



Summer

Fun Guide 2023



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I am pleased to present the 2023 Parks and Recreation Summer Fun Guide on behalf of the City of Council Bluffs. I think this is the perfect time to be living in Council Bluffs. We have a wide variety of activities and events that make us unlike anywhere else. On purpose! This guide outlines a few. Have a safe, healthy, and enjoyable summer!

*Sincerely,
Mayor Matt Walsh*



UNFORGETTABLE

UNcover the perfect summer event in Council Bluffs!
UNLEASHCB.COM



UNLEASHCB.COM

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Bluffs
IOWA



PARKS NEWS

Belles' Play Garden at River's Edge is now open! This play area features a 15-foot-tall pelican and expansive views of the riverfront.



The First Ave trail is complete! Located one block south of West Broadway, the former rail line is now a trail that provides users easy access to schools, businesses, and the newly renovated Cochran Park.



Eastern Hills Trail Stop Park has parking now! Ride, walk, or drive to the new playground at the corner of Greenview and Eastern Hills.

We recently received a Bee City USA® designation in recognition of our commitment to improving landscapes for pollinators. Check out our habitat corridor at Valley View Park and our native prairie at Vincent Bluff.



You can plant for pollinators at home, too! Our new demonstration garden at Bayliss Park exists for you to find inspiration. Visit our "Planting for Pollinators" webpage for additional resources and guides.



PARKS NEWS

Cochran Park recently got a makeover! Thanks to a generous donation from PowerTech, a new playground has been installed. The new play elements offer climbing areas, treehouse-like platforms, shade structures, and tube slides, all with a new rubberized safety surface. Other Cochran Park improvements include a new baseball field, two new basketball hoops, four new pickleball courts, and a mini-pitch for 3v3 soccer!

Additional playground upgrades are coming soon to Manawa City Park and Peterson Park. Stay tuned for details!

Last year we hired a herd of goats to clear unwanted vegetation at Big Lake Park and River's Edge. Goats eat approximately 4% of their body weight daily, taking care of noxious weeds such as nettles and poison ivy. The goats also eliminate the need for spraying poisonous herbicides and mowing, thus protecting our pollinators and reducing fossil fuels. Stay tuned for more goat news!

Follow us on Facebook @CityofCB for updates!



COUNCIL BLUFFS TRAIL SYSTEM

Council Bluffs is home to more than 40 miles of recreational trails used by walkers, runners, and cyclists.

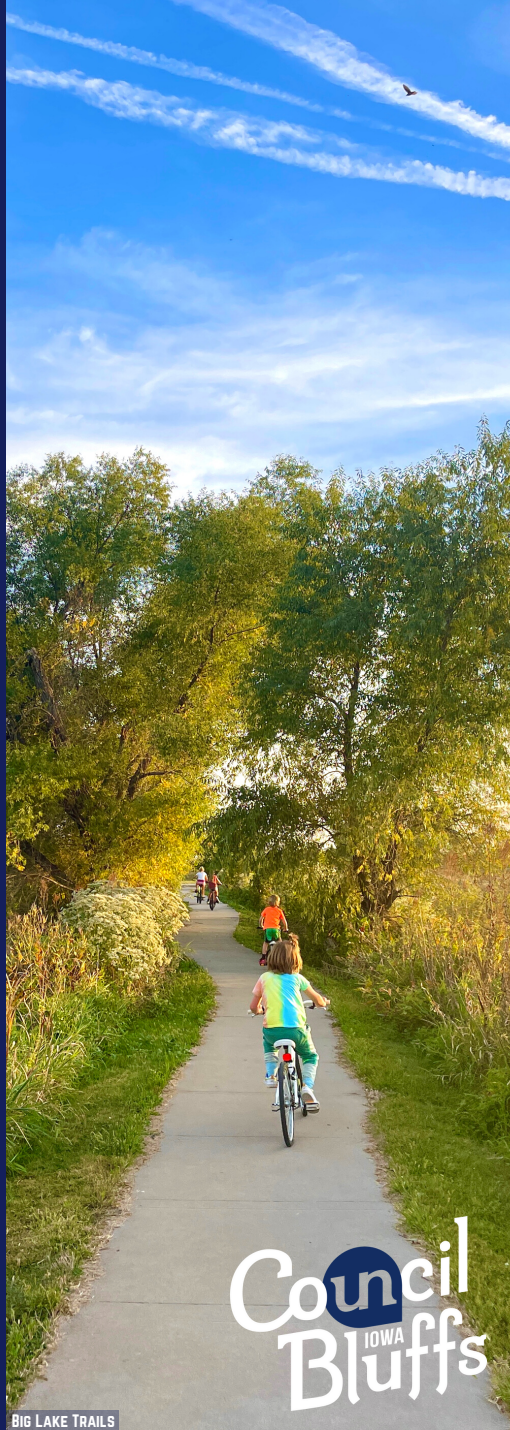
Trails wind from the east side of Council Bluffs to Tom Hanafan River's Edge Park and connect to the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge.

The First Ave trail is now complete! Located one block south of West Broadway, the former rail line is now a trail that provides users easy access to schools, businesses, and the newly renovated Cochran Park. The new segment links Downtown Council Bluffs to Downtown Omaha.

First Ave is also part of the Great American Rail Trail, a 3,700-mile cross-country path that connects Washington, D.C., to Washington State. Learn more at firstavecb.com.

Lewis and Clark Monument is home to a mountain bike trail maintained by Trails Have Our Respect (THOR).

Explore the trails map at cbparksandrec.org.



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BIG LAKE TRAILS



SUMMER FUN AT THE LIBRARY

For a list of events including Storytime in Bayliss Park, visit councilbluffslibrary.org.



COUNCIL BLUFFS
Public Library

RECREATION ON-THE-MOVE

Recreation On-The-Move is a free drop-in program with fun, pop-up recreational programming throughout the parks of Council Bluffs. The activities are designed for kids to attend with friends, parents, or caregivers and will feature a different theme with related games and activities.

2023 Recreation On-The-Move Schedule:

Date	Time	Park
May 30	6-8 p.m.	CB Rec Complex
June 9	1-3 p.m.	Cochran Park
June 23	1-3 p.m.	Vincent Bluff
July 14	1-3 p.m.	Valley View Park
July 28	1-3 p.m.	Sunset Park



PLACES TO PICNIC

Enjoy your next picnic at one of these Council Bluffs picnic shelters.

Bahnsen Park - 1720 Ave L

Big Lake Park - 2600 N 8th St

Eastern Hills Trail Stop Park - Greenview Rd and Eastern Hills Dr

Fairmount Park - E Graham Ave and Park Entrance

Kimball Park - 1801 N Broadway

Kirn Park - 100 1/2 5th Ave

Malmore Park - 3600 Scott Dr

Peterson Park - 2500 S 8th St

Sternhill Park - 1031 N 8th St

Sunset Park - 1000 16th Ave

Trolley Park - 2803 Ave B

Valley View Park - 1300 Franklin Ave

Vincent Bluff - Thallas St

Westwood Park - 1200 S 35th St



EASTERN HILLS TRAIL STOP PARK



PIRATE COVE

PLACES TO SWIM

Swimming continues to be a fan-favorite summer pastime. Council Bluffs is home to two delightful aquatic centers:

Katelman Water Park | 1230 16th Ave | (712) 328-4939

Pirate Cove Water Park | 915 N 21st St | (712) 328-4694

Both water parks offer swimming lessons, zero-depth areas, play features, sand areas, water slides, shaded seating, concessions, and more! For information, including hours of operation, admission fees, and punch cards, visit cbparksandrec.org.

Remember your beach towels and sunscreen! Share your pool pictures with us! #unleashcb

OPENING DAY: SATURDAY, MAY 27!



PLACES TO SPLASH

Kids of all ages love water play! Cool off at one of the Council Bluffs splash pads. Remember your beach towels and sunscreen! Share your splashing pictures with us! #unleashcb

Fairmount Park (East Graham Ave and Park Entrance) has an extensive interactive water playground with multiple elements that are fun for children of all ages. While at Fairmount Park, you'll also find a scenic overlook, a playground, hiking trails, a fire pit, picnic shelters, and ample parking.

Bayliss Park (100 Pearl St) features a small splash area on the north side of the fountain. This quaint splash pad is perfect for young children. While at Bayliss, you'll also find historical monuments, picnic spaces, and the sights and sounds of our iconic fountain.

River's Edge Pavilion (4250 River's Edge Parkway) has several interactive water features that will reopen this summer!



BAYLISS PARK



VINCENT BLUFF

PLACES TO HIKE

Hiking is a great way to explore Council Bluffs, engage with nature, and exercise. Share your hiking photos with us! #unleashcb

Lewis and Clark Monument (19962 Monument Rd) has multiple hiking and biking trails. In addition to the trails, you'll find breathtaking views, historical monuments, picnic tables, public restrooms, and ample parking.

Fairmount Park (East Graham Ave and Park Entrance) hiking trails wind through the hills. At Fairmount Park, you'll also find a scenic overlook, a playground, a splash pad, a fire pit, picnic shelters, and ample parking.

Gibraltar Trailhead (9th Ave and High St) has picnic tables and direct access to the Fairmount Park hiking trails, making it a great place to meet up with friends.

Vincent Bluff (Thallas St) is a quiet and primitive place to explore the Loess Hills while enjoying expansive views of Council Bluffs.





BELLES' PLAY GARDEN

PLACES TO PLAY

EXPLORE ALL THE PLAYGROUNDS IN COUNCIL BLUFFS AND RANK THEM! COLOR IN THE NUMBER OF STARS TO INDICATE YOUR LEVEL OF FUN!

- ★★★★ Bahnsen Park - 1720 Ave L
- ★★★★ Belles' Play Garden - River's Edge Pavilion
- ★★★★ Big Lake Park - 2600 N 8th St
- ★★★★ Broadway Skate Park - 1300 W Broadway
- ★★★★ CB Rec Complex - 2900 Richard Downing Ave
- ★★★★ Cochran Park - 100 S 21st St (NEW PLAYGROUND!)
- ★★★★ Eastern Hills Trail Stop Park - Greenview Road (NEW PLAYGROUND!)
- ★★★★ Fairmount Park - E Graham and Park Entrance
- ★★★★ Graham Park - Frank St and Gleason Ave
- ★★★★ Iowa West Trailhead Park - Wabash Ave
- ★★★★ Kimball Park - 1801 N Broadway
- ★★★★ Kirn Park - 100 1/2 5th Ave
- ★★★★ Malmore Park - 3600 Scott Dr
- ★★★★ Manawa City Park - Navajo and Mohawk St
- ★★★★ Peterson Park - 2500 S 8th St
- ★★★★ Prospect Park - 100 Harrison St
- ★★★★ Roberts Park - 1000 N 25th St
- ★★★★ Sternhill Park - 1031 N 8th St
- ★★★★ Sunset Park - 1000 16th Ave
- ★★★★ Trolley Park - 2803 Ave B
- ★★★★ Twin City Park - 3300 Renner Dr
- ★★★★ Valley View Park - 1300 Franklin Ave
- ★★★★ Westwood Park - 1200 S 35th St



HYDRANT PARTIES

Old-fashioned summer fun! The Council Bluffs Fire Department hosts hydrant parties on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. throughout the summer at various locations.

Hydrant parties are made possible thanks to our partners. We want to give a special thanks to Council Bluffs Water Works for providing the water and Centris Federal Credit Union for giving out frozen treats.

2023 Hydrant Party Schedule:

June 13: Roberts Park (1000 N 25th St)

June 15: 21st Ave & S 9th St

June 20: Baldwin Cir

June 22: 40th St & Ave C

June 27: Bel Air Dr & Renner Dr

June 29: River's Edge Park

July 6: Lake St & Arnold Ave

July 11: Curtis St & Ave F

July 13: Goshawk St

July 18: 25th Ave & Pavich Dr

July 20: North Linden Ave & Walton Ave

July 25: S 33rd St & 3rd Ave

July 27: Berwick Cir

Aug 1: Chippewa Ln & 32nd Ave

Aug 3: Twelve Oaks Dr & Butler St

Aug 8: Lakin Campus



RIVER'S EDGE PAVILION

EVENTS



We offer the community various annual events for residents of all ages. Visit Facebook @CityofCB or cbparksandrec.org for details.

May 19:
Cochran Park Grand Opening

Join us for an evening of family fun to celebrate the completion of the FIRST AVE trail and Cochran Park!



June 2:
Summerfest at River's Edge
NEW ACTIVITIES: A foam party, a lighted drone show, live music, photo ops, food, drinks, games, and more! Start your summer break with us at Hanafan Park.




July 28:
Pool Party at Katelman
The annual evening pool party takes on a life of its own with themed fun and special pricing!

August 5:
Youth Fishing Derby
Calling all young anglers! Sign up for the fourth annual Youth Fishing Derby at Big Lake!



September 15:
Comedy Night at River's Edge
Due to the nature of stand-up comedy, this event is intended for adults 18 and older. Join us at the River's Edge Pavilion for the fifth annual Comedy Night!





SUMMERFEST

AT RIVER'S EDGE



FRIDAY, JUNE 2 FROM 6-9 P.M.

NEW ACTIVITIES!

LIVE MUSIC + FOAM PARTY

PHOTO OPS + COMMUNITY MURAL

GIVEAWAYS + INFLATABLES + FOOD TRUCKS

FACE PAINTING + BALLOON ANIMALS

GIANT BUBBLES + SPORTS + YARD GAMES

LIGHTED DRONE SHOW AT 9 P.M.

Start your summer break with us at Tom Hanafan River's Edge Park!
Summerfest activities are free. Plus, free beach balls for the first 300 people!
Several food trucks will be on-site with food and drink available for purchase.



City of Council Bluffs
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Council Bluffs, IA 51503

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