

About the Trail

The Cedar Valley Nature Trail is a 51-mile linear park created from an abandoned railroad between Evansdale and Hiawatha. In 1977, several private groups and government agencies worked together to purchase the railroad corridor. By 1982, the purchase was completed and the Cedar Valley Nature Trail became a reality.

The trail originally connected Evansdale and Hiawatha in what was, at the time, the longest trail in the country connecting two metropolitan areas. Today, the trail has been extended to connect to trail systems in the greater Cedar Rapids and Waterloo areas.

The trail is owned and managed jointly by the Black Hawk and Linn County Conservation Boards.

Nearby recreation areas

Deerwood Park, Evansdale (70 acres)

Picnicking, fishing, hiking, boating, snowmobiles, restrooms, shelter, water, parking, playground, and camping. For more information contact Evansdale City Hall at 319-232-6683

Cedar River Natural Resources Area

(540 acres) Wildlife area, rifle range, trap shooting, restrooms, and water. For more information contact Black Hawk County Conservation at (319) 266-0328.

McFarlane County Park (215 acres)

Picnicking, hiking, camping, cabin, hunting, fishing, nature study, playground, shelter, water, restrooms, and showers. For more information contact Black Hawk County Conservation Board at (319) 266-0328.

Winegar Tobin (467 acres) - Boating,

fishing, and picnicking. For more information contact Benton County Conservation at (319) 454-6382.

Lime Creek Area (39 acres)

Picnicking, camping, hunting, fishing, restrooms, shelter, and water. For more information contact Buchanan County Conservation at (319) 636-2617.

Wild Cat Bluff (131 acres)

Boating, fishing, picnicking, camping, restrooms, and water. For more information contact Benton County Conservation at (319) 454-6382.

Wakema Park (5 acres)

Picnicking, water, playground, and lodge. For more information contact Linn County Conservation at (319) 892-6450.



Restored depot at Center Point

Trail Passes

A trail permit is required for the southern 26 miles of the trail (Linn and Benton counties). Anyone age 16 and over is required to have a valid trail permit in their possession while using the trail. Trail permits may be purchased at many local businesses, trail rangers or by contacting the Linn County Conservation Department.

For more information contact:



Waterloo Area (North end of trail)

Black Hawk County Conservation Board

2410 W. Lone Tree Road

Cedar Falls, IA 50613

(319) 266-0328

www.black-hawk.ia.us/depts/conservation

email: conservation@co.black-hawk.ia.us



Cedar Rapids (South end of trail)

Linn County Conservation Board

1890 County Home Road

Marion, IA 52302

(319) 892-6450

www.linncountyparks.com

email: conservation@linncounty.org

Cedar Valley Nature Trail

A Joint Project of the Black Hawk & Linn County Conservation Boards



Logo used by the Waterloo, Cedar Falls and Northern Railroad Company

The Cedar Valley Nature Trail has received these national designations.



Safety and Enjoyment

We want your trail experience to be safe and enjoyable. The following are some guidelines for trail users:

Be considerate of other trail users

Wear a helmet & other safety equipment

Keep to the right to allow others to pass - when in a group, don't block the trail

Always pass on the left after checking both directions to be sure it is safe to pass

Announce your presence to other users when approaching them from behind ("Passing on the left" alerts them)

Obey all traffic signs at road intersections

Rest frequently to avoid fatigue & carry plenty of fluids

Use front & rear lights after dark

Maintain your equipment in good repair

Don't wear headphones as it may limit your ability to hear other trail traffic

Carry identification with you in case of an emergency

Dogs must always be on leash (<6' long)

