

# Discover

# DALLAS COUNTY IOWA





A man with tattoos and a woman are riding bicycles in an urban setting. The man is wearing a white polka-dot shirt and a black backpack. The woman is wearing a blue denim jacket and a black helmet. They are both smiling. In the background, there is a car and a building.

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**DALLAS COUNTY**

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2025**



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**DALLASCOUNTYFAIR.COM**

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Published for the Discover Dallas County Tourism  
Committee by Big Green Umbrella Media,  
publisher of the Iowa Living magazines.

Publisher ..... Shane Goodman  
Advertising Director ..... Jolene Goodman  
Editor ..... Tammy Pearson  
Advertising Sales ..... Dan Juffer  
Graphic Design Manager ..... Celeste Tilton  
Graphic Designer ..... Jayde Vogeler  
Graphic Designer ..... Nick Ruiz

Information supplied by the Discover Dallas County Tourism Committee.  
Every effort has been made to provide correct, up-to-date information.  
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Please report errors and omissions to Dallas County Conservation Board  
at 515-465-3577. **To place advertising in the 2026 Dallas County  
Visitor's Guide, contact Jolene Goodman at 515-953-4822 x319  
or email [jolene@iowalivingmagazines.com](mailto:jolene@iowalivingmagazines.com).**

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# EVENTS

Before attending events, be sure to check for the latest updates in case of cancellations or changes.

No matter the season, Dallas County and its communities offer much to explore and delight in. The extensive trail system is enjoyed year-round by bicyclists, walkers and runners, who relish the scenery and its seasonal changes. Parks and Dallas County Conservation programs draw those interested in a myriad of outdoor activities. Museums and other entertainment venues invite visitors indoors for a break from the cold — or the heat. Community festivals showcase the small-town friendliness and hometown warmth that make Dallas County the place to enjoy summer fun. Art festivals, the Dallas County Fair, farmers markets and more add to the offerings. And, for a special holiday season, attend the open houses, parades and other celebrations offered. Enjoy Dallas County — where you will be greeted with a smile and are sure to make lasting memories.

## WINTER EVENTS (January-early March)

Dallas County Conservation Board doesn't hibernate during the winter months. Typically, DCCB offers programs on a variety of topics such as stargazing, winter wildlife, cross-country skiing and birdwatching. For details and to sign up, visit [dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation](http://dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation) or follow DCCB on Facebook and Instagram.

## JANUARY

### Waukee FamilyFest 2025

**Saturday, Jan. 18, 9 a.m. to noon**

Lutheran Church of Hope - Waukee, 305 N.E. Dartmoor Drive  
<https://waukee.org/472/FamilyFest>

Join Waukee Parks & Recreation for the annual FamilyFest. This free, family-friendly event will help the kids burn off some energy. Check out Waukee-area businesses, play games and jump on inflatables. Free.

## FEBRUARY

### 2025 BRR - Perry's 48th Annual Bike Ride to Rippey

**Saturday, Feb. 1, group start at 10 a.m.**

Downtown Perry – Hotel Pattee  
[www.PerryIAChamber.org/BRR](http://www.PerryIAChamber.org/BRR)

BRR! It's the name and usual sentiment for the beloved winter bike ride that has become an annual tradition for thousands of bike riders since 1978. As the biggest annual fundraiser for the Perry Chamber of Commerce, The Original Winter Ride — always the first Saturday in February — rolls on no matter the weather.

### Perry's Chocolate Walk 2025

**Saturday, Feb. 8, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

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

This Valentine's Day-themed shopping event encourages the exploration of Perry as a shopping destination — especially for a Girls Day Out — as well as making it fun and easy to shop local. Get your event passport stamped at each participating business to be entered into a drawing. Contact the Perry Chamber for ticket information, 515-465-4601.



## AREA FARMERS MARKETS

### Perry's Downtown Farmers Market

**Thursdays, 4-7 p.m., June through September**

Josh Davis Plaza and Second Street between Willis Avenue and Warford Street • [www.PerryIAChamber.org](http://www.PerryIAChamber.org)

Locally grown produce, fresh flowers, honey, baked goods, handmade items and more, plus extended hours at nearby retailers and monthly events on the third Thursday with special guests.

### Adel Farmers Market

**Tuesdays, June 3 through Sept. 30, 4-7 p.m.**

Dallas County Fairgrounds

Come enjoy fresh produce, baked goods, homemade ice cream, handmade items and plants/flowers. There is also a kids corner with an assortment of items made by kids. Enjoy a food truck along with live music.

### Dallas Center Farmers Market

**Tuesdays, June through September, 4-7 p.m. • Mound Park**

To verify details or for more information, visit [www.dallascenter.com/activities/pages/weekly-farmers-market](http://www.dallascenter.com/activities/pages/weekly-farmers-market)

### Waukee Farmers Market

**Wednesdays, 4-7 p.m., early June to September**

Triangle Park in downtown Waukee

Waukee Downtown Business Group • [www.waukeedowntown.com](http://www.waukeedowntown.com)

Produce, floral, baked goods, specialty items, crafts, prepared foods, merchants and more.

### BRR - Perry's Bike Ride to Rippey

**Saturday, Feb. 1**





**Granger Community Easter Egg Hunt**  
Saturday, April 19

## SPRING EVENTS (March-May)

Dallas County Conservation Board has the cure to spring fever with enriching ways to get back into nature. Topics for spring events may include birdwatching, invasive species removal, woodland wildflower hikes and the spring equinox celebration. For details and to sign up, go to [dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation](http://dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation) or follow DCCB on Facebook and Instagram.

### Van Meter Parks & Recreation

Van Meter Parks & Recreation offers a variety of recreation activities including youth sports for kids in pre-school through middle school. The Parks Board also sponsors many activities including a Spring Plant Sale, Easter Egg Hunt, Trick or Treat and more. Visit [www.vanmeteria.gov/parks-and-recreation](http://www.vanmeteria.gov/parks-and-recreation) for more information.

## APRIL

### Granger Community Easter Egg Hunt 2025

**Saturday, April 19, 11 a.m.**

Granger Parks and Recreation Field

The Easter egg hunt is sponsored by Stone Bridge Church in Granger. Toddlers up to fifth graders will hunt for candy-filled eggs. Each age group will have a grand prize egg.

### Waukee Easter Egg Hunt 2025

**Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m.**

Centennial Park, Waukee

Bring your baskets and fill up on candy. The hunt will be split into three different age groups: 4 and younger at the green space west of Field 3; ages 5-7 at Fields 2 and 3; and ages 8-10 at Field 1.

## APRIL

### Redfield Development Easter Egg Hunt

**April 19, 10 A.M.**

City Park, Redfield

### Dallas Center Easter Egg Hunt

**Usually the Saturday of Easter Weekend at 10 a.m.**

Mound Park, Dallas Center

[www.dallascentercelebrations.com/easter-celebration](http://www.dallascentercelebrations.com/easter-celebration)

### Waukee City-wide Garage Sale

**TBA**

[www.waukee.org/765/Spring-Clean-Up-Week](http://www.waukee.org/765/Spring-Clean-Up-Week)

On this designated day, garage-sale enthusiasts will find that many residents around town are holding their garage sales.

## MAY

### Memorial Day Services

**Memorial Day**

Mound Park, Dallas Center

This annual event is sponsored by the Dallas Center Legion and Auxiliary members. Bring a lawn chair.

## SUMMER EVENTS (June-August)

Dallas County Conservation Board can help you beat the heat of summer with unique educational opportunities. Explore the natural areas of Dallas County with river floats, prairie hikes and creek walks. For details and to sign up, go to [dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation](http://dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation) or follow DCCB on Facebook and Instagram.

## JUNE

### Perry Friday Fest 2025

**June 6, 6-9:30 p.m.**

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

Kick off the summer with this annual live music event held in Pattee Park. Bring a lawn chair and pack a picnic or plan to purchase from various food vendors.

### Perry's Kids Fest 2025

**Saturday, June 7, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

[www.perry.lib.ia.us](http://www.perry.lib.ia.us)

Celebrate the start of summer with a fun, family-friendly event to kick-off the Summer Library Program with kids activities, games, face painting, dunk tank and more.

# JUNE

## Woodward Friends and Neighbors Days

**Friday, June 6-7, 2025**

[www.facebook.com/WoodwardFNN/](http://www.facebook.com/WoodwardFNN/)

Just a stone's throw away from the High Trestle Trail Bridge, Woodward Friends 'N' Neighbors Days is two days of family-friendly activities with a parade, vendors on Main, a car show on Saturday and live music and dancing on Saturday night.

## Van Meter Raccoon River Days 2025

**Saturday, June 7**

Downtown Van Meter • [www.vanmeterlife.com](http://www.vanmeterlife.com)

Enjoy food, beverages, kids activities, live entertainment and more at this community festival. Highlights include a parade and live music.

## Grimes Governors Days

**Thursday-Saturday, June 5-7, 2025**

South Sports Complex, 750 S. James St.

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

Let the summer begin. This three-day festival includes carnival and midway, two parades, live bands, bags tournament, craft and food vendors and more fun than you can imagine. Bring the whole family and check out all the fun. Kick your summer off right.

## BACooN Ride

**Saturday, June 14**

Raccoon River Valley Trail • [www.bacoonride.com](http://www.bacoonride.com)

Like to ride bicycles? Like bacon? Like the Raccoon River Valley Trail? Put it all together, and you have the BACooN RIDE starting and ending in Waukee. Take a 72-mile ride (or less by using optional starting points) on the Raccoon River Valley Trail featuring numerous bacon stops and numerous drink specials at establishments along the way.

## Redfield Old Settlers Celebration

**June 20-22, 2025**

City Park

This annual celebration includes a parade, street dance, vendors throughout the park and fun for the kids.

## Granger Parks and Recreation Programs

[www.grangeriowa.org/parks-and-recreation/page/programs](http://www.grangeriowa.org/parks-and-recreation/page/programs)

Granger Parks and Recreation presents a variety of programs, which have included Movies in the Park and Yoga in the Park. Check for offerings online.

## Waukee Movies in the Park

Check for dates at [www.waukee.org/moviesinthepark](http://www.waukee.org/moviesinthepark)

Centennial Park, Waukee

Enjoy Hollywood's biggest hits under the stars. Movies in the Park is free and provides an abundance of family fun. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and get ready to make memories with family and friends.

## Waukee Independence Day Celebration and Fireworks

**July 3-4**



# JUNE

## Free Rollerskating

**Tuesdays and Fridays, 7-9 p.m., June through August**

**Fridays, 6-8 p.m. through September**

[www.dallascenter.com/activities/pages/skate-rink](http://www.dallascenter.com/activities/pages/skate-rink)

Dallas Center roller skating rink, Mound Park, 601 Percival Ave.

Enjoy free skate rental, games and theme nights.

# JULY

## Waukee Independence Day Celebration and Fireworks

**Thursday, July 3 – Friday, July 4**

Centennial Park, 1255 Warrior Lane

[www.waukee.org/777/Independence-Day-Celebration](http://www.waukee.org/777/Independence-Day-Celebration)

Waukee will host its annual celebration in honor of Independence Day.

The annual parade travels through downtown and ends at Centennial Park, where the fun continues for the rest of the day and night with inflatables, music and plenty of food. Enjoy live music and an amazing display of fireworks after dusk.

## Home Base Grimes Independence Day Fireworks Show

**July 4**

South Sports Complex, 750 S. James St. • [www.grimesiowa.com](http://www.grimesiowa.com)

Come and celebrate the anniversary of our nation's independence on July 4 at the Home Base Grimes Independence Day Fireworks Show. As an official Home Base Iowa community, this event not only honors our great country, but also the men and women who have defended our freedoms since the nation's inception.

## Perry's July 4 celebration

Pattee Park • [www.PerryIACHamber.org](http://www.PerryIACHamber.org)

A mile-long parade kicks off Perry's Independence Day festivities, which include community activities, vendors at Pattee Park serving up authentic cuisine from around the world as well as fair-food favorites, live music at the bandshell in the evening, and a fireworks finale.



## JULY

### Dallas County Fair

**July 8-12, 2025**

Dallas County Fairgrounds, Adel • [www.dallascountyfair.com](http://www.dallascountyfair.com)

Enjoy all that a county fair has to offer, from concerts to demolition derby, races, livestock shows, exhibits and so much more.

### Waukee Movies in the Park

Centennial Park, 1255 Warrior Lane

Check for dates at [www.waukee.org/moviesinthepark](http://www.waukee.org/moviesinthepark)

Enjoy Hollywood's biggest hits under the stars. Movies in the Park is free and provides an abundance of family fun. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and get ready to make memories with family and friends.

### Waukee Arts Festival

**July 18-19, 2025**

Centennial Park, 1255 Warrior Lane

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

More than 100 artists are featured at the Waukee Arts Festival, one of the area's fastest-growing and most exciting summer events. Enjoy incredible art, great music and unique food.

### Free Rollerskating

**Tuesdays and Fridays, 7-9 p.m., June through August**

**Fridays, 6-8 p.m. through September**

[www.dallascenter.com/activities/pages/skate-rink](http://www.dallascenter.com/activities/pages/skate-rink)

Dallas Center roller skating rink, Mound Park, 601 Percival Ave.

Enjoy free skate rental, games and theme nights.

### Perry's Second Street Block Party Street Dance

**July 18, 5-10 p.m.**

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

New in 2022, this event has become an annual festivity. Just as the name suggests, part of Second Street in downtown Perry turns into a block party for a street dance with live music and a beer garden.

## AUGUST

### Highway 141 Garage Sale

**First weekend in August**

From Grimes to Manning • [www.141sale.org](http://www.141sale.org)

Enjoy a garage sale that is miles long. Take Highway 141 and enjoy the scenery and the sales.

### Hot Rods & Hogs

**TBA**

[www.iowahotrods.com/hotrods-and-hogs/](http://www.iowahotrods.com/hotrods-and-hogs/)

Centennial Park, Granger (along Highway 141)

Check online for updated information. Car and motorcycle show with hog roast. Freewill donation for admission for attendees and participants.

## AUGUST

### Adel Sweet Corn Festival 2025

**Saturday, Aug. 9**

Downtown Adel • [www.adelpartners.org](http://www.adelpartners.org)

The Sweet Corn Festival is held in downtown Adel. Friday evening join in for the shucking of the corn and Sweet Corn Princess contest. A full day of activities is held on Saturday with the Sweet Corn 5K run at 7:30 a.m. and parade at 9:30 a.m. followed by serving seven tons of fresh sweet corn — for free. Enjoy art, craft and food vendors around the historic square. Kids' games and live entertainment are held throughout the day on the Courthouse lawn. A street party begins at 7:30 p.m. It is a family-friendly event along with a beer garden and music by Burning Sensations. Don't miss this fun-filled day in Adel.

### ¡Viva Perry! Latino Festival

**Aug. 23, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

Pattee Park in Perry

Experience Latino culture, traditions, music and food with a fun-filled day with a parade followed by food vendors, live entertainment, kids activities and more.

### Dallas Center Fall Festival

**The last weekend in August (unless it's Labor Day Weekend)**

[www.dallascentercelebrations.com/fall-festival.html](http://www.dallascentercelebrations.com/fall-festival.html)

Activities begin Friday night and continue all day Saturday featuring a 5K run, Rotary breakfast, parade, carnival rides, car and tractor shows, garden tractor pulls, bags tournaments, sand volleyball tournament, food, vendors, live bands, fireworks and much more.

### Granger Days Festival

**TBA**

[www.grangeriowa.org/community/page/granger-days-2024](http://www.grangeriowa.org/community/page/granger-days-2024)

Check the website for updates. Enjoy this annual celebration featuring some of the following events: bounce houses, inflatable rides, kids activities, train rides, 5K run, parade, bags tournament, sand volleyball tournament, vendors, great food, live bands, fireworks and more.

### Waukee Movies in the Park

Centennial Park, 1255 Warrior Lane

Check for dates at [www.waukee.org/moviesinthepark](http://www.waukee.org/moviesinthepark)

Enjoy Hollywood's biggest hits under the stars. Movies in the Park is free and provides an abundance of family fun. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and get ready to make memories with family and friends.

### Free Rollerskating

**Tuesdays and Fridays, 7-9 p.m., June through August**

**Fridays, 6-8 p.m. through September**

[www.dallascenter.com/activities/pages/skate-rink](http://www.dallascenter.com/activities/pages/skate-rink)

Dallas Center roller skating rink, Mound Park, 601 Percival Ave.

Enjoy free skate rental, games and theme nights.





**Adel Sweet  
Corn Festival  
Saturday, Aug. 9**

## FALL EVENTS (September-December)

Fall is an active season for Dallas County Conservation Board. Fall events may include monarch tagging, prairie seed harvesting, raptor watching, spear throwing and the Christmas Bird Count. For details and to sign up, go to [dallascountyia.gov/conservation](http://dallascountyia.gov/conservation) or follow DCCB on Facebook and Instagram.

## SEPTEMBER

### Free Rollerskating

**Fridays, 6-8 p.m. through September**

[www.dallascenter.com/activities/pages/skate-rink](http://www.dallascenter.com/activities/pages/skate-rink)

Dallas Center roller skating rink, Mound Park, 601 Percival Ave.

Enjoy free skate rental, games and theme nights.

### Van Meter Visitor Festival

**Date TBD**

[www.facebook.com/vanmetervisitorfestival](http://www.facebook.com/vanmetervisitorfestival)

This festival celebrates a strange and spooky legend of a "visitor" from long ago. Enjoy a little fright.

## OCTOBER

### Halloween Hayday

**Last Saturday in October**

Dallas Center • [www.dallascentercelebrations.com/halloween-hayday](http://www.dallascentercelebrations.com/halloween-hayday)

Follow Dallas Center Seasonal Fun Committee on Facebook for details and time of the parade, crafts, food, and then town-wide trick or treating.



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10 AM-5PM | 10AM-4PM

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

# EVENTS

Before attending events, be sure to check for the latest updates in case of cancellations or changes.

## OCTOBER

### Perry Spooktacular Downtown Trick-or-Treat Walk

**Friday, Oct. 31, 4-6 p.m.**

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

A safe trick-or-treating experience in Downtown Perry with more than 50 businesses and organizations set up on the sidewalk handing out goodies on the last Friday of October.

## NOVEMBER

### Perry Art on the Prairie

**Saturday, Nov. 8, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 9, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

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

Art on the Prairie is a unique festival celebrating art, music, literature and the joys of small-town living, all wrapped up in a two-day event in historic downtown Perry during the second weekend in November. The event showcases 100 Iowa artists — both visual and performing — in a variety of venues in the Downtown Perry Historical & Cultural District, including the Hotel Pattee, La Poste and Carnegie Library Museum.

### Perry's Lighted Parade & Holiday Celebration 2025

**Nov. 28 at 7 p.m.**

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

The day after Thanksgiving brings the community together for a magical holiday spectacular in downtown Perry, featuring a lighted parade followed by visits with Santa at the Hotel Pattee.

### Perry Tinsel Trot

**Nov. 29 at 10:30 a.m.**

Enjoy a festive 5K Fun Run/Walk on the Saturday after Thanksgiving to get into the holiday spirit, supporting the Perry Booster Club. Costumes are encouraged along with a photo opp with Santa. Check in and start at Raccoon Valley Bank Plaza in downtown Perry.

### Small Business Saturday

**Saturday, Nov. 29**

The Saturday after Thanksgiving is all about shopping local, and Dallas County communities join the nationwide movement to inspire area shoppers to purchase from small businesses, especially during the holiday season. Enjoy a day of shopping Dallas County's unique small businesses.

## DECEMBER

### Perry's Peppermint Walk

**Dec. 5-13**

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

Shop, dine and be merry in Perry. Enjoy an extra incentive to shop Perry businesses for the holidays with the Peppermint Walk. Pick up a passport at any participating business, make a purchase at any three to get your passport stamped to turn in for a chance to win a grand prize.

## DECEMBER

### Waukee WinterFest

**TBA • Downtown Triangle • [www.waukee.org/winterfest](http://www.waukee.org/winterfest)**

Santa Claus is coming to town. Come early and help Santa light the holiday tree in Triangle Park and then warm up with hot chocolate and cookies. Join the downtown businesses for soup and open houses and enjoy a variety of activities.

### Adel Hometown Holiday Celebration

**Friday-Saturday, Dec. 5 and 6 • [www.adelpartners.org](http://www.adelpartners.org)**

Enjoy a variety of holiday fun, including Sip & Sample and Holiday Home Tour. The Adel Partners Chamber members host their holiday open houses and offer "a sip and sample" of local recipes throughout the community. The event starts with a craft and book fair at the Adel Public Library at 1 p.m. Santa is present in the evening for children to visit. For updates, visit [www.adelpartners.org](http://www.adelpartners.org) or the Facebook page for Adel Partners Chamber for Commerce.

### Dallas Center Hometown Christmas

**First Saturday in December**

[www.dallascentercelebrations.com/hometown-christmas](http://www.dallascentercelebrations.com/hometown-christmas)

Enjoy a festive evening of music, crafts, delicious treats, Library Basket Silent Auction and the big jolly guy arriving. Check online for details and updates.

### Granger Breakfast with Santa

**TBA • [www.grangeriowa.org](http://www.grangeriowa.org)**

The Granger Fire and EMS personnel will be serving pancakes, sausages, donuts, coffee, juice and milk. Proceeds from this freewill donation breakfast will be used to purchase supplies and provide training for the fire department. Each child will get the opportunity to visit Santa from 9-10 a.m. and receive a special treat from him. There will also be a vendor fair from 8 a.m. to noon featuring a large selection of vendors allowing you the opportunity to do some one-stop holiday shopping. Sponsored by the Granger Emergency Services Auxiliary.

### Van Meter Sips and Snacks

**First Friday and Saturday in December • [www.vanmeterlife.com](http://www.vanmeterlife.com)**

Enjoy holiday cheer at this event with tours of local businesses on Friday night, shopping at the Community Market on both Friday and Saturday and Christmas in the Park on Saturday, complete with Santa and a 5K.

### Redfield Winterfest

**Dec. 6, 2025 • [www.facebook.com/groups/797838767062408/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/797838767062408/)**

Craft show, chili cook-off and lighted parade.

### Grimes Holiday Celebration

**Sunday, Dec. 7, 5-7 p.m. • [www.grimesiowa.com](http://www.grimesiowa.com)**

Enjoy the season with family fun. ■





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# SHOPPING

Few counties can provide such a range of unique shopping experiences as one will find in Dallas County. When a gift from the big box store simply won't do, seek out the independently owned shops and boutiques across the county.



## Azalea Lane Boutique

**803 Main St., Adel** • 515-210-1450 • [www.azalealaneboutique.com](http://www.azalealaneboutique.com)

Azalea Lane Boutique is a locally owned Adel shop specializing in women's fashions. Trendy and unique, you can always find something fun. Clothing, shoes, handbags, accessories and gifts are stocked daily. The store is just a short drive from the metro and well worth the drive.



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**1121 Second St., Perry** • 515-657-1837 • [www.betsypetersonsdesigns.com](http://www.betsypetersonsdesigns.com)

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Adel, IA

**109 Nile Kinnick Dr. S. | Adel**  
[uptownvintagemarket23@gmail.com](mailto:uptownvintagemarket23@gmail.com)



## Mary Rose Collective

1215 Warford St., Perry

515-465-4222 • [www.maryrosecollection.com](http://www.maryrosecollection.com)

Mary Rose Collection is now Mary Rose Collective! For more than 18 years, Mary Rose has been a shopping destination for unique gifts and local art. Now with new ownership, that tradition continues with more than 60 Iowa artists represented in the main gallery and a reimagined lower level with a new classroom space accompanying the stained glass and ceramics studios.

## Picket Fence Creamery

14583 S Ave., Woodward

515-438-2697 • [picketfencecreamery.net](http://picketfencecreamery.net)

Picket Fence Creamery is an 80-acre family owned and operated dairy farm, creamery and country store located just off Highway 141 at Woodward exit 138. The Burkharts pasteurize and bottle onsite. Their store offers skim, 2%, and whole milk, chocolate milk, strawberry milk, fiesta dip, ice cream, whipping cream, cheese curds, Neva's Cheeseball, and local beef, pork, buffalo, chicken and eggs.

## Real Deals

211 S. Seventh St., Adel

[www.realdeals.net/adel](http://www.realdeals.net/adel)

Here you'll find fabulous home decor, fashion and accessories in a locally-owned shop. Inventory changes weekly.

## Uptown Vintage Market

109 Nile Kinnick Drive S., Adel

314-341-1015 • Facebook:

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

Gifts, home decor, antiques and more can be found in this restored service garage on the corner of the historic Adel town square and Main Street.



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# MUSEUMS, ARTS & PARKS

Much can be learned about Dallas County's history at its myriad of historic public buildings, cemeteries, museums, galleries, historic markers, century-old ballrooms and theaters. The arts abound, entertainment is plentiful, community festivals deliver family fun and memories, and outdoor recreational opportunities are plentiful and varied with numerous golf courses, trails, parks and attractions. Explore and enjoy the wide range of offerings. Be sure to check for updated hours of operation.

## Adel Historical Museum

1129 Main St., Adel • 515-993-1032

[adeliowa.org/visitors/adel-historical-museum](http://adeliowa.org/visitors/adel-historical-museum)

The property at 1129 Main St. was built in 1857 and served as the first two-story brick schoolhouse in Adel. The museum houses a collection of artifacts and documents representing a significant record of Adel history. The collection includes the desk and chair of George Clarke, an Adel native who served as governor of Iowa from 1913-1917. Clarke was the grandfather of 1939 Heisman Trophy winner Nile Kinnick, who played for the University of Iowa. The Museum also has Kinnick information on display. The museum is open May through September on Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m. or by appointment. See the website for information.

## The Brenton Arboretum

25141 260th St., Dallas Center • 515-992-4211

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

An arboretum is a place where trees and shrubs are grown for research, demonstration and educational purposes. This unique 141-acre living museum in Dallas County combines the horticultural study of trees with a commitment to natural landscape management and conservation. Visitors can study the 2,500 plants, all suitable for planting in central Iowa, surrounded by a beautiful natural setting of native prairie, wetlands, a lake, pond and streams. A variety of educational programs and activities are also offered. See the website for details.

**Adel Historical Museum**  
1129 Main St., Adel



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## Carnegie Library Museum

1123 Willis Ave., Perry • 515-465-7713

[www.perryia.org/carnegie-library-museum](http://www.perryia.org/carnegie-library-museum)

Visitors to Perry often start their journey at the Carnegie Library Museum. Built in 1904 with a grant from Andrew Carnegie, the building initially served as the town's public library. Now restored to its 1910 appearance, the building is on the National Register of Historic Places. Still a working library, its collection includes many of the library's original 1,000 titles, as well as special collections of Midwest literature, women's fiction, children's books, and books on literacy and libraries. Visitors can also explore stories through temporary exhibits. The Court Room on the basement level recreates a brief time in Perry's history (1907-1917) when this room served as the town's courthouse. Also on the basement level, the Women's Room tells stories of the bonds formed between women who spent time here when they came into town from neighboring farms.

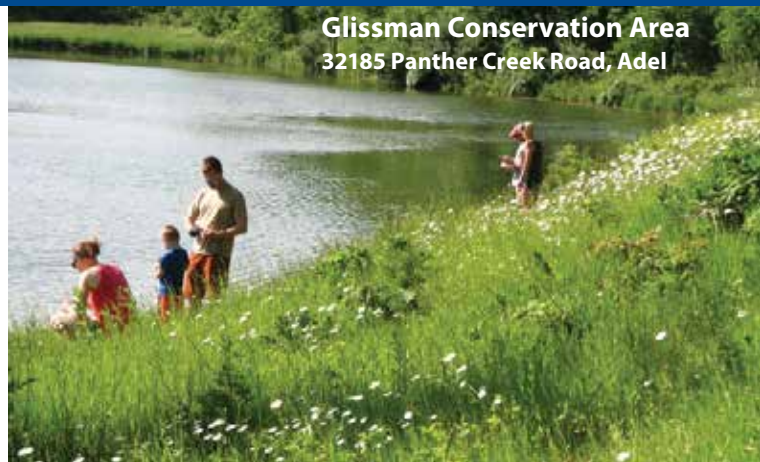
## Dallas Center Swimming Pool

Open June-August, depending on staff availability

In 2023, the Dallas Center Swimming Pool project was completed and held its grand opening in June. Amenities include slides, diving board, swim lanes, bubblers for the kids, concession area, and much more.

## Glissman Conservation Area

32185 Panther Creek Road, Adel



## Dexfield Park

Historical marker 3 miles north of Dexter

[rstanley@netins.net](mailto:rstanley@netins.net) • 641-757-9173

Imagine one of the largest amusement parks in Iowa (circa 1916) with a huge swimming pool, dancing, skating, music, carnival rides including a Ferris wheel, ball games and camping. As many as 4,000 attended opening day each year in June.

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**2nd Street Block Party**

**Art on the Prairie**

**4th of July Celebration**

**Chocolate Walk**

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**Perry Chamber**

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**#PerryIowa**



## Map and Guide to Area Parks and Recreation

### 1 Forest Park

Forest Park Museum and Arboretum  
This park is the location of the administrative office of the Dallas County Conservation Board. Forest Park Museum and Arboretum was originally developed in the 1940s by Eugene Hastie, a farmer, local historian and author. The arboretum was planted in straight lines to allow farming between the rows of growing trees. His love of history prompted many local residents to donate artifacts to this private collection. Mr. Hastie's museum, portraying the history of Dallas County, opened to the public in 1953.



### 2 Sportsman Park

A forty acre tract of oak and hickory timber that offers electric and non-electric camping, year around cabins, enclosed shelter houses for reservation, an accessible playground, restroom facilities and shower building.



### 3 Dawson Depot

Dawson Depot-Restored 1880s  
Depot is open from 8 am to 10 pm daily from May 1 to October 31. The building is adjacent to the Raccoon River Valley Trail and serves as a visitor center and restroom facility.



### 4 Fazel Wildlife Area



### 5 Voas Nature Area

This approximately 700 acre park is west of Minburn and about 1/2 mile east of the North Raccoon River. The original 265 acres were donated to the Dallas County Conservation Board by Lyle and Mae Voas. Both brother and sister had a desire to see their family farmland restored to woodland, wetlands, and prairie similar to conditions present at pre-Euro-American settlement. Additional acres have been added to the park through generous private donations and efforts



### 6 North Raccoon River Wildlife Area



### 7 Crellin Wildlife Area



### 8 Wagner Prairie



### 9 Raccoon River Valley Trail

Built on a former Chicago Northwestern Railroad right-of-way, this corridor is owned and managed by the Dallas Guthrie, and Greene County Conservation Boards. The completed 89 mile trail loop provides the opportunity for recreational activities such as biking, hiking, jogging, in-line skating, and cross country skiing.



### 10 Dawson Boat Ramp



### 11 Puckerbrush River Access



### 12 Trindle Park



### 13 Glissman Conservation Area

Enjoy this 62 acres of oak and hickory woodlands with a 7 acre pond and overnight lodge facility that sleeps 8.



### 14 Kuehn Conservation Area

This 780 acre park includes native prairie, upland forest and is located on the South Raccoon River. The Bear Creek Nature Center is also on this site.



### 15 Redfield Depot Trailhead



Redfield Depot facilities include restrooms, indoor resting area, railroad display area. The building is open from 8 am to 10:00 pm daily May 1 - Oct 21. Concession stand on weekends.

### 16 Grand Army of the Republic Post Historic Site

### 17 Hanging Rock

Located at the southwest corner of Redfield along the Middle and South Raccoon River, this site is over 600 acres and features a massive outcrop of sandstone that has been an important area landmark for many years.



### 18 Redfield Boat Ramp



### 19 Big Bend Wildlife Area

A joint project between the Dallas County Conservation Board and the DNR. This riparian woodland site is now approaching 1,000 acres.



### 20 Historical Markers

Dexfield Park  
Barrow Gang Shootout and Capture  
President Harry Truman's Visit to the National Plowing Match.

### 21 North Raccoon River Wildlife Area - Wagner Tract

### 22 Woodward Trail Head High Trestle Trail



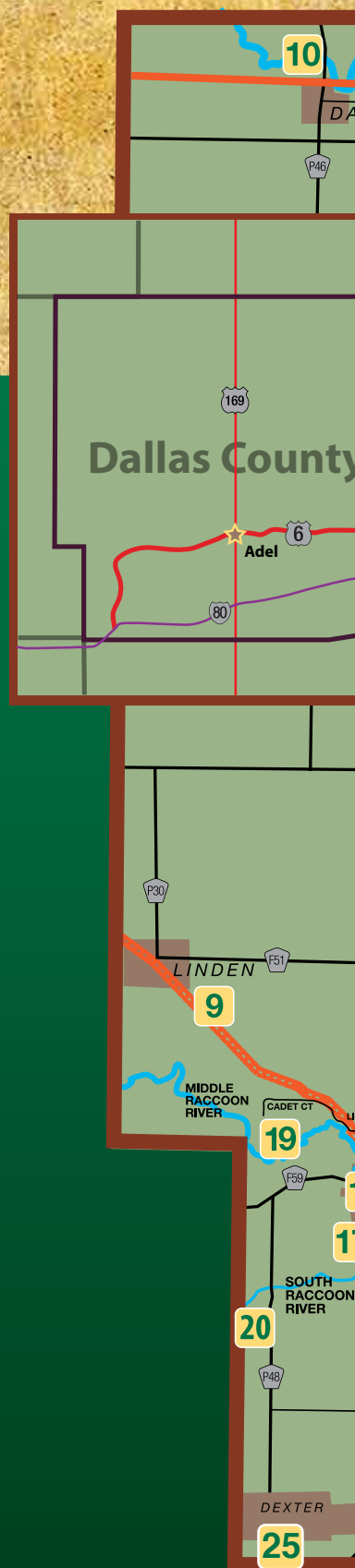
### 23 Booneville Access



### 24 Dayton Stagecoach Inn

Located along the old Des Moines to Fort Dodge stagecoach route, the Dayton Stagecoach Inn was built in 1868 and used as a combination inn, bar and private home. It is on 10 acres of secluded land that includes 150-year-old oak trees and some limited access to Beaver Creek. The Dayton Stagecoach Inn is available for overnight rental with a sleeping capacity of up to nine in three bedrooms.

### 25 Dexter Roundhouse







# MUSEUMS, ARTS & PARKS

## Dexter Community House (aka Dexter Roundhouse)

707 Dallas St., Dexter

mikjboyle@outlook.com • 515-210-3150

[www.dexteriowa.org/index.php?page=historical-attractions](http://www.dexteriowa.org/index.php?page=historical-attractions)

Built in 1916, this building celebrated its 100th birthday in 2016. The unique elliptical-shaped building is listed on the National Register of Historical Places. The engineer who designed the building was Matthew Leander King, grandfather of actor Nick Nolte. The building features the original stage, box office and orchestra pit with accommodations for seating large groups for performances or for sit-down dining and dances. A display of historical pictures is now in place for all to enjoy. A historical marker on the Community House grounds was dedicated in August 2018. The Roundhouse, with a fully equipped kitchen, is available for reunions, receptions, meetings or other events small or large.

## Bonnie and Clyde Shoot-out

Historical marker 3 miles north of Dexter

rstanley@netins.net • 641-757-9173

Visualize the Barrow gang camping at the site of the old Dexfield Amusement Park — resting and recuperating from a prior gun battle in Missouri — and then engaging in a shoot-out with approximately 50 area men and law enforcement officers leading to the mortal wounding of Buck Barrow and the capture of his wife, Blanche.

## National Plowing Match

Historical marker 1.5 miles North of Dexter

rstanley@netins.net • (641) 757-9173

In September 1948, President Harry S. Truman addressed 100,000 people attending the plowing match at this site.

## Dexter Museum

719 Marshall St., Dexter • 641-757-9173 or 515-833-2717

[www.dexteriowa.org/index.php?page=museum](http://www.dexteriowa.org/index.php?page=museum)

rstanley@netins.net

The museum is open Sundays, May through October, 1-3 p.m., and by appointment. Visit the website for details. Just off I-80, the Dexter Museum welcomes visitors to southwestern Dallas County. Exhibits document President Harry S. Truman's visit to the National Plowing Match held in 1948, the former Dexfield Amusement Park and the site of Dallas County's Barrow gang shoot-out in 1933. Three historical markers north of town on Dexfield Road represent a significant record of these events. The museum has an abundance of historic information, plowing match scoreboards, pictures, artifacts and scrapbooks on display.

## Dexter Centennial Park

Dexter's city park is located on the north side of White Pole Road just east of the fire station. Kids will enjoy the climbing tower, slides and merry-

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go-round, while adults can use the paved walking trail around the perimeter with 10 low-impact wellness exercise stations. Kids and adults can take advantage of the 9-hole disc golf course. A shelter house with picnic tables and restrooms await summer visitors. Be sure to check out the rustic bridge built in 1916 to span a creek near the cemetery. The bridge was moved to the city park where it has been located for many years.

## Iowa Veterans Cemetery

**34024 Veterans Memorial Drive, Van Meter**

515-996-9048 • [va.iowa.gov/cemetery](http://va.iowa.gov/cemetery)

The Iowa Veterans Cemetery (IVC) is the only state-owned and operated veterans cemetery in the State of Iowa. The construction was federally funded. It opened in 2008 and has more than 100 acres of property and the capacity for more than 81,000 veterans and family members. The cemetery serves Iowa's veteran population, as well as veterans from other states. There is no state residency requirement to be interred in the cemetery. It is available to families and visitors from 7:30 a.m. to sunset daily, dependent on weather conditions. The building on site was built for American Legion Post No. 403 with a focus on providing a free venue for families of veterans before or after committal services at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery. This facility is also available for use by the general public.

## Iowa Jewish Heritage Society Caspe Heritage Gallery

**33158 Ute Ave., Waukee** • 515-987-0899 • [www.jewishdesmoines.org](http://www.jewishdesmoines.org)

The history of the Jews of Iowa is beautifully displayed in the Caspe Heritage Gallery. Located in the Bucksbaum Arts Wing, the gallery is a museum, augmented by office and archival space. Its display cases include items from the Society's permanent collection and will periodically showcase touring exhibits.

## White Pole Road Scenic Byway

**WPR Development Corporation** • [www.whitepoleroad.com](http://www.whitepoleroad.com)

Enjoy a day trip and plan your own tour along the White Pole Road (old Highway 6) starting in Dexter and traveling west. Download the map, and, when you pull up to attractions, look for them on the Audio Tour playlist to experience the backstories.

## Lake Robbins Ballroom

**26726 150th St., Woodward** • [www.lakerobbins.com](http://www.lakerobbins.com)

Established in 1931, the Ballroom has been inducted into the Iowa Rock 'n' Roll Music Association's Hall of Fame for the finest dance floor in Iowa. It has hosted well-known big bands since its inception. Lake Robbins has also set a world record when its ticket-taker, "Kip" Shannon, worked at the same job for 82 years. Step back in time and experience the magic of the original ballroom made for dancing. View the event calendar online.

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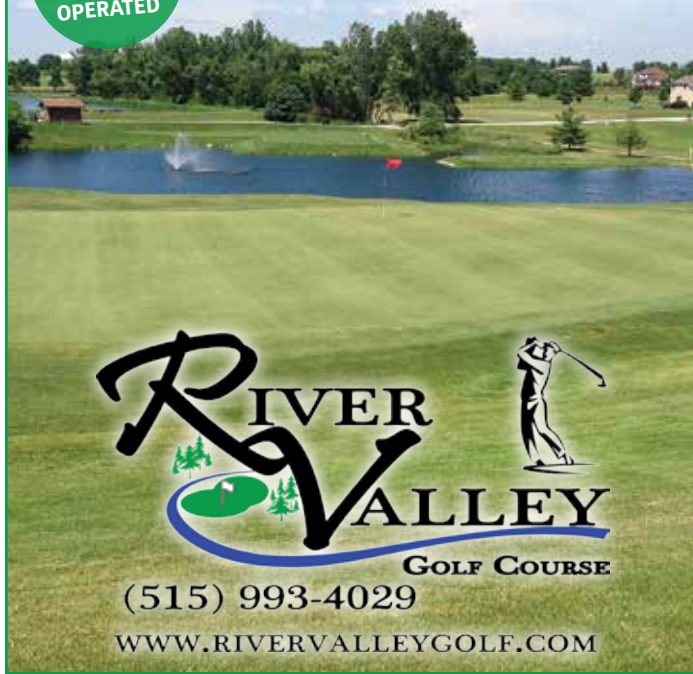
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# MUSEUMS, ARTS & PARKS

## Washington Township School

[www.facebook.com/groups/235687259803882/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/235687259803882/)

Located at the junction of F31 and P58 in Dallas County (five miles west of Minburn and seven miles south of Perry) and built in the 1920s, the Washington Township Community Building is a wonderful place to hold your next reunion, wedding reception, birthday party or big meeting. Take a trip back in time and visit the history room on the first floor and the museum on the second.

## Perry Welcome Depot

**First and Willis Ave., Perry • 515-465-4601**

The former railroad depot was renovated by the Perry Area Chamber of Commerce as a Welcome Center and displays railroad memorabilia from its history of the M&SL rail lines that passed through Perry. It provides area residents and visitors with information about Perry and area attractions, as well as an indoor restroom right off the bike trail. The Welcome Depot is adjacent to the Raccoon River Valley Trail located on the corner of First and Willis Avenue. Willis Avenue features four sculptures that pay tribute to the railroad, agriculture, industry and the arts.

## The Redfield Historical Museum

**814 First St., Redfield • Contact John Hoy at 515-250-1580**

Open Saturdays, 9-11 a.m. in the spring, summer and fall, and by appointment. Opened in 2014, the Redfield Historical Museum displays

items from long ago up to not so long ago. It has a large collection of school composite photos from the 1920s to the 1990s and many other photos.

## Soumas Court

**1112 Willis Ave., Perry • 515-465-2481 or 515-465-9941**

Soumas Court is cradled between the Hotel Pattee and the Town/Craft Center. The court is named after George Soumas, son of Greek immigrants, WWII hero, a leading citizen and former mayor. A life-sized bronze sculpture of Soumas was created by Iowa artist Chris Bennett and serves as a focal point for this serene central parkway. Visitors entering Soumas Court pass through the gateways of New York's grand metal sculptures created by Albert Paley, the Reconfiguration Arches. The arches are an interpretation of Perry's history made of farm equipment, mining tools, railroad items and metal pieces that recall the stories of men and women whose labors built Perry and kept it thriving.

## Wiese Park and Disc Golf Course

**1800 Pattee St., Perry • 515-465-5621**

Wiese Park is adjacent to the McCreary Community Building. It features a shelter house, gazebo, playground equipment, sand volleyball court, soccer fields and a lighted 2-mile recreation trail. You can also play a round of disc golf on a 9-hole course. The course is open seven days a week at no charge. Maps, scorecards and golf discs are available inside the McCreary Community Center.



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[RACCOONRIVERVALLEYTRAIL.ORG](http://RACCOONRIVERVALLEYTRAIL.ORG)



## Granger Homesteads

**Highway 141, Granger • 515-999-2210**

In 1935, the Granger Homesteads became one of the first government housing projects in U.S. history. The project was intended for those who lived in company-owned coal mining camp slums in the area so that families could move away from the decrepit mining camps and nearer to wholesome churches and schools. This building project of 50 homes on 224 acres was completed in conjunction with the Roosevelt Administration, the National Recovery Act, Eleanor Roosevelt and local priest Monsignor Ligutti. Many of the original homestead homes still exist. There is a National Historic Marker at the end of Estates Way located off Highway 141.

## Jester Park

**11407 N.W. Jester Park Drive, Granger • 515-323-5366**

Equestrian Center • 515-999-2818 | Golf Course Clubhouse • 515-999-2903  
[www.jesterparknaturecenter.com](http://www.jesterparknaturecenter.com)

Since 1958, Jester Park, with 1,834 acres, has been one of central Iowa's favorite outdoor playgrounds. No other location in central Iowa offers such a variety in outdoor recreation opportunities such as camping, hiking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, picnicking and golfing. More than 250 campsites are available along the lakeshore and among wooded hills. There are five picnic shelters within the park, a boat ramp, eight miles of hiking trails, five miles of snowmobile trails and playgrounds and natural landscapes. At the end of a 3-mile-long park drive, you'll be rewarded with a vision of the

wildlife that was abundant in Iowa more than 200 years ago. The bison and elk herds that live in the wildlife enclosures are always a popular attraction.

## High Trestle Trail

[www.dallascountyiowa.gov/330/High-Trestle-Trail](http://www.dallascountyiowa.gov/330/High-Trestle-Trail)

The High Trestle Trail is built on a former railroad bed, previously owned by Union Pacific Railroad. The 25-mile-long trail connects the communities of Ankeny, Sheldahl, Slater, Madrid and Woodward. Its 13-story, half mile-long bridge over the Des Moines River is one of the largest recreation trail bridges in the world. The original 1912 railroad trestle bridge was rebuilt in 1973 with the concrete piers that still stand. Art elements at the new bridge remind visitors of the area's coal-mining history while enjoying biking, hiking or running.

## Woodward Hardware, Antiques and Toy Museum

**123 S. Main St., Woodward • 515-371-9364**

The storefront was created as a general grocery store in the early 1900s and turned into a hardware store in the late 1940s. Today it continues to serve as a hardware store for the locals. As you walk in, you'll see the history of the antique hand tools, machines, benches and parts from the early 19th century. There is also a hidden treasure in the attic of antique toys, games and rides that will take you back to your childhood and the fun you had playing as a child. Call for appointments.



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# MUSEUMS, ARTS & PARKS

## Veterans Reception Center

910 Main St., Van Meter • 515-996-9166

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

This beautiful new building was built with a focus on providing a free venue for families of veterans after internment services at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery. This facility is also available for the general public.

## Minburn Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad Depot

Minburn's brick Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad Depot, rebuilt in 1914 after the original frame building burned down, has been relocated about a half a block but is still alongside the Raccoon River Valley Trail at the crossing with Highway 169. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A small park area nearby honors veterans and features a Freedom Rock.

## Raccoon River Valley Trail

515-465-3577 • [www.raccoonrivervalleytrail.org](http://www.raccoonrivervalleytrail.org)

The Raccoon River Valley Trail is a multi-use recreational trail built on a former railroad right-of-way and is 89 miles of paved trail passing through Dallas, Greene and Guthrie counties. The trail passes through 14 communities: Jefferson, Cooper, Herndon, Yale, Panora, Linden, Redfield, Adel, Waukee, Dallas Center, Minburn, Perry, Dawson and Jamaica.



## The Raccoon River Valley Trail Map



## Triumph Park Waukee

[www.waukee.org/1138/About](http://www.waukee.org/1138/About)

The 66-acre Triumph Park features a sports complex with 12 softball/baseball fields, practice areas, concessions, accessible restrooms and 750 parking spaces. The complex serves local ball teams as well as large tournaments. The 11-acre pond is a fishing destination and a major stormwater management feature. Green spaces are used for events, and 3 miles of trails connect to area neighborhoods and regional trail systems. Triumph Park includes many accessible park amenities, including the Greater Iowa Credit Union Miracle League® Field, 15,000-square-foot EPIC Inclusive Playground, and 11-acre pond with accessible fishing pier.

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## DALLAS COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

14581 K Ave., Perry

515-465-3577

[www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation](http://www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation)

The purpose of the Dallas County Conservation Board is to protect, preserve and enhance the county's natural resources by providing opportunities to improve the public's quality of life through environmental education, ecosystem management, outdoor recreation, and historic preservation.

Through a wide range of public programs and recreational areas, the board encourages awareness and appreciation of the environment and cultural heritage.



### Big Bend Wildlife Area

Two miles northwest of Redfield • 515-465-3577

[www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation](http://www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation)

Big Bend is a 640-acre wildlife management area adjacent to the Middle Raccoon River. It is open to hunting, fishing, bird watching, nature appreciation, canoeing and hiking on undeveloped trails through re-established prairie and oak-hickory forest. The area teems with native game and rare plant and animal species.

### Dawson Depot

307 Railroad Ave., Dawson • 515-465-3577

[www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation](http://www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation)

The old Milwaukee Railroad Depot in Dawson, which was built in 1889, is one of the few surviving Milwaukee depots possessing almost all of its original integrity. A historic restoration project on the old rail line directly connects to the Raccoon River Valley Trail and Highway 141. The Dawson Depot serves as a welcoming oasis for weary bicyclists, walkers and joggers and serves as one of the last reminders of a proud past. The old waiting room was converted into a restroom and resting area, while interpretive displays fill the former baggage room.

### Forest Park Museum

14581 K Ave., Perry • 515-465-3577

[www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation](http://www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation)

Forest Park Museum exhibits natural, cultural and historical artifacts of central Iowa with displays that include early transportation, farming, railroading, blacksmithing, local artists, genealogical references and library resources. On the museum grounds, visitors can explore the Alton School House, the 1860s Grabenhorst log cabin, and a 17-acre arboretum and restored prairie. The grounds connect to the Raccoon River Valley Trail, making it a great place for trail users to take a rest stop detour. Open weekdays year-round (weekends April-October). Free admission.

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# MUSEUMS, ARTS & PARKS

## Glissman Conservation Area

**32185 Panther Creek Road, Adel • 515-465-3577**

[www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation](http://www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation)

Glissman Conservation Area is approximately 5 miles southwest of Adel along the Raccoon River Greenbelt. The property features 60 acres of oak and hickory woodlands, 2.5 acres of grasslands, and a 7.5-acre pond with plenty of fish. Enjoy the outdoors as you experience a diversity of wildlife and plant species in peaceful seclusion. The Glissman Lodge sleeps up to eight people and features a fully-equipped kitchen, two full bathrooms, and a deck with a beautiful view. Fun for the whole family or a reunion with friends. Available to rent May through October (plus April and November when conditions permit).

## Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Post and Military Museum

**1213 Thomas St., Redfield • 515-465-3577**

[www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation](http://www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation)

Built in the 1880s, The Grand Army of the Republic Post is the only such building remaining in its original location. The G.A.R. was created to assist widows and children of men who died during the Civil War. Veterans met here to discuss community events and honor their lost comrades. Today, this completely restored structure houses a military museum on the ground floor and the refurbished post meeting room on the second floor. Open by appointment only.

## Hanging Rock

**916 Redfield St., Redfield • 515-465-3577**

[www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation](http://www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation)

Located on the south edge of Redfield, Hanging Rock is comprised of 469 acres and features a landmark massive outcrop of sandstone. The north half of Hanging Rock features a wildlife refuge and park, with a picnic shelter, astronomical rock clock, and a spur to the Raccoon River Valley Trail. The south half is open for hunting on wetland, prairie and savanna areas.

## Kuehn Conservation Area

**32828 Houston Trail, Earlham • 515-465-3577**

[www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation](http://www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation)

Located approximately 5 miles north of Earlham, Kuehn Conservation Area showcases 770 acres of native and reestablished prairies, riparian and upland forests, a nature center, bird blind, unique geological formations, archaeological sites and interpretive trails. Primitive camping and public hunting, including bow hunting, are available. Kuehn is the site for many outdoor and environmental education programs. Modern restrooms are available year-round.

## Redfield Depot

**624 First St., Redfield • 515-465-3577**

[www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation](http://www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation)

Just as today's four-lane highways provide Dallas County residents with easy access to Des Moines, the railroads of the early part of the 19th century served the same purpose. The Redfield Depot stands as a reminder of Dallas County's remarkable railroad history; the Raccoon River Valley Trail was

built on the abandoned Chicago Northwestern Railroad line. Now a resting spot for trail users, the Redfield Depot still provides travelers entry and exit to the town of Redfield. Facilities include restrooms, an indoor rest area and a railroad display. The Redfield Development Commission operates a concession stand on weekends from June through October.

## Sportsman Park

**13821 130th St., Dawson • 515-465-3577**

[www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation](http://www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation)

Adjacent to the North Raccoon River, the 40-acre Sportsman Park is ideal for nature trail hikes, picnicking and camping. Available for rent are two all-season cabins and Sportsman Lodge (an enclosed shelter house that accommodates up to 120 people). The campground allows for primitive tent camping or RV camping, and features an on-site camp host, modern shower house and restrooms, handicap-accessible playground and picnic shelters. Located minutes from the Raccoon River Valley Trail.

## Trindle Park

**3555 Richland Circle, Van Meter • 515-465-3577**

[www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation](http://www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation)

Trindle Park is a beautifully wooded, secluded park just south of Van Meter, with a reservable shelter, a playground, and modern restrooms. See website for seasonal hours.

## Voas Nature Area

**19286 Lexington Road, Minburn • 515-465-3577**

[www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation](http://www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation)

Voas Nature Area is a 705-acre park with diverse habitat, including oak and hickory forest, prairies and wetlands. The park has two hunting areas, one for youth only and the other for general public hunting. The habitats create an excellent stage for learning about our natural world. Interpretive programs include tours of the geology museum, bird watching hikes, prairie programs, and cross-country skiing. Modern restrooms are available seasonally. Museum is open by appointment only.

## Middle / South Raccoon River Water Trail

Map available online at [www.dallascountyiowa.gov/332/Middle-South-Raccoon-River-Water-Trail](http://www.dallascountyiowa.gov/332/Middle-South-Raccoon-River-Water-Trail)

The Middle/South Raccoon River Water Trail starts as two water trails that join midway below Redfield. Paddlers can start their float as far upstream in Guthrie County as Lenon Mill Park in Panora on the Middle Raccoon River — just over 17 miles to confluence. This route includes a lowhead dam at Redfield that must be portaged around.

Nation's Bridge Park near Stuart is on the South Raccoon River — just over 15 miles to confluence.

After the two rivers join, the trail continues approximately 19 additional miles to the confluence with the North Raccoon River near Van Meter.

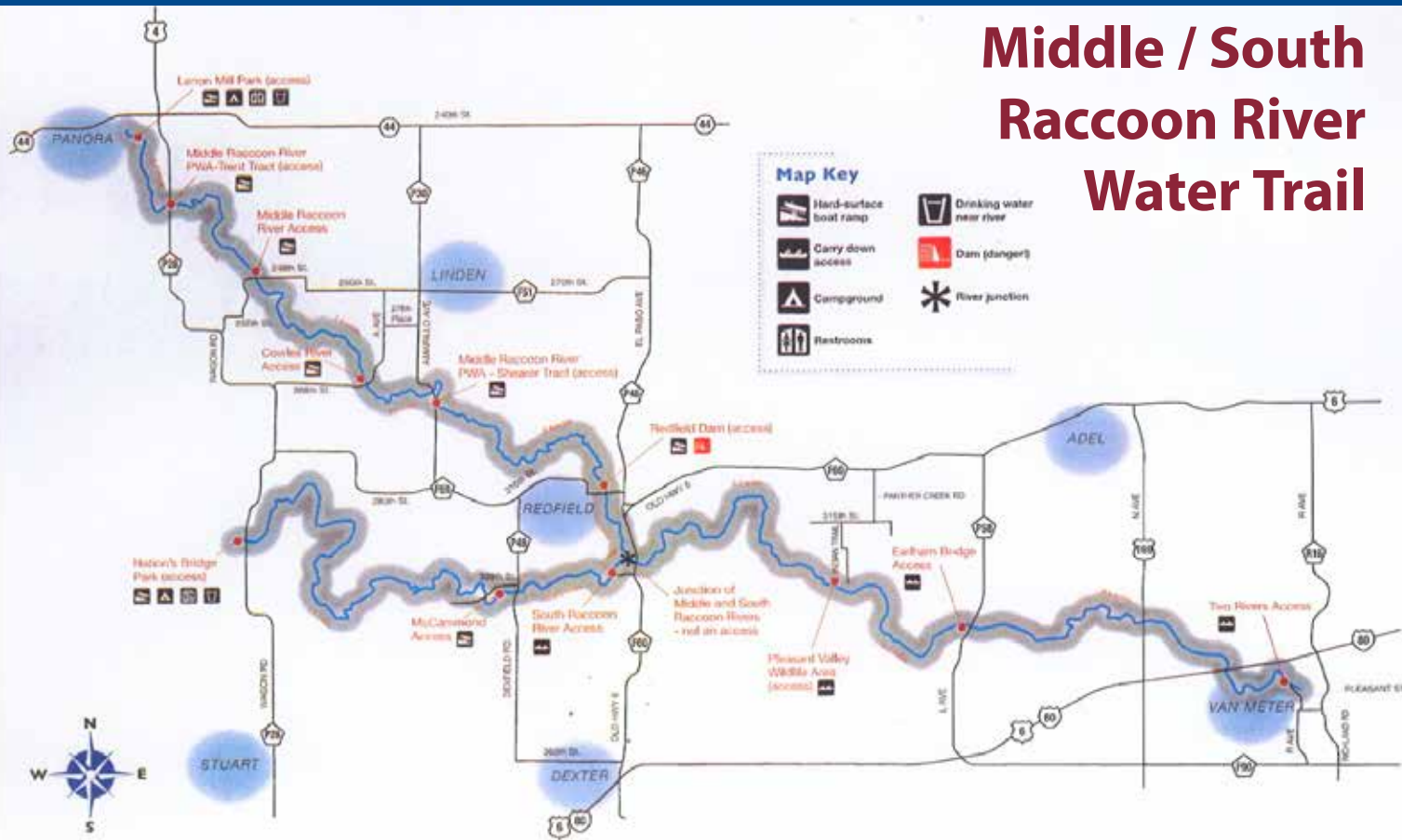
There are five public access areas along this water trail in Dallas County, two of which are managed by the Dallas County Conservation Board.

The Redfield Dam Access is located on the Middle Raccoon River, just





# Middle / South Raccoon River Water Trail



upstream from where the two rivers join. The access is below the low-head dam and has a large parking area and concrete boat ramp.

The South Raccoon River Access is located south of Redfield, just off of F-60 before the confluence. This access area is small and users must carry their watercraft down a gravel pad.

The Pleasant Valley Wildlife Area is managed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. It is located south of F-60 at the end of Indian Trail. It includes a paved boat ramp and maintained parking area.

The Earlham Bridge Access is on the southwest side of the P58 Bridge.

The Two Rivers Access is located in Van Meter at the end of this water trail.

## North Raccoon River Water Trail

Map at [www.dallascountyiowa.gov/333/North-Raccoon-River-Water-Trail](http://www.dallascountyiowa.gov/333/North-Raccoon-River-Water-Trail)

The North Raccoon River Water Trail enables recreational paddlers to enjoy the North Raccoon River from Vogel Access in northern Sac County to the junction with the Des Moines River in Polk County, a distance of about 180 river miles.

Dallas County Conservation manages four of the nine public access areas along the North Raccoon River in Dallas County. All public accesses have a concrete boat ramp with the name of the access and the distance to



the next access, including signs that point out any nearby amenities. To aid in navigation, each bridge over the North Raccoon River has visible signage on the upstream side of the bridge naming the road the paddler is passing under with the distance to the next access.

The furthest upstream access in Dallas County is the Dawson Boat Ramp. The Dawson Boat Ramp is located 1 mile north of Dawson along the east side of County Road P46.

About 6 miles downstream is the Perry Boat Ramp located on the north side of the Highway 141 bridge at the west edge of Perry.

The next stop is Spring Valley Access 4.5 miles down the river located at the east side of County Road P58.

Another 5.6 miles takes you to Snyder Access which is on the south side of County Road F31 west of Minburn.

Highway 44 Access is found 4.8 miles downstream.

The next access is the Kinnick-Feller Park Access which is 6.4 miles downstream.

Downstream 0.7 mile is Adel Island Park. Both Kinnick-Feller Park Access and Adel Island Park are found at the north edge of Adel. This route includes a lowhead dam that must be portaged around.

Traveling 7.5 miles downstream from Adel Island Park brings you to Puckerbrush Access. This access is located on the west side of County Road R16 about 2 miles north of Van Meter. Booneville Access is the last access in Dallas County and is another 8.1 miles downstream. ■

# LODGING & CAMPING

Dallas County Conservation Board offers various lodging options for those visiting the county's parks and trails. Visit [www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation](http://www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation) for details.

## DAYTON STAGECOACH INN

**14750 Pecos Court, Bouton • 515-465-3577**

Located along the old Des Moines to Fort Dodge stagecoach route, the Dayton Stagecoach Inn was built in 1868. In its history, the building has been an inn, bar and private home. The secluded 10 acres feature 150-year-old oaks, access to Beaver Creek, and a location just minutes from the High Trestle or Raccoon River Valley trails. The inn sleeps up to nine people with three separate bedrooms, a fully equipped kitchen, and two full bathrooms. Available to rent May through October (plus April and November when conditions permit).

## GLISSMAN LODGE

**32185 Panther Creek Road, Adel • 515-465-3577**

Glissman Conservation Area is approximately 5 miles southwest of Adel along the Raccoon River Greenbelt. The property features 60 acres of oak and hickory woodlands, 2.5 acres of grasslands, and a 7.5-acre pond with plenty of fish. Enjoy the outdoors as you experience a diversity of wildlife and plant species in peaceful seclusion. The Glissman Lodge sleeps up to eight people and features a fully-equipped kitchen, two full bathrooms, and a deck with a beautiful view. Fun for the whole family or a reunion with friends. Available to rent May through October (April and November when conditions permit).



**Dayton Stagecoach Inn**  
14750 Pecos Court, Bouton

## KUEHN CONSERVATION AREA CAMPGROUND

**32828 Houston Trail, Earlham**

515-465-3577

Located approximately 5 miles north of Earlham, Kuehn Conservation Area showcases 770 acres of native and reestablished prairies, riparian and upland forests, a nature center, bird blind, unique geological formations, archaeological sites and interpretive trails. Kuehn is the site for many outdoor and environmental education programs. Five primitive, hike-in campsites are available for reservation, with modern restrooms available year-round.

## SPORTSMAN PARK CABINS AND CAMPGROUND

**13821 130th St., Dawson**

515-465-3577

Adjacent to the North Raccoon River, the 40-acre Sportsman Park is ideal for nature trail hikes, picnicking and camping. Available for rent are two all-season cabins (sleeping up to five people each) and Sportsman Lodge (an enclosed shelter house that accommodates up to 120 people). The campground allows for primitive tent camping or RV camping and features an on-site camp host, modern shower house and restrooms, handicap-accessible playground and picnic shelters. Located minutes from the Raccoon River Valley Trail.

## OTHER LODGING OPTIONS

### Hotel Pattee

**1112 Willis Ave., Suite A, Perry**

515-465-3511 • [www.hotelpattee.com](http://www.hotelpattee.com)

Known as one of the finest historic boutique hotels in the world, the Hotel Pattee is a destination upon itself. The historic property boasts 40 individually decorated and themed guest rooms, a state-of-the-art bowling center, a full-service dining room and lounge, and its own dedicated library. ■

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# DINING, COFFEE SHOPS, TAVERNS & HALLS

Dallas County establishments offer the opportunity to tickle your taste buds with a variety of flavors and styles. Take your pick from cozy neighborhood pubs, aromatic coffee houses, downhome family cafes or a variety of ethnic restaurants.

## DINING LIST

### ADEL

- **Adel Family Fun Center**  
1526 Greene St.  
515-993-3350
- **Billy's Ice Cream Store**  
308 Nile Kinnick Drive S.  
515-238-2302
- **Brickyard Burgers & Brews**  
1802 Greene St.  
515-993-4200
- **Casey's Pizza**  
816 Greene St.  
515-993-5103  
1738 Nile Kinnick Drive S.  
515-993-3616
- **China Village**  
628 Nile Kinnick Drive S.  
515-993-3383
- **Corner Tap**  
921 Main St.  
515-993-2240
- **Domino's**  
710 Common Place, Suite 100  
515-581-7020
- **Fiesta Mexican Restaurant**  
715 Main St.  
515-993-4404
- **Gambles Pizza & Pub**  
112 S. 9th St
- **The Great White Buffalo Public House**  
815 Main St  
515-219-4197
- **Hollywood Bar & Grill**  
911 Court St., Suite C  
515-993-3001
- **Kum and Go**  
409 Nile Kinnick Drive S.  
515-993-4236
- **Mi Casa Jalisco**  
909 Main St.
- **The Morning Grind**  
720 Prairie St.
- **Patrick's**  
211 S. Seventh St.  
515-993-3884
- **Pizza Hut**  
712 Cottage St Suite 1
- **River to River Bakery & Pizza**  
109 N. Ninth St.  
515-478-1187

### ADEL

- **Scooter's Coffee**  
708 Greene St.  
515-478-1139
- **Subway**  
310 Nile Kinnick Drive  
515-993-3488

### DALLAS CENTER

- **Baker's Pantry**  
904 Sugar Grove Ave.  
515-992-3308
- **Board & Batten**  
1408 Walnut Street  
515-631-9079
- **Casey's Pizza**  
602 Sugar Grove Ave  
515-992-3698
- **Five Points Bar & Grill**  
1405 Walnut Street  
515-782-6109
- **The HandleBar**  
1607 Sugar Grove Ave.  
515-992-8014
- **Korner Kone Eats N' Treats**  
502 14th St.  
515-992-4053
- **Sugar Grove Goods**  
1404 Walnut St.  
515-219-7073

### DE SOTO

- **Ambro's Roadhouse**  
917 Guthrie St.  
515-834-9174
- **Casey's**  
1100 Greene St.  
515-207-6860
- **Kum & Go**  
1203 Guthrie St.  
515-834-2500
- **Kwik Star**  
1200 Guthrie St.  
515-834-7075

### DEXTER

- **Casey's Pizza**  
803 State St.  
515-789-4284
- **Rusty Duck**  
723 Marshall St.  
515-789-4142

### GRANGER

- **Bud's Pub**  
1912 Main St.  
515-999-2066
- **Casa Amigos Bar & Grill**  
1902 Main St.  
515-999-2489
- **Casey's Pizza**  
1802 Sycamore St.  
515-999-2843

### MINBURN

- **Casa Oaxaca & B.B.G. Mexican Grill**  
210 Fourth St.  
515-677-2030
- **Hwy 169 American Cafe**  
417 Fourth St.  
515-677-2169
- **Mudder's**  
104 Fourth St.  
515-677-2690
- **The Nineteen14**  
210 Fourth St.  
515-677-2090

### PERRY

- **Burger King**  
1319 141st St.  
515-726-3409
- **Casey's Pizza**  
1308 1st Ave  
515-465-3803  
601 Soumas Ave  
515-516-1072
- **Domino's Pizza**  
403 1st Ave  
515-642-3330
- **El Rey Market & Restaurant**  
210 Willis Ave  
515-465-3050
- **El Sabor Mexicano Taco Truck**  
1417 First Ave.  
515-612-3726
- **Frio Ice Cream Shop**  
1114 First Ave.
- **Hy-Vee Deli**  
1215 141st St.  
515-465-5323
- **Krispy Krunchy Chicken at Bluejay Market**  
2810 Wills Ave  
515-310-9660

### PERRY

- **La Ventura**  
1209 Lucinda St.  
515-465-5265
- **Lou's Diner**  
2720 Willis Ave.  
515-465-5941
- **Mandarin Cafe**  
1117 Second St.  
515-465-2080
- **McDonald's**  
325 First Ave.  
515-465-9370
- **Metro Buffet**  
405 First Ave.  
515-465-9888
- **Mex-To-U**  
1114 First Ave.  
515-726-0691
- **Oasis Restaurant**  
1223 Otley Ave.  
515-465-4022
- **Pattee Cafe**  
1112 Willis Ave.  
515-465-3511
- **Perry Perk Coffee Shop**  
1201 Second St.
- **Pizza Hut**  
2812 Willis Ave.  
515-465-5666
- **Scooters Coffee**  
414 First Ave.  
515-642-6006
- **Sips on 2nd**  
1113 Second St.
- **Subway**  
418 First St.  
515-465-3607
- **Tacos El Viejo Fer (seasonal)**  
Caboose Park at First and Willis  
515-726-0258
- **Taqueria Villa**  
1319 Second St.  
515-465-4266
- **The Farm Store & Bakery**  
1201 Warford St.
- **The Hangout Diner**  
1014 Second St.  
515-979-3385
- **The Proletariat**  
1213 Second St.  
515-642-6200
- **Tin Pig Tavern**  
1201 Second St.  
515-642-0044

# DINING, COFFEE SHOPS, TAVERNS & HALLS

## REDFIELD

- **Casey's Pizza**  
425 Second St.  
515-833-2983
- **Dexfield Diner & Pub**  
(Restoration in Progress)  
904 First St.  
515-833-2927
- **The Dairy Shoppe**  
617 First St.  
515-833-2815

## VAN METER

- **5th Quarter**  
420 Mill St.  
515-996-9258
- **Casey's Pizza**  
700 Debra Drive  
515-996-2983

## WAUKEE

- **85 Bar West**  
432 E. Hickman Road  
515-800-8558
- **B-Bop's**  
855 E. Hickman Road  
515-987-9092
- **Blue Agave Street Tacos and Margaritas**  
9500 S.E. University Ave., Suite 2108  
515-229-0219
- **Burger King**  
450 E. Hickman Road  
515-987-6445
- **Caffrey's Sports Pub**  
1320 Hickman Road  
515-987-0512
- **Caribou Coffee**  
1025 E. Hickman Road  
515-987-7405
- **Casey's Pizza**  
20 Hickman Road  
515-987-6753  
870 N.E. Alice's Road  
515-216-2297

## WAUKEE

- **Central Standard Craft Beer & Burgers**  
1222 S.E. University Ave.  
515-987-0095
- **Chikin Lickin**  
1196 S.E. University Ave.  
515-331-3070
- **Chipotle Mexican Grill**  
425 E. Hickman Road  
515-850-5521
- **The Coffeesmith**  
770 S.E. Alice's Road  
515-447-5137
- **Culver's**  
455 E. Hickman Road  
515-410-9530
- **Dairy Queen Grill and Chill**  
220 E. Hickman Road  
515-987-7801
- **El Guacamole Patio & Cantina**  
725 W. Hickman Road  
515-348-6055
- **Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakhouses**  
440 S.E. Alice's Road  
515-218-2226
- **Fresh Mediterranean Express**  
15 N.E. Carefree Lane  
515-987-6870
- **Gastro Grub & Pub**  
1378 E. Hickman Road  
515-300-2460
- **Guadalajara Mexican Restaurant**  
185 W. Hickman Road  
515-987-7349
- **Hy-Vee Market Grille Express**  
1005 Hickman Road  
515-216-2772
- **Hyper Energy Bar Waukee**  
1025 S.E. Laurel St.  
515-207-8041



## WAUKEE

- **IHOP**  
150 S.E. Alice's Road  
515-518-3449
- **Indian Tadka**  
280 W. Hickman Road  
515-987-3165
- **Jimmy Johns**  
105 N. Warrior Lane  
515-987-4811  
1160 S.E. Ashworth Road  
515-300-2500
- **The Kee**  
360 Sixth St.  
515-518-2820
- **Kenny's Garage**  
605 Ashworth Drive  
515-987-0161
- **K'ued Smokehouse**  
245 Hickman Road  
515-987-4972
- **Kum & Go**  
350 S.E. University Ave.  
515-987-2659  
650 Hickman Road  
515-300-2201  
3105 Grand Prairie Parkway  
515-987-0556
- **Los Tres Amigos**  
63 N.E. Carefree Lane  
515-987-0393

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# COMMUNITIES

## ADEL

<https://adeliowa.org>

With a small-town vibe and proximity to Des Moines' metro, Adel is a vibrant, charming and thriving place to live, work and play. Recreation opportunities abound at city parks, the Dallas County Fairgrounds, the Raccoon River and the Raccoon River Valley Trail. Adel offers a great mix of culture and history, is the birthplace of Nile Kinnick, is the Dallas County seat and features a long-standing brickyard, brick structures and brick streets. Visit during the summer for monthly concerts and the Annual Sweet Corn Festival. Come and see for yourself why Adel is not just a place to visit, it's a place to thrive.

## DALLAS CENTER

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

"Quietly Progressive" is Dallas Center's city motto. The town was founded more than 125 years ago and has grown to almost 2,000 people. It is located about 20 miles northwest of Des Moines. The residents love and respect the past and are gently moving forward with plans to keep the city infrastructure sound while incorporating new ideas. The spiritual community is a comfort and collaboration of several churches and denominations that work together to make themselves better characters and provide support to those in need. Residents love the small-town style with all the seasonal activities that make it feel like part of the Heartland.

## DAWSON

Dawson offers a boat ramp at the North Raccoon River, a well-maintained city park, a fun play park and an updated community center. The restored depot welcomes those using the Raccoon River Valley Trail to town. Dawson is only about 1 mile from Sportsman Park.

## DE SOTO

<https://desoto-ia.org>

De Soto is located at the intersection of Interstate 80 and Highway 169, just 15 miles from West Des Moines at exit 110. It is a wonderful community for families both large and small with an easy commute to work and entertainment in the greater Des Moines area.

## DEXTER

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

Dexter, the "Original One Horse Town," is one of the oldest towns in Dallas County. Having been platted in 1868, it celebrated its sesquicentennial in 2018. There is an amazing amount of history to explore as you begin the drive along the White Pole Road at I-80 exit 100. Travel west into town and stop at the Dexter Museum and Historic Roundhouse.

## GRANGER

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

Established in 1885, Granger's history is rooted in agriculture, railroads, coal mines, circuses and the Granger Homesteads. Because of its location close to excellent recreational activities such as three golf courses, Jester Park and Saylorville Lake, there are ample opportunities for relaxing-to-vigorous activities for individuals of all ages.

## GRIMES

[www.grimesiowa.gov](http://www.grimesiowa.gov)

Straddling the borders of Dallas and Polk counties, Grimes is a fast-growing community. As such, it has many destinations that make the community a great place to visit. Some of the many recreational opportunities include golfing, indoor climbing, camping, trampoline facilities, sports and fitness facilities, and more.

## LINDEN

[www.linden.lib.ia.us/city-local-links](http://www.linden.lib.ia.us/city-local-links)

Located along the Raccoon River Valley, Linden has a well-maintained city park, community building, baseball field and shelter house. Water enthusiasts have two nearby access points to the Middle Raccoon River.

## MINBURN

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

True to its motto, Minburn is the "Small Town With a Big Heart." The town's historic brick Railroad Depot was relocated and renovated into a trailhead for the Raccoon River Valley Trail. A park dedicated to honoring veterans is adjacent, and the Dallas County Freedom Rock is its focal point. Just west of Minburn is the Voas Nature Area, an excellent place to experience what the Minburn area landscape used to look like.

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## PERRY

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

Designated as one of Iowa's "Great Places," Perry boasts a combination of arts, history, culture, commerce and recreation, unmatched by any other of its size. Perry's walkable downtown is home to more than 30 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, multiple arts and cultural festivals, as well as several murals and public art pieces, including four sculptures along the Willis Avenue boulevard that pay tribute to Perry's historical ties to the railroad, agriculture, industry and the arts.

## REDFIELD

<https://redfieldia.com>

Redfield, established in 1860, sits on the Middle Raccoon River, site of one of the few low-head dams remaining in Iowa. The fishing is popular and usually successful. The community boasts a rare Grand Army of the Republic Post with a military museum, the Raccoon River Valley Bike Trail and Depot, a fine library and city park and Hanging Rock Park on the Raccoon River. The Redfield Historical Museum is now open Saturdays in the morning during spring, summer and fall and by appointment on other days and in the winter.

## VAN METER

[www.vanmeteria.gov](http://www.vanmeteria.gov)

A picturesque community situated near the Raccoon River, Van Meter prides itself on its quality of life and services provided by local foundations, volunteers and boards. It is neighbor to the Iowa Veterans Cemetery.

## WAUKEE

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

The city of Waukee is recognized as one of the fastest growing cities in Iowa. Waukee offers a family-friendly environment featuring quality parks, schools and trails. Triumph Park, with its accessible features, includes Miracle League fields, an accessible fishing pier, and accessible play equipment.

## WOODWARD

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

Woodward was established in 1883 as a railroad community. Today, that railroad line bed has become the High Trestle Trail, a recreational trail that crosses the Des Moines River Valley on the spectacular High Trestle Bridge located just east of Woodward. People come to enjoy the view and artwork of the bridge. The old depot has been restored as the western gateway to the High Trestle Trail and Woodward Trailhead. ■





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