

elevators and coal yards. The track was opened in 1891 by the railroad that became the Chicago Great Western in 1893. The Chicago & Northwestern was the last train company to use the rail line that originally ran from Des Moines to St. Joseph, Missouri. A few concrete mile markers giving the distance between the marker location and Kansas City can still be found standing as sentinels from the past.

The trail is full of adventure for the nature enthusiast, history buff, or those who simply wish to leave the noise and congestion of the city. Put on your walking shoes or hop on your bike and enjoy the trail.

Services

Restaurants and restrooms are available near the Des Moines and Martensdale trailheads, in Cumming and Orilla. Picnic mini shelters and water are located at Gear Street north of Martensdale, Coolidge Street south of Cumming and a picnic mini shelter is located south of 72ND Avenue in Polk County.



The Polk and Warren County Conservation Boards do not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, national origin, age or handicap. If anyone believes he or she has been subjected to such discrimination, he or she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Polk or Warren County Conservation Boards or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Trail Use Guidelines

1. Respect private property.
2. Trail is open from sunrise to sunset.
3. No horses are allowed.
4. No motorized vehicles are allowed.
5. Stay to the right of the trail — pass on the left.
6. Do not park your bike on the trail.
7. Observe all traffic signs — it's the law.

Complete rules posted at trailhead parking lots.

For more information, contact:



Polk County
Conservation Board
11407 NW Jester Park Dr
Granger, IA 50109
(515) 323-5300



Warren County
Conservation Board
15565 118TH Avenue
Indianola, IA 50125
(515) 961-6169

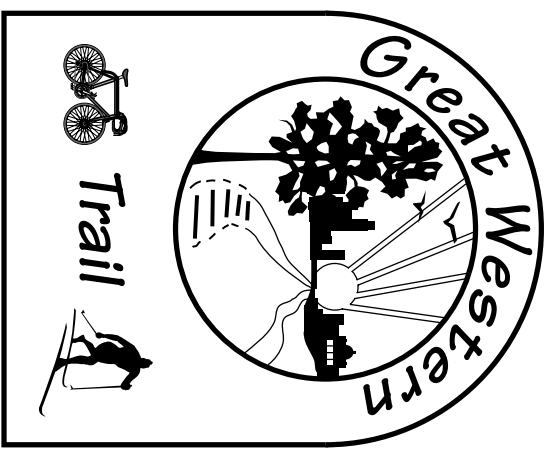
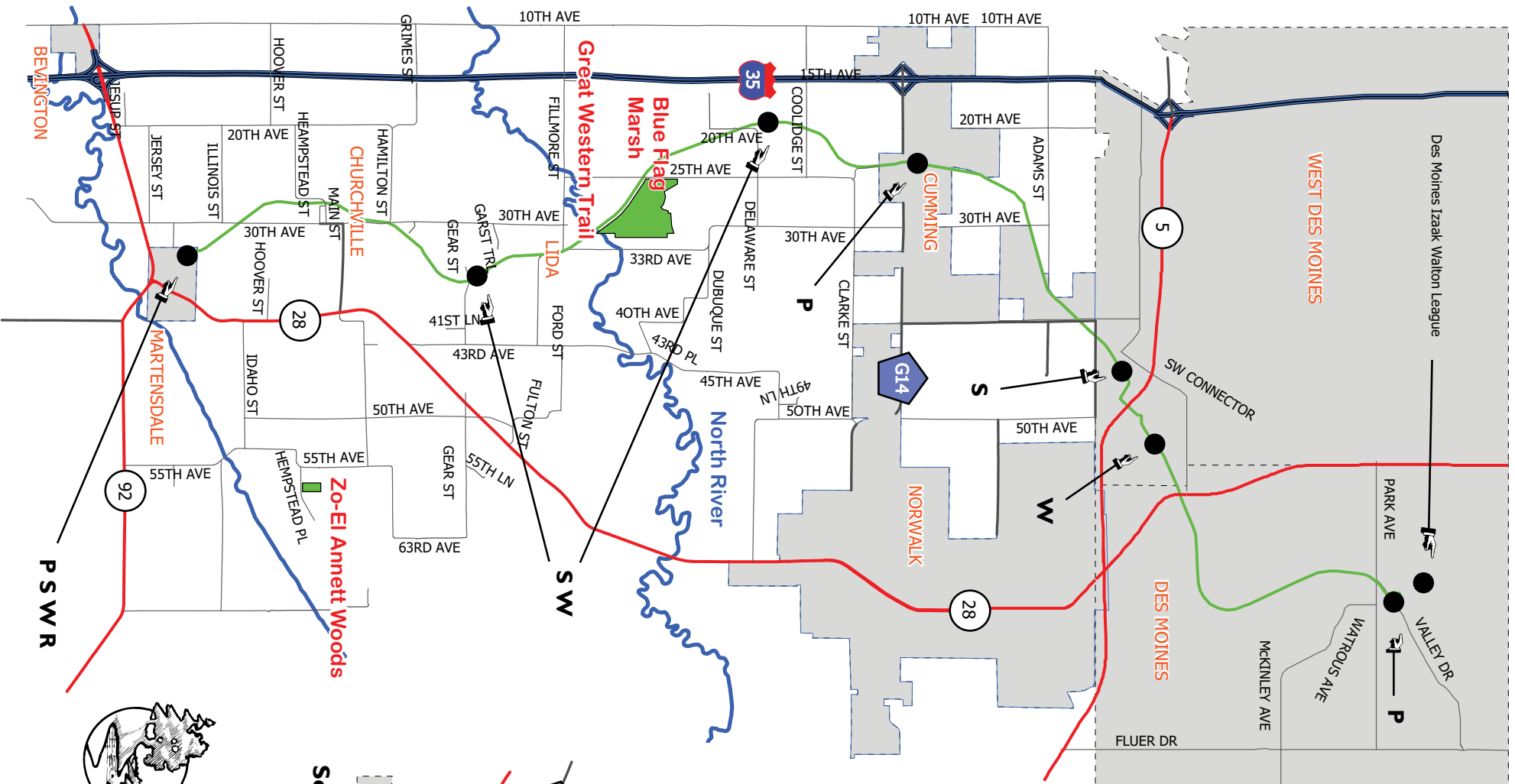


The Great Western Trail: An Adventure for Everyone

This 16.5-mile journey can be a step back into time as travelers witness a few remaining prairie and wetland remnants. The trail preserves some of Iowa's endangered plants, those plants that had been wiped out in other parts of the state as land-use changes were made.

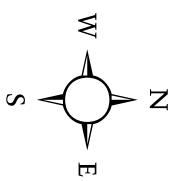
The Great Western trailheads are located across from the Izaak Walton League Clubhouse on Valley Drive in Des Moines and at Inwood Street in Martensdale. Your trip along the Great Western Trail is a journey into history. It will take you through the site of Lida, past the munitions train derailment and fire near North River and across the Churchville Prairie.

In 1914 no point in Iowa was more than 12 miles from a railroad. They served many small-town



LEGEND

- P** - Parking
- S** - Shelter
- W** - Water
- R** - Restroom



- City Street or County Road
- County Highway
- State Highway
- Interstate Highway
- City Limits



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<http://www.warrenccb.org>