

2025 Guidebook

Family or Group Name:		
Number of Adults:	A Company of the Comp	
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
- Osborne Welcome Center
- Gilbertson Nature Center



Thank you for joining us on our 2025 Turkey River Safari adventure!

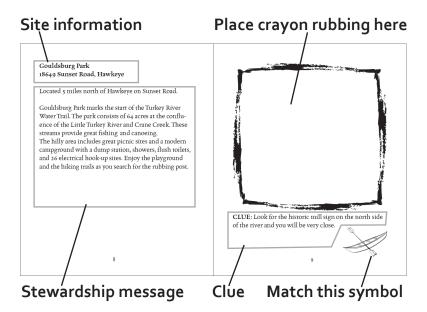
WELCOME

Welcome to the 2025 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!



How to Make a Rubbing

- I. Find the correct page in your guidebook.
- 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 quide, 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!

- i. 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.

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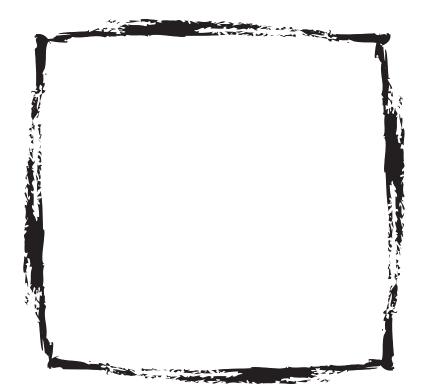
Let the safari begin!

Clayton County Office Building

600 Gunder Road, Elkader

This might not look like your typical Safari stop, but it's where the adventure begins! The Clayton County Office Building is the home of the Board of Supervisors and where you can go to get your driver's license. It's the perfect place to kick off your Turkey River Safari adventure—don't forget to grab a selfie in front of the building to mark the start of your journey!

Inside, you'll find friendly faces ready to share information about the county. For families, it's a great spot to learn more about how the county is run and where big decisions are made by the local leaders. This is where the Board of Supervisors meets to discuss important issues that affect the community. Who knows—maybe a future county supervisor is in your family!



CLUE: Find the front door and look in the landscaping.



Earthmoving Legacy Center

24412 IA 13, Elkader

Big machines, big fun! The Earthmoving Legacy Center is a massive museum filled with vintage bulldozers, tractors, and construction equipment that helped shape lowa's landscape. Kids will love seeing the huge machines up close, and adults will enjoy learning how they built roads, farms, and towns. The museum also shows how earthmoving changed farming and road building in lowa.

This September, don't miss the 100 Years of CAT celebration! It's a special event marking a century of powerful machines that helped transform our world. There will be exciting exhibits and hands-on activities for the whole family to enjoy!

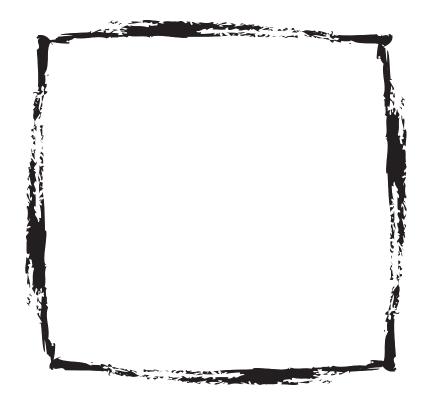
Museum Admission:

12 & Under/65 & Older: \$10

Adults: \$15

Family (Parents+Kids): \$30

Military: \$\$10



CLUE: Search near the museum entrance. You may see some large equipment nearby!

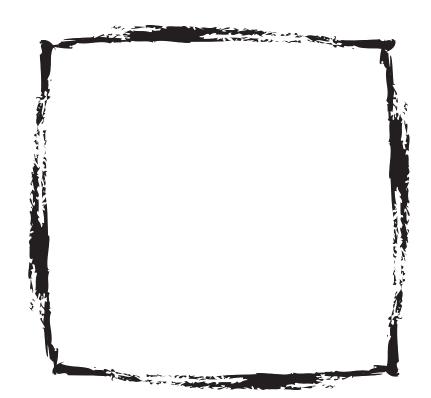


George Maier Rural Heritage Center 1000 Mascara Road, Elkader

Step back in time and explore what life was like on an lowa farm more than 100 years ago! This museum is full of old-timey treasures—from farming tools to musical instruments and even an old-fashioned kitchen. Kids can imagine living without electricity or microwaves, while grandparents can share stories of how things used to be. It's like walking through a time machine—right in Elkader!

There are rooms full of artifacts to spark conversations across generations. Imagine attending school with chalk and slates, or working in the fields with hand-powered tools. You'll also find displays about early transportation, home life, and even entertainment from the early 1900s. The center makes it fun for families to talk, laugh, and learn together while exploring a different era. Seasonal exhibits and local artifacts bring history to life in a way that's educational, interactive, and fun for all ages.

While you're in Elkader, be sure to check out the Clayton County Museum Crawl!



CLUE: Find the large door near the entrance to the Rural Heritage Center.

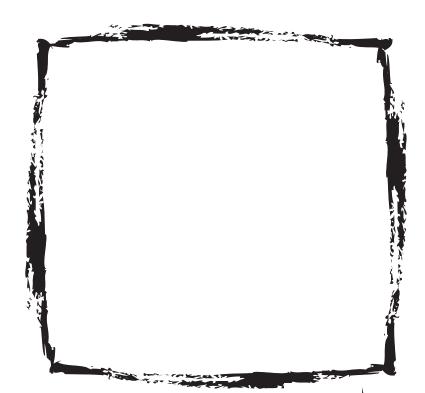


Elkader City Park

707 High Street SE, Elkader

Elkader City Park is a great place to run, play, and relax. It has a cool playground, lots of shade trees, and picnic tables perfect for lunch or a snack break. You can watch the Turkey River flow by, or walk a short path to the Pony Hollow Trail. The open green space is perfect for playing catch, flying a kite, or laying down a blanket for story time. Parents and grandparents will enjoy the peaceful setting and easy access to other attractions in Elkader. It's a great place to recharge and enjoy some outdoor time before your next Safari stop. With restrooms, water fountains, and plenty of benches, this park checks all the boxes for a family-friendly adventure. There's even a community pool nearby for a refreshing splash on warm days, and plenty of space to just breathe in the fresh lowa air.

The park is also home to the new Farmers Market location, where you can find fresh local produce and handmade goods. Be sure to check out the recently rehabilitated Floral Hall, which hosts seasonal events and is a beautiful spot to explore. During the holidays, Elkader's Light Up the Night event brings the park to life with dazzling lights and festive cheer—perfect for creating family memories!



CLUE: Find a really big rock near the "Floral Hall."

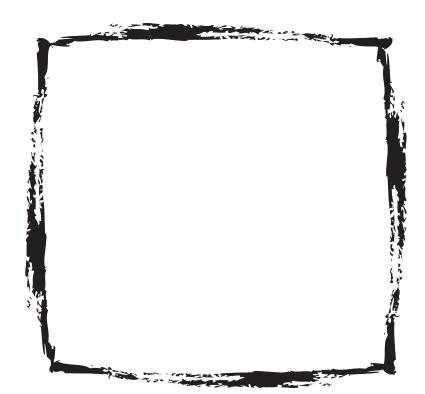


Pony Hollow Trail

21352 250th Street, Elkader

Get ready to explore nature on foot, bike, or even horseback! The Pony Hollow Trail winds through woods and fields along an old railroad path. It's flat, shady, and filled with surprises like wildflowers, birds, and maybe even deer tracks. Whether you're racing your siblings or enjoying a peaceful walk with grandma, this trail has something for everyone. The trail stretches for several miles and is perfect for an afternoon stroll or a morning bike ride. You can talk about the plants you see, try a game of nature bingo, or listen to the rustling leaves and birds overhead. Families can bring binoculars and see what wildlife they can spot. This quiet, scenic path is a great way to slow down and really connect with nature. Along the way, keep an eye out for butterflies and maybe even a secret picnic spot waiting to be discovered!

Exciting news—Pony Hollow Trail is expanding! The goal is to close the loop, so soon you'll be able to explore even more of this beautiful area, connecting more parks and trails. It will be a perfect adventure for families to enjoy as the trail grows and offers new ways to explore nature together!



CLUE: Get ready to start walking on the trail. You'll see some wooden posts at the beginning of the path.



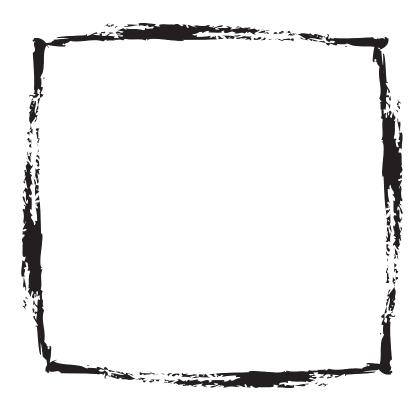
Founders' Park

408 S Main Street, Elkader

Founders' Park in Elkader is like a little outdoor museum mixed with a fun family park. Located right along the Turkey River, this park honors the early settlers of the area while offering a lovely green space to enjoy. There are plenty of spaces to sit, relax, or play a quick game of tag.

It's a great place to stop and imagine what life was like when Elkader was just beginning. Families can enjoy a quiet picnic, snap photos, or stroll along the river path. Kids will love spotting birds and butterflies or skipping stones across the water. With a beautiful view and peaceful atmosphere, Founders' Park gives everyone a moment to slow down and take in the scenery.

While you're in the area, be sure to check out the newly updated Elkader Dog Park! It's a fun spot for families with furry friends to enjoy some playtime. The park has a safe, spacious area for dogs to run and socialize, making it the perfect place to take a break with your four-legged family members during your Turkey River Safari adventure.



CLUE: Look around the park and find a place a dog might enjoy. The post is nearby!



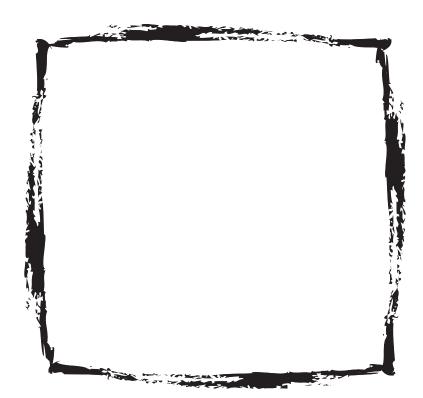
Motor Mill Historic Site

28515 Galaxy Road, Elkader

Step into the past at Motor Mill, a breathtaking limestone building built in the 186os! This towering mill stands right next to the Turkey River and once ground wheat into flour for local communities. Now it's a historical treasure that shows off Iowa's early industry and ingenuity. Kids will be amazed by how big it is—and how it was built without modern machines!

Families can take a guided tour to learn how the mill worked and explore the impressive stone buildings nearby. There's also a scenic trail nearby for hiking or just wandering through nature. The campground and the Inn give you an opportunity to extend your stay! This site is perfect for curious kids who love big buildings, nature walks, and stories from long ago. Don't forget to bring your camera—Motor Mill is one of the most photogenic spots on the Turkey River Safari!

Guided tours of historic Motor Mill are offered Noon-5:00 PM every weekend Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day.



CLUE: Check out the campground! It is East of the Mill itself-look for a wooden kiosk.

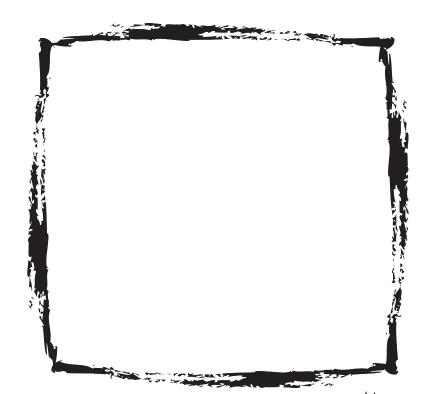


Osborne Disc Golf Course

29458 IA 13, Elkader

Grab your frisbees and head to the woods—Osborne has a disc golf course that's fun for the whole family! Nestled in the rolling hills and trees near the Osborne Nature Center, this 18-hole course offers a mix of short and long holes, making it a great place for beginners and seasoned players alike.

Even if you've never played disc golf before, it's easy to learn and perfect for all ages. Kids will love trying to toss their discs into the metal baskets, and adults can enjoy the walk and fresh air. The course is quiet and peaceful, with lots of chances to spot wildlife or enjoy a shady break under the trees. It's a great way to stay active and enjoy nature together as a family.



CLUE: Visit the A frame shelter at the Osborne Pond.

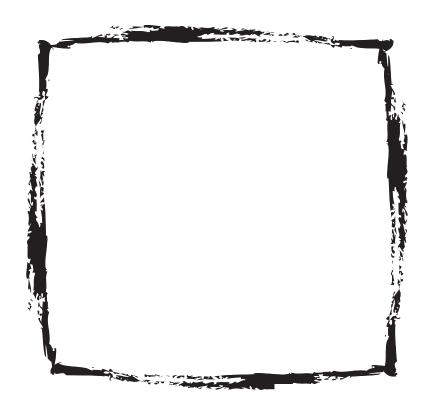


Osborne Campground

29862 Osborne Road, Elkader

Looking for an overnight outdoor adventure? The Osborne Campground is a cozy spot surrounded by nature, perfect for tents and campers. Just opened on May 1, 2025, this campground offers a brand-new opportunity to experience the great outdoors! It's conveniently located near hiking trails, the nature center, and a native wildlife exhibit, so there's always something fun to explore nearby. Families can roast marshmallows around a campfire, gaze up at the stars, and fall asleep to the soothing sounds of owls and crickets. The campground offers basic amenities like water, restrooms, and fire rings, so you can enjoy nature with all the comforts you need. Kids will love the freedom to run, play, and discover new things in the wild, while parents and grandparents can relax and take in the peaceful surroundings.

Whether you're staying one night or a whole weekend, Osborne Campground is the perfect base camp for your Turkey River Safari. It's a great place to unplug, bond with loved ones, and make lasting memories in the heart of Clayton County!



CLUE: Search for a wooden kiosk with a steel roof.



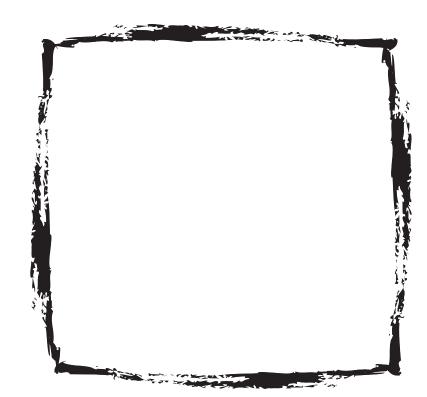
Volga City Park

701 Washington Street, Volga

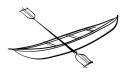
Welcome to Volga City Park, a cheerful and shady spot perfect for a family picnic. Kids will love the playground, with plenty of room to climb, slide, and swing, while open areas offer space to run, toss a frisbee, or just relax with a good book. The park's peaceful location near the Volga River makes it a great place to spot birds, listen to the river's gentle flow, or simply unwind.

Just a short walk away is the Volga River Bluff Reflection Park, which offers stunning views of the river and surrounding landscape. It's an ideal place for a family stroll, with benches where you can sit and enjoy the scenery.

Whether you're taking in the natural beauty, reflecting on the peaceful setting, or exploring the park's trails, Volga City Park is the perfect place for families to relax and recharge during their Turkey River Safari adventure.



CLUE: Look for a historic gas station.



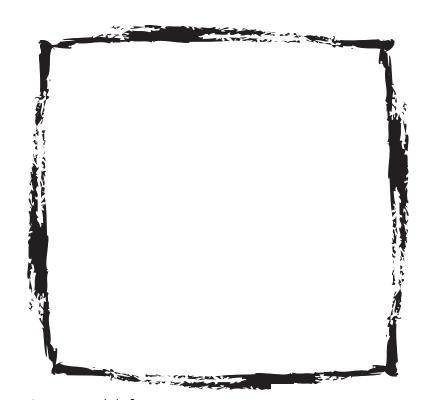
Echo Valley State Park

9672 Echo Valley Road, West Union

Echo Valley is a hidden gem just waiting to be explored! This state park offers beautiful trails that wind through peaceful woods, over bubbling creeks, and past impressive limestone bluffs. Kids will love exploring the rocky landscapes, while parents will appreciate the picnic spots and quiet beauty of the natural surroundings.

Whether you're hiking the trails, hunting for interesting rocks, or just soaking up the sounds of the forest, Echo Valley is a peaceful getaway for the whole family. Wildlife sightings are common, and there are even spots where your echo might bounce right back to you—hence the name!

Now, with the newly completed 1.85-mile trail connecting Echo Valley State Park to West Union, families can enjoy even more adventure, walking or biking through scenic landscapes on the way to your next Turkey River Safari stop!



CLUE: Look left as you are entering the park near a gate that leads to a trout stream.



28

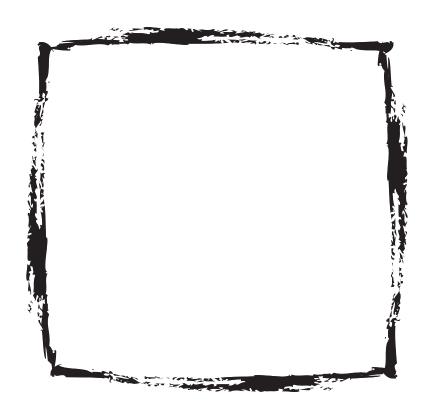
Gouldsburg Park

18653 Sunset Road, Hawkeye

This quiet park near the Little Turkey River is a great place to unwind and explore. With areas to fish and wide-open fields for playing, Gouldsburg is a favorite for families who love the outdoors. It's also a fantastic spot for birdwatching, so don't forget your binoculars!

Gouldsburg offers both wooded and open spaces, making it perfect for a range of activities. Families can bring their bikes, plan a picnic, or just enjoy some downtime in nature. Whether you're skipping rocks in the stream or chasing fireflies at sunset, this park offers peaceful, screen-free fun for everyone.

A historic marker was recently installed at Gouldsburg to share the story of the site's past, specifically the mill that once stood there. It's a great way for families to learn about the site while enjoying the outdoors. Be sure to stop by and take a moment to reflect on the stories from the past as part of your Turkey River Safari adventure!



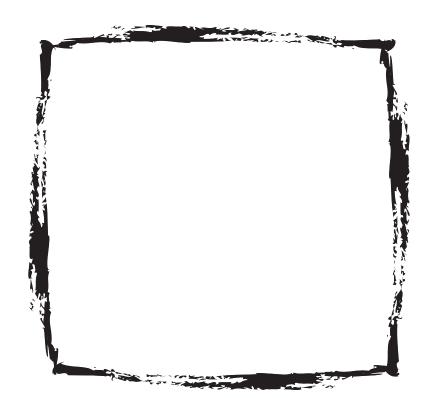
CLUE: Find a new historic marker You'll want to park at the second entrance to get close!



Dutton's Cave 9082 250th Street, West Union

Explore the wonders of geology at Dutton's Cave Park! This park features a fascinating limestone cave carved by thousands of years of water flow, offering a glimpse into the natural forces that shaped the land. While the cave itself is off-limits, the surrounding area is full of beautiful trails, wildlife, and unique natural features that are perfect for exploring.

This stop is all about curiosity and discovery. Families can enjoy hiking the peaceful paths, taking in the woods and impressive rock formations. It's a great place to bring a picnic and relax, with plenty of spots to sit and enjoy the quiet beauty of nature. Kids can let their imaginations run wild as they think about how the cave was formed, while parents and grandparents can enjoy the fresh air and serenity. Whether you're hiking, bird-watching, or simply taking in the scenery, Dutton's Cave Park is an ideal stop on your Turkey River Safari adventure!



CLUE: Drive down into the park and look near the parking lot.



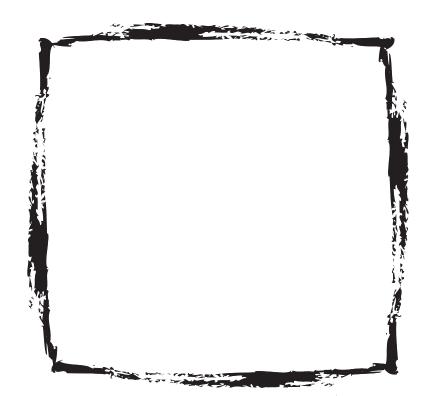
Goeken County Park

28191 Lincoln Road, West Union

Goeken Park is a wonderful mix of open green space and shady wooded trails, perfect for a family day out. Located along the River Bluffs Scenic Byway, it offers a stunning scenic overlook with breathtaking views of the bluffs and Turkey River below—perfect for photos or just soaking in the beauty.

The park has everything you need for a great afternoon—picnic tables, space to play games, and a relaxed vibe that makes it easy to slow down and enjoy the moment. Bring a ball or a kite for the open areas, or spend some at the overlook. You might spot deer, birds, and other wildlife!

Whether you're enjoying the view, playing in the open lawn, or enjoying a picnic, Goeken Park is the perfect stop for families to recharge during their Turkey River Safari adventure.



CLUE:You will find the post close to the shelter.

44

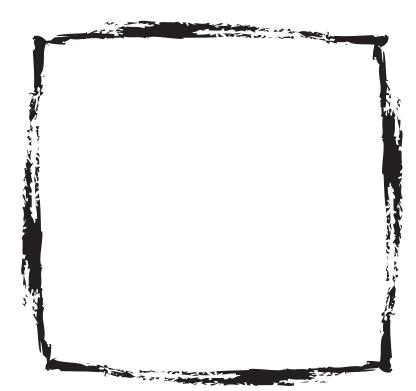
XX

Dover #6 School

28000 Ironwood Road, West Union

See a real one-room schoolhouse and imagine what it was like to be a student in the 1800s! Dover #6 School is a preserved piece of history, complete with chalkboards, wooden desks, and old books that were once used every day. While the building is currently closed to visitors, a dedicated group of volunteers is working on rehabilitating it, so it can eventually be opened for future generations to explore.

Parents and grandparents will enjoy the nostalgia, while kids can imagine what it was like to attend school on the prairie, with spelling bees, lunchtime, and walks to school in all kinds of weather. It's a small building with a big story, offering a glimpse into life long ago that still sparks the imagination today. It's a must-see stop along your Turkey River Safari, where history comes to life!



CLUE: Find a place where you would raise a flag in the morning.

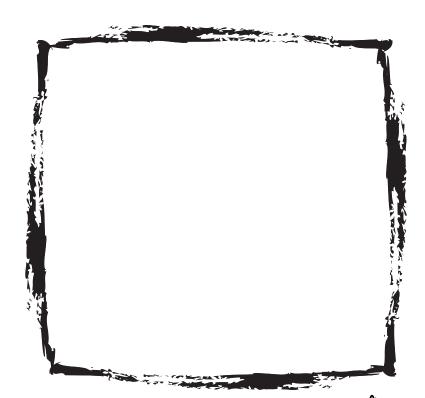


Clermont Depot

800 Larrabee Street, Clermont

All aboard! The Clermont Depot is a restored train station that tells the story of how railroads helped towns grow and people travel. Outside, you'll find a kiosk telling stories about the important role trains played in Clermont's history. This charming station brings history to life, making it an exciting stop for the whole family.

Kids can pretend they're conductors or passengers from the past, imagining what it was like to travel by train long before cars and planes. Parents and grandparents can share stories of how the railroad connected people and communities, opening up new opportunities for work and travel. It's a great stop for anyone who loves trains or history, and the classic building provides a perfect photo opportunity to capture the memories of your Turkey River Safari adventure. Whether you're a history buff or just looking for a fun experience, the Clermont Depot is a must-see!



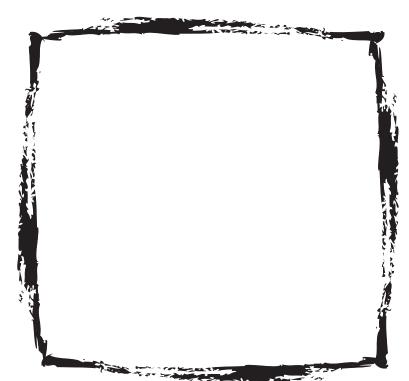
CLUE: Explore Lincoln Park's trees across the street.



Clermont Opera House 400 Mill Street, Clermont

Lights, curtain, action! The Clermont Opera House is a beautiful old building that once hosted plays, concerts, and community events, and it continues to stand as a proud piece of local history. Today, the Opera House hosts special events and community gatherings.

This elegant space is full of charm and history, making it an inspiring stop for families. Kids can pretend they're on stage, performing their own shows or imagining themselves in a grand production. Adults will enjoy admiring the craftsmanship, architecture, and history of this historic venue. The Opera House is a reminder that the arts have always been an important part of lowa's communities, bringing people together to laugh, cry, and celebrate special moments. Whether you're here for an event or just to soak in the beauty, the Clermont Opera House is a must-visit stop on your Turkey River Safari adventure!



CLUE: Look near the side entrance-close to the accessible ramp.

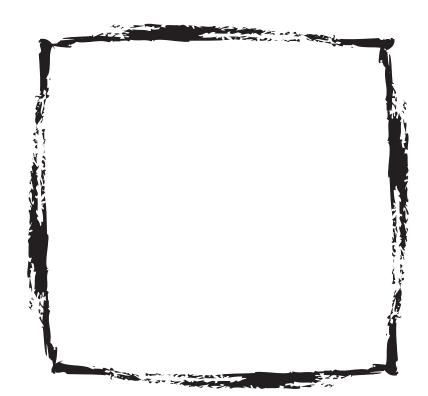


Larrabee School

404 Larrabee Street, Clermont

Larrabee School is a historic brick schoolhouse built by the Larrabee family in the early 1900s as the "Ideal School," a vision of a perfect educational facility. Today, this charming building houses Clermont's City Hall and the Clermont Public Library, blending history with modern community use.

Inside, you'll find exhibits that show how children once learned their ABCs and 123s without smart boards or computers, using chalkboards, wooden desks, and simple materials. Walking through its halls provides a glimpse into the past, allowing families to connect with history. Kids will love seeing what classrooms looked like in the old days, and parents and grandparents can share stories of their own school experiences. It's a fun and educational stop on your Turkey River Safari adventure.



CLUE: Search in the front yard where there are usually big mapsnear the swings.

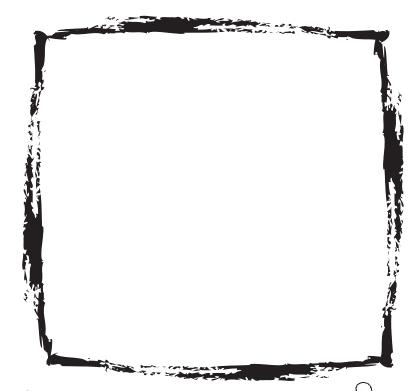


ELGIN Sign

100 Center Street, Elgin

Snap a picture with the iconic ELGIN sign—one of the official welcome areas to this charming Iowa town! Located along the Turkey River Recreational Corridor Trail, this fun landmark is the perfect spot to mark the beginning of your adventure. Kids will love spotting the big letters, and it makes for a great memory photo to add to your adventure scrapbook.

Right nearby, you'll find a Gilbertson Conservation Education Area, places to grab a snack, or just a moment to stretch your legs and enjoy the peaceful charm of small-town life. The Turkey River Recreational Corridor Trail offers a scenic path to explore, so take a little time to enjoy the outdoors before continuing your Safari journey. Don't forget to smile big and wave hello to the locals—they might have a fun story or tip to share about the town and your next stop!



CLUE: Park at the trail head nearby-you'll see the sign!

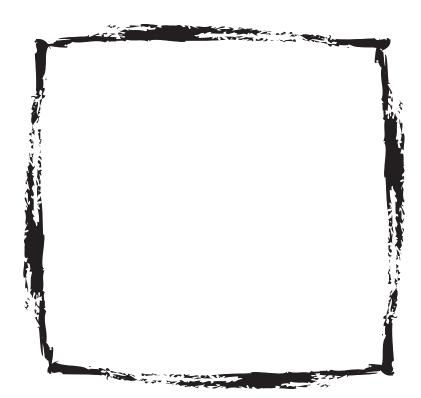


Gilbertson Conservation Education Area 22580 A Avenue, Elgin

This spot has it all—trails, animals, museums, and handson nature learning! Gilbertson is perfect for curious kids and families who love the outdoors. You can visit farm animals, hike scenic trails, fish in the pond, or stop by the nature center to learn about local wildlife.

One of the highlights is the newly opened "House of Rock," where families can explore geological wonders and learn about the fascinating rocks and minerals that make up the landscape. Outside the building, kids can touch and examine specimens, and parents will appreciate the educational aspect of this hands-on experience.

There's also a petting zoo, pioneer buildings, and plenty of places to play. It's a place where kids can run wild and learn at the same time, while adults enjoy the peaceful scenery and rich educational opportunities. Whether you're enjoying the outdoors, learning about geology, or simply soaking in the surroundings, Gilbertson is the kind of place you'll want to come back to again and again!



CLUE:There is a new building near the nature center that rocks!



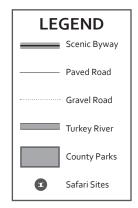
Conservation Tips

- 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

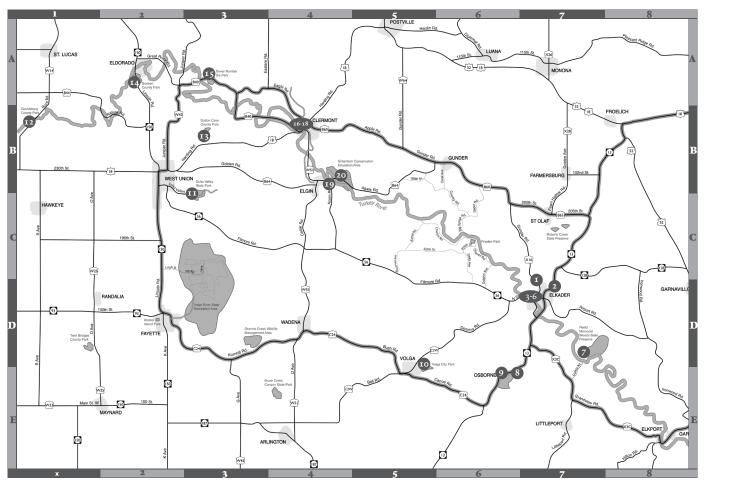


This guidebook was printed on recycled paper and is part of our journey to save the environment. We ask that you try to reduce, reuse, and recycle as well!









Turkey River Safari Site List 2025

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5	Pony Hollow Trail	D7 p
6	Founders' Park	С7 р
7	Motor Mill Historic Site	D7 p
8	Osborne Disc Golf Course	D7 p
9	Osborne Campground	D7 p
0	Volga City Park	D6 p
I	Echo Valley State Park	D ₃ p
2	Gouldsburg Park	С3 р
3	Dutton's Cave	С3 р
4	Goeken County Park	В4р
5	Dover #6 School	А4 р
6	Clermont Depot	В4р
	Clermont Opera House	
8	Larrabee School	В4р
9	ELGIN Sign	В4 р
0	Gilbertson Conservation Education Area	В4р

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!

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