



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Iowa Riverfront Trail

Iowa



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The Iowa Riverfront Trail in Council Bluffs spans the western side of the city along the Missouri River. For most of the route, bikers, runners, skaters and walkers are treated to spectacular views of the skyline of Omaha, Nebraska, located just across the river.

The trail begins in the south at the Western Historic Trails Center. Operated by the State Historical Society of Iowa, the center features exhibits on the various routes west and north for early American pioneers, most of which passed through this part of Iowa. Stop in for awhile and learn about the Lewis and Clark Trail, Oregon Trail, California Trail and Mormon Trail. The Iowa Riverfront Trail directly connects to the [Western Historic Trails Center Link](#) outside the facility, which allows trail users to connect seamlessly with many of Council Bluffs' other

great trails leading west, south and north.

Continuing north from the Western Historic Trails Center, the Iowa Riverfront Trail crosses under busy Interstate 80 as the highway approaches the Missouri River. A short on-road bike path along a low-use portion of River Road through some industrial properties follows. At the parking lot for the Ameristar Casino on Nebraska Avenue, the off-road trail resumes. The trail passes one more casino (Harrah's Council Bluffs), as well as the Dodge Riverside Golf Club, a public course that in the past has been named one of the best places to play by Golf Digest.

After the casinos and golf course, the Iowa Riverfront Trail meanders through the new River's Edge Park. Opened in 2013, the park features a large irrigated lawn, amphitheater, additional riverside trails and a new parking lot. The public space is framed by stunning views of Omaha and is lit at night.

The [Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge](#) begins in River's Edge Park. It currently holds the record as the longest pedestrian bridge to link two states. On the Nebraska side, connect to the [Omaha Riverfront Trail](#) for additional trail mileage. The bridge is a regional architectural landmark and is alone worth the trek.

Across from the bridge in Council Bluffs is the former site of Dodge Park Playland. The park opened in 1948 as a dog racing track and later drew crowds as a popular car racing track and amusement park. Although the park closed in 1970, the site is preserved as parkland. The Iowa Riverfront Trail continues north from this site between residences and Friendship Park, another section of wooded preserve.

The trail continues on the levee along the Missouri River until it reaches the intersection of N. 25th Street and I-29. Here the trail briefly cuts south before turning east along Avenue N/ Nash Boulevard, where it skirts the edge of Blackbird Marsh County Preserve. At State Route 192, the trail continues adjacent to Big Lake Road. The Iowa Riverfront Trail's



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States: Iowa

Counties: Pottawattamie

Length: 6.5miles

Trail end points: Western Historic Trails Center off Richard Downing Ave. to Big Lake Park at Big Lake Rd.

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Concrete

Trail category: Greenway/Non-RT

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Walking

Parking & Trail Access

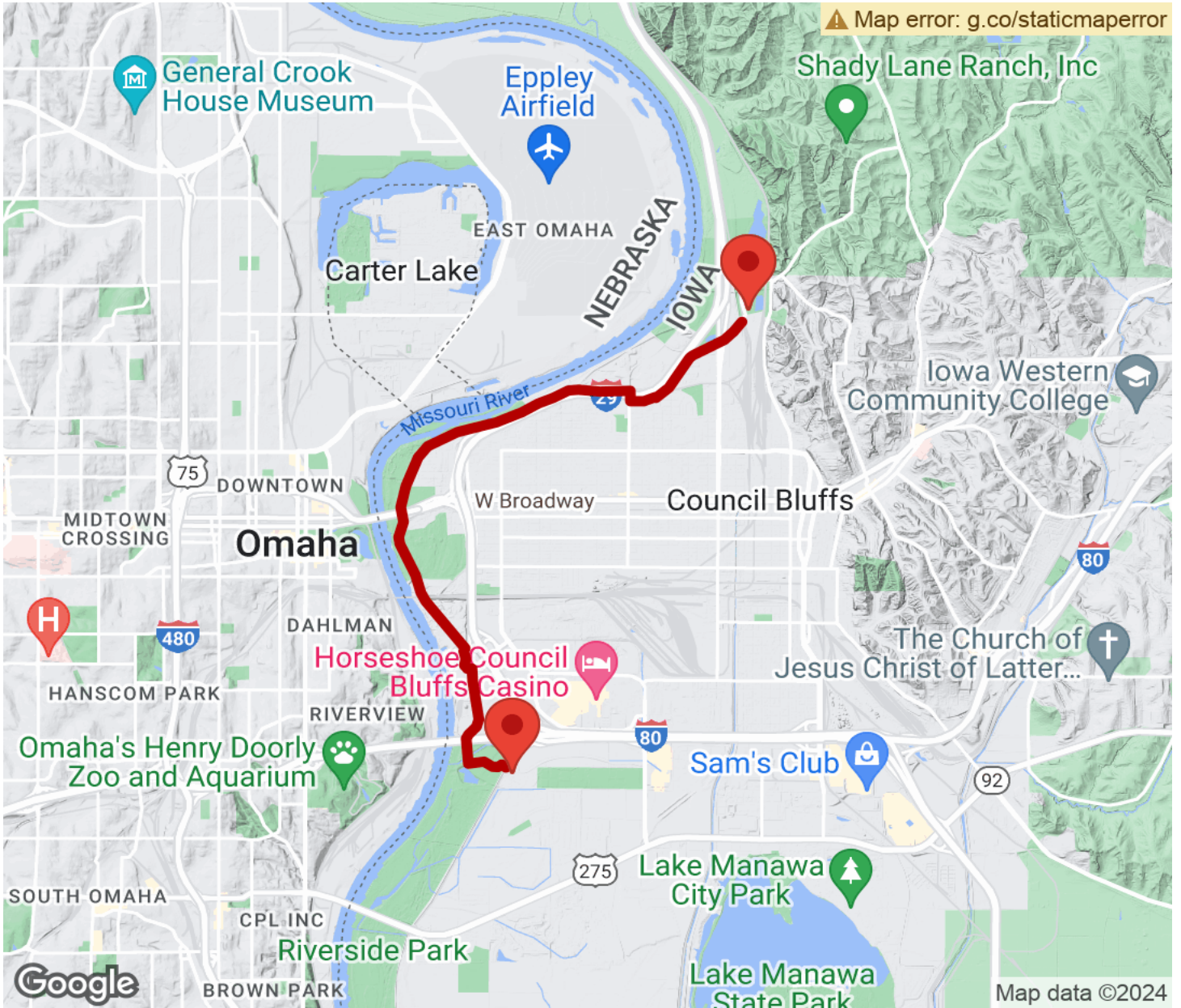
Parking can be found at several points along the Iowa Riverfront Trail. At the trail's southern endpoint, park at the Western Historic Trails Center parking lot just off Richard Downing Avenue. Farther north, the Ameristar and Harrah's casinos both have large parking lots, as does the Dodge Riverside Golf Club. Be mindful of any parking restrictions that may be in place.

A large parking lot is also available in River's Edge Park near Interstate 480. The lot can be accessed via a park service road from the Harrah's parking lot. At the trail's northern endpoint, parking can be found at Big Lake Park on Big Lake Road.



Iowa Riverfront Trail

Iowa



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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