

## THE DES MOINES RIVER TRAIL

The Des Moines River Trail is the result of many years of planning and cooperation between the City of Des Moines, the Iowa Conservation Commission and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Although some trail segments were first established in 1977, they could not be joined until new city, state and federal funding was made available in 1983.

In 1985 more than 15 miles of continuous hard-surfaced trail became available to enthusiasts from Birdland Marina on the river in Des Moines to Prairie Flower Recreation Area on the east shore of Saylorville Lake. ( Cherry Glen to Prairie Flower and beneath 2nd Avenue Bridge to be open late 1985).



The Des Moines River Trail offers a variety of terrain and beautiful scenery. Rugged hills and picturesque valleys are found in the upper segments. Below Saylorville dam, a gently sloping grade winds beneath towering trees and past scenic vistas of the Des Moines River.

A variety of wildlife can be seen along the trail, including deer, squirrel, wood duck, an abundance of song birds and other smaller animals. There are also areas of native grasses and wildflowers to view.

Although a natural for biking, the Des Moines River trail is open to a variety of uses and will be enjoyed by many thousands of visitors each year.

## TRAIL RULES

Prohibited activities include:

Motorized Vehicles  
Horseback Riding  
Unleashed Animals  
Destructive Acts  
Plant or animal removal

Hunting  
Use of Weapons  
Fires  
Camping  
Snowmobiling  
Use after 11 P. M.

} Designated areas only

## PATH USER RESPONSIBILITY

1. **RIDE UNDER CONTROL AND ON THE RIGHT** so you can share the path with other runners, walkers and bicyclists. Always ride so that you can stop and avoid other users.
2. **ANNOUNCE YOUR INTENTIONS** to pass, stop, slow, or any other action that might effect other traffic. Remember, the person being passed has the right of way.
3. **RIDE SINGLE FILE** when meeting oncoming traffic, while riding around curves, and when being overtaken.
4. **PULL OFF THE TRAIL WHEN STOPPED**, so as not to obstruct the trail and cause an accident.
5. **STAY ALERT AT INTERSECTIONS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES.**
6. **DOGS MUST BE LEASHED ON A SIX FOOT LEASH.**
7. **WEAR A HELMET**, even a slow fall from a bicycle is enough to create serious injury.
8. **OBEY ALL SIGNS**

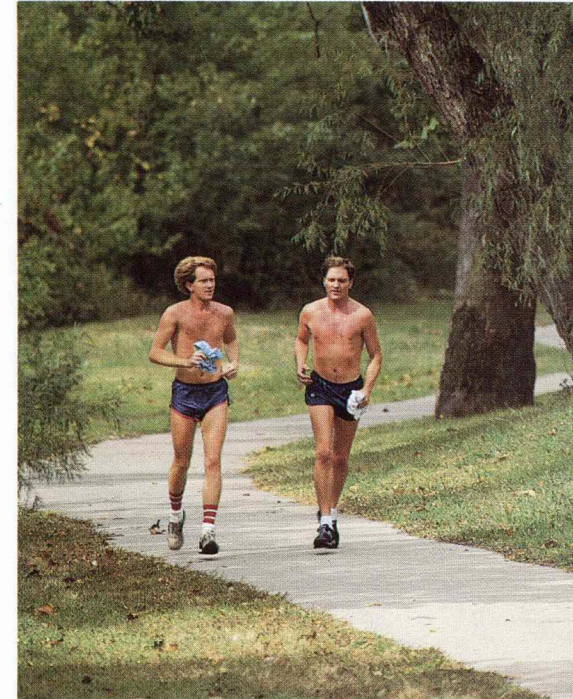
This is only a partial list of safety tips. Be safety conscious. Park rules govern other uses of the trail. Stay alert so that your outing will be enjoyable, healthful and safe.

## THE DES MOINES RIVER TRAIL

A Year - Round Trail For:

Hiking  
Biking  
Running  
Handicapped Access

Roller Skating  
Nature Study  
Cross Country Skiing

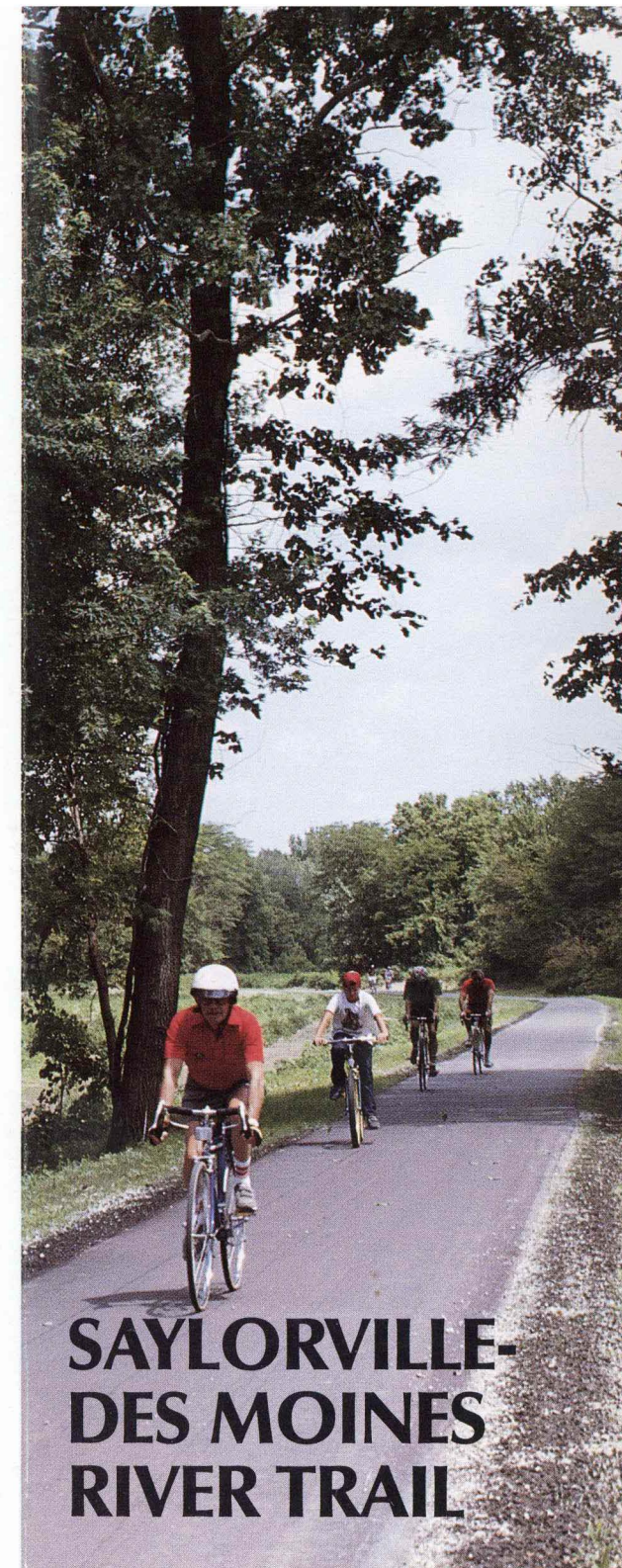


## Further Inquiry Contact:

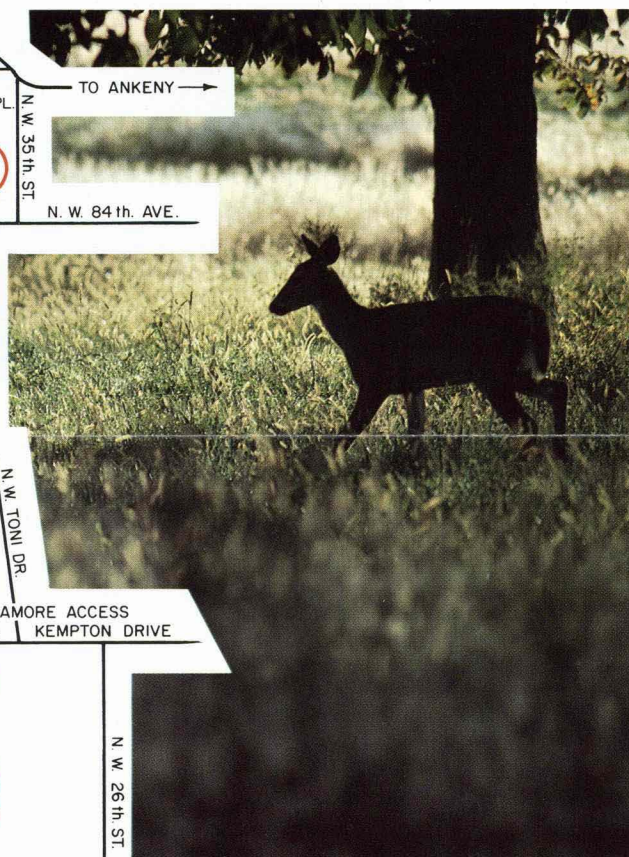
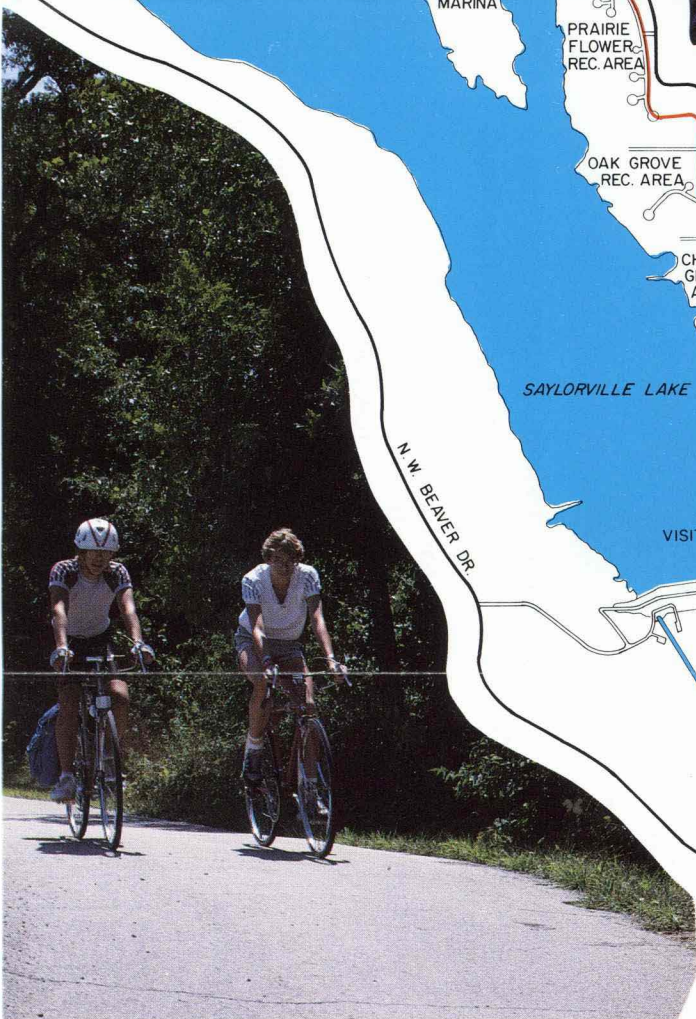
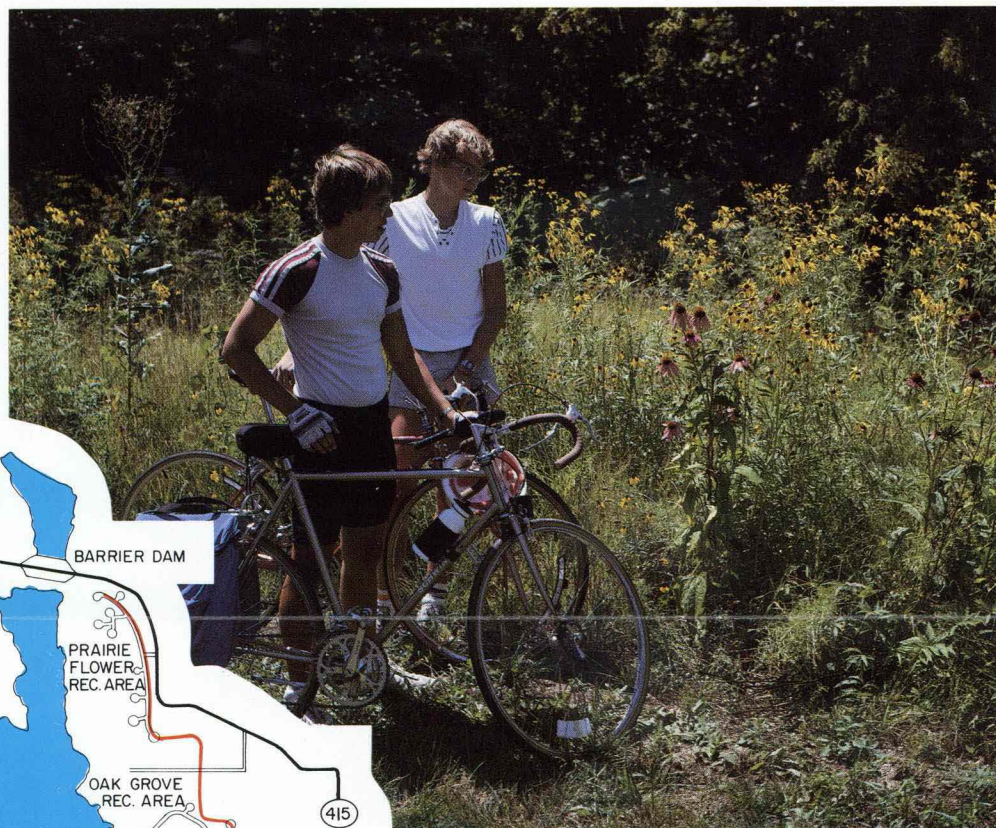
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Park Manager  
Saylorville Lake  
Route 3  
Johnston, Iowa 50131  
Tel. #515-276-4656

Iowa Conservation Commission  
Wallace State Office Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034  
Tel. #515-281-5145

City of Des Moines  
Park and Recreation Department  
3226 University Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50311  
Tel. #515-271-4700



**SAYLORVILLE-  
DES MOINES  
RIVER TRAIL**



### DES MOINES RIVER TRAIL MILEAGES

PRAIRIE FLOWER REC. AREA TO CHERRY GLEN REC. AREA	1.70 mi.
CHERRY GLEN REC. AREA TO VISITOR CENTER	3.64 mi.
VISITOR CENTER TO COTTONWOOD REC. AREA (No. Entrance Road)	1.07 mi.
COTTONWOOD REC. AREA (No. Entrance Road) TO SYCAMORE ACCESS (Parking Lot)	1.44 mi.
SYCAMORE ACCESS (Parking Lot) TO EUCLID AVE. STAGING AREA	4.79 mi.
EUCLID AVE. STAGING AREA TO McHENRY PARK TURN-OFF	1.45 mi.
McHENRY PARK TURN-OFF TO McHENRY PARK STAGING AREA	.30 mi.
McHENRY PARK TURN-OFF TO BIRDLAND MARINA STAGING AREA	1.45 mi.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15.84 mi.</b>

### PARKING

### DRINKING WATER

### RESTROOM FACILITIES

Prairie Flower Recreation Area  
Cherry Glen Recreation Area  
Corps Visitor Center  
Cottonwood Recreation Area  
McHenry Park  
Birdland Marina

### ADDITIONAL PARKING SITES

N. W. 90 Place  
Sycamore Access  
Euclid Avenue Staging Area



EXISTING EAST RIVER BIKE TRAIL