

Recreation

Rolling hills, valleys, limestone bluffs, streams, rivers, spring-fed caves and timber have cultivated our landscape into a paradise for nature enthusiasts and sportsmen alike. This scenic environment is home to a variety of wild game and fish.

The **Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge District Office and Visitor Center** is located between McGregor and Marquette. The refuge is one of the largest, most popular wildlife refuges in the United States. Marquette is also home to the **Driftless Area Wetland Centre** where visitors can discover the unique natural environments of Northeast Iowa. The **Mississippi River** offers great opportunities to fish remote backwaters and channels as well as along sandbars, islands, dams or off houseboats, which are available to rent locally.

Each season brings about new opportunities for exploring nature at her finest. There are many miles of hiking and biking trails for you to enjoy. The 35 mile **Mississippi River Trail** is especially popular with bikers. Parks and recreational areas are great settings for birdwatching as well. Whether you prefer quiet evening strolls in the park or an overnight hiking and camping adventure, you'll find it here in Clayton County!

There are plenty of opportunities to be active during the winter months as well. The Mississippi is a common place for ice fishing during the cold winter months. Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are popular on a variety of groomed trails. The Clayton County Snowbirds also maintain several miles of snowmobiling trails throughout the county.



BACKBONE STATE PARK

1282 120th St
Strawberry Point
563-924-2000
www.iowadnr.gov



Folklore named Iowa's first State Park for its high ridge bedrock carved by the Maquoketa River. Camping, cabins, trails, fishing, rock reppelling, and geocaching are available for visitors to enjoy. The lake area offers swimming, boating, and concessions.

PIKES PEAK STATE PARK

32264 Pikes Peak Rd
McGregor
563-873-2341
www.iowadnr.gov



Home to the highest bluff on the Mississippi River, Pikes Peak provides a view of the point where the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers merge. Visitors can enjoy picnicking, camping, geocaching and hiking trails.



OSBORNE CONSERVATION CENTER

29862 Osborne Rd, Elkader - 563-245-1516
www.claytoncountyconservation.org



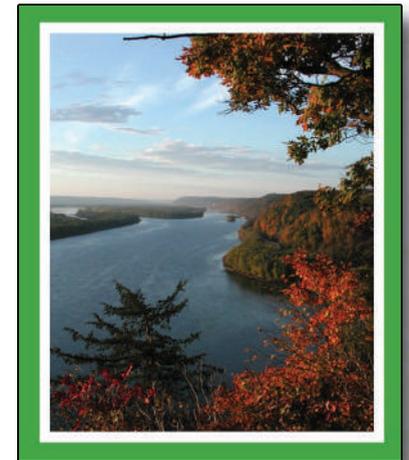
Learn about Iowa's wildlife as you explore the nature center, arboretum and flower gardens surrounding the Osborne Welcome Center. The Native Wildlife Exhibit houses a variety of natural wildlife, including wild turkeys, white-tailed deer, coyotes, wolves, hawks, eagles, and a black bear. Trails provide nature lovers with various recreational opportunities such as hiking and birdwatching.

EFFIGY MOUNDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

151 Hwy 76
Harpers Ferry
563-873-3491



www.nps.gov/efmo
Visit the largest concentration of 1,300 to 2,500 year old prehistoric effigy mounds in the United States! An interpretive center, hiking trails and a view overlooking the Mississippi River are available for your enjoyment.



Recreation

A variety of **public fishing areas** are sure to satisfy all types of fishermen. **Big Spring Trout Hatchery**, an integral part of Iowa's trout program, is an excellent place to gather fishing information or to cast a line for some fishing in the spring. Bloody Run, Buck Creek, Ensign Hollow, Joy Springs, Bear Creek, Motor Mill, Sny Magill, the Maquoketa River, and the North and South Cedar Rivers are also great fishing spots.



Photo by Larry Stone

The **Turkey and Volga Rivers** are popular routes for paddling and tubing. Bring your own canoes or kayaks and launch at one of the many access points found along either river. Experience the excitement of **Elkader's Whitewater park!** Canoes, kayaks and tubes are also available to rent locally.

Both the Turkey and Volga Rivers offer great trout and bluegill fishing and a variety of wildlife, historic sites and beautiful scenery to enjoy as you meander downstream. Plan an afternoon trip or pack your tent and camp at one of the campgrounds located on the banks of the rivers.

Public hunting areas include Big Spring, Bloody Run, Buck Creek, Ensign Hollow, Joy Springs, Mossy Glen, Motor Mill and Sny Magill/North Cedar river. Collectively, these areas allow deer, grouse, squirrel, and turkey hunting.

Hikers will enjoy miles of **scenic walking and hiking trails** in city and state parks throughout the county. **Public swimming pools** can also be found in the communities of Edgewood, Elkader, Guttenberg, Monona, Postville, and Strawberry Point.

Land & Water Trails

There are miles and miles of outdoor recreational trails throughout the county, many of which can be used during all four seasons. Whether you choose to hike, bike, drive, paddle, snow-shoe, ski or snowmobile, you'll find an opportunity to do so in Clayton County.



 **Clayton County Snowmobiling Trails** 
www.claytoncountysnowbirds.com

There are approximately 165 miles of groomed snowmobiling trails throughout the northern half of Clayton County. Visit the website above for trail conditions and a trail map.

 **Mississippi River Trail (MRT)** 
www.mississippirivertrail.org

The MRT courses along the Mighty Mississippi from her headwaters in Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. Bikers and hikers can enjoy the route in Clayton County as it stretches from North Buena Vista to Pikes Peak State Park.

 **Turkey River Recreational Corridor (TRRC)** 
www.turkeyrivercorridor.com

Linking the communities of Elgin, Clermont, and Elkader, the TRRC is a wonderful place to enjoy the great outdoors. Paddle downstream or stroll along a trail on the river's edge to enjoy the natural diversity of the area.

Wine Trails 
www.iowawinetrail.com and www.greatriverroadwinetrail.org
 Enjoy some of the best wines of the Upper Mississippi River Valley as you travel the scenic Iowa Wine Trail and the Great River Road Wine Trail. Both include an award-winning winery right here in Clayton County!