



Turkey River Recreational Corridor Vision Plan

2010-Present
(Updated 2024)

An Iowa Great Place and 28E Government Organization
www.turkeyrivercorridor.com | turkeyrivercorridor@gmail.com | 563.265.5248

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 2010-2023

In 2010 the Turkey River Recreational Corridor prioritized 18 projects within their Iowa Great Place Application. Sixteen of those projects were completed. Those completed projects included development of the Turkey River Water Trail, construction of the Elgin to Clermont Land Trail, construction of the Elkader Whitewater Park, Elkader Riverfront improvement, restoration of Motor Mill Buildings (Mill, Inn, etc.), construction of the Motor Mill Trail, Motor Mill flood control, restoration of the Motor Mill Bridge, Clermont River Park improvement, improvement of the Valley Canoe Access, Clermont Community Trail enhancement, Highway 18 enhancement and beautification, installation of Elgin public art, completion of the Elgin Land Trail and Gilbertson Bride, Elgin streetscape upgrade, and Elgin trail signage. The remaining two projects have been partially completed or are currently in progress. These projects include completion of the TRRC Land Trail from Elgin to Elkader and Elkader wayfinding signage development.

Beyond the 18 originally identified projects, the TRRC has supported Marketing and Promotion, including development of a website with an interactive 360 ° map of the Turkey River Water Trail, development of the Northeast Iowa Regional Bike Trail map, update and re-print of Turkey River Water Trail maps, development of Clayton and Fayette County Trout Fishing guides, and promotion at statewide and international events (Iowa State Fair, CanoeCopia, etc.). Support for Natural Resource Conservation and Recreational Opportunity Expansion has continued, including interpretive sign development (Motor Mill, Scenic Byway, etc.), hazard mitigation planning, and planning for trail expansion and improvement (Pony Hollow Trail, mile markers, etc.). Historic and Archaeological Preservation and Restoration was a priority, with successful grant writing completed for restoration of the Larrabee School Windows, restoration of the Elkader Clock Tower, Motor Mill Inn restoration, and development of the Tribes of the Turkey Interpretive Center. Support for Community and Regional Development and Economic Development and Tourism included community playground enhancement (Elgin Climbing Wall), community planning facilitation, and promotion for business expansion and population growth efforts. Art and Cultural Support and Expansion was also supported with support for Elkader's Art in the Alley project and planning for trail enhancement through art.

The aforementioned projects and efforts, along with countless other initiatives, helped the TRRC leverage over \$8.7 Million in grants and private funds between 2010 and 2023.

3 Strategic Priorities

Strategic Priorities

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

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

Annually, the Turkey River Recreational Corridor Board identifies a work plan for their contracted Director to use as a guide while working continuously toward the TRRC's Mission and to support these priorities. Work Plan tasks are listed below in order of priority, as identified by the TRRC Board during their November, 2023 visioning workshop:

- Marketing and Advertising
- Small Project Grant Writing and Facilitation
- Large Infrastructure Grant Writing
- Program/Event Coordination
- Board Management/Partnerships
- Iowa Great Places Status Upkeep/State-Level Relationship Building
- Accountability and Sustainability/Reporting
- Trail Counting/Data Management
- Online Content Management

4 Visioning and Priority Projects

During vision planning in November of 2023, the TRRC Board described the TRRC with the following words: Collaboration, Community Building, Activity, Beautification, Education, Community Connectivity, Model for the State/Exemplary, Critical Infrastructure, Safety, Protection, Promoting Resources, Economic Vitality, Community, Quality of Life, Family, Recreation, Innovative. Board members are most proud of development of land trails, the Turkey River Safari program, Motor Mill infrastructure improvement and restoration, increased visitation, community collaboration, recognition by the public and state, leveraged funds, marketing and promotion, water trail development, historic site restoration, and increased public access to recreational resources.

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

Recreational Opportunity Expansion

- Trail Expansion and Development
 - Pony Hollow Trail Expansion/Loop
 - Elkader to Elgin Trail
 - Elkader Community Trail System Development
 - Osborne Skywalk Trail
 - Elkader Pedestrian Bridge
- Land Trail Signage/Mile Markers
- Turkey River Water Trail Improvement:
 - Safety/Canoe Launch Improvements
 - River Access Improvement (Between Elgin and Elkader)
- Recreational Clubs/Group Expansion (Bike, Gravel, Snowmobile, Snowshoeing, Paddling, Side by Sides, Skiing)

Natural Resource Conservation

- Support of Turkey River Watershed Management Authority

Community and Regional Development

- Wayfinding/Welcome Signage (Elkader)
- Leadership/Education
- Safe Pedestrian Crossings (Clermont/Casey's-Skip-A-Way)
- Interpretive Signage Development (Clermont Sign Replacement)
- Recruitment/Population Growth - Quality of Life Promotion

Historic and Archaeological Preservation and Restoration

- Motor Mill Interpretation, Building Improvement, and Promotion
- George Maier Rural Heritage Center Interpretation
- Osborne Train /Pioneer Village/Pony Hollow Trail History
- Regional Train Restoration
- Elgin Historical Society Tribes of the Turkey River Interpretive Center

Economic Development and Tourism

- New Business Development (Hotels, Recreation Outfitters, etc.)

Art and Cultural Support and Expansion

- Trail Art – Native Flower Lights, Mile Markers
- Community/Public Art

Marketing and Promotion

- Website (Add information such as lodging availability)
- Social Media (Content Development-Photos, Video)
- Events (Motor Motor 5k/10k, Holiday Walk)
- Promotional Materials/Advertising (Winter Activities-Ice Bowling, Snowshoeing, Skiing)



