

Explore Decorah



Decorah is filled with outdoor recreation opportunities including many miles of trails. These trails can be enjoyed by children and adults of all ages. Use this page as your ticket to Decorah trails.

We have identified some trails to explore on the second page of this document. By exploring these trails you can be entered in a drawing for a chance to win a free summer pool pass!

- Choose a trail to explore.
- While walking on that trail look for a sign on a yellow sheet of paper with the Decorah Park-Rec logo and a word.
- Write that word in the blank below that corresponds to the designated number of the trail you just explored (see List of Trails on the opposite side for trail number).
- Explore all trails to complete the sentence.
- Send your completed sentence, name, and a photo of you on a trail to parkrec@decorahia.org to be entered in a drawing for a free individual or family pool pass! All entries must be received by Thursday, April 30.

(1)

(4)

(7)

(2)

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(3)

(6)

Enjoy your time outdoors! By the end of your journey you will have completed hours of exercise and maybe even found some areas of Decorah that you have never explored before.

Please note this program may be terminated if policies about park and trail usage change due to COVID-19.

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List of Trails

1. **Decorah Community Prairie:** Located at the south end of Ohio St on the west side of Decorah. Start at the informational sign next to the butterfly garden and head towards the river. Pick a trail on the map at the Community Prairie to explore.
2. **River Trail:** Park in the gravel lot just south of the entrance to Dunning's Spring Park and next to the Upper Iowa River. The trailhead is just east of where you park (to your left if you are facing the river). This is an out and back soft trail that is just over 2 miles round trip.
3. **Twin Springs Trail:** Park anywhere along Twin Springs Road and follow the stream "up river" until the stream disappears into the ground- you have found the source of Twin Springs! Near you is the start of Twin Springs trail leading up the hill. The trail loops for about 3/4 of a mile through the woods.
4. **Dunning's Spring:** Park in the gravel area just south of the entrance to Dunning's Spring Park. Walk to the waterfall and be sure to take time to walk across the stone bridge and climb the steps to view the source of Dunning's Spring.
5. **Gateway Prairie (Lower Luther Campus):** This is Luther's Gateway Prairie. Park near the Luther College tennis courts and walk north along the dike until you reach the Gateway Prairie. Like the community prairie, this is a great place for kids to explore.
6. **Palisades Park:** This park is currently closed to vehicle traffic, but is open to pedestrians. Park along Ice Cave Road and walk up the driveway to the park. The route is a bit hilly, but just keep following the road and you can walk on pavement the entire loop.
7. **Carlson Park:** Head south on Pleasant Ave. towards the Fish Hatchery. Watch for the Carlson Park sign and parking lot next to the Catholic cemetery. Head either direction on the trail and enjoy this scenic two mile loop.
8. **Van Peenen:** Park at the upper entrance to Van Peenen Park along Quarry Hill Road. Walk from the gravel parking area up the trail until you reach the Prairie. Follow the trail to the right through the Prairie and into the Pines. You will find your word under a grove of pine trees.

The trails listed below are bonus trails. They include rocky terrain and are more challenging and dangerous than those listed above. Please use caution and know that these trails are feasible, but not as friendly for small children. Please note these trails do not include signs with words to complete your sentence.

- **Pulpit Rock:** Park at Will Baker Park and hike to the top of Pulpit Rock. This trail is a bit of a climb, but you won't want to miss the view at the top.
- **Phelps Park Trail:** This trail is in Phelps Park. It begins at the overlook across from Larsen Fountain on the west side of the road (Park St.) and continues through a wooded area.

For more information visit our website at <https://parks.decorahia.org/>.