

A CITYVIEW PUBLICATION

FREE!

# EXPLORE DM

DES MOINES' GUIDE FOR ACTIVITIES AND THINGS TO DO



SPRING/SUMMER 2026



Photo by Keely Rosenberg

SHOP



DRINK & DINE



PLAY



EXPLORE





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*See our website for the full list!*

- |                                |                                      |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 5/21   Bad Friends             | 7/30   The Get Down                  |
| 5/28   Surf Zombies            | 8/6   Gallivant                      |
| 6/4   The People's Band        | 8/13   Faculty Lounge                |
| 6/11   Decoy Trio              | 8/20   English                       |
| 6/18   Kinda Petty Band        | 8/27   Randy Burk & the Prisoners    |
| 6/25   TBD                     | 9/3   Bittersweet Nation             |
| 7/2   Recoil                   | 9/10   Cedar Falls Rock & Roll Revue |
| 7/9   Sons of Gladys Kravitz   | 9/17   Gut Feeling                   |
| 7/16   Dick Danger             | 9/24   Jason Wells Band              |
| 7/23   The Barrelhouse Rockets |                                      |



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# EXPLORE DM

DES MOINES' GUIDE FOR ACTIVITIES AND THINGS TO DO



SPRING/SUMMER 2026

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## EASTER LAKE

Photo courtesy of Polk County



## Step outside this spring and summer

You won't regret it.

BY CYOTE WILLIAMS

There is nothing quite like those first few weeks when the harsh Iowa winter has finally subsided. We trade slick roads, snow-covered sidewalks, ice skates, coats, mittens and boots for swim trunks, sandals and tank tops and spend about as much time outside as humanly possible.

That is where Explore Des Moines comes in. We are just as excited as you for the friendly weather, so we put together this publication to detail the wonderful options we have in central Iowa.

Venture out during the night and see other planets, shooting stars and the colorful night sky. Head over to the various art museums that house artwork from the world-famous to the locally loved. You can even see incredible works of art just by driving around. Even though we are not quite the land of a thousand lakes, there is plenty of places to spend the day out on the water.

Want to get your pickleball fix in? The metro seems to have an indoor or outdoor court on every corner. Planning on hiking or hunting this summer? We found several stores in the area ready to fit you with the best gear possible.

A cold beer and a hot dog don't have to be just at the ballpark. Check out some of the best local breweries whose award-winning creations are satiating the metro and places that are going above and beyond the regular hot dog.

Plus, the live music scene truly comes alive during the summer with several festivals and venues hosting tunes throughout the summer. Local professional sports teams put their talents on display as well. And, if that wasn't enough, check out our events section for the best of the rest, from art festivals to fun runs to community celebrations. Without further ado, get ready to explore. ■

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# Nights UNDER THE STARS

Des Moines has plenty of places to see the stars and planets, but a day's drive around Iowa can take you to the darkest places in the state that offer excellent stargazing opportunities.



Photo courtesy of Drake University

## LIBRARY TELESCOPES

Several libraries in the Des Moines metro have telescopes for use, according to [librarytelescope.org](http://librarytelescope.org). We recommend using [Skymaps.com](http://Skymaps.com) or [www.kenpress.com](http://www.kenpress.com) (What's Out Tonight) to see when and where the best places to look are.

- **Des Moines Public Library**, 1000 Grand Ave., Des Moines • [www.dmpl.org](http://www.dmpl.org)
- **Grimes Public Library**, 200 N.E. Beaverbrook Blvd., Grimes • [www.grimeslibrary.org](http://www.grimeslibrary.org)
- **Waukee Public Library**, 950 S. Warrior Lane, Waukee • [www.waukeepubliclibrary.org](http://www.waukeepubliclibrary.org)
- **Winterset Public Library**, 123 N. Second St., Winterset • [www.wintersetlibrary.org](http://www.wintersetlibrary.org)



## EASTERN IOWA OBSERVATORY AND LEARNING CENTER

1365 Ivanhoe Road, Ely

[www.cedar-astronomers.org](http://www.cedar-astronomers.org)

Operated by the Cedar Amateur Astronomers, this observatory has two telescopes, regularly hosts public nights and invites guest speakers. Check their website for an up-to-date list of events.

## DRAKE MUNICIPAL OBSERVATORY

4898 Observatory Road, Des Moines

[www.drake.edu/observatory](http://www.drake.edu/observatory)

Jointly operated by the City of Des Moines and Drake University, this observatory is located on the grounds of the Waveland Golf Course. The Science Center of Iowa hosts Star Parties here on June 26 and Sept. 28, where Science Center staff and stargazing guides help you take a look through high-powered telescopes at the planets, all for free.

## ASHTON OBSERVATORY

Off of West 122nd Street North, Mingo

[www.dmastronomy.com/our-observatory](http://www.dmastronomy.com/our-observatory)

Twenty minutes outside of Des Moines is where you can find the Ashton Observatory. Nestled within the Ashton Wildwood County Park, the night skies get incredibly dark for being so close to Des Moines. The Milky Way is visible from here from the observatory's two domes, one with a 16-inch reflector telescope and another with a 14-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope. Public Nights are every Saturday from April through October.

## WHITEROCK CONSERVANCY

1436 Iowa Highway 141, Coon Rapids

[www.whiterockconservancy.org](http://www.whiterockconservancy.org)

Some of the darkest skies in Iowa are found at the Whiterock Conservancy. Even without a telescope, the Milky Way can be seen. Bring your own telescope or camp out and stare at the skies. The 2026 Iowa Star Party will be held Oct. 8-11 for a weekend of stargazing and conversation. ■

## PARKS AND NATURE CENTERS

### PREPARATION CANYON STATE PARK

Preparation Canyon State Park Road, Loess Hills State Forest, Moorhead  
[www.iowadnr.gov/places-go/state-parks/all-parks/preparation-canyon-state-park](http://www.iowadnr.gov/places-go/state-parks/all-parks/preparation-canyon-state-park)

### NINE EAGLES STATE PARK

23678 Dale Miller Road, Davis City  
[www.iowadnr.gov/places-go/state-parks/all-parks/nine-eagles-state-park](http://www.iowadnr.gov/places-go/state-parks/all-parks/nine-eagles-state-park)

### ANNETT NATURE CENTER

15565 118th Ave., Indianola  
[www.warrenccb.org/parks-trails/annett-nature-center](http://www.warrenccb.org/parks-trails/annett-nature-center)

### EDEN VALLEY CAMPGROUND AND WILDLIFE REFUGE

1415 50th Ave., Baldwin  
[www.mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton/Park/Eden-Valley-Refuge](http://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Clinton/Park/Eden-Valley-Refuge)

### LEDGES STATE PARK

1515 P Ave., Madrid  
[www.iowadnr.gov/places-go/state-parks/all-parks/ledges-state-park](http://www.iowadnr.gov/places-go/state-parks/all-parks/ledges-state-park)



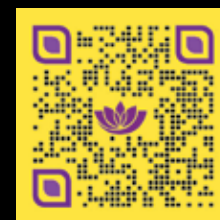
GREATER DES MOINES BOTANICAL GARDEN

# MUSIC IN THE GARDEN

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- Jul 2** Son Peruchos
- Jul 9** June Bugs DSM
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- Jul 23** The Feel Right
- Jul 30** The Swallowtails
- Aug 6** The Crowfoot Rakes
- Aug 13** The Finesse
- Aug 20** RetroSpect



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# Art AROUND THE CITY

Des Moines and the surrounding metro have several world-class art galleries, not to mention tons of murals and sculptures for your viewing pleasure.

## DES MOINES ART CENTER

4700 Grand Ave., Des Moines  
[www.desmoinesartcenter.org](http://www.desmoinesartcenter.org)

The Des Moines Art Center was established in 1948 and is home to a collection of art that dates back to 1500. This free museum is a gem in the Midwest and features artworks from some of the most world-famous artists the earth has ever seen. The buildings themselves are considered artworks. There are exhibitions, programs, tours, lectures and plenty of art classes for kids, teens and adults. The Art Center also runs the Pappajohn Sculpture Park in downtown Des Moines.

### Upcoming exhibits:

- **Through June 17:** "Iowa Artists 2026: Henry Payer - Aagakinak Hacıwi: We Live Opposite Each Other"
- **Through Aug. 23:** "Christine Rebet - Sound of Time"
- **Through Aug. 30:** "Artists Around a Table - Artmaking and Merrymaking, 1927-1952"
- **June 13 to Sept. 20:** "Topographies - Mapping Being and Belonging"

## ANDERSON GALLERY

Harmon Fine Arts Center,  
1310 25th St., Des Moines  
[www.andersongallery.wp.drake.edu](http://www.andersongallery.wp.drake.edu)

The Anderson Gallery is part of Drake University's Art and Design Department. Founded in 1996, the gallery supports material-based learning for Drake students while also providing exhibits for Des Moines art enthusiasts. Local artists, students and national artists have been featured at this gallery.

## ANKENY ART CENTER

1520 S.W. Ordnance Road, Ankeny  
[www.ankenyardcenter.org](http://www.ankenyardcenter.org)

What started as the Ankeny Friends of the Arts in 1981 eventually found a home in 2002. The Ankeny Art Center consistently hosts exhibitions of local artists all year long, and also offers classes in pottery, painting and drawing for all ages.

### Upcoming exhibits:

- **May 28 to July 21:** Rachel Goebel and Christian D'Cruz
- **Through June 4:** Justin Young (Kirkendall Library)
- **Through June 4:** Holly Majerus (Porch Light Coffee House)

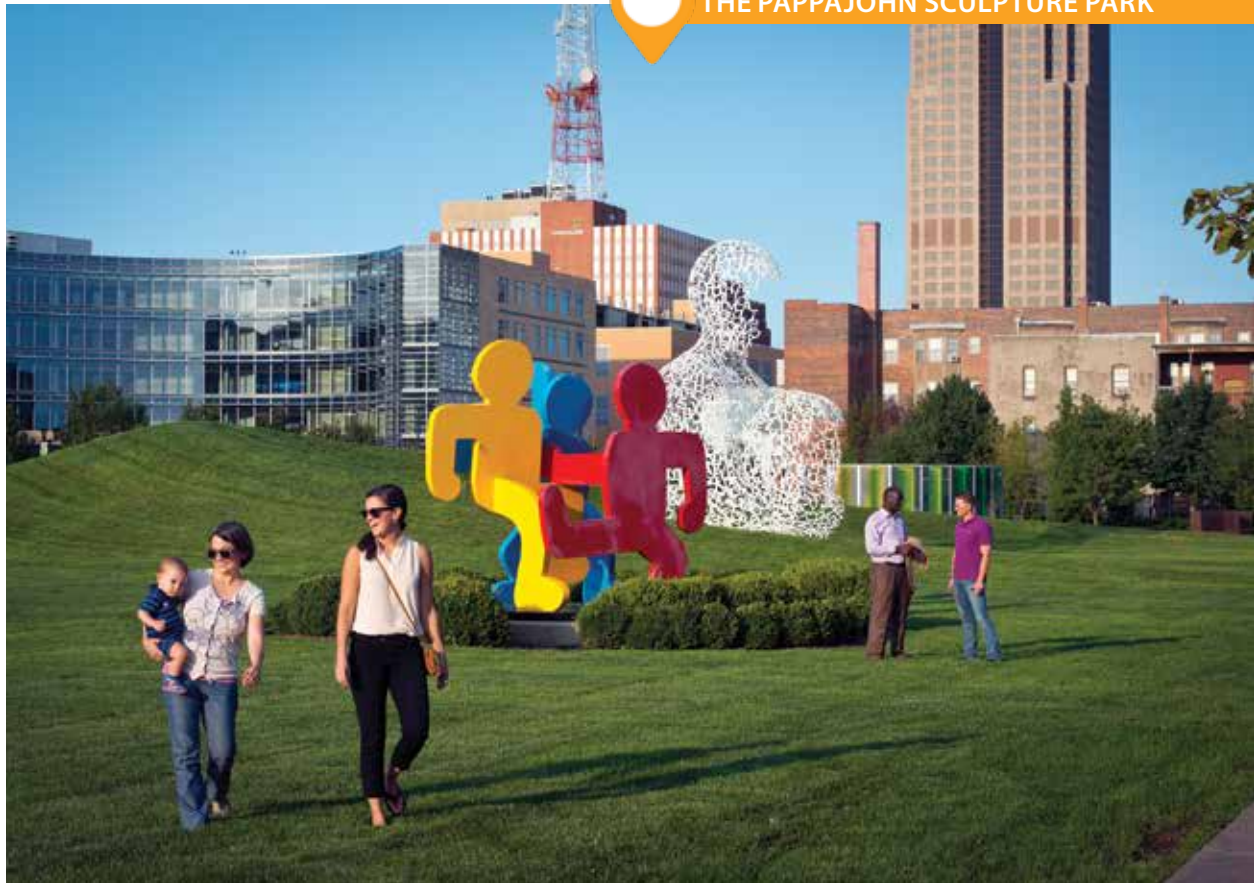


Photo courtesy of the Greater Des Moines Partnership

## MAINFRAME STUDIOS

900 Keosauqua Way, Des Moines  
[www.mainframestudios.org](http://www.mainframestudios.org)

Mainframe Studios is one of the most unique attractions in Des Moines. It is the nation's largest nonprofit building for creative workspaces. You can find 181 affordable artist workspaces in the building, taken up by tattoo artists, painters, sculptors, cartoonists and more. On the first Friday of every month, Mainframe opens its doors to the public for tours.

- **First Fridays this summer:** June 5, July 3, Aug. 7 and Sept. 4.

## OLSON-LARSEN GALLERIES

542 Fifth St., West Des Moines  
[www.olsonlarsen.com](http://www.olsonlarsen.com)

Olson-Larsen is focused on high-caliber local artists in the Midwest. The contemporary gallery was established in 1979 and represents more than 60 professional artists. Outside of hosting exhibitions, they also do custom framing, consultations, packing and shipping and installations of artwork.

### Upcoming exhibits:

- **Through May 30:** "Inked"

## MORE ART GALLERIES

**Kavanaugh Art Gallery**  
228 Fifth St., West Des Moines  
[www.kavanaughgallery.com](http://www.kavanaughgallery.com)

**Liz Lidgett Gallery and Design**  
2921 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines  
[www.lizlidgett.com](http://www.lizlidgett.com)

**Steven Vail Fine Arts**  
The Fitch Building, 1501 Walnut St.,  
Des Moines  
[www.stevenvailfinearts.com](http://www.stevenvailfinearts.com)



**MOBERG GALLERY**

2411 Grand Ave., Des Moines  
www.moberggallery.com

Owned TJ Moberg, an artist himself, created Moberg Gallery, which specializes in contemporary art from more than 50 professional artists from Iowa and across the nation. The current exhibit is by Chris Vance.

**POLK COUNTY HERITAGE GALLERY**

Polk County Administration Building, 111 Court Ave., Des Moines  
www.polkcountyheritagegallery.org

The Polk County Heritage Gallery's mission is to provide a multi-use exhibition space for artistic and historical exhibits and to provide a unique facility contributing to the cultural development of Des Moines and Polk County.

**Upcoming exhibit:**

- **Through mid-July:** "Iowa Exhibited 2026"



Photo courtesy of Mainframe Studios

**DEXTER MUSEUM**

Some favorite exhibits:

**THE DEXFIELD PARK**

**1933 SHOOTOUT WITH BONNIE & CLYDE'S GANG**

**1948 NATIONAL PLOWING MATCH**

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512 E Grand Ave, Des Moines [www.masao.restaurant](http://www.masao.restaurant) 515-207-1570

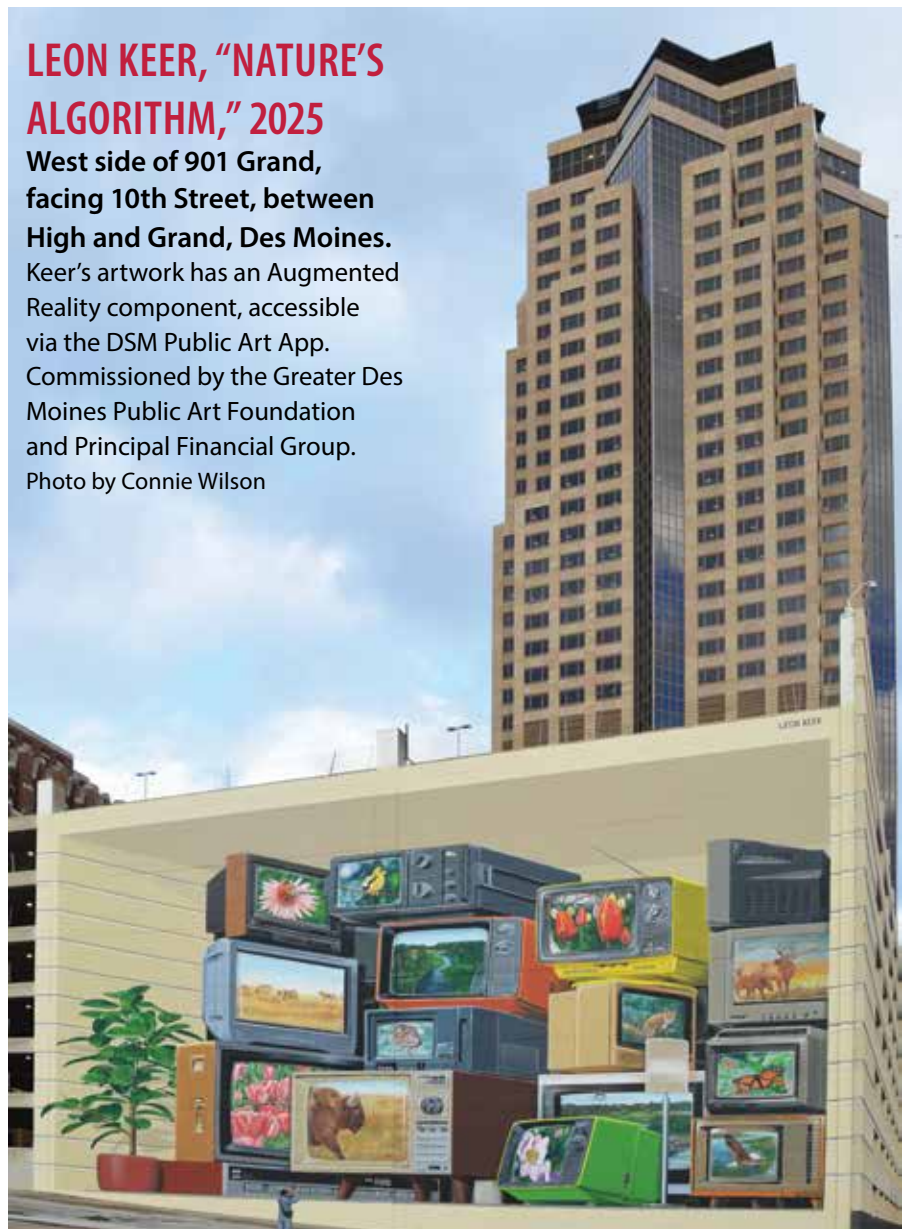
# MURALS

The amount of murals and public art installations across the metro could fill its own booklet if we named each one of them. These are some of the most popular ones. An extensive list, including addresses and artist credit, can be found at [dsmpublicartfoundation.org/all-art/](http://dsmpublicartfoundation.org/all-art/).



## LEON KEER, "NATURE'S ALGORITHM," 2025

West side of 901 Grand, facing 10th Street, between High and Grand, Des Moines. Keer's artwork has an Augmented Reality component, accessible via the DSM Public Art App. Commissioned by the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation and Principal Financial Group. Photo by Connie Wilson



## JORDAN WEBER, "SWISH I", 2022

The basketball court is north of the 1400 block of Center Street, Des Moines. Jordan Weber, Swish I, 2022, paint, "SWISH" is funded through the GDMPAF Director's Discretionary Fund, a GC20 Capital Project grant from Bravo Greater Des Moines, and Knapp Properties LC. The basketball courts were engineered and repaired with sponsorship from Oakridge Neighborhood. ■



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# Out on the WATER

We are lucky to have several lakes, waterways and rivers around central Iowa. With the ice now melted, these places become great in the summer for floating, boating, kayaking and canoeing.

## FLOAT THE DAY AWAY

### SEVEN OAKS

1086 222nd Drive, Boone

[www.sevenoaksrec.com](http://www.sevenoaksrec.com)

Seven Oaks, north of Des Moines is home to many outdoor activities each summer. One of them is their river tubing, consisting of a three- to five-hour float covering seven miles. Float down the Des Moines River, pass the Kate Shelley High Bridge and an overall scenic view while soaking in the sun on the water.

### RACCOON RIVER

8951 S.W. 52nd Ave., West Des Moines

[www.greatoutdoorsfoundation.org](http://www.greatoutdoorsfoundation.org)

This recently added boat ramp gives beginning floaters access to the Raccoon River and the ability to float from Walnut Woods to Water Works Park. Those who have done the float estimate this takes about two hours. Make sure to check water levels before attempting. Raccoon River Park also has a canoe rental service that can keep you on the Blue Heron Lake all afternoon.



SEVEN OAKS

Kayaking in Boone. Photo courtesy of Seven Oaks

### BEAVER CREEK

8432 N.W. 70th Ave., Johnston

[www.cityofjohnston.com/963/Water-Trails](http://www.cityofjohnston.com/963/Water-Trails)

Another short float located in the metro can be found on Beaver Creek. Enter from the Beaver Creek Water Trail Access Point off of 70th and float to Lew Clarkson park. Again, check the water levels to make sure it is safe for passage.

### MAQUOKETA RIVER

17652 Hardscrabble Road, Monticello

[www.outbackcanoerental.com](http://www.outbackcanoerental.com)

This float trip is a long way outside of Des Moines but would serve as one of the most picturesque you can find in the state. Outback Canoe Rental in Monticello offers full-service floating and will help make sure you are fully prepared for the journey ahead. Make a day of it and spend the night at the campsite and then return home the next day.

### GRAY'S LAKE

2101 Fleur Drive, Des Moines

[www.dsm.city/Gray\\_s\\_Lake\\_Park514.php](http://www.dsm.city/Gray_s_Lake_Park514.php)

Just outside of downtown on the south side of the city is Gray's Lake. The trail surrounding it sees thousands of visitors every summer, but we are here to talk about getting on the water. Kayak and canoe rentals are available for those looking to paddle around for a relaxing afternoon. This is a popular spot in the city, so you can watch some of the city's most active runners, joggers and walkers while you people-watch from the water.



GRAY'S LAKE

A view from Gray's Lake. Photo courtesy of the City of Des Moines





Boat owners and renters fill Saylorville Lake during the summer months. Photo by Maury Kennedy

## TAKE THE BOAT OUT

### SAYLORVILLE LAKE

5600 N.W. 78th Ave., Johnston  
[www.saylorvillelakemarina.com](http://www.saylorvillelakemarina.com)

Saylorville Lake in Johnston is one of the most-visited places in the metro once the sun comes out. The 26,000-acre lake fills up with boats and kayaks each summer, ready to be rented by you for a day on the water, or parked if you are one of the lucky ones to have your own vessel. With tons of small coves spread throughout, Saylorville Lake is an ideal visit without having to take too long of a drive outside the city. This can also be a solid spot for fishing if that is your game.

### BIG CREEK STATE PARK

8794 N.W. 125th Ave., Polk City  
[www.bigcreekmarina.com](http://www.bigcreekmarina.com)

Big Creek can fly under the radar at times because of the vastness of Saylorville Lake, but a slightly further drive north brings would-be boaters to another expansive spot, ready to be enjoyed. Boat, kayak and pontoon rentals are available here, as well as several places to drop your own boat. Plenty of amenities are located around the park, making this another great, affordable option for a lake day. Big Creek is a solid spot for fishing as well.

### EASTER LAKE PARK

2830 Easter Lake Drive, Des Moines  
[www.polkcountyiowa.gov/conservation/parks-trails/easter-lake-park-mark-c-ackelson-trail/](http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/conservation/parks-trails/easter-lake-park-mark-c-ackelson-trail/)

At 165 acres, this is one of the smaller lakes in the metro, but do not let that be a reason to keep you away from this solid spot. Overall, the 468-plus-acre park has plenty of fish, a 4-mile-long trail, playgrounds and the chance to see Polk County's last covered bridge. It might not have the same hustle and bustle as the larger lakes on this list, but it is a more relaxed, yet still beautiful, option.



Boats lining a shore at Easter Lake Park. Photo courtesy of Polk County

### LAKE RED ROCK

1768 Highway G, 28, Pella  
[www.redrockmarina.com](http://www.redrockmarina.com)

Roughly an hour south of Des Moines is Lake Red Rock. Plenty of rental options are here, as well as spots to drop your boat. The man-made lake is the largest in the entire state, making it one avid boaters will want to explore. Its primary purpose is for flood control, but that does not stop it from being one of the best places to spend a day on the boat.

### LAKE AHQUABI STATE PARK

16510 118th Ave., Indianola  
[www.iowadnr.gov/places-go/state-parks/all-parks/lake-ahquabi-state-park](http://www.iowadnr.gov/places-go/state-parks/all-parks/lake-ahquabi-state-park)

Somewhat of a hidden gem, with the other lakes on this list getting most of the attention, Lake Ahquabi in Indianola has plenty to offer. It is named after the Sauk and Fox word meaning "resting place." This lake is a no-wake speed with paddleboats, canoes, kayaks and boats being available for rent. Also, like the others, Lake Ahquabi offers solid fishing. ■



# A pickleball PARADISE

Des Moines has leaned into the Pickleball craze. Seemingly endless amount of indoor and outdoor courts are available in central Iowa for this quickly growing sport.

## DINKS

**3800 Merle Hay Road, Suite 1000, Des Moines**  
**[www.dinkspickleballdsm.com](http://www.dinkspickleballdsm.com)**

Pickleball is one of the fastest-growing sports in the entire country, and Dinks is ready to match that demand. It has 13 professional, dedicated indoor pickleball courts that are open seven days a week, providing plenty of opportunities for those looking to get in on the craze.

## LIFETIME FITNESS

**11911 Hickman Road, Urbandale**  
**[www.lifetime.life/locations/ia/des-moines](http://www.lifetime.life/locations/ia/des-moines)**

Lifetime Fitness in Urbandale has several pickleball courts. There are open play times, classes, clinics and leagues available to play at every day of the week. Registration is required, but paddles and balls are provided.



DINKS

Pickleball being played at Dinks. Photo courtesy of Golda Curry

## MIDAMERICAN ENERGY REC PLEX

## MIDAMERICAN ENERGY REC PLEX

**6500 Grand Ave., West Des Moines**  
**[www.therecplex.com](http://www.therecplex.com)**

Up to 40 people can play pickleball during their drop-in hours. Admission is \$5. There are two regulation-sized courts and three additional temporary courts that are available to rent. Their website is consistently updated with drop-in times, but they typically run from 9-11 a.m. and 3-5 p.m.

## VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

**4444 Fuller Road, West Des Moines**  
**[www.valleycommunity.center](http://www.valleycommunity.center)**

Pickleball is free to play here with paddles available to borrow. Pickleball lessons are available for beginners and advanced competitors. Hours range from Monday from 1:30-4 p.m., Wednesdays from noon to 4 p.m., and Fridays from 1-4 p.m.



The RecPlex has ample open play times for \$5 admission fee. Photo courtesy of MidAmerican Energy Company RecPlex



## WELLMARK YMCA

501 Grand Ave., Des Moines

[www.dmyymca.org/locations/wellmark-ymca](http://www.dmyymca.org/locations/wellmark-ymca)

The YMCA has three indoor courts at the downtown location but also has pickleball at the other YMCAs around the metro. Pickleball is available on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8-11 a.m. and 4-8:45 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8-11 a.m., Fridays from 8-11 a.m. and 4-7:45 p.m., Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon and 9:30 a.m. to noon, and from 9 to 11 a.m. on Sundays.

## POLK COUNTY PICKLEBALL

2222 S.W. Vintage Parkway, Ankeny

[www.polkcounypickleball.com](http://www.polkcounypickleball.com)

Courts are available for rent, as well as skill-based open play, clinics, lessons and competitive leagues at this dedicated pickleball gym. You will find seven courts with Novaplay professional-grade surfacing, a player lounge, a pro shop and more.



Rent a court at Polk County Pickleball. Photo courtesy of Des Moines Metro Pickleball Club

## OUTDOOR PARKS

There seems to be an almost endless number of local parks with pickleball courts these days. Here are a few we found. We suggest going to [pickleheads.com](http://pickleheads.com) or visiting [www.dmmp.club](http://www.dmmp.club) for more details.



A Pickleball tournament at Valley View Park. Photo courtesy of Des Moines Metro Pickleball Club

- Haines Park in Altoona
- Village Park in Altoona
- Greentree Park in Ankeny
- Lions Park in Clive
- Wildwood Park in Clive
- Birdland Park in Des Moines
- McRae Park in Des Moines
- St. Paul Presbyterian in Johnston
- Terra Park in Johnston
- Windflower Park in Norwalk
- Doanes Park in Pleasant Hill
- Hickory Glenn Park in Pleasant Hill
- South Karen Acres Park in Urbandale
- Valley View Park in West Des Moines
- Fox Creek Park in Waukee

## GRIMES SOUTH SPORTS COMPLEX

750 S. James St., Grimes

[www.grimesiowa.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Grimes-South-Sports-Complex-2](http://www.grimesiowa.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Grimes-South-Sports-Complex-2)

This outdoor location in Grimes has two dedicated pickleball courts and one tennis court with pickleball lines.

## SMASH PARK

6625 Coachlight Drive, West Des Moines  
[www.smashpark.com/west-des-moines](http://www.smashpark.com/west-des-moines)

Smash Park in West Des Moines has four indoor and two outdoor courts with dedicated lines and permanent nets. Courts can be reserved. With everything else there is to do at Smash Park, there's a chance that pickleball is only the beginning. ■



# Gearing up FOR THE OUTDOORS

Campsites, hiking and biking trails, bike paths and most everything in between are ready for the sunny weather, but are you?

## REI

5901 Mills Civic Parkway, Suite 4100,  
West Des Moines  
[www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com)

REI has just about every active and outdoor gear one could need. Coats, hats, backpacks, shoes. Just to name a few. Snag the necessary gear you need for your next run, climb or camping trip here. You can even use REI to book a travel excursion, trade in used gear or even take a class on any of the previously mentioned activities.

## ACTIVE ENDEAVORS

4520 University Ave., Suite 130,  
West Des Moines  
[www.activedsm.com](http://www.activedsm.com)

This store opened in 1993 to provide specialized outdoor apparel and equipment to those in central Iowa. Their staff possess a wealth of knowledge for your next trip, whether it be to one of our state's locations or anywhere else around the world.

## CANOESPORT OUTFITTERS

203 W. Salem Ave., Indianola  
[www.canoesportoutfitters.com](http://www.canoesportoutfitters.com)

This local canoe shop opened in Indianola more than 30 years ago with the purpose of exposing paddling enthusiasts in the area to the best gear available. It helps that there are plenty of navigable waterways and lakes throughout the entire state to be canoed or kayaked on. It's possible you have already used their services, as they offer various non-motorized boats at Raccoon River Park.

## SIERRA

6306 Mills Civic Parkway,  
West Des Moines  
[www.sierra.com](http://www.sierra.com)

You could spend an entire day in West Des Moines bouncing around the various outdoor activities shops. Make sure Sierra is on that list. With plenty of the best brands around for men and women and a great clearance section, Sierra is a solid spot for recreational gear.



CANOESPORT OUTFITTERS

Looking for a canoe or kayak? CanoeSport Outfitters has you more than covered. Photo courtesy of CanoeSport Outfitters

## STOKED

518 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines  
[www.stokeddsm.com](http://www.stokeddsm.com)

Located in Des Moines' East Village, an area already budding with many great shops, Stoked should be part of your day of shopping, or stop there on its own for the curated selected of adventure-ready gear and clothing. Explore cities, prepare for hikes and get fully prepared for that camping trip all at this location.

## SCHEELS

Jordan Creek Parkway, Building 4000,  
West Des Moines  
[www.scheels.com](http://www.scheels.com)

We try to keep these entries as local as possible, but you would be hard pressed to ignore the sheer amount of selection at Scheels when it comes to outdoor and athletic gear. From hunting, fishing, shooting, hiking and camping to indoor and outdoor sports, Scheels has it covered — not to mention a healthy dose of fan gear from your favorite sports teams and even a candy shop.

## BASS PRO SHOPS

1000 Bass Pro Drive N.W., Altoona  
[www.basspro.com/home](http://www.basspro.com/home)

It might not quite be the world-famous Bass Pro Shops pyramid found in Memphis, Tennessee, but our location still has the same goodies inside. Most everything related to fishing, boating, shooting and camping for men, women and kids can be found at the Altoona location. This is a great place to restock your tackle box or start one for your little one.

## FONTENELLE SUPPLY CO.

524 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines  
[www.fontenellesupplyco.com](http://www.fontenellesupplyco.com)

This store was started by a group of three friends in Omaha but eventually expanded into a full-service menswear and handmade leather goods shop in Des Moines. Boots, belts, backpacks, shirts, shoes, soaps, even fancy tuna can be found inside this store.





**FONTENELLE SUPPLY CO.**

One side of Fontenelle's shop. Photo courtesy of Fontenelle Supply Co.

### TITAN DISC GOLF SHOP

2300 E. 32nd St., Des Moines  
[www.titandiscgolf.com](http://www.titandiscgolf.com)

This is the most focused store of the ones in this section, and, if you read the title, you have already figured out their specialty: disc golf. Titan Disc Golf Shop, located on the east side of Des Moines, is heaven for most any disc golf enthusiast. Bags, carts and, most importantly, discs. Inventory ranges from what the best players on tour throw to what you need to get started for the outdoor activity.

### BW OUTDOORS

513 Elm St., West Des Moines  
[www.getbwoutdoors.com](http://www.getbwoutdoors.com)

BW Outdoors is focused on the food side of being outdoors. That is something even your most “indoorsy” friend can get behind. After all, if you spent a day fishing or hunting, you are going to need a way to cook those catches, and you might as well use the best equipment possible. With various portable and at-home grills, coolers, accessories, rubs and seasonings, this place has your food — and you — covered.

# BIAGGI'S

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**LUNCH SPECIAL!**  
**FREE BREADSTICKS**  
 with the purchase of any Large or Medium Pizza  
OFFER VALID BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 10:30AM - 2:30PM



## BIKE WORLD

5003 E.P. True Parkway,

West Des Moines

[www.bikeworldiowa.com](http://www.bikeworldiowa.com)

Bike World also has locations in Urbandale, Clive and Ames. What started out of a toy shop's basement in the 1970s has grown to be one of the best places to find anything bike-related in the entire state. Their staff is incredibly knowledgeable. With an immense selection of bikes to choose from, you cannot go wrong with this store for any of your biking needs.

## BACKYARD ADVENTURES

### IOWA

3135 99th St., Urbandale

[www.backyardadventuresiowa.com](http://www.backyardadventuresiowa.com)

Sometimes, the only outdoor activity you need is right in your backyard. That is where this shop comes into play. Backyard Adventures Iowa has playsets, hoops, gazebos and much more to turn your own backyard into a place that requires outdoor gear. ■



Some of the inventory inside of Stoked. Photo courtesy of Stoked

Voted Best Local Gift Shop  
**8 YEARS IN A ROW!**  
Also Best Valley Junction Store 7 years in a row!

The advertisement for Bing's gift shop features a variety of items: a pair of grey socks with yellow and orange stripes and the text 'IT'S OK TO FART', a framed picture of a sunset with the text 'you are my sunshine', a box of 'NICE DOH' 'nice cube' modeling clay, a white mug with a flame design and the text 'EVERYTHING'S FINE!', a grey baseball cap with the text 'CHAOS COORDINATOR', and the Bing's logo which consists of two red cherries above the word 'Bing's' in a white script font on a dark blue circular background.

213 5th St, Valley Junction • [bingdsm.com](http://bingdsm.com) • 515-279-3141  
Follow us on Instagram & Facebook: @bingdesmoines

**"A THRIFT STORE THAT IS CLEARLY A STEP ABOVE ALL THE OTHERS."**  
- Chuck B.  
Many Hands Thrift Customer

COMING SOON TO JORDAN CREEK!

The advertisement for Many Hands Thrift Market features a QR code and the text 'SCAN TO LEARN MORE! MANYHANDSTHIFT.COM'. It also includes a photograph of a woman in a yellow shirt holding a red and white striped shirt in a store, and a photograph of a man in a dark jacket looking at clothes in a store. The store's name 'Jordan Creek Point' is visible on a building in the background.

**MANY HANDS THRIFT MARKET**

VISIT US!  
CLIVE | 8801 University Ave  
DES MOINES | 4353 Merle Hay Rd  
GRIMES | 2900 SE Grimes Blvd  
JORDAN CREEK | 6900 EP True PKWY  
INDIANOLA | 1801 W 2nd Ave



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Available for a limited time.



**THE WORLD FAMOUS  
ADAM EMMENECKER!**

**TAKE THE CHALLENGE! WIN \$10,000!**  
\*terms apply



**SCAN THE QR CODE TO RECEIVE A FREE APPETIZER**



303 Locust St, Downtown  
Des Moines  
515-244-5686  
[www.splash-seafood.com](http://www.splash-seafood.com)

**SCAN THE QR CODE FOR FREE BONELESS WINGS**

**EIGHT LOCATIONS!**

Jethro's BBQ Lakehouse  
1425 SW Vintage Pkwy • Ankeny

Jethro's BBQ Smokehouse Steaks  
2601 Adventureland Dr • Altoona

Jethro's BBQ All Stars Downtown  
721 3rd St • Des Moines

Jethro's BBQ South Side  
4337 Park Ave • Des Moines

Jethro's BBQ Jambalaya  
9350 University Ave West Des Moines

Jethro's BBQ Bacon Bacon  
1480 22nd St • West Des Moines

Jethro's BBQ Ames  
1301 Buckeye Ave • Ames

Jethro's BBQ Iowa City  
75 2nd St • Coralville

# Hot DIGGITY DOGS

Sometimes, all you really need is a hot dog. These restaurants have them from the classic chili dog to the famous Chicago dogs and more.

## TED'S CONEY ISLAND

3020 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines

[www.restaurantwebexperts.com/TedsConeyIsland](http://www.restaurantwebexperts.com/TedsConeyIsland)

If it is a Chicago Dog that you're looking for, you will be hard pressed to find a better one in the city than those at Ted's Coney Island. Their Chicago-style hot dog comes with a Vienna beef dog on a steamed poppy seed bun, tomato, green relish, mustard, pickle, onion, sport peppers and celery salt. That is not the only hot dog they serve, as the Coney Island, Vienna Ripper, Ted's Big Bite and the Cheese Coney are on the menu as well.



A couple of dogs at Ted's Coney Island. Photo courtesy of Ted's Coney Island

## DAIRY ZONE

2219 E. University Ave., Des Moines

[www.dairyzonedsm.com](http://www.dairyzonedsm.com)

This spot on the east side of Des Moines serves some of the best ice cream you can find in the metro. The classic-looking ice cream joint also has plenty of food, including hot dogs, cheese dogs and chili dogs. Enjoy that salty dog with a sweet cone of your favorite soft serve, and we bet you will be back sooner rather than later.

## 85 BAR

432 E. Locust St., Des Moines

[www.85bardsm.com](http://www.85bardsm.com)

Take your biggest Chicago Bears fan to this bar on an NFL Sunday and you will see the day drift away with drinks, a Bear-themed bar and a great dog. The '85 Dog is an all-beef hot dog on a poppy-seed bun, with yellow mustard, chopped onions, sweet pickle relish, dill spear, tomato slices, sport peppers and a dash of celery salt. Try this one and the one at Ted's and compare two of Des Moines' best Chicago dogs.



Dogs being dressed at 85 Bar. Photo courtesy of 85 Bar





LACHELE'S FINE FOODS

## 1908 DRAUGHT HOUSE

8789 Northpark Drive, Johnston  
[www.1908draughthouse.com](http://www.1908draughthouse.com)

Another Chicago dog can be found at 1908 Draught House, with one location in Johnston and the other in Norwalk. Their dog comes with an all-beef frank, mustard, relish, tomato, pickle spear and celery salt on a poppy-seed hoagie.

## SULLY'S IRISH PUB

860 First St., West Des Moines  
[www.sullysdesmoines.com](http://www.sullysdesmoines.com)

Sully's Irish Pub is constantly in the running for the Best Irish Pub in CITYVIEW's Best of Des Moines contest, mainly for their great drink specials like \$3 Fireball and \$4 Guinness pints. But, not to be forgotten, is a solid food menu, including Sully's Dog. This dog is similar to a Chicago option with an all-beef dog on a poppy-seed bun with pickles, tomatoes, onion and where they differ, jalapeno.

## LACHELE'S FINE FOODS

2716 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines  
[www.lacheles.com](http://www.lacheles.com)

Lachele's is well-known around the area for their smashburgers, and for good reason. But, they also have a Build-A-Dog option on the menu. Go from a plain hot dog to one with ketchup, mustard, pickle, onion, Lachele's sauce or giardiniera, and you can even add chili and cheese sauce for \$2. They also regularly add limited-time specials, so be sure to check out what is new.

## PAULA'S CAFE

524 Elm St., West Des Moines

Step into Paula's Cafe in Valley Junction and be transported to a Des Moines seemingly long gone. One of the last places that still serves a local favorite loose meat sandwich, or a Made Right, this spot also has a hot dog on the menu and plenty of other classics like tenderloins, onion rings, shakes and malts.

A special, the "1up Dog" at Lachele's. A mushroom Swiss meets hot dog. Photo courtesy of Lachele's Fine Foods






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## PELICAN POST BAR AND GRILLE

265 50th St., West Des Moines

[www.thepelicanpostdsm.com](http://www.thepelicanpostdsm.com)

Ever wanted a foot-long hot dog? Well, at Pelican Post Bar and Grille, they have turned that dream into a reality. The spot with one of the best patios in the city has a footlong Pelican Chili Dog that has their homemade chili gravy, topped with cheddar jack cheese and onion. They also have a regular-sized one and a plain hot dog, too, but what's the fun in that?

## THE WALNUT

1417 Walnut St., Des Moines

[www.walnutdsm.com](http://www.walnutdsm.com)

What started as a food truck now has a brick-and-mortar location of some of the tastiest-looking food items one could possibly want. Burgers, sandwiches, wings, tacos and even pasta can be found here. But, we're looking at dogs, and The Walnut's Completo is a quarter-pound, all-beef frank topped with pico de gallo, avocado, sauerkraut, mayo and cotija cheese served on a toasted coney bun.

## THE FLYING ELBOW

229 N. 13th St., Marshalltown

[www.flyingelbowfood.com](http://www.flyingelbowfood.com)

This restaurant is located just outside of the metro but is well worth the visit. The Flying Elbow is a professional-wrestling-themed bar that was voted Best Burger in Iowa in 2022. Not only that, but their Attitude Menu can be chosen to be served as a hot dog, burger or a sandwich. Some options include the Jacbroni, with cheddar cheese, pineapple sweet corn relish, Cheddar Ruffles, sweet corn mayo and The People's Sauce and green onion, or The Nature Boy, with Asian peanut sauce, pickled red cabbage, sweet chili Doritos, banana peppers and green onion.

PELICAN POST BAR AND GRILLE



The chili dog at Pelican Post. Photo courtesy of Pelican Post Bar & Grille

## GOODSONS

2815 Beaver Ave., Des Moines

[www.goodsonsdsm.com](http://www.goodsonsdsm.com)

Located in Beavertown, one of Des Moines' best neighborhoods, is GoodSons. On the tasty-looking menu can be found the GoodSons Dog. "The home wrecker" comes with an all-beef Nathan's hot dog, chili, onions and mozzarella. ■

**CHECK OUT OUR NEW MENU ITEMS!**  
**IT'S ALWAYS SUMMER AT THE POST!**

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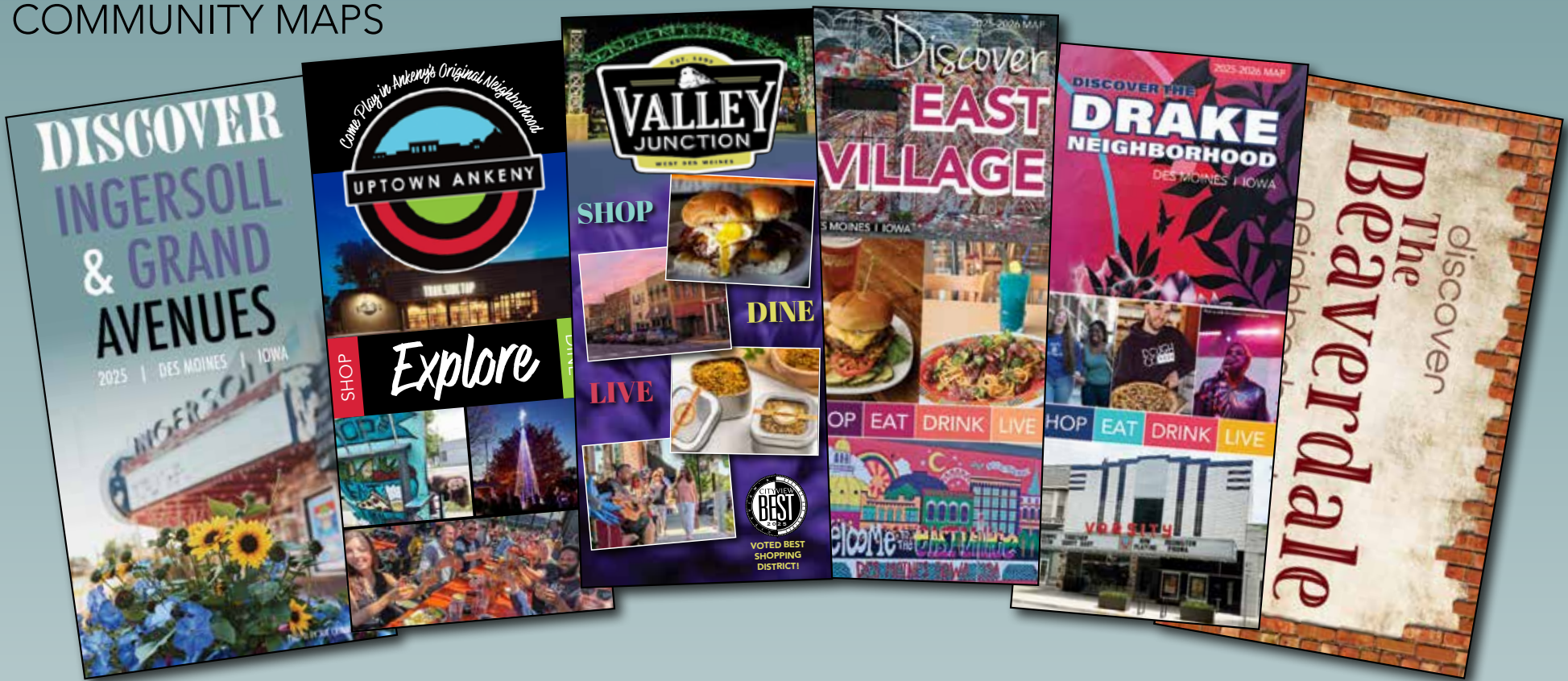
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# Lagers, STOUTS, SOURS AND MORE

Des Moines' craft brewing scene is one to marvel at. Most of these also have award-winning food to go alongside their award-winning brews. Sounds like a win-win to us.

## LUA BREWING

1525 High St., Des Moines  
[www.luabeer.com](http://www.luabeer.com)

Lua Brewing was voted the No. 1 Brewpub in the United States according to USA Today and was also a runner-up in CITYVIEW's Best of Des Moines contest for Best Local Brewery. Their smash burgers have been making mouths water for years, and their tasty, crafted beers wash them down with hoppy goodness. Add in a solid patio in downtown Des Moines, and you are set for one great evening.

## EXILE BREWING

1514 Walnut St., Des Moines  
[www.exilebrewing.com](http://www.exilebrewing.com)

Ruthie, the gold lager made by Exile, is world famous for its taste and branding. Since 2012, this brewery has been making food and beers from scratch, much to the delight of central Iowans. Their beers touch each corner of the brewing spectrum. The menu rotates regularly, but the Exile Burger, Exile Fries, and Tursi Classics like the chicken spiedini are constant favorites.

## CONFLUENCE BREWING COMPANY

1235 Thomas Beck Road, Des Moines  
[www.confluencebrewing.com](http://www.confluencebrewing.com)

Confluence is located just off of the bike trail and is just south of Gray's Lake. After your walk around the trail, stop by this place for a relaxed seat on the patio and one of their crafted beers. Beers like the Capital Gold, Over the Ivy, and recently returned Old Tavern are favorites among regulars. Food trucks often make a stop here as well, making it an all-around great spot.

## SINGLESPEED BREWING

303 Scott Ave., Des Moines  
[www.singlespeedbrewing.com](http://www.singlespeedbrewing.com)

Another brewery with a solid menu and a great list of beers is SingleSpeed. This spot opened up recently in Des Moines but has roots in Cedar Falls. Within walking distance of Principal Park and right off of the bike trail, this makes it a popular spot for biking enthusiasts. Beers, brunch, lunch and dinner all make this place one to visit.



EXILE BREWING

A row of Exile brews ready to be pulled and poured. Photo courtesy of Exile

## BIG GROVE BREWERY AND TAPROOM

555 17th St., Des Moines  
[www.biggrove.com](http://www.biggrove.com)

Another brewery that got its start in eastern Iowa, but eventually found a home in Des Moines, is Big Grove. Their beers, such as the Citrus Surfer, can be crushed during the summer, or the dark and malty Bear's Milk Coffee Stout make better for the winter. The food menu has some unique infusions like the Hot Honey Bao Buns, Tikka Masala Fries or Baja Shrimp Tacos, to name a few.

## EL BAIT SHOP

200 S.W. Second St., Des Moines  
[www.elbaitshop.com](http://www.elbaitshop.com)

Beer is king at El Bait Shop. While it is not a brewery, you would be hard pressed to find a spot with more beers on tap than this one. With more than 20 years downtown, this local favorite has more than 200 craft beers on tap — and a great food menu to boot.

## COURT AVENUE BREWING COMPANY

309 Court Ave., Des Moines  
[www.courtavebrew.com](http://www.courtavebrew.com)

CABco claims to be the oldest brewery in Des Moines. Founded in 1996, this brewery has stood the test of time. Try the Siesta, a Mexican-style lager that is great to sip on while winding down the day, or the newest addition to their core beers, the Courthouse Honey Wheat, an American pale wheat lightly hopped with a touch of honey. The beers are great, and they have a food menu that rivals any on this list.



## BARN TOWN BREWING

9500 University Ave., Suite 1110,  
West Des Moines

[www.barntownbrewing.com](http://www.barntownbrewing.com)

Founder Pete Faber was born in Des Moines and spent 16 years in Chicago working in hospitality. Eventually, he moved back to “make his hometown proud” and started Barn Town Brewing. The West Des Moines brewery is making the area proud. The food menu is worth a visit on its own. The beers, such as Iowa Gold, Classic Amber, Mango Wheat and Neon Hazy, are their cores. They also go outside the box with Dank Neon and Banana Nut Love Muffin.

## BRIGHTSIDE ALEWORKS

480 Center Place, Altoona

[www.facebook.com/brightsidealeworks](https://www.facebook.com/brightsidealeworks)

This family-owned-and-operated microbrewery opened in Altoona in 2017. Think coffee shop vibes but make it a brewery. Be sure to check their socials for the week’s beer list, which include Spring Wheat, Perk Up Coffee Porter and Mountain Blast. They also regularly welcome a rotating list of food trucks.



BIG GROVE BREWERY AND TAPROOM



Not only does Big Grove have a solid selection of beers and food, they have got a great patio to enjoy it on. Photo courtesy of Big Grove

# PLAY HARD EAT LOCAL

Join us at Big Grove DSM for FIFA WORLD CUP STREET PARTIES during USA games with a giant LED screen, grilling & chilling on the patio, glowsticks and drink specials.

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## WEST HILL BREWING CO.

219 W. Salem Ave., Indianola  
[www.westhillbrewingcompany.com](http://www.westhillbrewingcompany.com)  
Opened by Indianola native Doug Gaumer, this brewery is also home to The Stormin' Red Ale, the official craft beer of Simpson College. This is also another favorite spot for cyclists. Their current tap list features brews like the pilsner South of 92, Mexican lager Montezuma's Gold, and 4 Guys Rye.

## FIRETRUCKER BREWERY

716 S.W. Third St., Ankeny  
[www.firetrucker.com](http://www.firetrucker.com)  
The head of High Trestle Trail is in their backyard, making this yet another good spot for stopping during a day of biking. We are starting to think bicyclists are just getting into it for the breweries. This one in Ankeny has a solid patio and welcomes musical performances and food trucks. Oh, and the beer is great, too. Try the High Trestle IPA, Iowa IPA and 2 Alarm Red. ■



CONFLUENCE BREWING COMPANY

Confluence are consistently releasing new beers and experiments from their southside brewery. Photo courtesy of Confluence

# IOWA'S BEST STEAKHOUSE

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4565 86th Street, Urbandale • 855 E. Hickman Road, Waukee  
1112 S. Duff Avenue, Ames • 2415 Grand, Avenue, Ames  
2205 SE Delaware Avenue, Ankeny • 3635 8th Street SW, Altoona  
1105 73rd St, Windsor Heights  
5340 Buffalo Ridge Drive NE, Cedar Rapids



# Sports

A bevy of professional sports teams call Des Moines home. Catch a soccer, baseball or football game. Or head to the track. Whether it is horses or cars, we have got it.

## IHSAA AND IGHS AU FINALS

Various dates/locations

[www.iahsaa.org](http://www.iahsaa.org) and [www.ighsau.org](http://www.ighsau.org)

Elite athletes from high schools across Iowa see their seasons culminate in state championship tournaments during the summer.

- **May 21-23:** Boys and girls track and field state championships. Drake Stadium
- **May 26-27:** Boys golf state tournament. Various locations
- **May 27-28, June 2-3, 9:** Boys tennis state tournament, singles, team. Various locations
- **May 28-29, June 10:** Girls golf state tournament, team and coed. Various locations
- **June 8, 9, 11, 13:** Girls soccer state tournament, Iowa State University, Ames
- **June 3-5:** Boys soccer state tournament, Mediacom Stadium, Des Moines
- **July 20-24:** Boys baseball state tournament, various locations
- **July 20-24:** Girls softball state tournament, Harlan Rogers Sports Complex, Fort Dodge

## IOWA CUBS

Principal Park, 1 Line Drive, Des Moines

[www.iowacubs.com](http://www.iowacubs.com)

Affiliated with the MLB's Chicago Cubs, our very own minor league baseball team has been around since 1969, originally known as the Iowa Oaks. Cheer on the cubs all summer through September, with fireworks during Friday home games, plus the Fourth of July. Remaining home games this season:

- **May 21** vs. Memphis at 12:08 p.m. | **Iowa Oaks**
- **May 22** vs. Memphis at 7:08 p.m. | **Friday Night Fireworks**
- **May 23** vs. Memphis at 6:08 p.m. | **Catch On The Field**
- **May 24** vs. Memphis at 1:08 p.m. | **Kids Run The Bases**
- **June 2** vs. Toledo at 6:38 p.m. | **Lou Gehrig plus ALS Awareness Night**
- **June 3** vs. Toledo at 12:08 p.m.
- **June 4** vs. Toledo at 6:38 p.m.
- **June 5** vs. Toledo at 7:08 p.m. | **Star Wars Night | Friday Night Fireworks**
- **June 6** vs. Toledo at 6:08 p.m. | **BBQ Bootcamp**
- **June 7** vs. Toledo at 1:08 p.m. | **Sensory Friendly Day**



Photo by Dylan Heuer

- **June 16** vs. Indianapolis at 6:38 p.m.
- **June 17** vs. Indianapolis at 12:08 p.m.
- **June 18** vs. Indianapolis at 6:38 p.m. | **American Sign Language Night | First Responders Night**
- **June 19** vs. Indianapolis at 7:08 p.m. | **Pride Night | Friday Night Fireworks**
- **June 20** vs. Indianapolis at 6:08 p.m. | **Catch On The Field**
- **June 21** vs. Indianapolis at 1:08 p.m. | **Father's Day**
- **June 23** vs. Buffalo at 6:38 p.m. | **Dog Day**
- **June 24** vs. Buffalo at 12:08 p.m.
- **June 25** vs. Buffalo at 6:38 p.m. | **Citizenship Ceremony**
- **June 26** vs. Buffalo at 7:08 pm | **Hawaiian Night | Friday Night Fireworks**
- **June 27** vs. Buffalo at 6:08 p.m. | **10 Year Chicago Cubs World Series Anniversary Celebration**
- **June 28** vs. Buffalo at 1:08 p.m. | **Kids Run The Bases**
- **July 7** vs. St. Paul at 6:38 p.m.
- **July 8** vs. St. Paul at 12:08 p.m.
- **July 9** vs. St. Paul at 6:38 p.m.
- **July 10** vs. St. Paul at 7:08 p.m. | **Friday Night Fireworks**
- **July 11** vs. St. Paul at 6:08 p.m. | **Catch On The Field**
- **July 12** vs. St. Paul at 1:08 p.m. | **Demonios de Des Moines | Kids Run The Bases**
- **July 28** vs. Scranton/WB at 6:38 p.m. | **Dog Day**
- **July 29** vs. Scranton/WB at 12:08 p.m.
- **July 30** vs. Scranton/WB at 6:38 p.m. | **Iowa Oaks**
- **July 31** vs. Scranton/WB at 7:08 p.m. | **Friday Night Fireworks**
- **Aug. 1** vs. Scranton/WB at 6:08 p.m. | **Catch On The Field**
- **Aug. 2** vs. Scranton/WB at 1:08 p.m. | **Kids Run The Bases**
- **Aug. 11** MILB Field of Dreams game vs. St. Paul at 6:30 p.m. (In Dyersville)
- **Aug. 12** vs. St. Paul at 6:38 p.m.
- **Aug. 13** vs. St. Paul at 6:38 p.m.
- **Aug. 14** vs. St. Paul at 7:08 p.m. | **Friday Night Fireworks**
- **Aug. 15** vs. St. Paul at 6:08 p.m. | **Catch On The Field**
- **Aug. 16** vs. St. Paul at 1:08 p.m. | **Kids Run The Bases**
- **Aug. 25** vs. Omaha at 6:38 p.m. | **Dog Day**
- **Aug. 26** vs. Omaha at 12:08 p.m.
- **Aug. 27** vs. Omaha at 6:38 p.m. | **Iowa Oaks**
- **Aug. 28** vs. Omaha at 7:08 p.m. | **Friday Night Fireworks**
- **Aug. 29** vs. Omaha at 6:08 p.m. | **Catch On The Field**
- **Aug. 30** vs. Omaha at 1:08 p.m. | **Demonios de Des Moines | Kids Run The Bases**
- **Sept. 8** vs. Toledo at 6:38 p.m.
- **Sept. 9** vs. Toledo at 12:08 p.m.
- **Sept. 10** vs. Toledo at 6:38 p.m. | **Iowa Oaks**
- **Sept. 11** vs. Toledo at 7:08 p.m. | **Friday Night Fireworks**
- **Sept. 12** vs. Toledo at 6:08 p.m. | **Catch On The Field**
- **Sept. 13** vs. Toledo at 1:08 p.m. | **Kids Run The Bases**



# OUR TRAVELING COCKTAIL PARTY IS BACK WITH 2 EVENTS THIS SUMMER!



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IOWA BARNSTORMERS

Photo courtesy of Iowa Barnstormers

### IOWA BARNSTORMERS

Wells Fargo Arena, 730 Third St., Des Moines  
[www.theiowabarnstormers.com](http://www.theiowabarnstormers.com)

Home games:

- **May 22** vs. Jacksonville Sharks at 7 p.m.
- **June 12** vs. Quad City Streamwheelers at 7 p.m.
- **June 27** vs. Tulsa Oilers at 7 p.m.
- **July 11** vs. Green Bay Blizzard at 5 p.m.
- **July 24** vs. San Antonio Gunslingers at 7 p.m.

### DES MOINES MENACE

Mediacom Stadium,  
1427-1483 25th St., Des Moines  
[www.menacesoccer.com](http://www.menacesoccer.com)

One of the nation's best semi-professional soccer organizations.

Home games:

- **June 13** vs. Springfield FC at 7 p.m.
- **June 20** vs. ICL All Stars (Friendly) at 7 p.m.
- **June 27** vs. Peoria City at 7 p.m.
- **July 3** vs. SantaFe Wanderers at 7 p.m.
- **July 11** vs. FC Ambush at 7 p.m.

### PRAIRIE MEADOWS

1 Prairie Meadows Drive, Altoona  
[www.prairiemeadows.com](http://www.prairiemeadows.com)

Among their already impressive amount of gambling and entertainment, Prairie Meadows also offers live and simulcast horse racing. Pick your winner and cross your fingers.

- **Fridays to Mondays, May 2 to June 7, July 10, 11:** Thoroughbred only
- **Fridays to Mondays, June 8 to Sept. 26:** Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse
- **May 25:** Memorial Day
- **July 3:** Fireworks
- **July 4:** Independence Day
- **July 10-11:** Festival of Racing
- **Aug 14-15:** Regional Challenge
- **Sept. 7:** Labor Day
- **Sept 25:** Quarter horse championships
- **Sept. 26:** Iowa Classic



Photo courtesy of Des Moines Menace





The Iowa Speedway, photo courtesy of NASCAR via Getty Images

## KNOXVILLE RACEWAY

Marion County Fairgrounds, 1000 N. Lincoln, Knoxville

[www.knoxvillraceway.com](http://www.knoxvillraceway.com)

The Knoxville Raceway, originally a horse-racing venue, is now known as the “Sprint Car Capital of the World.” The raceway hosts sprint car racing events regularly:

- **May 23:** World of Outlaws - Stars and Stripes Salute
- **May 29-30:** Avanti Windows and Doors Corn Belt Clash - USAC Night
- **June 6:** Lakeside Hotel and Casino Knoxville Legends Night
- **June 12-13:** Premier Chevy Dealers Clash / World of Outlaws
- **June 20:** NO RACING for Huset’s High Bank Nationals
- **June 27:** Farm Bureau Financial Services Night
- **July 4:** Nolan Wren Memorial Higher View Enterprises Mid-Season Championship
- **July 11:** Vermeer Night / Marion County Fair Night
- **July 18:** 3M Night and 360 Shootout
- **July 25:** VanWall Equipment Night
- **Aug 1:** Weiler Night and 410 Border Battle
- **Aug 6-8:** 36th Annual Xtream powered by Mediacom 360 Knoxville Nationals
- **Aug 9:** Avanti Windows and Doors Capitani Classic
- **Aug 12-15:** 65th Knoxville Nationals
- **Aug 29:** McKay Group Season Championship Night at N/A
- **Sep 17-19:** Lucas Oil Late Model Knoxville Nationals

## BOONE SPEEDWAY

1481 223rd Place, Boone

[www.raceboone.com](http://www.raceboone.com)

This 1/3-mile high-banked dirt oval is known as “Iowa’s Action Track.” Catch their weekly Saturday night series through Aug. 19 or other special events:

- **May 23, 30:** Saturday night weekly series
- **June 6, 13, 20, 27:** Saturday night weekly series
- **June 23:** IMCA Harris Clash
- **July 4:** Eve of Destruction
- **July 4, 11, 18, 25:** Saturday night weekly series
- **Aug. 1, 8, 15:** Saturday night weekly series
- **Aug. 22:** Season Championship
- **Aug. 29:** IMCA Super Nationals Tune-up
- **Sept. 5-6:** NAPA Double Down Prelude to the Super Nationals
- **Sept. 7-12:** 2026 IMCA Speedway Motors Super Nationals

## IOWA SPEEDWAY

3333 Rusty Wallace Drive, Newton

[www.iowaspeedway.com](http://www.iowaspeedway.com)

The paved track at the Iowa Speedway is 7/8-mile long and entertaining all the way around. For those of you with an RV, bring it to the multi-tiered viewing area situated along the backstretch to watch in style. This season’s events include:

- **Aug. 7:** ARCA Menards Series Race
- **Aug. 8:** Hy-Vee Perks 250
- **Aug. 9:** Iowa Corn 350 ■



# COME FOR THE FUN

Firework Fridays | Theme Nights |  
Weekly Promotions | and more!



# STAY FOR THE GAME

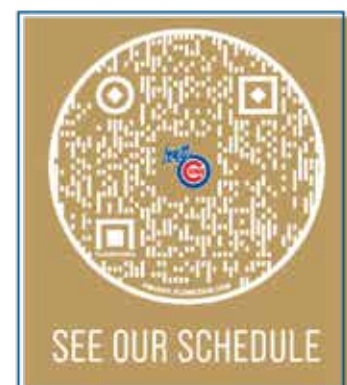


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# Live MUSIC

From the world-famous to the garage bands next door, Des Moines music venues pack seats all over the metro.

## DES MOINES CIVIC CENTER

Des Moines Civic Center, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines, Temple Theater, 1011 Locust St., Des Moines

[www.desmoinesperformingarts.org](http://www.desmoinesperformingarts.org)

- **June 1:** Brit Floyd: "The Moon, The Wall and Beyond"
- **June 12:** "Electric Eden"

## HOYT SHERMAN PLACE

1501 Woodland Ave., Des Moines

[www.hoytsherman.org](http://www.hoytsherman.org)

- **June 5:** Marty Stuart and His Fabulous Superlatives at 8 p.m.
- **June 14:** The Wallflowers at 8 p.m.
- **June 18:** Christopher Cross at 7:30 p.m.
- **June 25:** The Robert Cray Band at 8 p.m.
- **June 28:** I'm With Her: Sing Me Alive Tour at 7:30 p.m.
- **June 30:** St. Paul and The Broken Bones at 7:30 p.m.
- **July 7:** Jazz in July 2026: Night 1 at 5:30 p.m.
- **July 14:** Jazz in July 2026: Night 2 at 5:30 p.m.
- **July 21:** Jazz in July 2026: Night 3 at 5:30 p.m.
- **July 28:** Jazz in July 2026: Night 4 at 5:30 p.m.
- **Sept. 11:** Jefferson Starship Runaway Again Tour at 8 p.m.

## NOCE

1326 Walnut St., Suite 100, Des Moines

[www.noceds.com](http://www.noceds.com)

- **May 21:** KC Vocalist Jackie Myers at 7 p.m.
- **May 22:** THE NEXT TEN YEARS: A NOCE SOIREE at 7 p.m.
- **May 22:** After Hours at Noce at 9:30 p.m.
- **May 23:** Jazz Vocalist Marisa Cravero at 7 p.m.
- **May 23:** Last Call with Max Wellman at 9:30 p.m.
- **May 26:** The Des Moines Big Band, in residence at 7 p.m.
- **May 27:** Jazz on the House with Trumpeter Scott Davis and Co. at 7 p.m.
- **May 28:** KC Trombonist Marcus Lewis with His Quintet at 7 p.m.
- **May 29:** Broadway Baby: A Night of Showtunes with Lauren Vilmain and Her Jazz Orchestra at 7 p.m.



IOWA STATE FAIR

World famous acts take to the Iowa State Fair Grandstand every year. Photo by Matthew Putney, courtesy of the Iowa State Fair

- **May 29:** After Hours at Noce at 9:30 p.m.
- **May 30:** Joe & Jobim with Aviana Gedler at 7 p.m.
- **May 30:** Last Call with Max Wellman at 9:30 p.m.

## CASEY'S CENTER

Casey's Center, 223 Center St., Des Moines

[www.iowaeventscenter.com](http://www.iowaeventscenter.com)

- **June 19:** Luke Bryan at 7 p.m.
- **July 15:** Tyler Childers at 7:30 p.m.
- **July 16:** Lil Wayne at 8 p.m.

## IOWA STATE FAIR GRANDSTAND

Iowa State Fairgrounds,  
3000 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines

[www.iowastatefair.org/entertainment/grandstand](http://www.iowastatefair.org/entertainment/grandstand)

- **Aug. 13:** Hardy at 8 p.m.
- **Aug. 14:** Rod Stewart at 8 p.m.
- **Aug. 15:** The Red Clay Strays at 8 p.m.
- **Aug. 16:** Lainey Wilson at 8 p.m.
- **Aug. 17:** Staind at 8 p.m.
- **Aug. 18:** TLC & Salt-N-Pepa with En Vogue at 8 p.m.
- **Aug. 19:** AJR at 8 p.m.
- **Aug. 20:** Riley Green at 8 p.m.
- **Aug. 22:** BigXthaPlug at 8 p.m.
- **Aug. 23:** Josiah Queen at 6 p.m.

## WOOLY'S

504 E. Locust St., Des Moines

[www.firstfleetconcerts.com/first-fleet-venues/woolys](http://www.firstfleetconcerts.com/first-fleet-venues/woolys)

- **May 22:** Stark Raving Madge: A Tribute To The 70's at 7 p.m.
- **May 23:** Blade Rave at 9 p.m.
- **May 29:** Alpha Wolf: Let It Rip USA Tour at 7 p.m.
- **May 30:** Meet Me @ The Altar: at 7 p.m.
- **May 31:** Spineshank at 6:30 p.m.

- **June 3:** Terror at 7 p.m.
- **June 5:** Satsang at 7 p.m.
- **June 6:** Anders Colsefni at 8 p.m.
- **June 7:** Kings Kaleidoscope at 8 p.m.
- **June 8:** Citizen Soldier: Secret Songs Tour II at 7 p.m.
- **June 11:** Dexter and The Moonrocks at 7 p.m.
- **June 12:** High Fade at 7 p.m.
- **June 18:** Tigers Jaw at 7 p.m.
- **June 19:** Taylor Fest at 9 p.m.
- **July 12:** Benjamin Tod and the Inline Six 2026 Tour at 7 p.m.
- **July 13:** Colony House at 7 p.m.
- **July 14:** Jeff Rosenstock at 7 p.m.
- **Aug. 13:** The Crane Wives - ACT III at 7 p.m.
- **Aug. 21:** Umphrey's McGee at 8 p.m.
- **Sept. 3:** Ugly Kid Joe at 7:30 p.m.
- **Sept. 4:** Lakeview at 7 p.m.

## WATERWORKS PARK

Lauridsen Amphitheater,  
2251 George Flagg Parkway  
[www.waterworkspark.org](http://www.waterworkspark.org)

- **June 13:** Billy Currington and Kip Moore at 6 p.m.
- **June 14:** Alison Krauss and Union Station at 7 p.m.
- **Aug. 27:** Clay Walker with Blackhawk at 7 p.m.
- **Sept. 10:** Blues Traveler with Gin Blossoms and Spin Doctors

## XBK LIVE

1159 24th St., Des Moines  
[www.xbklive.com](http://www.xbklive.com)

- **May 21:** Caster Volor / Psycho X / Parabola at 7 p.m.
- **May 22:** Peter Roberts "It's All Pastel" Album Release at 8 p.m.
- **May 24:** 80s kids at 7 p.m.
- **May 26:** Jaguar Sun and Kurt Travis at 7 p.m.
- **May 26:** John Till & John Waite at 7:30 p.m.



- **May 27:** Kyle Smith with Rootz Within at 8 p.m.
- **May 28:** Thelma and the Sleaze at 7 p.m.
- **May 29:** Amelia Day with Rutabaga at 8 p.m.
- **May 30:** The Guilty Pleasures with Super 8 at 7 p.m.
- **May 31:** TONK! at 7 p.m.
- **June 2:** Troy Doherty at 8 p.m.
- **June 3:** Songwriter Lounge Open Mic Night at 6:30 p.m.
- **June 5:** KBong and Johnny Cosmic at 8 p.m.
- **June 6:** K-POP Demon Hunters Fan Fest at 12:30 p.m.
- **June 6:** Naughty Nerds Cabaret presents: Strip the Binary at 8 p.m.
- **June 6:** Tommy Doggett and Seth Hedquist at 8 p.m.
- **June 7:** Season to Risk with Procedure and Quade at 7 p.m.
- **June 10:** Cory Waller and The Wicked Things with Collin Donley at 7 p.m.
- **June 11:** The Bones of J.R. Jones at 7 p.m.
- **June 11:** Jazz Night at the Annex with the Austin Brown Trio at 8 p.m.
- **June 13:** Desecration / Diezeleater / Doyoubleed? / Fear of Falling at 7 p.m.
- **June 15:** Racing Mount Pleasant with Isobel at 8 p.m.
- **June 16:** Sawyer Fredericks at 7 p.m.
- **June 17:** Songwriter Lounge Open Mic Night at 6:30 p.m.
- **June 22:** Weary Ramblers, Ducharme-Jones, Chip Albright, Sam Pattison at 7 p.m.
- **June 23:** Elijah Scott at 7 p.m.
- **June 27:** Rhythm and Pep Presents: Y2GAY at 8 p.m.
- **July 1:** Songwriter Lounge Open Mic Night at 6:30 p.m.
- **July 1:** Carolina Liar with Andrew Hoyt at 7 p.m.
- **July 4:** Total Chaos with Noogy at 8 p.m.
- **July 9:** Keller Williams at 8 p.m.
- **July 9:** Jazz Night at the Annex with the Austin Brown Trio at 8 p.m.
- **July 11:** The Band Feel at 8 p.m.
- **July 12:** Daniel Donato at 7 p.m.
- **July 15:** Songwriter Lounge Open Mic Night at 6:30 p.m.
- **July 16:** Dad Rock Night (2000s Rock Tribute) at 8 p.m.
- **July 21:** DED with Dropout Kings, VRSTY, and SAFE SPACE at 7 p.m.
- **July 25:** BELLES at 8 p.m.
- **July 27:** Autumn Lies Buried with The Behest of Serpents at 7 p.m.
- **July 29:** Songwriter Lounge Open Mic Night at 6:30 p.m.
- **Aug. 5:** Bug Hunter / The Narcissist Cookbook / Jam Mechanics at 7 p.m.
- **Aug. 11:** Raynes at 7 p.m.
- **Aug. 12:** Songwriter Lounge Open Mic Night at 6:30 p.m.
- **Aug. 19:** American Vanity at 8 p.m.
- **Aug. 20:** Psychostick with Apathy Syndrome and Safe Space at 7 p.m.

- **Aug. 26:** Songwriter Lounge Open Mic Night at 6:30 p.m.
- **Sept. 16:** Songwriter Lounge Open Mic Night at 6:30 p.m.
- **Sept. 30:** Songwriter Lounge Open Mic Night at 6:30 p.m.

## VIBRANT MUSIC HALL

2938 Grand Prairie Parkway, Waukee

[www.vibrantmusicall.com](http://www.vibrantmusicall.com)

- **June 14:** Todd Rundgren at 7:30 p.m.
- **June 27:** The Dead South with Amigo the Devil at 7:30 p.m.
- **July 9:** Ziggy Marley at 7:30 p.m.
- **July 19:** Studio One Presents: Lord Huron at 7:30 p.m.
- **July 29:** Cameron Whitcomb at 8 p.m.

## JASPER WINERY

2400 George Flagg Parkway, Des Moines

[www.jasperwinery.com](http://www.jasperwinery.com)

When the warm weather rolls in, Jasper Winery welcomes all for their Summer Concert Series, occurring Thursdays from 6-9 p.m. Quench your thirst and appetite while enjoying live music under the summer sky. Bring your lawn chairs to this outdoor summer event, held from May through the end of July.

- **May 21:** Birdchild
- **May 28:** Blake Jack with Jordan Beem
- **June 4:** Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
- **June 11:** Damon Dotson Band
- **June 18:** Tyler Richton and The High Bank Boys with River City Opry
- **June 25:** The Pork Tornadoes with Zachary Freedom
- **July 2:** The Nadas
- **July 9:** Pianopalooza Band
- **July 16:** Kris Lager Band
- **July 23:** Rhino
- **July 30:** Decoy
- **Aug. 6:** Not Quite Brothers with Brian Congdon

## DES MOINES BOTANICAL GARDEN

909 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines

[www.dmbotanicalgarden.com](http://www.dmbotanicalgarden.com)

Music in the Garden Series from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

- **June 4:** Diplomats of Solid Sound
- **June 11:** Weary Ramblers
- **June 18:** The Textures
- **June 25:** Mango Soul
- **July 2:** Son Peruchos
- **July 9:** June Bugs DSM
- **July 16:** The NOLA Jazz Band
- **July 23:** The Feel Right
- **July 30:** The Swallowtails
- **Aug. 6:** The Crowfoot Rakes
- **Aug. 13:** The Finesse
- **Aug. 20:** RetroSpect

## LOCALS BAR AND STAGE

1433 Walnut St., Suite A, Des Moines

[www.localsdsm.com](http://www.localsdsm.com)

- **May 22:** Stars Hollow at 7 p.m.
- **May 23:** Gh0stthekid, DSakota\$lim, Fooch the MC at 7 p.m.
- **May 26:** New Neighbors, Mrs Nezbitt, The Slow Retreat, On Hiatus at 7 p.m.
- **May 29:** Lady Revel at 7 p.m.
- **May 30:** Star Funeral, Look at Me at 7 p.m.

## MUSIC UNDER THE STARS

Lauridsen Amphitheater

Des Moines Water Works Park,

2251 George Flagg Parkway, Des Moines

[www.musicunderthestars.org](http://www.musicunderthestars.org)

Every Sunday from June 7 to July 12, the ensemble will perform at the Lauridsen Amphitheater at Water Works Park. Bring lawn chairs and blankets for the 79th season of this free concert consisting of jazz and special guest vocalists. If there is rain, it will be relocated to the Drake University Performing Arts Center.

## BEAVERDALE BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

Tower Park, 4900 Hickman Road, Des Moines

[www.beaverdalebluegrass.com](http://www.beaverdalebluegrass.com)

July 16

The Beaverdale Bluegrass Festival is a celebration of local music and community. It is free to the public and sponsored by the Beaverdale Neighborhood Association and local businesses. Some of the best bluegrass talents in Iowa pack the neighborhood park.

## HINTERLAND

Avenue of the Saints Amphitheatre,

3357 St. Charles Road, Saint Charles

[www.hinterlandiowa.com](http://www.hinterlandiowa.com)

July 30 to Aug. 2

A short drive from Des Moines is where Iowa's largest music festival resides. Each summer, world-renowned musical artists descend onto the small town of Saint Charles for a weekend full of music, camping and good times.

Headliners:

- **July 30:** KATSEYE
- **July 31:** Lorde
- **Aug. 1:** Mumford and Sons
- **Aug. 2:** Kali Uchis

## BEVINGTON BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

Briar Patch Amphitheater,

2103 Warren Ave., Bevington

June 19-20

Mama Said String Band, Baberhood Bluegrass Band, Black Dirt Ramblers, Springfield, Foggy Memory Boys, The Steppers, Mountain Alice. ■



# Events

The best of the rest — festivals, farmers markets, community celebrations and anything else we could find to fill up your calendar this summer

## MAY

**Recurring weekly until October, Wednesday through Sunday: Des Moines Biergarten.** Local brews, bikes and bands descend on Water Works Park, 2201 George Flagg Parkway, Des Moines; <https://desmoinesbiergarten.com>.

**MAY 22-23: Celebrasian.** Celebrate a rich array of Asian culture with authentic food, music, exhibits, entertainment and more. Western Gateway Park, 1205 Locust St, Des Moines; [www.iowaasianalliance.com](http://www.iowaasianalliance.com).

**MAY 23: Decoration Day and Historic Baseball.** Memorial Day was once Decoration Day. Living History Farms remembers the 600,000 soldiers lost in the Civil War, capped off with historic baseball. Living History Farms, 11121 Hickman Road, Urbandale; [www.lhf.org](http://www.lhf.org).

**MAY 24: Memorial Day Foam Paw-ty.** A foam-filled day at Paws and Pints, great for dogs, and people, to cool off. Paws and Pints, 6218 Willowmere Drive, Des Moines; [www.pawsandpintsdsm.com](http://www.pawsandpintsdsm.com).

**MAY 29-31: Des Moines Con.** This annual convention welcomes some of the biggest names in voice acting, comic books and acting. There are also exhibitors, artists, and more entertainment throughout the weekend. Iowa Events Center, 730 Third St., Des Moines; [www.desmoinescon.com](http://www.desmoinescon.com).

**MAY 30: CITYVIEW's Midday Mixer.** From 1-4 p.m., enjoy our Midday Mixer at participating locations in the District at Prairie Trail. For a ticket price of \$25 (\$35 at the door), attendees will receive 10 drink tickets that can be redeemed for sample cocktails. Plan for typical Iowa weather and be ready to have fun. Start at El Presidente, 1465 S.W. Park Square Drive, Suite 102, Ankeny; [middaymixer.dmcityview.com](http://middaymixer.dmcityview.com).

**MAY 30: EMC Dam to DSM Half Marathon.** For the 47th year, runners will take on the journey from the Saylorville Dam to Downtown Des Moines. With buses to the starting line, cold beer at the finish, and memorable rural and urban miles in the middle, this is one run you won't want to miss. N.W. 78th Ave., Johnston; [www.damtodsm.com](http://www.damtodsm.com).

## JUNE

**THURSDAYS IN JUNE: Ankeny Beats and Eats.** Featuring drinks, food and entertainment for all ages. Ankeny Market and Pavilion, 715 W. First St.; [www.ankenyiowa.gov](http://www.ankenyiowa.gov).

**JUNE 3-4: World Pork Expo.** Iowans are more than familiar with pork and all of its deliciousness, but if you want to learn even more, the National Pork Producers have you covered with this event. Iowa State Fairgrounds, 3000 East Grand Ave.; [www.worldpork.org](http://www.worldpork.org).

**JUNE 4-6: Governors Days.** A three-day festival in Grimes with food trucks, live music, car show, parade, talent show and more. Grimes South Sports Complex, 750 S. James St., Grimes; [www.governorsdays.com](http://www.governorsdays.com).

**JUNE 5: Wine and Craft Beer Fest.** Wine, beer and live music. What's not to like? Civic Plaza, 360 Center Place, Altoona; [www.altoonachamber.org](http://www.altoonachamber.org).

**JUNE 5: Senior Fishing Day.** Free fishing for those 60-plus. There will be prizes for the biggest, smallest and

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until it gets  
messy, then it is  
awesome-  
some

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most fish caught. Easter Lake Park, 2830 Easter Lake Drive, Des Moines; [www.polkcountyiowa.gov](http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov).

**JUNE 5-7: Greek Food Fair Festival.** Enjoy the sights, sounds and most importantly, tastes, of Greek culture. 1110 35th St., Des Moines; [www.facebook.com/StGeorgeDSM](http://www.facebook.com/StGeorgeDSM).

**JUNE 6: Central Iowa Trans Lives Festival.** This is the sixth annual event held in honor of International Transgender Day of Visibility. 1800 Bell Ave., Des Moines; [www.ucdsm.org/trans-lives-festival](http://www.ucdsm.org/trans-lives-festival).

**JUNE 6: Iowa Craft Brew Festival.** Iowans love a cold one, and you will be hard pressed to find another event this summer with more brews of all hops and sizes this summer. Water Works Park, 2201 George Flag Parkway, Des Moines; [www.iowacraftbrewfestival.com](http://www.iowacraftbrewfestival.com).

**JUNE 6: Family Fest.** Alpacas, fire engine climbs, activities, shaved ice and other treats all at this family-friendly event. Starting at 11 a.m. The Yard, 6221 Merle Hay Road, Johnston; [www.johnstontowncenter.com](http://www.johnstontowncenter.com).

**JUNE 6: Waukee Palooza.** Eighth Annual Music Festival with an online silent auction with items donated to raise funds for the local and international service projects supported by the Rotary Club of Waukee. Three local music groups will provide live entertainment, along with brews and wine from local breweries and wineries. 1005 East Hickman Road, Waukee; [www.waukeepalooza.com](http://www.waukeepalooza.com).

**JUNE 6: Raccoon River Palooza.** This free family event goes on rain or shine and is packed full of



DES MOINES BIERGARTEN

Photo courtesy of Des Moines Biergarten, by Bryon Houlgrave

activities that all families can enjoy. Just like the name, the festival is at Raccoon River Park, 2500 Grand Ave., West Des Moines; [www.wdmchamber.org](http://www.wdmchamber.org).

**JUNE 7: Classic Car Show.** Bring your classic car to show or just show up and marvel at the classic beauties lining the lot and grounds. Iowa Arboretum, 1875 Peach Ave., Madrid; [www.iowaarboretum.org](http://www.iowaarboretum.org).

**JUNE 7: National Cancer Survivor Day Bike Ride.** Join Above and Beyond Cancer in a celebration of life and living each day with passion and purpose. Get energized with a selection of coffee and snacks before heading off on the 25-mile ride to Woodward

and back to Slater, on the High Trestle Trail. Starts in Earl Grimm Park, Slater; [aboveandbeyondcancer.org/upcoming-events/national-cancer-survivor-day-bike-ride-1](http://aboveandbeyondcancer.org/upcoming-events/national-cancer-survivor-day-bike-ride-1).

**JUNE 9: Sensory Friendly Night at the Science Center of Iowa.** Science Center of Iowa, 401 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway; [www.sciowa.org](http://www.sciowa.org).

**JUNE 10-14: The Principal Charity Classic.** This PGA Tour event right in Des Moines' backyard has raised more than \$62 million in support of Iowa youth since 2007. Wakonda Club, 3915 Fleur Drive, Des Moines; [www.principalcharityclassic.com](http://www.principalcharityclassic.com).



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### JUNE 11-13: Johnston Green Days 2026.

Johnston's community celebrates its 30th year with all the typical fan faire of food, music and activities. Terra Park, 6400 Pioneer Parkway, Johnston; [www.johnstongreendays.com](http://www.johnstongreendays.com).

**JUNE 12, 19, 26, JULY 3: Rock Around the Clock:** Fall Concert Series. Every Friday, enjoy live music, food and a fun community atmosphere. From classic rock to modern hits, there is something for everyone. Grimes Sports Complex, 410 S.E. Main St., Grimes; [www.facebook.com/grimesparksandrec](http://www.facebook.com/grimesparksandrec).

**JUNE 12-14: PrideFest 2026.** Celebrate PrideFest for the 47th time in its history. The event draws national acts. Plenty of food and other vendors line the streets of the East Village for a weekend of Pride. Des Moines Historic East Village; [www.capitalcitypride.org/pridefest](http://www.capitalcitypride.org/pridefest).

**JUNE 13: Capital City Pride Stride 5K.** Show support for the LGBTQ+ community at the 2026 Pride Stride. For the most experienced of runners to the biggest newbies, this stride has a place for you. PrideFest Main Stage at E. Sixth and Locust St., Des Moines; [www.capitalcitypride.org/event/pride-stride](http://www.capitalcitypride.org/event/pride-stride).

**JUNE 13-14: 36th annual Iowa Metaphysical Fair.** Ever wondered what it would be like to see the spiritual side of things, metaphysics, holistic health and more? It's all at this fair. Iowa State Fairgrounds, 3000 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines; [www.iametaphysicalfair.com](http://www.iametaphysicalfair.com).

**JUNE 20: Macksburg Skillet Toss.** Ever wondered how far you could throw a skillet? Test your skillet tossing skills against the best of the best at the 50th National Skillet Throw. Macksburg City Park, Macksburg; [www.macksburgskilletthrow.com](http://www.macksburgskilletthrow.com).

**JUNE 20: Cajun Fest.** The south finds its way into West Des Moines with all of the requisite flavors and celebrations. 7001 Westtown Parkway, Suite 100, West Des Moines; [www.cajunfestiowa.com](http://www.cajunfestiowa.com).

**JUNE 20: Neighbor's Day Celebration.** Hosted by the Iowa Juneteenth Organization. From noon to 6 p.m. at Western Gateway Park, 1000 Grand Ave., Des Moines; [www.iowajuneteenth.org](http://www.iowajuneteenth.org).

**JUNE 20: 12th annual Bacon Ride, May the Fork Be With You.** The annual bike ride goes through several small towns along the Raccoon River

Valley Trail. This year with a "Star Wars" theme, but still the same bacon. Starting at 7 a.m. Raccoon River Valley Trailhead, Waukee; [www.facebook.com/baconrideiowa](http://www.facebook.com/baconrideiowa)

**JUNE 20: Ankeny Pride Parade.** This will be the fifth Ankeny Pride Celebration, bringing community, visibility and joy to the area. From 4-9 p.m., Ankeny Market and Pavilion, 715 W. First St.; [www.ankenypride.org](http://www.ankenypride.org).

**JUNE 26: CITYVIEW'S Downtown Summer Stir.** Our traveling cocktail party is back in downtown Des Moines. Sample many of summer's finest drinks at some of the area's best bars and restaurants. Try 10 different drinks for only \$25 with your online order (\$35 at the door). Court Avenue District, Des Moines; [summerstirs.dmcityview.com](http://summerstirs.dmcityview.com).

**JUNE 26-28: Des Moines Art Festival.** Nearly 200 artists from Iowa and around the country fill Western Gateway Park into an urban gallery. Des Moines' own artistic marvel, the Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park, serves as an ideal backdrop for the award-winning event that celebrates art, music and film. Western Gateway Park, 1205 Locust St., Des Moines; [desmoinesartsfestival.org](http://desmoinesartsfestival.org)

**JUNE 26-28: Interrobang Film Festival.** This includes a juried show, verified by IMDb, featuring public showings and talkbacks with directors. Filmmaker submissions are accepted in nine categories and are juried by a panel of peers. The 2025 Festival featured 24 juried films from nine countries. Des Moines Public Library 1000 Grand Ave., Des Moines; [www.desmoinesartsfestival.org](http://www.desmoinesartsfestival.org).

**JUNE 28: The Yellow Chair Project: Close Call** - A Storytelling Event at 7 p.m. 1159 24th St., Des Moines; [www.xbklive.com](http://www.xbklive.com).

## JULY

**JULY 2-4: Urbandale 4th of July Celebration.** Urbandale goes all out for its Fourth of July event every year, and this one is no different. 7404 Prairie Ave., Urbandale; [www.urbandale4thofjuly.org](http://www.urbandale4thofjuly.org).

**JULY 3-4: Waukee Celebration of Independence.** Waukee's celebration includes a



Photo courtesy of Greater Des Moines Partnership

## FARMERS MARKETS

- **Des Moines Farmers Market** - Located in the Historic Court District, it is the largest farmers market in the state and operates every Saturday morning from May to October.
- **Southside Sunday Market** - Located in the parking lot of Southridge Mall featuring local businesses, farmers and entrepreneurs every Sunday between June and September.
- **Ankeny Farmers Market** - Operates every Saturday from May through September, located at the Market Pavilion in Uptown Ankeny.
- **Valley Junction Farmers Market** - Operates every Thursday evening from May to September, located in Historic Valley Junction.
- **Altoona Farmers Market** - Operates every Thursday evening from May to September, located at the Brightside Aleworks parking lot.
- **Beaverdale Farmers Market** - Operates every Tuesday evening from June through September, located in the Franklin Junior High parking lot.
- **Johnston Farmers Market** - Operates every Tuesday evening from June through September, located on the north side of the Johnston Town Center.
- **Indianola Farmers Market** - Operates every Saturday morning from May through October, located on the Indianola Square.
- **Waukee Farmers Market** - Operates every Wednesday evening, June through September, located in the downtown triangle.

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## 2026 MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

### MONDAY, MAY 25<sup>th</sup>

MUSEUM LOCATED AT CAMP DODGE

Simon Conway will broadcast "live" from the museum  
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*Free military style breakfast 6-9AM or until gone!*

### Iowa Gold Star Military Museum

At Camp Dodge ★ [GoldStarMuseum.iowa.gov](http://GoldStarMuseum.iowa.gov) ★ 7105 NW 70th Ave, Johnston ★ (515) 252-4531

Hours: Sun-Mon: Closed | Tues-Fri: 9am - 3pm | Saturday: 10am - 2pm

*Photo identification is required for adults (age 16 and older) to gain admittance to Camp Dodge (State Issued I.D.)*



fireworks display, food vendors, a pie-eating contest, volleyball tournaments and much more. Centennial Park in Waukee; [waukee.org/777/Celebration-of-Independence](http://waukee.org/777/Celebration-of-Independence).

**JULY 3-5: Goodguys 35th Speedway Motors Heartland Nationals.** One of the premier events for car junkies for the summer. Iowa State Fairgrounds, 3000 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines; [www.good-guys.com](http://www.good-guys.com).

**JULY 7-11: Dallas County Fair** in Adel; [www.dallascountyfair.com](http://www.dallascountyfair.com).

**JULY 10-16: Marion County Fair** in Knoxville; [www.marioncofair.com](http://www.marioncofair.com).

**JULY 10-12: Ankeny Summerfest.** Three days of music, carnival rides, local food and plenty of other fun activities for all to enjoy. The District at Prairie Trail, 1500 S.W. Main St., Ankeny; [www.ankenysummerfest.com](http://www.ankenysummerfest.com).

**JULY 11: Moonlight Classic.** This nighttime ride supports Orchard Place's commitment to children's mental health and welcomes cyclists of all skill levels and includes fun contests like best helmet light and best costume. Captain Roy's, 1900 Saylor Road, Des Moines; [www.orchardplace.org/orchard-place-moonlight-classic](http://www.orchardplace.org/orchard-place-moonlight-classic).

**JULY 14: Sensory Friendly Night at the Science Center of Iowa.** Science Center of Iowa, 401 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway; [www.sciowa.org](http://www.sciowa.org).

**JULY 15-19: Madison County Fair** in Winterset; [www.madisoncountyfair.net](http://www.madisoncountyfair.net).

**JULY 15-19: Story County Fair** in Nevada; [www.sc-fair.weebly.com](http://www.sc-fair.weebly.com).

**JULY 15-19: Boone County Fair** in Boone; [www.boonecountyfairia.com](http://www.boonecountyfairia.com).

**JULY 17-23: Jasper County Fair** in Colfax; [www.jaspercofair.com](http://www.jaspercofair.com).

**JULY 17-18: Clive Festival.** The metro is full of fun community celebrations, and Clive's is no exception. Fireworks, events, live music and more all at N.W. 114th St., Clive; [www.cityofclive.com/parkandrecreation/programs\\_and\\_events/clive\\_festival.php](http://www.cityofclive.com/parkandrecreation/programs_and_events/clive_festival.php).

**JULY 24-25: Polk City Four Seasons Festival** in Polk City Square; [www.4seasonsfest.com](http://www.4seasonsfest.com).

**JULY 18-25: RAGBRAI.** Des Moines' largest bicycle ride takes over the entire state during its weeklong trek across Iowa. Overnight stops in Onawa, Harlan, Boone, Marshalltown, Independence, Dyersville and Dubuque. [www.ragbrai.com](http://www.ragbrai.com).

**JULY 22-27: Warren County Fair** in Indianola; [www.warrencofair.com](http://www.warrencofair.com).

**JULY 18-24: Polk County Fair** at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines; [www.polkcountyfairiowa.com](http://www.polkcountyfairiowa.com).

**JULY 17-18: Waukee Arts Festival.** The Waukee Arts Festival features concerts on Friday and Saturday night, with Saturday being a full day of art-filled fun for the whole family — not to mention some of the best local artwork being on display. Centennial Park, Waukee; [www.waukeearts.org/waukee-arts-festival](http://www.waukeearts.org/waukee-arts-festival)

**JULY 19: Iowa Reptile Show.** Engage with premier reptile experts and explore a vast selection of amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates and supplies available for purchase by the general public. Hilton Garden Inn, 205 S. 64th St., West Des Moines; [www.coldbloodedexpos.com](http://www.coldbloodedexpos.com).

**JULY 31: CITYVIEW'S East Village Summer Stir.** Our traveling cocktail party is back in Des Moines' East Village. Sample many of summer's finest drinks at some of the area's best bars and restaurants. Try 10 different drinks for only \$25 with your online order (\$35 at the door). AJs on Court, 419 E. Court Ave., Des Moines; [www.summerstirs.dmcityview.com](http://www.summerstirs.dmcityview.com).

**JULY 31 to AUG. 8: National Balloon Classic.** The skies over Indianola will be filled with a colorful display of floating balloons. The nationally recognized event is one of the most widely known in the state and will have more than 100 hot air balloons in the air. Memorial Balloon Field, 1136 150th Ave., Indianola; [www.nationalballoonclassic.com](http://www.nationalballoonclassic.com).

## AUGUST

**AUG. 7-9: 2026 Discmania Challenge.** The Discmania Challenge is an official stop on the Disc Golf Pro Tour and has been played in and won by some of the most premier names in the sport. Pickard Disc Golf Course, Indianola; [www.dgpt.com/event/2026-discmania-challenge](http://www.dgpt.com/event/2026-discmania-challenge)



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**AUG. 13-23: Iowa State Fair - America250.** National acts hit the grandstand, the best livestock in the state is shown off, and fried food from most every corner of the world is all found in one place. This year, the fair's theme is America250, celebrating the country's 250th birthday. Iowa State Fairgrounds, 3000 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines; [www.iowastatefair.org](http://www.iowastatefair.org).

**AUG. 7-8: Adel Sweet Corn Festival.** In a state that is mostly known for growing corn, it only makes sense one of its city's builds a festival around it. From 7:30 a.m. to midnight, Adel City Hall, 301 S. 10th St., Adel; [www.adelpartners.org](http://www.adelpartners.org).

**AUG. 28-30: World Food and Music Festival.** A city often defined by its food shows its stuff at the World Food and Music Festival. Food stalls reach nearly every corner of the world all while music from equal lengths is played, much to the delight of its attendees. Western Gateway Park, 1205 Locust St., Des Moines; [www.dsmpartnership.com/worldfoodandmusicfestival](http://www.dsmpartnership.com/worldfoodandmusicfestival).

**AUG. 29: Ingersoll Live.** One of Des Moines most well know street's hosts its own block party. Complete with live entertainment, family-friendly activities, food, and more. Along 2300 Ingersoll Ave.; [www.theavenuesdsm.com](http://www.theavenuesdsm.com).

**AUG. 29: Wine and Cider Festival.** Jasper Winery celebrates Iowa's grape and apple harvest with tastings from over 20 Iowa wineries and cideries. Jasper Winery, 2400 George Flagg Parkway, Des Moines; [www.jasperwinery.com](http://www.jasperwinery.com)

## SEPTEMBER

**SEPT. 5-6, 12-13, 19-20: Fall Faire Renaissance Faire.** The Renaissance Faire hosts two events, one in the spring and one in the fall. Sleepy Hollow Sports Park, 4051 Dean Ave., Des Moines; [www.sleepyhollowrenfaire.com](http://www.sleepyhollowrenfaire.com).

**SEPT. 6: Norwalk Music Fest.** Local musicians descend onto Norwalk for this local music festival. Norwalk City Park, 907 North Ave., Norwalk; [www.norwalkhometownpride.org/home](http://www.norwalkhometownpride.org/home).

**SEPT. 12-13: Flea Market.** No fleas but plenty of good finds at this market. 4-H building, Iowa State Fairgrounds, 3000 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines; [www.iowastatefairgrounds.org](http://www.iowastatefairgrounds.org).

**SEPT. 18-19: Beaverdale Fall Festival.** One of the cities nicest neighborhoods puts on its own community festival, complete with live entertainment, food, drinks, art, and lots more. Downtown Beaverdale; [www.fallfestival.org](http://www.fallfestival.org)

**SEPT. 18-20: Pufferbilly Days 2026.** This year's theme is Through the Decades. Festival organizers say this year will be bigger and better than ever, featuring a diverse range of activities and entertainment for all ages. Downtown Boone, 903 Story St.; [www.boonecounty-chamber.com](http://www.boonecounty-chamber.com).

**SEPT. 19: Des Moines Art Center Gala.** A night of art, music and celebration and support of Des Moines Art Center. Jazz syncopation meets punk disruption, elegance meets edge, and rhythm sparks connection at this event. Val Air Ballroom, 301 Ashworth Road, West Des Moines; [www.desmoinesartcenter.org](http://www.desmoinesartcenter.org).

**SEPT. 24-26: Des Moines Area Quilt Guild Quilt Show.** There's nothing like a handmade quilt. The Des Moines Area Quilters Guild hosts its annual quilt show at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. 3000 E. Grand Ave.; [www.woodsidequilting.com/dmaqg-quilt-show.htm](http://www.woodsidequilting.com/dmaqg-quilt-show.htm).

**SEPT. 25-26: Oktoberfest.** Celebrate Oktoberfest traditions in true German style at Des Moines' Original 22nd Annual Oktoberfest. The District at Prairie Trail, Ankeny; [www.oktoberfestdsm.com](http://www.oktoberfestdsm.com).

**SEPT. 26-27: Latino Heritage Festival.** As Iowa's largest celebration of Latin culture, this event provides plenty of excellent food, music and performances. Western Gateway Park, 1205 Locust St., Des Moines; [www.latinoheritagefestival.org](http://www.latinoheritagefestival.org).

**SEPT. 26: Applefest.** Delicious apples shown how they were once prepared, eaten and enjoyed in the days of old. Living History Farms, 11121 Hickman Road, Urbandale; [www.lhf.org](http://www.lhf.org).

**SEPT. 27: Iowa Reptile Show.** Engage with premier reptile experts and explore a vast selection of amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates, and supplies available for purchase by the general public. Hilton Garden Inn, 205 S. 64th St., West Des Moines; [www.coldbloodedexpos.com](http://www.coldbloodedexpos.com). ■



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**6 to 10 p.m.**



**Friday, May 29; Friday, June 19**  
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**Thurs., June 4** featuring Neal McCoy  
**Thurs., June 25** featuring Josh Ross  
**Thurs., July 30** featuring Lanie Gardner  
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