



Hiking

Crawford County offers the hiker a variety of trails and terrain, each with its own perspective. Hike the ridges and discover a birds-eye view of river valleys stretching to the horizon. Hike the valleys and find secluded trails that wander through unspoiled country.

For those preferring developed trails, begin with the state parks. Wyalusing State Park offers 14 miles of trails, including Turkey Hollow Trail, ideal for wildlife observation. Right across the Mississippi River in Iowa, Pikes Peak State Park presents a stunning view of the confluence of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers. Effigy Mounds National Monument offers 14 miles of developed trails meandering throughout the 2500-acre park, which is home to hundreds of preserved Indian burial mounds.

For the more adventuresome, Crawford County contains six Natural Areas maintained by the DNR. The areas provide preservation and enjoyment of pristine native prairies and wildlife species, accessible by undeveloped footpaths.



Biking / Touring

For bicyclists, Crawford County truly has the best of both worlds: varied terrain and unsurpassed scenery. The bike route system on the map side of this guide utilizes “roads as routes” – a combination of lesser-traveled county and township roads. The route system works equally well for touring, offering motorists and motorcyclists an off-the-beaten-path guide to rural Crawford County.

The central corridor of the route system follows the Kickapoo River Valley, a rolling ride that takes you through some of the most scenic stretches in the Midwest. Branching from the Central Corridor are several “loops” that take you into more challenging terrain and exceptional scenery; into the heart of the landscape that makes Crawford County so special. Small towns and friendly people greet you along the way.

Enjoy a memorable ride amid the Driftless topography of Southwest Wisconsin, an experience that will surly merit another visit and another route.



Fishing

Whether casting a lure from the seat of a bass boat, or casting a fly from your hip waders, Crawford County offers some of the best fishing in the world.

The Mississippi River is renowned for bass and walleye fishing, presenting challenges for the recreational fisher looking to land a prize worthy of a photo. Several boat landings between Prairie du Chien and De Soto provide access, while bait shops provide the lure. And for those without a boat, or just looking for a new experience, try the fishing barges located below the lock and dams in Lynxville and Genoa.

The Driftless Area also boasts world-class fly fishing. Streams feeding the Mississippi, Wisconsin, and Kickapoo Rivers are full of brook and brown trout, just waiting for that perfectly cast fly. Anglers are encouraged to contact knowledgeable guides who know the lay of the land, where to access private land, and what lures are working.



Boating

The rugged land of Crawford County is bordered by three rivers, offering outdoor recreation enthusiasts a virtual playground of boating possibilities. From power boating on the Mighty Mississippi to canoing and kayaking on the Wisconsin and Kickapoo Rivers, having fun in Crawford County begins on the water.

Several boat landings along Crawford County's Great River Road provide access to the Mississippi, a paradise for pleasure boating and world-class fishing. The main channel and sloughs are perfect for cruising, tubing, and water skiing, while the backwaters offer serenity and frequent observations of wildlife.

The Wisconsin River has long been known as a haven for canoeists and kayakers. The stretch along Crawford County is replete with plenty of sandbars for overnight camping. And the Kickapoo River, known as “the crookedest river in the world,” meanders aimlessly through sun-drenched farm fields, shaded woodlots, and densely forested wildlife areas that comprise Crawford County's mid-section.



Birding



Blessed with three major rivers that provide waterfowl habitat, Crawford County offers bird watchers an abundance of viewing opportunities. Crawford County borders the Mississippi River Flyway, a major migratory route for songbirds and waterfowl that rivals the busiest airports for takeoffs and landings.

Several observation areas along the river provide ideal locations for viewing and photography. The National Audubon Society lists 10 locations, including two “hotspots,” along the Great River Road that are home to dozens of species. And frequent Bald Eagle sightings add excitement to any bird watcher's day.

Inland, the Kickapoo River Valley provides a haven for signature species such as the Sandhill Crane and the Great Blue Heron. The Great Wisconsin Birding & Nature Trail lists the Kickapoo River State Wildlife Area near Wauzeka and the Hogback Prairie State Nature Area by Steuben as prime bird watching areas.



Camping

“Camping with a view” might best describe Crawford County's variety of outdoor lodging opportunities. Whether setting up in Wyalusing State Park overlooking the confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers; or staking your tent along the Kickapoo River, the best view awaits just outside your tent flap.

The Mississippi Valley provides several campsites in addition to Wyalusing Park; private campgrounds in Prairie du Chien and Lynxville, and public campgrounds like Blackhawk Park near De Soto, the site of the 1832 Battle of Bad Axe. They all provide easy access to the river and stunning views of the Mighty Mississippi.

Several communities along the Kickapoo River provide village campsites, including Soldiers Grove, Gays Mills, Steuben, and Wauzeka. These campsites hug the banks of the Kickapoo and are perfect for launching canoes or kayaks. And they serve as the starting point for exploring the Kickapoo Valley, one of the most picturesque settings in the Midwest.



Find Your Passion



Located in the heart of the Southwest Wisconsin, Crawford County offers you a place to live your passion for the outdoors.

This diversity of terrain invites a variety of outdoor activities. Use this guide to find your point of beginning. And along the way you'll experience the rural farmlands and small-town hospitality that gives Crawford County its relaxing ambiance. Enjoy!

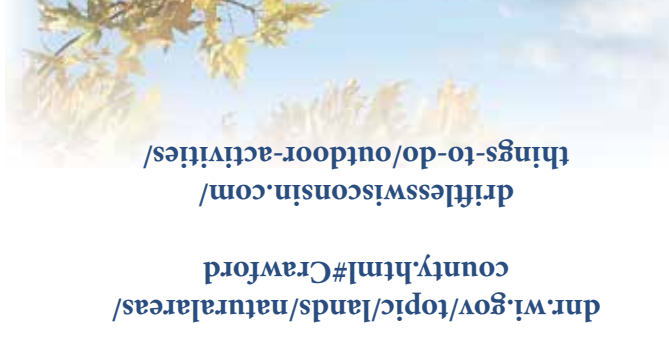
Three major river valleys – the Mississippi on the west, the Wisconsin to the south, and the Kickapoo through the center – knit the region into an assortment of lofty ridge tops and low-lying river bottoms. Climb to the ridge overlooking two river valleys and soak in the panorama. Descend into the secluded Kickapoo River Valley and follow the slow meanderings of the “crookedest river in the world.” Travel the Great River Road along the Mississippi River, voted the most scenic road in America.

PHOTOS: Eric Frydenlund, Meg Buchner, Eric Jensen and Flyway Fowling Guide Service LLC



KICKAPOO STUMP DODGER
CAMPGROUND & EVENT CENTER
Gays Mills, WI
608-735-4929
July 4th Weekend
stumpdodgerbash.com
ksdcampground.com
Like us on Facebook
Located on the banks of the Kickapoo River

FOR INFORMATION ON CRAWFORD COUNTY TOURISM:
608-326-6658
www.driftlesswisconsin.com



driftlesswisconsin.com/
county.html#Crawford
dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/naturalareas/
www.developmentplanning.net/outdoor

Websites
If you do not have a scanner, you can go to these websites for additional information about outdoor recreation in Crawford County:



QR Code
Scan this code and link to our outdoor recreation website, featuring links to many additional resources for outdoor enthusiasts. Find hiking trails, bike route descriptions, fishing reports, boating access, birding locations, area campsites, and much more.

Other Outdoor Resources

Crawford County Tourism Council
Community Development Alternatives, Inc.
800-655-0683
E-Mail: info@CrawfordCountyWI.com
www.DriftlessWisconsin.com
Bell Center Clerk: 608-735-4324
De Soto Clerk: 608-648-2700
www.desotowl.com
Eastman Clerk: 608-874-4361
Ferryville Clerk: 608-734-9406
www.visitferryville.com
Gays Mills Clerk: 608-735-4341
www.gaymills.org
Lynxville Clerk: 608-874-4047
Mt. Sterling Clerk: 608-874-4045
Prairie du Chien Chamber: 800-732-1673
www.prairieduchien.org
Seneca Clerk: 608-874-4944
Soldiers Grove Clerk: 608-624-3264
www.soldiersgrove.com
Steuben Clerk: 608-476-2358
Wauzeka Clerk: 608-875-5281
County Sheriff/Rescue Squad: 911
Hospital: 608-357-2222
Please give us your comments and suggestions regarding our outdoor map and guide, by calling 800-655-0683 or emailing: info@crwfordcountywi.com
WARNING: On bicycle routes, beware of increased traffic on state and county highways. Some paved roads are seal coat, which may contain loose gravel.

ATTRACTIONS & HISTORICAL MARKERS

1. Great River Road – Highway 35
2. Black Hawk Recreation Area & Marker – DeSoto
3. Observation Deck – Ferryville
4. Rafting on the Mississippi Marker – Lynxville
5. US Lock & Dam #9 – Lynxville
6. Effigy Mounds National Monument – Marquette, IA
7. Lady Luck Casino – Marquette, IA
8. Villa Louis Historical Site & Markers – Prairie du Chien
9. Prairie du Chien Marker
10. Fort Crawford Museum & Markers – Prairie du Chien
11. War of 1812 Marker – Prairie du Chien
12. Marquette & Joliet Marker – Prairie du Chien
13. Black Hawk's Surrender Marker – Prairie du Chien
14. Wisconsin Travel Information Center – Prairie du Chien
15. LaRiviere Park & Horse Trail – Prairie du Chien
16. Pikes Peak State Park – McGregor, IA
17. Wyalusing State Park – Bagley
18. Indian Mound Wayside – Highway 60
19. Kickapoo Indian Caverns – Wauzeka (Closed until further notice.)
20. LWR Genealogical and Historical Research Center – Wauzeka
21. Phetteplace Display – Wauzeka
22. Scenic View – Seneca
23. County Fairgrounds – Gays Mills
24. Museum of the Kickapoo – Gays Mills
25. Log Cabin Heritage Park – Gays Mills
26. Apple Orchard Marker – Gays Mills
27. Soldiers Grove Origin Marker
28. Solar Town – Soldiers Grove
29. Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial – Soldiers Grove
30. James Davidson Marker – Soldiers Grove
31. Wauzeka Bottoms Natural Area - Wauzeka
32. Hogback Prairie Natural Area - Steuben
33. Limery Ridge Savanna Natural Area - Prairie du Chien
34. Sugar Creek Bluff Natural Area - Ferryville
35. Rush Creek Natural Area - Ferryville
36. Kickapoo Wild Woods State Natural Area - Wauzeka
37. Governor Lucey Historical Marker - Ferryville

LEGEND

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|--|----------------------------------|--|------------------|
| | Hospital | | Federal Highway |
| | Orchard | | State Highway |
| | Boat & Canoe Launches | | County Highway |
| | Great River Road | | Town Road |
| | Campsites | | MAIN CORRIDOR |
| | Attractions & Historical Markers | | COMMUNITY LOOPS |
| | Waysides | | UNPAVED SEGMENTS |
| | PARKS AND NATURAL AREA | | |

TROUT STREAMS AND RIVERS

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|--|-----------|--|--------------|
| | CLASS I | | MAJOR RIVERS |
| | CLASS II | | MINOR RIVERS |
| | CLASS III | | |

