

COUNCIL BLUFFS + POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY, IOWA

Inspirational Guide



 BELLES' PLAY GARDEN AT TOM HANAFAN RIVER'S EDGE PARK

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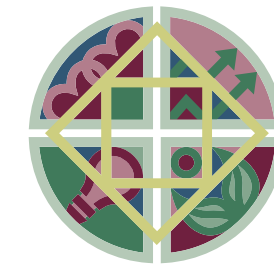
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- + Immerse yourself in the height of Union Pacific's passenger service
- + Explore the technology used by today's railroad

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COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA. UNLIKE ANYWHERE ELSE. ON PURPOSE. #UNLEASHCB COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA. UNLIKE ANYWHERE ELSE. ON PU

Welcome to Council Bluffs! As a lifelong resident, I'm excited to welcome you to our community. From our historic downtown, where you can enjoy shopping, dining, and cultural attractions, to our picturesque parks and outdoor activities, there's a little something for everyone.

We take immense pride in our city's history, and you'll find that we are deeply connected to our past, especially as the starting point of the transcontinental railroad. We invite you to explore the numerous museums and historical sites that tell the story of our role in shaping the nation.

Whether you're here for business, leisure, or a bit of both, we hope your time in Council Bluffs is filled with memorable moments and a sense of belonging. Unleash all that CB has to offer by visiting UNleashCB.com or by stopping by our Iowa Welcome Center (509 23rd Avenue, Council Bluffs, IA 51501).

I hope you have an unforgettable visit and that we see you again soon!

Kindly,

Matt Walsh
Mayor of Council Bluffs



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Omaha Magazine - 5921 South 118 Circle, Omaha, NE 68137

Every effort has been made to ensure that the accuracy of the information in this guide was correct and current at the time of publication. The CBCVB assumes no responsibility for misinformation.



THE AMERISTAR BUFFET IS BACK!

Ameristar Council Bluffs is excited to bring you some of your buffet favorites from the past along with new recipes from our talented culinary team. Make sure you stop by on the weekends for all-you-can-eat crab legs on Fridays and mouthwatering prime rib & shrimp on Saturdays.

Your best bet for fun and unforgettable dining is Ameristar Council Bluffs!



SCAN FOR HOURS & MENU

AMERISTAR
COUNCIL BLUFFS

EST. 2023
BUFFET

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CHECK OUT UNLEASHCB.COM FOR MORE!



SCAN ME

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Let us be your tour guide! Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, and YouTube at @Unleashcb to uncover all that CB has to offer. Use #UNleashCB to be featured on our pages.



EVAN_DAVIS13



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GETTING AROUND

No matter which direction you're coming from, getting around in Council Bluffs is easy. We're located at the intersection of I-80 and I-29, which provides direct access to all that Council Bluffs has to offer. If you're flying, it's just as convenient. **Omaha's Airport (OMA)** is located about 8 miles from downtown Council Bluffs. The airport offers nonstop flights to more than 30 major U.S. cities and serves more than 5 million passengers each year. Many Council Bluffs hotels offer complimentary transportation to and from the airport, but you can also find rental cars, ride-sharing, taxis, limos, and shuttle services at the airport.



ATTRACTIONS

1. AMC Star 17 & IMAX Movie Theater
2. Ameristar Casino Hotel
3. Bass Pro Shops
4. Bent Tree Golf Club
5. Big Lake Park
6. Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge
7. Broadway Skate Park
8. Charles E. Lakin YMCA
9. Children's Square USA
10. Council Bluffs Country Club
11. Council Bluffs Recreation Complex
12. Ditmars Orchard & Vineyard
13. Dodge Riverside Golf Course
14. Dream Playground
15. Fairmount Park
16. Fox Run Golf Course
17. Golden Spike Monument
18. Great Plains Wing Museum
19. Harrah's Casino & Hotel
20. Hitchcock Nature Center
21. Horseshoe Casino
22. Iowa Western Community College
23. Iowa West Field House
24. Iowa West Sports Plex
25. Joe's Indoor Karting
26. Katelman Water Park
27. Kimball Park
28. Kinsman Monument
29. Kirn Park
30. Lake Manawa Power Centre
31. Lake Manawa State Park & Beach
32. Lewis & Clark Monument
33. Lincoln Monument
34. Metro Crossing Shopping Center
35. Mid-America Center
36. Narrows River Park
37. Pioneer Trail Orchard & Pumpkin Patch
38. Pirate Cove Water Park
39. Pirate Putt
40. RailsWest Railroad Museum
41. Ruth Anne Dodge Memorial
42. Shady Lane Ranch
43. Stir Outdoor Concert Cove
44. The Arts Center at Iowa Western Community College
45. The Marketplace
46. Thunderbowl
47. Tom Hanafan River's Edge Park
48. Treasure Cove Disc Golf Course
49. Vincent Bluff State Preserve
50. Wabash Trace Nature Trail
51. Welch's Pumpkin Patch
52. Westfair Amphitheater

CBCVB OFFICE + IOWA WELCOME CENTER
 509 23rd Avenue | Council Bluffs, IA 51501
 Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 (712) 256 - 2577

HOTELS

1. AmericInn
2. Ameristar Casino Hotel
3. Best Western Crossroads of the Bluffs
4. BridgePointe Inn & Suites
5. Comfort Suites
6. Country Inn & Suites
7. Countryside Inn & Suites
8. Courtyard by Marriott
9. Fairfield Inn by Marriott
10. Hampton Inn @ Ameristar
11. Harrah's Hotel & Casino
12. Hilton Garden Inn
13. Holiday Inn Express & Suites
14. Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites @ Ameristar
15. Microtel Inn & Suites
16. Motel 6
17. My Place Hotel
18. Quality Inn & Suites
19. Red Roof Inn & Suites
20. SpringHill Suites by Marriott
21. Super 8
22. Western Inn
23. WoodSpring Suites

OMAHA ATTRACTIONS

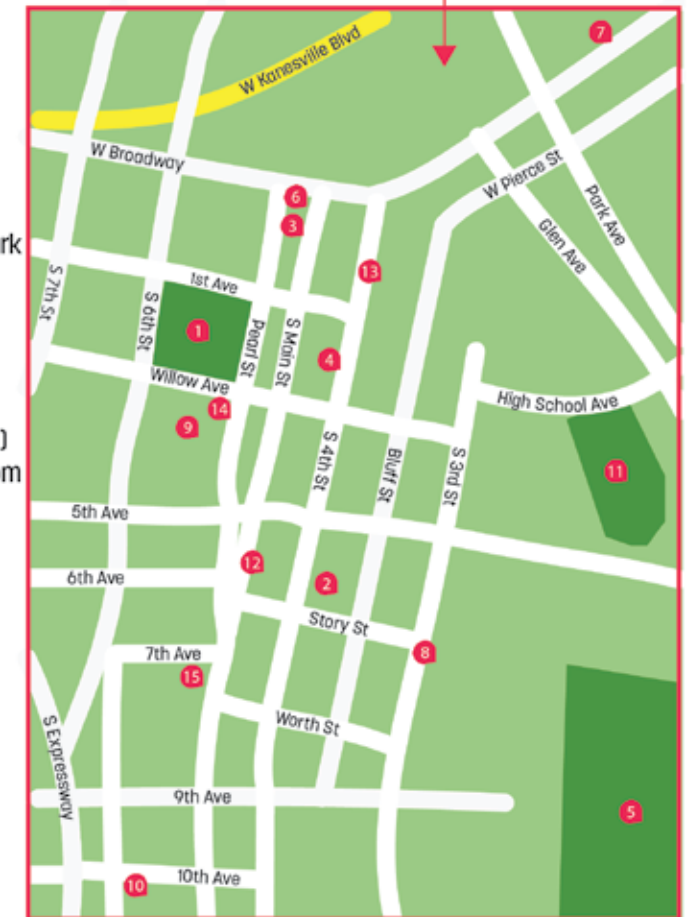
1. CHI Health Center
 2. Charles Schwab Field
 3. Durham Museum
 4. Heartland of America Park
 5. Henry Doorly Zoo
 6. Kiewit Luminarium
 7. Lauritzen Gardens
 8. Lewis + Clark Landing
 9. Old Market
 10. Omaha's Airport (OMA)
- See more - VisitOmaha.com

HOSPITALS

1. CHI Health Mercy
2. Jennie Edmundson Methodist

DOWNTOWN ATTRACTIONS (BELOW)

1. Bayliss Park
2. Bregant House
3. Broadway Fountain
4. Council Bluffs Public Library
5. Fairmount Park
6. First Responders Public Safety Plaza
7. Historic 100 Block of West Broadway
8. Historic General Dodge House
9. Historic Squirrel Cage Jail
10. Hoff Family Arts & Culture Center
11. Kirn Park
12. The Cryptic Room
13. The Hub Trampoline Park
14. Union Pacific Railroad Museum
15. YMCA Healthy Living Center



UNLEASHCB.COM

48 HOURS IN COUNCIL BLUFFS



UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD MUSEUM



SCAN ME

DAY ONE: GREAT OUTDOORS

- ✓ **Wabash Trace Nature Trail**
The tree-lined trail spans 63 miles and over 72 bridges through the breathtaking countryside. Don't have a bike with you? Rent a Heartland Bike Share bike at the trailhead.
- ✓ **Tom Hanafan River's Edge Park**
Head to Tom Hanafan River's Edge Park to experience the Missouri River for more outdoor adventure and scenic views. Don't forget to walk across the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge, allowing you to stand in two states simultaneously.
- ✂ **Boxer BBQ**
For lunch or dinner, unleash the unforgettable flavors at Boxer BBQ. This award-winning restaurant serves slow-smoked meats and delicious sides and sauces.
- 🏠 **Camp at Hitchcock Nature Center**
Spend a night nestled in the scenic Loess Hills at Hitchcock Nature Center. They have several options, including primitive backpack camping, camping cabins, tent camping, and numerous RV spots.

DAY TWO: INDOOR GEMS

- ✂ **Caddy's Kitchen & Cocktails**
Served on the weekends, you can enjoy a delightful brunch at Caddy's Kitchen & Cocktails. Enjoy favorites like biscuits and gravy or indulge in creative options like the white chocolate bread pudding french toast, or the breakfast burger. On the third Saturday of each month, Caddy's hosts Drag Yourself to Brunch!
- ✓ **Union Pacific Railroad Museum**
Through hands-on, interactive technology and exhibits, the UP Museum brings to life the struggles of building the Transcontinental Railroad, President Abraham Lincoln's involvement, the history of passenger rail service, rail safety, and more.
- ✓ **Hoff Family Arts & Culture Center**
The Hoff is a hub for creative activity! Enjoy the ever-changing art exhibitions in the gallery and live performances by the American Midwest Ballet, Chanticleer Community Theater, and Kanesville Symphony Orchestra.
- ✂ **712 eat + drink**
712 eat + drink is a contemporary American restaurant named for the Council Bluffs area code. The menu is filled with scratch-made recipes featuring locally grown produce and natural, locally sourced proteins.
- 🏠 **Stay in a CB Hotel**
Relax and unwind in one of Council Bluffs' 23 hotels! All are conveniently located and offer you quick access to the area's many amenities.



712 EAT + DRINK

IOWADATENIGHT



WABASH TRACE NATURE TRAIL

EDWIN_LYONS

AN AFTERNOON ON THE RIVERFRONT



SCAN ME

TOM HANAFAN RIVER'S EDGE PARK

Council Bluffs is located on the eastern side of the Missouri River, and we have several activities along the riverfront to fill an afternoon quickly! Whether you're with the whole family, out for a solo adventure, or exploring the area for the first time, this guide will ensure you unleash all the river has to offer!

TOM HANAFAN RIVER'S EDGE PARK

Council Bluffs' premier riverfront spot is **Tom Hanafan River's Edge Park**! This is a perfect spot to enjoy an afternoon with plenty of public access green space, stunning views, and a brand-new playground. The park serves as a gateway to the **Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge**, allowing you to stand in two states simultaneously as you cross the Mighty Mo! **Belles' Play Garden** is a recent addition to the park, featuring a series of Missouri-River-inspired play and educational elements. You won't miss the 15-foot tall pelican play feature where kiddos can climb, slide, and enjoy the lookout perch.



TOM HANAFAN RIVER'S EDGE PARK

EXPLORE THE IOWA RIVERFRONT TRAIL

Experience the Missouri River by walking, biking, or skating the **Iowa Riverfront Trail**. It features excellent views and is accessible at Tom Hanafan River's Edge Park. Use the trail for biking across the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge or using it to explore the **Narrows River Park**, where you can fish, watch the river flow, or enjoy a picnic. Don't have a bike with you? No worries! A **Heartland Bike Share** rental kiosk at Tom Hanafan River's Edge Park allows you to rent electric bikes.



BOB KERRY PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

JIMEEPALMER

UNFORGETTABLE DINING

Enjoy delicious coffee, fresh and healthy lunch options, and happy hour offerings at **The Terrace**! While dining, you'll be able to take in the best views of the riverfront while supporting Trivium Life Service's mission. Just a block from the river, you can taste the authentic flavors at **Mercy Thai Restaurant**. Dine in or order takeout to enjoy in the park!



THE TERRACE

CROSS THE RIVER TO OMAHA'S RIVERFRONT

After you cross the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge into Omaha, don't forget to stop and meet **OMAR the Troll** under the bridge! This friendly troll loves selfies, so don't forget to snap a shot. Walking down Omaha's riverfront trail, you'll see the brand-new **Kiewit Luminarium**. The Luminarium makes science accessible to all through hands-on exhibits and innovative programming and is a must-visit! You won't want to miss the newly opened **Lewis and Clark Landing** and **Heartland of America Park**, offering volleyball courts, fire pits, an adventure playground, and lots of green space.



KIEWIT LUMINARIUM - OMAHA



COUNCIL BLUFFS Public Library

The Council Bluffs Public Library offers visitor information near its main entrance. Free Wi-Fi and computer use is available during open hours. Outside, an impressive brick mural and a sculpture entitled "Imagination Take Flight" greet patrons as they enter the building.

The mission of the Council Bluffs Public Library is to enrich, inform, and empower our community.

400 Willow Avenue
712.323.7553 | councilbluffslibrary.org
Monday - Sunday | call/visit website for hours



Council Bluffs PARKS AND RECREATION



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LAKE MANAWA STATE PARK



SCAN ME

LAKE MANAWA STATE PARK MELISSAKPETERSON

THE LOESS HILLS



SCAN ME

HITCHCOCK NATURE CENTER JAIME_LYNN_DELACRUZ



WATER ACTIVITIES

Lake Manawa is the metro's go-to spot for boating and water activities! It's perfect for paddle boards, canoes, motorized boats, and kayaks. You can rent paddle boats and canoes from the beach area. Boat motors of any size are allowed, and the boat ramps are located on the lake's north, south, and west sides. The park also features a Missouri River boat ramp, providing boaters access to the river.

FISHING

Anglers of all ages love the fishing opportunities at Lake Manawa! Crappies, bluegills, and catfish can be caught throughout the year. The lake also has a good size population of bass and walleye. Amenities in the park include a fishing jetty, shoreline fishing, an accessible pier, boat ramps, and a fish cleaning station. Are you in need of fishing gear, bait, or local expertise? Check out **Anchor Inn Bait & Tackle**, located minutes from the lake!

UNLEASH THE BEACH

You don't need to be on the coast to enjoy a beach day! Located on the south side of the lake, you can enjoy the beach area for \$5 a day or \$40 for the year. The modern facility provides opportunities for swimming, rentable paddle boats and canoes, sand volleyball courts, and refreshments and is open every day from 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. in the summer.

TRAILS + PLAYGROUND + MORE!

Lake Manawa has three paved trails and is ideal for hiking and biking. All three trails are flat, easy to use, and accessible for those in wheelchairs. **Dream Playground** is the largest ADA-accessible playground in Iowa and several play elements nod to our local history. The park also includes six shelters ideal for picnics, small gatherings, and time in the shade.

CAMPING

Lake Manawa State Park Campground features 40 RV sites and modern amenities, including a gated entrance, full hook-up campsites, a shower house, and a paved walking trail connecting to the Lake Manawa State Park Beach and Dream Playground. Visitors must make a reservation ahead of time online or by calling (877) 427-2757.

The western portion of Iowa is anything but flat. Unique to our area, you'll find the Loess Hills. This steep and rugged landform is composed of windblown soils that formed into dunes towards the end of the last ice age. Today these hills are more than 60 feet high and are home to some of Iowa's largest remnant prairies and rare plant and animal species that cannot be found anywhere else in the world!

BACKPACK CAMPING

Tap into your adventurous side and get away from the busyness of life by booking a backcountry campsite at **Hitchcock Nature Center**. This camping style is ideal for those who enjoy a challenge, are passionate about Leave No Trace environmental ethics, are willing to go without modern amenities, and carry all their camping gear. Choose from seven sites, all available for \$10 per night. Backcountry camping is not for everyone, but that's ok! If you prefer modern amenities with your camping experience or require more accessible facilities, Pottawattamie Conservation has camping and modern cabins and tent and RV sites with shower house access.

ACCESSIBLE RECREATION:

Although the Loess Hills are steep and rugged, Pottawattamie County has several accessible trails for everyone to enjoy! Walk through a wooded paradise on the **Iowa West Foundation Equal Access Nature Trail Boardwalk** at Hitchcock Nature Center, or stroll along the **Wabash Trace Nature Trail** for stunning countryside views. Paved trails, including the **Iowa Riverfront Trail**, **FIRST AVE**, and **Lake Manawa Trail**, will allow you to explore more than the metro offers.

HITCHCOCK HAWKWATCH

Every year, from September through December, birds of prey enthusiasts gather at Hitchcock Nature Center to observe and count thousands of eagles, hawks, and other raptors as they migrate south as a part of the **Hitchcock HawkWatch** volunteer-driven research project. The park is an optimal location to view the annual migration due to its position in the Missouri River Valley. During the season, visitors can climb the park's 45-foot observation tower to observe the HawkWatch and chat with the volunteers if they're available!





10 FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES

POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY BECOMES A FOUR-SEASON DESTINATION

Nestled in the picturesque Loess Hills of Pottawattamie County, **Mt. Crescent Ski Area** offers an exhilarating winter wonderland for skiing and snowboarding enthusiasts. With its well-groomed slopes and breathtaking views, this destination provides a perfect escape for families seeking outdoor adventure. Even if you're a first-time visitor, Mt. Crescent promises an unforgettable family-friendly experience in the heart of Iowa's stunning natural landscape. Open December through March, there's always a 100% chance of snow!

AMENITIES:

- Private group ski and snowboarding lessons
- Lodge with Mountain Café & Bar
- Two-person and four-person chairlifts
- Gear rental
- Special events

FOUR-SEASON CABINS IN POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY:

- Crescent Ridge Cabin | Mt. Crescent Ski Area
- Cottonwood Cabin | Arrowhead Park
- Rustic Ridge Cabin | Arrowhead Park
- Skyview Cabin | Arrowhead Park
- More information at pottconservation.com



1

UNION PACIFIC MUSEUM

Explore railroad history with hands-on, interactive technology and exhibits!

2

THE HUB

Jump around and experience year-round fun with the Ninja Warrior Course, axe throwing, and more!

3

BELLES' PLAY GARDEN

Play on Missouri-River inspired play and educational elements, including a 15-foot tall pelican!

4

DREAM PLAYGROUND

Iowa's largest ADA-accessible playground nods to our local history and provides enough fun for an entire afternoon!

5

DITMARS ORCHARD

Pick apples, pumpkins, flowers, and enjoy fall fun with hayrack rides, a corn maze, barrel cart rides, and more!

6

BOB THE BRIDGE

Stand in two states at one time on the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge! Cross over to Omaha to meet OMAR the troll.

7

SPLASH PADS

Splish splash the summer away at Bayliss Park, Fairmount Park, and River's Edge's interactive splash pads.

8

THUNDERBOWL

Enjoy friendly competition with your family as you bowl and play exciting arcade games!

9

ICE CREAM

Make it your mission to try a scoop from each of our five local ice cream shops, each offering unique flavors + charm.

10

PIRATE PUTT

This indoor course is full of challenging pirate-themed obstacles and fun for the whole family!



Find out more by scanning this QR code! It'll take you to the play section of UNleashCB.com.





FOODS + BREWS

360 STEAKHOUSE AT HARRAH'S THEE_POWERCOUPLE

Council Bluffs is a culinary destination that proudly boasts a unique blend of flavors and brews. Whether you're savoring innovative farm-to-table cuisine or exploring our craft beer scene, we invite you to embark on a culinary journey that is as diverse as it is delicious, making every meal an exceptional and memorable experience.

COUNCIL BLUFFS CASINOS BRING THE FLAVORS

Council Bluffs' three casinos offer an exceptional dining experience that promises to satisfy the taste buds of all who visit. The recently opened **Guy Fieri's Kitchen + Bar** at **Harrah's Casino** is a culinary delight, where patrons can savor bold flavors and creative dishes inspired by the renowned chef himself. For those seeking the pinnacle of steakhouse elegance, **360 Steakhouse** at **Harrah's Casino** delivers with its premium cuts of meat and breathtaking panoramic views of the Missouri River.

Ameristar Casino's Buffet is a treasure trove, offering an array of cuisines from around the world. Who doesn't like so many choices?! And for the connoisseur of fine dining, **Jack Binion's Steak House** at **Horseshoe Casino** is the ultimate destination. Here, guests are treated to a luxurious atmosphere and an exquisite menu featuring top-quality steaks and seafood.



712 EAT + DRINK SEVENONETWO CB



CHRISTY CREME CARRRRRRRRRRRLY

DINING ON THE 100 BLOCK

The **Historic 100 Block of West Broadway** in Council Bluffs is a culinary haven, offering an array of dining options. At **Barley's**, beer enthusiasts can savor craft brews paired with delectable pub fare in a relaxed atmosphere, making it a local favorite. For those seeking a festive and fabulous dining experience, **Caddy's Kitchen & Cocktails** serves up comfort food classics with a modern twist, ensuring a delightful meal for all. **Lincoln's Pub** provides a vibrant and friendly environment, where patrons can relish delicious American cuisine and enjoy flavorful wood-fired pizza.

If you're in the mood for something sweet, **J's Coffee & Donuts** is a delightful stop, serving freshly brewed coffee and mouthwatering donuts that are sure to satisfy your cravings. **Glory Days Bar & Grill** is the go-to spot for sports fanatics, with a wide range of televisions and a menu boasting everything from burgers to wings. Whether you're looking for a casual meal, a night out with friends, or a place to catch the big game, the **Historic 100 Block** has a diverse range of dining options that cater to all tastes and preferences, making it a must-visit destination for foodies in Council Bluffs.

UNIQUE BREWS + FOODS

1. Council's Kolsch at Full Fledged Brewing Co.

Named after our home community, Council's Kolsch is a crisp, dry, refreshing, easy drink with a golden-straw color. The brew has minimal hop flavor and aroma.

2. Crab Rangoon Tots at 712 eat + drink

Fusing flavors and textures, these tots are stuffed with luscious crab rangoon filling and topped with house-made sweet chili sauce, fried wontons, and green onions.

3. Prairie Rose Wine at Prairie Crossing Vineyard & Winery

A delightful embodiment of the Midwest's winemaking excellence, Prairie Rose creates a soft dry blend that appeals to both dry and sweet wine preferences.

4. Moink Balls at Boxer BBQ

These bacon-wrapped meatballs are stuffed with pepper jack cheese, rubbed with signature Boxer Rub, smoked, and then glazed with a signature sweet sauce.

5. Lobster Mac & Cheese Pot Pie at Caddy's Kitchen & Cocktails

This comfort dish includes a rich and creamy lobster sauce with cavatappi noodles, peas, carrots, and potatoes, served in a homemade pot pie.

6. El Valiente Burger at Primo's Mexican Restaurant

This delicious and unique burger includes two juicy beef patties topped with green onions, cheese, bacon, grilled seasoned jalapenos, and spicy mayo served on a toasted bun.



HARRAH'S COUNCIL BLUFFS

FREE OR CHEAP THINGS TO DO IN POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY

1. TRAILS AND PARKS: Enjoy the great outdoors with the county's numerous parks and walking/biking trails, such as the **FIRST AVE Trail**, **Botna Bend Park** and **Arrowhead Park**.

2. SEE A MOVIE AT A SMALL-TOWN THEATRE: Spend an evening watching the latest blockbuster hit with affordable prices at the **Dreamland Theatre** in Carson or the **Phoenix Movie Theater** in Neola.

3. RELAX BY THE WATER: Spend a day at **Lake Manawa State Park**, where you can swim, fish, have a picnic, or simply relax by the water.

4. FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS: Keep an eye out for free community events, such as festivals, concerts, and outdoor movie nights that often take place throughout the county. They're listed at [UNleashCB.com/events](https://unleashcb.com/events)

5. LEARN ABOUT OUR LOCAL HEROES: The **Stars and Bronze Tribute Trail** takes you through each community in Pottawattamie County to see fourteen Eagle of Honor statues that pay tribute to our military veterans.

6. ART TOUR: Explore local artwork through a self-guided tour of 12 works of outdoor public art through the Otocast App. This app gives you directions to each piece and allows you to hear directly from the artist.

7. FISHING: Grab your fishing gear and head to **Lake Manawa**, **Carter Lake**, or the **West Nishnabotna River Water Trail** for a relaxing day of angling.

8. HISTORIC DOWNTOWNS: Stroll through the historic downtown areas of Council Bluffs, Avoca, Walnut, and other communities to admire architecture, browse shops, and enjoy a meal or coffee at a local eateries.

9. LOCAL FARMERS' MARKETS: Support local agriculture and artisans by visiting the county's farmers' markets, such as the one in Council Bluffs, Avoca, Treynor, and Underwood.

10. HISTORICAL SITES: Explore the county's rich history by visiting local historical sites like the **Historic Squirrel Cage Jail**, **General Dodge House**, **Pioneer Trail Museum**, or the **Walnut Creek Historical Museum**, all with modest admission fees.



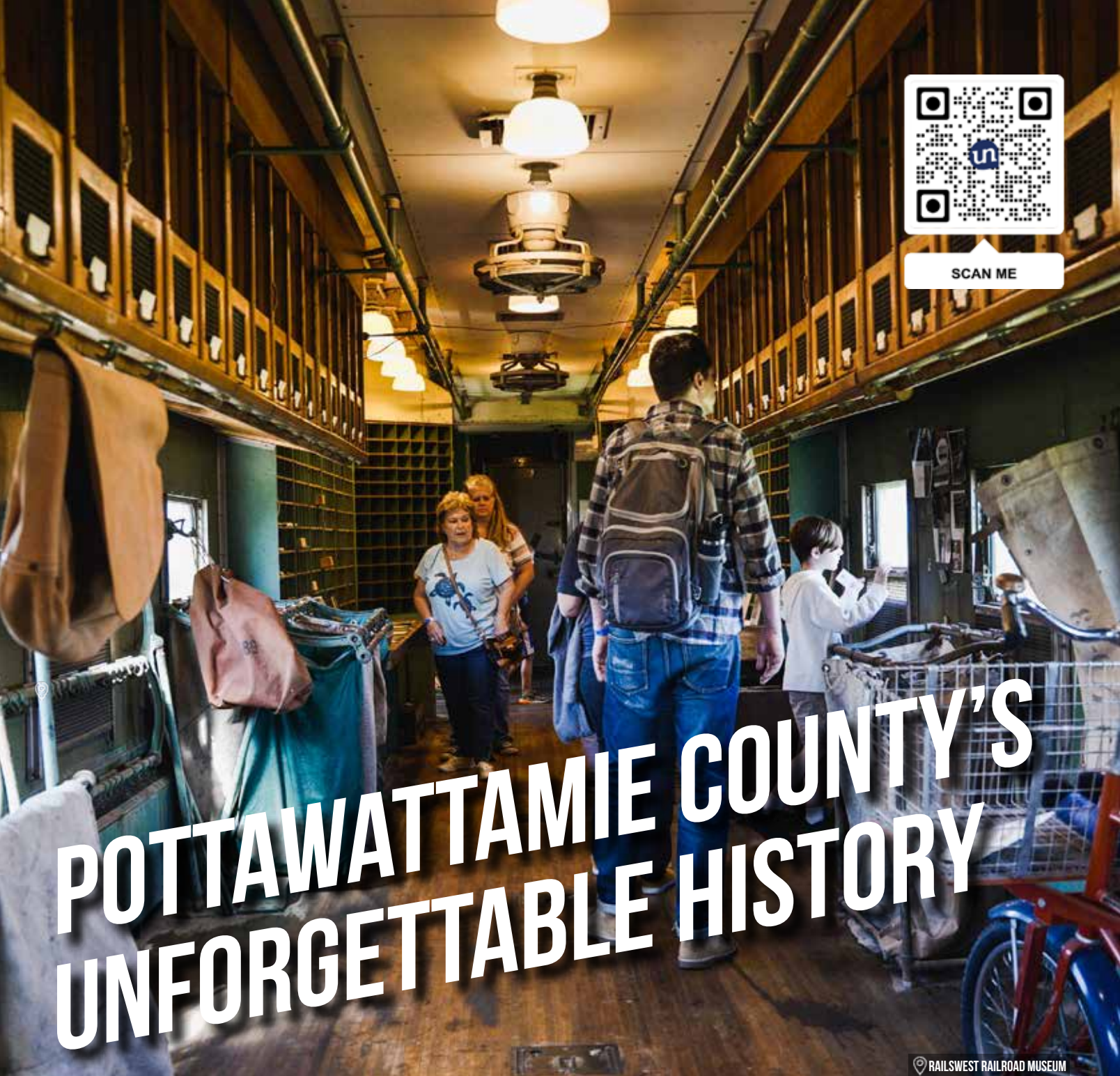
UNIQUE + UNFORGETTABLE EVENTS HAPPEN AT THE MAC!

The **Mid-America Center** has firmly established itself as a premier venue for hosting unique and unforgettable events that cater to a wide array of interests and tastes. From the enchanting melodies of the **Trans-Siberian Orchestra**, which annually grace the Center's stage during the holiday season, to the mystical wonders of **Mystic Fest**, where attendees immerse themselves in a world of spirituality and mysticism, this venue offers a diverse range of experiences.

For the vintage aficionados, **RAD Vintage Fest** is a treasure trove of nostalgia, featuring an eclectic mix of retro fashion, collectibles, and memorabilia. **O Comic Con**, on the other hand, transports attendees into the vibrant world of pop culture and comics, bringing together fans from all walks of life to celebrate their shared passion.

But the Mid-America Center doesn't stop there. Its versatile spaces have also played host to an array of other events, from high-energy concerts to sports tournaments and community gatherings. With its commitment to providing memorable experiences for all who enter its doors, the Mid-America Center continues to be a hub of excitement and entertainment in Council Bluffs, leaving a lasting impression on all who attend these unique and unforgettable events.





POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY'S UNFORGETTABLE HISTORY

POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY IS RICH WITH HISTORY

Pottawattamie County offers a rich tapestry of historical sites and monuments that paint a vivid picture of its vibrant past. **The Lewis and Clark Monument and Scenic Overlook** stand as a testament to the legendary explorers' 1804 expedition, providing breathtaking vistas of the Missouri River valley. **The Bregant House**, also known as the "Doll House," was built in 1912 for former Vaudeville performers Jean and Inez Bregant to accommodate their height of 42" and 39" respectively. Meanwhile, the haunting **Squirrel Cage Jail**, an architectural marvel and once a working prison, offers a glimpse into the county's penal history. The **Carstens 1880 Farmstead** immerses visitors in the daily life of Iowa's early settlers the weekend after Labor Day, while the **Monroe One Room Country Schoolhouse** harks back to a bygone era of rural education. Each of these historical sites and monuments weaves together a captivating narrative, allowing visitors to step back in time and gain a deeper appreciation for Pottawattamie County's rich heritage.

WELCOME TO MILE ZERO!

Council Bluffs holds a pivotal place in American history as "Mile Zero" for the Union Pacific Railroad's transcontinental railroad. This significant location marked the eastern starting point of an ambitious journey that would unite the nation by rail. Council Bluffs' role as Mile Zero symbolizes the city's historic contribution to the westward expansion and economic growth of the United States, forever linking its name with the enduring legacy of the American railroad system.

The Union Pacific Railroad Museum, located in the heart of the city, provides a comprehensive journey through the storied past of the Union Pacific Railroad, showcasing an impressive collection of artifacts and interactive exhibits. Nearby, the **Historic General Dodge House**, once the residence of Civil War General and Union Pacific visionary Grenville Dodge, offers visitors an intimate look at the life and times of this influential figure.

For a hands-on experience, the **RailsWest Railroad Museum** houses vintage locomotives and rolling stock, allowing guests to explore these engineering marvels up close. And no visit would be complete without paying homage to the historic **Golden Spike Monument**, which commemorates the completion of the first transcontinental railroad and is located at Mile Zero. These attractions not only provide a window into the past but also celebrate Council Bluffs' crucial role in shaping the nation's railroading legacy, making it a must-visit destination for history buffs and railroad aficionados alike.



The Dodge House

Built in 1869 on the frontier by Grenville M. Dodge, a Civil War veteran and the "greatest railroad builder of all time. No expense was spared on this sublime Second Empire Victorian home.

The fourteen-room, three-story mansion stands on a high terrace overlooking the Missouri Valley, and displays such architectural features as parquet floors, mansard roof, cherry, walnut, and butternut woodwork, and a number of "modern" conveniences quite unusual for the period: central heating and hot and cold running water.

The house was designed by William Boyington, a famous Chicago architect. It has been painstakingly curated with period items, many of them original to the home and the Dodge family.

Open Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and closed on all Government Holidays and the month of January. Admissions: \$10.00 Adults 19-64, \$5.00 for Seniors 65+, students 6-18, and Military with ID. Children under 6 are free.

dodgehouse.org

*Sponsored content



FINDING A HOTEL

Council Bluffs is home to 23 different properties and over 2,600 hotel rooms, giving you plenty of options for your overnight stay! All our hotels are conveniently located and offer you quick access to many of the restaurants, attractions, parks, and shopping centers the metro has to offer. Use the **Book Your Stay** feature on UnleashCB.com or scan the QR code below to search from all the overnight options and to book your stay with the hotel of your choice.

Learn more about the **Hampton Inn and Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites** in the ad below, **Country Inn & Suites** and **My Place Hotel** on page 29, and the **Courtyard by Marriott** on page 27.



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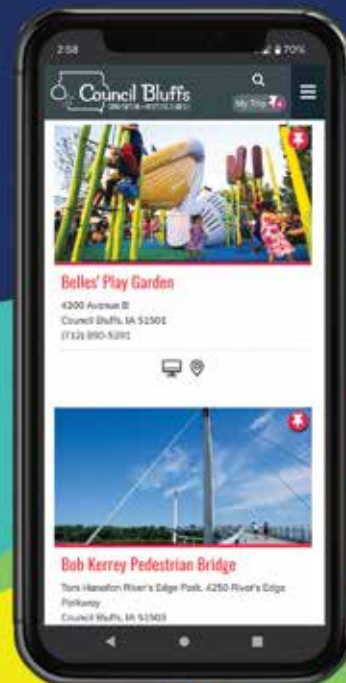
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LIVE MUSIC + ENTERTAINMENT



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Photography
ANDY & TAMARA



SCAN ME

STIR CONCERT COVE BRINGS TOP PERFORMERS TO THE METRO

Live performances at **Stir Concert Cove** are an electrifying experience that captivates audiences like no other. Nestled next to **Harrah's Hotel and Casino**, this open-air venue offers a breathtaking backdrop of the Missouri River. Whether it's a rock legend, a chart-topping pop sensation, or a rising star, each performance at Stir Concert Cove is a night to remember, where music comes alive in a truly exceptional setting.

HOFF FOURTH FRIDAY: A CREATIVE WAY TO KICK OFF THE WEEKEND

The Hoff Fourth Fridays at the **Hoff Family Arts & Culture Center** offer an enriching and vibrant experience for the community and its visitors. These monthly gatherings bring together the best of arts and culture with live music, delectable pop-up restaurants, captivating art exhibits, and the chance to meet and interact with resident artists. It's a celebration of creativity and community spirit, where families and art enthusiasts can immerse themselves in a world of artistic expression and entertainment.

DRAG YOURSELF TO BRUNCH BRINGS PRIDE TO COUNCIL BLUFFS

Drag Yourself to Brunch at **Caddy's Kitchen & Cocktails** is a delightful fusion of fabulousness and flavor. This unique monthly event seamlessly blends the artistry of drag performances with delectable brunch offerings, creating a one-of-a-kind dining experience. As patrons savor delicious dishes and creative cocktails, they are treated to mesmerizing performances by talented local drag queens, making for an unforgettable Saturday morning.

MALONEY'S LIVE SPOTLIGHTS REGIONAL TALENT

Maloney's Live is a vibrant stage that pulsates with the heartbeat of local talent. Nestled in the **Historic 100 Block**, this venue is a hotbed for live music enthusiasts seeking the authentic sound of the community. It's a place where aspiring musicians, singers, and bands take the spotlight, showcasing their artistry and passion for music. From soulful acoustic sets to electrifying rock performances, Maloney's Live provides a platform for local talent to shine. With every note played and every lyric sung, this venue celebrates the diverse soundscape of the region, making it a must-visit destination for music aficionados.

SEE LOCAL TALENT AT OUR COMMUNITY THEATERS!

CB's **Chanticleer Community Theater** and the **Grist Mill Theater** in Macedonia, offer a special opportunity to witness the incredible talent within our local communities. These venues provide a stage for aspiring actors, directors, and theater enthusiasts to come together and create unforgettable performances. From classic plays to innovative, locally-written productions, these theaters offer a diverse range of shows that reflect the rich cultural tapestry of our region. Attending a performance at these community theaters not only promises a memorable evening of entertainment but also shows support for the vibrant arts scene that thrives right here in Iowa.



PRIDE ON THE 100 BLOCK



HOFF FAMILY ARTS + CULTURE CENTER



TOP THINGS TO DO IN THE METRO!

OMAHA'S HENRY DOORLY ZOO + AQUARIUM VISIT OMAHA

The Council Bluffs and Omaha metro area is a top Midwest destination for outdoor adventures, museums, the best zoo in the country, live music and entertainment, delicious dining, and more! We've curated a list of the top things to do in Council Bluffs and Omaha, and much to your surprise, they're all just a short drive from each other, making it an affordable and convenient getaway!

WORLD-FAMOUS HENRY DOORLY ZOO + AQUARIUM

The award-winning **Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium** is a must-visit in the metro! Visitors can explore and experience 160 acres of unique habitats, animals, plants, and exhibits that will surpass your wildest dreams! Families can even book backstage experiences, which allow you to go behind the scenes to explore the aquarium and meet giraffes and elephants!

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT GALORE!

The metro area brings in some of the top names in showbusiness for rocking concerts, magical musicals, spectacular symphonies, and brilliant ballets. Catch the next show at **Stir Concert Cove**, the **Orpheum Theater**, **Mid-America Center**, **Steelhouse Omaha**, or the massive **CHI Health Center** arena! See our locals put on impressive performances at the **Hoff Family Arts & Culture Center** and the **Omaha Community Playhouse**.

EXPLORE RAILROAD HISTORY IN BOTH STATES



Council Bluffs and Omaha have deep connections to the railroad, which has helped shape both cities over the decades. In fact, Council Bluffs was designated as mile zero of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1864. Uncover the history by visiting the **Union Pacific Railroad Museum** in Council Bluffs and **The Durham Museum** in Omaha! Both museums offer fascinating exhibits, hands-on activities, and history accessible to train enthusiasts of all ages.

DELICIOUS DINING + SHOPPING



The Old Market in downtown Omaha is the place for unique dining, shopping, gallery hopping, and a night out on the town! This historic area with cobblestone streets is lively year-round with street musicians and artists and is a favorite destination for locals and visitors. Shop from more than 80 of your big-name favorites like Nike, Coach, and REI at **Nebraska Crossing**,

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KIEWIT LUMINARIUM

WELCOME TO POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY!

ATTAWAY TO SEE POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY #WATTAWAY WATTAWAY TO SEE POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY #WATTAWAY WATTAWAY TO

Welcome to Pottawattamie County! Here, you can find your fire and embark on a journey filled with one-of-a-kind outdoor recreation opportunities, partake in amazing annual events that celebrate the area, and learn about our storied past.

Whether skiing the Loess Hills at Mt. Crescent Ski Area, catching the action at the annual Carson Community Rodeo, shopping for antiques in Walnut, or visiting the Sweet Vale of Avoca Museum, you'll find much to do here.

As you explore Pottawattamie County, we encourage you to find your fire – that passion that ignites your spirit and makes every moment here memorable! For more information about the exciting things in the county, visit WattaWay.com. Local brochures, maps, and guides are available at the Iowa Welcome Center in Council Bluffs. (509 23rd Avenue, Council Bluffs, IA 51501).

Thanks for visiting! We hope to see you again.

Regards,

Brian M. Shea
Chair of the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors



AVOCA MAIN STREET LONGEST TABLE



CARSON COMMUNITY RODEO MEGAN BOURRETTE PHOTOGRAPHY



WATTAWAY TO SEE OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES!

NESTINGGROUNDSUNDERWOOD NESTING GROUNDS - UNDERWOOD



HITCHCOCK NATURE CENTER JENNA HAZEL

The rural communities of Pottawattamie County exude a timeless charm and natural beauty that captivates all who visit. Nestled amidst rolling hills and lush farmland, these quaint towns offer a serene escape from the hustle and bustle of urban life. In every season, the county's beauty shines through, whether it's the vibrant colors of autumn leaves or the tranquil, snow-covered scenes of winter. But what truly makes Pottawattamie County special is its warm-hearted and close-knit community, where friendly faces greet you with a smile and a sense of belonging prevails. It's a place where time seems to slow down, allowing residents and visitors to savor the simple pleasures of life in an idyllic rural setting.

POTTAWATTAMIE CONSERVATION PARKS

KIM REINER | HITCHCOCK NATURE CENTER

With more than 250,000 visitors per year, the Pottawattamie County parks and habitat areas showcase the county's diverse landforms and variety of outdoor activities. Pottawattamie Conservation is dedicated to providing the resources and opportunities that encourage county residents and visitors to appreciate our unique natural resources, develop a connection to the natural environment, and foster responsible stewardship for future generations. More information on Pottawattamie Conservation can be found at pottconservation.com.



ARROWHEAD PARK

JEFF ANDERSON

ARROWHEAD PARK | NEOLA, IA

Arrowhead Park is the perfect destination for anyone wishing to spend time in nature. This 147-acre family-friendly park is located in Neola, just a short drive from Council Bluffs. The park has a wealth of fishing, camping, and outdoor recreation opportunities, including a playground, basketball and volleyball courts, woodland hiking trails, and wildlife viewing. The park's 17-acre lake attracts anglers annually for its excellent bluegill, bass, and catfish fishing. Paddleboats and canoes are available on-site to rent.



BOTNA BEND PARK

BOTNA BEND PARK | HANCOCK, IA

Home to the annual Maple Tree Tap event, **Botna Bend** is a picturesque park featuring live bison and elk herds with informational kiosks to introduce you to these amazing animals. Explore the park on the quiet prairie and river hiking trails, visit the playground and nature playscape for a fun family adventure, picnic at one of the convenient shelters, or stay the night in the peaceful campground.



HITCHCOCK NATURE CENTER

KATEBDAMON

HITCHCOCK NATURE CENTER | HONEY CREEK, IA

Nestled in the rugged western edge of Iowa's Loess Hills, **Hitchcock Nature Center** consists of 1,268 acres and is open every day of the year for hiking, camping, picnicking, bird watching, snowshoeing, star gazing, and simply enjoying the natural world. Check out the Loess Hills Lodge & Gallery, where children can learn about the local ecosystem and the plants and animals that call southwest Iowa home.



NARROWS RIVER PARK

POTTAWATTAMIE CONSERVATION

NARROWS RIVER PARK | COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA

Located in Council Bluffs, **Narrows River Park** provides boat access to the mighty Missouri River. Two covered shelters overlook the river and provide stunning views of the Omaha skyline as you look downstream. In addition to the boat ramp, the park includes horseshoe pits, archery ranges, and a playground, offering a great natural escape.



OLD TOWN PARK

POTTAWATTAMIE CONSERVATION

OLD TOWN PARK | MACEDONIA, IA

Old Town Park is located on the historic Mormon Trail and offers visitors a wonderful "back to nature" feeling by providing West Nishnabotna River access and primitive camping opportunities. This 9.5-acre park is a great place to picnic or inner tube down the river.



AWARD-WINNING EXPERIENCES

Pottawattamie County has been garnering attention for its outstanding award-winning experiences. In 2023, the Omaha Metropolitan Area Tourism Awards recognized several remarkable destinations within the county, showcasing its diverse and vibrant offerings.

Taking home the title of the best attraction was the iconic **Dreamland Theatre** in Carson, a true gem that offers an affordable cinematic experience. This historic venue not only showcases blockbuster movies but also has a vintage charm, making it a beloved destination for community residents and visitors.

Another award-winning establishment is **The Occasional Collective** in Treynor. This unique and quaint retail shop has made a name for itself by offering sustainable goods and locally sourced products, catering to eco-conscious shoppers looking for distinctive items with a story.

Lastly, the best restaurant award went to **The Back Forty** in Macedonia, a beloved eatery known for its daily specials, live music, delectable burgers, and a fantastic selection of beer. With a commitment to providing a memorable dining experience in a rustic countryside setting, The Back Forty has become a culinary cornerstone in Pottawattamie County. These winners truly exemplify the county's commitment to offering exceptional attractions, retail experiences, and dining options to visitors and locals alike.



TAKE A SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF OUR RURAL MUSEUMS!

- Start your self-guided tour in Macedonia at the **Stempel Bird Museum**, known for its extensive collection of bird specimens. Explore the museum's exhibits and learn about the diverse avian species in the region.
- Adjacent to the Stempel Bird Museum, visit the **Pioneer Trail Museum** to immerse yourself in the area's history. Discover artifacts and stories from the early settlers who shaped the region.
- Next, check out the **Nishna Heritage Museum** in Oakland. This museum offers a deep dive into the cultural heritage of Pottawattamie County, with exhibits on early settlers and the agricultural roots of the region.
- Visit the **Sweet Vale of Avoca Museum** in Avoca to explore the history of the town and its surroundings. Discover Native American artifacts, photographs, and stories that provide insights into the area's past.
- Conclude your museum tour with a visit to the **Walnut Creek Historical Museum** in Walnut. This museum offers a glimpse into the heritage of Walnut with exhibits highlighting agriculture and early life in the area.

This self-guided tour allows you to explore the museums of rural Pottawattamie County at your own pace, providing a rich and immersive experience into the region's history, culture, and natural beauty. Remember to check the museums' operating hours and any admission requirements in advance.



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

AVOCA

Avoca is a charming community with restored building facades and streetscaping. Their **Main Street** is always lively with the seasonal **Avoca Main Street Farmers Market**, the annual award-winning **Longest Table event**, and its unique turret architecture. Don't forget to check out the **Volkswagen Beetle Spider** while you're there! We're sure you've never seen anything like it.

CARSON

Carson is a small but mighty town of more than 800 residents. Check out a movie at **Dreamland Theatre**, play a game of pickleball, and take a photo in front of their interactive mural! The city is best known for the annual **Carson Community Rodeo** every summer. This three-day event includes way more than just a rodeo! Enjoy the kick-off dinner, a street dance, a parade, and so much more.

CARTER LAKE

Carter Lake is one-of-a-kind. It's the only Iowa community located west of the Missouri River and is an excellent place for water activities, including rowing, boating, and fishing! Tee off at the scenic **Shoreline Golf Course**, or try your luck at **Prairie Flower Casino**.

CRESCENT

All roads may not lead to Crescent, but two byways do. Both the **Loess Hills National Scenic Byway** and the **Old Lincoln Highway** pass directly through downtown. Locals love to eat at **Henry's Diner** and the newly-opened **Sasshole Donuts & Ice Cream**.

HANCOCK

Old Settler's Day festivities take place in Hancock the first week in August. This special event includes a home run derby, tractor pull, pancake breakfast, softball tournament, parade, and so much more! While visiting, check out **The Station**, a local gourmet bar.



HONEY CREEK

Nestled in the Loess Hills, Honey Creek serves as a starting place to explore the great outdoors. Keep your eyes peeled for waterfowl species at **Honey Creek Conservation Area**, or learn more about our unique and fragile ecosystem at the **Loess Hills Lodge Interpretive Facility** at Hitchcock Nature Center! In the winter, hit the slopes at **Mt. Crescent Ski Area** for some family-fun.

MACEDONIA

Macedonia proudly showcases its history and art! In addition to their two museums, the community is home to **Grist Mill Fine Arts**, a performing arts theater showcasing local actors in multiple impressive performances each year. **The Painted Camel Gallery** is a cooperative fine art gallery and gift shop where you can browse and purchase regional work.



MCCLELLAND

McClelland is a friendly community known for a beautiful garden and park on the main street. The town is also home to the **Dew Drop Inn**, which serves mouthwatering burgers and other Iowa staples like a hand-breaded tenderloin.

MINDEN

Minden is a charming town with a great town triangle, as they call it! Enjoy an evening of bowling and dining at **Minden Bowl**, shop from their local grocery store or the **Minden Meat Market**, and enjoy the beautiful countryside views.

NEOLA

In Neola, see the work of the sculptor who created the **Pottawattamie County Eagle of Honor** statues at **Penny's Visions Gallery**. Russ and his wife Penny have been creating art for over 40 years! Catch a movie at the **Phoenix Theater** and enjoy the vista views as you play at **Quail Run Golf Course**.

OAKLAND

With several eateries, a museum, and a park, there's lots to enjoy in Oakland! Start your morning with a caffeinated beverage from **Destination Coffee & Cuisine**, a travel-themed coffee shop. Enjoy the great outdoors at **Chautauqua Park** or play a round of golf at **Oakland Riverside Golf Course**. Enjoy a delicious dinner at **EL SOL Mexican Restaurant** or **The Buck Snort!**

SHELBY

Like much of Pottawattamie County, Shelby is a quaint town with connections to the railroad. Stop by the **Shelby Rock Island Depot** to see railroad artifacts, memorabilia, and a caboose! Take a scenic walk on the **Rock Island Old Stone Arch Nature Trail** and check out one of only four 30' arch culvert bridges along the trail.

TREYNOR

Just a short drive from Council Bluffs, the city of Treynor is home to **Prairie Crossing Vineyard & Winery**, which creates world-class wines from grapes grown in the Loess Hills! **Silo's**, the local restaurant in town, is a family-friendly bar and grill that serves a variety of tenderloins, pizzas, and wraps.

UNDERWOOD

Underwood has a robust calendar of events and hosts activities like their seasonal **Monday Markets** and **Junkwood**, where you can shop for upcycled treasures like antiques, collectibles, primitive crafts, and more! Enjoy quality coffee, tea, and baked goods at **Nesting Grounds** and dine at **Garcia's Family Mexican Restaurant** for some delicious chips, salsa, tostadas, and tacos.

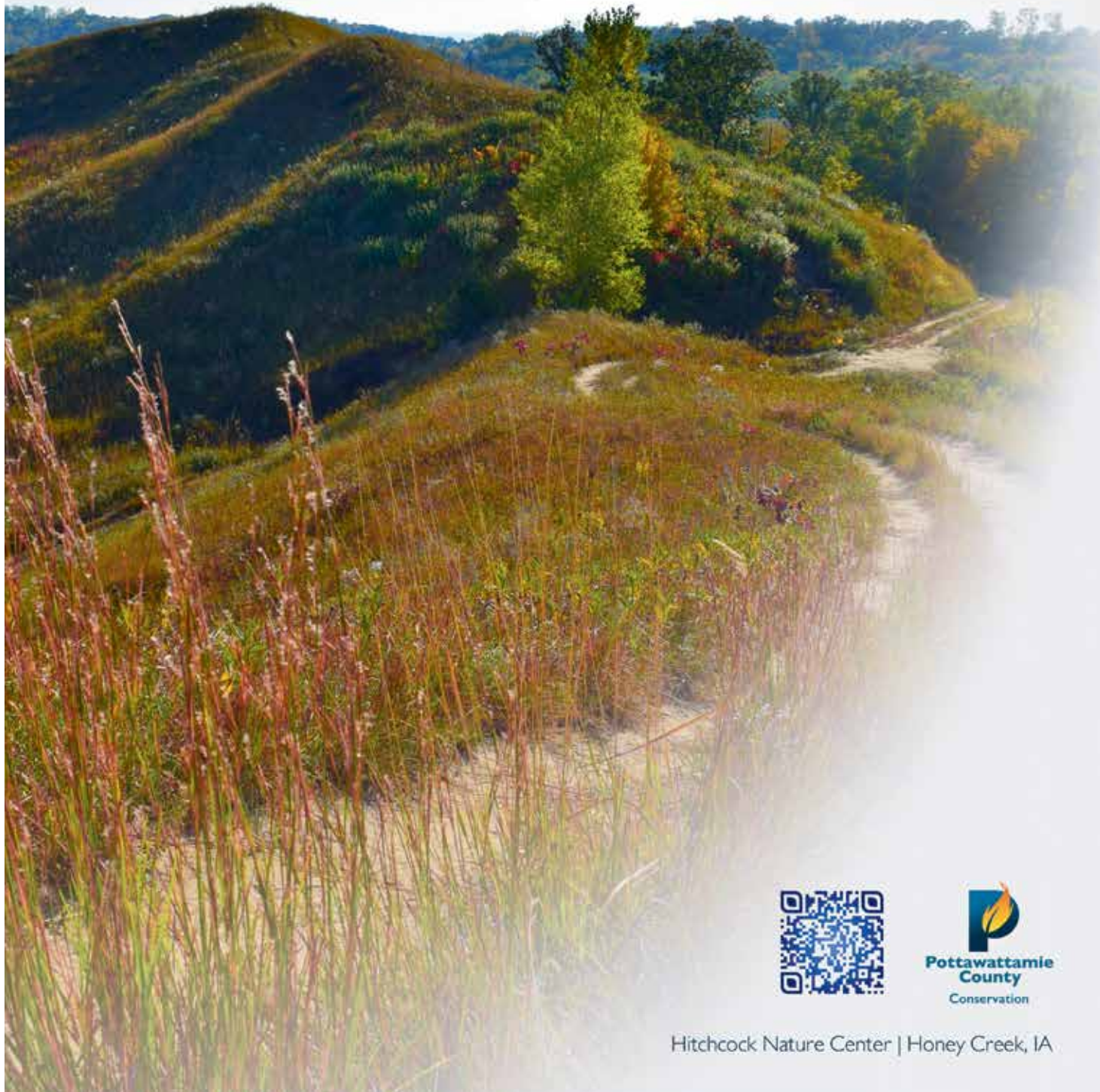
WALNUT

Self-proclaimed as **Iowa's Antique City**, the city of Walnut features turn-of-the-century brick streets, antique globe lights, and more than 15 antique shops open year-round. Walnut has been long recognized as the premier location for quality antiques in Iowa! They host various annual events, including the **Walnut Antique Show**, the **Antique Fall Festival**, and the **Christmas Antique Walk**.



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