



Regional Existing and Proposed Trails Map

Northeast Iowa Regional Trails

The Turkey River Recreational Corridor (TRRC) extends from Clermont, through Elgin, and will eventually reach Elkader to create a regional multi-use trail that highlights the beauty of the Turkey River. While Elkader is not yet connected to the trail, the future addition will bring more public exposure to the town while also creating the need for a new pedestrian bridge crossing the river. The existing trails and proposed routes are shown in the Local Trails and Bridges Map shown to the right.

Trail Connections (Pedestrian Bridges)

The Elkader community has identified pedestrian connectivity across the Turkey River as one of the most limiting aspects to its transportation system. The single crossing at Bridge Street does not meet the demanding needs for ADA access, kid-friendly infrastructure, and access to recreation - ultimately having a negative impact on community health, economic vitality, and pedestrian safety.

The need for a new, standalone pedestrian bridge across the Turkey River has never been more obvious. Before location(s) of proposed bridges can be envisioned, the Elkader steering committee asked the design team to first take a broader look at the proposed Turkey River Recreational Trail and its intent to connect Elkader to Elgin. The regional map displayed on this board outlines the intent for this trail connection and initial need for a bridge adjacent to the Big Spring Hatchery.



Local Trails and Bridges Map

With the regional trail in mind, two bridges are being envisioned north, and south of the Keystone Bridge. The northern bridge would provide a more direct and safe connection to the school at the north end of downtown from High Street as well as to the Keystone Bridge with a new proposed riverwalk extension. The southern bridge is being proposed in conjunction with the existing trailhead on the east side of the river and will provide a direct connection to the southern terminus of Main Street, increasing accessibility to Elkader's feature parks and recreation.

The long-range plan for new pedestrian bridges in Elkader certainly has challenging hurdles to overcome. These preliminary discussions and visual aids are meant to drive the discussion and communicate the potential value this infrastructure will bring Elkader. Much more comprehensive studies on bridge feasibility will need to be conducted to validate the locations shown.



Extended Riverwalk and New Bridge Connecting NE Side of Elkader to the School and Downtown



New Bridge Connecting SE Side of Elkader & Pony Hollow Trail into Founders' Park

Elkader Trail Connections (Bridges)

Jeffrey L. Bruce & Company LLC

Landscape Architect: Eric Doll PLA, ASLA
Interns: Sandeep S Kumar, Zoey Mauck

Iowa State University | Trees Forever | Iowa Department of Transportation

