

CLAYTON COUNTY CONSERVATION



Osborne Visitor Center
29862 Osborne Road
Elkader, IA 52043
563-245-1516
www.claytoncountyconservation.org

© Jessica Kelling

WELCOME

WELCOME TO CLAYTON COUNTY

The Clayton County Conservation Board and staff would like to welcome you to Clayton County. Our 19 county parks and natural areas provide a variety of opportunities to county residents and visitors alike. Our board was established in 1958; since then many changes have occurred. Now we are looking down the road and planning for the next 50 years to keep our areas enjoyable for everyone. Osborne Visitor Center is the headquarters and offices for the board. Here roughly 70,000 visitors come to: fish, hike the trails, visit the Iowa Welcome Center, view the Nature Center and Wildlife Exhibit or just enjoy a quiet day with family and friends.

Environmental education has always played an important role in promoting and conserving our natural resources. Our Nature Center and Parks are visited by nearly 50 schools throughout the year. Along with school groups, public programs, special events, camps and organization presentations, our staff has contacts with over 30,000 people through education programs annually. In order to provide a high quality of services we rely on a volunteer staff of nearly 180 volunteers a year.



Mississippi River

CLAYTON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD



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OSBORNE VISITOR CENTER

Located on 300-acres, the Osborne Visitor Center features an Iowa Welcome Center & Gift Shop, Nature Center, Pioneer Village, Wildlife Exhibit, & 5 miles of trail.

IOWA WELCOME CENTER & GIFT SHOP

Stop by the Welcome Center to learn more about travel opportunities in Iowa. Visit with a certified travel counselor and pick up brochures and maps. The Iowa Room Gift Shop offers shoppers a unique opportunity to purchase items produced locally. Items such as popcorn, honey and candy will hold off any hunger pangs, while Iowa souvenirs, nature products, and field guides will entertain the wandering traveler.

NATURE CENTER

The Nature Center offers visitors an opportunity to view mounted animal displays, live snakes, turtles and amphibians. Come inside to learn more about Iowa's Natural History!

PIONEER VILLAGE

The town of Osborne flourished in the 1880's but after a dip in food prices and a series of fires, the town began to disappear. In 1962, the Conservation Board bought the property and began restoring the town. The village currently consists of six buildings which replicate a small town in the late 1800's. Buildings are open for public viewing from Memorial Day through Labor Day.



Osborne Visitor Center

CONSERVATION CONTACTS

OSBORNE VISITOR CENTER
563-245-1516 - Clayton County

ISU EXTENSION
563-245-1451 - Clayton County

CONSERVATION OFFICERS
563-880-0108 - Iowa DNR

BIG SPRING FISH HATCHERY
563-245-2446 - Iowa DNR

STATE FORESTER
563-245-1891 - Iowa DNR

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICES
563-245-1048 - Clayton County

OSBORNE VISITOR CENTER HOURS

Summer schedule April through second week of October: Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Winter schedule October to April: Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed Sundays. All county parks close at 10:00 p.m.



Learn more at www.claytoncountyconservation.org

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
The Clayton County Conservation Board does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, national origin, age or disability. If anyone believes he or she may have been subjected to such discrimination, he or she may file a complaint with the Clayton County Conservation Board or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. © 2013 All Rights Reserved Clayton County Conservation Board

WILDLIFE EXHIBITS & TRAIL

NATIVE WILDLIFE EXHIBITS

The Native Wildlife Exhibit houses animals native to the state of Iowa. Visitors can observe animals up close and personal as they stroll through this interpretive exhibit. Animals that can be seen in the Native Wildlife Exhibit are:

- ✔ Whitetail Deer
- ✔ Coyote
- ✔ Wolf
- ✔ Mountain Lion
- ✔ Black Bear
- ✔ Bobcat
- ✔ Birds of Prey
- ✔ Raccoon
- ✔ Fox

The animals located in the exhibit have been brought to Osborne Conservation Center for a variety of reasons. Most have been injured in some way and can no longer survive on their own. The Clayton County Conservation Board maintains the health of these animals through financial donations from visitors.

HIKING TRAILS

Situated near the Nature Center are several miles of hiking trails. Pick up a self-guided brochure in the Nature Center or trail head and wander through the forest to see birds, trees, flowers and more! Please stay on the trails to avoid contact with poison ivy and other irritable plants.



Native Wildlife Exhibit

CLAYTON COUNTY CONSERVATION PARKS & CAMPGROUNDS

1 OSBORNE VISITOR CENTER: 29862 Osborne Rd Elkader, IA
 Located five miles south of Elkader, this 300-acre park features a Welcome/Nature Center, Native Wildlife Exhibit, Pioneer Village, Multi-use Trails, Pond and Shelters for day use.

2 BLOODY RUN PARK: 29857 Bloody Run Dr, Marquette, IA
 Bloody Run Park is located just west of Marquette Iowa. Nestled between rolling bluffs, Bloody Run is a 135-acre paradise that provides both excellent trout fishing and camping opportunities. With over 19 primitive campsites, campers have the opportunity to enjoy nature without all the noise of the city. The campground is located right along Bloody Run Trout Stream. Camping fees are \$10 per night.

3 MOTOR MILL PARK: 23002 Grain Rd Elkader, IA
 Dominated by a six-story limestone gristmill, the 155-acre Motor Mill Park is located seven miles east of Elkader. The park features primitive campsites along with hiking trails and a canoe landing along the Turkey River. The Motor Mill Bridge Project was completed in 2012 and now allows for a southern access again. Camping fees are \$10.00 per night.

4 FRENCHTOWN PARK: 26254 Mississippi Rd Guttenberg, IA
 Found along the Mississippi River, this intimate park has three primitive campsites. Located within the park is a boat ramp with access to the Mississippi River. The park is located three miles north of Guttenberg.

5 FRIEDENS PARK: 16723 Chariot Rd Elkader, IA
 This small park is located five and a half miles northwest of Elkader, adjacent to the Turkey River. The park offers canoe access and primitive camping for \$5.00 per night.

6 JOY SPRINGS PARK: 37771 Alpha Ave Strawberry Point, IA
 Located along Joy Springs Trout Stream, this campground is a great destination for any trout angler. Just a short drive west of Strawberry Point, Joy Springs covers approximately 90 acres of rolling forest land. Within the park is a large shelter and five primitive campsites. Camping fees are \$10.00 per night.



7 BUCK CREEK: 30286 232nd St Garnavillo, IA
 Three miles north of Garnavillo, Buck Creek is surrounded by over 100 acres of forest land and is located along the banks of Buck Creek Trout Stream. This park offers fishing and hiking opportunities and two primitive campsites are available for \$5.00 per night.

8 BECKER PROPERTIES: 36061 Millville Rd Guttenberg, IA and 37160 Great River Rd Guttenberg, IA
 Located just outside of Millville, the Becker property covers 373 acres and is divided into two sections. Both of these parcels are open to public hunting and one of the parcels has access to the Turkey River.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

MOTOR MILL HISTORIC SITE

The majestic Motor Mill sits in the heart of the Turkey River Valley. The 90-foot tall mill was built in the late 1860's and operated for less than ten years. The Motor Mill site is on the National Register of Historic Places. The town of Motor was the dream of three area investors; however because of floods and insects it ceased to prosper.

In 1983 the Clayton County Conservation Board purchased the property. Currently the site offers a campground, canoe access and a peek into the past. The Motor Mill Historical Site is a must see during your visit to Northeast Iowa and can now be accessed via a new stunning bridge from the parks south side.

RIVER BLUFFS SCENIC BYWAY

The River Bluffs Scenic Byway is a 109-mile driving route through Clayton & Fayette Counties that features hiking & water trails, trout streams, wildlife management areas & recreational parks. Nestled within the scenery are 13 small, historic towns that provide wonderful opportunities to experience local foods, entertainment & shopping. Learn more at www.iowabyways.org.



ANNUAL EVENTS

HERITAGE DAYS

Join us the second full weekend of October to celebrate the history of the old town of Osborne. Come enjoy the games, buffalo stew, fry-bread, apple cider, root beer, ice cream, music and many other delights. Bring the whole family! No admission and free parking is available for this historic event!

HOLIDAY WALK

Begin the holiday season with a candle-lit walk through Osborne Park. Along the trail you will meet enchanted characters who will teach you about Northeast Iowa. After the hike, come inside the Nature Center and enjoy homemade cookies and hot cocoa. This event is held the first Thursday of December.

SNOWFEST

Looking for a reason to get outside in the winter? Look no further than Osborne's SnowFest held the first weekend of February. Come learn how to use cross-country skis and snowshoes at this wonderful event. Take to the trails to discover the sights and sounds of the winter woods. This event is a healthy way to start the New Year for any individual or family.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

For decades Clayton County Conservation has been widely recognized as a leader in the state for environmental education. The organization won a state-wide award for excellence in environmental education and continues to grow in its programming efforts. Based upon this success, an Environmental Education Endowment entitled: The Osborne Partners for Education was established in 2011. This endowment ensures funding for future environmental education efforts and allows hundreds of school children to take an outdoor field trip in Clayton County. Educational programs offered by Clayton County include:

- ✓ Monthly public programs
- ✓ Classroom programs and field trips
- ✓ Summer junior naturalist camps
- ✓ Hunter education classes

Those interested in learning more about the outdoors should check in at the Nature Center for a list of current educational programs and upcoming events or visit our website at www.claytoncountyconservation.org.

Motor Mill National Historic Site



For more information visit www.motormill.org

Heritage Days



Turkey River Watershed Project

