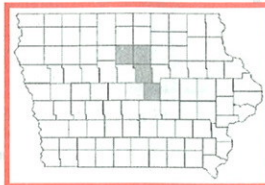


## IOWA RIVER

### Belmond to Marshalltown

**T**HE IOWA RIVER FLOWS 329 miles in a southeasterly direction from Crystal Lake in Hancock County to its confluence with the Mississippi River. This article tracks the river through four counties beginning near Belmond in Wright County and ending below Marshalltown in Marshall County. Public access is excellent throughout these counties, making this stretch of the Iowa one of the most attractive for recreational users.



THE BOTTOM SUBSTRATES in Wright and Franklin counties are predominately mud and sand. Flooded sloughs and backwaters provide good spawning areas for northern pike, the dominant sportfish throughout this stretch. Large snags formed by fallen trees are common and provide additional habitat for sportfish.

AS THE RIVER FLOWS into Hardin County, the bottom substrate changes from mud and sand to rock and gravel. The rocky substrate found below Alden and throughout Hardin County provides excellent smallmouth bass fishing, as well as opportunities for channel catfish, northern pike and walleye. A spring run of white bass occurs throughout Marshall County up to Iowa Falls.

AS A RESULT of the efforts of the Hardin County Conservation Board, a greenbelt exists along most of the Iowa River through Hardin County, providing abundant accesses to the river as well as picnicking facilities, hunting areas, hiking trails and camping areas.

LOW-HEAD DAMS ARE LOCATED at both Alden and Iowa Falls. At Alden, canoeists can take out at Ilco Park immediately above the dam and put in just below the dam or at the Alden Canoe Launch about a half-mile downstream. In Iowa Falls, take out at Dougan's Landing and put back in approximately one and one-half miles downstream. The dam at Iowa Falls

backs water up over two miles creating a fairly large impoundment. This area is also used by pleasure boaters and water skiers.

STARTING AT THE HARDIN/MARSHALL County line and ending near Marshalltown, the river has been channelized. The river was straightened in the early 1900s in an attempt to provide better drainage of adjacent farm lands. Due to the dredging, much of the habitat diversity within the stream has been lost. Bottom substrates switch back to predominately mud and sand with occasional rocky areas. The old mill dam located on Center Street in Marshalltown can be traversed by canoe under normal water conditions. If water levels are high or low, it may require a portage. Fishing in Marshall County is primarily for channel catfish, but walleye and smallmouth bass are also available.

## IOWA RIVER

### Belmond to Marshalltown

Distance from Previous Access	Access Name	Location
0 miles	1. Sullivan Wildlife Area	2 mi N Belmond
2.9 miles	2. River Park	Belmond
6.6 miles	3. Pikes Timber	2 mi E Lake Cornelia
14.5 miles	4. Toft Wildlife Area	1/2 mi NE Dows
5.9 miles	5. Whitetail Flats	3-1/2 mi S, 1 mi E Dows
2.6 miles	6. Oakland-Iowa River Conservation Area	3 mi SW Popejoy
3.3 miles	7. Popejoy Cons. Park	1-1/2 mi SW Popejoy
4 miles	8. Bigelow Park	3 mi N Alden
2.7 miles	9. Bessman-Kemp Park	1/2 mi W Alden
.6 mile	10. Ilco Park	Alden
.7 mile	11. Alden Canoe Launch	NE edge Alden
5.5 miles	12. River Road Access	W edge Iowa Falls
1 mile	13. Dougan's Landing	Iowa Falls
1.6 miles	14. Canoe Launching	E edge Iowa Falls
4.8 miles	15. Cross' Ford	6 mi SE Iowa Falls
4.4 miles	16. Eagle City Access	7 mi SE Iowa Falls
5.2 miles	17. Hardin City Access	5 mi NW Steamboat Rock
7.8 miles	18. Pineridge Rec. Area	.5 mi W Steamboat Rock
.5 mile	19. Steamboat Rock Launch	Steamboat Rock
.5 mile	20. Steamboat Rock-Tower Rock	1/2 mi S Steamboat Rock
4.8 miles	21. Pine Lake State Park	E edge Eldora
8.8 miles	22. Bates Memorial Park	1 mi NE Union
1.7 miles	23. Long Memorial Park	1 mi E Union
8.2 miles	24. Forest Reserve and Access Area	4 mi SW Liscomb
5.9 miles	25. Timmons Grove Park	1 mi SW Albion
6.1 miles	26. Center Street Dam	Marshalltown
1.1 miles	27. Riverview Park	Marshalltown
4.2 miles	28. Furrow Access	2 mi E Marshalltown
4 miles	29. Three Bridges Park	2 mi NW LeGrand



