

Gateway River Park

Lincoln & Main Streets, Cedar Falls Iowa



Contact: Cedar Falls Tourism
visit@cedarfalls.com | 319.268.4266



Gateway Launch (access)

This hard-surface ramp provides a stable, secure area for smooth launching and retrieval of watercraft, with convenient access to fishing.

DONOR
Cedar Falls Community Foundation Rownd Trust



River Art Alcove

Take in relaxing views of the city, river activities, and explore Dan Hatala's artwork of the Cedar River Watershed.

Sturgis Run (access)

This spot offers an exciting hole for intermediate paddlers, especially within medium flow ranges. It's also great for tubing, advanced swimming, and boogie boarding. The calm, spacious stretch just downstream makes it perfect for tubers and swimmers to enjoy during lower flows.

DONOR
Nick & Michele Taiber

Angler's Point

Beginners can catch small waves here within medium flow ranges, making this spot ideal for tubing and swimming. It's also a fantastic habitat for fish. Playful currents and a broad eddy create a fun area that shifts to swirling currents as river flow levels change. During calm waters, wading and swimming can be enjoyable too.

Prairie Rapids

This is the ultimate playground for paddlers, river surfers, and boogie boarders! Explore four distinct features—Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, and Clay Hole—each offering unique fun designed for various river flow conditions and skill levels. Check river levels with the QR code below to determine if play conditions may fit your skill level.

DONOR
The Prairie Rapids Paddlers
STONE SEATING
Taiber Family

Red Cedar Landing (access)

An ideal exit point for tubing, kayaking, or swimming—or a convenient entry if you prefer to skip the busier sections. From here, enjoy a relaxed tubing or kayaking journey that extends for miles along the scenic water trail.

Turtle Back Landing (access)

A perfect landing spot to relax and soak in the surroundings! Take a photo, look for turtles, or watch the activity in the river. This area is a great spot to park your watercraft and follow the path to enjoy lunch, shopping, and entertainment in the Downtown District.

DONOR
River Place Plaza

Melendy Shores

This area features a thriving fish habitat. It is also ideal for tubers and swimmers. During specific river flow conditions, beginner surfers can enjoy a small wave. At higher levels, intermediate users can navigate swirling currents, and play in a wide eddy.

DONOR
Nick & Michele Taiber

Millrace Point (access)

This location is perfect for longboard surfing, with thrilling whitewater and swirling currents during ideal river flow conditions that challenge all watercraft. Just downstream is a wide, welcoming swimming area when the river has lower flows.

DONOR
Cedar Falls Community Main Street

GatewayRiverPark.com

KAYAKER

Cedar Falls Lions Club, Cedar Basin Music Festival, NE Iowa Board of Realtors, The Seymour Family, First Bank

TUBER

Kiwanis Club of Cedar Falls Rough Risers, Frank & Cary Darrah, Jan & Dave Deaver, North Shore Boat Club

WHITewater

Iowa Whitewater, Chocolaterie Stam, Larry Gregory, Kathy Marie Green