

IOWA BYWAYS STATEWIDE INTERPRETIVE PLANNING



October 11, 2017

Schmeckle Reserve Interpreters

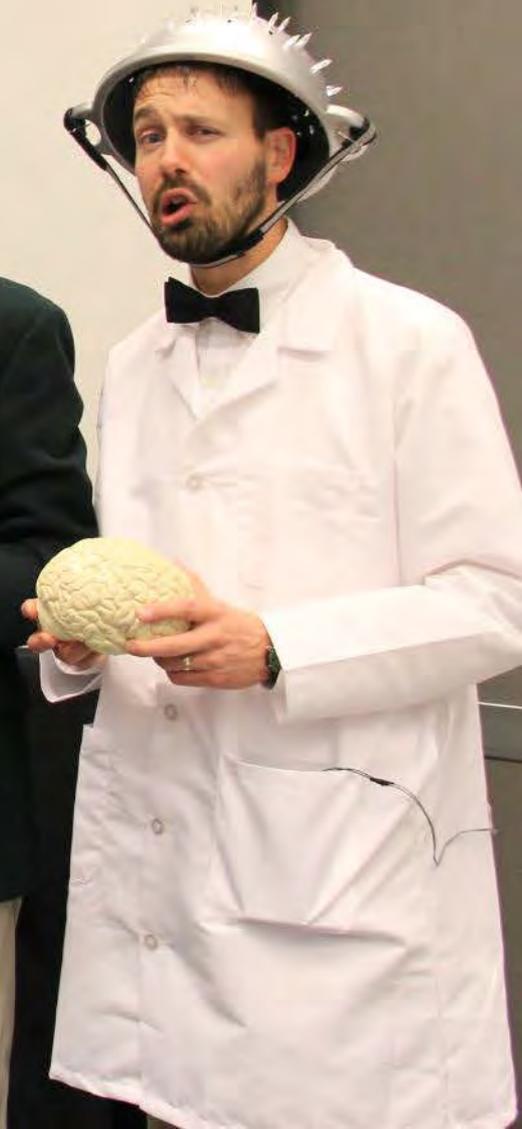
Megan
Espe

Brenda
Lackey

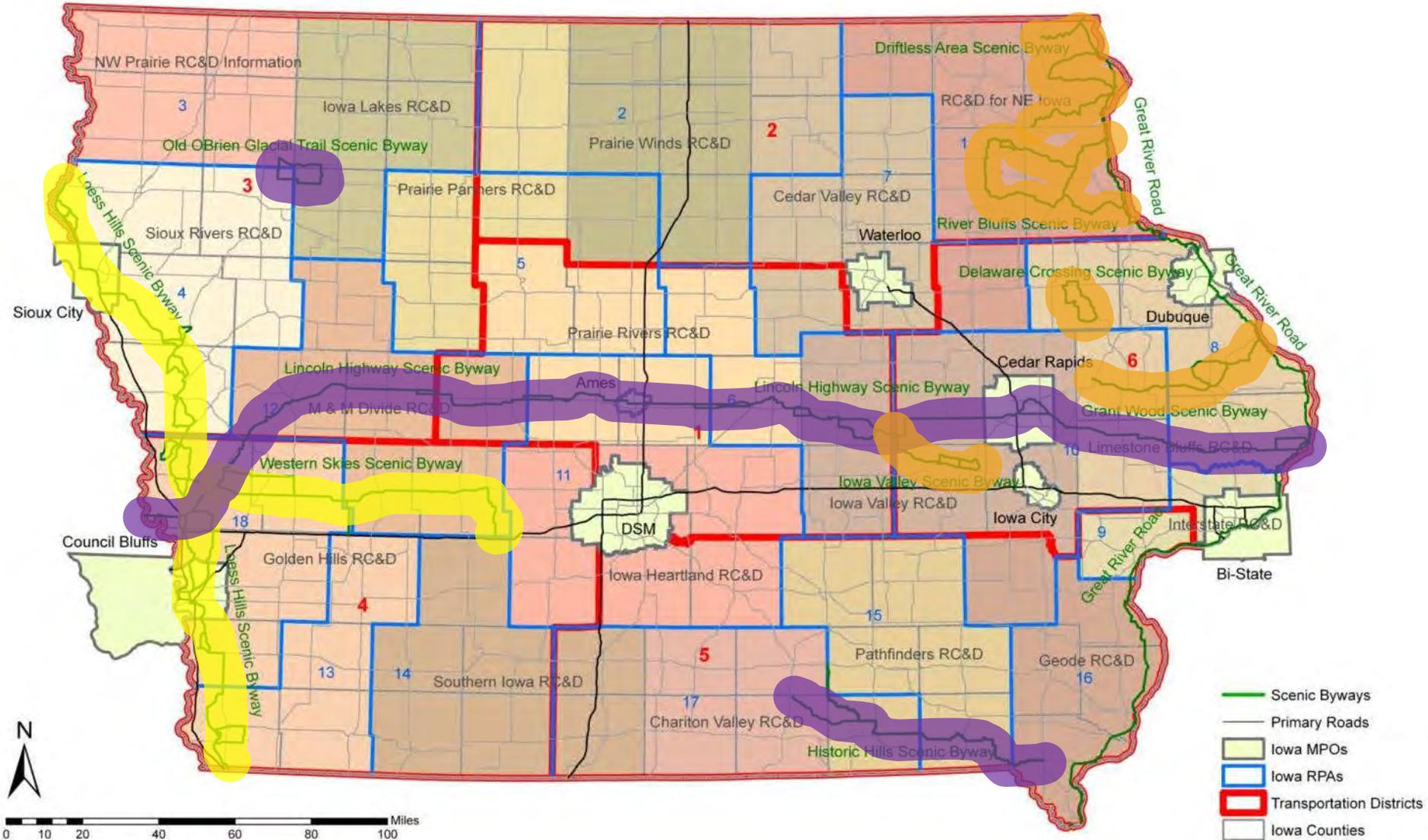
Ron
Zimmerman

Mike Gross

Jim
Buchholz



Iowa Byways Planning Phases

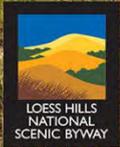


Phase 1

Phase 2

Phase 3

LOESS HILLS NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLAN



July 2015

WESTERN SKIES SCENIC BYWAY INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLAN



July 2015

DRIFTLESS AREA SCENIC BYWAY INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLAN



September 2016

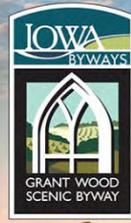
RIVER BLUFFS SCENIC BYWAY INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLAN



March 2017

GRANT WOOD SCENIC BYWAY

INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLAN



March 2017

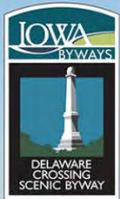


IOWA VALLEY SCENIC BYWAY

INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLAN



August 2017



DELAWARE CROSSING SCENIC BYWAY

INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLAN

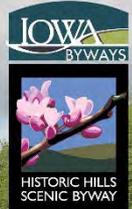


DRAFT

October 2017

HISTORIC HILLS SCENIC BYWAY

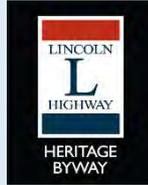
INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLAN



DRAFT

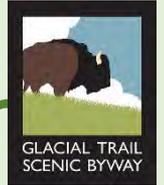
October 2017

Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway



Interpretive Master Plan

Glacial Trail Scenic Byway



Interpretive Master Plan

Coming soon!

Interpretation

A communication process that guides visitors to discover meanings in objects, places, and landscapes.



Bay Settlement Boys

*A light is from our household gone,
A voice we love is stilled...*

Private Hiram M. Kersey,
44th Iowa Infantry,
circa 1865



Young Soldiers

The Union soldiers honored here were 16 to 28 years old when they died. Some died violently in battle, some lingered in makeshift hospitals, and one perished in the infamous Andersonville Prison just days before the war ended.

This silent obelisk, sheltered under whispering pines, contrasts with the turbulent deaths of the 14 young men that it honors. The loss of these soldiers devastated the small community of Bay Settlement. The Connor and Ward families both sacrificed two sons, while ten other families each lost a loved one. This Civil War memorial was dedicated in August 1865, the first in Iowa.



Lenox College, Hopkinton



Pineview Cemetery, Delaware



Oakland Cemetery, Manchester

Honoring the Fallen

Iowa sent the largest percentage of men into war than any other state, Confederate or Union. Perhaps that explains why Civil War monuments stand in nearly every Delaware County community.



Some of the Bay Settlement boys fought and died in the Battle of Shiloh, 1862, illustrated below.



Planning Triangle

Why?
Mission

How? When? Where?

Who?
Visitor

What?
Resources

Illinois Route 66
**Interpretive
Master
Plan**
*Interpretive
Master
Plan*
**66
Plan**





Loess Hills



Western Skies



Driftless Area



River Bluffs



Grant Wood



Iowa Valley



Delaware Crossing



Historic Hills



Glacial Trail



Lincoln Highway
(Lincoln Highway Association Conference)

Plans focus on the uniqueness of each byway

Glacial Trail



Historic Hills



Western
Skies



ALBERT THE BULL

AUDUBON IOWA • 50025

Historic Hills



Iowa Valley





James W.
Ellis

Grant Wood
Janssen

Prints
Vintage Reproductions
\$ for \$1.00 or 1.50 each
Digital Prints
\$ for \$1.00 or 1.50 each
Large Prints \$1.00 each

1901
BRIDGE

Lincoln
Highway/
Loess Hills



Historic
Hills



Lincoln
Highway



Western Skies



Loess Hills



Lincoln
Highway/
Loess Hills









Driftless
Area



it's great to be a
Hawkeye

Historic Hills



Themes and Messag



Primary Themes

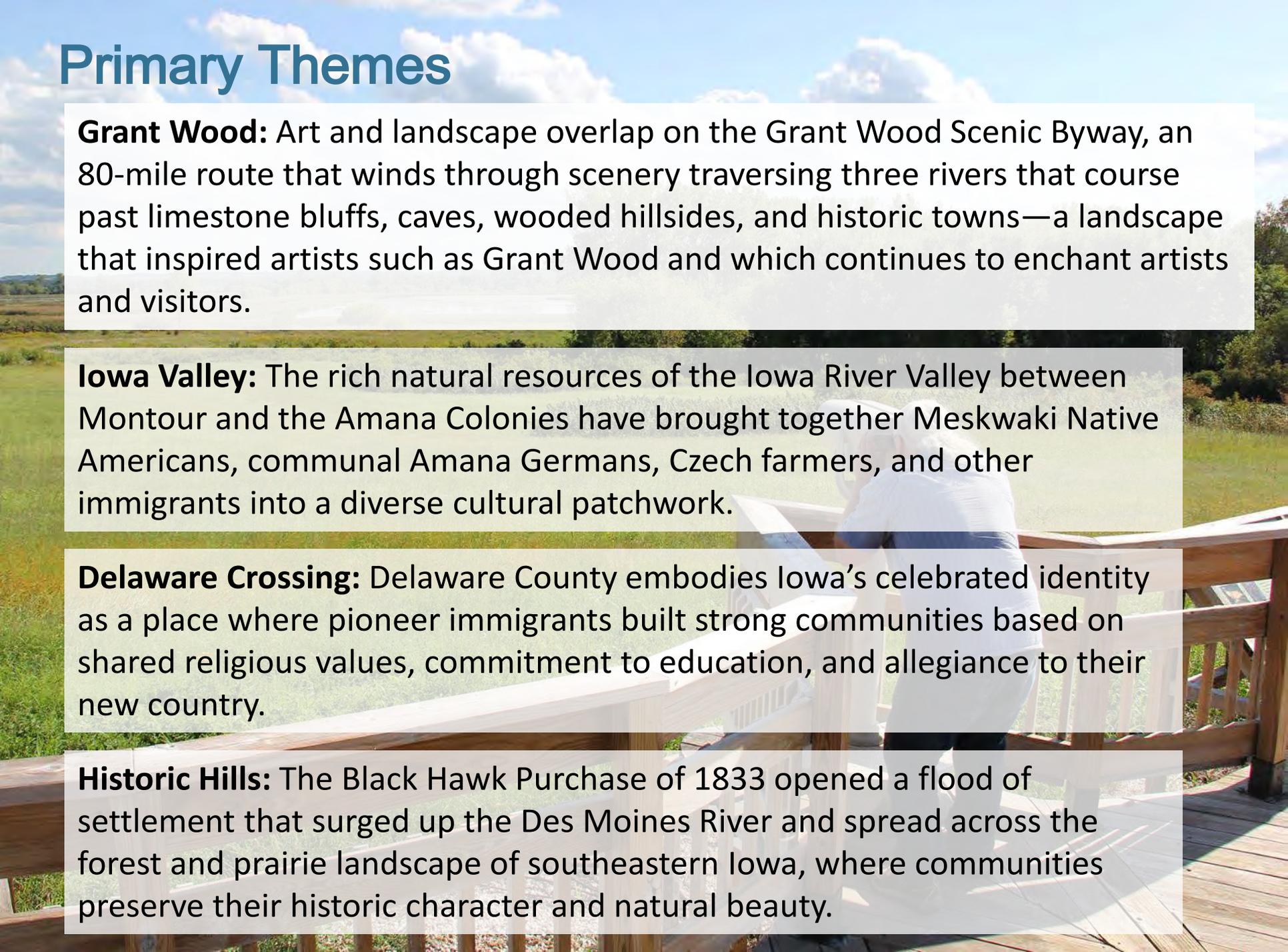
Loess Hills: The Loess Hills are a unique landform in the world, born of ice, water, and wind, and covered by a thin blanket of prairie and oak that nurtured ancient cultures, immigrant farmers, and settlements.

Western Skies: The Western Skies Scenic Byway winds through a rural landscape of rolling hills and broad skies where European immigrants created a distinct sense of place as they shaped farming practices that have evolved into modern-day agriculture.

River Bluffs: The Mississippi, Turkey, and Volga rivers and their tributaries carved deep valleys in the driftless landscape of the River Bluffs Scenic Byway, shaping the region's history and lifestyles, and creating a scenic topography where residents can enjoy outdoor recreation and charming villages.

Driftless Area: The scenic limestone bluffs and valleys of northeast Iowa, untouched by recent glaciers, are laced with caves, cool springs, and streams that support diverse plant communities and human lifestyles shaped by the landscape.

Primary Themes

A person wearing a white shirt and a hat is standing on a wooden deck, looking at a map. The background shows a scenic view of a river valley with green hills and a blue sky with white clouds.

Grant Wood: Art and landscape overlap on the Grant Wood Scenic Byway, an 80-mile route that winds through scenery traversing three rivers that course past limestone bluffs, caves, wooded hillsides, and historic towns—a landscape that inspired artists such as Grant Wood and which continues to enchant artists and visitors.

Iowa Valley: The rich natural resources of the Iowa River Valley between Montour and the Amana Colonies have brought together Meskwaki Native Americans, communal Amana Germans, Czech farmers, and other immigrants into a diverse cultural patchwork.

Delaware Crossing: Delaware County embodies Iowa's celebrated identity as a place where pioneer immigrants built strong communities based on shared religious values, commitment to education, and allegiance to their new country.

Historic Hills: The Black Hawk Purchase of 1833 opened a flood of settlement that surged up the Des Moines River and spread across the forest and prairie landscape of southeastern Iowa, where communities preserve their historic character and natural beauty.

Primary Themes

Common Elements



Natural History



Cultural History



Sense of Place



Interpretive Media Concepts



Visual Identity





**LOESS HILLS
NATIONAL
SCENIC BYWAY**



**WESTERN SKIES
SCENIC BYWAY**



**DRIFTLESS AREA
SCENIC BYWAY**



**RIVER BLUFFS
SCENIC BYWAY**



**GRANT WOOD
SCENIC BYWAY**



**IOWA VALLEY
SCENIC BYWAY**



**DELAWARE
CROSSING
SCENIC BYWAY**



**HISTORIC HILLS
SCENIC BYWAY**



**GLACIAL TRAIL
SCENIC BYWAY**



**HERITAGE
BYWAY**

Grant Wood Scenic Byway: Media Color Palette



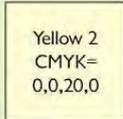
Curved headers, footers, drop caps, tint boxes



Subheadings, tint boxes, borders



Curved header accent lines



Curved header accent lines, tint boxes



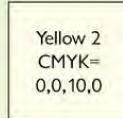
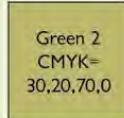
Main text, captions, credits



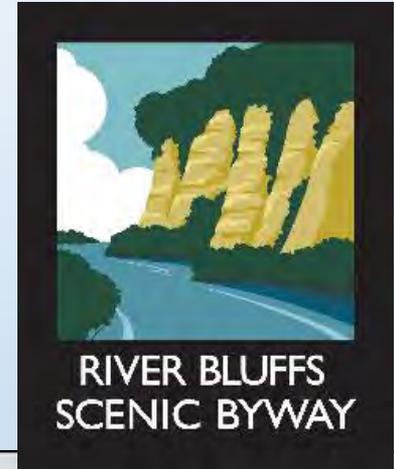
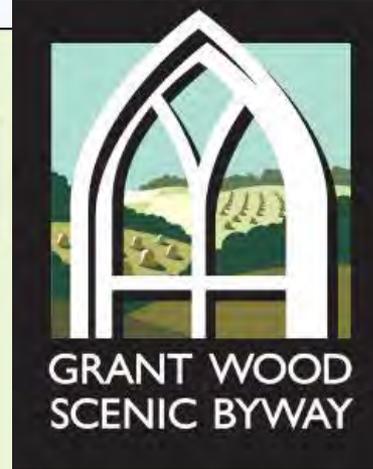
Text over dark colors, photo borders



Backgrounds, accent lines



Additional family colors



Driftless Area Byway Color Palette



Curved header.



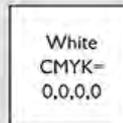
Curved header.



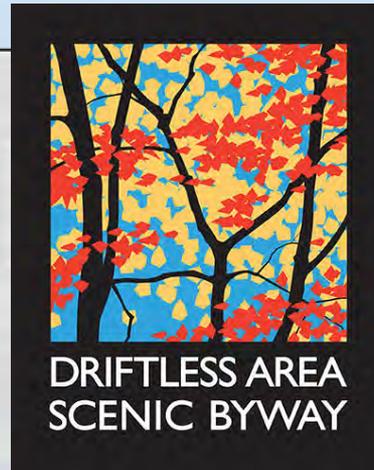
Backgrounds, tint boxes.



Lettering on large blocks of text over light backgrounds.



Text over dark backgrounds, picture borders.



Additional Color Palette for Media



Titles and subtitles.



Curved header, titles and subtitles.



Tint boxes.

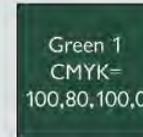


Tint boxes.



Subtitles.

River Bluffs Color Palette for Media



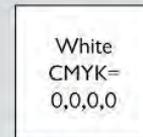
Curved header, titles, drop caps, tint box borders



Subtitles



Lettering on large blocks of text over light backgrounds



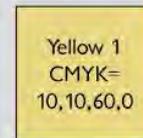
Text over dark backgrounds, picture borders



Curved header



Titles and subtitles, drop caps



Curved header, tint boxes

**Recommended
Typography**

CHELTENHAM BT

Main titles and headings

BrushTip Travis

Headings and subheadings, handwriting
(quotes, photos)

Garrison Sans

Main text

Garrison Sans Italic

Photo captions

Garrison Sans Italic

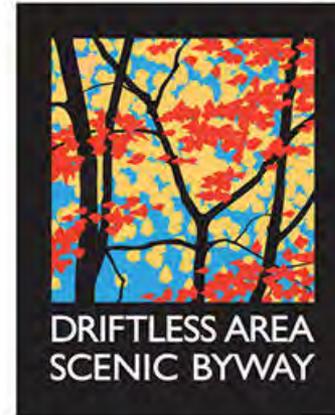
Photo credits

Unified Design Standards

Snapshot photo effect with white feathered borders, caption, tilt, and shadow.



Tint box with feathered edge, rounded corners, and shadow.



The Driftless Area and Iowa Byways logos are essential graphics elements to include on all media.

Curved header with byway colors.



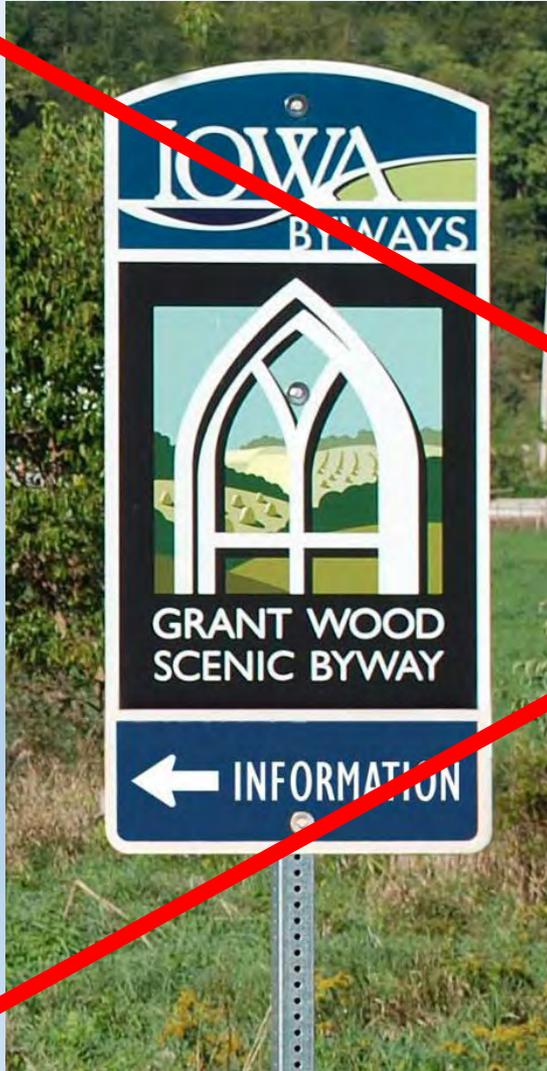
Wayfinding



Official Byway Attraction Signs: Original Versions

Develop direction signs that guide travelers to core byway attractions

Original concepts do not follow DOT signage standards

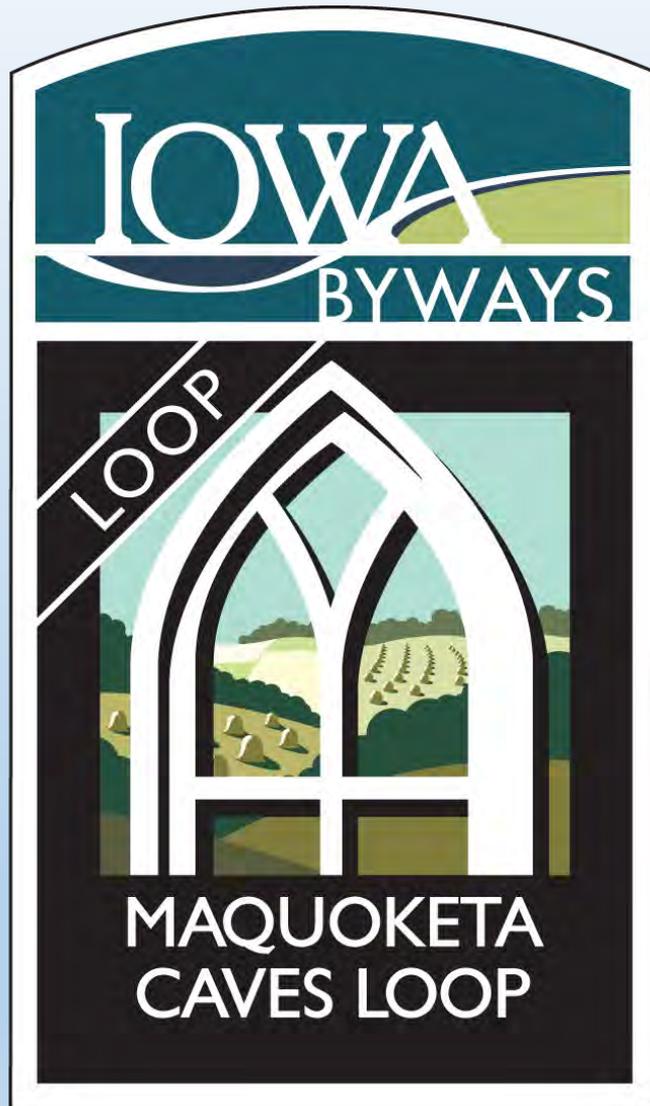


Official Byway Attraction Signs: Revised Versions

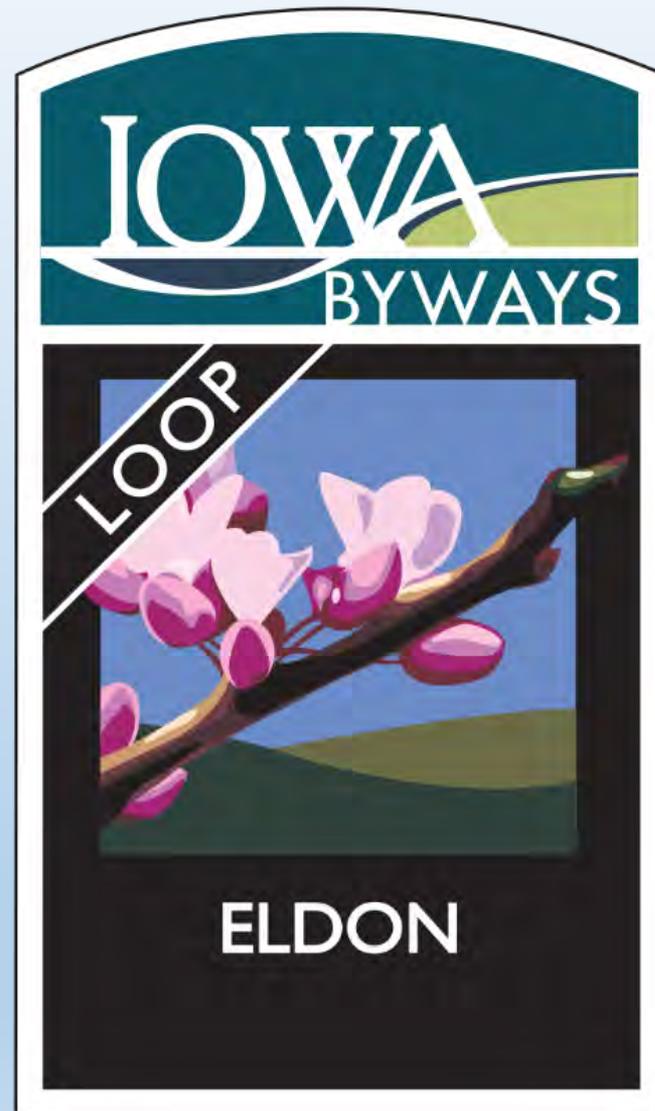
Modified version of the DOT “Destination/Guide Signs” standards



Additional Byway Loop, Spur, and Route Recommendations



Grant Wood



Historic Hills

Experience Hubs

- Command attention because they are on a roadside scale
- Serve as an orientation hub to other attractions
- Concentrate a number of stories into one stop and place them into a regional context



Experience Hub Design

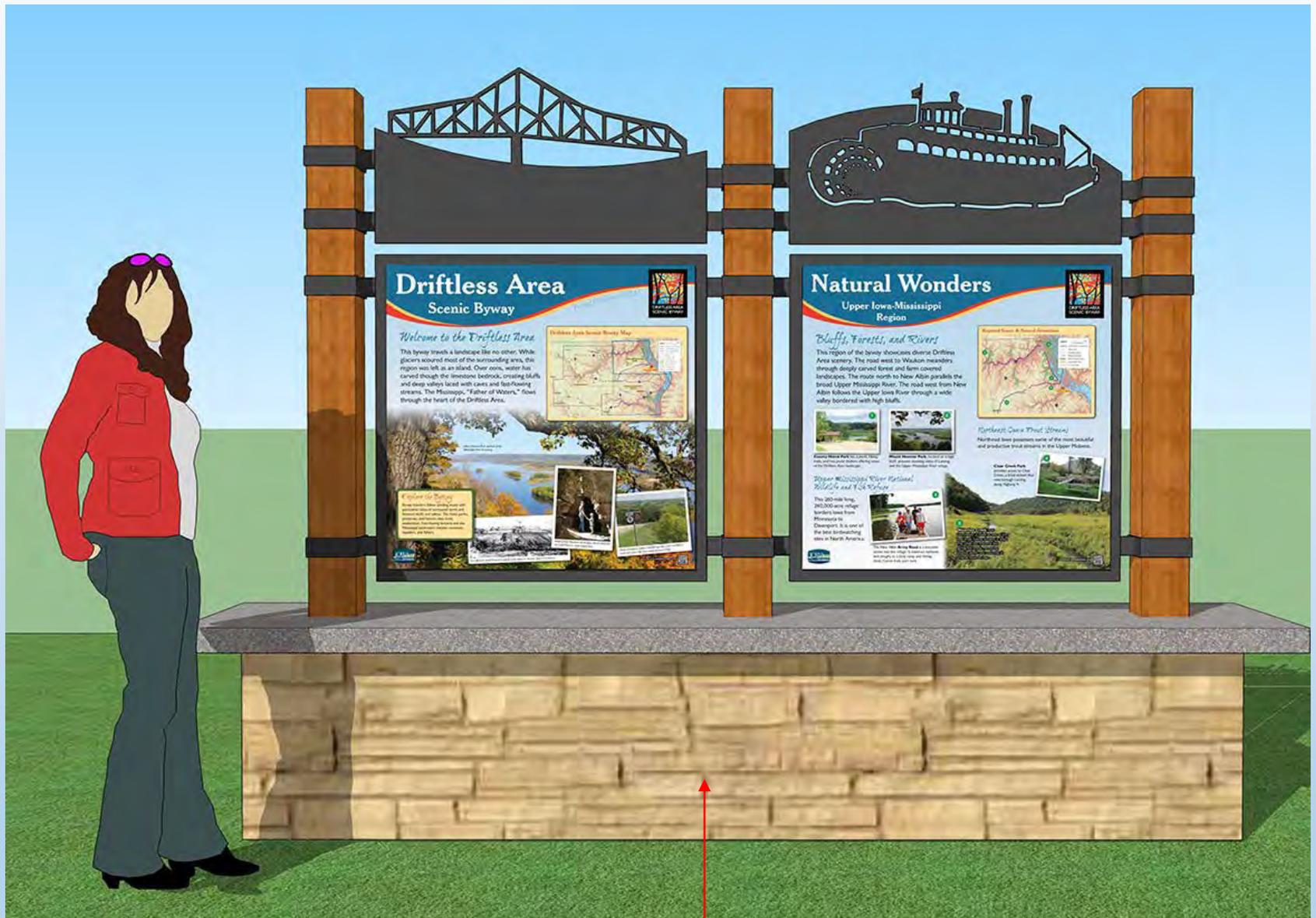
Rustic timber supports

Weathering steel or powder coated headers and brackets

Unique cut-outs in headers

36"x36",
½"-thick panels
made out of
high-pressure
laminate,
mounted on
steel backing





Limestone base in areas with limestone bedrock



Full Byway Experience Hubs

Front side



DELAWARE CROSSING
SCENIC BYWAY

Explore Delaware County

This 36-mile scenic loop through the heart of Delaware County, a patchwork of rolling hills, farms, forests, and streams. Byway communities celebrate their progressive history with Civil War monuments, churches, villages, and one-room country schools. The Mispoulet's River flows through the county offering paddling challenges and numerous parks to explore the outdoors.

Delaware County Scenic Byway Map

Legend

- Byway route
- Historic sites
- Scenic views
- Recreation areas
- Points of interest
- YOU ARE HERE

Byway Overview panel

Explore Hopkinton
Home of Old Lenox College

Lenox College was the first Presbyterian college and one of the first institutions for higher learning in Iowa. Education was highly valued by the practical eastern immigrants who settled Delaware County. After the college closed, the campus found new life in the community as a beloved public school attended by generations of Hopkinton residents.

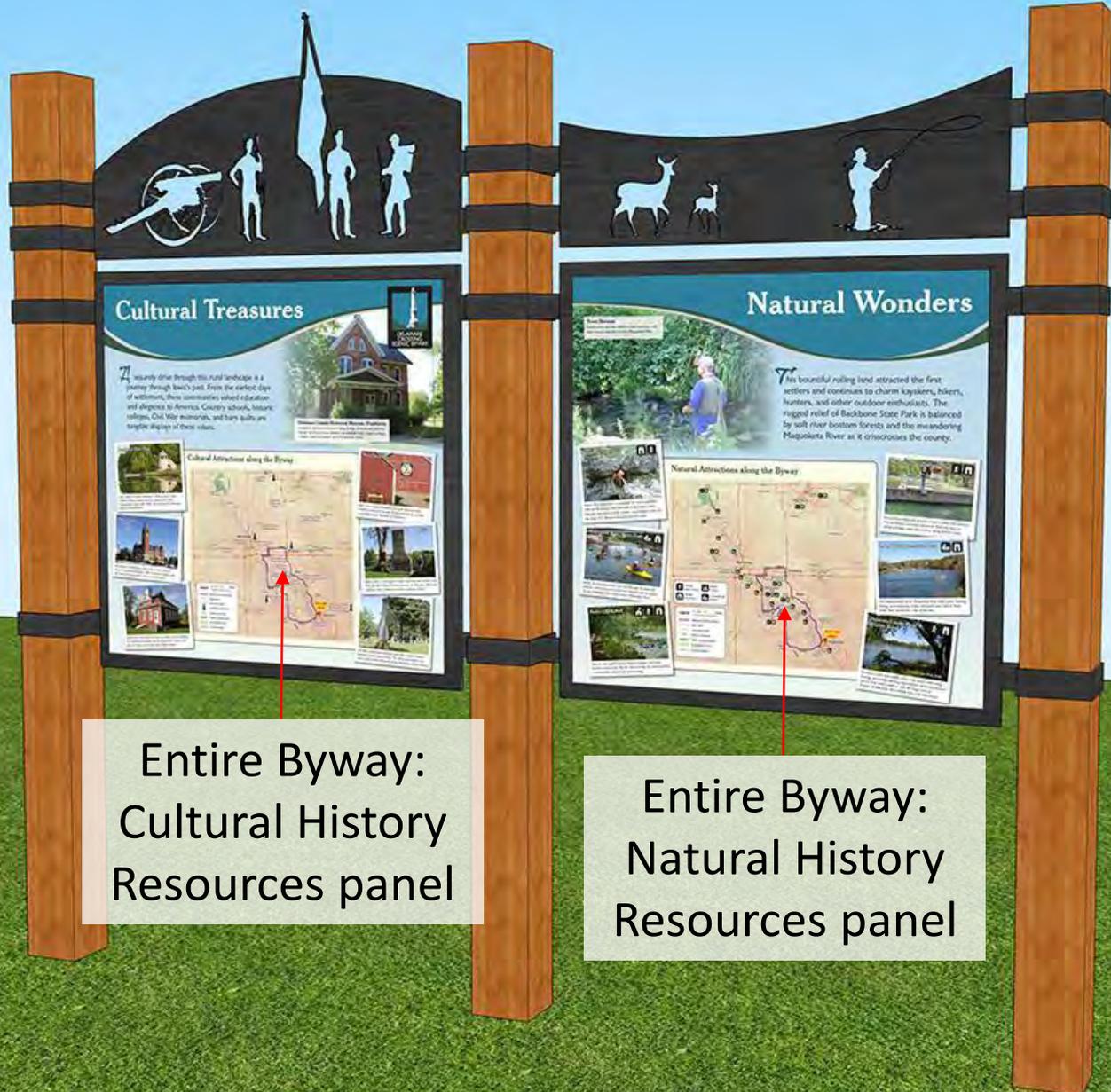
Hopkinton Area Byway Attractions

- Old War Monument
- Lenox College
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- St. John's Episcopal Church
- St. Peter's Episcopal Church
- St. James Episcopal Church
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
- St. George's Episcopal Church
- St. Mark's Episcopal Church
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church
- St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- St. Peter's Episcopal Church
- St. James Episcopal Church
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
- St. George's Episcopal Church
- St. Mark's Episcopal Church
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church
- St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Community/Region Resources panel



Back side

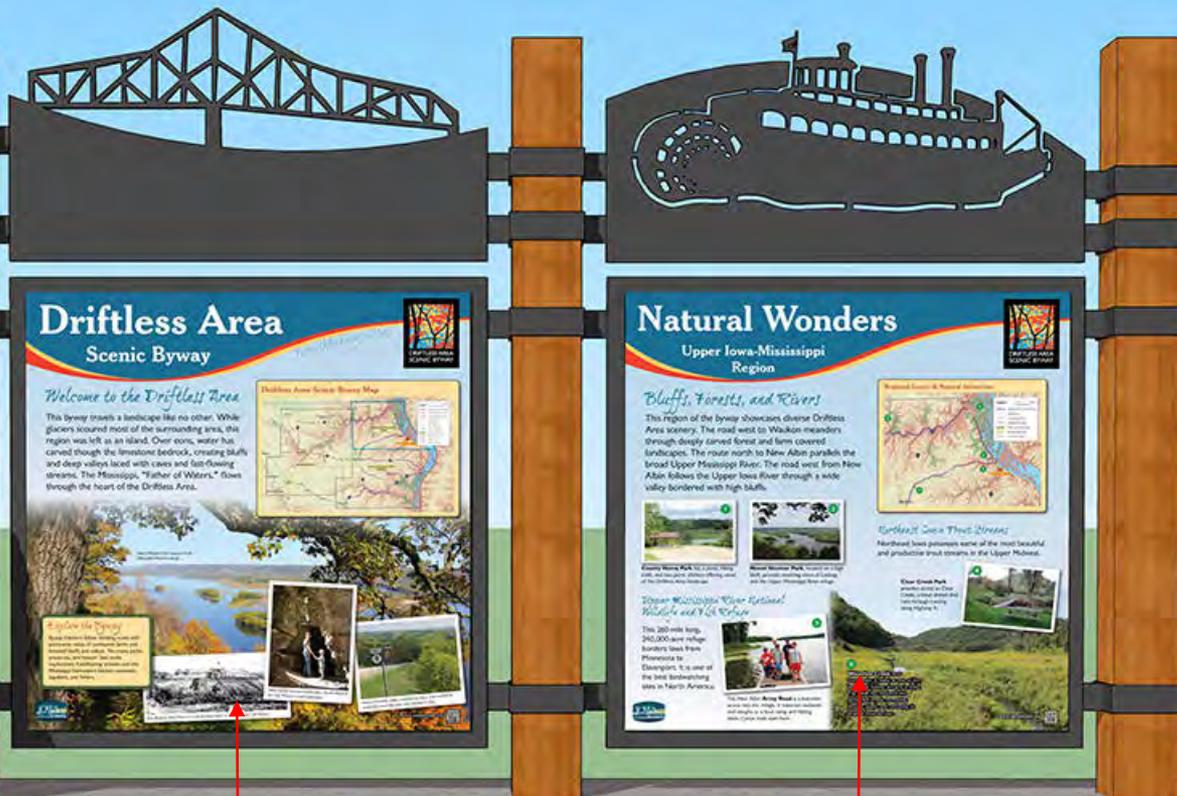


Entire Byway:
Cultural History
Resources panel

Entire Byway:
Natural History
Resources panel

Regional Experience Hubs

Front side



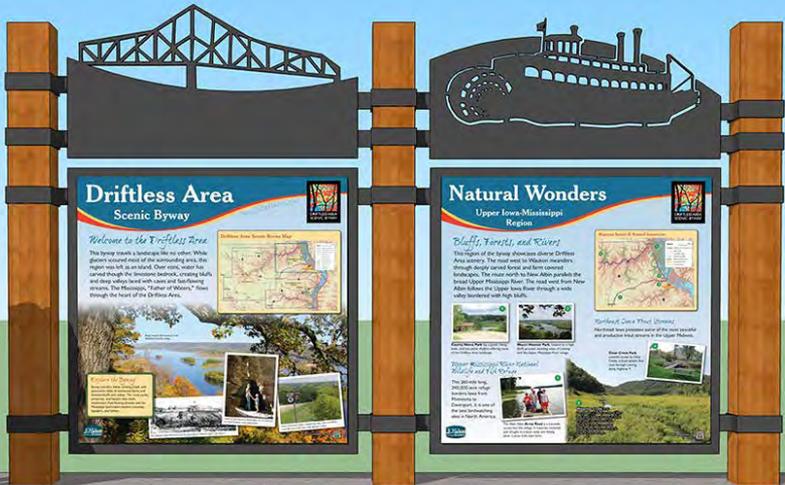
Byway Overview panel

Region: Natural History Resource panel



Region: Cultural Resources panel

Region: Historical Resources panel





Sign panel design

Byway logo

Unified curved header bar
(colors unique to byway)

Unified font styles and sizes
(all byways)

Byway map with
"You are here"

Background image of byway

Snapshot images of byway

Iowa Byways logo, website, QR code
(all byways)

GRANT WOOD SCENIC BYWAY

Discover Grant Wood Country

Travel this 80-mile byway through a rolling landscape that inspired artist Grant Wood. The road winds through the countryside between the Maquoketa and Wapsipinicon Rivers. Streams cut through limestone bedrock revealing scenic bluffs and caves where water trails, parks, and wildlife areas beckon. Historic byway towns share the stories that have shaped this region of Iowa.

Grant Wood Scenic Byway Map

Legend

- Grant Wood Scenic Byway
- Great River Road Byway
- Main roads
- Secondary roads
- Streams and lakes
- Public recreation areas
- Incorporated cities
- Iowa state border
- County borders

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles

BEGIN

IOWA BYWAYS

GRANT WOOD SCENIC BYWAY

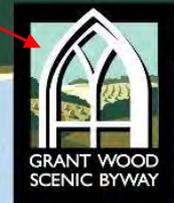
www.iowabyways.org

Contoured fields and pastures cloak the rolling landscape.

Bellevue State Park offers panoramic views of the Mississippi River valley.

Historic sites, like Antioch School, reveal the rich culture of byway towns.

Maquoketa Caves State Park showcases limestone formations and invites exploration.



Grant Wood, famous for his American Gothic painting, developed an American style of art that celebrated the rural life of the Midwest.



Stone City, Iowa by Grant Wood, 1930



Loess Hills

National Scenic Byway

Shaped by Nature



Welcome to the Council Bluffs Region

You are invited to explore this natural and cultural treasure. Drive through rural landscapes and charming villages on the byway spine and loops. Wander ridge-top trails through prairie preserves and oak forests. Discover historic sites that connect you to the great stories of America.

Born of Ice, Water, and Wind

As the last Ice Age was ending, meltwaters deposited glacial silt on the Missouri River floodplain. Wind whipped the glacial "flour" into steep 200-foot loess bluffs. These rolling grass stretch 200 miles from South Dakota to Missouri.



Flying in the Loess Hills, Iowa Falls, Pigeon.

Loess Hills National Scenic Byway Map



Henry Hill South Dakota near Pigeon.



Signer farms near Council Bluffs, IA.

A Rich History

The Council Bluffs region is America's crossroads. Sites are told in three hills of Lewis and Clark, the Mormon migration, the Oregon and California trails, and the transcontinental railroad.

A Prairie Refuge

More than half of Iowa's remaining prairie is sheltered in the Loess Hills. Rare plants and animals find protection in these sunny, wind-swept landscapes.



Photo by University of Northern Iowa

Western Skies

Scenic Byway

Sunsets and Scenery



A Window into the Heartland

This 142-mile scenic byway is the essence of rural Iowa. It swells and dips, passing farmsteads and bisecting rural towns settled by immigrants. True to the byway's name, the sky is as much of a feature as the land. Passing clouds and glowing sunsets enrich the view.

Western Skies Scenic Byway Map



Deep Woods, IA, Har.

Cultural and Agricultural Roots

This area of Iowa was heavily settled by Danish and German immigrants. They farmed these rolling hills, leaving an agricultural legacy of innovation that continues today.

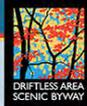


Abnethia, IA, Audubon.

Driftless Area

Scenic Byway

Breathtaking vistas



Welcome to the Driftless Area

This byway travels a landscape like no other. While glaciers scoured most of the surrounding area, this region was left as an island. Over eons, water has carved through the limestone bedrock, creating bluffs and deep valleys laced with caves and fast-flowing streams. The Mississippi, "Father of Waters," flows through the heart of the Driftless Area.

Driftless Area Scenic Byway Map



Explore the Byway

Byway travelers follow winding roads with panoramic vistas of contoured farms and forested bluffs and valleys. The many parks, preserves, and historic sites invite exploration. Fast-flowing streams and the Mississippi backwaters beckon canoeists, kayakers, and fishers.



Water-carved entrance indicates the site of the Devil's Ice Cave Preserve, and exploration.



Views of forested valleys, meandering rivers, and small farms make this one of the most scenic byways in Iowa.

River Bluffs

Scenic Byway



Welcome to Bluff Country

This 109-mile byway traverses "Bluff Country." While glaciers scoured most of the surrounding area, this region was left as an island known as the Driftless Area. Over eons, water carved through limestone bedrock creating bluffs and deep valleys laced with caves and fast-flowing streams.



Missouri River Park offers grand views of the Upper-Mississippi River valley.



Explore the Byway

Follow winding roads with panoramic views of farms and bluffs along the Turkey and Volga river valleys. The town communities showcase their rich history. The history and unique geography of "Bluff Country" can be explored in numerous parks, preserves, trails, and trout streams.



GRANT WOOD SCENIC BYWAY



Grant Wood, famous for his American Gothic painting, developed an American style of art that celebrated the rural life of the Midwest.



Source: CCA, Image by Grant Wood, 1930

Discover Grant Wood Country

Travel this 80-mile byway through a rolling landscape that inspired artist Grant Wood. The road winds through the countryside between the Maquoketa and Wapsipinicon Rivers. Streams cut through limestone bedrock revealing scenic bluffs and caves where water trails, parks, and wildlife areas beckon. Historic byway towns share the stories that have shaped this region of Iowa.



IOWA VALLEY SCENIC BYWAY



The American iris flower is the symbol of the Iowa Valley Scenic Byway, linking the Amiana and Meskwaki cultures. Visit Lily Lake in the Amiana Colonies to experience the blooms.



Explore the Iowa River Valley

This byway meanders 77 miles through the Iowa River Valley. The Meskwaki Settlement, the only tribal community in Iowa, welcomes travelers at the western gateway. The Amiana Colonies, one of the largest historic communes in America, greets eastern travelers. In between, discover natural areas brimming with wildlife and lively towns celebrating their Czech, Belgian, and German roots.



DELAWARE CROSSING SCENIC BYWAY



The symbol of this byway is an 1865 Civil War monument that still stands on the campus of Iowa College in Hopkinton. Today, the campus is home to the Delaware County Historical Museum.

Explore Delaware County

This 36-mile byway loops through the heart of Delaware County, a patchwork of rolling hills, farms, forests, and streams. Byway communities celebrate their progressive history with Civil War monuments, churches, colleges, and one-room country schools. The Maquoketa River flows through the county offering paddling challenges and numerous parks to explore the outdoors.



HISTORIC HILLS SCENIC BYWAY



The American Gothic House Center in Eldon celebrates Iowa artist Grant Wood and his iconic painting. The white house with the Gothic window still stands in Eldon. Many of Wood's paintings depict southeastern Iowa.

Explore Historic Southeastern Iowa

Touring this byway is a journey back into old Iowa. Discover the hill country that was the historic home of the Ioway tribe, Chief Black Hawk, and Iowa's first European settlers. Visit old steamboat port towns, Iowa's oldest courthouse, Civil War and Underground Railroad sites, and trace the Mormon Trail. Immerse yourself in the natural beauty of three state parks, a state forest, the Lower Des Moines River Water Trail, and many other recreation areas.



Two-Panel Kiosks

River Bluffs



Grant Wood



Wayside Exhibits

- **Site-based:** Interpret what travelers are seeing
- **Always on the job:** Even when attractions are closed
- **Relatively inexpensive:** Compared to facilities and interpretive staff



Wayside Exhibit Design

Weathering steel or powder coated supports

Unique cut-outs in top arch

36"x24", 1/2"-thick panels made out of high-pressure laminate

Iowa Byways logo cut-out in bottom





Loess Hills



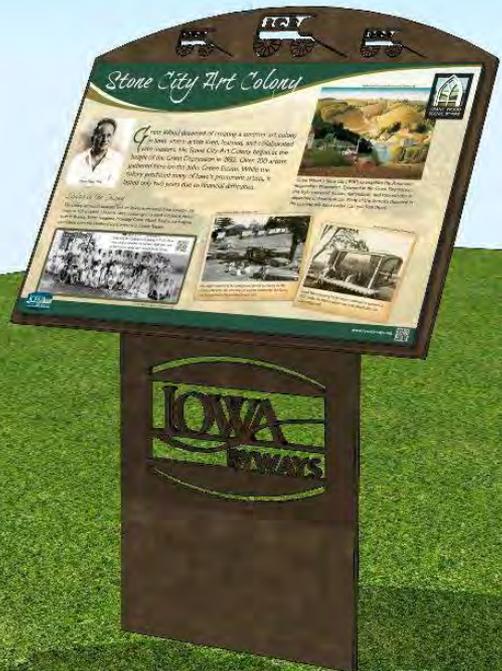
Western Skies



Driftless Area



River Bluffs



Grant Wood



Iowa Valley



Delaware Crossing



Historic Hills

Sign panel design

Unified curved header bar (colors unique to byway)

Byway logo

Unified font styles and sizes (all byways)

Focal point images

Shin Bone Valley

Across the river, the community of Elgin was originally known as "Shin Bone Valley." This was the site of a former Sauk and Fox village. The name came from scattered human bones found on this side of the river, remnants of a native burial ground. The settlement of Elgin grew at the confluence of Otter Creek and the Turkey River.

Portrait of Neokuk by Thomas M. Easterly, 1847

Sauk and Fox Village
The Turkey River provided food and transportation to the Fox and Sauk who lived here until 1845. According to Samuel Connor, wigwags lined the shores of the river along with "large heaps of discarded fish bones."

Sauk and Fox cemetery in Nebraska, 1907, courtesy of Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri Tribal Museum

The Sauk and Fox buried their dead in shallow graves covered by "spirit houses." Bark was laid in the bottom of a grave and the body was wrapped in blankets. After burial, a plank house was constructed above the grave.

Drawing by Sharon Krech, courtesy of Elgin Historical Society

The Elgin Mill, shown here in 1912, was located on Otter Creek.

Early Elgin Settlement
This valley was first settled in the summer of 1848 when a party led by Samuel Connor bought land and built a sawmill just downstream from here at the mouth of Otter Creek. In 1852, Connor laid out the town of Elgin and the first hotel, post office, and grist mill were established.

IOWA BYWAYS

www.iowabyways.org

Footer bar with Iowa Byways logo, website, QR code (all byways)

An American Treasure

Born of Ice, Water, and Wind

Continental glaciers ground bedrock into floury silt. Meltwater deposited these sediments on the Missouri river floodplain for over 150,000 years. Westerly winds whipped the powdery dust into steep loess dunes. The extreme thickness and eroded terrain establish these hills as a gem of nature stretching for 220 miles. Only in China are there loess hills as deep and extensive.



A vertical road cut on Olive Avenue near Prehistoric Canyon State Park in Monona County.

What's in a Name?

Loess, which rhymes with bus, is German for "loose soil." Because the grains are angular, loess often stands in steep or vertical faces for years without slumping. When saturated, it turns into "sugar clay" and erodes dramatically.

Terraced Hillsides

Cat-steps are natural terraces that form when hillside loess slumps into step-like ledges.



www.loesshills.org
www.loesshills.org



Peele-and-cascade hills at Sylvan Rural State Preserve, Monona County.



Loess Hills

An Ancient Cemetery

Fish Farm Mounds

A short hike up this bluff opens onto a terrace of 30 conical mounds. These burial mounds were built by Middle and early-Late Woodland people from about 100 BC to AD 650, the same time that the Roman Empire reigned over Europe.



Looking Inside a Mound

Today, these mounds are protected by state law. In 1882, however, archaeologists excavated nearly all of the mounds to look inside. Most were burial sites containing a central core of hard clay covering human bones, pottery fragments, and stone implements. Two or more skeletons were often found lying side by side.

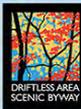


Preserved for Generations

This 3-acre site is named for the Fish family, who donated the property to the state in 1935. It was dedicated as an archaeological state preserve in 1968 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.



In addition to burial mounds, Woodland People are noted for their pottery and cultivated crops such as squash and corn.



Driftless Area

Birds and Bulls

The Animals of Audubon

Birds and bulls serve as symbols of Audubon. The town was named for the famous naturalist and artist John James Audubon. He was greatly admired by the nation at the time Audubon was established in 1851. Albert the Bull was created more than 100 years later to symbolize the importance of Iowa in scientific livestock production. Herefords like Albert were a popular breed in the 1960s, when he was constructed by the Audubon Jaycees.



Birds in Mosaic

Stroll the sidewalks of Audubon to enjoy dozens of tile reproductions of the famous Birds of America.



Birds of America

Audubon's *The Birds of America* is considered one of the finest ornithological publications ever produced. It contains hand-colored, life-size prints. The original edition was printed on the sheets of paper nearly 40 inches tall and 26 inches wide, the largest paper size available at the time.



Albert, the world's largest bull, was built to commemorate a 1956 beef promotion campaign called Operation 7-Bulls. Albert weighs 45 tons and stands 30 feet tall, with a 15-foot horn span. His frame was made from old windmills that were coured in concrete.

ALBERT THE BULL
1956-2008

Shin Bone Valley

Across the river, the community of Elgin was originally known as "Shin Bone Valley." This was the site of a former Sauk and Fox village. The name came from scattered human bones found on this side of the river, remnants of a native burial ground. The settlement of Elgin grew at the confluence of Otter Creek and the Turkey River.



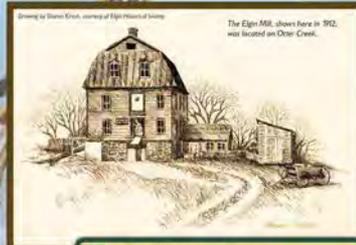
Chief Koshkosh, called to the U.S. all of the Sauk and Fox lands in Iowa in a series of treaties. The tribes were removed to Kansas in 1845, opening up their lands to settlement.

Sauk and Fox Village

The Turkey River provided food and transportation to the Fox and Sauk who lived here until 1845. According to Samuel Connor, wigwags lined the shores of the river along with "large heaps of discarded fish bones."



The Sauk and Fox buried their dead in shallow graves covered by "split houses." Bark was laid in the bottom of a grave and the body was wrapped in blankets. After burial, a plank house was constructed above the grave.



Drawing by Shanna Erick. courtesy of Elgin Historical Society.

The Elgin Mill, shown here in 1902, was located on Otter Creek.

Early Elgin Settlement

This valley was first settled in the summer of 1848 when a party led by Samuel Connor bought land and built a sawmill just downstream from here at the mouth of Otter Creek. In 1852, Connor laid out the town of Elgin and the first hotel, post office, and grist mill were established.



Western Skies

River Bluffs



Stone City Art Colony



Grant Wood's Stone City (1930) exemplifies the American Regionalism Movement. Spurred in the Great Depression, this style conveyed realism, nationalism, and romanticism in depictions of American life. Many of the features depicted in the painting still stand today. Can you find them?



Grant Wood dreamed of creating a summer art colony in Iowa where artists lived, learned, and collaborated with masters. His Stone City Art Colony began at the height of the Great Depression in 1932. Over 100 artists gathered here on the John Green Estate. While the colony produced many of Iowa's prominent artists, it lasted only two years due to financial difficulties.

Living in the Colony

The colony attracted students and art lovers from around the country. Participants were encouraged to paint outdoors rather than in studios. Some residents, including Grant Wood, lived in ice wagons purchased from the Hubbard Ice Company in Cedar Rapids.



Grant Wood

Lotus Connections



This is the water, yet unweave by the water, is the lotus leaf.
—Isidore Minkwitz poem



Edible Flowers



American lotus flowers flourish here in Lily Lake. The blossoms are a symbol of the Iowa Valley Scenic Byway, weaving together the diverse communities that live along the Iowa River. Amara children once gathered bouquets of these flowers to sell to tourists. Meskwaki Indians were welcome neighbors who harvested the lotus root tubers and seeds for food, as they had done for generations.



Lily Lake is only 2 to 3 feet deep with a rich muck bottom, perfect for growing American lotus. While the roots are anchored in the muck, the large round leaves rise more than 3 feet above the water surface. Many cultures eat the mid-tasting acorn-like seeds and potato-like roots. Meskwaki Indians may have planted the lotus now found in Lily Lake.



Connecting Communities

The Iowa Valley Scenic Byway connects the Amara Colonies, one of the nation's largest and longest-lived historic communities, with the Meskwaki Settlement, Iowa's only Native American community 50 miles to the northwest. Both groups chose to separate themselves from the larger American society. By doing so, they found common ground that tied them together in trade and friendship.

Iowa Valley

Bay Settlement Boys



*A light is from our household gone,
A voice we love is stilled...*



This silent obelisk, sheltered under whispering pines, contrasts with the turbulent deaths of the 14 young men that it honors. The loss of these soldiers devastated the small community of Bay Settlement. The Connor and Ward families both sacrificed two sons, while ten other families each lost a loved one. This Civil War memorial was dedicated in August 1865, the first in Iowa.



Young Soldiers
The Union soldiers honored here were 16 to 28 years old when they died. Some died violently in battle, some lingered in makeshift hospitals, and one perished in the infamous Andersonville Prison just days before the war ended.



Some of the Bay Settlement boys fought and died in the Battle of Shiloh, 1862, as illustrated below.

Honoring the Fallen
Iowa sent the largest percentage of men into war than any other state, Confederate or Union. Perhaps that explains why Civil War monuments stand in nearly every Delaware County community.

Delaware Crossing

Lost Villages



As you gaze across this fertile valley, contemplate its significance in Iowa's history. Here were three villages that are now gone: the loway tribe, the Sauk and Fox, and the pioneer settlement of Iowaville.



Sauk Chief Black Hawk portrait by George Catlin, 1832

The Sauk and Fox

After the loway abandoned the village, the Sauk and Fox, including Sauk Chief Kaskaskia, occupied it. Beginning in 1833, after the Black Hawk War, the U.S. government forced the tribes to cede all eastern Iowa lands, including this village.



Meshako 1824 portrait by Charles Bird King

The Loway (Baxoje)

From 1765 to 1824, this land was the main loway village of more than 800. Imagine their scattered earthen lodges surrounded by fields of corn, beans, and squash. In 1824, Iowa Chief Meshako White Cloud ceded their rights to this land and moved his tribe to a Nebraska reservation.

Chief Black Hawk's Remains

After the war and his imprisonment, Chief Black Hawk returned to this valley and built a lodge near his friend James Jordan. He died in 1838 and was buried near his lodge. A local man stole his head to display as a side-show curiosity, but it later burned in a fire. According to legend, the rest of his skeleton was reburied here in Iowaville Cemetery.

Pieces of loway pipes archeologists recovered from Iowaville.



The old hotel in Iowaville, photographed here in the 1930s, was the last remaining building in the village.

Iowaville's Rise and Fall

With dreams of developing a thriving town on the Des Moines River, James Jordan in 1838 laid out a town at the Indian trading post and called it Iowaville. The steamboat port grew to a village of 200. Bypassed by railroads and inundated by floods, the post office closed in 1870 and the town slowly disappeared.



An 1843 map of southeastern Iowa shows the Indian Purchase of 1833 and 1837 and the Black Hawk Purchase of 1833 and 1837.

Historic Hills

Scenic Overlooks and Site Developments

Iowa Valley



Loess Hills



Broken Kettle Grasslands Preserve

**E. Kevin Kelly
Visitor Center**

The Nature
Conservancy



Bob Paulson
Black Hills Area Program Manager
The Nature Conservancy

Please Touch!

Header in the Hills

...the hills...

...the hills...

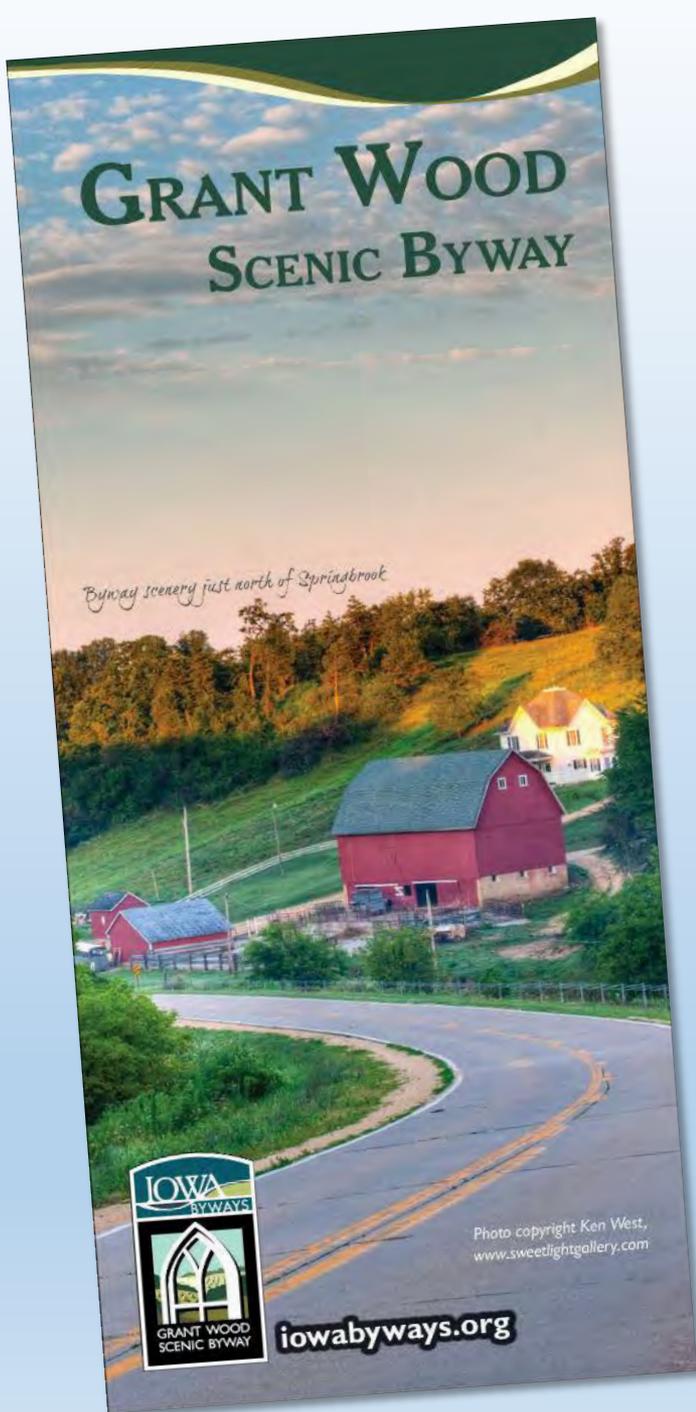
...the hills...

Lincoln Highway/
Iowa Valley



General Byway Brochures

- Cost effective marketing tool to reach casual, serendipitous travelers
- Encourages visitors to travel the byway and seek more information online or at welcome centers



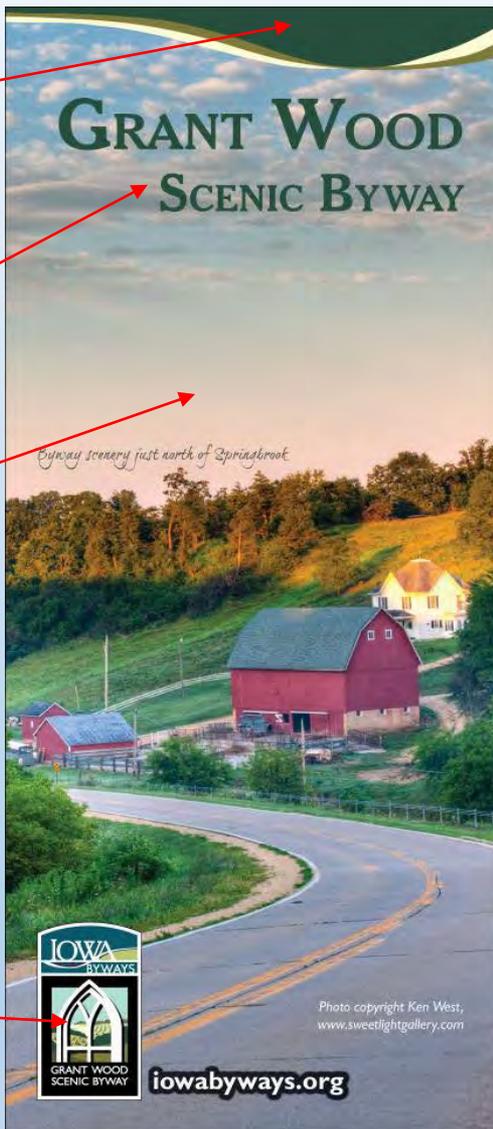
Brochure design

Curved header

Unified fonts

Focal point image

Byway logo and website



Front cover

Interpretive summary of byway



Stone City, Iowa, painted by Grant Wood, 1950

Artistic Inspiration

Discover the land that inspired Grant Wood to paint romantic images of his native Iowa. Enjoy the drive through colorful mosaics of fields, pastures, and woodlots that blanket rolling hills. On the byway, you will pass charming farm towns and one-room schools. Experience Grant Wood's boyhood when you visit his rural school, and walk the site of the Stone City Art Colony that he co-founded.

The byway undulates 80 miles through farmland in Jones and Jackson counties. You can explore the caverns at Maquoketa Caves State Park and learn how karst geology shapes the region's character. You will cross rivers with names like Maquoketa and Wapsipinicon on route to the Mississippi River port town of Bellevue.

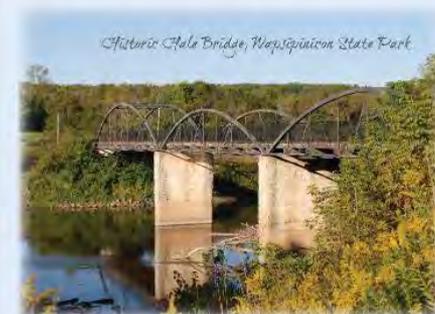
First Reveal

Map, directions, contact info



Directions

The western end of the Grant Wood Scenic Byway near Stone City is 20 miles northeast of Cedar Rapids on Highway 151. The eastern gateway at historic Bellevue is 25 miles southeast of Dubuque on Highway 52, the Great River Road along the Mississippi.



For more information visit: iowabyways.org

Back cover



Trails at Hitchcock Nature Center

Discover the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway

The Loess Hills National Scenic Byway is a 220-mile route spanning nearly the entire western border of Iowa, with an additional 185 miles of optional excursion loops. Enjoy magnetic views of loess-covered ridges and broad expanses of the Missouri River Valley.

Born of Ice, Water, and Wind

As the last Ice Age was ending, meltwaters deposited glacial silt on the Missouri River floodplain. Wind whipped the glacial "flour" into steep, 200-foot loess dunes. These rolling giants stretch 200 miles from South Dakota to Missouri.

A Prairie Refuge

More than half of Iowa's remaining prairie is sheltered in the Loess Hills. Rare plants and animals find protection in these sunny, wind-swept landscapes.



Directions

The Loess Hills National Scenic Byway can be accessed from many entry points, including in Sioux City and Council Bluffs. The main part of the byway is called the spine and is always on paved roads, ranging from two-lane county highways to state highways and four-lane interstates. Excursion loops and connection roads are a mix of gravel and paved roads.



Overlook at Stone State Park



Landscape Road near Mason

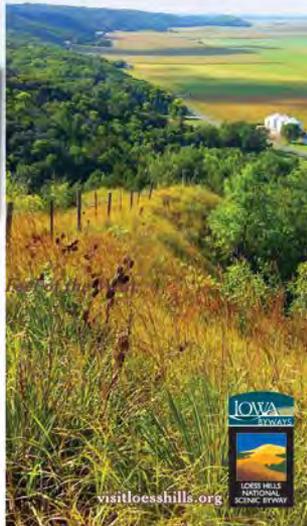


For more information visit:

www.visitloesshills.org

Loess Hills National Scenic Byway

*Shaped by Nature...
Touched by Beauty*



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



The Western Skies Scenic Byway

Take the Road Less Traveled

This scenic "Ridge Road" showcases Iowa's agricultural and immigrant heritage. The route travels 142 miles between Stuart and Missouri Valley, paralleling Interstate 80. The byway swoops and climbs past farms and through rural towns settled by Germans and Danes. True to the byway's name, the sky is as much of a feature as the land, with passing clouds and glowing sunsets adding to the dramatic views.

Experience the Heartland

Windmills harvest the prevailing westerly winds that blow through this rolling countryside. Some are remnants of old farmsteads. One venerable mill symbolizes a village's connection to Denmark, while huge wind generators celebrate Iowa's future. Church steeples mark ethnic settlements along the route. Vineyards and wineries are interspersed among the cornfields. Several bicycle trails intersect the byway and canoe landings are abundant in the well-developed system of creeks and rivers.



Directions

Venture off the beaten path and take the Western Skies Scenic Byway. The byway can be accessed from many entry points, including Stuart and Missouri Valley. A spur connects the byway from the Danish Villages of Kimballton and Elk Horn to Interstate 80.



Danish County Historical Museum



The picturesque sunset in the Heartland



For more information visit:

www.iowabyways.org

Western Skies Scenic Byway

Sunsets and Scenery



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



State's Most Scenic Byway

This 144-mile route is considered the most scenic state byway in Iowa. It travels a landscape like no other. While glaciers scoured most of the surrounding area, this region was left untouched. The Mississippi River flows through the heart of the Driftless Area. Here you can hike ridge-top trails, fish for abundant trout, and stroll old river towns.

In an Area Without Drift

In this corner of northeastern Iowa, the landscape is made up of limestone bluffs, forested valleys, and winding river bottoms. Retreating glaciers left behind sand, gravel, and boulders called drift. While the most recent ice sheets scoured most of the surrounding area, this region was left as an island, causing it to be "driftless." Over the eons, water has carved through the limestone bedrock, creating bluffs and deep valleys laced with caves and fast-flowing streams.



Directions

Venture off the beaten path and take the Driftless Area Scenic Byway. The byway can be accessed from many entry points, including New Albin, Lansing, Waukon, Postville, and Decorah.



Travelling Springs in Decorah



Upper Iowa River Valley



For more information visit:

www.iowabyways.org

Driftless Area Scenic Byway

Breathtaking Vistas



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



Majestic Bluffs and River Town Charm

The 109-mile River Bluffs Scenic Byway plays hide-and-seek with three rivers passing through 13 towns.

Historic Mississippi River towns with towering bluffs as a backdrop face the river and a vast fish and wildlife refuge. McGregor boasts Pikes Peak State Park and its spectacular view of the river valley.

Farm towns dot the Turkey and Volga Rivers. Many historic sites, such as Montauk in Clermont, Motor Mill near Elkader, or the Froelich Village and Tractor Museum, showcase this rich history. Parks, preserves, trout streams, and the Turkey River Water Trail captivate outdoor enthusiasts. These cave-laced, forest-cloaked bluff-lands are a paradise for nature lovers.



Directions

Travel the byway of three rivers: the Mississippi, Turkey, and Volga. The byway can be accessed from entry points at Marquette and Guttenberg on the Mississippi River; Elkader, Clermont, and West Union on the Turkey River; and Fayette and Osborne on the Volga River.

The River Bluffs Scenic Byway can be combined with the Great River Road National Scenic Byway between Guttenberg and Marquette.



Historic Kingston Bridge, Elkader



For more information visit:

www.iowabyways.org

River Bluffs Scenic Byway



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



Stone City, Iowa, painted by Grant Wood, 1930

Artistic Inspiration

Discover the land that inspired Grant Wood to paint romantic images of his native Iowa. Enjoy the drive through colorful mosaics of fields, pastures, and woodlots that blanket rolling hills. On the byway, you will pass charming farm towns and one-room schools. Experience Grant Wood's boyhood when you visit his rural school, and walk the site of the Stone City Art Colony that he co-founded.

The byway undulates 80 miles through farmland in Jones and Jackson counties. You can explore the caverns at Maquoketa Caves State Park and learn how karst geology shapes the region's character. You will cross rivers with names like Maquoketa and Wapsipinicon en route to the Mississippi River port town of Bellevue.



Directions

The western end of the Grant Wood Scenic Byway near Stone City is 20 miles northeast of Cedar Rapids on Highway 151. The eastern gateway at historic Bellevue is 25 miles southeast of Dubuque on Highway 52, the Great River Road along the Mississippi.



For more information visit: iowabyways.org

GRANT WOOD SCENIC BYWAY

Enjoy scenery just north of Spiritwood



Photo copyright Kim West, www.sweetlightgallery.com



iowabyways.org



Amana Colonies Visitors Center

Start your Iowa Valley Scenic Byway journey at the Amana Colonies Visitors Center, the official welcome center of the byway. Built in a restored 1942 corn crib on the Amana farm yard, the center offers traveler information year-round. While at the center, climb to the cupola of the building for a bird's-eye view of Amana. Guided walking and van tours of the Colonies leave from here.



Directions

The Amana Colonies anchor the eastern end of the 77-mile Iowa Valley Scenic Byway, about 6 miles north of Interstate 80, 20 miles southwest of Cedar Rapids, or 17 miles west of Iowa City. The byway begins on Iowa Highway 151 in Amana or Homestead. In the west, the byway begins just north of Montour where U.S. 30 meets County 147, west of the Meskawki Settlement and Iama.



Older Creek marks viewing platform near Tolson

Hours: Open 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

Web: www.amanacolonies.com

Phone: 319-622-7622

Address: 622 46th Ave., Amana, IA 52203

Directions:

From Interstate 80, take Exit 225, turning north on Hwy 151. Travel Hwy 151 for 11 miles until you reach Amana. Turn right on 220th Trail. The Visitors Center is located at the intersection of 220th Trail and 46th Avenue.



For more information visit: iowabyways.org

IOWA VALLEY SCENIC BYWAY

Busset on the Czech Village Street Byway



Explore Nature and Culture

Explore the rich cultural heritage of diverse ethnic communities. Anchored by the Meskwaki Nation to the west and the Amana Colonies to the east, the byway meanders 77 miles through the scenic Iowa River valley.

Take a side trip on the Czech Trail that loops through the rolling landscape known as the Bohemian Alps. Along the way, stop in the villages that celebrate their Czech heritage.

Abundant parks and natural areas along the Iowa River Corridor between Tama and Marengo invite wildlife watching, paddling and hiking. Enjoy grand views of the Iowa River valley on the byway between Belle Plaine and Marengo.



iowabyways.org



Mayfest in Tama

Brochure design

Second Reveal

Bellevue Region

River towns, like Bellevue were the hubs of pioneer civilization in the early days of settlement. Founded in 1835, this was an important steamboat stop on the Mississippi. Stroll the Bellevue Riverfront Path and watch barges passing through historic Lock and Dam #12.



Potters Mill, Bellevue

Visit the 1843 Potter's Mill to see Iowa's oldest remaining gristmill. It is one of 20 buildings in town listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Bellevue State Park, just south of town, offers stunning views of the Mississippi River, miles of trails, a diverse butterfly garden, a nature center, and camping.

View of the Mississippi River from Bellevue State Park



Maquoketa Region

The Hurstville Interpretive Center, filled with hands-on exhibits and outdoor discovery areas, is a welcoming hub to explore this region.



Hurstville Interpretive Center

The town of Maquoketa offers an array of art galleries and historic sites, like the Clinton Engine Museum and Jackson County Historical Museum.

The Maquoketa Caves Loop from either side of the city of Maquoketa will take you to Maquoketa Caves State Park, where you can venture through a scenic valley laced with caves and towering natural bridges.



Maquoketa Caves State Park

Anamosa Region



Great-Blue Heron

On the western side of the byway, you can literally step into a Grant Wood painting at Stone City, home of his famous art colony in a beautiful setting of grassy hills and stone buildings.

In Anamosa, visit numerous Grant Wood sites including his country school and grave site. Don't miss the castle-like Anamosa Penitentiary and museum, sculpted from Stone City Limestone, and tour the National Motorcycle Museum. Drive or stroll through Wapsipinicon State Park to see steep bluffs covered with wildflowers along the scenic river.



National Motorcycle Museum

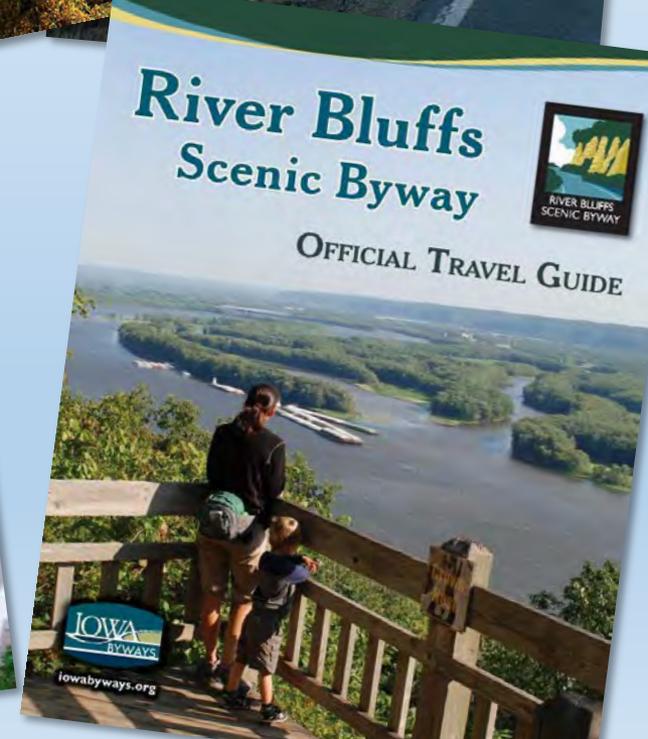
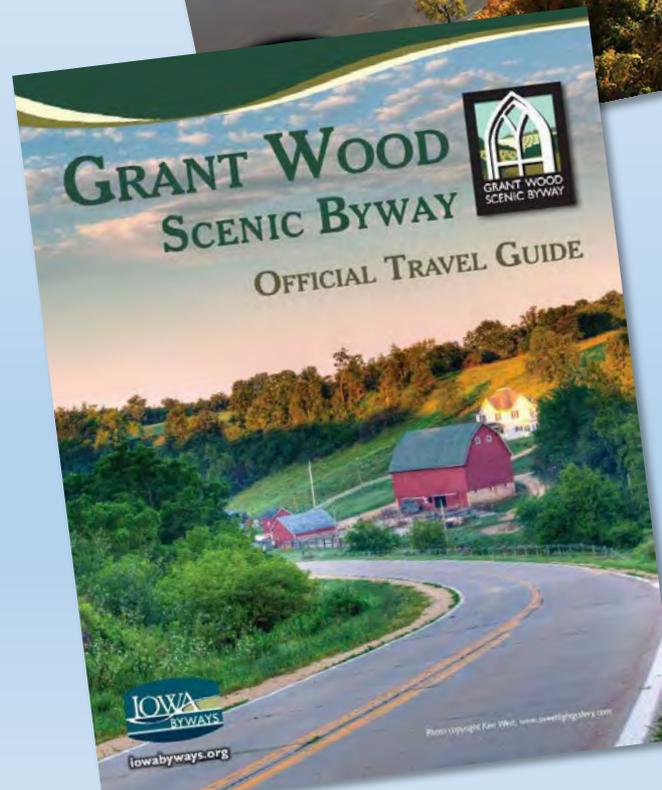
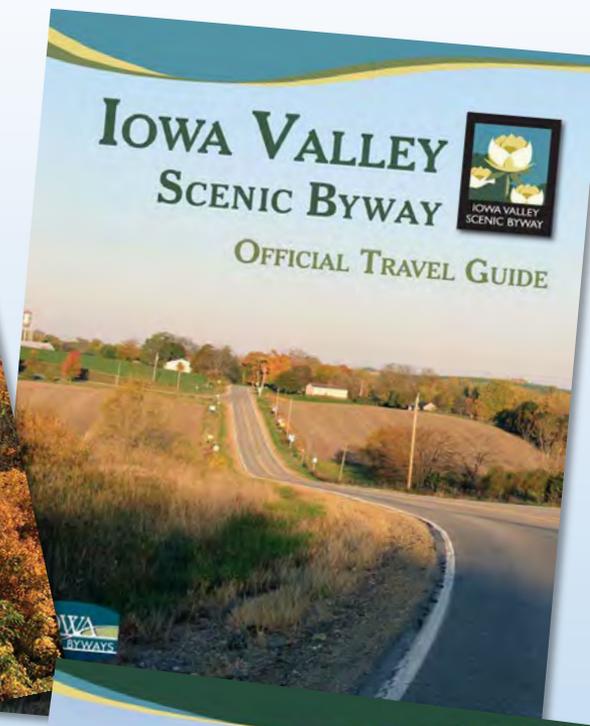
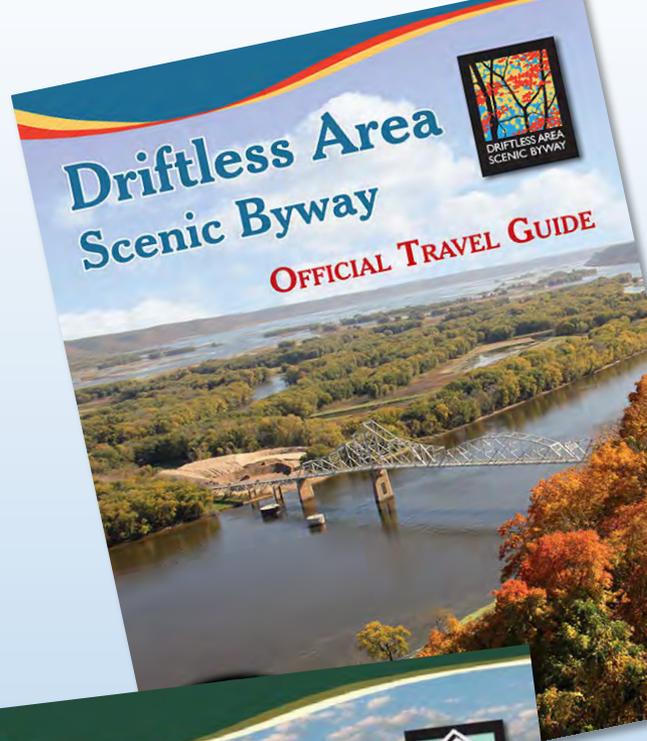
Stone City General Store Pub



Interpret communities and resources in specific regions

Scenic Byway Travel Guides

- Add greater depth to the visitor's byway experience
- Include detailed maps, colorful photos, and interpretive descriptions of attractions divided by region and category



Bluffs Towering over a Mighty River

Prairie bluffs present panoramic views of the vast Missouri River Valley. This region provides some of the most accessible vistas in the Loess Hills. Hike miles of wild trails through waving prairie grass or drive through secluded canyons on gravel loops and discover the basic hill country.

Loess Hills State Forest
Loess Hills State Forest is an 11,000-acre mosaic of forests and prairies that is all open to the public. Info: www.iowadnr.gov/Destinations/StateForests/LoessHillsStateForest.aspx or 712-456-2924.

1 Loess Hills State Forest Visitor Center, Pigeon
This interpretive center is an orientation hub with excellent exhibits about the forest and the Loess Hills.

2 Oak Avenue Scenic Overlook
This scenic overlook offers spectacular views of the surrounding hills and Missouri River valley. A one-mile loop trail from the observation deck invites you to walk through prairie-capped ridge tops.

3 Jones Creek Pond
This waterway is a superb place to see waterfowl.

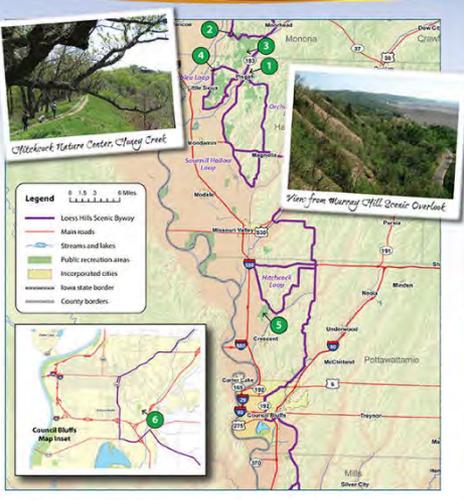
4 Murray Hill Scenic Overlook
Murray Hill offers a short walk up a prairie ridge to picturesque views of the Loess Hills and Missouri River Valley. Info: www.harrisoncountyparks.org

5 Hitchcock Nature Center
This nature center is a great place for an immersive Loess Hills experience. The spacious visitor center features Loess Hills exhibits and a 65-foot viewing tower. Ten miles of trails invite treks through prairie-covered ridges and forested valleys. A full range of camping opportunities are available. Info: www.pottosconervation.com/parks-and-habitat-areas/hitchcock-nature-center/ or 712-545-3283.

6 Vincent Bluff State Preserve
This treasured urban prairie in the heart of Council Bluffs has a prominent view of the city and of Omaha, Nebraska. Info: www.loesshills.org



www.loesshills.org



© Iowa DNR, Natural Resources Travel Guide

Celebrating Birds and Bulls

Birds and bulls serve as symbols of Audubon. The town was named for the famous naturalist and artist John James Audubon. Albert the Bull was created more than 100 years later to symbolize the importance of Iowa in scientific livestock production. Other roadside attractions abound in the nearby communities of Exira and Brayton.

1 Albert the Bull Park
Albert, the world's largest bull, was built in 1964 to commemorate a 1950 local beef promotion called Operation T-Bone. The display is named after Albert Kruse, who started the campaign. The frame was made from old windmills and was casted in concrete. Info: www.auduboncounty.com

2 Plow in the Oak Park
The story behind a tree in the Highway 71 roadside park is that a farmer was plowing when marching Union soldiers passed by on their way to join the Civil War. The farmer, unhindered by his plow, turned his plow against a bur oak, and joined the Union forces. He never returned, and over time, the oak grew around the plow. Info: www.auduboncounty.com

3 Nathaniel Hamlin Park
The former county home farm south of Audubon has a Victorian House museum, machinery building with antique farm and home artifacts, one-room schoolhouse, blacksmith shop, barn, antique windmill, a walking trail, and a gazebo to view and feed a herd of elk. Info: www.auduboncounty.com

4 T-Bone Trail
The 21-mile T-Bone Trail is built on a former Rock Island Railroad spur from Audubon's Albert the Bull to Atlantic. Biking, walking, and roller-sliding are allowed on the asphalt and concrete trail. Info: www.atfastic.com

5 John James Audubon Plaza and Bird Walk
Audubon's downtown features dozens of 2-foot-by-2-foot ceramic tile mosaics based on John James Audubon's prints in Birds of America. A mosaic bronze statue of Audubon is in the Plaza. Info: www.audubonowa.org

6 Audubon County Courthouse Museum
On Washington Street in Exira, the museum displays antique tools, glassware, furniture, and toys. A national collection includes 6,000 items. Info: www.auduboncounty.com

7 Littlefield Recreation Area
This Audubon County Conservation Board park has a dammed lake, campground, and live bison display. Info: www.auduboncounty.com

8 Tree in the Middle of the Road
An old cottonwood tree in the center of the intersection of Nighthawk Avenue and 300th Street, two gravel roads, has been there for more than 150 years. Legend has it that it grew from a stick used to mark the county line before the Civil War.



© Iowa DNR, Natural Resources Travel Guide



ALBERT THE BULL

Loess Hills

Western Skies

Cultural Treasures

Decorah Region



Exploring the Decorah Region's Cultural Roots

The Decorah region is a mecca for Norwegian culture. The Vesterheim Museum, which opened in 1877, is perhaps the most comprehensive ethnic museum in America. Norwegian immigrants also built places to learn and worship, including many country churches and one-room schools. Today the region also celebrates its culture through food and wine.

1 Big Canoe Lutheran Church
Norwegian immigrants established this congregation in 1851, with the current brick structure built in 1902. Info: www.bigcanoechurch.org

2 Highlandville General Store
The once-bustling town of Highlandville had three general stores, but none only one remains. The store carries a little bit of everything, and even houses a U.S. Post Office. Info: www.bigcanoechurch.org/general-store

3 Highlandville School
Built in 1911, Highlandville School is on the National Register of Historic Places and now houses old-time public dances.

4 Locust School
This limestone school built in 1854 was open until 1962, setting an Iowa record for continuous use of a school in the same location. Info: www.hillsideveterans.com/business/locust-school

5 Vesterheim Winery
This 150-year-old family farm reopened as a winery in 2006, serving wine and lunch. Info: www.vesterheim.org

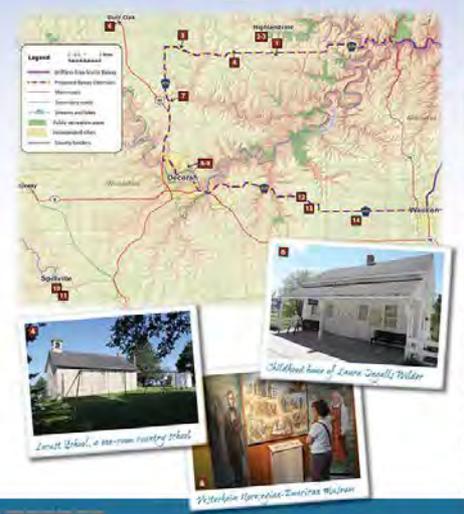
6 Laura Ingalls Wilder Park and Museum
The pioneer Ingalls family lived in the Masters Hotel in Burr Oak for one year, 1876, and it is the only childhood home of Laura's. The remains on its original site. Info: www.lauraingallswilder.org

7 Seed Savers Exchange
Through a network of gardeners and on its own farm, Seed Savers preserves heirloom fruit and vegetable seeds. Tour the visitor center and gardens. Info: www.seedsavers.org or 563-382-5990.

8 Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum
This multi-story museum will immerse you in Norwegian-American history and culture. Info: www.vesterheim.org or 563-382-9681.



www.vesterheim.org



© Iowa DNR, Natural Resources Travel Guide

Historical Treasures

Clermont



Historical Attractions in Clermont

The picturesque town on the Turkey River has an abundance of historic sites, owing greatly to the philanthropy of William Larabee, Iowa's 12th governor who arrived from 1886 to 1890. Other historic sites celebrate the advent of the word "tractor," the world's largest prehistoric, Kimball pipe organ, and the blacksmith trade.

1 Heritage Farm Parks Experience
In the 18th century, this 100-acre park, tour the historic barn, school houses, and blacksmith shop, and see antique farm equipment. Weekend tours and wagon rides June through August. 7641 Harding Road. Info: 563-499-8234.

2 Montauk Historic Site
Tour Gov. Larabee's Italianate mansion perched on a hill overlooking town. This rural estate showcases 100 years of family life and technological advancement. Open noon to 4 p.m., daily Memorial Day to Labor Day. 26226 Harding Road. Info: 563-423-1773.

3 Lincoln Park and Statue
A bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln, sculpted by George E. Bissell and erected in 1902, serves as a tribute to the soldiers and sailors of the Civil War during 1861-1865.



Walter Doolittle School, built in 1859 and used as a school until 1962.



Statue base at Montauk Farm Park.

Explore the past at Clermont's historic sites

The picturesque town on the Turkey River has an abundance of historic sites, owing greatly to the philanthropy of William Larabee, Iowa's 12th governor who arrived from 1886 to 1890. Other historic sites celebrate the advent of the word "tractor," the world's largest prehistoric, Kimball pipe organ, and the blacksmith trade.

4 Larabee School
Clermont's state-of-the-art school was a gift from Gov. Larabee and was open from 1912 to 1990. It is now the public library and historical society. Tours by appointment. 563-423-5061.

5 Hart Parr Tractor
Displayed in a wooden building with glass windows, this restored 1927 tractor was built in Iowa. Manufacturer Hart Parr coined the term "tractor" as shorthand for these "gasoline traction engines." 788 Street.

6 Union Sunday School
Built in 1896, the world's largest prehistoric Kimball pipe organ is housed in this school. It was a gift from Gov. Larabee to his daughter. 406 Larabee St. Info: 563-423-7173.

7 Riegel Blacksmith Shop
Burkhard Riegel, a German, operated a blacksmith shop in Clermont from the 1830s to the 1920s. It is now a living-history museum. Open daily in summer. 310 1st St. Info: 563-423-7295.



www.clermontia.com

Driftless Area

River Bluffs

Natural Wonders around Maquoketa



Maquoketa



Explore Maquoketa's parks and preserves

The Maquoketa River cuts through limestone bedrock revealing forested bluffs (caves and caverns). This river corridor, with much preserved as parkland, invites exploration surrounded by scenic beauty.

- Maquoketa River Water Trail:** Paddle the scenic Maquoketa River as it meanders over 50 miles through Jackson County. Numerous landings, camping sites, and picnicking spots are available. Info: 563-652-3783
- Buzzard Ridge Wildlife Area:** Hike up a limestone bluff for spectacular views of the Maquoketa River. The wildlife area offers primitive camping and access to the river. Info: 563-652-3783
- Pine Valley Nature Area:** Enjoy forests, native prairies, and over 4 miles of trails in one of the most naturally diverse areas in the county. Info: 563-652-3783
- Maquoketa Cave State Park:** Explore 13 caves, a 50-foot high natural bridge, and a balanced rock at this geologically rich park. Created in 1921, the park features six miles of trails, camping, and picnicking. A visitor center interprets the geology of the area. Info: 563-652-3808
- Baldwin Marsh:** Located directly on the byway, this wetland is one of the best examples of upland marsh once common in Iowa. Watch for waterfowl and hike through native and restored prairie. Info: 563-652-3783
- Edon Valley Refuge:** Nestled along Bear Creek, explore diverse limestone bluffs, a swinging bridge, and an observation tower. The nature center offers public nature programs in season. Enjoy camping, cabin rentals, and picnicking. Info: 563-357-4134
- Hurstville Interpretive Center:** Discover the diverse natural history of the Maquoketa region through hands-on exhibits, a prairie maze, wetland observation deck, butterfly garden, and outdoor nature play area. Info: 563-652-3783
- Prairie Creek Recreation Area:** The newest addition to Jackson County, this rolling site along Prairie Creek is being developed as a recreation area with hiking trails, a fishing pond, and picnic pavilions. Info: 563-652-3783

Townhall Cave, Maquoketa Caves State Park



www.dnr.iowa.gov

Grant Wood

Iowa Valley

Historical Treasures

Belle Plaine Historic Attractions



Belle Plaine



Explore Belle Plaine's historic legacy

Belle Plaine's historic attractions connect you to the era of pioneer settlement, to the arrival of the coast-to-coast Lincoln Highway, and to the impact that notable residents have had on the community.

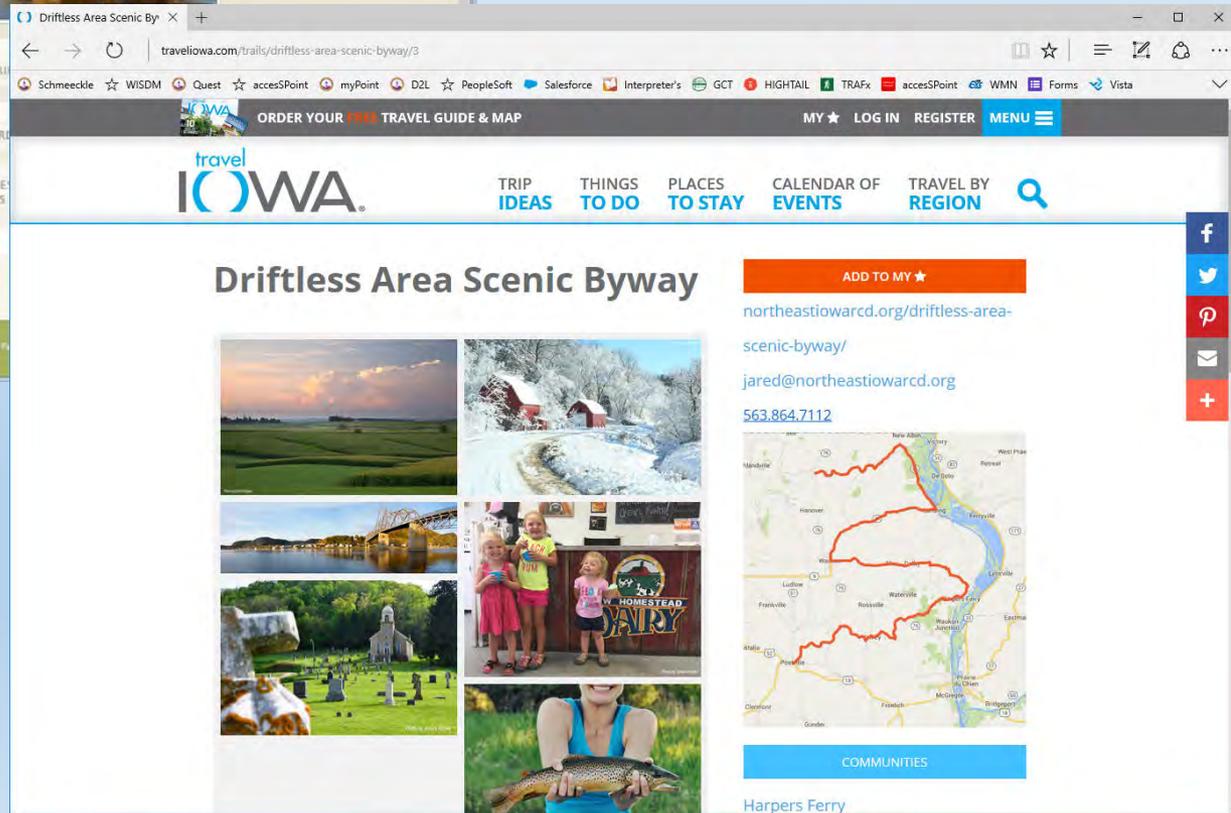
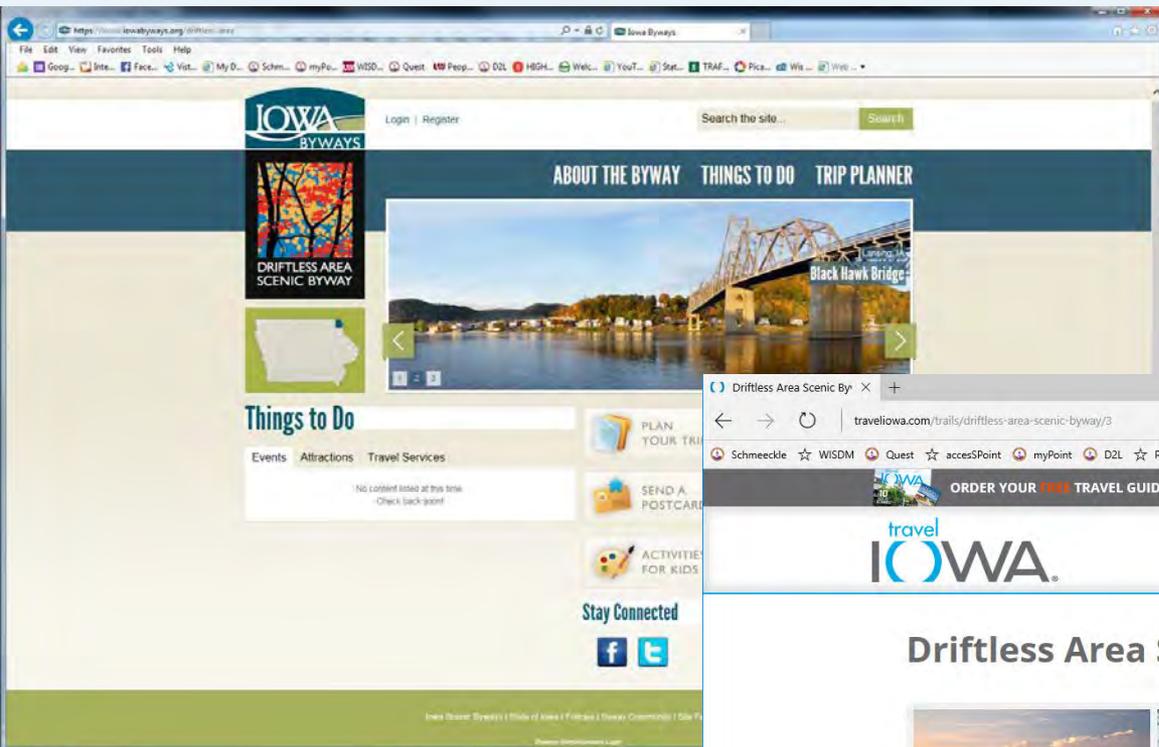
For audio tour messages, dial 319-323-9003 and enter the stop number.

- Main Street Historic District and Downtown Murals:** Stroll Main Street to see murals that depict Belle Plaine's most dramatic historic moments. The beautiful brick buildings were built after a devastating fire in 1894. Info: belleplainemuseum.org Steps #57, #58, #59, #60, #61, #62
- Belle Plaine Area Museum and Legacy Mural:** Uncover the area's history through Lincoln Highway artifacts and a special wing dedicated to hometown benefactor Henry Tippie. Info: bpiowahistory.com or 319-434-6093. Steps #54, #55
- Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway:** Relive the excitement of the nation's first coast-to-coast highway. Info: iowalincolnhighway.org
- Sankoff Motor Company Garage:** The same family has continuously run this garage since it opened in 1916. Steps #54, #55
- Lincoln Cafe:** Dine at this classic 1920s restaurant on the transcontinental route. Steps #55
- Preston Stations:** A collage of road signs decorate this now-huttered 1923 gas station. Steps #49
- Frank & Katie Zalesky House:** This national historic home symbolizes the rich Bohemian history of the area, having served as the final home of Bohemian philosopher Franz Kafka. Steps #66
- Jumbo Artesian Well Site Marker:** An artesian well gushed for 14 months in 1886-87, threatening to flood the town. See the stone and plaque commemorating the well's location. Belle Plaine celebrates this event with an annual festival. Steps #67
- Chicago & Northwestern Depot:** Built in 1894, this privately owned depot can be viewed from the Belle Plaine Area Museum's railroad viewing room. Steps #64



Historic Belle Plaine

Unified Byway Websites



Website Design

Clear navigation

ABOUT EXPLORE THE BYWAY PLAN YOUR TRIP EVENTS GALLERIES

Curved header, unified fonts, colors, logos



Discover Iowa's River Bluffs Scenic Byway

This 109-mile byway traverses "Bluff Country." While glaciers scoured most of the surrounding area, this region was left as an island of bluffs, valleys, caves, and streams known as the Driftless Area. Explore the natural heritage and rich history of three river corridors: the Mississippi, Turkey, and Volga.

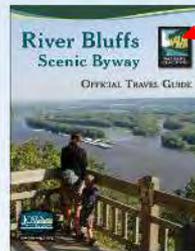


Publications to download and videos to watch

Upcoming Events

- Sweet Corn Days, July 28-30, Elkader
Info: Elkader Area Chamber of Commerce, 563-245-2857
- Watermelon Days, September 9-11, Fayette
Info: 380-978-5710
- MAIZE Maze Field Day, October 2, Elgin
Info: Gilbertson Nature

Updated events to encourage repeat visits



Click to download byway travel guide



Click to download byway brochure



Social media icons specific to byway



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Contact us: 563-864-7112 or info@northeastiowarcd.org



http://www.visitloesshills.org

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ABOUT EXPLORE THE BYWAY PLAN YOUR TRIP EVENTS GALLERIES

Loess Hills Shaped by Nature

Discover Iowa's Loess Hills National Scenic Byway

This 220-mile route spans nearly the entire western border of Iowa, with an additional 185 miles of excursion loops. Wind whipped glacial debris into these 200-foot dunes. Enjoy majestic views of loess-covered ridges and the broad Missouri River Valley. Discover recreational opportunities and scenic vistas, historical and archaeological hotspots, and the area's distinct sense of place.

Immerse yourself in nature.

Events

- Loess Hills Prairie Seminars, May 29-30, Loess Hills Wildlife Management Area.
- Living Loess Tower, July 25, 9 am-10:30 am, Council Bluffs area.
- Sydney Roddey, Iowa's Farmstead Photo Walkers, Rocko Farms, July 28-Aug 1.

Click to download the byway guide, with detailed maps.

Watch "Iowa's Loess Hills: A National Treasure"

Contact us: 888-623-4232 or info@loesshills.org

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http://www.westernskiesbyway.org

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ABOUT EXPLORE THE BYWAY PLAN YOUR TRIP EVENTS GALLERIES

Western Skies. Sunsets and Scenery

Discover Iowa's Western Skies Scenic Byway

This 142-mile scenic byway is the essence of rural Iowa. It swirls and dips through the west-central part of the state, passing farmsteads and bisecting rural towns settled by immigrants. True to the byway's name, the sky is as much of a feature as the land. Passing clouds and glowing sunsets enrich the view.

Click to download the byway guide, with detailed maps.

Events

- Bluffs Center 2016 Festival, July 1-3, 10 am-5 pm, Bluffs Center, IA. Tickets: \$10.00. Bluffs Center, IA. 562-423-7800.
- Food Fest, May 13-14, 10 am-5 pm, 562-423-7800.
- Whitaker Commemorative Run/Walk, Aug. 24, 10 am, Council Bluffs, IA. 562-423-7800.

Contact us: 712-624-2343 or info@westernskiesbyway.org

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http://www.iowabyways.org/driftlessarea

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ABOUT EXPLORE THE BYWAY PLAN YOUR TRIP EVENTS GALLERIES

Breathtaking Vistas

Discover Iowa's Driftless Area Scenic Byway

This 144-mile byway immerses you in the heart of the Driftless Area, a region untouched by the last glaciers. In this corner of northeastern Iowa, the landscape is made up of limestone bluffs, forested valleys, and winding river bottoms. Hike ridge-top trails, fish for abundant trout, and stroll old river towns.

Discover a landscape untouched by the last glaciers

Events

- Nordic Fest, July 29-30, Des Moines, Iowa Chapter of Concern, 563-382-3992.
- Landing Fish Days, Aug. 12-14, Landing site, www.landingfishdays.com or 563-563-7174.
- Fork Arkhovee Riverboat Days, Sept. 24-25, Fort Arkhovee, Ila. 563-594-7173.

Click to download the byway travel guide.

Click to download the byway brochure.

Watch "Mysteries of the Driftless"

Contact us: 563-664-7172 or info@driftlessareabyway.org

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http://www.iowabyways.org/riverbluffs

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ABOUT EXPLORE THE BYWAY PLAN YOUR TRIP EVENTS GALLERIES

Scenic Rivers

Discover Iowa's River Bluffs Scenic Byway

This 109-mile byway traverses "Bluff Country." While glaciers scoured most of the surrounding area, this region was left as an island of bluffs, valleys, caves, and streams known as the Driftless Area. Explore the natural heritage and rich history of three river corridors: the Mississippi, Turkey, and Volga.

Discover historic river towns and museums

Upcoming Events

- Sweet Corn Days, July 28-30, Elkhart, Belle Plaine Area Chapter of Concern, 562-292-2007.
- Whitaker Commemorative Run/Walk, September 3-5, Elkhart, Belle Plaine Chapter of Concern, 562-292-2007.
- HAZZEL Husk Field Day, October 3, Elkhart, Belle Plaine Chapter of Concern, 562-292-2007.

Click to download byway travel guide.

Click to download byway brochure.

Watch "Mysteries of the Driftless"

Contact us: 563-664-7172 or info@driftlessareabyway.org

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Visit the Grant Wood Byway

www.iowabyways.org/grantwood

ABOUT EXPLORE THE BYWAY PLAN YOUR TRIP EVENTS GALLERIES

Explore Caves

Maquoketa Caves State Park



Discover Iowa's Grant Wood Scenic Byway

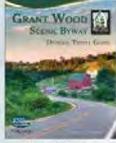
Travel an 80-mile byway through a rolling rural landscape that inspired artists like Grant Wood. The road winds through the countryside between the scenic Maquoketa and Wapsipinicon Rivers. Discover streams, limestone bluffs, caves, and historic towns.



Historic Sharville Lime Kiln

Upcoming Events

- **Vintage Motorcycle Rally**, June 4, 2019
Held at Ames Chamber of Commerce, 319-462-1879
- **Beltane Heritage Days**, June 20-22, 2019
Info: 563-672-5680
- **Jackson County Fair**, July 26-30, 2019
Info: 563-622-4303



Click to download byway travel guide



Click to download byway brochure

Watch "Grant Wood Country"



Copyright © 2019 Grant Wood Scenic Byway

Contact us: 563-864-7112 or info@northcoastiaowa.org

Visit the Iowa Valley Byway

www.iowabyways.org/iowavalley

ABOUT EXPLORE THE BYWAY PLAN YOUR TRIP EVENTS GALLERIES

Watch for Wildlife

Over 100
Mammal Species



Discover the Iowa Valley Scenic Byway

Travel the Iowa Valley Scenic Byway on a 77-mile ride along the Iowa River. The route is anchored in the west by the Meskwaki Nation and in the east by the Amana Colonies, two distinct cultures. In between, discover historic small towns, expansive vistas, and diverse wildlife viewing areas.



Visit the Amana Colonies, an 1800s German settlement

Upcoming Events

- **Meskwaki Powwow**, Aug 10-11, 2019
Info: meskwaki.org
- **7th Annual Chelsea Car Show**, July 27, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Octoberfest**, Sept 28-Oct 1, Amana Colonies, Info: Amana.com



Click to download byway travel guide



Click to download byway brochure

Discover the history of the Meskwaki Nation



MESKWAKI POWWOW 2014

Copyright © 2019 Iowa Valley Scenic Byway

Contact us: 319-422-7264 or jessica@iowabyways.org



Discover Iowa's Loess Hills National Scenic Byway

This 220-mile byway follows the Loess Hills, 200-foot dunes created by wind-whipped glacial debris. Enjoy majestic views of loess-covered ridges and the broad Missouri River Valley.



Discovery level history

Immerse yourself in a



Discover Iowa's Western Skies Scenic Byway

This 142-mile scenic byway is the essence of rural Iowa. It swells and dips through the west-central part of the state, passing farmsteads and bisecting rural towns settled by immigrants.

True to the byway's name, the sky is as much of a feature as the land. Passing clouds and glowing sunsets enrich the view.



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This 144-mile byway immerses you in the heart of the Driftless Area, a region untouched by the last glaciers. In this corner of northeastern Iowa, see limestone bluffs, forested valleys, and winding river bottoms. Hike ridge-top trails, fish for abundant trout, and stroll old river towns.



Discover a landscape untouched by the



Discover Iowa's River Bluffs Scenic Byway

This 109-mile byway traverses "Bluff Country." While glaciers scoured most of the surrounding area, this region was left as an island of bluffs, valleys, caves, and streams known as the Driftless Area. Explore the natural heritage and rich history of three river corridors: the Mississippi, Turkey, and Volga.



Discover historic river towns and museums



Discover Iowa's Grant Wood Scenic Byway

Travel an 80-mile byway through a rolling rural landscape that inspired artists like Grant Wood. The road winds through the countryside between the scenic Maquoketa and Wapsipinicon Rivers. Discover streams, limestone bluffs, caves, and historic towns.



Historic Harpersville Lime Kilns



Discover the Iowa Valley Scenic Byway

Travel the Iowa Valley Scenic Byway on a 77-mile ride along the Iowa River. The route is anchored in the west by the Meskwaki Nation and in the east by the Amana Colonies, two distinct cultures. In between, discover historic small towns, expansive vistas, and diverse wildlife viewing areas.



Visit the Amana Colonies, an 1800s German settlement

Audiovisual Mobile Tours

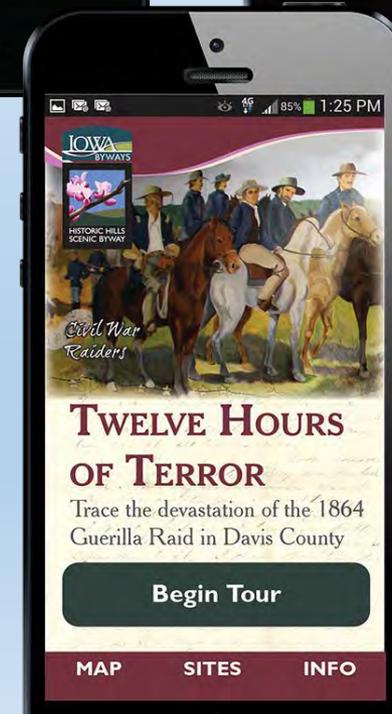
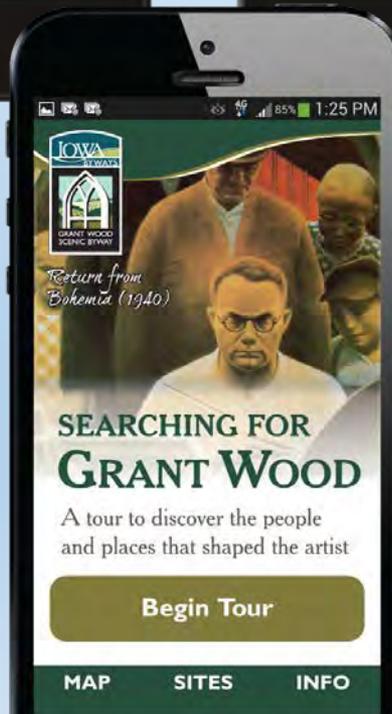


- Byways are ideal venues for mobile tours
- Over 75% of Americans own a smartphone (2016); 92% of 18- to 29-year olds, 74% of 50- to 64-year olds
- Hearing a voice and seeing images adds a personal character to the tour

Oral history: Karen Galema, Lansing

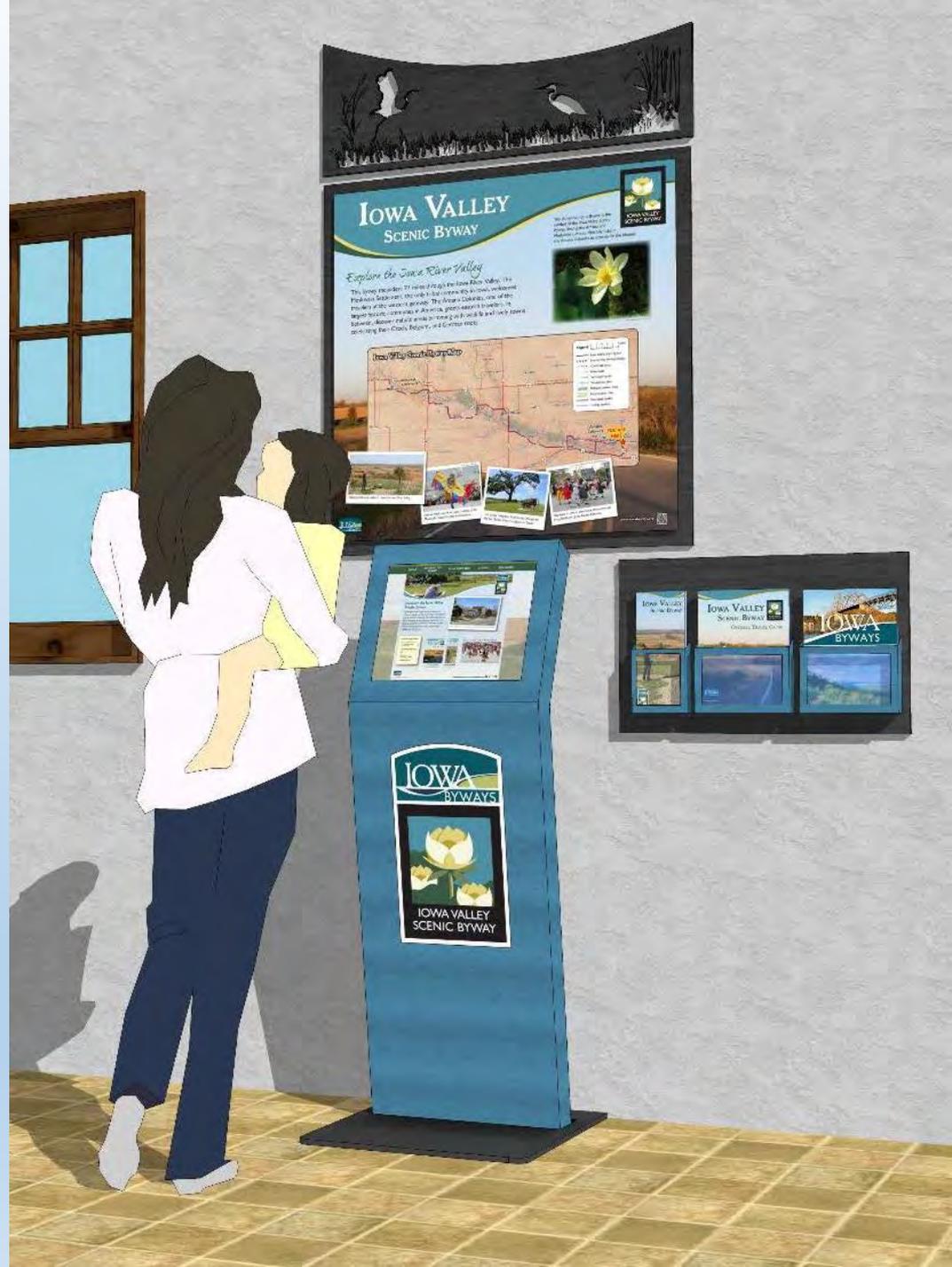


Courtesy of Wes Modes, Secret History of American River People



Welcome/Visitor Center Exhibits

- Increase awareness of byway, facilitate impromptu planning, heighten traveler's expectations
- Durable touch-screen kiosk provides interactive planning and exploration.

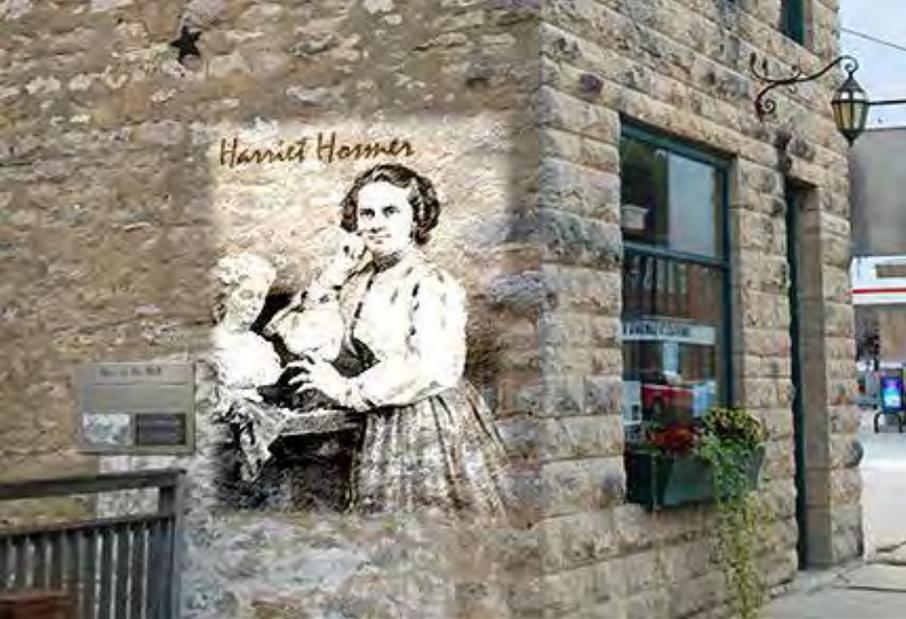


Interpretive Artwork

Murals



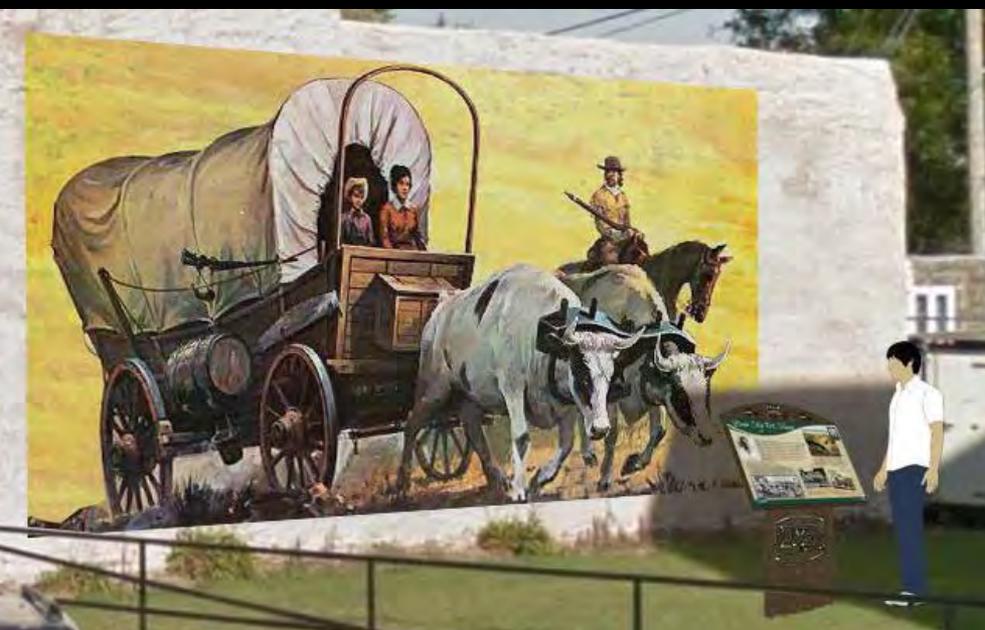
Iowa Valley/Lincoln Highway



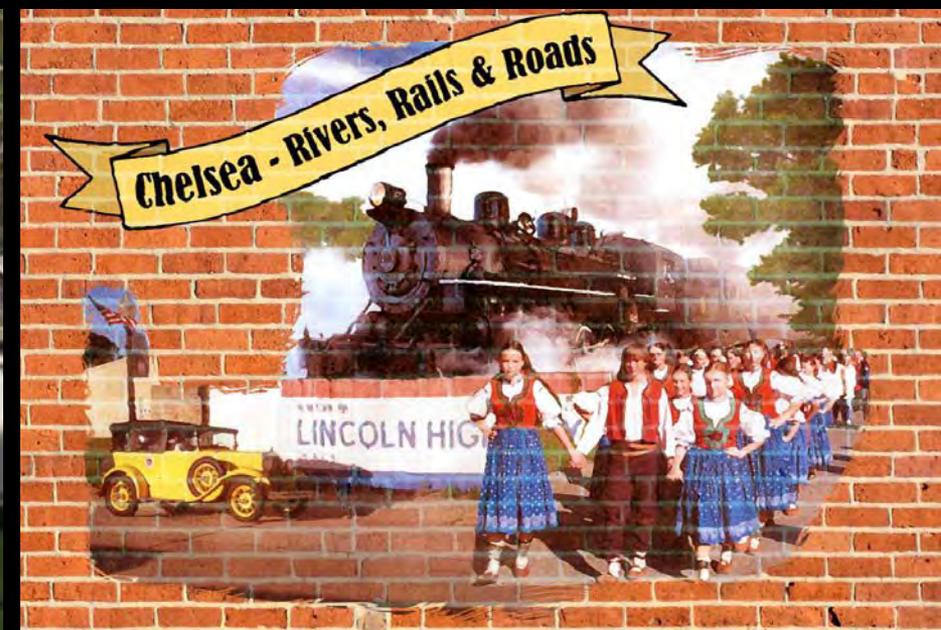
Driftless Area



River Bluffs



Grant Wood



Iowa Valley

Weathered Steel Silhouette Statues



River Bluffs



E. MARSHY BORN 1875

Grant Wood



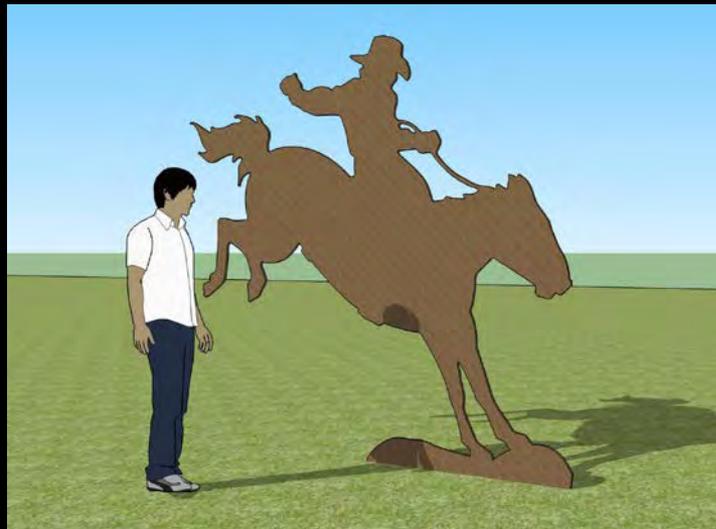
Driftless Area



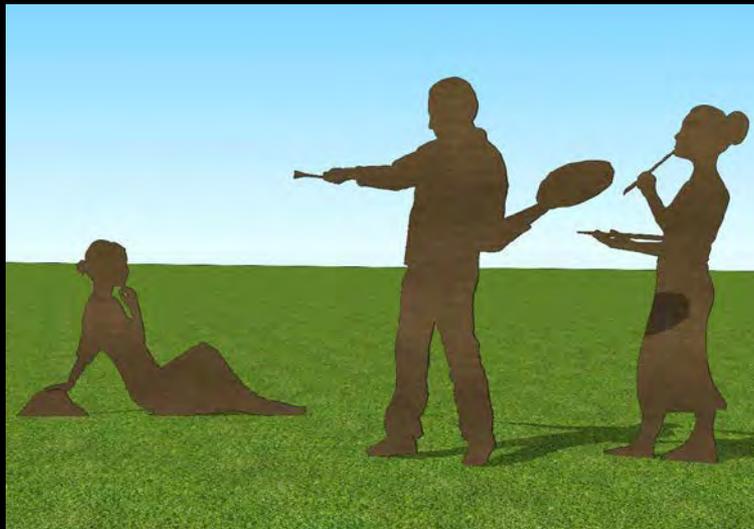
Iowa Valley



River Bluffs



Loess Hills



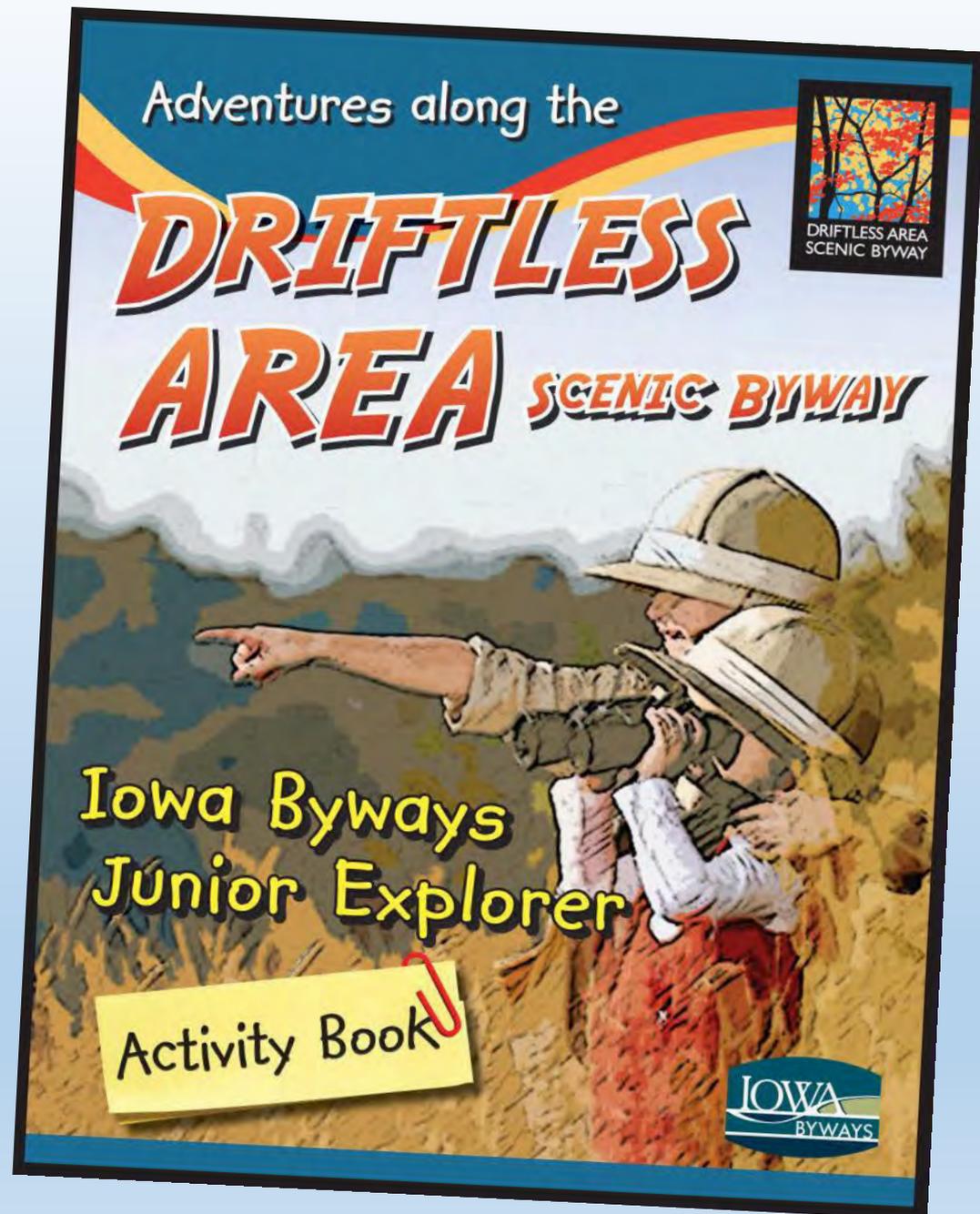
Grant Wood

Family Activities



Statewide Iowa Byways Junior Explorer Program

- Activity-based booklets to encourage families to explore Iowa's byways



Adventures along the

DRIFTLESS AREA SCENIC BYWAY



Iowa Byways
Junior Explorer

Activity Book

Adventures along the

GRANT WOOD SCENIC BYWAY



Iowa Byways
Junior Explorer

Activity Book

Adventures along the

HISTORIC HILLS SCENIC BYWAY

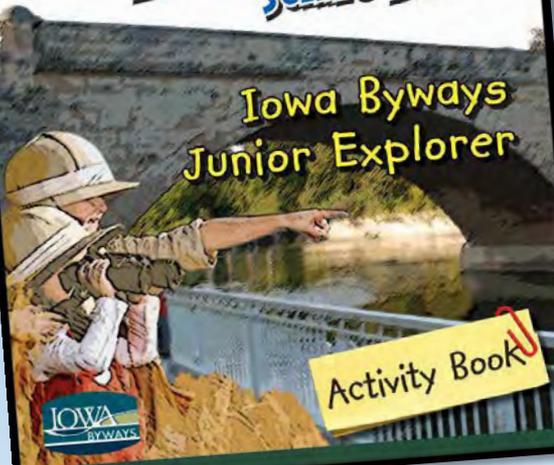


Iowa Byways
Junior Explorer

Activity Book

Adventures along the

RIVER BLUFFS SCENIC BYWAY



Iowa Byways
Junior Explorer

Activity Book

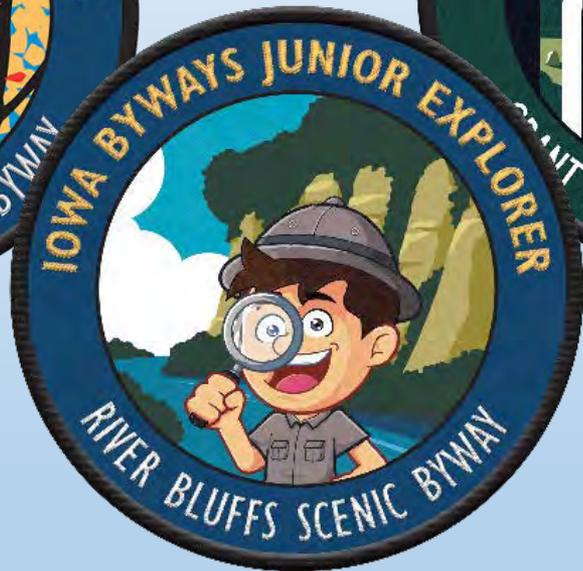
Adventures along the

IOWA VALLEY SCENIC BYWAY



Iowa Byways
Junior Explorer

Activity Book



Discovery Backpacks



- Encourages more in-depth discovery along the byway

Family Passport Book

- Provides incentive to visit places that may otherwise be passed by or overlooked
- Unique stamps at each location make it a valuable take-home memory



Seed Savers Exchange

A rainbow of flowers, honking geese, white cows, and seeds, seeds everywhere! Seed Savers Exchange is a place where people save and share special seeds to grow flowers and vegetables. Visit the Heritage Farm to see animals and gardens, walk trails, taste apples, and learn more at the Visitors Center.

Address: 3074 North Winn Rd
Decorah, IA 52101

Hours: Mar-Nov: 10am-5pm daily
Nov-Dec 20: 10am-5pm, Th-Sun
Dec 21-Feb 28: Closed

Admission: Free!

Phone: (563) 382-6104

Web: www.seedsavers.org





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Web: www.seedsavers.org



14

Driftless Area



Hurstville Interpretive Center

This is a perfect family stop along the byway! Play in the natural playground, dash through a prairie maze, catch frogs and insects, and splash in the ponds. The nature center has restrooms and lots of kids-friendly exhibits to explore, including puzzles, a model train, and living bee hive.

Address: 18670 63rd Street
Maquoketa, IA 53060

Hours: Mon-Fri: 9am-4pm
Sat-Sun: Jan-Mar, Closed
Apr-Oct, Noon-5pm
Nov-Dec, Noon-4pm

Phone: (563) 652-3783

Web: www.mycountyparks.com/county/Jackson/Park/Hurstville-Interpretive-Center.aspx



12

Grant Wood



Osborne Conservation Center

This is a perfect family stop along the byway! Play in the natural playground and butterfly garden, check out the nature center exhibits, visit wolves and bears in the Native Wildlife Exhibit, and explore trains and old buildings in historic Osborne. The Welcome Center has restrooms and a gift shop.

Address: 29862 Osborne Rd
Elkader, IA 52043

Hours: Mon-Sat: 8am-4pm
Sun: Noon-4 pm

Admission: Free!

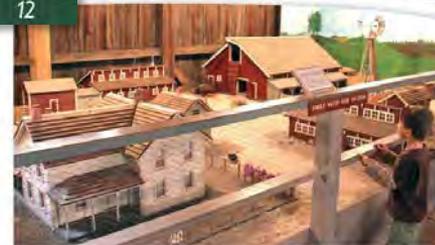
Phone: (563) 245-1516

Web: www.claytoncountyconservation.org



River Bluffs

12



Mini-Americana Barn Museum

Explore the incredible detail of miniature barns and rural towns at this kid-sized museum. Henry Moore, a retired farmer, built over 200 buildings that preserve the nostalgia of rural America, including an Amana village. It is the largest known collection of miniature replicas built by one man.

Address: 413 P St.
South Amana, IA 52334

Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily,
April through October

Cost: Adults, \$3.50; Teens, \$1.75
Children, \$1.25; Under 5, free

Phone: (319) 622-3058

Web: www.barnmuseum.com



12

Iowa Valley

Byway Thematic Play Areas

- Playground equipment or natural playscapes that reinforce the themes of the byway



Osborne Welcome Center, River Bluffs



Hurstville Interpretive Center, Grant Wood

Prairie Heritage Center, Glacial Trail



Harrison County Welcome Center,
Lincoln Highway, Loess Hills



Media Cost Estimates

Media Type	Info	Rationale	Cost Estimate
Experience hubs	pp. 106-118	Highly visible way to orient travelers to regional attractions. Cost-effective where attractions are not routinely staffed.	\$10,000–\$15,000 each (Metalwork, timbers, 4 HPL panels)
Wayside exhibits	pp. 119-127	Best way to communicate must-tell stories at significant sites along the byway where no other tools are available.	\$2,500–\$3,000 each (metal base with cut-out, 1 HPL panel)
Welcome/visitor center touch-screen computer kiosk exhibits	pp. 132-133	Valuable in alerting travelers to the byway's existence and for trip-planning; small size appropriate for existing centers.	\$15,000–\$25,000 each
Byway artwork	pp. 134-137	Highly visible way to focus attention on a significant story or event on a roadside scale.	Highly variable based on type and artist. Steel silhouette statue: \$1,500 average Wall mural: \$10–\$35/sq. ft. average
Website design and social media development	pp. 138-142	Essential planning tool that reaches a large audience; is easily updated.	\$10,000–\$25,000 for development plus monthly hosting/maintenance.
Byway mobile tour website or native tour app	pp. 143-148	Ideal tools for incorporating sound and visuals to make stories come alive; convenient, easy to use, and encourage interaction.	\$8,000–\$50,000 for development plus monthly hosting/maintenance (\$200–\$500/month)
General byway brochure	pp. 149-153	Small publication that can be widely distributed to promote awareness of the byway.	\$2,500–\$3,000 per 10,000 copies (14"x17" size, full-color)
Travel guide booklet	pp. 154-156	A physical method for visitors to navigate the byway and discover its stories; not dependent on cellular service.	\$12,000–\$15,000 per 10,000 booklets (32 pages, 8.5"x11" size, full-color)
Iowa Byways Junior Explorer booklets	pp. 157-158	Keeps families engaged in the byway's interpretive themes and encourages discovery.	\$8,000–\$12,000 per 10,000 booklets (20 pages, 8.5"x11" size, full-color)
Family passport books	p. 160	Provides motivation to visit specific sites along the byway and has take-home value.	\$5,000–\$8,000 per 10,000 booklets (20 pages, 6"x6" size, full-color) Stamps (1.25"-diameter): \$25–\$40/each

Questions?



