



TO CHECK RIVER FLOW IN YOUR AREA CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING WEB SITES:

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS):  
[waterdata.usgs.gov/ia/nwis/current/?type=flow](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ia/nwis/current/?type=flow)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:  
[water.mvr.usace.army.mil/](http://water.mvr.usace.army.mil/)

Distance From Previous Access	Access Name	Paved Boat Ramp	Restrooms (P) Pit (F) Flush	Drinking Water	Campsites (E) Elect (N) NonElect	Showers	Shelter (Picnic)	Location
	① South River Access	YES	NO	NO	N	NO	NO	6.5 Miles South of Sigourney
6.6 Miles	② Manhattan Bridge	YES	P	NO	N	NO	NO	3 Miles North of Ollie
13.1 Miles	③ Skunk River Access	YES	NO	NO	N	NO	NO	4 Miles North of Richland
9.4 Miles	④ McKain Access	YES	P	NO	N	NO	NO	6 Miles Northwest of Brighton
8 Miles	⑤ Brighton Boat Access	YES	P	NO	N	NO	NO	1 Mile North of Brighton
7.9 Miles	⑥ Coppock Access	YES	P	YES	N	NO	NO	Coppock
10.5 Miles	⑦ MacCoon Access	YES	P	NO	E	NO	YES	4 Miles North of Lockridge
16.2 Miles	⑧ Waterworks Park	YES	P	YES	E	NO	YES	4 Miles Southwest of Mt Pleasant
.5 Miles	⑨ Oakland Mills Park	YES	F	YES	E	YES	YES	4 Miles Southwest of Mt Pleasant

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE SKUNK RIVER WATER TRAIL IN YOUR AREA, CONTACT THE FOLLOWING COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARDS:

Henry County Conservation Board  
 2591 Nature Center Drive  
 Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 52641  
 319-986-5067

Jefferson County Conservation Board  
 2003 Libertyville Road  
 Fairfield, Iowa 52556  
 641-472-4421

Keokuk County Conservation Board  
 P.O. Box 323  
 Sigourney, Iowa 52591  
 641-622-3757

Washington County Conservation Board  
 2943 Hwy. 92  
 Ainsworth, Iowa 52201  
 319-657-2400



# Safety Tips:

Basic safety rules are important for enjoyable river paddling. Use the following points as a guide for your float trip.

- 1 Be sure each passenger wears an approved Personal Flotation Device that fits.
- 2 Don't overload with either passengers or gear. Waterproof personal gear. Fasten all ropes so there is no entanglement danger.
- 3 If paddling alone, let someone know your put-in and take-out points and estimated arrival time.
- 4 Portage around danger including lowhead dams and major log jams. Remember, if in doubt get out!
- 5 Beware of overhanging tree, log jams, brush piles and other obstacles that the water flows through rather than around. You can be pinned against them, possibly under the water, by the force of the current. Pass them on the safe side. Do not grab limbs or debris to control the boat's direction. That's a quick way to capsize!
- 6 Do not try to run the lowhead dams. You can be trapped in the recirculating current at the bottom. Approach docks from downstream only.
- 7 If you overturn, stay on the upstream side of the watercraft so you will not be crushed between it and a rock. In most cases, stay with the boat since it won't sink. Don't try to stand in a fast current. Float downstream on your back, feet first, with your toes out of the water. This will keep your feet from catching on the bottom.
- 8 Cold water can be paralyzing to both mind and body. Get out of it quickly. Do not lose your life trying to save your boat or equipment.
- 9 Be alert to changing weather conditions while on the water. Get out of the water before a storm hits.

The Conservation Boards of Henry, Jefferson, Keokuk and Washington county and the Jefferson County Trails Council, hope that this publication will entice more people into enjoying the natural resources of the Skunk River corridor in southeast Iowa. The real natural beauty of the Skunk River can be enjoyed best by navigating the river in a motor boat, canoe or kayak. After the North and South Skunk River join just south of Sigourney, the river meanders freely for most of its 100 miles through farmland and wooded areas until it joins the Mississippi River. Make sure you take along your fishing pole and bait. The Skunk River is notoriously known for its excellent fishing. The shoreline of nearly every stretch and bend of the river is littered with fallen trees, creating excellent habitat for channel catfish, flathead catfish, freshwater drum and carp.

The Skunk River, as any river, should be enjoyed with caution and great respect. After heavy rains, the river can rise rapidly resulting in strong currents and floating debris causing dangerous situations. Be respectful of the river, others who use it and the people who live along its shores. Please dispose of refuse properly and wear your life jacket!

## SUGGESTIONS ON WHAT GEAR TO TAKE ON A FLOAT TRIP.

- Extra paddle
- Personal flotation device
- A first aid kit
- A sponge for bailing and keeping your boat clean
- A secure place for car keys
- Food and plenty of drinking water
- Sunscreen and insect repellent
- Extra clothing in a water proof bag
- Water shoes or old sneakers



# Skunk River Water Trail

Henry, Jefferson, Keokuk,  
and Washington  
County Conservation Boards