

CCCB



# Clayton County Conservation Recreational Itinerary



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Clayton County hosts an abundance of recreational opportunities. From historic landmarks, numerous public camping areas, beautiful natural areas, the mighty Mississippi River, and of course our county parks!

Clayton County Conservation Board's mission is to promote the health and general welfare of the people; and to encourage preservation, conservation, education, and recreation through responsible use and appreciation of our natural resources and cultural heritage.

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# A brief intro to Clayton County public lands & parks.

## Osborne Park

Osborne Park is located 5 miles south of Elkader on Hwy. 13, the Osborne Nature Center is the headquarters of the Clayton County Conservation Board. The park features a Native Wildlife Exhibit, Nature Center, Welcome Center, Iowa Giftshop, Pioneer Village, picnic shelters, a disk golf course, fishing pond, playground, & various walking & hiking trails. The Nature Center is open 8:00 AM-4:00PM M-Sat, & 12:00 PM-4:00 PM Sunday April-October. From November-March the Nature Center is open 8:00 AM-4:00 PM M-F & closed weekends.



## Joy Springs County Park

Joy Springs Park, located along the Joy Springs Trout Stream is a great destination for trout anglers & campers alike. Located a few miles west of Strawberry Point, the park covers about 90 acres of rolling forested area. This park offers 5 primitive campsites all of which can be reserved through [Mycountyparks.com](http://Mycountyparks.com) or in person for a \$15/night rate. In 2020 the trout stream had habitat reconstruction & stream bank stabilization work done to improve fishing for park visitors.



## Turkey River Park

Turkey River Park is located on the southeast edge of Elkader along Highway 13. This park offers kayak/canoe access to the Turkey River as well as a stretch of public shoreline available to area anglers. The park has a large shelter available for picnicking or reservation for special events as well as a public restroom facility.



## Motor Mill Historic Site

Motor Mill, is located about 7 miles southeast of Elkader along the Turkey River. The six story limestone flour mill & its four on site stone buildings date back to the 1860's.

The mill is open for guided tours on Saturdays (Memorial Day-Labor day) from 12:00 PM-5:00 PM. Clayton County Conservation Board & the Motor Mill Foundation are restoring the historic Inn which is scheduled to be complete in 2023. There will be three rooms available through online reservation. There is also a primitive campground which offers 5 campsites at a \$15/night rate.



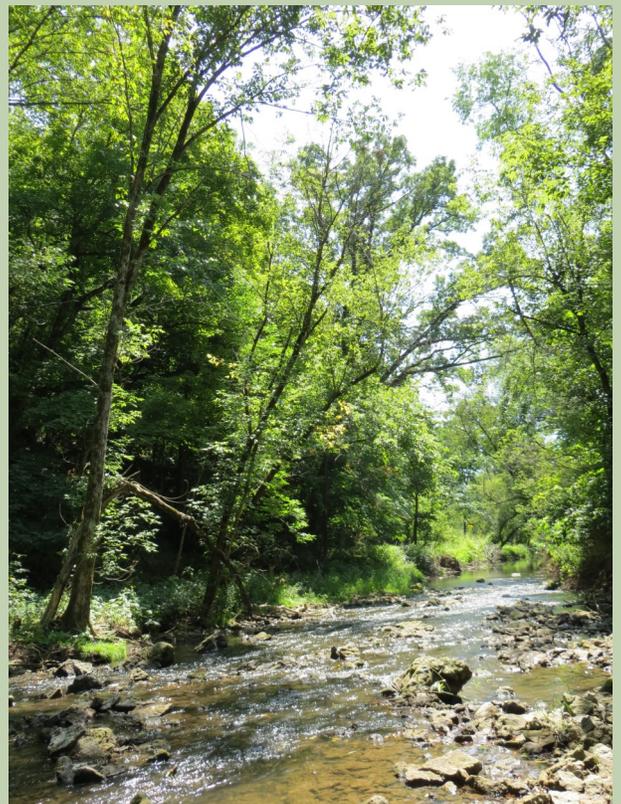
## Frieden Park

Frieden Park is five and a half miles northwest of Elkader. Frieden's park offers three primitive campsites which are available for \$15/night. This park is located on the banks of the Turkey River and has a canoe access available to the public.



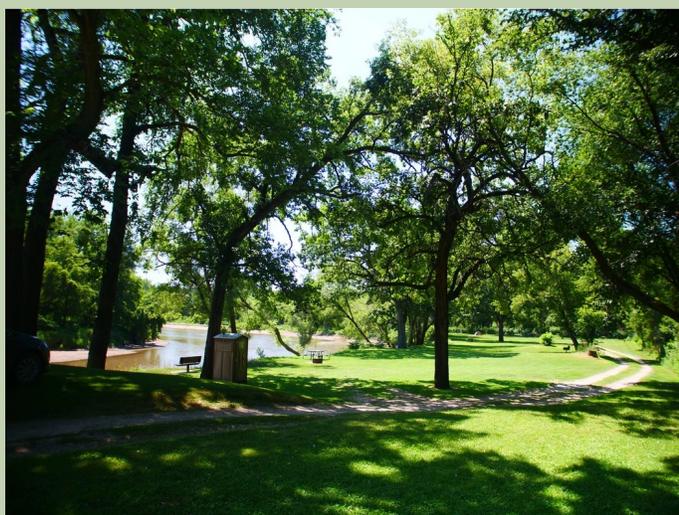
## Buck Creek Park

Buck Creek County Park is located 3 miles north of Garnavillo. The park is surrounded by over 100 acres of forested land and is located along the banks of Buck Creek Trout Stream. Bow hunting is allowed at this property. However, you must register to hunt at the Osborne Nature Center. This park also offers two primitive campsites which are available for \$15/night.



## Bloody Run

Bloody Run County Park & Campground is located west of Marquette near the Mississippi River. The park and campground run along Bloody Run Trout Stream, a well stocked trout stream for avid anglers. The 138-acre County Park has 20 campsites available for \$15/night. If you enjoy a good hike, this is the park for you. The single track hiking trail at Bloody Run (Wells Hollow Trail) takes you up on the bluffs where you will see some spectacular views & traverse through a remnant oak savanna. The county property is adjacent to the 900 acre state managed wildlife area.



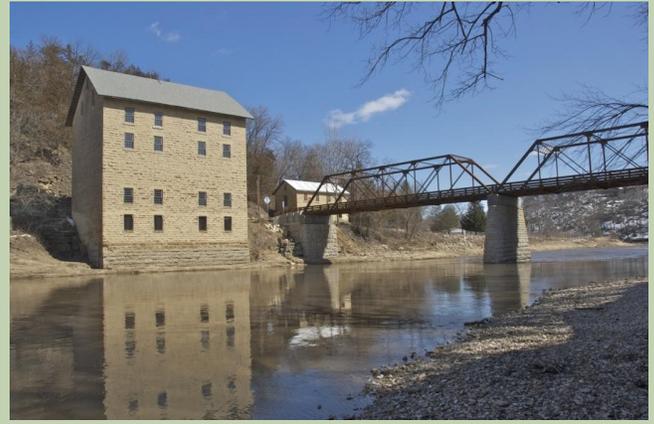
## Big Spring Campground

Big Spring Campground is located 10 miles northwest of Elkader along the Turkey River. This primitive campground offers 7 primitive campsites available for \$15/night. In 2021 Clayton County Conservation reconstructed the existing canoe launch to increase its accessibility. Down the road from the campground is the Iowa DNR Big Spring Hatchery. The hatchery has a kids trout fishing pond which is open to fishing children under 15 years old.

## Becker East & West Properties

The Becker Property covers 373 acres located in two separate parcels. The east property is located along Highway 52 and Great River Road and covers 200 acres of crop ground & upland forest. The west property is along Millville Road and covers 173 acres of crop & forested area. Hunting is offered at the Becker properties, with required licenses of course. Both properties provide good opportunity for those primarily interested in hiking as well.

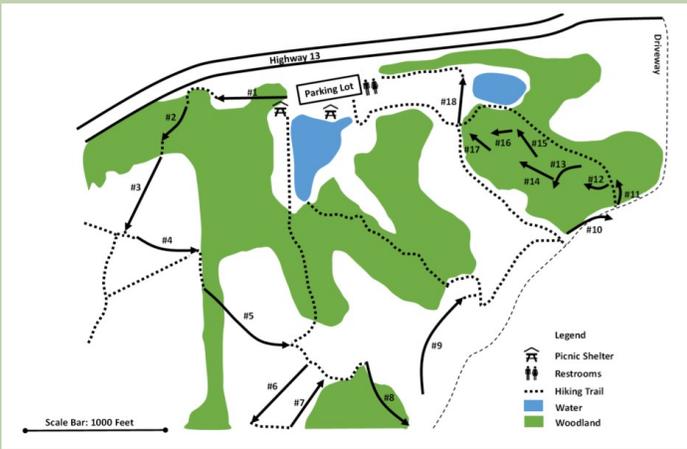




## A leisurely day in Clayton County

1. Grab yourself a locally brewed cup of joe, consider GEAR Elkader, The Brim, By The Spoonful, & Rausche's Café.
2. Enjoy a morning walk on Pony Hollow Trail & enjoy the beauty of the Turkey River in the morning.
3. Stop in at one of popular historic relics of Clayton County. Motor Mill Historic Site & The Carter House Museum are both great places to start. Motor Mill is open for tours Memorial Day - Labor Day on Saturdays Noon — 5:00 PM.
4. Grab yourself lunch at one of the many great local eateries, many towns in the county have great options.
5. Spend the afternoon exploring a Clayton County Park! Osborne Nature Center is sure to have something for everyone in your travel party.
6. Consider extending your stay by reserving a room in the renovated Motor Mill Inn once it officially opens! There will be three bedrooms available for reservation, check the Clayton County Mycountyparks.com facilities page to reserve book your stay. There are also other good Air B&B options scattered throughout the county.

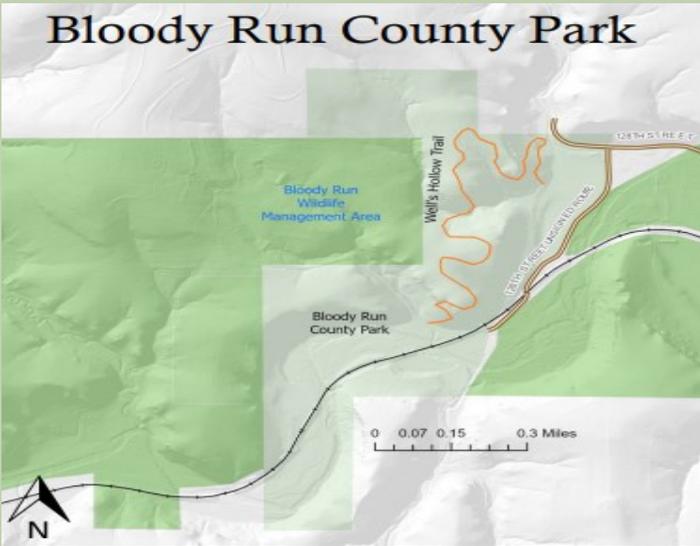
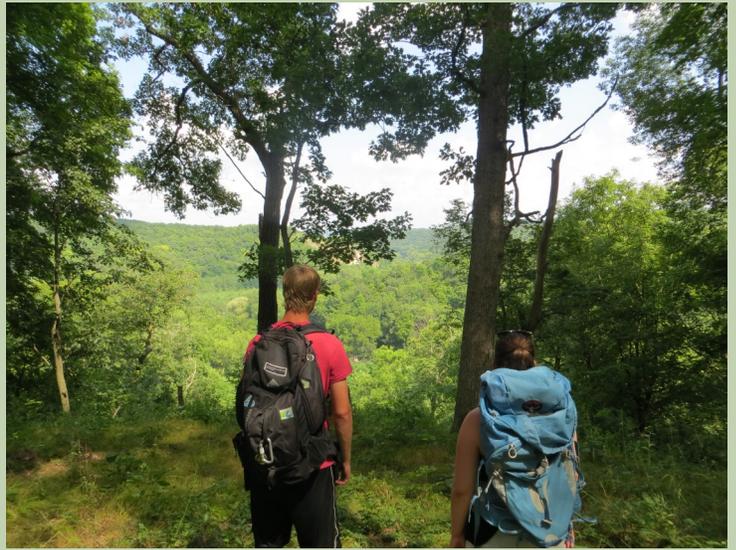




## An active day in Clayton County

1. Wake up at Big Spring Campground & head into Elkader to grab a delicious breakfast from one of the local coffee or tea shops, be sure to get some fresh pastries at Petretti's family bakery while you are in town.
2. Try out one of the area disc golf courses, we recommend the Osborne Disc Golf Course or the Elkader City Park Course. If you don't have your own disc golf equipment try out the Osborne Course as you are able to rent disks from the office.
3. Sit down and enjoy a picnic next to the pond at Osborne! This also offers a great opportunity for any children in your group to burn off some steam on the playground.
4. On your way back through Elkader stop at Turkey River Park & experience the river's great Smallmouth Bass & Walleye fishing. The whitewater park access & canoe access are some other public access fishing areas worth trying as well.
5. Drive back to your campsite at Big Spring Campground & get the flames rolling on your fire. Prepare your freshly caught fish & cook them over the campfire!

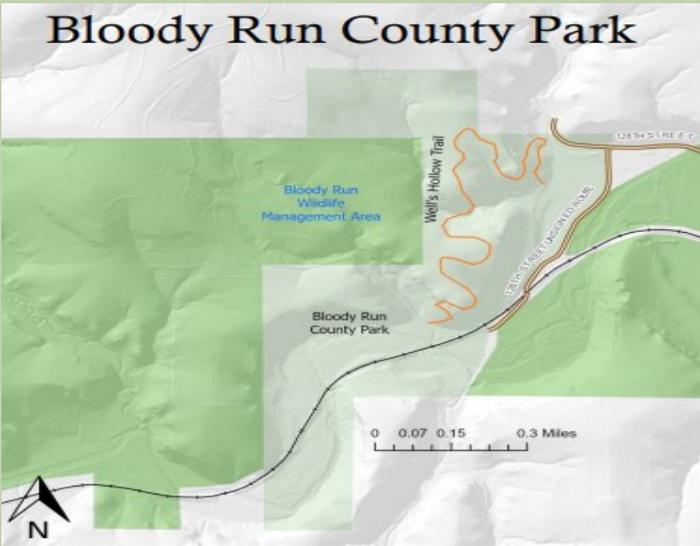
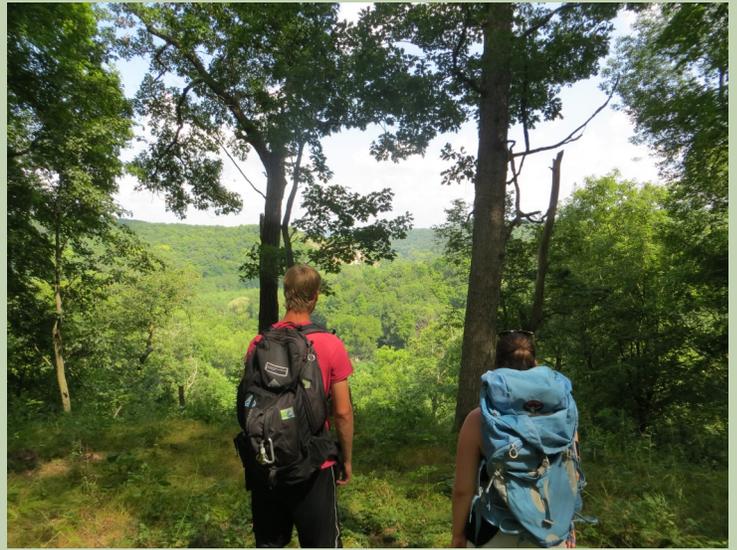




## An adventurous day in Clayton County

1. Rise and shine at your campsite at Bloody Run Campground, be sure to eat a filling breakfast as you've got a big day ahead of you!
2. Hike up the rugged singletrack Well's Hollow Trail located at Bloody Run County Park to get a beautiful view of the sunrise over the valley. Be sure to take your phone or camera, you'll want to get pictures!
3. After your morning hike at Bloody Run, drive over to check out the scenic overlook at Pikes Peak State Park as you make your way toward Elkader. We recommend taking a lunch with you as this is a great spot to have a quick picnic before your afternoon float.
4. Head down to the Turkey River Canoe Access 39B in Elkader & paddle down the beautiful Turkey River to Motor Mill Access 32, this is approximately a 2-3 hour paddle. Turkey River Rentals in Elkader offers kayak/canoe rental & shuttling if you need equipment or do not have a truck.
5. After your paddle consider taking a tour of the Motor Mill Historic Site located on the same property as the last river access. Set up camp at the Motor Mill Campground or make a reservation at the Motor Mill Inn.





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## A Clayton County Weekend Getaway

### Saturday:

- Wake up from your slumber at Joy Springs Campground, cook some breakfast & walk down to the stream to do some fishing.
  - Head over to Frieden Park located west of Elkader & put your kayaks in the Turkey River, be sure to pack food.
- Stop at river access 39A before the dam to portage your kayaks. This is a great time to stop in town & grab a bite to eat.
  - After portaging, if you are feeling adventurous put in above the Elkader Whitewater Park & take a ride through the rapids, get out at Motor Mill.
  - Head to Bloody Run Campground, setup camp, rest!

### Sunday:

- Wake up at your campsite at Bloody Run Campground.
- Head to the stream to do some trout fishing during the morning bite.
- Drive south down the Great River Road, a National Scenic Byway along the Mighty Mississippi River.
- Stop in Guttenberg & grab some lunch at one of the local restaurants.
- While you are in town be sure to visit the Guttenberg fish hatchery & take a walk down the riverwalk trail along the Mississippi.
- Say goodbye to the beautiful driftless region & visit again soon!



# Additional Clayton County must sees!



## Effigy Mounds

### National Monument

Home to more than 200 prehistoric mounds both burial and ceremonial constructed by Native Americans.

Open Daily Sunrise—Sunset



## The Carter House Museum

Built in the 1850's by Henry & Ernest Carter, the house is a 18– room Greek Revival mansion.

Open Memorial Day—Sept. 30th Sat & Sun 12PM—4PM .



## Earth Moving Legacy Center

38000 Sq Ft facility showcasing the history & evolution of earth moving equipment.

Monday—Saturday 9AM—4PM



## Froelich Tractor Museum

Museum featuring tractor history & displays.

Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays

