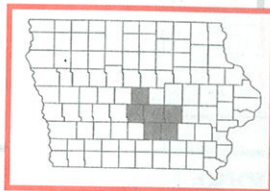


## SKUNK RIVER

### Story City to New Sharon

**T**HE SKUNK RIVER carves a wide-water course as it flows southeasterly across Iowa. Beginning in north-central Hamilton County, it picks up runoff from portions of 19 counties before emptying into the Mississippi River in Lee County.

THE STREAM OFFERS a wide variety of recreational opportunities along its 361-mile course. Its 4,355-square-mile drainage places it fourth among the 38 major drainages in Iowa, so the potential for outdoor activity is significant.



The North Skunk, South Skunk and Cedar Creek are three principal tributaries of the Skunk River.

PICNICKING, CANOEING, BOATING, sightseeing, hunting and fishing are the major recreational activities enjoyed by people who visit the Skunk River. The river offers a great place to relax and enjoy the basin's natural beauty. A trip to any portion of the Skunk River system can send visitors back with renewed enthusiasm. There are numerous access points along the Skunk River system offering visitors a wide choice of canoeing experiences. The basin of the Skunk River contains many stands of timber along the steep upland, while agricultural lands dominate the flat upper plains and lower floodplain.

THE UPPER REACH OF THE South Skunk River between Story City and Ames is perhaps the most heavily used by canoeists as the river winds down through a greenbelt. A number of accesses provide canoeists with a variety of trip options, from just a few hours per trip to an all-day affair. There is one fishing riffle at Soper's Mill which is easily negotiated and two dams at Ames. The upper reach has a limited fishery, but opportunities are there for anglers seeking smallmouth bass and channel catfish.

THE LOWER STRETCH of the South Skunk River is wider and slower. There are also fewer access points along this stretch of the river until the river winds through Mahaska County, near Oskaloosa. This

stretch of river offers canoeists a larger river experience, with slower, shallower sections and snags and sandbars throughout.

A SECOND MAJOR TRIBUTARY is the North Skunk River. The stretch above Kellogg is seldom used due to its size. The area from Kellogg to the Wagaman Mill at Lynnvile is an enjoyable cruise along a smaller stream environment. Similarly, there are several access points in southern Poweshiek and Mahaska counties along the North Skunk River, and this section provides an alternative to the larger South Skunk River.

FISHING IS A MAJOR attraction throughout the Skunk River. The river offers habitat for channel catfish, flathead catfish, bullhead, carp, crappie, sunfish and bass, among others. The angler should be prepared with a variety of bait and tackle. Numerous snags, particularly in the lower reaches of the river, are prime habitat for many species as are the riffle-pool areas in the upper stretch of the river.

## SKUNK RIVER

### Story City to New Sharon

Distance from Previous Access	Access Name	Location
<b>South Skunk River</b>		
0 miles	1. Story City Canoe Access	Story City
3.6 miles	2. Lekwa Canoe Access	1 mi S Story City
3.3 miles	3. Anderson's Canoe Access	4 mi S Story City
3.4 miles	4. Sopers Mill Area	3 mi N, 3 mi E Ames
1.3 miles	5. Petersons Pits	2 mi N, 2 mi E Ames
3.4 miles	6. Sleepy Hollow River Access	1 mi N Ames
3.2 miles	7. River Valley Park	13th St., Ames
32.4 miles	8. Oswalt Bridge, Skunk River Access	3 mi W Colfax
27.7 miles	9. Beyer's Bridge, Skunk River Access	1 mi S, 1 mi W, 1/2 mi S Galesburg
25.3 miles	10. City Water Works	3 mi N Oskaloosa
3.6 miles	11. Glendale Access	4 mi NE Oskaloosa
8.1 miles	12. Rose Hill Access	1-1/2 mi S Rose Hill
<b>North Skunk River</b>		
0 miles	1. Holmdahl City Park	Kellogg
13.2 miles	2. Wagaman Mill, Skunk River Access	N edge Lynnvile
8.1 miles	3. Millgrove Access	7 mi NW New Sharon
2.4 miles	4. Robertson Access	3 mi N New Sharon
9 miles	5. Union Mill Access	4 mi E, 1-1/2 mi S New Sharon



