



Guttenberg is a beautiful community located on the Mississippi River in Northeast Iowa. Guttenberg is also on the National Scenic Byways and the Great River Road. Tucked between the Mississippi River and the Limestone Bluffs that edged the frontier, the area now known as Guttenberg, is an Iowa Great Place. No matter which way visitors enter, they are welcomed by dramatic overlooks of the historic town and the plethora of natural resource treasures that surround it. This historic German community is nestled in the heart of the Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, next to stately US Army Corp of Engineer Lock and Dam Number 10 and numerous local, state and private natural resource areas, Guttenberg is a shining example of an Iowa community that embraces its past, welcomes its future and recognizes its potential.

Guttenberg's mission is "To recreate the Mississippi River town of Guttenberg as a place for tourists, businesses, workers, and residents to invest their time and money as they enjoy the beauty and splendor of a cluster of spectacular natural sites." In 2013 we completed a comprehensive smart plan, "Guttenberg 2030", which is a long-range document that identifies the important positive attributes and components that provide a blueprint for the future. It also provides guidance to decision makers, residents, property owners, and organizations through its goals and strategies relevant to the Iowa Smart Planning Elements of Public Participation; Community Character; Land Use; Housing; Public Infrastructure and Utilities; Transportation; Economic Development; Agriculture and Natural Resources; Community Facilities; Hazards; Intergovernmental Collaboration and Implementation.

Guttenberg was a seasonal campground of the Sauk and Meskwaki tribes in the 1820's. This area may have hosted Indian traders in those years, who viewed the plain, with narrow creek valleys opening into it from between high limestone bluffs, as a good place from which to conduct business and gain access to the prairie interior to the west. The tiny settlement which grew up on the plain was called Prairie la Porte, and as the largest population center in newly-established Clayton County, was designated county seat in 1838. This status was not long retained, however, as movement of settlers into western portions of the county resulted in removal of the county seat.

The Western Settlement Society of Cincinnati was a semi-charitable organization founded to aid German immigrants who wished to settle in the American Midwest. In 1844, the Society purchased three hundred acres to the north, and 160 acres to the south, of the Prairie la Porte plat, and the next year acquired the plat as well. Five German families arrived in March 1845, the most determined of an original band of 200 souls, most of whom had remained behind in Burlington, Iowa. By 1851, the town had grown to nearly 300 people, and by 1856 to over 1,500, only a few of whom were not German immigrants. The new settlement was appropriately renamed "Guttenberg", and the name was accepted by the State Legislature. Additional streets were laid out, from the south Herman, Wieland, Lessing, Schiller, Herder, and Goethe streets; and above the original plat, Mozart and Haydn streets. Prairie la Porte survives in county records as the north half of the original town plat.

Guttenberg has long been noted for its well preserved pre and post-Civil War vernacular architecture. Perhaps the most striking feature of Guttenberg's architectural landscape is the large number of limestone structures, the majority dating from before the Civil War and some perhaps built as early as the mid-1840's. These structures represent a rather extensive use of a locally-available but unwieldy, building material, possibly even in preference to equally-available timber. Examples of stone construction include not only industrial and commercial buildings (where the material's load-bearing and fire-retardant qualities would have been most appreciated) but also houses, large and small. (Excerpts from "Guttenberg Iowa-The Limestone City of Clayton County Its Architecture and History, 1854-1951 by James E Jacobson)

Partnerships to protect and enhance local river or stream.

We work with the IDNR, US Fish & Wildlife, the Corps of Engineers, and local watershed groups to protect and enhance our local river and streams. Friends of Pool 10 is another Friends group for the McGregor District. Pool 10 stretches from Harpers Ferry, Iowa to Guttenberg, Iowa.

Innovative storm water controls and river protection measures.

We have an up-to-date storm water system and a superb levy system to protect the residents and the river. Our storm water system captures and controls storm water throughout our city. Our storm water systems have been designed by engineers and permitted as applicable with the IDNR. Our system consists of ponds and a canal system with pumps. The city implemented a storm water utility in 2008 to help with the ongoing costs of maintaining a storm water system.

Lock and Dam No. 10 is located in the heart of Guttenberg, Iowa, which is an area rich in historic interest. To improve navigation on the Upper Mississippi River, Congress authorized construction of a nine-foot channel in 1930. As part of the present 29 locks and dams, the Corps of Engineers built Lock and Dam No. 10 and placed it in operation in 1937. After more than 30 years of reliable service, in 1969, the Corps initiated a major rehabilitation program to provide service well into the future.

Efforts to improve water quality.

We continually work with the IDNR to meet and/or exceed the water quality standards set by the IDNR. We placed new liners in our wastewater treatment plan lagoons to help protect the local water quality. We also chlorinate and dechlorinate our wastewater affluent.



Historic and cultural preservation.

We have an active Historic Preservation Commission. We are also a certified local government and a partner in the Federal Preservation Program. Guttenberg is the proud home of 250 historic buildings. Guttenberg is also home to 3 historic districts that are on the National Register of Historic Places. We have the Front Street Historic District, the St. Mary's Catholic Church District, and the Guttenberg National Fish Hatchery Historic District.



Providing river access.

We have several areas where river access is provided to our residents and visitors. We are also part of the MRT (Mississippi River Trail). Our city offers trails in the hills, along with a superb upper and lower sidewalk system in our two mile long park along the Mississippi River. We have three marina areas and three boat launching ramps in our city. The city maintains two of the boat ramps and one of the marinas. Our marina accommodates seasonal-long boaters and transient boaters and it is just steps from historic downtown shopping, restaurants, one of the world's most beautiful city parks, Lock & Dam #10, and more. Slips are available in size ranging from 30-40 feet at the beautiful Guttenberg Municipal Marina. Slip rentals include: water, electric, sewer pump-out, wi-fi access, and showers at the Marina Center.



Efforts to protect and enhance greenbelts and ecosystems.

We have made great efforts to protect and enhance the greenbelts and ecosystems in our community by working with the IDNR and US Fish & Wildlife. We have an impressive park system, with most of it being right on the Mississippi River.

Annual or seasonal river clean up or event. Local organizations such as the Jefferson Go-Hawks 4H club have completed community/river clean-up events along with other community organizations.

Education and advocacy by local river or watershed groups.

There isn't any one group that is responsible for the Upper Mississippi River Basin but there are numerous efforts by different groups within the Mississippi River Basin and nationally, to improve the overall Mississippi River Watershed. For instance, the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy was developed because of the Gulf of Mexico hypoxia problem. There are over a dozen efforts in different parts of the Upper Mississippi River Basin. For example, the Turkey River Watershed Resiliency Plan. They are working on similar plans for the Upper Iowa and the Upper Wapsi Rivers. There are now 20 Watershed Management Authorities in Iowa with similar goals to these groups.

River tourism efforts.

Guttenberg has been successful in river tourism efforts. Our city offers a wide variety of attractive amenities and activities for our residents and visitors. Our marina areas, boat launching amenities, and abundance of riverfront park and walking areas draw people to our community.



(Photo Credit: Shelia Tomkins)

Stroll Guttenberg's Two-Mile Long Riverwalk or Visit One of our other Parks

Take time to relax and watch the river roll by at Ingleside Park. The park runs the length of the community on the banks of the Mississippi River. This is an inviting place for picnickers, walkers, joggers, fishermen, and residents both young and old. Cook out on one of the grills, or just rest under a shade tree on one of the many park benches running the length of the park. Our riverfront park also offers a band shelter, two gazebos, and multiple picnic tables. Watch the barges as they lock through Lock and Dam #10. The two mile-long river walk sidewalks enhance the charm of this park. Watch fishermen, ducks and geese, and in the wintertime - Bald Eagles galore! Big Springs Park is an 11-acre area located along the National Scenic Byways Great River Road. The park is a quiet, hidden natural area with a picnic area and a gazebo. The city also offers Triangle Park and the North Overlook along Highway 52. Our overlook offers a breathtaking view of our city. Just south of Guttenberg, the IDOT offers another overlook area with another breathtaking view of our beautiful Mississippi River Valley.



Launch Your Boat from Our North or South Boat Ramps

The sandbars and backwaters of the Mississippi River draw many visitors to Guttenberg. Public and private boat launches, docking facilities, including a handicap accessible fishing dock, are both north and south of the dam. Boat rentals are also available.



Bottomland Forest Trail for Birders

Adjacent to the South Boat Launch is a 20-minute trail loop through a natural wetland where birders enjoy killdeer, warblers, and great blue herons. This trail is used by cross country skiers and snow shoeers. Other trails include the Big Springs Nature Area just north of town on the Great River Road, and the Buechel Hill Trail.



Iowa DNR Handicap Fishing Pier

Smack dab in the heart of downtown Guttenberg, in the 400 block of South River Park Drive, anglers may pull up a lawn chair and cast for pan fish.



Cast Your Line for Bluegill, Northern, or Walleye

Guttenberg is a fisherman's paradise. Anglers of all ages catch catfish, walleye, bass, bluegill, and other river species right from the bank or a dock. A handicap accessible fishing pier has been constructed in the downtown immediately south of the Guttenberg Aquarium. Ice fishing is a popular winter sport at Bussey Lake. Fishing licenses, bait and tackle, boat and motor rental and barge fishing are available at Guttenberg businesses.



(Photo Credit: Jeff Dolan)

Observe many types of watercraft lock through Lock and Dam #10

Located in Guttenberg at mile 615, Lock and Dam #10 was constructed by the Corps of Engineers and began operating in 1937. View recreational watercraft, barges, and large riverboats lock through from the Lock and Dam #10 Observation Deck.



View Mississippi River Fish at the DNR Aquarium and Fish Hatchery

Children are especially thrilled to observe live Mississippi River catfish and turtles at the Guttenberg IDNR Aquarium and Upper Mississippi Fisheries Station. Operated by biologists with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the exhibits include a large selection of live turtles, Mississippi River

fish and trout found in local streams. Buttons made in Guttenberg from shells are on display. In the early spring months, Northern Pike are spawned in the hatchery. The Guttenberg Aquarium and Fish Management Station is part of the Great River Road Interpretive Network and is linked to the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque and other cultural sites that tell the stories of the Mississippi River.



Swim Laps, Run, Walk, or Play Tennis, T-ball, Softball, Baseball, Basketball, Football, or Soccer

The City of Guttenberg is currently in the construction phase of a new municipal aquatic center. The pool will feature a large slide, diving board, swimming lanes, a zero depth entry area, and water features for children and families to enjoy. An hour-long adult swim is held twice daily. There will also be shaded areas and a handicap accessible bathhouse with a family changing room and concession stand. There are two tennis courts and a basketball court adjacent to the pool. Our city also boast three baseball fields and three soccer fields, along with an impressive school football field and track.



Observe the Rare Gutenberg Bible

A facsimile copy of the Gutenberg Bible is on display at the Guttenberg Public Library. It is one of a two-volume set, which was purchased in the 1940s from the Gutenberg Museum in Mainz, Germany. The volume on display is not one of the original Gutenberg Bibles. It is an edition of 310 facsimile sets printed at Leipzig, Germany in 1913 by the Insel-Verlag, which, using a copy of an original, reproduced it with modern printing methods. This same facsimile copy was on display in the Gutenberg print shop

in Mainz, Germany during an air attack during World War II. As a result, fire and water damaged the cover and some pages. There are 46 existing copies of the original Gutenberg Bible held at large universities or libraries. The facsimile copies, such as the one on display at the Guttenberg Library, are also scattered throughout the world, and are considered rare books.



Tee off at the Guttenberg Golf and Country Club

This challenging 9-hole course boasts a magnificent Buck Creek and Mississippi River view on several holes. The course is kept in impeccable shape with watered fairways and greens. Appreciated for its gentle hills and birded woodlands, golfers get away from it all. The newly constructed clubhouse offers food and beverage services. The clubhouse also host events such as ping pong tournaments, trivia events, and banquets. Visitors will enjoy both reasonable green fees and a friendly welcome from the club management and staff.



Historic Buildings

Take a walking or driving tour of the historic buildings in downtown Guttenberg. From the Albertus Building to the Court House Inn, Guttenberg has dozens of buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. A new walking tour publication is in the final stages of editing.



The Guttenberg Farmers Market

Shop locally made and grown goods Saturdays from May through October on the 400 block of S. River Park Drive! Vendors offer fresh produce, eggs, flowers, plants, baked goods, wood crafts, fabric crafts, candles, jewelry, granola, honey, and much more! Winter farmer markets are also held at our marina center hosting a variety of unique vendors selling honey, jams, candy, crafts, winter greenhouse vegetables, jewelry, baskets, and baked goods.



Mississippi River Charters

Enjoying the Mississippi River is a "must" in Guttenberg. Whether you're interested in fishing, birdwatching, exploring, or just relaxing and taking in the scenery, Mississippi River Charters is ready to help you enjoy the river. Mississippi River Charters offers sightseeing and fishing charters on the Mississippi River in the Guttenberg area.



Lockmaster's House Heritage Museum

The history of Guttenberg, Iowa and the lock and dam system are preserved at the Lockmaster's House Heritage Museum in Guttenberg. The museum is located in the former lockmaster's house, where the lockmaster and assistant lockmasters of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' lock and dam system were previously required to live. The house is the last remaining lockmaster house on the Upper Mississippi River and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The museum contains many framed photos of early Guttenberg history. In the basement of the house is a photo display of the construction of the lock and dam and the lockmaster's house. In 1993, members of the Heritage Society began collecting articles to furnish the house as it looked when it was first constructed in 1938. It is now filled with vintage furniture, appliances, dishes, and textiles.



Guttenberg Gallery

This art gallery displays the work of talented local artists and sells one-of-a-kind hand-made items. The gallery features work in many media, including glass, pottery, jewelry, photography, painting, and much more. The space is available for reservation for a variety of events. The space is also available for receptions, music in the courtyard, and other special events. All proceeds support the Creativity Center's after-school program! This facility also host a youth-driven culinary arts initiative, the Courtyard Café.



Painting by Rabecca Hennessey of Bent Willow Studio & Gallery

Bent Willow Studio & Gallery

This art gallery features the work of local artist Rabecca Hennessey, who works predominantly in oils. View gorgeous portraits and pet portraits, still life scenes, landscapes, and more. Commission a piece for your own collection or for the gift of a lifetime! Classes are held monthly for beginner and intermediate painters.



River of Music Concert Series

River of Music is a series of free Friday night concerts held from 6-8 p.m. along the river in Ingleside

Park at the band shelter. Bring a blanket or lawn chair, picnic dinner and your cooler. Relax and enjoy great music by local musicians and the beauty of the river. This concert series is organized by Umbrella Arts and sponsored by local businesses and individuals. Concerts are scheduled for Friday nights from June through August.



The Creativity Center

Located above Guttenberg Gallery, the Creativity Center is our community art studio which is open to the public on a walk-in basis (and no sitting fee). The studio promotes the visual arts through ceramics (wheel throwing and paint your own pottery), glass fusion, glass and tile mosaic, jewelry making, painting, and more. The studio welcomes artists of all ages to explore and create a piece of their own inspiration. The Creativity Center provides an after-school program, workshops, and classes taught by volunteer staff and local artists. The Creativity Center is a great place for birthday parties, girls' nights, and more! All proceeds support the after-school program!



Participating with Iowa Water Trails program.

Guttenberg is not on the Iowa Water Trails, but we are within 6 miles of the Millville access and also in very close proximity of the Garber, Osterdock, & Ferry Landing accesses. We have many kayakers and canoers that visit our community each year to not only access the Turkey River Water Trail in our area, but many of these enthusiasts enjoy canoeing and kayaking on the Mississippi River here at Guttenberg.



Dam mitigation and/or safety awareness.

The Corps of Engineers owns and operates our local dam system. Lock & Dam No. 10 was designed and built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and completed in 1937. USACE operates Lock & Dam No.10 as authorized under the Rivers and Harbors Act approved July 3, 1930. The main components of the project are a 110x600' main lock chamber, an incomplete 110' wide auxiliary locking chamber, a moveable dam with 4 roller gates and 8 tainter gates, an earthen embankment, and a fixed crest ogee concrete spillway section. The spillway is located on the left abutment (looking downstream) and is 1,200' long with a crest elevation of 611' NAVD. The earthen embankment is 4,223' long and the elevation of the top of the earthen embankment is 624' NAVD. The foundation conditions beneath the embankment and lock and dam consist of alluvial deposited sands with gravelly zones and scattered clay beds. Lock & Dam No. 10 is a run-of-river dam that maintains a navigation pool for river traffic but does not store flood waters. The project is operated such that flows pass over the ogee spillway or through the gated spillway. During low-flow conditions, the dam gates are adjusted to maintain water levels for navigation.

The project provides approximately \$370 million in annual navigation benefits. Lock & Dam No. 10 provides annually as much as 22 million tons of cargo (typically 13-15 million tons). The main commodities include farm products, coal and chemicals. Also, 3,600 recreational craft typically pass through the lock each year. Annual recreational benefits to the area are about \$5 million. Every day, thousands of vessels move products across the country via the nation's rivers and harbors. This water traffic is a vital component of the nation's economy. To manage risk at the lock & dam, USACE has a routine program that inspects and monitors its locks and dams regularly. Based upon the most recent risk assessment in 2014, USACE considers this dam to be a low risk dam among its more than 700 dams. The USACE risk assessment considered potential breaches of the earth embankment, aging deterioration of the auxiliary miter gates, electrical fires, and barge accidents impacting the lock and spillway. USACE manages this risk by conducting routine monitoring, maintenance, evaluations, and emergency planning. One of USACE's primary missions is to ensure that the inland navigation traffic can move safely, reliably, and efficiently, and with minimal impact on the environment.

Protection of threatened riparian habitat and species.

We have completed several Higgins Eye Mussel studies and relocated Higgins Eye Mussels to accommodate city projects. We have also installed a turtle ramp in our marina area for turtle habitat. Biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) Fisheries and Refuge Programs work the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Guttenberg office to use existing land and water resources on the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge to further aquatic species conservation.

Years ago, the USFWS operated the Guttenberg National Fish Hatchery, and its ponds still exist, although they are now part of Upper Mississippi Refuge. The hatchery system was reduced in size in the latter part of the past century, and the Guttenberg hatchery buildings and aquaria were given to the state. The pond system of the hatchery was absorbed into the Refuge. The existing ponds were used as a moist soil unit to benefit migratory waterfowl. But with river water supply lines and existing water control structures in place FWS and DNR personnel saw a potential to use these ponds to help in the recovery of one of the Upper Mississippi River Region's most endangered fauna, the freshwater mussel.



Promoting commerce that accommodates river enthusiasts

We have three motels, twelve B&Bs, and five campgrounds in Guttenberg that accommodate our river visitors. We also have a bait shop along with other entities that sell bait and fishing licenses. We have ten eating establishments in our city to serve our residents and visitors. We also have a local businesses that offers furniture, décor, hunting gear, gifts, liquor, clothing, shoes, groceries, flowers, plants, hardware, appliances, building materials, gifts, convenience items, boat rentals, and more.



Community Events & Celebrations

Guttenberg is host to many community events and celebrations including annual events such as the Stars & Stripes Celebration, German Fest, Celebrate the River, Merchant's Open House, Rock & Roll on the River, Eagle Watch Weekend, Imagine the Possibilities Talent Show, Firemen's Dance, Memorial Day Parade, River Park Cruisers Car Cruise, Friday Nights Music in the Park, Art by the River, GB&T Golf Outing, Ghouls Night Out, Christmas House Walk, and several fishing tournaments. More events are in the works including downtown Christmas display in the park along the river that will be several blocks in length. Guttenberg has also been a Ragbrai host community. This year the Umbrella Arts group hosted a dedication ceremony for a new fish sculpture that was installed in our park.





Local Healthcare & Long Term Care.

Guttenberg is the proud home of The Guttenberg Municipal Hospital and Cornerstone Family Practice. Guttenberg Municipal Hospital is a nonprofit hospital established in 1961 under a charter of the City of Guttenberg. Our hospital is a 25-bed critical access hospital licensed in Iowa to provide emergency, acute, skilled, observation, hospice, surgical, obstetrics, and newborn services, along with a rooftop helicopter landing pad. The hospital also operates the Family Resource Center that offers additional support to families beyond medical care. The hospital underwent a \$17 million reconstruction project in 2011.

Guttenberg is also home to the Guttenberg Care Center that sits high on the bluff with a breathtaking view of the mighty Mississippi. This serene view emulates the peace and comfort you will find in their unique and home-like community. We are also home to Eagle Ridge Independent & Assisted Living and River Living Center assisted living facility.



Other river programs.

We comply with IDNR standards in relation to our wastewater and storm water facilities. Recently we installed a new liner in our wastewater treatment plant lagoons, rebuilt our main lift station, built a new north lift station, upgraded another lift station, and installed some new sewer lines. We also increased our pumping ability to accommodate heavy rains and avoid the use of bypass pumps during flooding events. We chlorinate and dechlorinate our affluent water before discharging it to diminish the chance of chloroforms forming in the Mississippi River. We also changed our point of discharge so we are no longer discharging into the lower portion of Miners Creek, which is a cold water stream. We have also installed natural gas generators on our main lift stations so they can operate automatically during power outages to prevent lift station bypasses. Future plans include additional sewer line replacement, lining, and grouting and also rehabilitating older brick manholes in town.





(Photo Credit: Jeff Dolan)





















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