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Buchanan  
County  
*Tourism*



# VISITORS GUIDE



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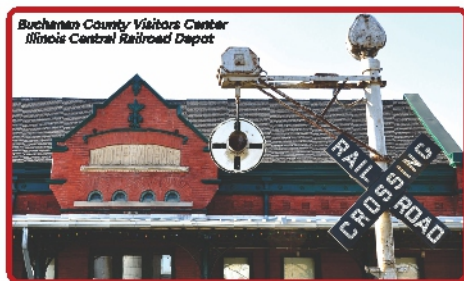
We welcome you to visit the  
Buchanan County Tourism Visitors Center  
at 1111 5th Ave NE, Independence  
or connect with us:

 319.334.3439  Buchanan County Tourism  
 [travelbuchanan.com](http://travelbuchanan.com)



# HISTORY & HERITAGE

# AREA ATTRACTIONS



**Buchanan County Visitors Center at Illinois Central Railroad Depot**  
1115 5th Ave. NE, Independence  
319-334-3439 [travelbuchanan.com](http://travelbuchanan.com)

In addition to housing Buchanan County Tourism, the Depot is a museum of local railroad history. It was built in 1892 to accommodate the increasing number of passengers coming to Independence for harness racing on the nationally famous kite-shaped track built by Charles W. Williams. The site includes the station & baggage room, a 1926 90-ton steam engine and a 1978 32-ton caboose. Open seasonally mid-May through mid-October, excluding Mondays.

**Amish Country**  
[hazletonia.com](http://hazletonia.com)/[Hazleton-Amish-businesses](http://Hazleton-Amish-businesses)

One of the largest, oldest, and perhaps most traditional Amish communities in Iowa is located just west of Hazleton. The Amish offer many shops of both modern and traditional goods and are open to visitors.

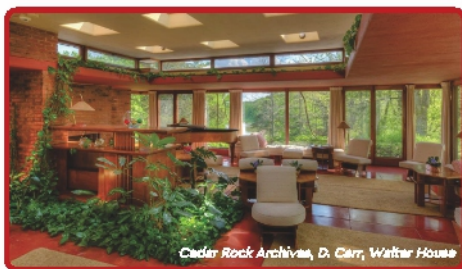
**Buchanan County Genealogical Society**  
103 4th Ave. SE, Independence  
319-334-9333

The BCGS maintains an extensive archive of obituaries, historic documents, and early publications in the lower level of the Independence City Hall. Use the door on the east side of the building and follow the signs leading down the stairs. Hours: Mondays 10:00am-2:00pm and Thursdays 2:00pm-6:00pm or by appointment. Information provided on a fee basis.



**Barn Quilts**  
Buchanan County Extension  
319-334-7161

The Barn Quilts of Buchanan County is a project that is designed to celebrate the area's agricultural heritage by highlighting local farm buildings with beautiful, quilt-related folk art. It began in 2006 with a small committee of dedicated volunteers. In just a few short years, they had accomplished painting and placing 110 quilt blocks around the county.



Cedar Rock Archives, D. Carr, Walter House

**Cedar Rock - Lowell and Agnes Walter Estate**  
2611 Quasqueton Diagonal Blvd., Independence  
319-934-3572 [friendsofcedarrock.org](http://friendsofcedarrock.org)  
Friends of Cedar Rock

In 1945, Lowell and Agnes Walter commissioned world-famous architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, to create their new home. Wright designed a stunning brick, steel and glass estate perfect for entertaining complete with a River Pavilion cantilevered off a landmark rock on the banks of the Wapsipicon River. Experience the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright and the beauty of organic design with a tour at Cedar Rock. Tours of the property are offered seasonally mid-May into mid-October, by reservation. The Park Visitor Center offers exhibits featuring the story of the site, the architect and even an opportunity to get your photo with flat Frank. There is no entrance fee, but donations are accepted.

**Freedom Rock of Buchanan County**  
Located outside Heartland Acres  
2600 Swan Lake Blvd., Independence  
319-332-0123 [thefreedomrock.com](http://thefreedomrock.com)  
Heartland Acres USA

Ray "Bubba" Sorenson created the Iowa Freedom Rock Tour as a way to honor Iowa's veterans and promote tourism across the state. Each rock depicts stories unique to that place. Buchanan County's rock, painted in the summer of 2020, is one of the last to be completed.

**Heartland Acres Agribition Center**  
2600 Swan Lake Blvd., Independence  
319-332-0123 [heartlandacresusa.com](http://heartlandacresusa.com)  
📍 Heartland Acres USA

Heartland Acres is a living museum of agricultural innovations, implements and displays that engage, inspire and educate visitors as they learn about our country's agricultural heritage, both in the past and present day. It includes local history exhibits curated by the Buchanan County Historical Society. Open year round; call for hours.

**Historic Route 20**

[historic20.com](http://historic20.com) 📍 Historic US Route 20 Iowa  
America's longest highway - Historic Route 20 - spans 3,365 miles across 12 states from Boston, Massachusetts to Newport, Oregon. In Iowa, the route (known locally as Historic Highway 20) passes through 35 towns including Winthrop, Independence, and Jesup in Buchanan County. Traversing the county from east to west, it follows what was once called the Hawkeye Highway, and is now designated as County Road D220. At Jesup, on the western edge of the county, it veers north to connect with Independence Avenue leading into Waterloo. Be sure to take advantage of the photo opportunities, amenities, and attractions along this historic route.

**Iowa's Largest Frying Pan**

802 Main Street, Brandon

📍 Brandon Area Community Club

Brandon is home to Iowa's largest Frypan. It is an impressive nine feet wide and 14 feet long (with handle). Built in 2004 for the town's Cowboy Breakfast Festival, the skillet could fry 44 dozen eggs or 88 pounds of bacon. Have fun with this great picture taking opportunity!



Iowa Mental Health Institute

**Iowa Mental Health Institute**

2277 Iowa Ave., Independence  
319-334-2583 [buchanancountyhistory.com](http://buchanancountyhistory.com)

The Mental Health Institute (MHI) opened its doors in 1873 and is the oldest functioning psychiatric facility in the state. Enjoy exploring the beautiful architecture and grounds. The Days of Yore museum - open by appointment - tells the history of MHI from its inception and gives a picture of mental health treatment over the years.



Daniel S. Lee Mansion

**Daniel S. Lee Mansion**

Next door to 805 1st St. E., Independence  
319-334-4616

This historic home built in 1867, once owned by Independence first mayor and now a property of the Buchanan County Historical Society, is currently under restoration. It is a fine example of Italianate architecture. The Victorian garden to the rear is maintained by the Buchanan County Master Gardeners. Currently, it is open for viewing on specific dates or by appointment.



Littleton-Chatham Museum

**Littleton-Chatham Museum**

1503 River Road Blvd., Independence  
319-415-1175

This museum is located in the former Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It has an exceptional display of local history that includes scale models of buildings from the early years of Littleton and Chatham. The museum is open by appointment.

**Quasqueton Area Historical Museum**

105 N. Water St., Quasqueton  
319-934-3354 [quaskyhistoricalsociety.com](http://quaskyhistoricalsociety.com)

The museum features two of the oldest buildings on Water Street. The main building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and features over 4,000 square feet of exhibits. The second building is a renovated Texaco service station featuring farm and automotive exhibits. There are dozens of photos and scrapbooks for those seeking local genealogy.

## Richardson-Jakway Historic Site

Jakway Forest, 2791 136th St., Aurora  
319-636-2617 [buchanancountyparks.com](http://buchanancountyparks.com)

The Richardson-Jakway Historic Site tells the stories of a pioneer farmstead and early American westward migration. It includes the 1851 Richardson-Jakway House, the first frame house in Buchanan County, that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A trail loops around the site which includes interpretive kiosks. Call to schedule a tour or visit the website to learn more about educational programs and special events.



Wapsipicon Mill  
Photo Credit: Tony Bangston

## Wapsipicon Mill Museum

100 1st St. W., Independence  
319-334-4616  
[buchanancountyhistory.com/mill.php](http://buchanancountyhistory.com/mill.php)  
📍 Wapsi Mill

The Wapsipicon Mill, built in 1867, was once the financial hub of Independence. Today it is a historic landmark, telling the story of the town, the farms, and the people who settled in Iowa. Owned by the Buchanan County Historical Society, it is open mid-May through mid-September, Tuesday through Sunday. Call ahead for tours.



Aurora Museum

## Local History Museums

Buchanan County residents are proud of their heritage and have established numerous museums that share the history of their towns and pioneer families. All are located in historic buildings that have been renovated to preserve artifacts from earlier times. Call ahead to schedule a visit.

### Aurora Museum

316 Main St., 319-634-3396

### The Country School Museum

116 Main St., 319-636-2559

### Fairbank Historical Society

103 E. Main St., 319-269-6795

### Iowa Civil War Monument GAR Hall

Brandon; [iowacivilwarmonuments.com](http://iowacivilwarmonuments.com)

### Lamont Museum

612 Bush St., 563-924-2803

### Rowley Historical Society

522 Sunset Blvd., 563-920-4567 or 319-938-2833

### Winthrop Historical Center

235 W. Madison, 319-935-3317



Fairbank Veterans Memorial

## Veteran Memorials of Buchanan County

The county has a rich heritage of service to our country beginning with the Civil War. Veteran organizations in several locales have erected monuments honoring our military from all wars and all branches of service.

### Buchanan County Veterans Memorial

210 5th Ave. NE, Independence

### Civil War Soldier Monument

City Park; Lamont

### Fairbank Veterans Memorial

Next to Immaculate Conception Church,  
106 Iowa St.

### Hazleton Veterans Park

Main Street North (Hwy. 150), east side

### Jesup Veterans Memorial

931 6th St.

### Quasqueton Veterans Memorial Park

101 S. Water St.



HISTORIC SITE  
TRAIL LOOP  
← →

# LAND & WATER TRAILS

# WATER TRAILS

## **Buchanan County Wapsipiconic River Water Trail**

[buchanancountyparks.com](http://buchanancountyparks.com)

The Wapsipiconic River Corridor is among the most important natural features in Iowa. The river, with its largely intact backwater wetlands and forested bluffs, provides great habitat for fish and wildlife, and great opportunities for people to enjoy the outdoors. It is a designated a State Water Trail with signed accesses along the entire stretch and informational brochures and kiosks. Visit the website to view the water trail brochure and learn about accessing the river.



## **Iron Bridge Access**

**2707-2 Nolen Ave., Rowley**  
[buchanancountyparks.com](http://buchanancountyparks.com)

The Iron Bridge Access is a true Gateway to the Buchanan County Water Trail. The new paved access includes a universal launch designed for use by paddlers and boaters with various skills and physical abilities. It includes lighting and a restroom. Sidewalks allow people to access parking lots for the Guy Grover Timber and Tree Plantings wildlife area. The amenities provide access to perhaps the most scenic stretch of Wapsipiconic River Corridor. Visible upstream is the historic Iron Bridge - listed on the national Register of Historic Places.



## **Knott's Landing**

Located in Independence on Hwy. 150 South, next to the bridge.

## **Robert "Chic" McGlaughlin Easement Access**

**302 Water St., Jesup**  
[buchanancountyparks.com](http://buchanancountyparks.com)

Locally known as the Littleton Dam Access, The Robert "Chic" McGlaughlin Easement Access is located in the small community of Littleton. The dam is a series of rock rapids on privately owned property (please respect private property), but Iowa DNR has easement allowing public river access for fishing and paddling. The put-in below the rapids, makes for a nice half-day trip to the Iowa DNR's Otterville Bridge Access.

## **Three Elms Access**

**2041 Three Elms Park Rd., Independence**  
[buchanancountyparks.com](http://buchanancountyparks.com)

Three Elms Access is the last public boat access to the Wapsipiconic River before heading downstream from Independence. The concrete put-in with ample parking provides a nice half-day trip to the Iron Bridge Access, or full-day trip to the Quasqueton Campground. This is among the most scenic and popular stretches of the Wapsipiconic River Water Trail. A restroom is available at the park entrance.

## **Troy Mills Access**

**3251-3 Stewart Ave., Troy Mills**  
[buchanancountyparks.com](http://buchanancountyparks.com)

Troy Mills Access is the last takeout on the Buchanan County Wapsipiconic River Water Trail before the Troy Mills Dam. The access features a concrete launch and space for parking. Primitive camping is permitted. The surrounding public land contains 63 acres of forest along the Wapsipiconic River open to hunting, fishing, and other forms of low impact nature appreciation.

## **Wapsi River Access**

**2051 Wapsie Access Blvd., Independence**  
[buchanancountyparks.com](http://buchanancountyparks.com)

This gravel access is appropriate for paddlers and some flat-bottom motor boats, as it enters the shallows wetland and reservoir of the Wapsipiconic River above the Independence Dam. It is a takeout downstream from the Littleton or Iron Bridge accesses, and a great place to explore, fish, and paddle. There is a picnic shelter and restroom in the park.



# LAND TRAILS

## **Buchanan County Snowmobile Trails** [wsaiowa.com](http://wsaiowa.com)

The Wapsipinicon Snowmobile Association maintains approximately 140 miles of trails to connect nine communities in the County. The trail system also connects with neighboring snowmobile club systems in all four directions. Trails are newly laid out every year.

## **American Trotter Trail** **Independence High School**

This trail is a half mile long paved trail which connects to both the Liberty Trail and the Independence schools.

## **Buchanan County Road Cycling** [mapmyride.com/us/independence-ia.org](http://mapmyride.com/us/independence-ia.org)

The Independence city streets and county roads offer numerous opportunities for bicycling. Visit the websites for maps and more information.

## **Cedar Valley Nature Trail**

**Branard St., Brandon**  
[cedarvalleynaturetrail.com](http://cedarvalleynaturetrail.com)

The Cedar Valley Nature Trail is a 52-mile long recreational corridor stretching traversing through Linn, Benton, Buchanan, and Black Hawk counties. The trail head in Brandon provides access to the most scenic stretch of the trail. This segment has a firm, packed gravel surface, and portions in either direction are paved. The CVNT was a rails-trails project that converted a historic rail line into this premier trail.

## **Fontana Park**

**1883 125th St., Hazleton**  
[buchanancountyparks.com](http://buchanancountyparks.com) - paved and mowed

Explore this popular destination on trails that can be used year-round for walking, skiing, and snowshoeing. The paved trail also provides a nice bicycle loop. Interpretive signs educate visitors about the nature of the forest, and special "Nature Play Areas" are provided as safe off-trail places for children to explore. For more information about Fontana Park see page 21.

## **Nature Trails - Off the Pavement**

[Buchanancountyparks.com](http://Buchanancountyparks.com) - mowed

Buchanan County Conservation Board manages 13 unique natural areas with maintained nature trails. Trails may go through woodlands, prairies, and along ponds and wetlands, and feature natural beauty and wildlife. For more information, visit the website.

## **Heritage Historical Hiking Trail** **112 First St. E Independence**

This walking trail winds around Independence and locates the great historical sites you can find there. To get a map go to the Independence Area Chamber of Commerce located in Downtown Independence.

## **Independence Bike Accommodations** [independenceia.org](http://independenceia.org)

This map provides bike routes available around the community.



## **Jakway Forest**

**2791 136th St, Aurora**  
[buchanancountyiowa.org](http://buchanancountyiowa.org) - mowed

Jakway provides more than three miles of hiking trails in the County's largest, managed, upland forest. The trails are groomed in winter for cross-country skiing, and equestrian use is allowed. Interpretive signs educate visitors about forest management. For more information about Jakway Forest see page 21.

## **Liberty Trail**

**1st Street West Independence by East Elementary School**

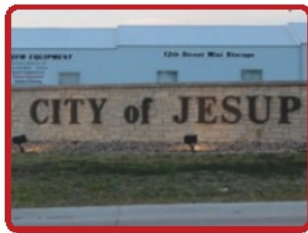
This trail is on the former Rock Island RR tracks and is currently 1.5 miles and expanding.

## **Three Elms Area**

**2041 Three Elms Park Rd, Independence, IA**  
[buchanancountyparks.com](http://buchanancountyparks.com) - mowed

This beautiful area holds 75 wooded acres that border the Wapsipinicon River. River access is abundant at this site which has a concrete boat ramp and fishing area. Dirt mountain biking trails are maintained here with signage. There are also open areas with picnic tables that are ideal for picnicking.

# MEET OUR TOWNS



## JESUP

319-827-1522 [jesupiowa.com](http://jesupiowa.com)

You're going to want to visit Jesup! Located on Historic Highway 20 you can find great parks to picnic at and places to explore. Ever heard of Farmer's Day? You are in for a treat with this annual town event that features over 100 hours of free entertainment. Golf, eat, shop, you can do it all in Jesup. Once you explore all there is to do in Jesup you are only a 10 minute drive to Buchanan County's thriving Amish community that offers a large variety of shops and businesses.

## FAIRBANK

319-635-2869 [Fairbank-ia.org](http://Fairbank-ia.org)

The Little Wapsipinicon splits at Fairbank creating a unique feature known as Island Park that has become the hub of activities for this bustling little town. You can walk a footbridge to the island or take advantage of the canoe and kayak ramps located nearby. Every June, Fairbank hosts Island Days with top notch musical entertainment on both Friday and Saturday nights, a parade, midway, food and activities. And don't miss the beautiful Veterans Memorial on the west bank of the river just beyond the bridge! For a unique shopping experience, head south of Fairbank into Amish Country where you will find a multitude of shops reflective of the Amish way of life.



## BRANDON

319-474-2335

Brandon's slogan "A Little Town We're Proud to Call Home!" is an open invitation to experience Iowa hospitality! Where else can you have your picture taken with Iowa's Largest Flying Pan? Enjoy numerous events throughout the year including the only Cowboy Breakfast in Iowa. Brandon is a great place to stop and stay while biking the Cedar Valley Nature Trail. Campers can take advantage of several areas such as Lime Creek Park, Winegars Lake, and MinneEstma. Fishing can be enjoyed at Koutny Pond and Cedar River Access.



## HAZLETON

319-636-2559 [hazletonia.com](http://hazletonia.com)

Hazleton is in the heart of Amish Country and is the gateway to Buchanan County's Fontana Park and Interpretive Nature Center. Take the bike trail from Hazleton to Fontana where recreational opportunities abound. Stop by the shops in Hazleton or grab something to eat before going out to visit the large variety of Amish shops located around both Hazleton and Fairbank. You will be amazed to see the Amish community out working in their fields using REAL horsepower! Hazleton Haze Daze is known for its extensive flea and antique market, also includes two days of live music and civil war reenactments!



## INDEPENDENCE

319-334-2780 [independenceia.org](http://independenceia.org)

Experience Independence and all it has to offer! Unique shopping and delicious one of a kind dining opportunities await you in this picturesque community. Enjoy biking and walking trails or head out on the Wapsipinicon River for some fun. Explore the museums and historic sites, spend a day at Heartland Acres Agribition Center or come during one of the many events held yearly downtown or at River Walk Park. You can do it all in Independence.



## ROWLEY

319-938-2636

Conveniently located in southern Buchanan County right off Highway 150, Rowley has it all including hunting, fishing and camping. Rowley Fen on the northwest edge of town, is a Buchanan County nature preserve offering hunting and nature appreciation. It is home to rare plant life and supports wetland, forests, prairie and wildlife. Here you can "feel the earth move beneath your feet," due to the "quaking soil" because the peat is so saturated, the ground trembles when walked upon.



## STANLEY

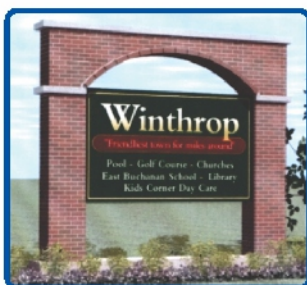
319-634-3921

Stanley is a beautiful little town on the northern border of Buchanan County and is the youngest and smallest community in Buchanan County. There you will be greeted as you enter Stanley by the 20-foot-tall Stanley the Tin Man. Where else in Iowa can you go to have your picture taken with a giant Tin Man? Make sure you bring your picnic lunch with you to enjoy in the Stanley Memory Park.

## QUASQUETON

319-934-3340 [quasky.com](http://quasky.com)

You can search the entire United States and never find another Quasqueton. Known by locals as Quasky, this scenic little town is located along the beautiful Wapsipinicon River. For outdoor enthusiasts Quasky has it all: camping, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, hunting, and some of the best restaurants and bars you will find anywhere. While in town be sure to make plans to explore The Quasqueton Historical Museum, or Cedar Rock- a Frank Lloyd Wright designed estate, donated to Iowa by Quasqueton native Lowell Walter.



## WINTHROP

319-935-3317 [cityofwinthrop.com](http://cityofwinthrop.com)

The friendliest town for miles around! Winthrop is home to one of the four golf courses you will find in Buchanan County. After your day of golfing check out the Winthrop Historical Center with some great displays depicting the area's rich history. Be sure to grab something to eat before you leave. If you happen to be in town on a Friday during Lent, you will have the chance at the best fish for miles around. Winthrop is also known for their Funnel Cake Days in June. Along with funnel cakes there are tons of activities, games and a cool custom car parade for you to enjoy as part of Winthrop's Funnel Days.

## AURORA

319-634-3329 [auroraiowa.us](http://auroraiowa.us)

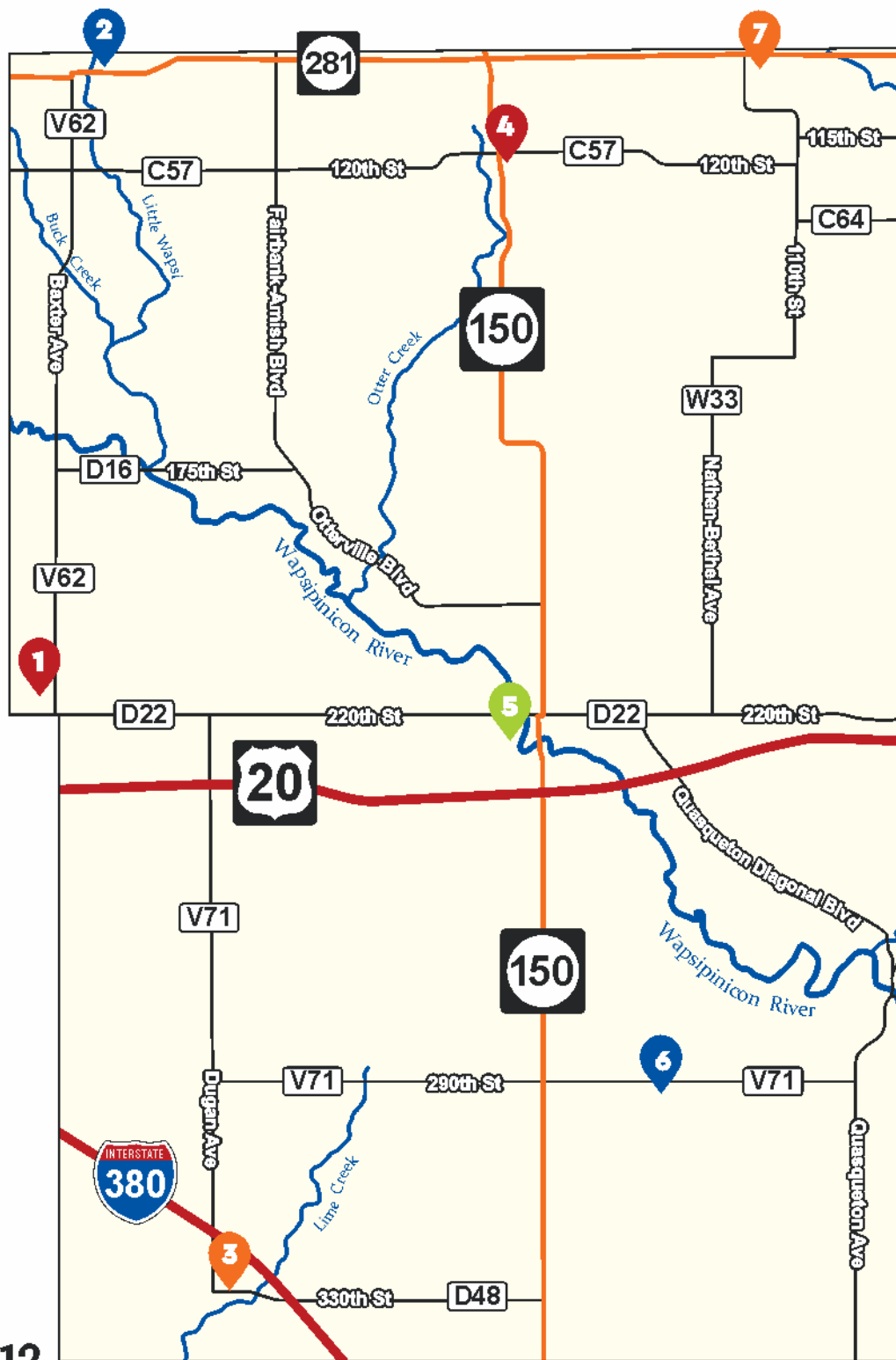
Small but mighty! Visit Aurora's 10-acre city park and enjoy a picnic lunch in one of our pavilions. Check out Aurora's large historical museum located in a restored 19th century hardware store building filled with many unique displays and photos. Stop by on your way to camp at Jakway Park and grab a bite at our bar/restaurant that has daily drink and food specials.

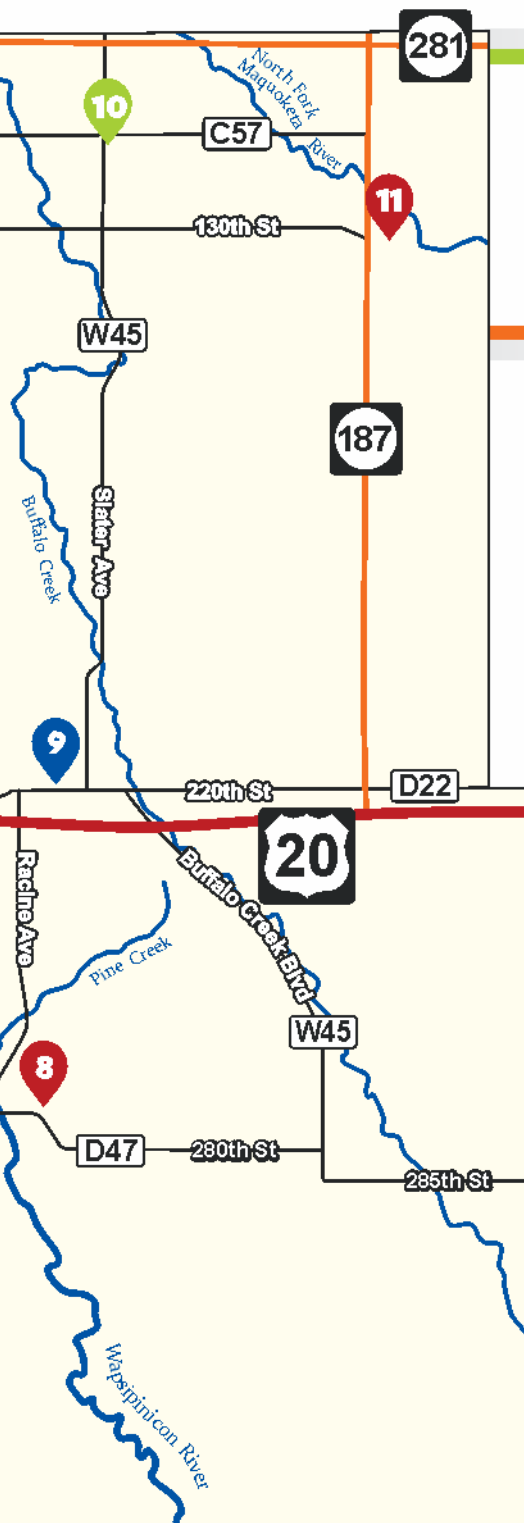


## LAMONT

563-924-2194 [lamontiaowa.com](http://lamontiaowa.com)

Lamont is a vibrant community known locally as "The Volunteer Town." Lamont lives up to its reputation by operating The Common Grounds, a restaurant and gathering place run solely by town volunteers. Stop by for your home-cooked meal any weekday during lunch time. Lamont is also known as "The Gateway to Backbone State Park," Iowa's first state park. Lamont is also home to a rare soldier monument from the Civil War which is located along the creek in the City Park. Find your unique experience in Lamont!





# EXPLORE BUCHANAN COUNTY

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- 7 STANLEY
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# EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# FAIRS & FESTIVALS



## Buchanan County Fair

204 12th St. NE, Independence  
319-327-1789 [buchanancountyfair.org](http://buchanancountyfair.org)

[Facebook](#) Buchanan County Fair

The Buchanan County Fair is a treasured tradition that provides opportunities for 4-H'er's, FFA members and the youth of Buchanan County to show their accomplishments and talents in a safe, family-friendly setting. It also hosts great concerts and entertaining shows in the grandstand arena throughout the five day event. Whether fair-goers are interested in agriculture, live music, carnival fun, or the delicious fair food, there is something for everyone. Held annually in early July.

## Brandon Days

Downtown Brandon  
319-474-2166 [bacciowa.com](http://bacciowa.com)  
[Facebook](#) Brandon Area Community Club

Brandon Days is a classic hometown celebration encompassing an entire weekend of fun-filled activities. Highlights include live music on Friday and Saturday; a tractorcade followed by a parade, and on Sunday, a car show and cruise. Held annually the first weekend of August.

## Fairbank Island Days

Island Park & Downtown Fairbank  
[fairbankislanddays.com](http://fairbankislanddays.com) [Facebook](#) Fairbank Island Days

This 3-day celebration is held at Island Park, on a beautiful section of the Wapsipinicon River. It features tons of live music, fireworks, a car show, carnival and more! Held annually the 3rd weekend of June.

## Hazleton Haze Daze

City Park & Downtown Hazleton  
319-636-2559 [hazletonia.com](http://hazletonia.com)  
[Facebook](#) Hazleton Commercial Club

This is a festival made for the Flea Market/Antiques enthusiast! In addition to 4-square blocks of vendor booths, the 2-day event includes a parade, games, music and an authentic Civil War re-enactment. Held annually the second weekend in June.

## Independence 4th of July Parade and Celebration

River Walk Parks, 49 6th St. NE  
[indeecommerce.com](http://indeecommerce.com)

[Facebook](#) Independence Area Chamber of Commerce  
[celebrateindee.com](http://celebrateindee.com) [Facebook](#) Celebrate Indee

Celebrate the birth of our nation in Independence with the oldest 4th of July Parade in Iowa. Join the special events all taking place in River Walk Parks. Top notch entertainment is available throughout this two day event that provides one of the best firework shows in Iowa as a grand finale. Held annually July 3 & 4.

## Jesup Farmers Days

Jesup Park Downtown  
[jesupfarmersday.org](http://jesupfarmersday.org) [Facebook](#) Jesup Farmers Day

This is a truly family-oriented 3-day festival that offers a midway, parade, homespun variety and talent shows, lumberjack shows and more. Various special exhibits highlighting our heritage are made available each year. Held annually the 2nd weekend of July.

## Lamont Days

Downtown Lamont  
[lamontiowa.com](http://lamontiowa.com) [Facebook](#) Lamont Community Club

Opening with a parade through downtown Lamont, this community gathering offers guests a relaxing yet fun-filled day. It continues with an afternoon of games in the park, followed by a steak supper. Held annually the 1st weekend of August.

## Rowley Days

Downtown Rowley  
[Facebook](#) Rowley CC

Cheer at a morning parade and shake-a-leg at the evening street dance. Add to this, children's games, food vendors, and more, and you have a recipe for old fashioned fun. Held annually the last weekend of July.

## Winthrop Funnel Cake Days

Downtown Winthrop  
[cityofwinthrop.com](http://cityofwinthrop.com) [Facebook](#) WinthropCandCClub

Opening on Friday evening with "Movie Night at the Park", the celebration continues on Saturday with a parade, kid's activities, live music, fireworks, and more. Held annually the 2nd weekend of June.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Buchanan County Conservation Board sponsors dozens of public programs and outings throughout the year.**

**To view and register for these events, visit [www.buchanancountyparks.com](http://www.buchanancountyparks.com) and click on "Public Events"**

## **An Afternoon with Frank Lloyd Wright** 2611 Quasqueton Diagonal Blvd., Independence 319-934-3572 [friendsofcedarrock.org](http://friendsofcedarrock.org)

**Friends of Cedar Rock**

The Friends of Cedar Rock (FCR) invite you to their annual Afternoon with Frank Lloyd Wright Lecture Symposium. Lecture topics relate to the life, history, and work of Frank Lloyd Wright. Held annually in October.

## **Brandon Christmas Festival**

Brandon Community Center, 802 Main St.  
319-474-2166 [bacciowa.com](http://bacciowa.com)

**Brandon Area Community Club**

All the delights and merriment of a hometown Christmas can be found at this holiday celebration. Enjoy the free wagon rides through the town's holiday lights or participate in a tree or gingerbread house decorating contest. Held the 1st weekend of December.

## **Brandon Cowboy Breakfast**

Brandon Community Center, 802 Main St.,  
319-427-2387 [bacciowa.com](http://bacciowa.com)

**Brandon Area Community Club**

A "Cowboy" Breakfast is cooked outside over open fires in cast iron cookware. Held annually the 3rd Sunday of September.

## **Flag Day at the Lee Mansion**

800 Block of 1st St. E., Independence  
319-334-4616 [buchanancountyhistory.com](http://buchanancountyhistory.com)

**Wapsi Mill**

Tour this Italianate historic home (currently under restoration) built in 1867 by the first mayor of Independence, Daniel S. Lee. Wander through the Victorian gardens maintained by the Buchanan County Master Gardeners and cool off with a glass of lemonade under the 100-year-old oaks. Held annually on June 14.

## **First Day Hike at Cedar Rock**

2611 Quasqueton Diagonal Blvd., Independence  
319-934-3572

[friendsofcedarrock.org](http://friendsofcedarrock.org) **Friends of Cedar Rock**

Celebrate the New Year by joining State Park naturalists and educators for a 1.5 mile hike (moderate difficulty) on Toad's Trail from the Visitor Center to the Walter House. Annually on January 1.

## **Friday Night Live**

River Walk Parks, 49 6th St. NE, Independence  
319-334-7178 [indeecommerce.com](http://indeecommerce.com)

**Indee Commerce**

The Independence Area Chamber of Commerce sponsors relaxing evenings of live music, food and fun for all ages. No charge for music; costs for food and fun varies. Held on select Fridays June through August.

## **Heartland Acres Ice Fishing Derby**

2600 Swan Lake Blvd., Independence  
319-332-0123 [heartlandacresusa.com](http://heartlandacresusa.com)

**Heartland Acres Agribition Center**

Test your ice fishing skills in this competitive derby on Swan Lake next to Heartland Acres. Entry fee includes a ticket for the Lions Club Breakfast at the nearby Agribition Center. Held annually on the 3rd Sunday of February.

## **Heartland Acres Golf Tournament**

River Ridge Golf Course  
1749 Golf Course Blvd., Independence  
319-332-0123 [heartlandacresusa.com](http://heartlandacresusa.com)

**Heartland Acres Agribition Center**

This fundraising event in support of Heartland Acres Agribition Center is open to the public. Participants will take on the River Ridge Golf Course. Held annually the first Wednesday of September.



Holidays at the Depot

## **Holidays at the Depot**

1111 5th Ave. NE, Independence  
319-334-3439 [travelbuchanan.com](http://travelbuchanan.com)

**Buchanan County Tourism**

This celebration of the holiday season at the Illinois Central Depot features community decorated trees, wreaths and specialty items for viewing as part of a silent auction fundraiser. Special entertainment on selected days and holiday treats for all guests. Held annually in late November and early December.



## Independence BrewBQ

River Walk Parks, 49 6th St. NE, Independence  
brewbq.org Independence BrewBQ

A special event tailored to craft beer and barbecue lovers. Grillers and brewers vie for best in show while attendees enjoy tastings and free live music. Held annually the 4th Saturday of August.

## Independence Downtown Trick-or-Treat

1st St. E & 2nd Ave. NE  
319-334-7178 indeecommerce.com  
Indee Commerce

Goblins galore parade through the downtown for trick-or-treats provided by local businesses and organizations. A fun and safe way to celebrate Halloween! Held annually near or on October 31.



## Independence Farmers Market

Wapsipinicon Mill, 100 1st Street W.  
319-334-7161  
extension.iastate.edu/Buchanan/farmers market  
Indee Farmers Market

This seasonal outdoor market is both a place for shoppers to buy locally produced food and crafts and a place for the community to come together for special events and entertainment. Located next to the Wapsipinicon Mill and held on Saturday mornings from mid-May through mid-October.



## Independence Motor Speedway

Buchanan County Fairgrounds, 204 12 St. NE  
319-334-9287 independencemotorspeedway.com  
Independence Motor Speedway

Experience the rush of the race at the Independence Motor Speedway! Races begin on Saturdays in late April and continue through August. Special racing events are scheduled throughout the season. Check the website for a schedule of events.

## Independence Underground Tour

Wapsipinicon Mill, 100 1st Street W.  
319-334-4616 Wapsi Mill

Explore downtown Independence's underground city created in the 1860's when the entire street was raised 1 level in one of the most unique tours in Iowa. Tour includes steep stairs and uneven flooring. Held annually the 3rd Saturday of August.

## Jesup Lions Club Car & Bike Cruise

Jesup City Park  
319-827-6600 Jesup Iowa Lions Club

Car and motorcycle buffs will enjoy this special gathering of vintage vehicles from area owners. Bring your own classic car or bike to join the cruise. Held annually the first Sunday in June.



## Jesup Lions Club Truck & Tractor Pull

12th Street, Jesup  
319-827-6600 Jesup Iowa Lions Club

Pack up your lawn chair and come for an evening of rollicking entertainment as truck and tractor drivers prove themselves in tough competition. Fundraiser for the Lions Club - food and beverages are sold on site. Held annually the last Friday of June.



## Jingle on Main

1st St. E & 2nd Ave. NE, Downtown Independence  
indeecommerce.com Indee Commerce

Kickoff your holiday season with Jingle on Main! Take a Cinderella carriage ride, get your picture taken with Santa, and make s'mores outside. Visit the local stores to shop and enjoy holiday decorations and treats. A full evening of family fun. Held annually the first Friday evening in December.

**Oakwood Cemetery Tour**  
3rd Ave. SE bet. 6th & 8th St. SE, Independence  
319-334-4616 📍 Wapsi Mill  
[buchanancountyhistory.com](http://buchanancountyhistory.com)

Explore local history through a tour of grave side visits where actors portray early founders of Independence, telling about their lives and contributions. Sponsored as a fundraiser by the Buchanan County Historical Society and held annually the third Saturday in July.

**Quaskey Car Club Show & Cruise**  
Downtown Quasqueton  
319-327-4225 📍 Quaskey Car Club

Quaskey offers one of the best car shows in the state, complete with Top 50 and Best of Show awards. Come for an enjoyable day by the river providing food, fun and fantastic rides. Held annually on the 3rd Saturday of August.



**Quaskey Haunted House**  
Quaskey Community Club Haunted House  
Water Street, Quasqueton  
Quasqueton Community Club

Come for a scary good time at Quaskey's creative, family-friendly haunted house. Held annually on two weekends in late October.

**Quasqueton Area Historical Society**  
Fish Fry

103 N. Water St.  
319-934-3354 [quaskeyhistoricalsociety.com](http://quaskeyhistoricalsociety.com)  
📍 Quasqueton Area Historical Society

Come for a rare summer season fish fry. Included with the meal is a chance to tour the outstanding Quaskey Bank Museum. Held annually on the 4th Saturday in August.

**Quasqueton Area Historical Society**  
May Open House

103 N. Water St.  
319-934-3354 [quaskeyhistoricalsociety.com](http://quaskeyhistoricalsociety.com)  
📍 Quasqueton Area Historical Society

Tour this outstanding local history museum located in the Quaskey's old bank building that includes 3 floors of well-presented exhibits. Guided tours also include Finder's Texaco Station, circa-1940. Held annually on Memorial Day weekend.



**RASH Ride Too**  
River Walk Parks, 49 6th St. NE, Independence  
[brewbq.org/rash-ride-too](http://brewbq.org/rash-ride-too) 📍 RASH Ride

Take a 25 mile ride through the easy rolling landscape of eastern Buchanan County and come back to enjoy the BrewBQ when you're done! Held annually the 4th Saturday of August.

**Richardson-Jakway Historic Site**  
"Old Time Meal"

2791 136th St., Aurora  
319-636-2617 [buchanancountyparks.com](http://buchanancountyparks.com)  
📍 Fontana Park

Enjoy an authentic pioneer meal and program in a historic farmhouse built in 1851. Pre-registration is required. Held twice a year, with dates to be determined.

**Spring in the Heartland**  
2600 Swan Lake Blvd., Independence  
319-332-0123 [heartlandacresusa.com](http://heartlandacresusa.com)  
📍 Heartland Acres Agribition Center

Kids of all ages gather at Heartland to see baby animals, explore the big barn with its new exhibits, and do hands-on activities. Includes an interactive story time. A free family event held annually the first Saturday of April.

**Stanley Firemen's Ice Cream Social**  
115 W. Main St., Jesup  
319-934-3354

📍 Stanley Volunteer Fire Department - Iowa Stanley's town celebration, organized by their volunteer fire department, is full of down home fun. Come for the homemade ice cream, stay for the fun. Held annually on the first Saturday in August.

**Strawberry Moon at Cedar Rock**  
2611 Quasqueton Blvd., Independence  
319-934-3572 [friendsofcedarrock.org](http://friendsofcedarrock.org)  
📍 Friends of Cedar Rock

Enjoy an evening of music, outdoor games, and food at the Walter house and grounds located at Cedar Rock State Park. The "signed" house, designed by renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright, both inside and out, is open for tours. Held annually in early June.



# PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION

# PARKS & NATURAL AREAS



## Fontana Interpretive Nature Center

1883 125th St., Hazleton  
319-636-2617 [buchanancountyparks.com](http://buchanancountyparks.com)  
Fontana Park

The Fontana Interpretive Nature Center contains a variety of displays and hands-on exhibits on the topic of "Making our home in a living environment." Exhibits include a hands-in pond, reality watershed model, raptors wingspan board, push button sound displays, bird feeding viewing station, and much more. Outside the nature center, live animal exhibits contain bison, foxes, raccoons and many more animals. Most are housed due to having been orphaned or permanently injured. The nature center is located within Fontana Park - the County's most popular park. Nature center hours are: 8-12 Monday-Tuesday; 8-4:30 Wednesday-Friday; 1-5 Saturday-Sunday (closes at 4 p.m. during winter).

## Boies Bend Area

2465 278th St., Rowley  
319-636-2617

Boies Bend Area is west of Quasqueton along the Wapsipipicon River. Beautiful scenery, good fishing, and stairway access from both the river and the park trails make this a great place to visit. The park contains a picnic area with restroom, prairie planting, and woodland trails. Primitive camping is permitted.

## Boy Scout Park

405 Concord St., Lamont  
563-924-2194 [lamontiaowa.com](http://lamontiaowa.com)

A picturesque little campground that includes electrical hook-ups and plenty for kids to do.

## Buffalo Creek Area

2862 220th St., Winthrop  
319-636-2617

Buffalo Creek Area features a picnic area with a pavilion and restroom, Buffalo Creek shoreline, and trails that wind through woodlands and a small pond. Wood ducks, Canada geese and numerous amphibians call these wetlands home. Deer, raccoon and other small mammals frequent the surrounding 80 acres of forest. The area is open to fishing and hunting.

## Cedar Rock State Park

2611 Quasqueton Diag. Blvd., Independence  
319-934-3572 [iowadnr.gov](http://iowadnr.gov)

Cedar Rock State Park is comprised of 426 acres of land including river corridor, wetlands, prairie, savannah, woodlands, cropland, short trails and home to the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Lowell and Agnes Walter Estate. Much of the property is open for public hunting and use.



## Cortright Wildlife Area

1400 River Road Blvd., Independence  
319-636-2617

Cortright Wildlife Area provides multiple natural areas to enjoy. Several mowed trail loops provide for great day hikes and access to various areas of the park. The 190 acres include ponds, wooded areas, prairies, tree plantings, and Wapsipipicon River shoreline. This is a premier wildlife area in the Wapsipipicon River Corridor.

## Crumbacher Wildlife Area

1490 240th St., Independence  
319-636-2617

The diverse, 368-acre Crumbacher Wildlife Area contains native and reconstructed prairies, forests, natural and reconstructed wetlands, and the winding Lime Creek. This is the largest county natural area, providing hiking, wildlife watching, and other nature enjoyment along maintained trails and prairie burn breaks. The area also is popular during the hunting seasons - pheasant, turkey, and deer.



Fontana Park Dam

**Fontana Park**  
 1883 125th St., Hazleton  
 319-636-2617 [buchanancountyparks.com](http://buchanancountyparks.com)  
 Fontana Park

Fontana Park is a premier regional destination for outdoor recreation and conservation education. The park features paved and soft trails, a nature center, live animal displays, lake and stream fishing and paddling, picnic areas, playground, and natural beauty. Enjoy an overnight stay in a campsite or cabin. Check the website for year-round education and recreation programs.

### Guy Grover Timber and Tree Plantings

2720 Nolan Ave., Rowley  
 319-636-2617

Guy Grover Timber and Tree Plantings contains more than 200 acres of upland timber and lowland forest. Users can fish the quarry pond and the Wapsipinicon river shoreline, and the property is open to public hunting.

### Ham Marsh

1747 Indiana Ave., Independence  
 319-636-2617

Ham Marsh offers 54 acres that include a marsh, sedge meadow, and a reconstructed prairie. A trail takes visitors to an observation blind overlooking the marsh, and the entire property is one of the County's best places to view and identify waterfowl and other birds. Hunting is permitted, with the exception of hunting waterfowl on the marsh.

### Independence City Parks

Independence features an abundance of city parks with a variety of facilities including shelter houses, sand volleyball courts, trails, disc golf course, playground equipment, bags courses, baseball diamonds, community gardens, horseshoe courts, basketball courts, fishing access, skate & roller blade park, pavilions, and boat docks. Go to the city website to explore your options.

### Jakway Forest

2791 136th St, Aurora  
 319-636-2617

Jakway Forest contains the county's largest public upland forest. Several miles of woodland trails take visitors through the timber, and includes two trails with interpretive signs to inform people about the forest. Jakway also is home to the Richardson-Jakway Historic Site. The park offers disc golf, picnicking, camping, and a playground.



Koutny Pond

### Koutny Pond/Hoffman Woods

1544-2 330th St., Brandon  
 319-636-2617

Koutny Pond is a 12-acre lake within a couple miles of Lime Creek Campground and Cedar Valley Nature Trail. A trail goes around the lake for shoreline fishing and access from two constructed jetties and includes an access for paddle craft and electric motor boats. A lake map may be downloaded at [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov). Prairie covers much of the west portion of the 106 acres, with Bear Creek and Hoffman Woods on the east portion. The area is open to public hunting, fishing, and bird-watching.

### Lime Creek Area

3205 Brandon Diagonal Blvd, Brandon  
 319-636-2617

Lime Creek Park is close to the Cedar Valley Nature Trail as well as Koutny Pond/Hoffman Woods. At Lime Creek you can camp, fish or go to the playground, or use the shelter house.

### Otterville Wildlife Area

1 mile W of Otterville on Otterville Blvd.  
 319-882-4252

176 acres of timber and parking area at boat ramp for river access along the upper Buchanan County Wapsipinicon River.

### Roberts Wildlife Area

1016 160th St., Fairbank  
 319-636-2617

Roberts Wildlife Area contains 109 acres of forests, wetlands, uplands, savannah, and Wapsipinicon River shoreline, with a trail through the north section. The area connects to other properties in the Wapsi River Corridor, including Buchanan County's Cutshall Area and Black Hawk County's Wilson Woods. The area is open to public hunting, fishing, bird-watching, and more.

## Troy Mills Wildlife Area Units

County areas (Stewart Ave.) 319-636-2617 [buchanancountyparks.com](http://buchanancountyparks.com)

Iowa DNR areas (330th St.) 319-882-4252 [iowadnr.gov](http://iowadnr.gov)

Nearly 400 acres of DNR and County Conservation wildlife habitat and related outdoor recreation are located northwest of Troy Mills. Water Trail access, with a concrete boat ramp, is available on the north side of the river off Stewart Ave. as well as primitive camping spots. These lands and waters are open to public hunting, fishing, and other nature appreciation activities.

# CAMPING & CABINS

## Buchanan County Fairgrounds

204 12th St. NE, Independence  
319-981-0651 [buchanancountyfair.org](http://buchanancountyfair.org)



## Fontana Park Campground & Cabins

1883 125th St., Hazleton, IA  
319-636-2617 [Fontana Park](http://FontanaPark.com)

Fontana Park Campground and Cabins provide overnight stays with lots of nature to explore. Nestled along Otter Creek, there is easy access to fishing, soft and hard-surface trails, picnic areas with shelters, nature center, live animal displays, and playground. Some sites may be reserved in advance and others are open first-come. Cabins allow visitors to experience overnight comfort and sustainable living features. Off-grid solar energy provides all electrical needs, and a meter read-out allows users to discover how their choices affect the supply of energy. Cabins contain two bedrooms, full bath, kitchenette, dining table, porch, outdoor fire ring and upright grill. Visit the website to view photos, take a virtual cabin tour, check rates and availability, and make reservations.

## Hare's Pond

2146 290th St., Rowley  
[Hare's Pond](http://HaresPond.com)

Family fun recreational park with camping, horse trails, fishing and pavilion rental.

## Independence RV Park &

### Campground

301 8th St. SE, Independence  
319-440-0472 319-334-6711 (off season)  
[www.independenceia.org](http://www.independenceia.org)

## Jakway Forest Campground

2791 136th St., Aurora  
319-636-2617

The Jakway Forest Campground is connected with WiFi access! Nestled under the shade of large oak trees the campground also contains a playground, disc golf course, and the Richardson-Jakway Historic Site. Walking trails abound throughout the woodland. The Buffalo Creek Golf Course is just a few miles south of the park. The campsites are on a first-come basis and include a shower house, dump station and drinking water.

## Lime Creek Campground

3205 Brandon Diagonal Blvd, Brandon  
319-636-2617

As its name implies, Lime Creek meanders through the park. A playground and shelter house are available in the campground. Consider bringing fishing gear and bicycles - Lime Creek Campground is within two miles of good fishing at Koutny Pond/Hoffman Woods and the 52-mile Cedar Valley Nature Trail.

## Morwood Campground & Resort

1865 150th St., Hazleton  
319-636-2422 [morwoodcampground.com](http://morwoodcampground.com)

Located in Amish Country three miles south of Hazleton, Morwood offers 107 modern campsites with water and electricity, clean shower and restrooms, heated pool, sand volleyball, miniature golf, a playground, hiking and walking trails, as well as cabins for rent. Open April 17 - October 1.

## Quasqueton Campground

101 River Dr., Quasqueton  
319-934-3340 [quasky.com](http://quasky.com)

Over 15 beautiful sites along the Wapsipinicon river with modern hook ups as well as a shower house, restroom, playground, and shelter.

# THINGS TO KNOW

## BREWERIES

Allerton Brewing  
Company  
Independence

## ORCHARDS

Timeless Prairie  
Orchard  
Winthrop

## LODGING

Comfort Inn & Suites  
Independence  
Revive on the River  
Independence  
Rush Park Motel  
Independence

Super 8 by Wyndham  
Independence  
Quilter's Quarters  
Retreat Center  
Independence

For campground and cabin options, see page 22.

## LOCAL BAR & GRILLS

After Hours  
Winthrop  
Bill's Pizza and  
Smokehouse  
Independence  
Bottoms Up Bar &  
Grill  
Rowley  
Boyd's Bar  
Fairbank  
Costa's Sports Bar &  
Grill  
Fairbank  
Fat Boy's Saloon  
Hazleton  
LeRoy's Restaurant &  
Lounge  
Aurora  
Nine + Dine - Jesup  
Golf & Country Club  
Jesup

Okoboji Grill at River  
Ridge Golf Club  
Independence  
Old Rush Park Tavern  
Independence  
Pat's Tap  
Independence  
The Alibi  
Lamont  
The Sanity Room  
Independence  
Wee Willy's Tap  
Quasqueton  
Wolfey's Wapsi  
Outback  
Quasqueton

## CAFES & COFFEE SHOPS

Arianna's Kitchen  
Independence  
Buttermilk Café  
Independence  
Common Grounds  
Lamont

Em's Coffee Company  
Independence  
Hager's Roasting Co.  
Quasqueton  
R & R Café  
Independence

## ICE CREAM

Dairy Kone  
Jesup  
Dairy Queen  
Independence  
Dairy Sweet  
Lamont

## INTERNATIONAL CUISINE

Del Rio Restaurante  
Independence  
Chuong Garden  
Independence  
Lucky Buffet  
Independence

## PIZZA

Joe's Pizza  
Independence  
Joe's Pizza Arcade  
Jesup  
Pizza Hut  
Independence  
Pizza Ranch  
Independence

## SUBS

First Street Deli  
Independence  
Subway  
Independence

## FAST FOOD

McDonald's, Burger King,  
Casey's General Store

## SPECIALTY SHOPS

Adams Family  
Furniture  
Independence  
Bland's Flower Shop  
& Gifts  
Independence  
Eschen's Clothing  
(Men's)  
Independence  
Fabulous Fridays  
(Women's)  
Independence  
In the Country  
Garden & Gifts  
Independence  
Laree's, The Shoppe  
of Favorites  
Independence

Little Red Schoolhouse  
/Distinctions  
Independence  
Ninny Frank's (Men's,  
Women's and pets)  
Independence  
Primitive Peddler  
Independence  
S & K Collectibles  
Independence  
The Trendy Tulip  
Independence  
Treasures Then & Now  
Independence

## BIKES & BIKE REPAIR

Circle 8 Cyclery  
Independence

Hardware Hank  
Independence

## CANOE/KAYAK RENTALS

Wapsi Canoes  
319-361-4775

Wapsi River Rentals  
319-327-4667

## THEATERS

Starlight Cinema  
Independence

## BOWLING

Lucky 10 Lanes  
Independence

## SKATE/DOG PARK

Independence Skate  
Park & Bark Park  
Independence

## AIRPORT

Independence  
Municipal Airport  
Independence

## ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING STATIONS

Independence

## GOLF COURSES

Buffalo Creek  
Golf Course  
Independence  
River Ridge  
Golf Course  
Independence

Jesup Golf and  
Country Club  
Jesup  
Three Elms  
Golf Course  
Independence

## DISC GOLF COURSES

Buffalo Creek  
Winthrop  
Jakway Forest  
Aurora

Teacher's Park  
Independence  
Parker Muncey  
Pioneer Park  
Jesup

## FITNESS CENTERS

Falcon Civic Center  
Independence  
River's EDGE Sports &  
Fitness Center  
Independence

## SWIMMING

Independence  
Aquatic Center  
Independence  
Fairbank Aquatic  
Center  
Fairbank  
Winthrop Swimming  
Pool  
Winthrop

Visit [travelbuchanan.com](http://travelbuchanan.com)  
for a complete listing!

