, and insect repellent!
- Be a good steward! We care about all living things and want to protect the land, animals, and fellow human beings so that future generations will have wild and precious places to explore!

Things to Do At Each Site

Here are some extra activities you and your family can enjoy practically anywhere!

- 1. Check ahead of time and see if there is a class or activity happening. Many of the sites have terrific websites to let you know what is offered!
- 2. The limestone bluffs that surround the Turkey River Valley are a great place to look for fossils and interesting rocks. Start a collection of your own!
- 3. Visit your local farmer’s market before your adventure and pack a picnic!
- 4. Bring your fishing pole and catch your supper!
- 5. Bald eagles and many other native birds can be seen all along the Turkey River. Start a journal to record all that you see during your safari adventure!
- 6. Go to your local library to find out the history and stories surrounding Clayton and Fayette Counties.

Visit www.turkeyrivercorridor.com to find links to trail maps, local events, and more! We would love to see your pictures as you are exploring. To share pictures with us, please visit our Facebook page, follow us on Instagram, or email them to us at turkeyrivercorridor@gmail.com.

Table of Contents

	Pages
Big Spring Fish Hatchery	8–9
Frieden Park.....	10–11
Elkader Public Library.....	12–13
Clayton County Courthouse.....	14–15
Carter House	16–17
Elkader Campground-Independence Rock.....	18–19
Pony Hollow Trail.....	20–21
Turkey River Park	22–23
Motor Mill Historic Site.....	24–25
Osborne Campground	26–27
Civil War Monument.....	28–29
Fayette Trail-Storywalk	30–31
Stoneman	32–33
Gouldsburg Park	34–35
Fayette County Fairgrounds	36–37
Clermont Jail	38–39
Clermont Trail Head.....	40–41
Eagle's Nest	42–43
Elgin Trail Head	44–45
Gilbertson Conservation Education Area	46–47

CLAYTON COUNTY SITES
FAYETTE COUNTY SITES

Let the safari begin!

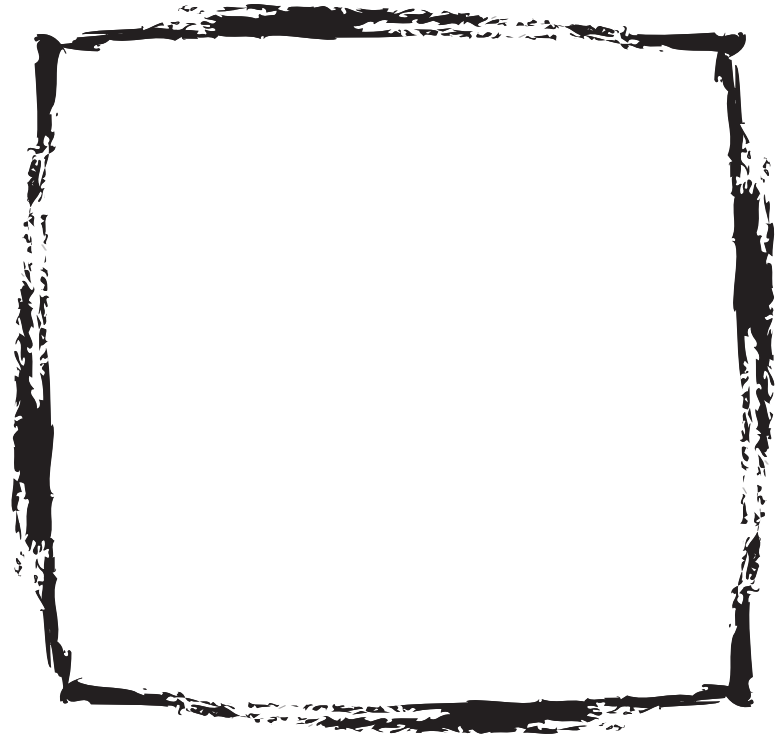
Big Spring Fish Hatchery

16212 Big Springs Road, Elkader

The Big Springs Rearing Station is located on the Turkey River 10 miles NW of Elkader in Clayton County. Nearly 150,000 Rainbow and Brook Trout are reared at Big Springs and stocked by hatchery personnel into 15 different cold-water streams.

All trout reared at Big Springs come from the Manchester Hatchery when they are 2-3" in size and then grown to catchable size (10-12"). It takes about 15 months to grow a trout to catchable size!

A new viewing platform is available to overlook the spring!



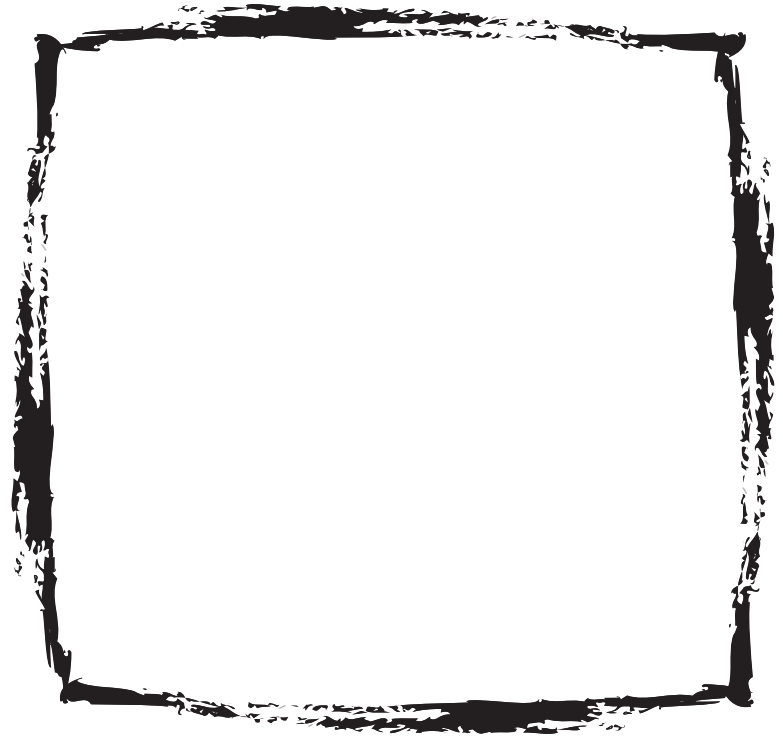
CLUE: Follow the roadway to find some stairs overlooking the spring!



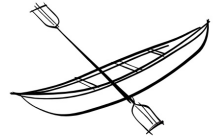
Frieden Park

Five and a half miles northwest of Elkader along the Turkey River, adjacent to Big Springs Trout Hatchery

This park offers primitive camping, canoe access, and picnicking. Primitive camping is available for a nominal fee of \$15/night. You can float from the Frieden Park/Big Springs area to Elkader in your canoe or kayak in 3 to 5 hours.



CLUE: Look near the entrance to the park.



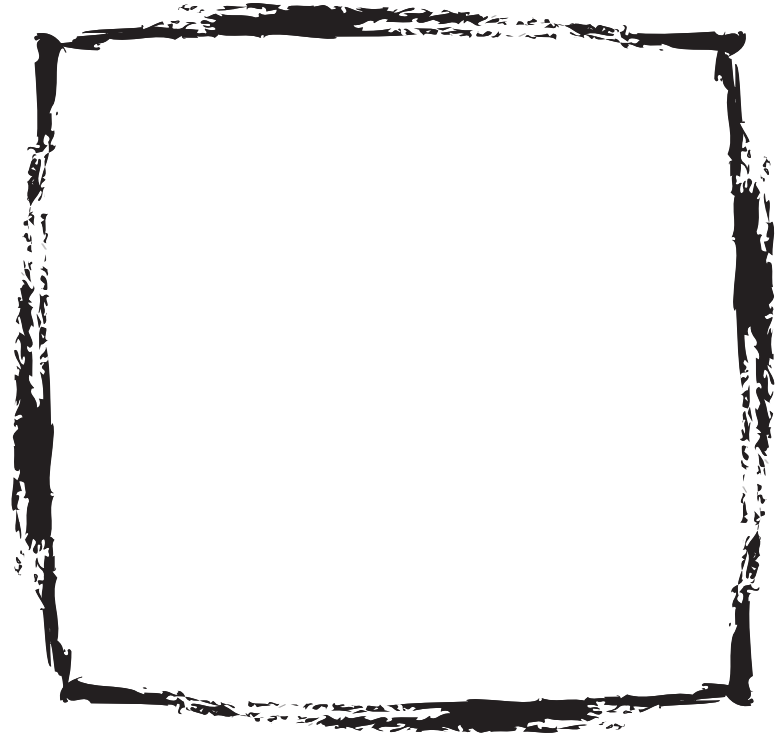
Elkader Public Library

130 N Main Street, Elkader

The library is your one-stop source for all of your informational needs. There is a large selection of books, magazines, newspapers, audio books, puzzles, and even cake pans available to be checked out by our library card holders! Here you will also find electronic resources, news, announcements, and a calendar of upcoming library events.

The Elkader Public Library is also the start of a new Story Walk, which is a joint effort between Central's Clayton County BEST students, local businesses and the Elkader Public Library. The library has a map of the route or it can be accessed via a QR code. Pages of a children's book are in store windows throughout the downtown area. The book and theme will change from month to month. It is an outlet for exercise, reading and learning as well as a fun family adventure.

If you look out front of the library at night, you'll see the lights adorning downtown Elkader! These lights were a recent project completed by Main Street Elkader.



CLUE: Find a welcoming sign.

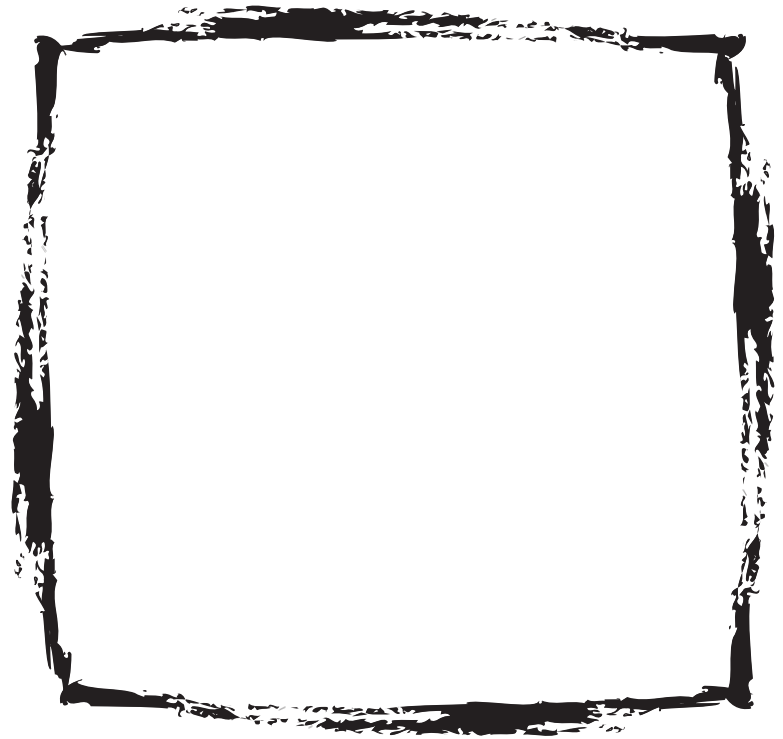


Clayton County Courthouse

111 High Street NE, Elkader

The Clayton County Courthouse, built in 1867-68, is an example of "Italianate" style architecture. The light red brick structure rests on a foundation of limestone blocks quarried five blocks away. An addition built in 1877-78 and the construction of the wooden clock tower in 1896 completed the existing building.

The Clayton County Board of Supervisors and the Clayton County Historic Preservation Commission worked together a few years ago to rehabilitate the clock tower!



CLUE: Look around the entrance to the courthouse.



Carter House

101 High Street SE, Elkader

The past returns when you enter the Carter House and its attached annex. The home built in the 1850's by Henry & Ernest Carter is an 18-room Greek Revival mansion furnished in 19th century style. In 1983 the property was purchased by the Elkader Historical Society and restored to its original appearance to serve as a historical museum. The collection boasts a significant display of military uniforms.

Open Memorial Day through Sept 30
Saturday & Sunday 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm.

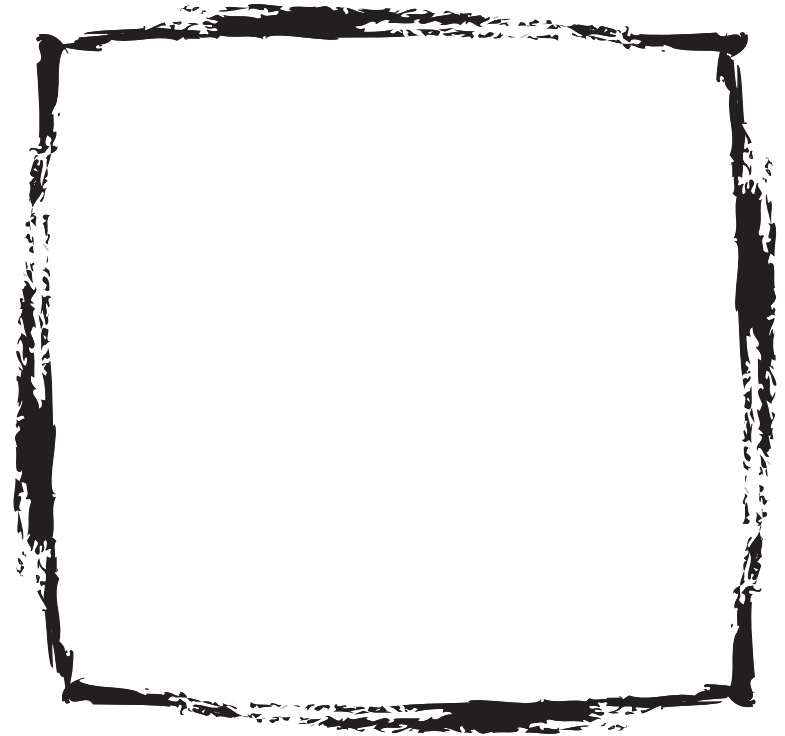
Admission

Adults: \$5.00,

Children under 12: \$2.00

Family: \$15.00

School & Tour Group discounts available



CLUE: Find a large American Flag.

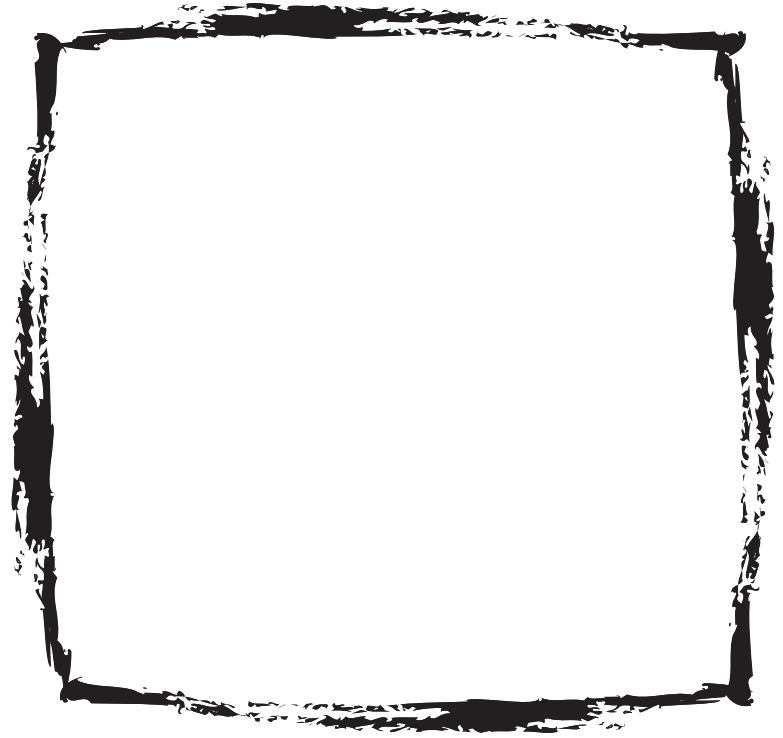


Elkader Campground-Independence Rock

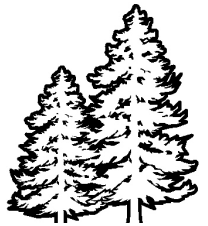
707 High Street SE, Elkader

This unique rock marks the place where one of the first celebrations of the anniversary of American independence was held in the State of Iowa. The table-like rock once topped a bluff north of Elkader and the unique formation served as a landmark in early pioneer days. Geologists differ as to the origin, but say that the table shape is due to a layer of strong rock protecting the weaker rock beneath. As the years rolled on, the greater part of the bluff was worn smoothly down creating the “table-top” rock.

A shallow bowl-like indentation remains on the north end of the rock, where it is reported that indigenous peoples ground their corn.



CLUE: Look near the big rock.

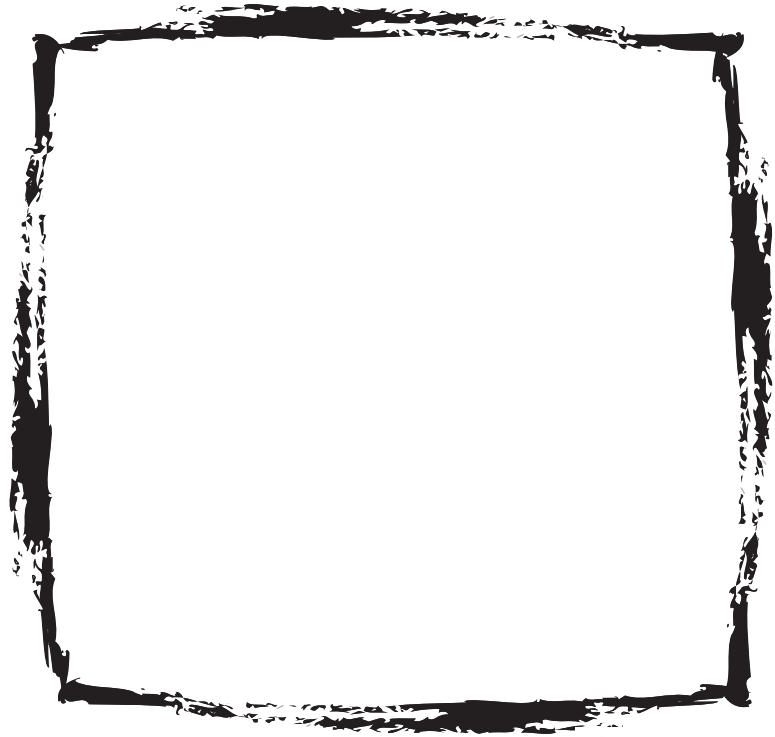


Pony Hollow Trail

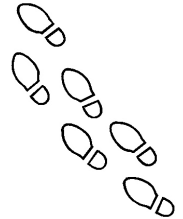
Travel North from Hwy 56 on Hwy 13 from Elkader, turn right on S High St. to park and access the trail.

The Pony Hollow Trail is a 4-mile, lime-chipped trail which was an old railroad bed. The multi-use trail provides a great experience for people on foot, horseback, or bicycle. Trail users have the opportunity to travel through timber areas, open fields and along a creek bed with opportunities to see plenty of wildlife.

Clayton County Conservation is currently working to expand the trail to create a completed loop around Elkader.



CLUE: Walk down to the trail and turn left. Walk a little ways and look for the gate and trail signs.

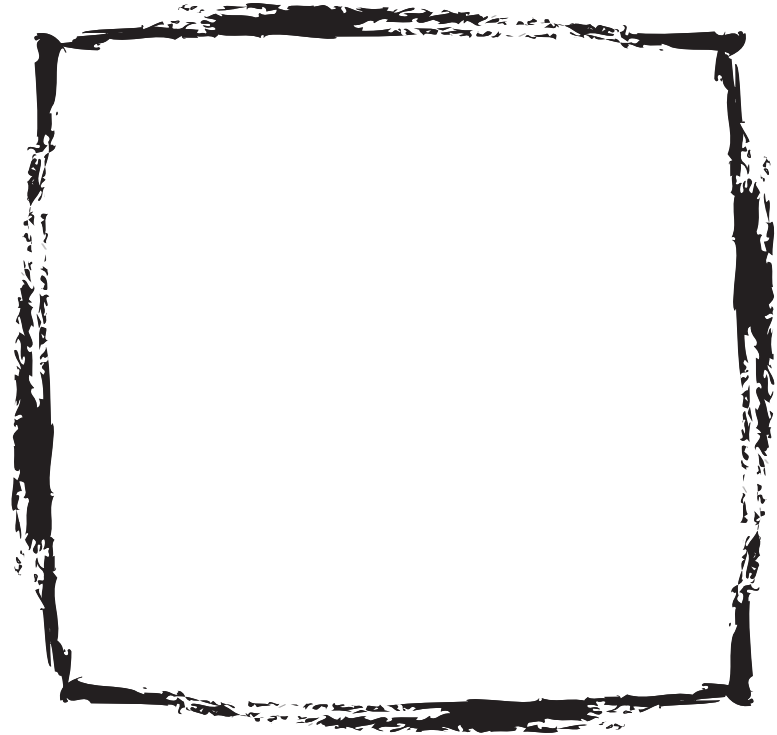


Turkey River Park

20195 Strawberry Point Road, Elkader

Located on the east edge of Elkader, Turkey River Park offers the perfect place to start a canoe or kayaking adventure. Paddlers can enter the river and spend the day floating to Motor Mill or Garber.

Plan on spending nearly two hours on the river to arrive at Motor Mill and almost six hours to get to the quaint town of Garber. Both floats have beautiful views of Northeast Iowa's limestone bluffs, forests, and wildlife.



CLUE: Find a place to take shelter.



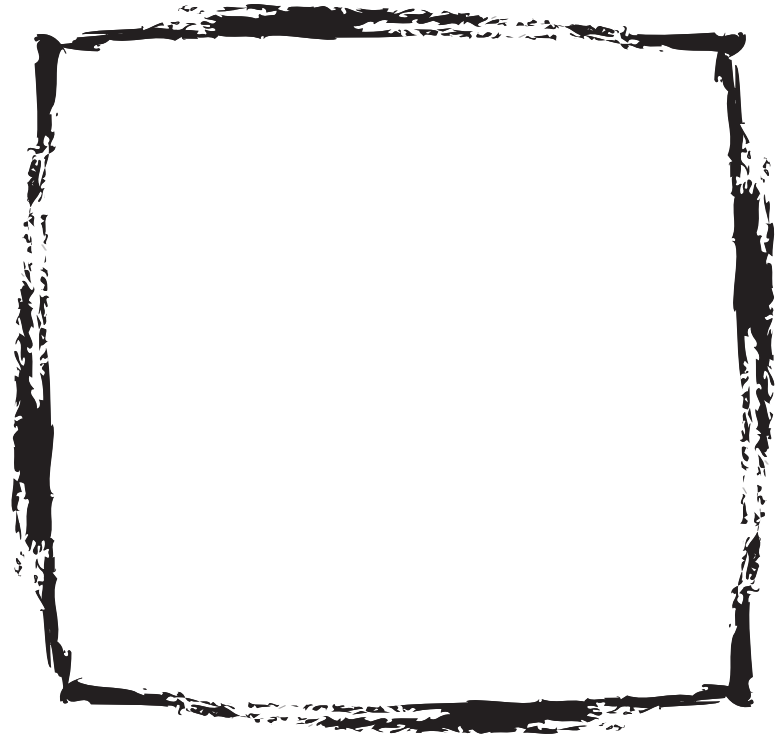
Motor Mill Historic Site

28518 Galaxy Road, Elkader

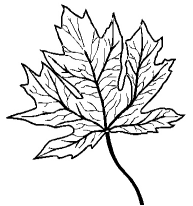
The Motor Mill Historic Site, a monument to northeast Iowa's ever-changing agricultural industry, includes five preserved limestone structures (mill, cooperage, icehouse, inn, and stable). Stone for the construction of the mill was quarried from atop the bluff north of the mill and lowered down in a specially designed cable car system. German stonemasons from nearby communities built the mill, which began operation in 1870.

The Motor Mill Foundation and Clayton County Conservation are just finishing up restoration of the 1870s limestone Inn. The project includes preservation of historical components including structural elements that place the Inn on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Inn will welcome visitors of the Motor Mill site, with meeting rooms and overnight accommodations!



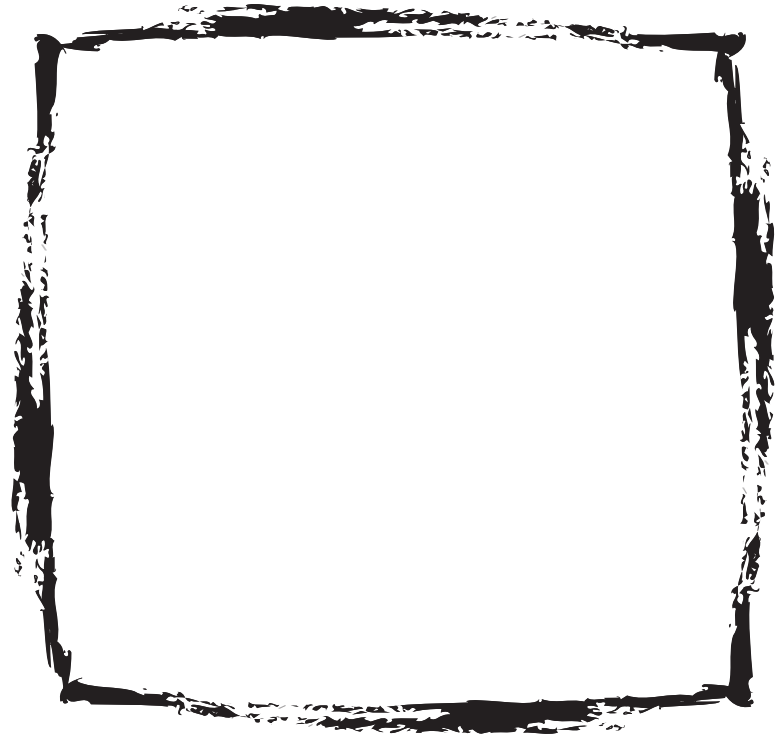
CLUE: Look for some large signs near the Inn.



Osborne Campground

29862 Osborne Road, Elkader

The Clayton County Conservation Board is working to develop a campground at Osborne Park. The preliminary design for the new campground would locate the facility near the Osborne Native Wildlife Exhibit and includes RV sites, tent sites, a showerhouse, playground, sewage dump station, picnic shelters, and extra parking spaces. The campground will also connect to existing trails and amenities within the park.



CLUE: Find a path to the left of the Welcome Center leading towards the future campground site.

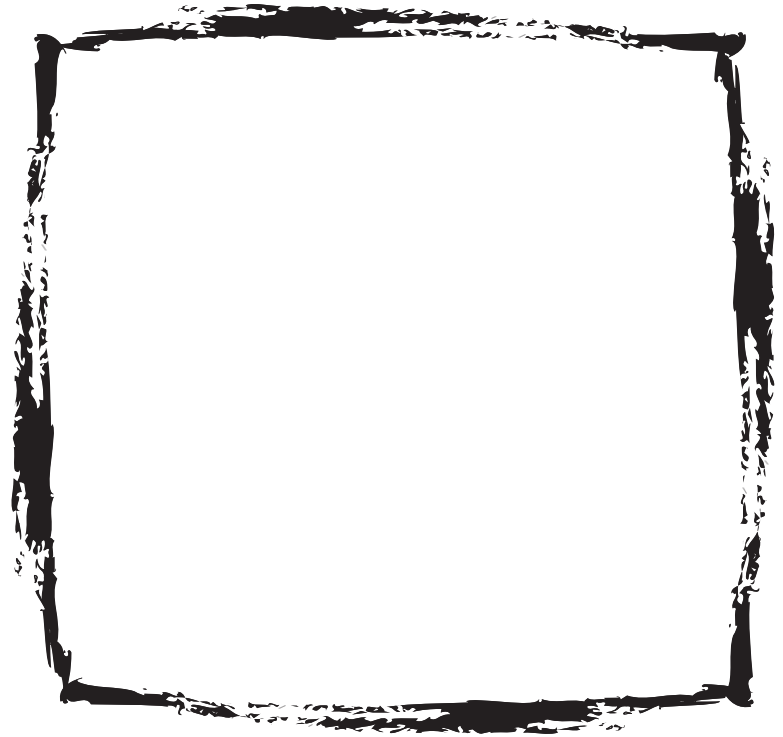


Civil War Monument

Wadena City Park: 114 E 4th Ave, Wadena

The City of Wadena is located in the Illyria Township in Fayette County on the banks of the Volga River. Wadena is known for its famous rock festival held in August of 1970 on a nearby farm. You can find the recently restored civil war monument in the Wadena City Park. The monument was restored by Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) brother David Christen in Abernethy Camp 48.

When you are done here you can go see one of the barn quilts of Fayette County or view the illuminated cross high on the bluff above Wadena at night.



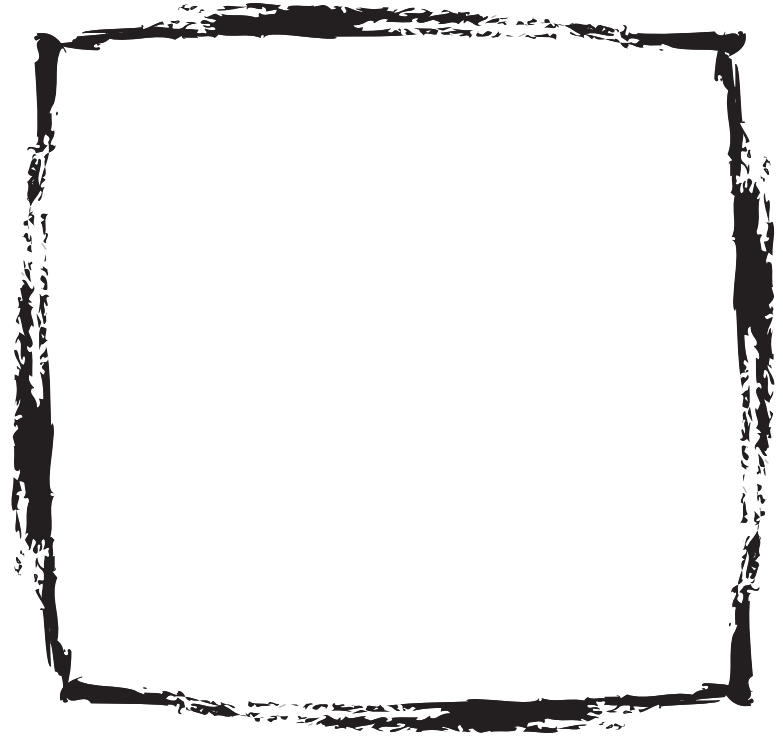
CLUE: You will find the post near a fence looking towards the monument.



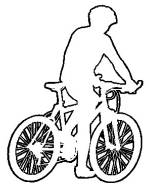
Fayette Trail-Storywalk

225 W Water Street, Fayette

The Fayette Community Library received funding to develop a Storywalk! At the park, the trail leads you from a page from a favorite book to the next page. Find a new book each year to enjoy while you walk the trail!



CLUE: Follow the trail and find the first page of the StoryWalk.



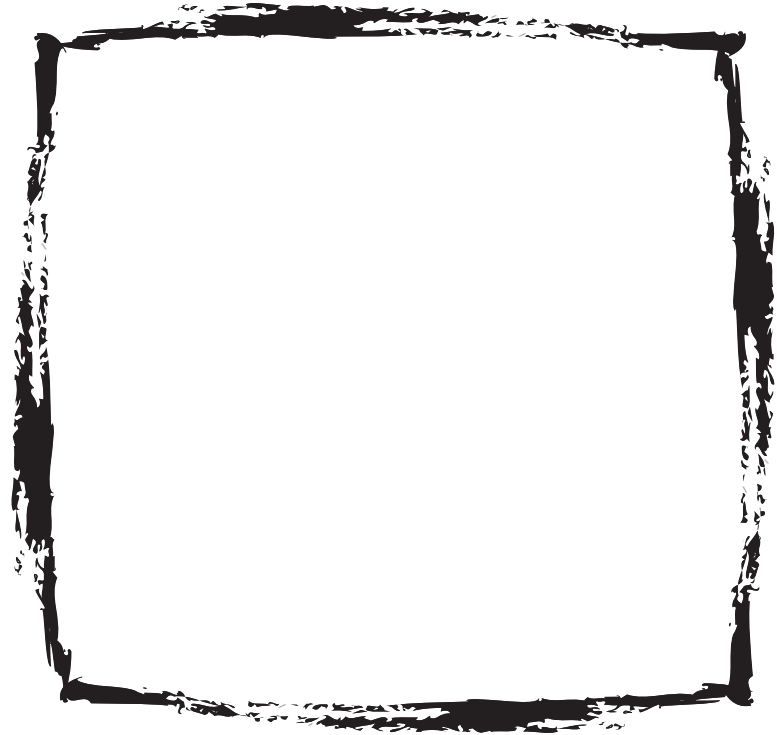
Stoneman

Intersection of 152nd St. and M Ave., Fayette

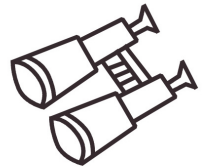
The Stoneman is a weathered, granite, glacial erratic who came to Fayette County over 500,000 years ago in a glacier.

The Fayette County Conservation Board recently received a Historical Marker Program grant through the State Historical Society of Iowa, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, with funding from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation! The project included fabrication and installation of a State Historical Marker featuring the Stone Man historical site in rural Fayette County.

Learn more about the Stoneman by reading the sign at the site!



CLUE: There is a wooden fence nearby.

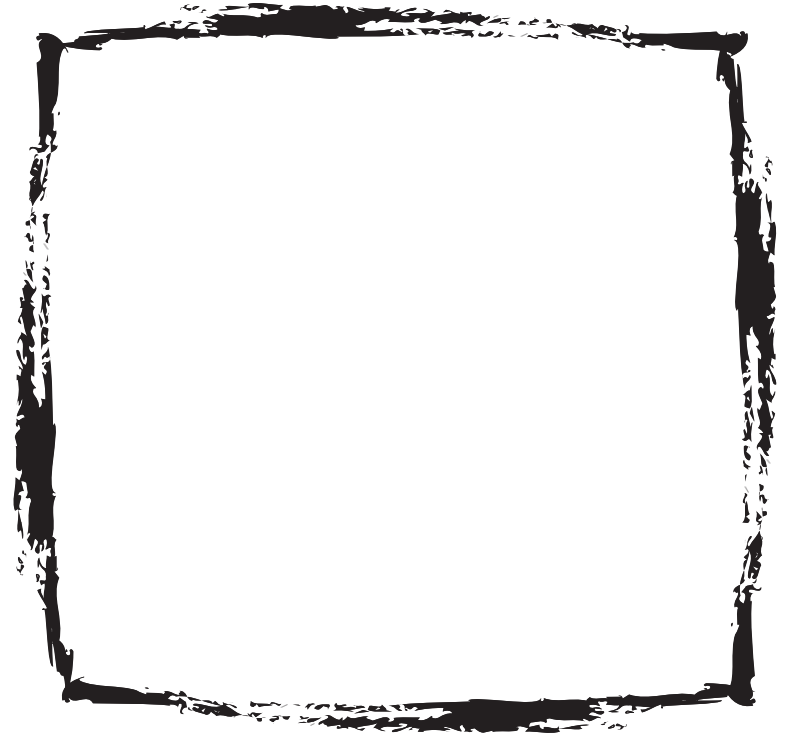


Gouldsburg Park

18649 Sunset Road, Fayette

Located along the confluence of the Little Turkey River and Crane Creek, Gouldsburg Park offers opportunities for fishing and paddling.

Other amenities offered are picnicking areas, a shelter house, playground, hiking opportunities, and primitive and modern camping.



CLUE: Look near a large sign.



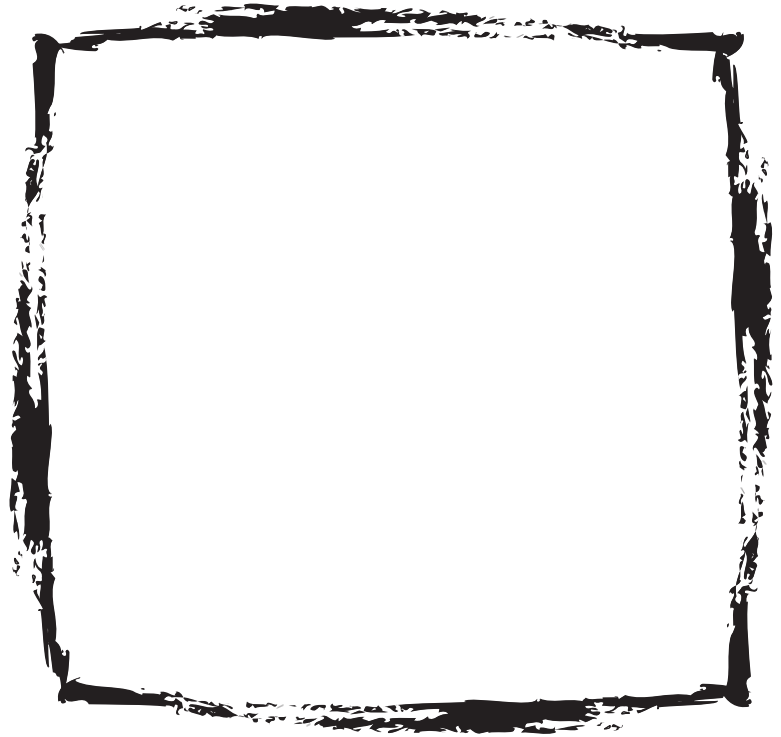
Fayette County Fairgrounds

504 S Vine Street, West Union

The Fayette County Fair offers 5 fun-filled days for the whole family to enjoy and will take place July 18 - 22, 2023! Entry to the fair is free and visitors can enjoy a free carnival, 4-H exhibits, fair food, and great grandstand entertainment.

Information about the fair and a schedule of events can be found at www.fayettecoiafair.com.

The WMT Great Eastern Iowa Tractorcade will also be hosted at the fairgrounds this year June 11-15!



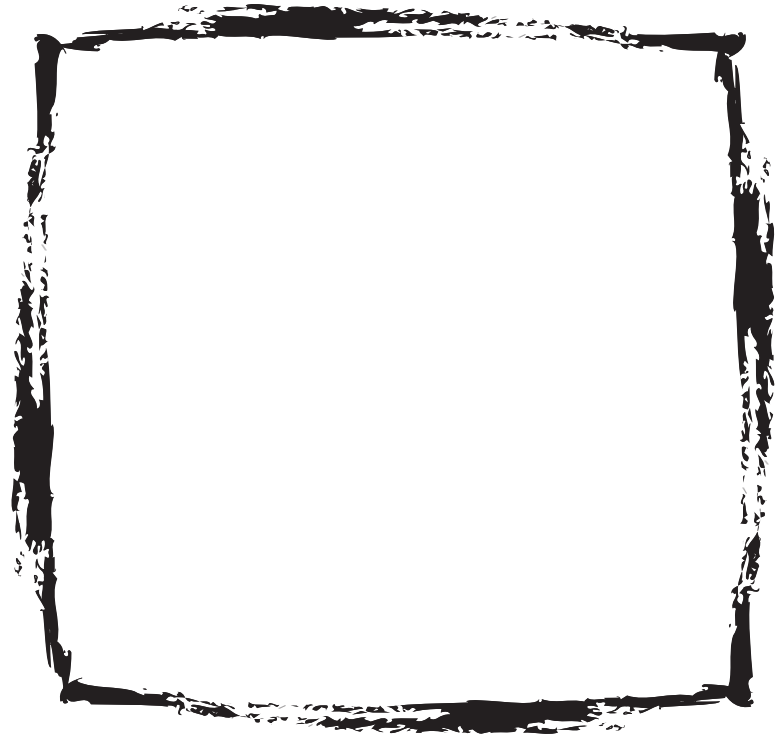
CLUE: Look near the schoolhouse, windmill, and school bell.



Clermont Jail

210 Mill Street, Clermont

The Clermont Jail was erected in 1852 with limestone from Williams Quarry. This stone jail has four-inch deep windows with bars and was used for incarceration until the 1920s. Although people were detained for crimes, the jail was most frequented by area residents looking for a free place to spend the night.



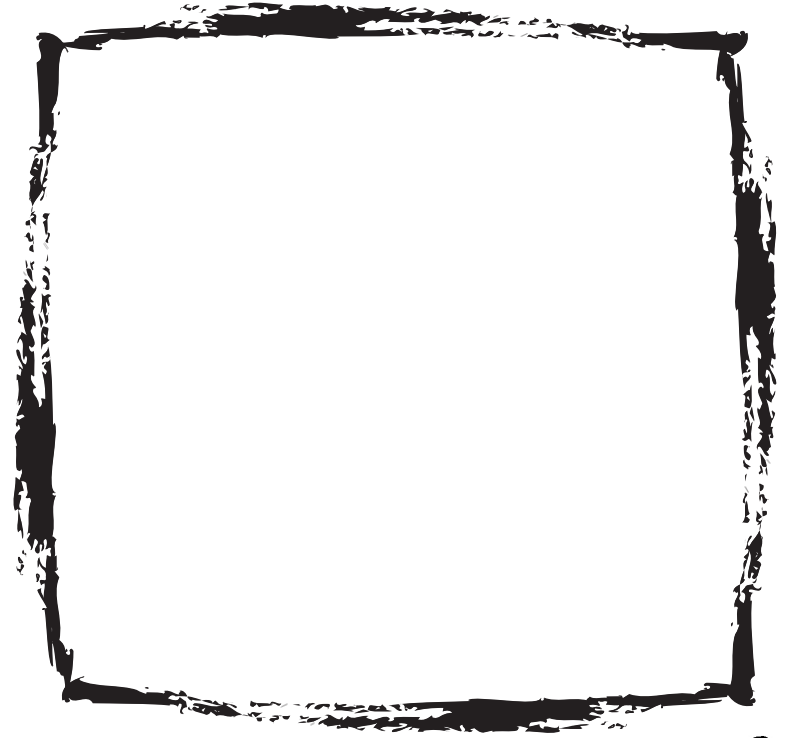
CLUE: Find the Clermont Jail behind the Blacksmith Shop building. Look near the door.



Clermont Trail Head

100 Thompson Street, Clermont

This trail offers 2.5 miles of lime chip surface for pedestrians to experience a walk through rural woodlands and along Northeast Iowa's agricultural landscape.



CLUE: Look near the sign for the trail.

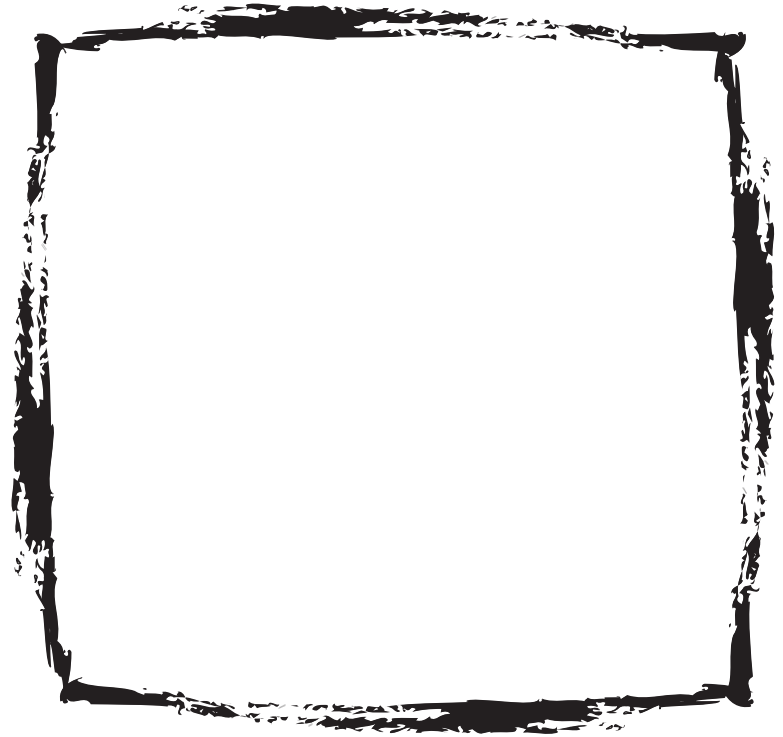


Eagle's Nest

23493 Canoe Road, Elgin

The Eagle's Nest is located along the Turkey River Recreational Corridor Trail in front of the Valley Middle School between Elgin and Clermont. The scale of the nest represents the approximate size of an eagle's nest if an average-sized adult human were an average-sized mature bald eagle.

The concept of the nest was created by the Valley Green Team with assistance from Trees Forever. The nest was designed and constructed by Dennis McElree of Echo Valley Metal Works. Occasionally, eagles can be seen through the viewscope!



CLUE: Trek the trail between Elgin and Clermont!

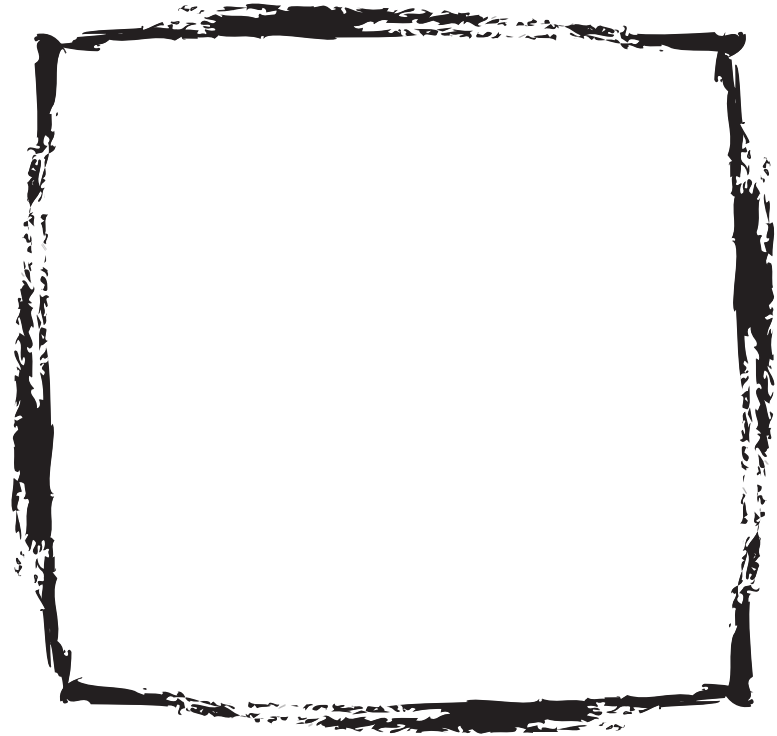


Elgin Trail Head

Travel to the East edge of Elgin before you cross the bridge into Gilbertson Park, Elgin

This Turkey River Recreational Corridor (TRRC) trail segment is part of the backbone of the Northeast Iowa Regional Trail System, which, when complete, will be a connected circuit of hundreds of miles of interlocking, diverse, trail experiences throughout Northeast Iowa.

The pedestrian bridge ahead of you was completed in 2019 and connects this segment of trail to the over 1000-acre Gilbertson Conservation Education Area (Gilbertson Park) across the Turkey River.



CLUE: Look near a large map before walking the trail.



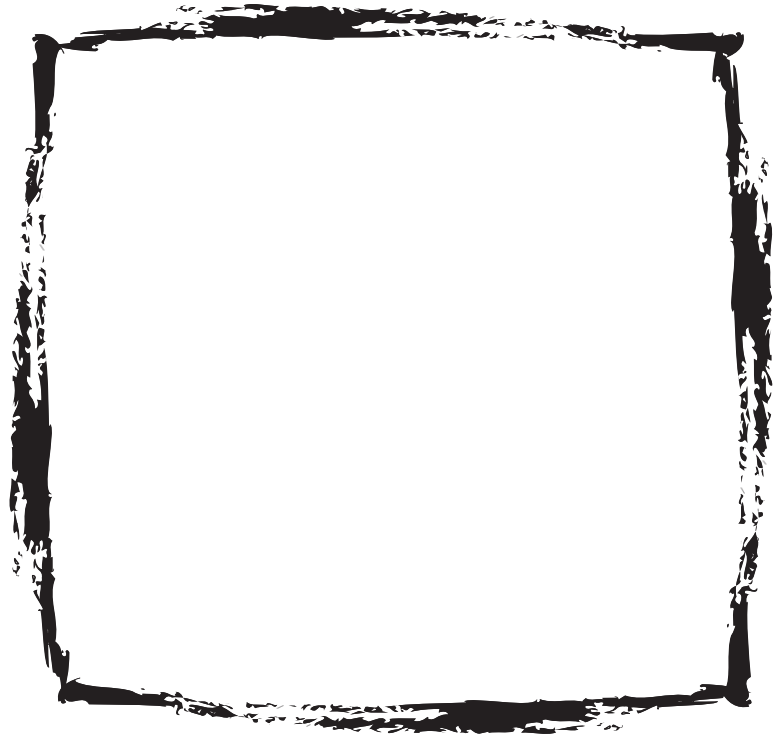
Gilbertson Conservation Education Area

22580 A Avenue, Elgin

Enjoy the petting zoo and pet the goats, donkey, kittens, and bunnies and have a picnic. Walk the Turkey River Recreational Trail to the campground and spend time primitive or RV camping. Continue on foot or on horseback on the 10+ miles of nature trails. Practice your paddling skills on the pond with the kayak launch or walk out on the dock to catch some fish.

Walk along the natural trails to the nature center and experience a live beehive, turtles, snakes, and educational games. Head outside to the new certified natural playscape to play some music, crawl through a log, and dig up a dinosaur!

Walk through the Mavis and Conner Dummermuth Historical Building and see what life was like "back in the day" at the Hart Dummermuth Historical House. Check out the timber sawmill, reconstructed to help tell the story of the timber industry in Iowa.



CLUE: Check out the petting zoo near a bench.



Conservation Tips

- Ride your bike or walk.
- Turn off the light as you leave each room.
- Conserve water when you do the dishes, brush your teeth, and shower.
- Recycle paper, plastics, and metals.
- Reuse what you can't recycle.
- Eat locally to save transportation costs.
- Spend time in nature.
- Limit the time you watch TV to one hour a day.
- Plant a garden.
- Open a window instead of using the air conditioner.
- Donate items you no longer need.
- Use rechargeable batteries.
- Compost leftover food waste.
- Visit a farmer's market



This guidebook was printed on recycled paper and is part of our journey to save the environment. We ask that you try to reduce, reuse, and recycle as well!



LEGEND

Scenic Byway

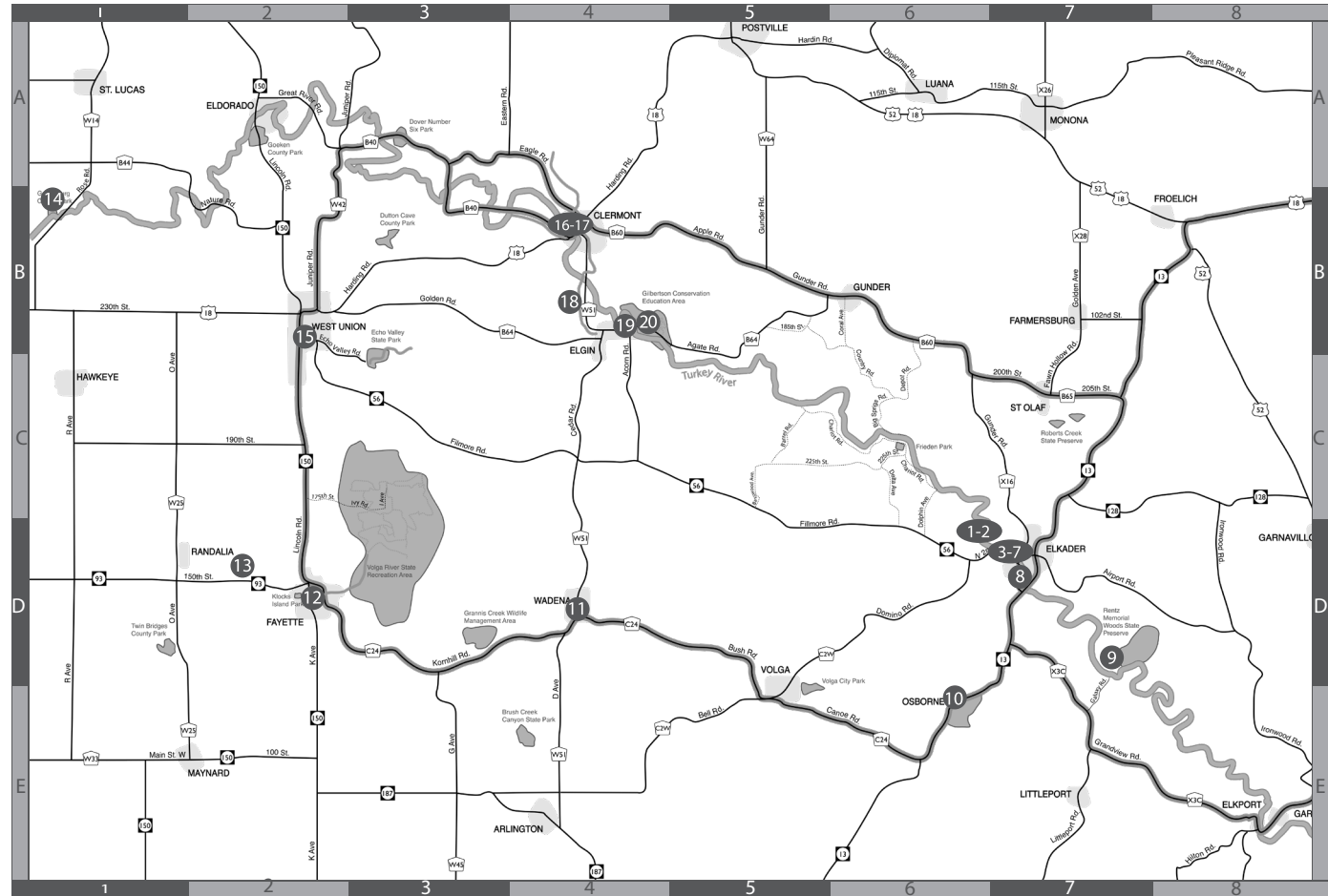
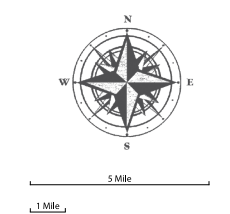
Paved Road

Gravel Road

Turkey River

County Parks

1 Safari Sites



Turkey River Safari Site List
2023

- 1 Big Spring Fish Hatchery D6 p
- 2 Frieden Park..... D7 p
- 3 Elkader Public Library..... D7 p
- 4 Clayton County Courthouse..... D7 p
- 5 Carter House D7 p
- 6 Elkader Campground-Independence Rock..... D8 p
- 7 Pony Hollow Trail..... D7 p
- 8 Turkey River Park D7 p
- 9 Motor Mill Historic Site..... D7 p
- 10 Osborne CampgroundE6 p
- 11 Civil War Monument..... D4 p
- 12 Fayette Trail-Storywalk D2 p
- 13 Stoneman D2 p
- 14 Gouldsburg ParkB1 p
- 15 Fayette County Fairgrounds B2 p
- 16 Clermont Jail B4 p
- 17 Clermont Trail Head..... B4 p
- 18 Eagle's Nest B4 p
- 19 Elgin Trail Head B4 p
- 20 Gilbertson Conservation Education Area B4 p

For the purposes of clarity, not all roads are shown on the map.



Color Your Adventure
Draw a picture to help you remember the
Turkey River Safari!

Thank you to our Sponsors!

Platinum

Nelson Family Fund
Fayette County Economic Development & Tourism

Gold

Bank 1st
Elgin Community Betterment Club
Freedom Bank (Elkader)
TJ's Pizza

Silver

Alpine Communications
Body Kneads
Brown's Sales & Leasing
Mrs. Catherine T Britt
Clayton County Development Group
Fennely's Irish Pub
Palmer Lutheran Health Center
TD's Sports Bar & Grill
THINK Custom
Torkelson Motors, Inc.
Valley Fresh Market

Bronze

Andy and Maureen Johnson
Elkader Area Chamber of Commerce

