

WELCOME TO IOWA, THE WORLD CAPITAL OF TRAILS!

Here you will find over 1,200 miles of multi-use trails in all corners of the state, and over 670 miles just in central Iowa. Our county road system also offers opportunities to bicycle and explore our beautiful land, small towns, and to meet many friendly people. Enjoy your ride!

BADGER CREEK LOOP

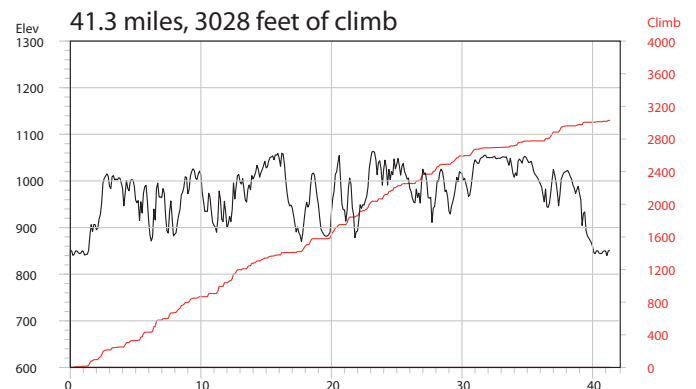
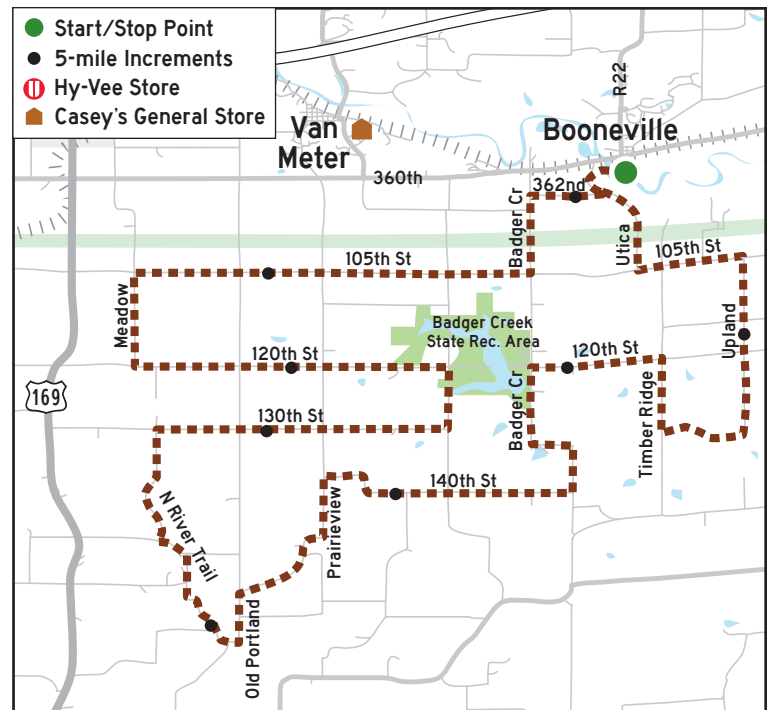
MADISON COUNTY, 41 MILES, GRAVEL AND DIRT ROADS. PARKING AND RESTROOMS: BOONEVILLE POST OFFICE OR WAVELAND CAFÉ.

This rural route transitions you quickly from suburban West Des Moines into the quiet, rural landscape of Madison County. After parking in Booneville, head west on 360th St. to cross the Raccoon River. An immediate right turn on Utica puts you on compact gravel. You've seen the last of pavement until you return to this spot on your way home.

Several challenging climbs, low traffic, and picturesque vistas make this a local favorite for the MTB and cyclocross riders. When crossing 120th Street, disregard the "Dead End" sign; instead, follow Upland as it climbs and falls on a narrow, rocky road into Timber Ridge, a private development. The sign reads "Private." It is a privately-maintained road but we are welcome to ride it. The neighbors have always been nice and waved as we ride through. Be alert for a farm dog on 120th; yelling "Go Home!" usually works. Route passes within one-half mile of entrance to Badger Creek State Recreation Area (picnic area and restrooms). In wet conditions, bypass the dirt road by heading north on Old Portland or Prairieview roads. When dry, enjoy the rural, rutted dirt path through a woody area before going north on Quail Ridge.

Back in Booneville, stop at the friendly Waveland Cafe for breakfast (served all day; hash browns and pancakes draw rave reviews) or an adult beverage.

—Dave Mable, editor, *Iowa Momentum* endurance sports magazine



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