



# 2025 Survival Guide

**Relay Iowa HQ: 515-897-1483**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Disclaimer	4
What's new for 2025?	5
The Relay at a glance	6
Relay Iowa and its Charities	7
General Information	8
PREPARATION	8
RELAY PACE AND STARTING TIMES	8
CHECK-IN	9
SUPPORT VEHICLES AND RUNNER ROTATION	9
CHECKPOINTS	10
CHECKPOINT FOOD OFFERINGS	11
DOUBLE RUNNING	11
PIT STOPS	12
MERCHANDISE	12
HOTELS	13
Safety	13
RUNNING SAFETY – GENERAL	14
RUNNING AT NIGHT	14
WEATHER	15
DISQUALIFICATION	15
Communication	16
RELAY IOWA HEADQUARTERS CONTACT INFO	17
GPS TRACKING	17
WHATSAPP NOTIFICATION SYSTEM	18
SOCIAL MEDIA	18
Course information	19
ROAD SIGNS	19
MISCELLANEOUS COURSE INFORMATION	20
Checkpoints & Pit Stops	21
<b>SIOUX CITY</b>	21
<b>ANTHON</b>	22
<b>IDA GROVE</b>	23
<b>LAKE CITY</b>	24
<b>DAYTON</b>	25

<b>JEWELL</b>	26
<b>ELDORA</b>	27
<b>HUDSON</b>	28
<b>INDEPENDENCE</b>	29
<b>MANCHESTER</b>	30
<b>EPWORTH</b>	31
<b>DUBUQUE</b>	32
Maps – Relay Legs	33

# Disclaimer

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This Survival Guide contains important Relay information which will enhance your safety and enjoyment of the Relay.

Each runner must read and comply with all information and instructions.

Key reminders for this year and other important items have been **Bolded**.



# What's new for 2025?

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**1. This year is our 15th anniversary!! To honor this major milestone, for this year we're introducing the corniest Iowa activity we could come up with: a Corn Cob Challenge.**

There will be 15 corn cobs hidden along the route. There will be one located at the start line, one at each checkpoint (10), one at the finish line, one at Hansen's Dairy, one at Field of Dreams, and one MYSTERY COB that will be at one of the previous locations (so one location will have 2 cobs).

Your team will need to find each cob and tell the volunteer at that location where you found it. They'll initial the page at the end of this guide to prove your success. Find all the cobs and you may find yourself the winner of a very corny prize. Happy hunting!

## **2. WE HAVE SOME VERY COOL AND VERY SIGNIFICANT ROUTE CHANGES!**

A common theme of feedback we've received year to year has centered around runner safety in Dubuque. We heard your concerns and have updated our route this year to exchange the tight, twisty roads of Dubuque for the beautiful Heritage Trail. We hope that this change will help runners enjoy the final miles of the event safely without taking away from the joy of the Relay.

**The Heritage Trail only allows for vehicle access at very specific points meaning that for approximately 17 miles of the Relay there will be predetermined leg lengths that runners must follow. The distances between access points range between 0.58 and 2.08 miles.**

**For this portion of the Relay, each leg will be outlined in a detailed map in the Survival Guide. Access points will be marked on the map with QR codes that will take you to Google Map coordinates for each handoff point. We will also do our best to have physical signage on the route as well.**

**Please review these with your team ahead of time and HAVE THE PRINTED MAPS IN YOUR ACTIVE VEHICLE(S) while driving this portion of the route. It may be helpful for all runners to take photos of the maps on their phones to reference if they are unsure about handoff locations.**

### **Runners:**

- PLEASE CARRY A PHONE OR OTHER COMMUNICATION DEVICE WITH YOU WHILE RUNNING in order to be able to contact your team if necessary. There is limited vehicle access to the trail so please plan for a way to communicate in case of an emergency.**
- IF YOU ARRIVE AT A HANDOFF LOCATION BEFORE YOUR VEHICLE DOES, PLEASE STOP AND WAIT FOR THEM! If you continue on, you are responsible for the entire next leg of the trail since vehicles won't be able to pick you up if you aren't at an identified handoff point.**

As an additional resource, the route maps are available in Strava! Here is a “Strava How-To” to access these maps:

1. Download the Strava app (orange with two white arrow shapes) and create a free account.
2. Search for Relay Iowa and add us as a friend!
3. The entire Relay Iowa route is available in our public routes. When on the route, just select the portion of the route you’re currently on and it will show you each and every turn along the way.
4. Continue to look for and follow physical signage but the Strava routes will get you back on track if you find yourself unsure.

### **3. WhatsApp for Communication**

We are using WhatsApp as our group communication system again this year. Follow the instructions on page 17 to download the app, scan the QR code, and join the 2025 Relay Iowa group. This allows us to notify you of important updates regarding safety, weather, detours, etc. This group will be set up so that messages can only go one way. If you have important questions, please call HQ. If you have fun pictures you want to send us, tag us on social media.

## **Don’t forget!!**

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### **Relay Iowa Tattoos**

Don’t worry, they’re just temporary tattoos, but maybe it could lead to something permanent?!? Each team will get some temporary tattoos and we’ll have more for sale. Use them to track your miles or ‘road kills’, or just have some fun with them.

### **Relay Iowa Bingo!**

If you’re looking for a little extra challenge (as if running across the state wasn’t enough) we’ve got bingo! Each team will get multiple bingo cards at the start line along with stickers. As you’re making your way across the state, keep your eyes out for the different items on your cards.

Once you get a traditional bingo (five squares in a row) for a card, turn your winning card in at the finish line for an amazing prize.

### **Field of Dreams**

Our route this year is again running right by the Field of Dreams site outside of Dyersville. Take a break from the Relay and run the bases for free. We’d love to see your pictures of your team and this Iowa icon.

# The Relay at a glance

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## Showers

Here's where you can get a shower during the Relay:

**\*\*Hot water not guaranteed\*\***

- Ida Grove – Battlecreek Elementary School or Rec center
- Lake City – City pool
- Dayton – Clubhouse near checkpoint
- Jewell – South Hamilton High School
- Grundy Center – Grundy Family Aquatic Center
- Independence – Independence High School

## Food

Here's where you can get **free food** during the Relay:

- Spaghetti dinner – Ida Grove – Friday night
- Pancake breakfast – Jewell – Saturday morning
- Potato bar - Independence - Saturday night
- Grab n' go breakfast – Epworth – Sunday morning
- Barbeque lunch – Dubuque – Sunday at Finish Line

## GPS Tracking

Reminder, your team will only receive one GPS tracker. The tracker should always be with the team's active runner. People can follow along at [www.relayia.org/gps](http://www.relayia.org/gps).

## Pit Stops

There are 12 checkpoints throughout the Relay, 5 have been established as "Pit Stops" and your team's active runner is required to be at the pit stop within the specific time window.

Pit Stop	Open time	Close time	Day
Ida Grove	2:00 PM	8:30 PM	Friday
Lake City	9:00 PM	2:00 AM	Friday/Saturday
Jewell	7:00 AM	11:30 AM	Saturday
Independence	10:00 PM	2:00 AM	Saturday/Sunday
Dubuque	8:00 AM	4:00 PM	Sunday

If you will not arrive by the end time for a pit stop, you must drive ahead to reach the pit stop by the closing time.

**If you arrive before the open time for the pit stop, your team's active runner must stop and wait for the open time before proceeding.**

# Relay Iowa and its Charities

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Relay Iowa is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support and fund local and international humanitarian efforts that provide for the physical and educational needs of children and families.

The primary charities Relay Iowa is supporting in 2025 are:

**Restoring Hope International:** Orphanage in Welkom, South Africa - Relay Iowa has helped fund the building of additional houses to provide shelter for orphans.

[www.rhi.org](http://www.rhi.org)

Relay Iowa also supports organizations along the relay route each year. Our checkpoints are manned by volunteers representing those charities and we encourage you to take the time to meet with those checkpoint volunteers to learn more about their organization and other ways you may be able to support them. (Charities are named on their respective checkpoint pages in this guide).

As you make your way across Iowa, please share the story of Relay Iowa and the charities we support with people you meet. If donations to Relay Iowa are offered to you, please accept them with our thanks and just give it to one of the relay officials at your next opportunity.

Checks can be made out to Relay Iowa and we will send a receipt if given a name and address. Donations can also be made at our website [www.relayia.org](http://www.relayia.org).

Please consider letting your friends and family know about what you're doing, why you're doing it, and give them the opportunity to show their support of your impressive effort!

## Club 339

Each year, we challenge every team to help us with our fundraising effort by raising \$339 collectively to become a part of Club 339. Our charitable reach is extended through the generosity of support that our runners collect. We make a difference in the world together!

Help us to hit the ground "running" with our fundraising efforts and get your team into Club 339 by having donors select your team [www.relayia.org/donate](http://www.relayia.org/donate). The team with the largest fundraising total at the finish line will be awarded that year's fundraising trophy.

# General Information

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## PREPARATION

**This is an extreme running event**, and participants should be prepared physically and mentally. You will also need to ensure that you have all necessary supplies and equipment, as there may be times (such as between towns and in the middle of the night) when no other resources will be available to you.

Items each team **MUST** have:

- Two reflective vests (**a reflective vest must be worn by runners from dusk to dawn and we recommend wearing one at all times**).
- Two headlamps and LED taillights (**a headlamp and taillight, or lighted vest in place of tail light, must be worn by runners from dusk to dawn**).

Other items you will want to bring, but are not limited to:

- Food
- Water/Gatorade
- Cell phones and chargers
- First Aid Kit including ice pack, blister treatment, bandages, aspirin
- Cash & credit card
- Layering clothes-be prepared for hot and cold weather
- Rain gear
- Reflective tape/gear-anything to make yourself visible to drivers
- Flashlights and fresh batteries for all lights
- Towels and toiletries
- An extra bag for dirty clothes
- Camping supplies
- Pepper spray

## RELAY PACE AND STARTING TIMES

To ensure safety, keep the relay on schedule, minimize congestion on the course, and ensure that runners don't get ahead of or behind the volunteers, each runner will be required to submit a pace prediction which is used to calculate projected team pace. These times can be altered up to a week prior to the relay to ensure an accurate time.

Your team's pace will also be monitored at checkpoints along the route, and officials may need to hold your team at one of the Pit Stops for a period of time if you get too far ahead of your pace, or move you ahead if you fall too far behind.

**If you find yourself getting too far ahead or behind pace, a great option is to simply adjust the legs your runners are running. Longer legs will likely lead to slowing down your pace while shorter legs will likely lead to speeding it up. Length of leg can be adjusted at any point during the relay at team discretion and may be most helpful when managing changes in temperature, time of day, fatigue, or pacing.**

(More details are in the section titled “Pit Stops”)

Team start times are directly communicated with team captains.

## CHECK-IN

Teams are required to check in with Relay Iowa officials before starting the event.

Early check-in is available and encouraged Thursday night from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Buffalo Alice. If your team does not check in early, you must check in at the starting point at least a half-hour before your given starting time.

At check-in, team captains will verify that the team is in possession of two reflective or light up vests, two headlights, and two LED taillights. The team captain will then receive a packet with your team’s event shirts, stickers, tickets for ice cream in Hudson, and two printed Relay Iowa Survival Guides (print extra copies if you want more than two).

Your GPS tracker will be handed out at the start line to your first runner. It will be used as a baton. The GPS should always be worn by the runner currently on the course. **Finish Line meal tickets will be provided when your GPS monitor is turned in upon Relay completion.**

At the Start Line, the Relay Director will provide a final update on any important information for teams to know about. It is the team captain’s responsibility to share these details with every member of their team.

## SUPPORT VEHICLES AND RUNNER ROTATION

Each team is responsible for providing and organizing their team support vehicles. Vans tend to be the preferred option among teams due to the ease of maneuvering and comfort. At the starting point, runner one from vehicle one will begin running. Vehicle one will begin driving along the route, stopping at your team’s predetermined distance to wait for runner one.

When runner one reaches the vehicle, he or she will pass the GPS to runner two who will then begin running. Runner one enters the vehicle which will then continue on the course to the desired distance for runner two. This continues until vehicle one turns over running to vehicle two. This will require a lot of communication between runners and their vehicle, and between vehicles.

**Team names must be visible on the rear window of all team vehicles. Window paint is available from Relay Iowa check-in.**

Vehicles will travel approximately 30-45 miles between checkpoints. The vehicle that is not currently running is free to meet runners on the course to cheer them on, go to a nearby town to eat or get supplies, or find a safe place to rest.

Vehicles must safely pull off the road while on the course while waiting for runners for exchanges or encouragement. All tires must be off the road—you cannot just pull over slightly.

**The local, county and state police will ticket you if your vehicle is not safely and fully off the road.**

It is recommended that you use side streets, parking lots, farm field entrances, etc., though you must determine if you can do so safely while respecting property owners and other drivers on the road.

**Do not park on personal property (e.g., driveways).**

## CHECKPOINTS

Checkpoints are staffed at the times indicated on the individual checkpoint pages further ahead in the Survival Guide. While it is not required to arrive at a normal checkpoint within that time window, that is an indication that you may be off pace and will need to adjust at a pit stop as follows.

*Checkpoints are manned by volunteers from local charities which Relay Iowa supports with donations. We encourage you to learn about these local charities and consider supporting them as well.*

**As a runner reaches one of the checkpoints, which will be directly on the course, he or she must identify their team name and check in with the checkpoint volunteer before proceeding. This may be accomplished simply by yelling the team name to a volunteer as they pass the checkpoint, or by having the team van at the checkpoint identifying their passing runner.**

Since we run throughout the night, please be respectful of those living near areas where you stop for exchanges or encouragement during the night. You should **not** be cheering loudly, ringing cowbells, etc., between 9:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m.

That being said, you **should** be cheering loudly, ringing cowbells, etc., between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Each runner and team are representatives of the Relay and as such it is expected that all involved in the Relay will act with courtesy and respect for the cities and communities that host our checkpoints. You are expected to follow all local laws, posted signs and social norms at all times during the Relay.

## CHECKPOINT FOOD OFFERINGS

Relay Iowa supplies meals in Ida Grove, Jewell, Independence, Epworth and Dubuque free of charge for all registered runners. Drivers and other guests may be charged for their meal.

Additionally, the charity organizations manning many of our checkpoints will have food for sale.

You should not depend on these planned offerings, but please enjoy and support the local charities where available.

There are also numerous convenience stores and restaurants along the route.

## DOUBLE RUNNING

If your team ends up falling behind and isn't able to make it to checkpoints on time, double running is a potential option. Double running is the process of having two runners running together at the same time and counting both of their miles towards the end goal of 339 miles. This allows a team to accomplish the required mileage for the event while staying within the timeframe of the Relay weekend.

**Double running is ONLY allowed for teams that Relay Officials deem at risk of not making it to a checkpoint or pit stop before the designated closing time for that stop. Given that the event is a relay, not a race, the goal is to have your team cross the entire state on foot if possible within the timeframe provided with driven miles being used as a last resort.**

For example, if a team has 10 miles left to run before making it to a Pit Stop, but the current runner's pace will not allow them to make it on time, then another runner can run alongside the current runner and both can run 5 miles together. They can count that as 10 miles total. Now the team can drive ahead the remaining 5 miles to the pit stop.

Double running can also be accomplished by having two runners run two consecutive legs at the same time. So runner #1 is dropped off, then the van moves ahead to drop off runner #2 at mile 5 (and runner 2 starts running), then waits for runner 1 to finish, then moves ahead to pick up runner #2 at the 10-mile mark. Again, this is only relevant for teams that the Relay Officials have deemed significantly behind pace and at risk of not finishing the event in time.



## PIT STOPS

There are 12 checkpoints, 5 of which are pit stops to help keep teams on pace and to ensure the safety of all participants.

The following checkpoints have been established as “Pit Stops” and your team’s active runner is required to be at the pit stop during the specific time window.

If you will not arrive by the end time for a pit stop, you must drive ahead to reach the pit stop by the closing time.

**If you arrive before the open time for the pit stop, your team’s active runner must stop and wait for the open time before proceeding.**

You are encouraged to regularly evaluate if you are on pace to meet the pit stop windows, and as you reach several miles out of a pit stop, estimate when you will arrive to determine if you must drive ahead or stop when you arrive. Additionally, the Relay Director and other Relay Iowa officials will monitor your progress and contact you if any adjustments are needed.

Pit Stop open/close times:

Pit Stop	Open time	Close time	Day
Ida Grove	2:00 PM	8:30 PM	Friday
Lake City	9:00 PM	2:00 AM	Friday/Saturday
Jewell	7:00 AM	11:30 AM	Saturday
Independence	10:00 PM	2:00 AM	Saturday/Sunday
Dubuque	8:00 AM	4:00 PM	Sunday

## MERCHANDISE

Relay Iowa merchandise will be available for sale in Jewell (pancake breakfast location) and at the finish line in Dubuque.

Online order pick-up available at the start line and each of those locations.

# HOTELS

Because this is an adventure run, we encourage teams to rely on their transportation and/or camping as their places for rest; however, we have been informed some individuals prefer finding a hotel along the way.

If this is of interest to your team, some hotels along the route are:

- **Sioux City:** Room blocks at Wingate (712) 276-5600
- **Lake City:** Cornerstone Suites (712) 464-3082
- **Ft. Dodge (north of Dayton Checkpoint):** AmericInn (515) 576-2100, Quality Inn (515) 955-3621, or Countryside Inn (515) 955-8575
- **Ellsworth:** Comfort Inn (515) 733-6363, Super 8 (515) 854-2281
- **Eldora:** Eldora Village Motel (641) 939-3441
- **Grundy Center (between Eldora and Hudson):** AmericInn (319) 824-5272
- **Manchester:** Boulders Inn & Suites (563) 856-0011, Days Inn (563) 275-4996, Surestay (563) 927-2533
- **Epworth:** American Inn and Suites (in Peosta) – (563) 557-8878

We have not stayed at these hotels, so we cannot recommend any one in particular. These hotels are not affiliated with the Relay nor do we have any partnerships with them.

## Safety

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The safety of our participants, volunteers and the general public is the top priority of the Relay Iowa staff. Failure to act in a safe manner may result in disqualification. Individuals are responsible for their own safety and are required to report any unsafe situations or behaviors to Relay Iowa officials.

Some, not all, Relay support staff will have basic first aid equipment, but medical assistance is not provided by Relay officials during the run. For emergencies, 911 is the best option unless you have better means to address the emergency immediately and safely. Teams must bring their own first aid supplies.

Relay Iowa staff vehicles will be clearly marked with door magnets that say, “Relay Iowa Staff” and will be on the route checking on runners and support vehicles. Road crew will have bright orange t-shirts or reflective vests for identification.

The following rules and suggestions have been developed to help ensure the safety of all participants.

## RUNNING SAFETY – GENERAL

Runners must run facing traffic, preferably on the shoulder, or on the edge of the pavement where it is safe to do so.

**Required gear from dusk to dawn: flashlight/headlamp, reflective or lighted vest, and LED tail light.** A reflective vest is recommended at all times

Do not assume motorists can see you or will yield the right of way, even if you have the right of way. Assume a motorist may be impaired or not see you. Do not expect them to move over and expect the unexpected. **Run defensively!**

It is recommended that runners carry a cell phone or other communication device (e.g., smart watch) to communicate with their team or Relay Iowa officials. Running with headphones poses a higher safety risk due to less awareness of your surroundings. Use of headphones is discouraged by Relay Iowa.

Maintain proper hydration as dehydration is a primary cause of hospitalization in adventure runs. Be certain you are drinking enough liquids, avoiding drinks that contain caffeine or alcohol which cause fluid loss. Make sure your team vehicles are stocked with enough water to stay hydrated through the day/night. You will be able to refill at gas stations, stores, and various locations along the route but keep in mind that many stores may close overnight.

**Relay Iowa does not provide water.**

Review your course leg in advance, making note of any turns or potential high volume or road intersection situations. Monitor the ground/pavement ahead of you for potential safety hazards.

Be certain you are in good physical condition. You should review your plans with your doctor. If you are not feeling well during your run, stop and seek first aid or medical attention as needed.

## RUNNING AT NIGHT

When running at night, we encourage team support vehicles to stop somewhere along each leg to watch for their runner. It is permitted for support vehicles to “shadow” runners during nighttime legs only. “Shadowing” means that a support vehicle parks a couple hundred yards ahead of their runner, once the runner passes, the support vehicle waits until the runner is a couple hundred yards ahead then drives on ahead of the runner and stops again. All support vehicles that are shadowing runners must obey traffic laws.

When parked, please turn off your lights so that you don’t blind the oncoming traffic. Leave your parking lights and hazards on so that others can see you. Please do not stop or slow down in places that will impede traffic or runners and turn your hazard lights on.

**It is not permitted for support vehicles to follow behind runners at the runner’s pace.** We also encourage nighttime runners to run with “buddy runners” if they feel more comfortable this way. “Buddy runners” can run alongside each runner and must have the required night gear on while pacing.

**Required gear from dusk to dawn: flashlight/headlamp, reflective or lighted vest, and LED tail light.**

## WEATHER

The Relay will occur rain or shine. However, under certain severe weather conditions where significant damage or alterations to the course occur, we reserve the right to cancel or suspend the event. There will be no refunds given if the run is canceled/suspended due to weather. Conditions that may result in the run being canceled/suspended include but are not limited to the following: severe electrical storm, tornadoes, earthquakes, flooding, etc.

If there is lightning at the start of the run, we reserve the right to delay starts until the lightning clears. If you see lightning on the course after the run has started, get your runner off the road and into the support vehicle. Make a note of the time and the location where you exited the course. If lightning clears within one hour, put your runner back on the road where they left and make a note of the time. If lightning persists longer than an hour, move ahead five miles for every hour of lightning.

Keep close track of where and when you left the course and where and when you returned to the course. You should call the headquarters phone line to report details once back on the course. We will then calculate your average pace and apply this pace to the segment of the course that you missed. In this way we will adjust all overall run times.

**Each individual runner is responsible for determining if it is safe to run in the conditions presented. Do not wait for a Relay Iowa official to suspend the run due to severe weather conditions—the individual/team must take action, seeking shelter as necessary.**

**While we respect each team's ability to make safety decisions based on their own personal comfort, if Relay Iowa HQ determines that conditions are unsafe for all teams and issues an "all stop", that decision must be respected by teams until the "all stop" is lifted. Once the "all stop" is lifted, it is up to the individual teams to determine personal safety/comfort regarding weather conditions.**

## DISQUALIFICATION

Relay Iowa officials and course volunteers have the authority to disqualify a team for serious violations of Relay Iowa rules or city/state laws.

**Runners must wear a reflective or lighted vest, headlamp/flashlight, and a LED tail light when running on the course from dusk to dawn. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from the relay.**

**Runners must run facing traffic, not with traffic. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from the relay.**

## PARKING DO'S AND DON'TS

DO:



DON'T:



## Communication

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### RELAY IOWA HEADQUARTERS CONTACT INFO

For all questions, issues, sharing of information, etc., we've established a headquarters phone line that will be staffed the duration of the event. Volunteers staffing this headquarters phone line can directly assist you or put you in touch with other members of the relay staff as needed.

**515-897-1483 (Text or Call for assistance throughout the event. In case of emergency 911 is the best option)**

If we experience issues with the headquarters phone line, we'll notify everyone of back-up contact information via our WhatsApp Group.

# GPS TRACKING

Relay Iowa is using GPS tracking devices by **Adventure Enablers** for 2024.

The GPS tracking will also be live streamed at their website, [www.AdventureEnablers.com](http://www.AdventureEnablers.com), to track our runners throughout the relay.

Teams will receive one GPS device and one charging cable. These devices have a longer battery life than years past.

The GPS device should always be with the active runner on the road to ensure proper tracking for safety purposes.

While these GPS devices use 4G technology, they still rely on cell service to transmit a signal. As we all know, coverage can be spotty in some areas of the state. Let your fans know not to worry and that it will pick up your location once a signal returns.

**We'll provide more details and instructions at registration when you receive your GPS devices.**

# WHATSAPP TEXT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Relay Iowa will use WhatsApp to reach everyone during the event with updates and important information. Although we will post on social media, WhatsApp will be the quickest way for Relay officials to communicate with all participants.

Take a moment right now to download WhatsApp from the App store or from the Google play store.

Once you've downloaded WhatsApp, please use this QR code to join the Relay Iowa Runners group.

Relay Iowa Runners

WhatsApp group



## SOCIAL MEDIA

Please take time along the way to document your journey on your favorite social networking site(s) and see what other teams have to share – and be sure to tag us! Whether it's beautiful scenery, a crazy dog or sweaty runner, we want to read and see it all!

Facebook:

- Find us at: [www.facebook.com/RelayIowa](http://www.facebook.com/RelayIowa) Tag us using: @relayiowa

Twitter:

- Find us at: [www.twitter.com/RelayIowa](http://www.twitter.com/RelayIowa) Tag us using: @relayiowa
- Use #RelayIowa2024 when tweeting!

Instagram:

- Find us at: [www.instagram.com/relayiowa](http://www.instagram.com/relayiowa) Tag us using: @relayiowa

Snapchat:

- Follow us using: @relayiowa
- Use our geofilters at the start and finish lines
- Friends of @relayiowa can look for and add to our public story!

TikTok:

- Follow us: @RelayIowa
- Send videos you take along the route to [nick@relayia.org](mailto:nick@relayia.org) or even better find him and his team (Easier Said Than Run) along the route to be featured in a Relay Iowa Tiktok!

# Course information

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We anticipate using mostly the same course as past years but be on the lookout for route detour signs or communication in case we have to make last minute adjustments.

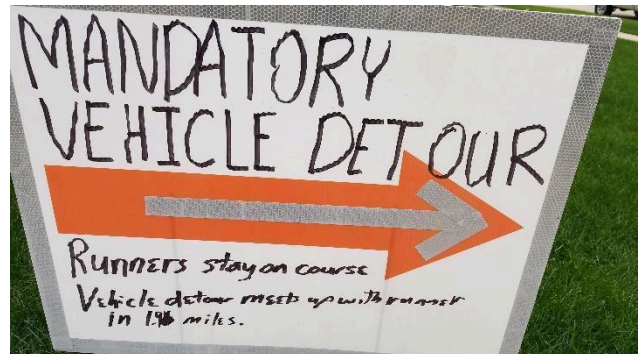
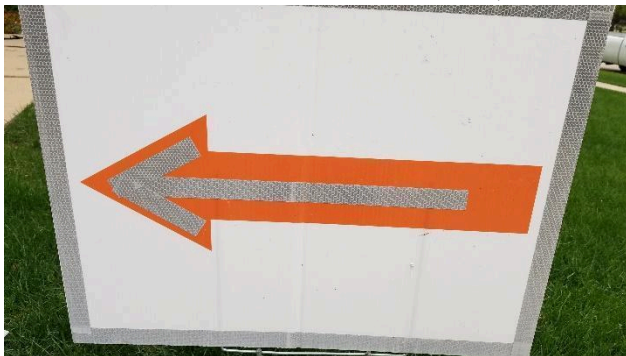
## ROAD SIGNS

Teams are responsible to make sure that runners stay on the course. You may want to wait for a runner at any turns or potentially confusing points to ensure they stay on the course.

There will be signs along the route directing vans and runners, but due to potential vandalism, please do not rely on signs to make decisions. Use your map, or if you have any questions or there are missing or incorrect signs, call Relay Iowa Headquarters. Also, you can see the detailed route, specific roads & turns, etc., on the relay web site: [www.relayia.org/thecourse](http://www.relayia.org/thecourse)

Directional signs will be placed at turns or potentially confusing intersections. Also, look for informational signs next to directional signs in case of detours or to advise you of important information. We plan to attach strobe lights to runner side signs for night legs, but can't ensure they'll all be active due to batteries, weather, vandalism, etc.

**IF THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE THIS, DON'T FOLLOW THEM!**





## MISCELLANEOUS COURSE INFORMATION

Attempts have been made to identify potential road work or other potential route issues in advance of the relay. However, you may encounter a detour on the route due to unforeseen or unplanned road issues. The detour should be clearly marked with Relay Iowa signs, though if you are unsure you should call Relay Iowa Headquarters before proceeding.

The following pages include maps, directions, checkpoint locations/times, amenities, etc. Relay Iowa is not responsible for the accuracy of the information or availability of certain amenities.

This information is accurate to the best of our abilities. If you find any inaccuracies, please let us know so we can correct it for future years. It is also ultimately the team's responsibility to prepare as needed for this adventure run.

# Checkpoints & Pit Stops

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, but it is the team's responsibility to prepare as needed for this adventure run.

## SIOUX CITY

6:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., June 6, 2025

Please arrive at Sergeant Floyd Monument to check in at least 30-minutes before your scheduled start time. You will need to check in at the registration table to confirm we have all signed waivers and to receive your t-shirt, vehicle sticker and GPS. Before taking off, there will be a brief review with the Relay Director.

**LOCATION:** Sergeant Floyd Monument

**ADDRESS:** S. Lewis Blvd, Sioux City

**AMENITIES AVAILABLE:**

- ✓ Shelter or other cover
- ✓ Tables/benches
- ✓ Bathrooms



# ANTHON

10:00 a.m. – 5:45 p.m., June 6, 2025

*Checkpoint manned by volunteers from: Anthon Park Project*

**LOCATION:** Stahls Park

**ADDRESS:** 510 State St

## AMENITIES AVAILABLE

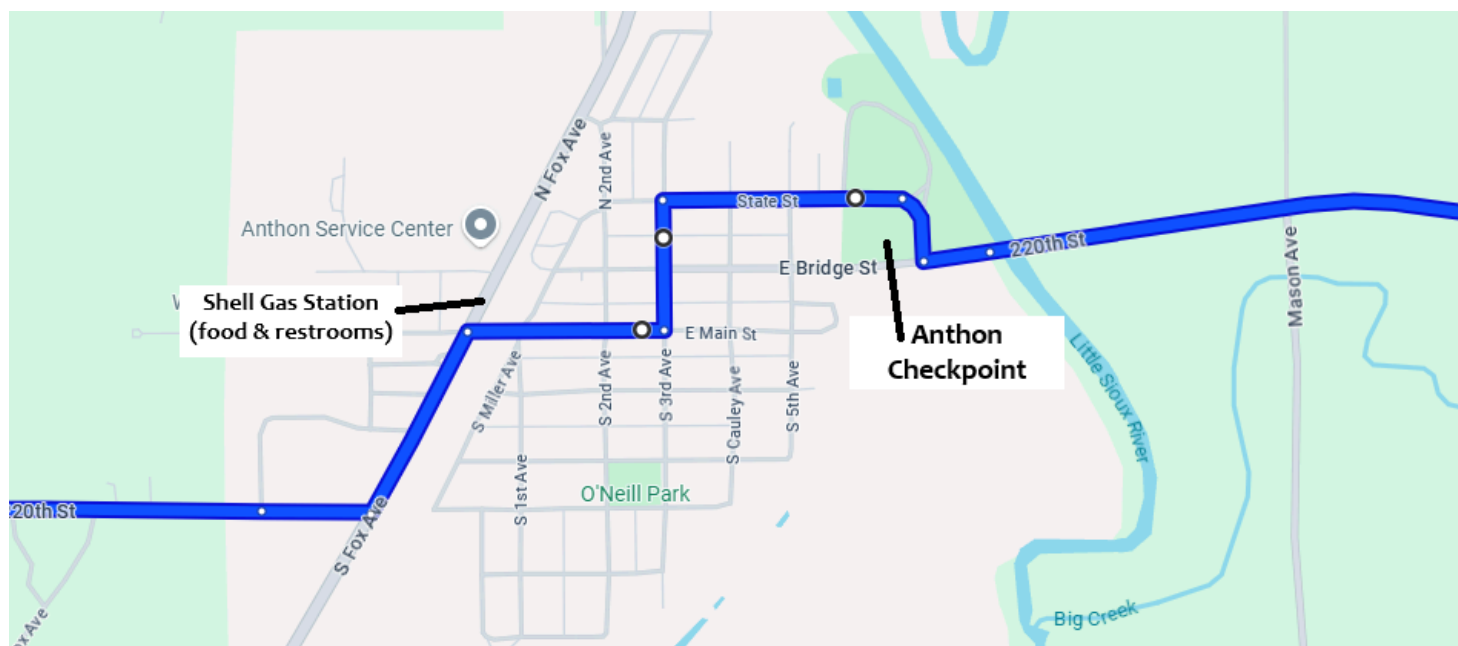
- ✓ Shelter or other cover
- ✓ Tables/benches
- ✓ Bathrooms

## CLOSEST GAS STATION

Gas station on Hwy 31 & Main

## CLOSEST HOSPITAL

Horn Memorial in Ida Grove.



# IDA GROVE

**PIT STOP** 2:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., June 6, 2025

*Checkpoint manned by volunteers from: Ida Grove Kiwanis Club*

The **Ida Grove Recreation Center** will be open to runners for a complimentary **Spaghetti Dinner from 2:00-8:30 pm**. Just follow the signs to the south building entrance by the playground. Not a registered participant? You can eat spaghetti, too. Please consider a \$5 donation to support our charities.

Showers are available at the Ida Grove Rec Center from 2:00-8:00pm. Runners pay an entrance fee if they want to use the outdoor pool, but the showers are free of charge.

Blackhawk State Park (right off the route as you pass through Lake View) has a beach and volleyball net where your team can hang out and relax between running shifts!

**CHECK POINT LOCATION:** Ida Grove Rec Center

**PARK ADDRESS:** 311 Barnes Street

## AMENITIES AVAILABLE

- ✓ Shelter or other cover
- ✓ Tables/benches
- ✓ Bathrooms
- ✓ Showers
- ✓ Food available

## CLOSEST GAS STATION

Caseys (5am-11pm) and Cenex (6am-11pm) both at corner of 175 and Moorhead

## CLOSEST HOSPITAL

Horn Memorial Hospital - 701 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave



# LAKE CITY

**PIT STOP** 9:00 p.m. June 6 – 2:00 a.m., June 7, 2025

*Checkpoint manned by volunteers from:* Lake City Area Swim Team

**LOCATION:** City Square

**ADDRESS:** Hwy 175 & Center Street. No official address, it's just a square of grass with a few park benches and a band gazebo.

## AMENITIES AVAILABLE

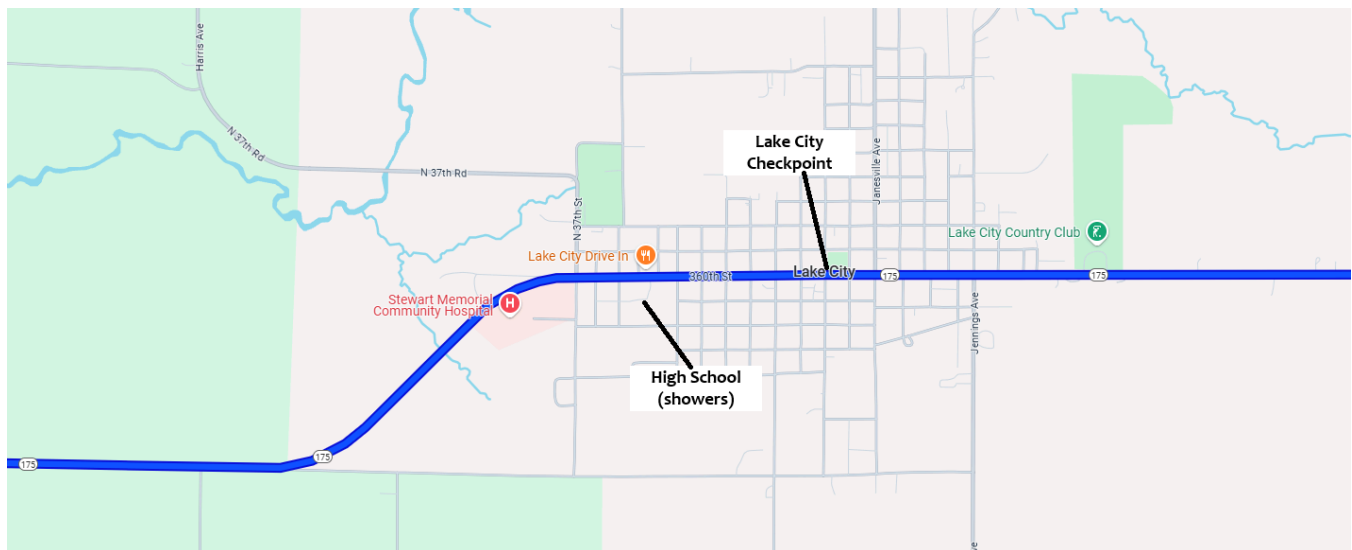
- ✓ Shelter or other cover (Band Gazebo)
- ✓ Showers at the South Central High School (709 W Main)
- ✓ Tables/benches (benches only)
- ✓ Bathrooms
- ✓ Location for setting up tents (no stakes in the ground!)

## CLOSEST GAS STATION

Sparky's One Stop (24hr) – 711 E Main St

## CLOSEST HOSPITAL

Stewart Memorial



# DAYTON

3:00 a.m. – 7:00 a.m., June 7, 2025

*Checkpoint manned by volunteers from: Dayton Museum Board*

**LOCATION:** Oak Park

**ADDRESS:** Along Hwy 175 on the south end of Dayton, top of hill. There is no exact address, but there is a lighted sign that you can see.

## GENERAL DIRECTIONS

The park entrance is between the Oak Park sign and the City of Dayton welcome sign on the southern end of town. Porta-potties and camping are available at campsite 24/7. The clubhouse is about 300 yards west of the highway and will be open with restroom/shower access 2:45am-7:00am

## AMENITIES AVAILABLE

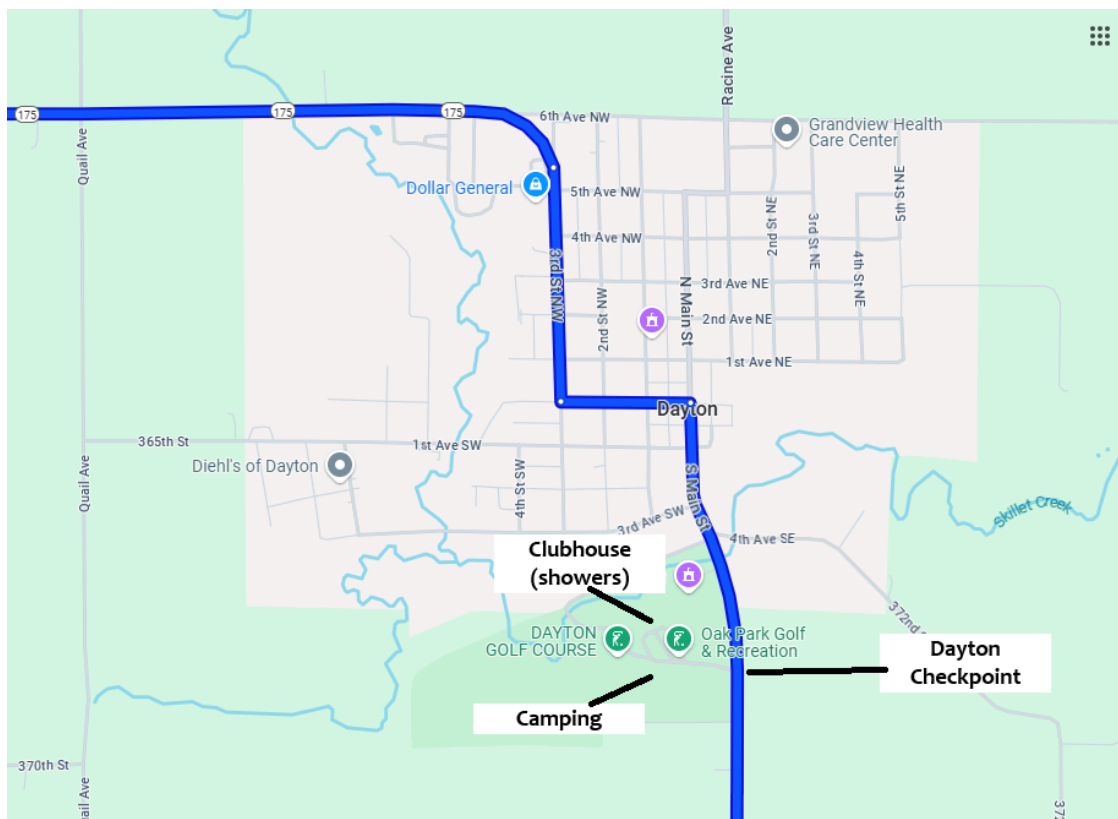
- ✓ Shelter or other cover
- ✓ Tables/benches
- ✓ Bathrooms
- ✓ Showers
- ✓ Location for setting up tents

## CLOSEST 24/7 GAS STATIONS

Fort Dodge (22 miles away). Dayton Casey's open 5:00am-10pm

## CLOSEST HOSPITAL

Ft. Dodge, Boone, Webster City, Lake City



# JEWELL

**PIT STOP** 7:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., June 7, 2025

*Pit Stop manned by volunteers from:* Restoring Hope International

There will be a complimentary **pancake breakfast** 7:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Victory Christian Fellowship church.

**LOCATION:** Victory Christian Fellowship church

**ADDRESS:** 501 East Lane

## AMENITIES AVAILABLE

- ✓ Shelter or other cover
- ✓ Bathrooms
- ✓ Showers (at Jewell South Hamilton HS)
- ✓ Food available
- ✓ Relay Iowa merchandise for sale

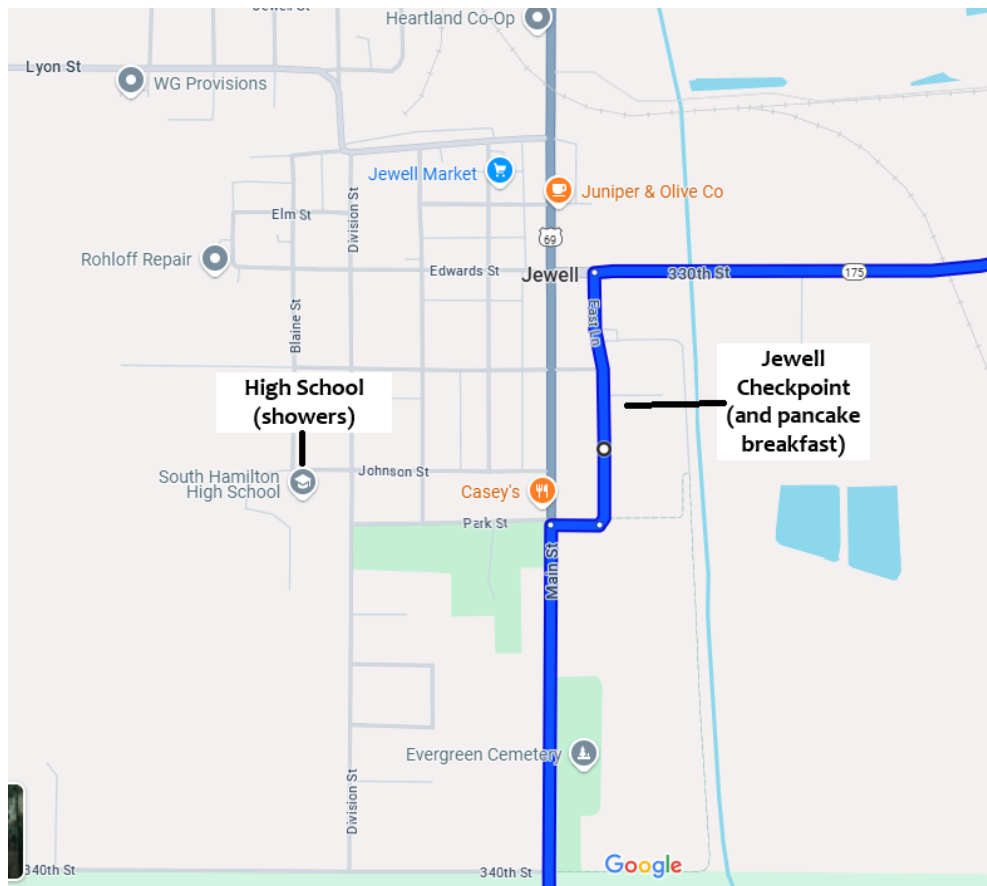
## CLOSEST GAS STATION

Casey's (301 Main Street) open 5:00 am to 11:00 pm

## CLOSEST HOSPITAL

Webster City or Ames (both 20 mi away).

The South Hamilton High School in Jewell will be open 6:00 - 11:00 a.m. for runners to take showers. **Access through the north door (behind the building).**



# ELDORA

12:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., June 7, 2025

*Checkpoint manned by volunteers from: Eldora Welcome Center*

**LOCATION:** Memorial Park (a.k.a. Deer Park) **\*\*There is a Disc Golf course in the park!! Bring your frisbees if you have them and play a round!\*\***

**ADDRESS:** 1209 2nd Street / 1219 Park St. (either address works).

## GENERAL DIRECTIONS

Off of Hwy 175 before the river bridge by the Eldora Welcome Center/Train Depot Museum.

Showers available at the **Grundy Family Aquatic Center** at Orion Park, 605 12th St, Grundy Center, IA. Pool accessible from 1pm-8pm for runners. Need to pay admission if you want to use the pool. Showers can be used for no cost.

Showers available at the **Eldora Aquatic Center** at 709 14th Ave, Eldora. Open 11am-8pm. Will need to pay a \$2 entrance fee to use showers/locker rooms.

## AMENITIES AVAILABLE

- ✓ Shelter or other cover
- ✓ Location for setting up tents
- ✓ Tables/benches
- ✓ Bathrooms
- ✓ Showers
- ✓ Food available **for purchase** - sloppy joes! (supports Eldora Welcome Center)

## CLOSEST GAS STATION

Caseys (there are 2) at 1807 and 2359 Edgington Dr

## CLOSEST HOSPITAL

Iowa Falls or Grundy Center





# HUDSON

5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., June 7, 2025

*Checkpoint manned by volunteers from: Happy Tales Ranch & Rescue*

**LOCATION:** Hudson City Park

**IMPORTANT!!:** There is a speed camera as you drive through town! It DOES work and WILL send a bill to your house. Drive SLOWLY!!

**Free ice cream at Hansen's Dairy (8461 Lincoln Road – one mile before Hudson) for all runners!**

(Runners - provide the white ticket you received at check-in for your free ice cream)

[www.hansendairy.com](http://www.hansendairy.com) Farm has tours, animals, dairy products, etc.

## AMENITIES AVAILABLE

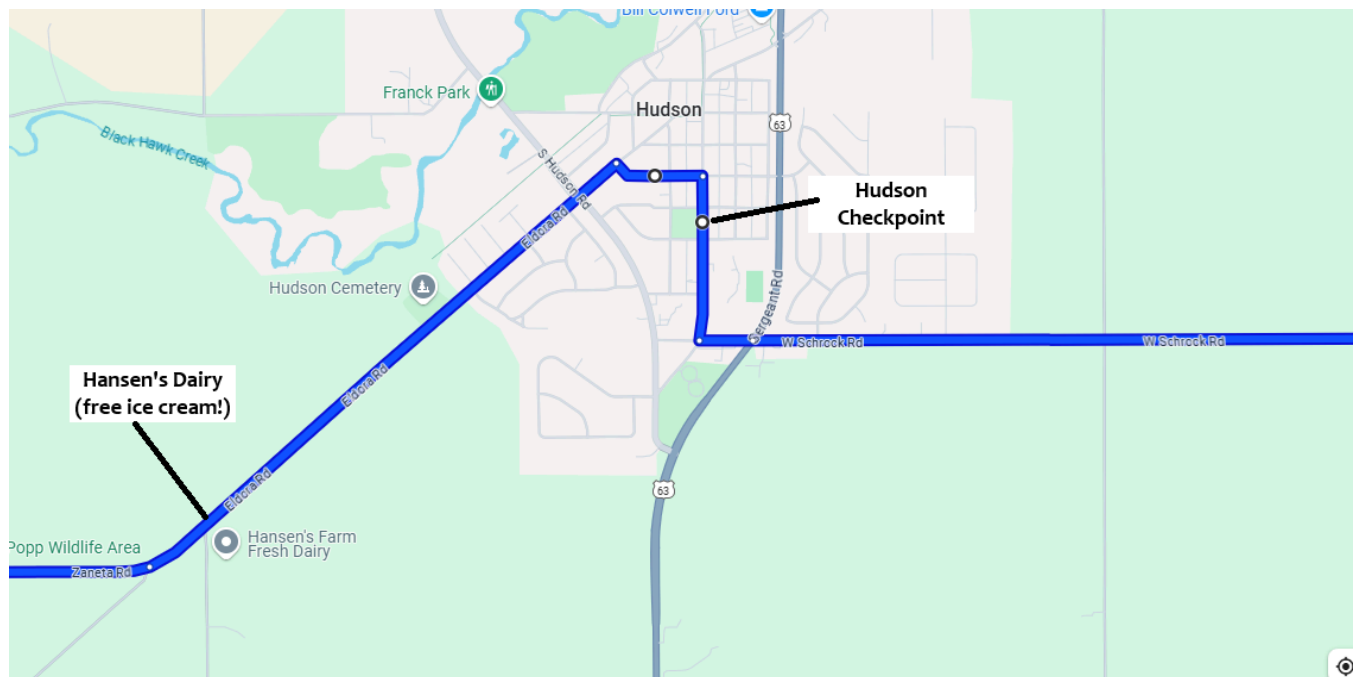
- ✓ Shelter or other cover
- ✓ Tables/benches
- ✓ Bathrooms (7am-10pm at park, porta-potties at dairy farm)
- ✓ Location for setting up tents

## CLOSEST GAS STATION

Git-N-Go is just north of the park at 124 Wood St

## CLOSEST HOSPITAL

Covenant Medical Center in Waterloo



# INDEPENDENCE

**PIT STOP** 10:00 p.m. June 7 – 2:00 a.m., June 8, 2025

*Pit Stop manned by volunteers from: Independence Boys Soccer team*  
*Meal provided in part by: Denali's On The River*

**LOCATION:** Pizza Ranch  
**ADDRESS:** 1900 1<sup>st</sup> St. W.

Showers (**Bring your own towels**), food, and rest areas available at the Independence High School (700 20th Ave)

**Hours:** 7:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.

## AMENITIES AVAILABLE

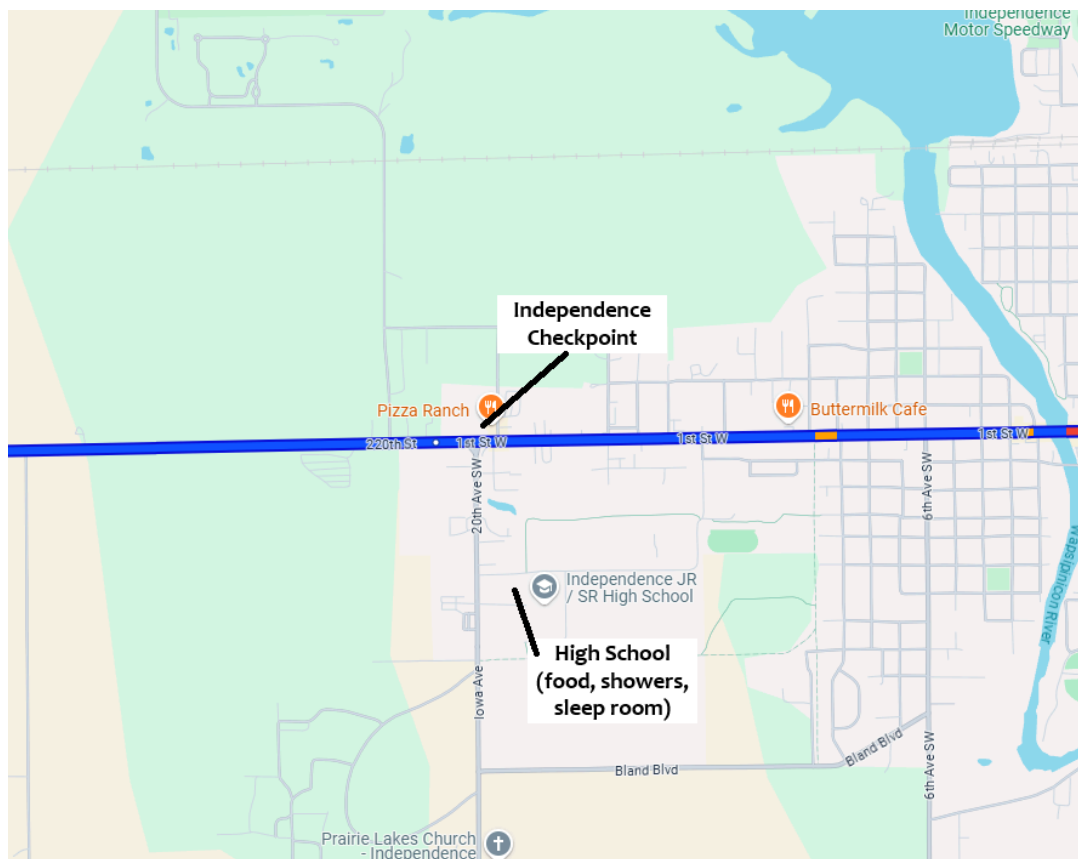
- ✓ Showers (inside HS)
- ✓ Shelter or other cover
- ✓ Bathrooms
- ✓ Tables/benches
- ✓ Food: Potato Bar
- ✓ Indoor Sleep Spot (HS Wrestling Room)

## CLOSEST GAS STATIONS

Kwik Star (24/7) & Casey's (4am-10pm)  
along First Street

## CLOSEST HOSPITAL

Buchanan County Health Center  
1600 First St. East



# MANCHESTER

1:00 a.m. – 6:30 a.m., June 8, 2025

*Checkpoint manned by volunteers from: HS Girls Wrestling Team*

### CHECK POINT: Whitewater Park

**ADDRESS:** 300 W Main Street

## GENERAL DIRECTIONS

As you come in on Main Street, it is on the south side of the street just past the river.

## AMENITIES AVAILABLE

- ✓ Shelter or other cover
- ✓ Tables/benches
- ✓ Bathrooms
- ✓ Location for setting up tents
- ✓ Showers (outdoor)

### CLOSEST GAS STATION

### Kwik Trip at 1000 W Main Street (24/7)

### CLOSEST HOSPITAL

Regional Medical Center (709 W Main Street



# EPWORTH

5:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., June 8, 2025

*Checkpoint manned by volunteers from:* Scouting America Girls Troop

There will be a complimentary **grab n' go breakfast** at the checkpoint location!

**LOCATION:** Tower Park

**ADDRESS / GENERAL DIRECTIONS:** Located next to the water tower on Main Street.

## AMENITIES AVAILABLE

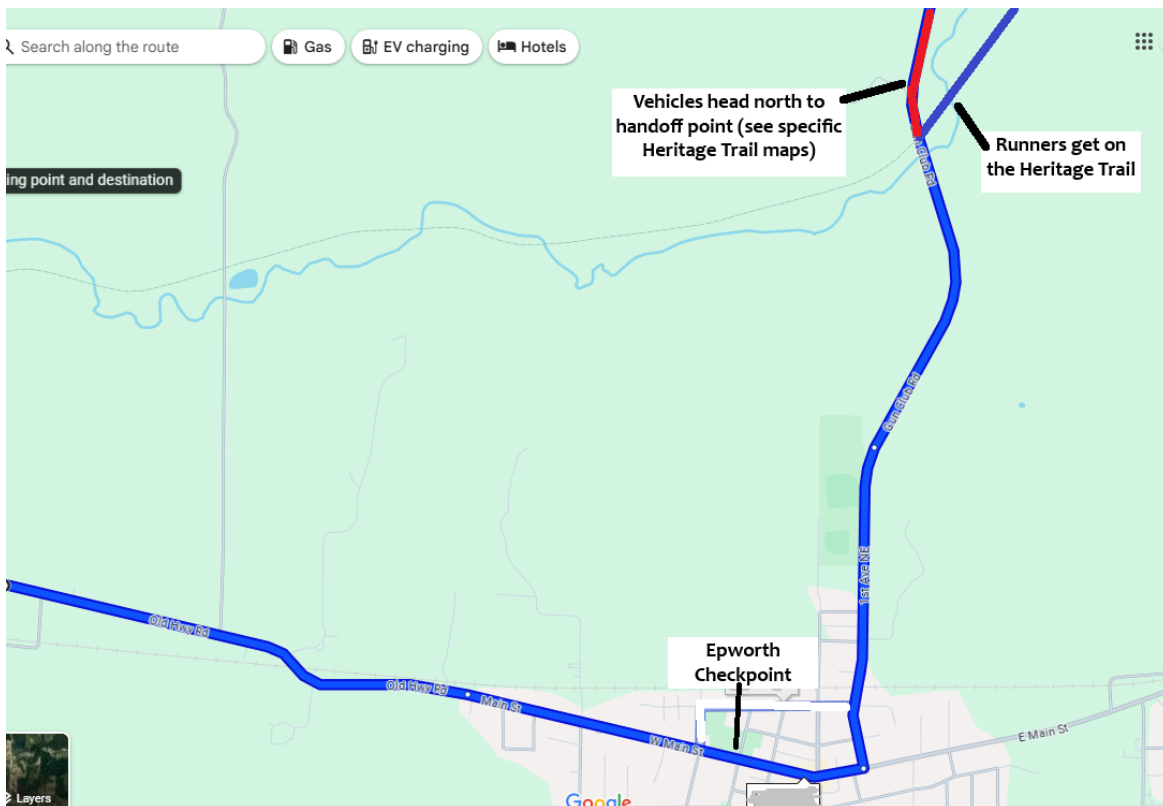
- ✓ Shelter or other cover
- ✓ Tables/benches
- ✓ Bathrooms (open 24 hours)
- ✓ Food available

## CLOSEST GAS STATION

Quik n' Handi at 206 S Center Ave  
(5:30am-11pm)  
Dyersville has two 24/7 BPs.

## CLOSEST HOSPITAL

Dubuque



# DUBUQUE

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., June 8, 2025

## ***FINISH LINE!!!***

*Finish line manned by volunteers from: The Lantern Center (supporting immigrant families in the Dubuque area)*

**Finish Line is at A.Y. McDonald Park, Volunteer Drive, Dubuque, IA 52001**

***This is an active boat ramp so please do not block the roads and be careful of the traffic moving through the park.***

**There is additional parking in a lot before you enter the park. See the maps below for details.**

**\*\*Showers available at Sutton Pool (open 10am-1pm, 1:30pm-4:30pm). Free to use showers but need to pay admission fee if you want to swim\*\***

**Join us for the Celebration with complimentary BBQ catered by Fat Tuesday (vegetarian option available) for runners!**

**Each team will receive 2 extra meal tickets for drivers. You must have your ticket. Additional tickets may be purchased for \$5 while supplies last.**

**Please return your GPS and accessories to the indicated table at the finish line. You will receive meal tickets for your team when you turn in your GPS monitor. You will be charged for any items not returned.**

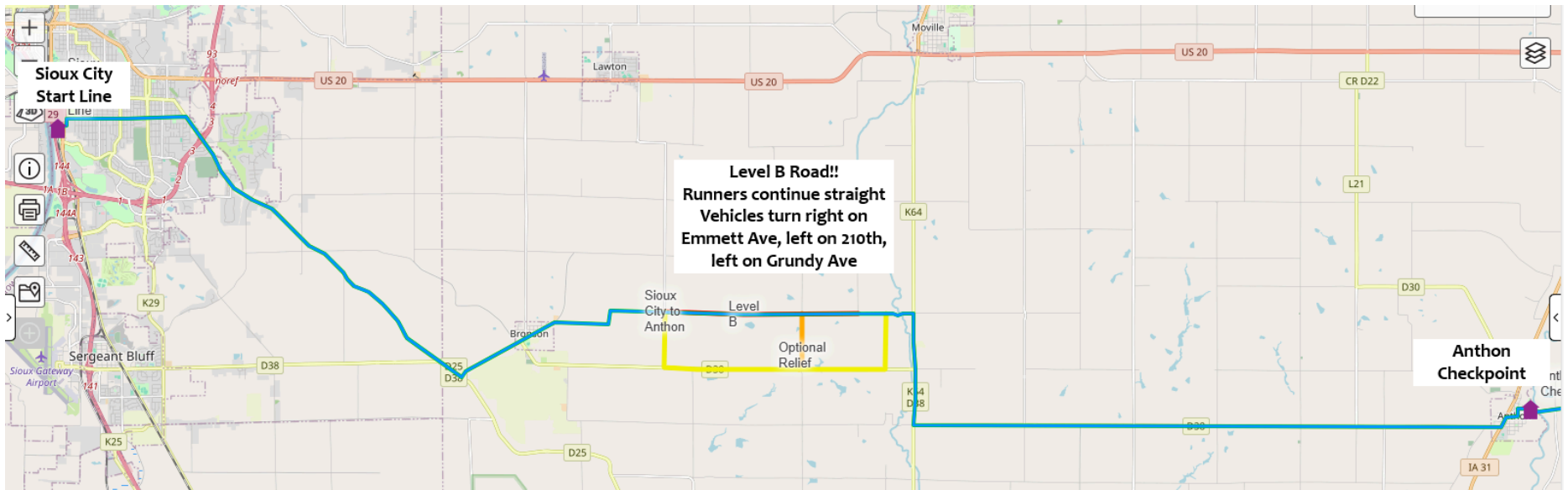
### **AMENITIES AVAILABLE**

- ✓ Shelter or other cover
- ✓ Tables/benches
- ✓ Bathrooms
- ✓ Showers
- ✓ Food available
- ✓ Relay Iowa merchandise for sale

# Maps – Relay Legs

## Leg 1: Sioux City to Anthon

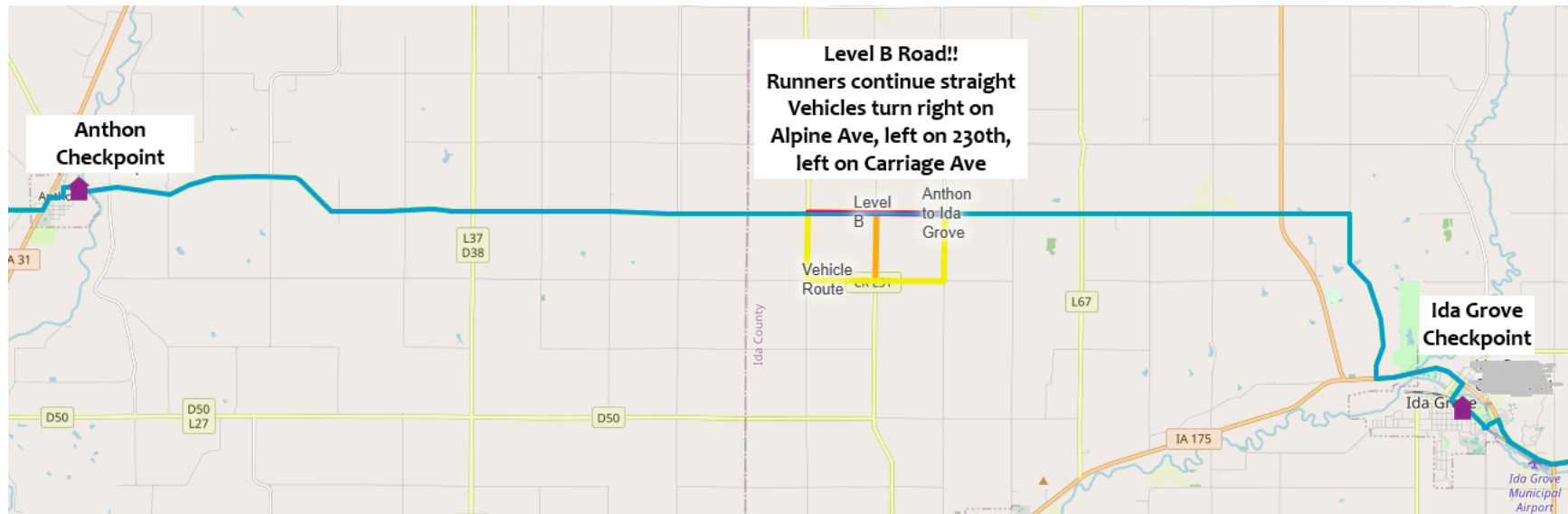
31.5 miles



## Leg 2: Anthon to Ida Grove

23.25 miles

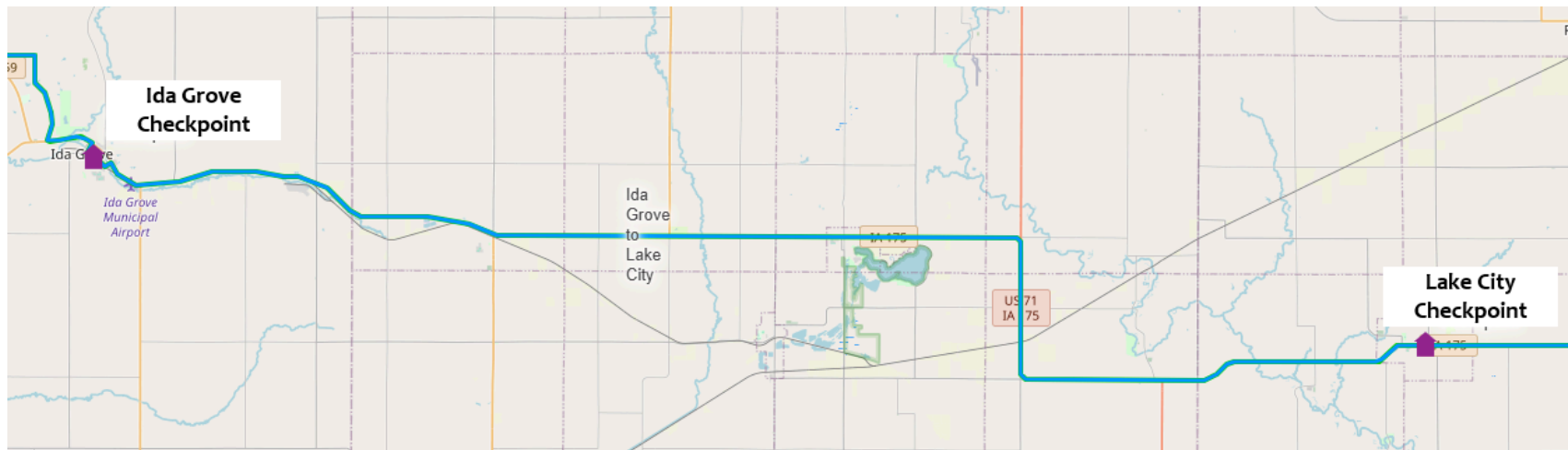
(Cumulative mileage 55 miles)



## Leg 3: Ida Grove to Lake City

42.5 miles

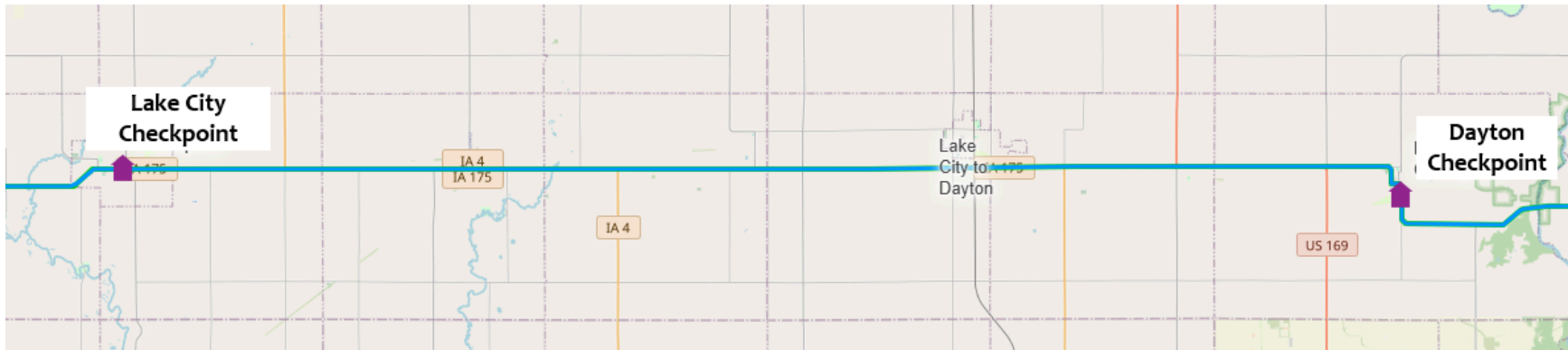
(Cumulative mileage 97 miles)



## Leg 4: Lake City to Dayton

34.75 miles

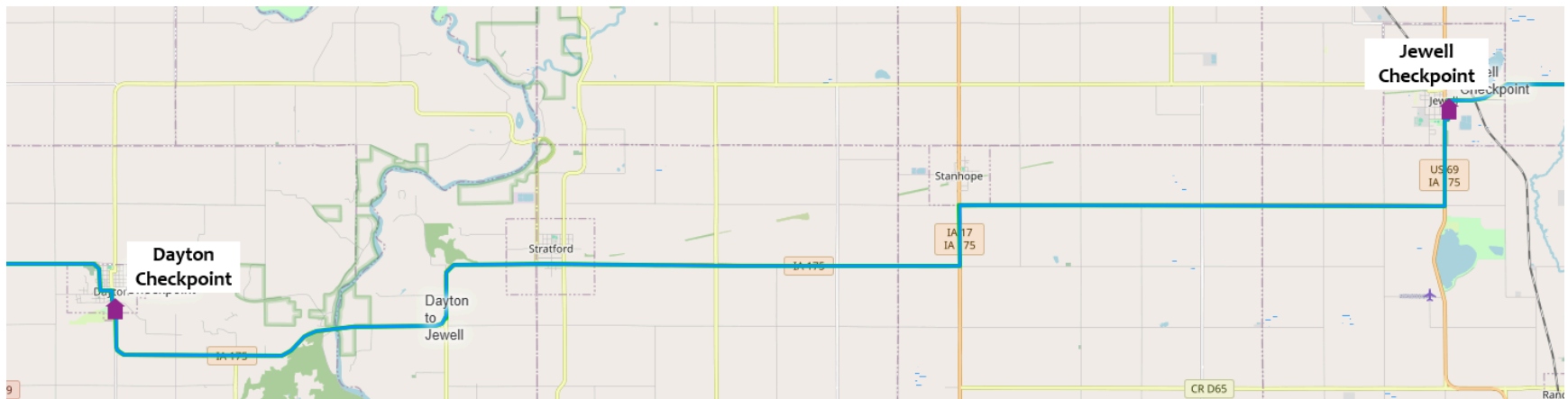
(Cumulative mileage 132 miles)



## Leg 5: Dayton to Jewell

26.25 miles

(Cumulative mileage 158 miles)

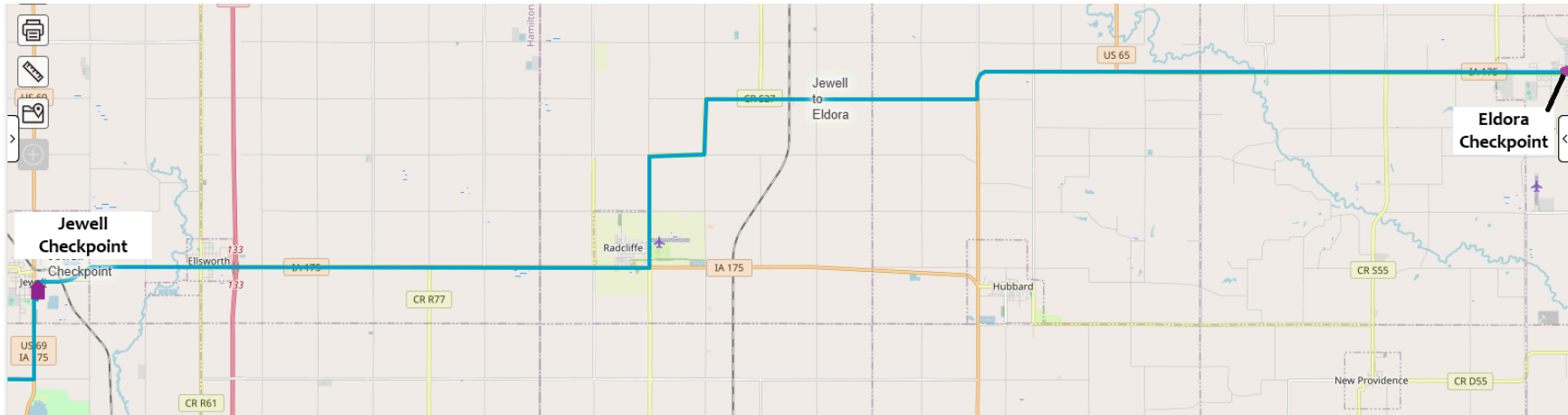




## Leg 6: Jewell to Eldora

32.0 miles

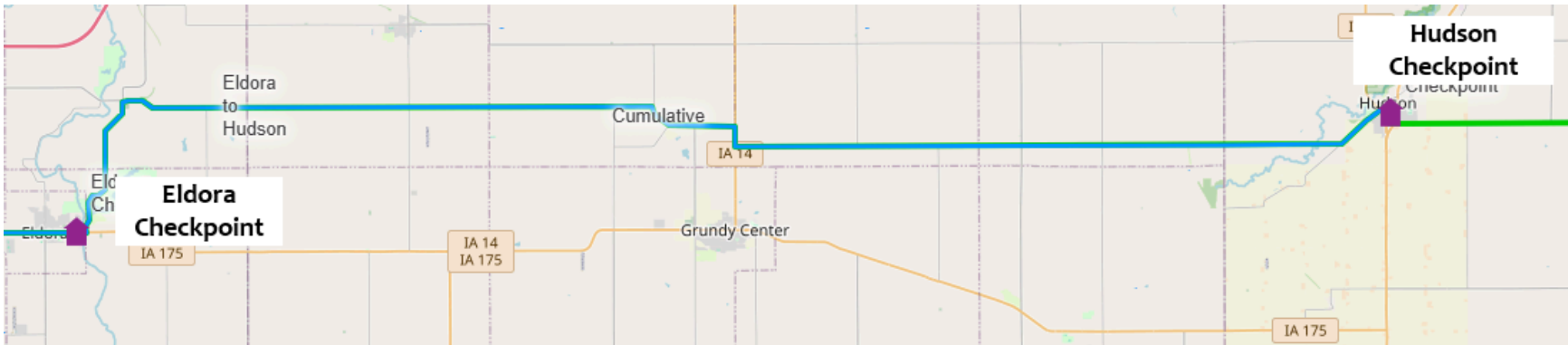
(Cumulative mileage 190 miles)



## Leg 7: Eldora to Hudson

36.25 miles

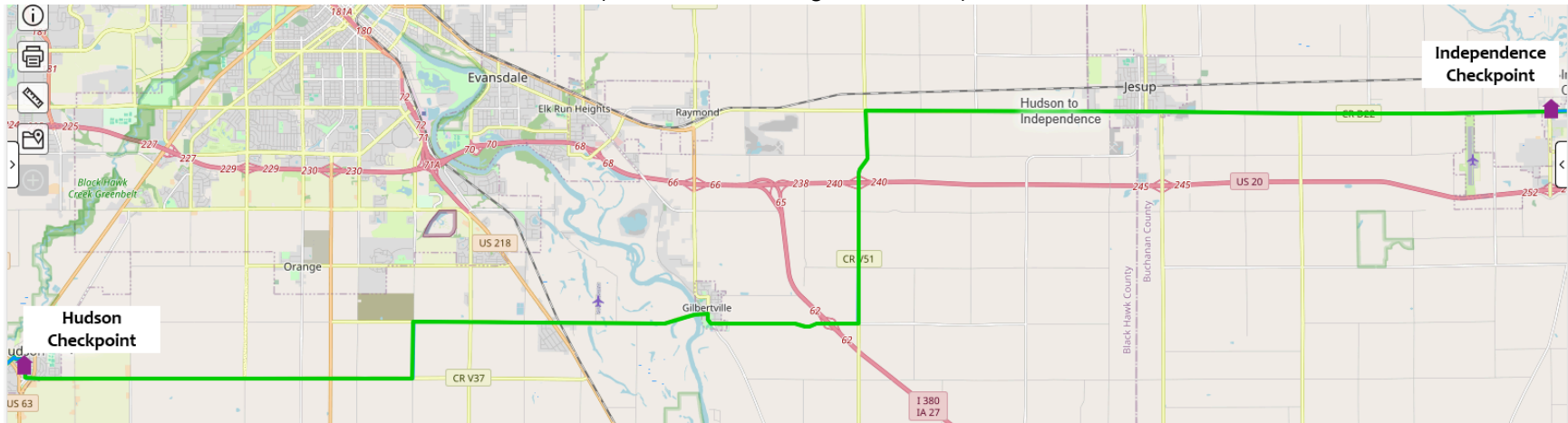
(Cumulative mileage 227 miles)



## Leg 8: Hudson to Independence

32.5 miles

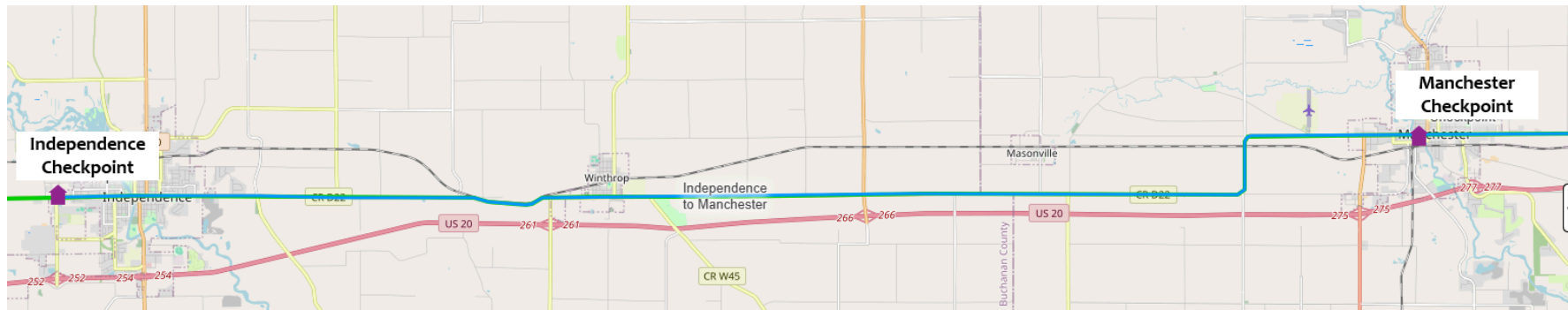
(Cumulative mileage 259 miles)



## Leg 9: Independence to Manchester

24.25 miles

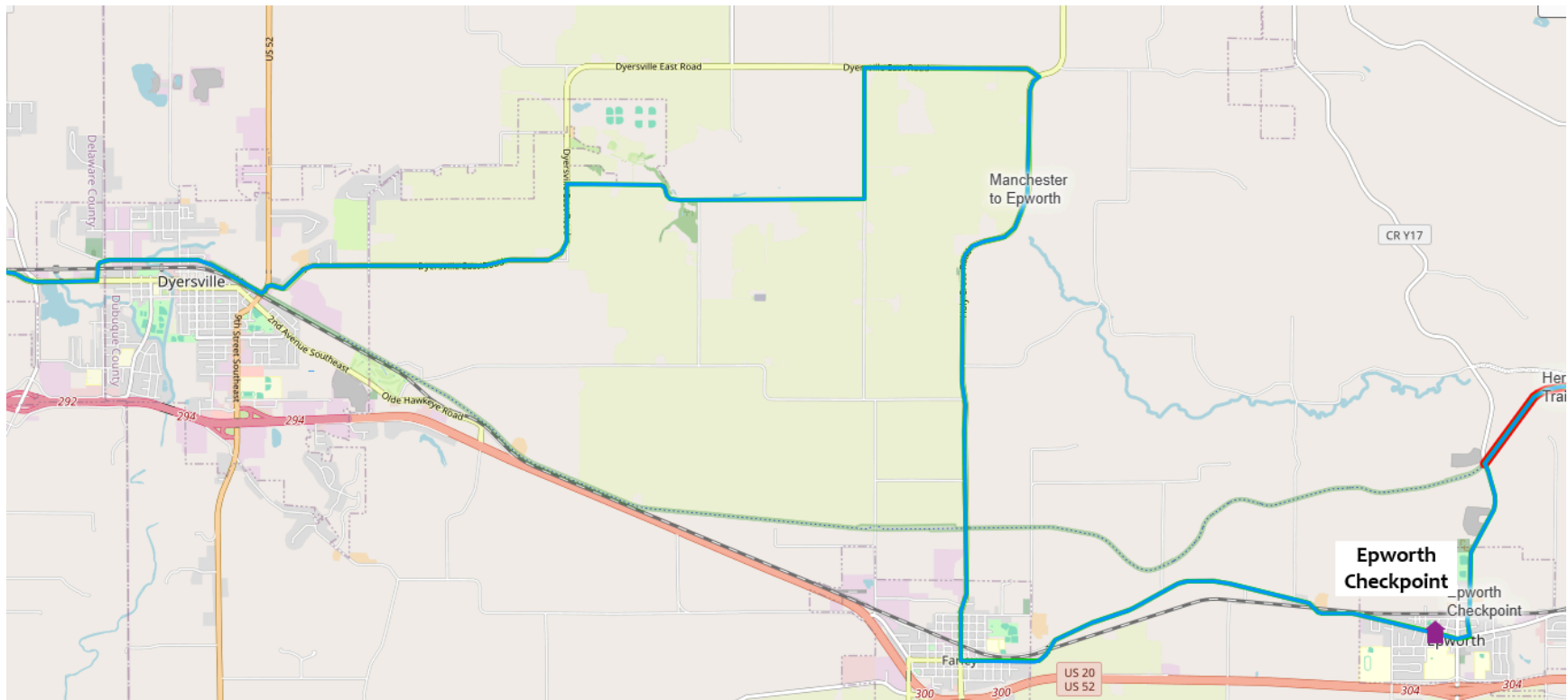
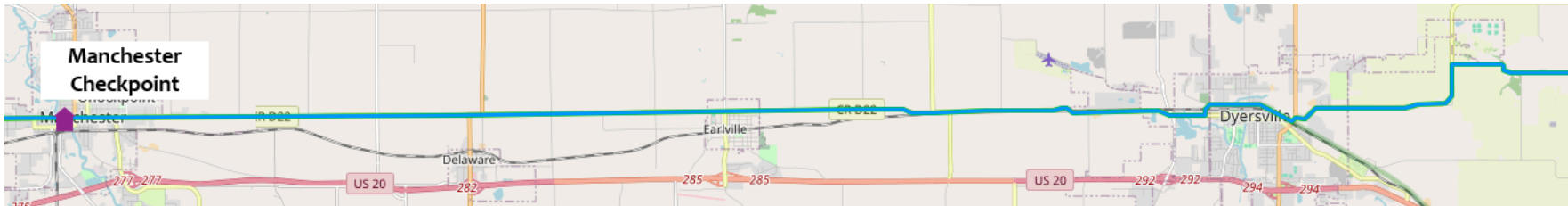
(Cumulative mileage 283 miles)



## Leg 10: Manchester to Epworth

34.5 miles

(Cumulative mileage 318 miles)



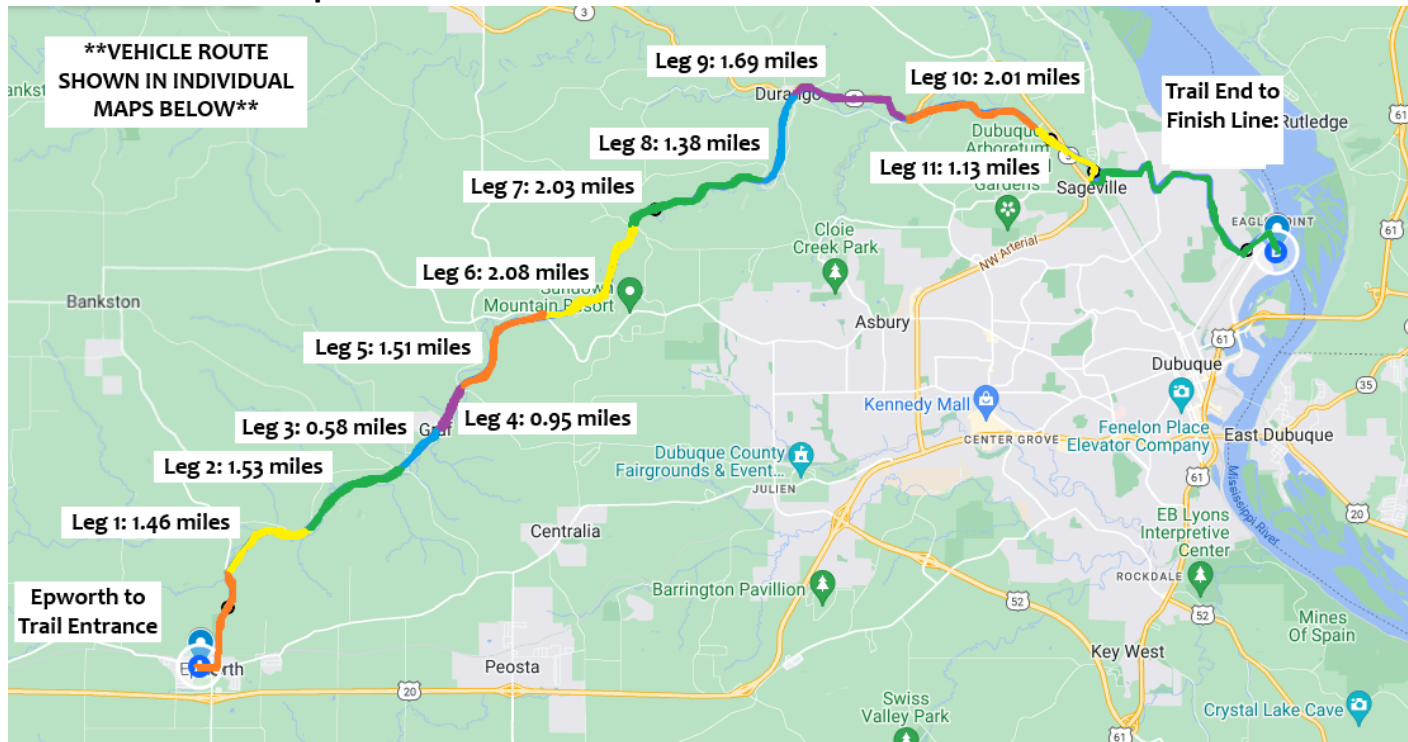
## Leg 11: Epworth to Dubuque (Heritage Trail)

22.0 miles

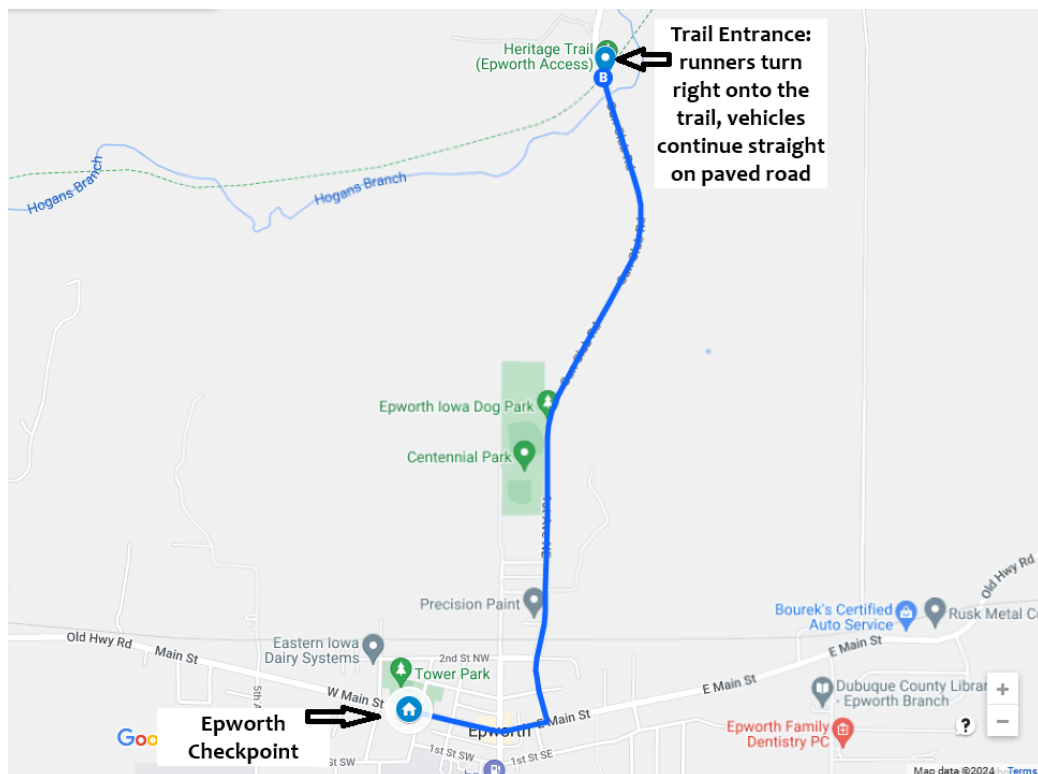
(Cumulative mileage: 339)

# Heritage Trail Maps (Epworth to Dubuque)

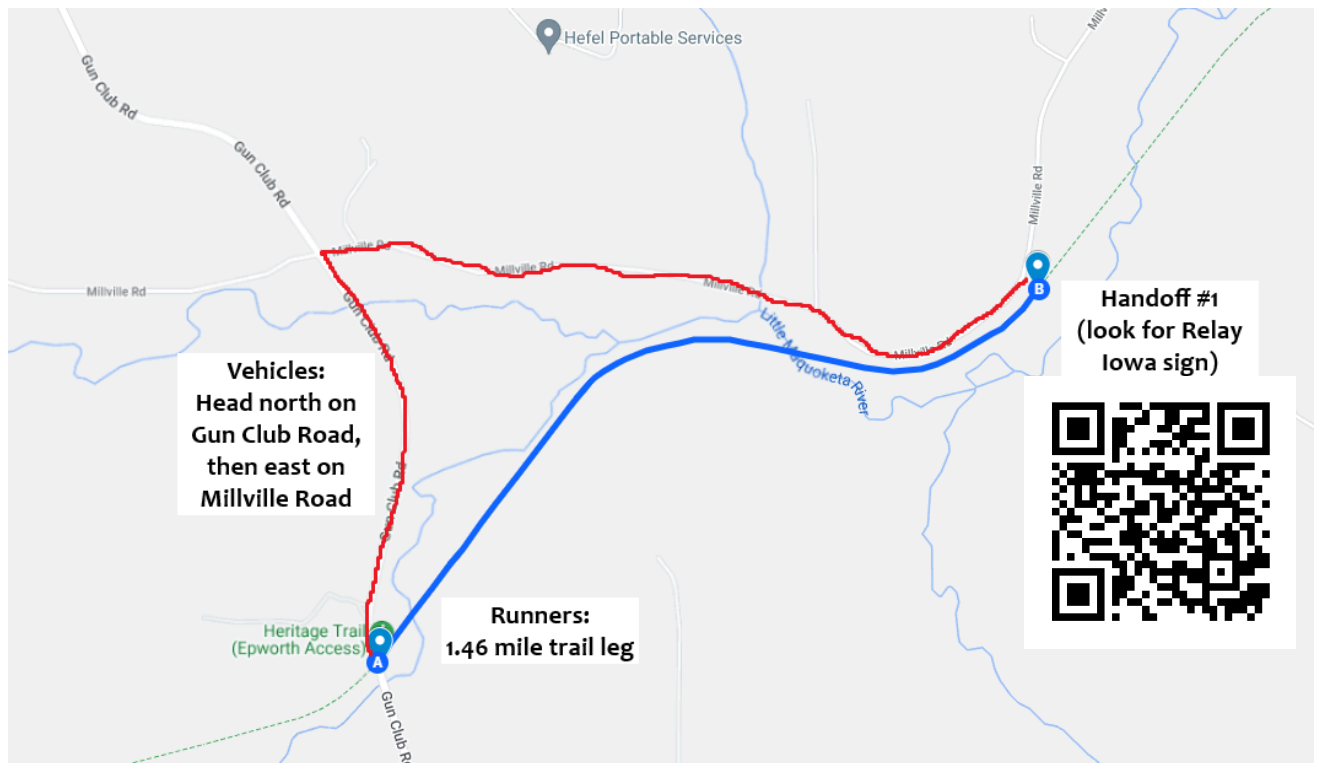
## Overall Runner's Map:



## Epworth Checkpoint to the Trail Entrance (1.62 miles):



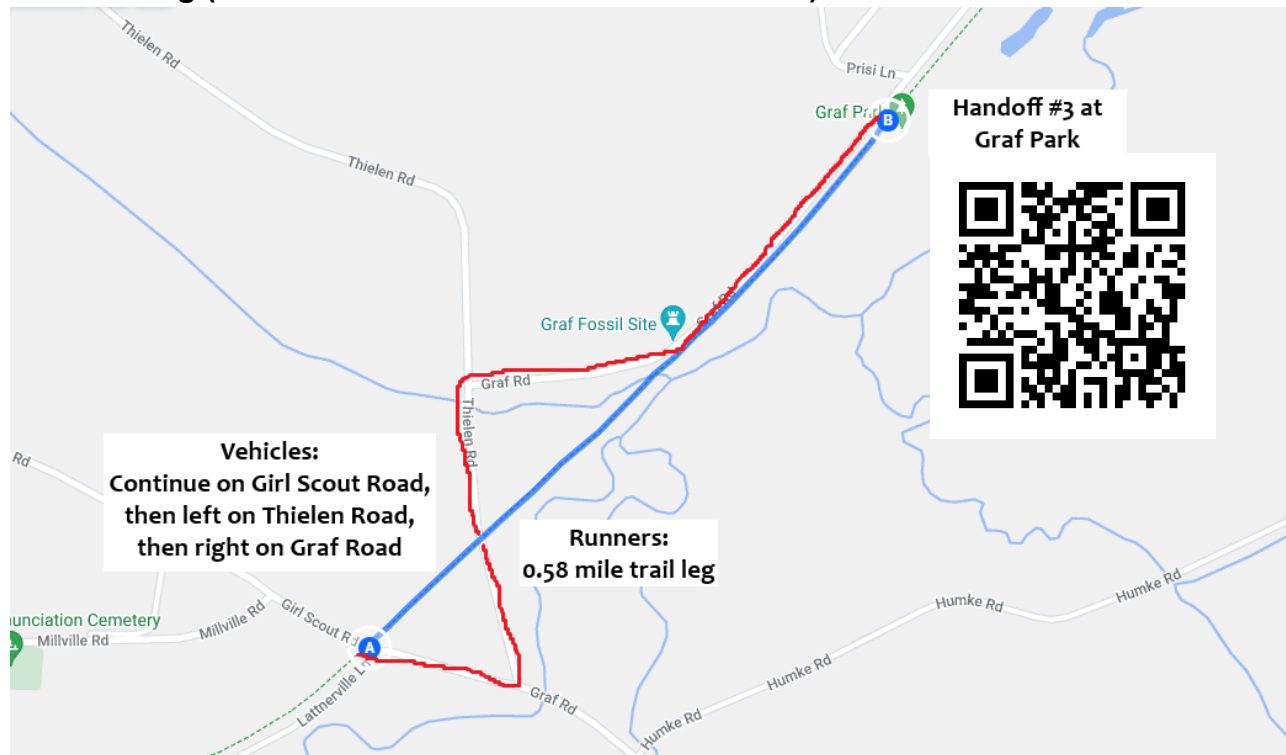
**1st Trail Leg (Run: 1.46 miles / Drive Time: 4 minutes):**



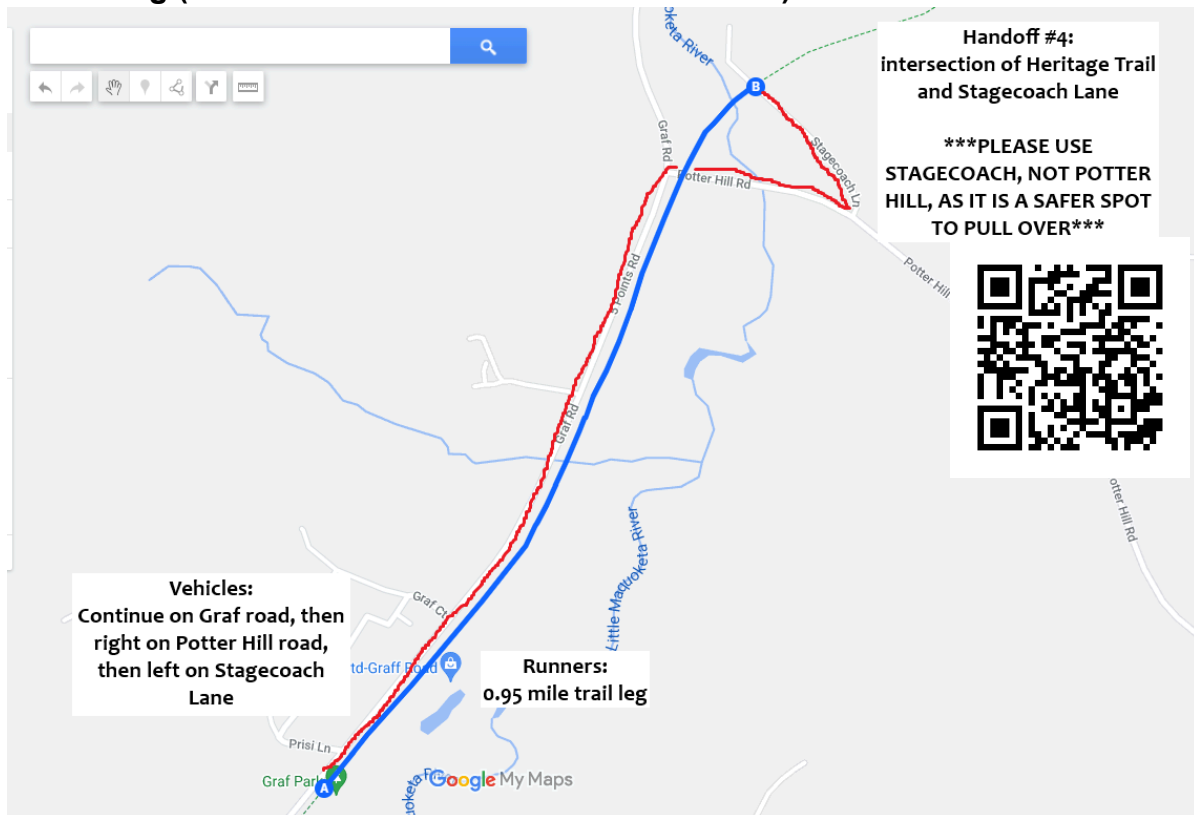
**2nd Trail Leg (Run: 1.53 miles / Drive Time: 3 minutes):**



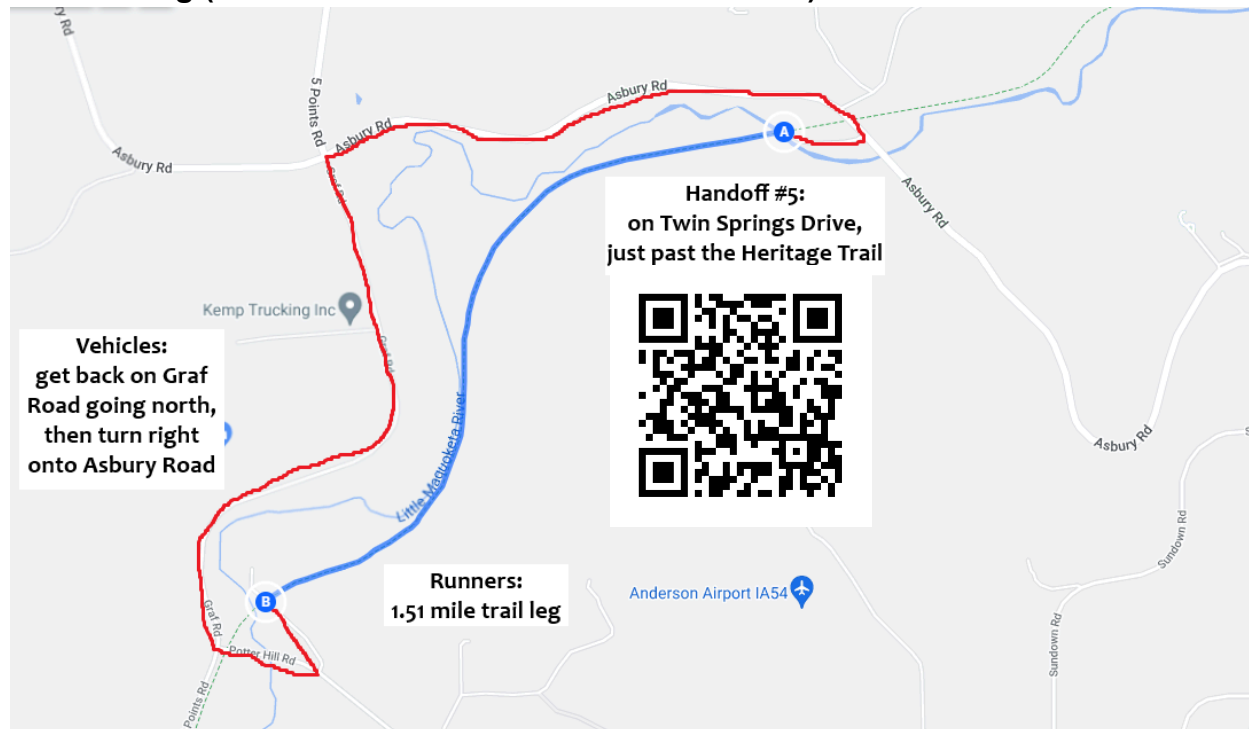
### 3rd Trail Leg (Run: 0.58 miles / Drive Time: 2 minutes):



### 4th Trail Leg (Run: 0.95 miles / Drive Time: 3 minutes):



### 5th Trail Leg (Run: 1.51 miles / Drive Time: 5 minutes):

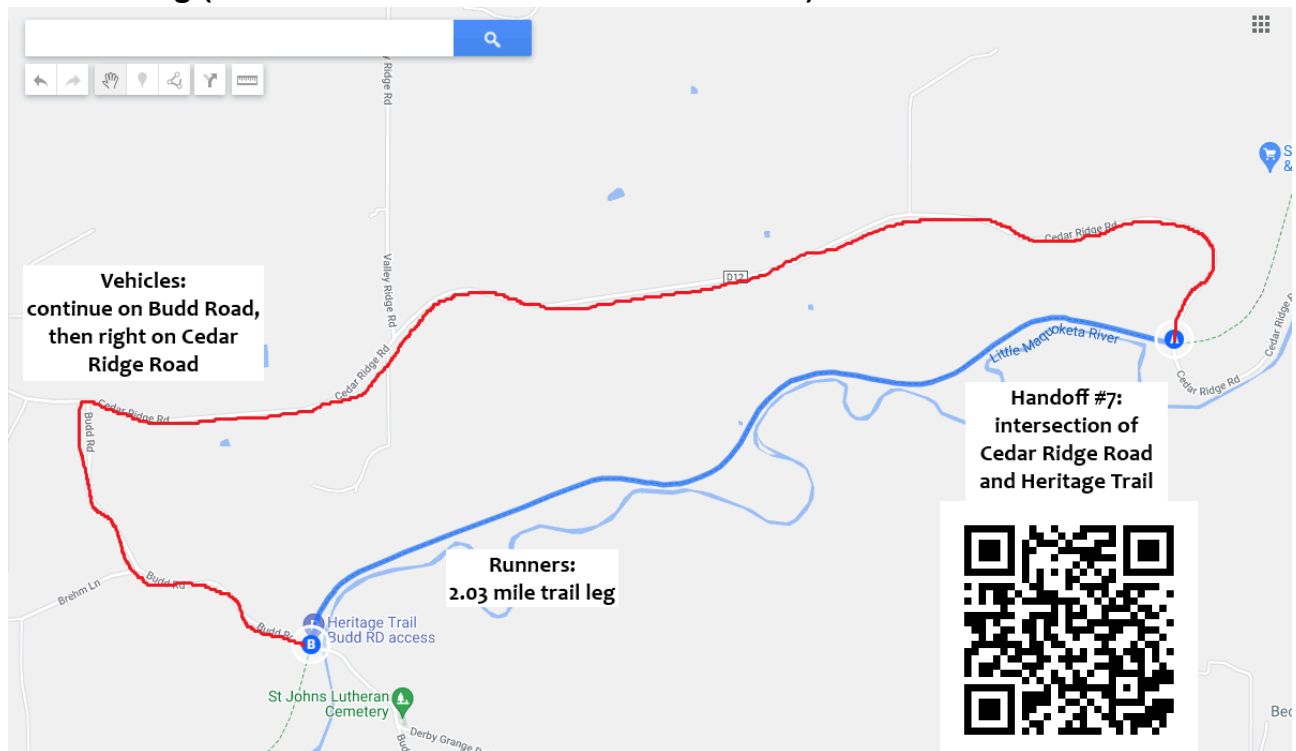


### 6th Trail Leg (Run: 2.08 miles / Drive Time: 9 minutes):

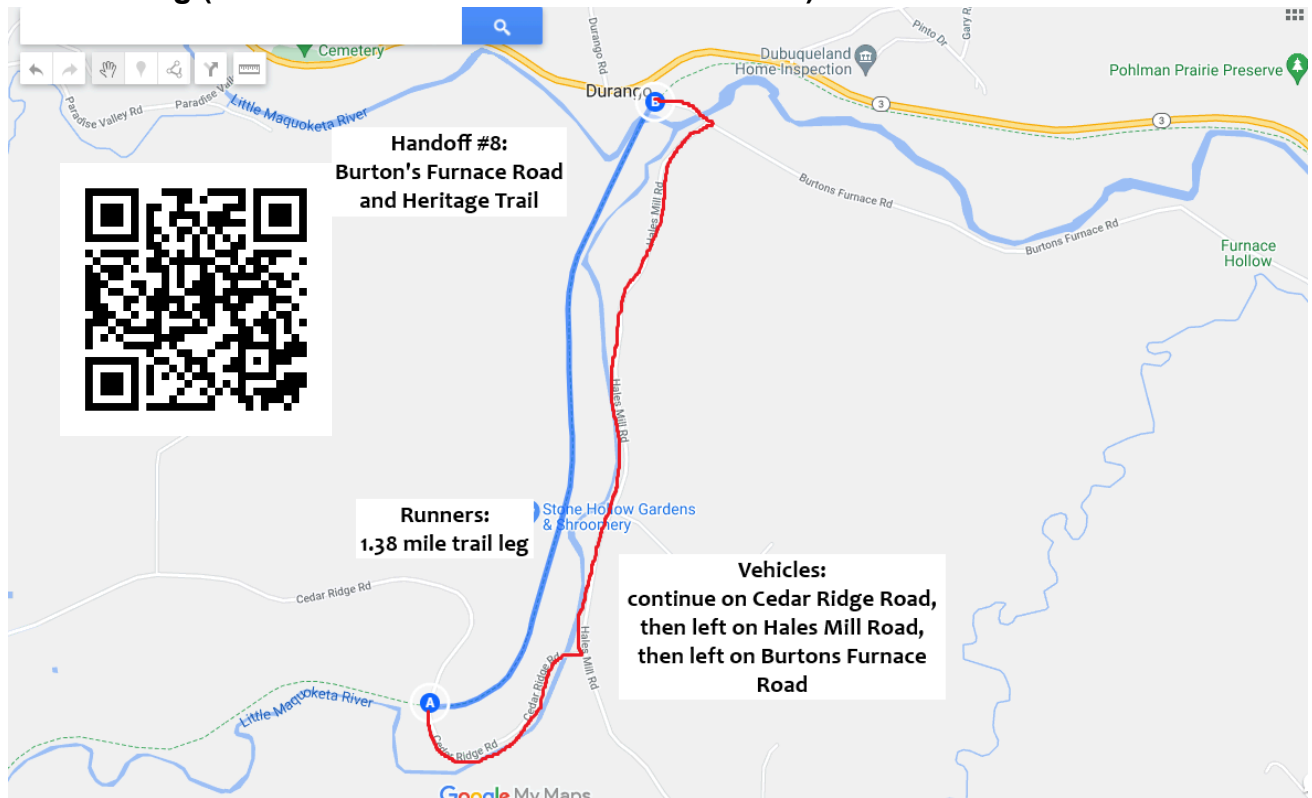




### 7th Trail Leg (Run: 2.03 miles / Drive Time: 6 minutes):

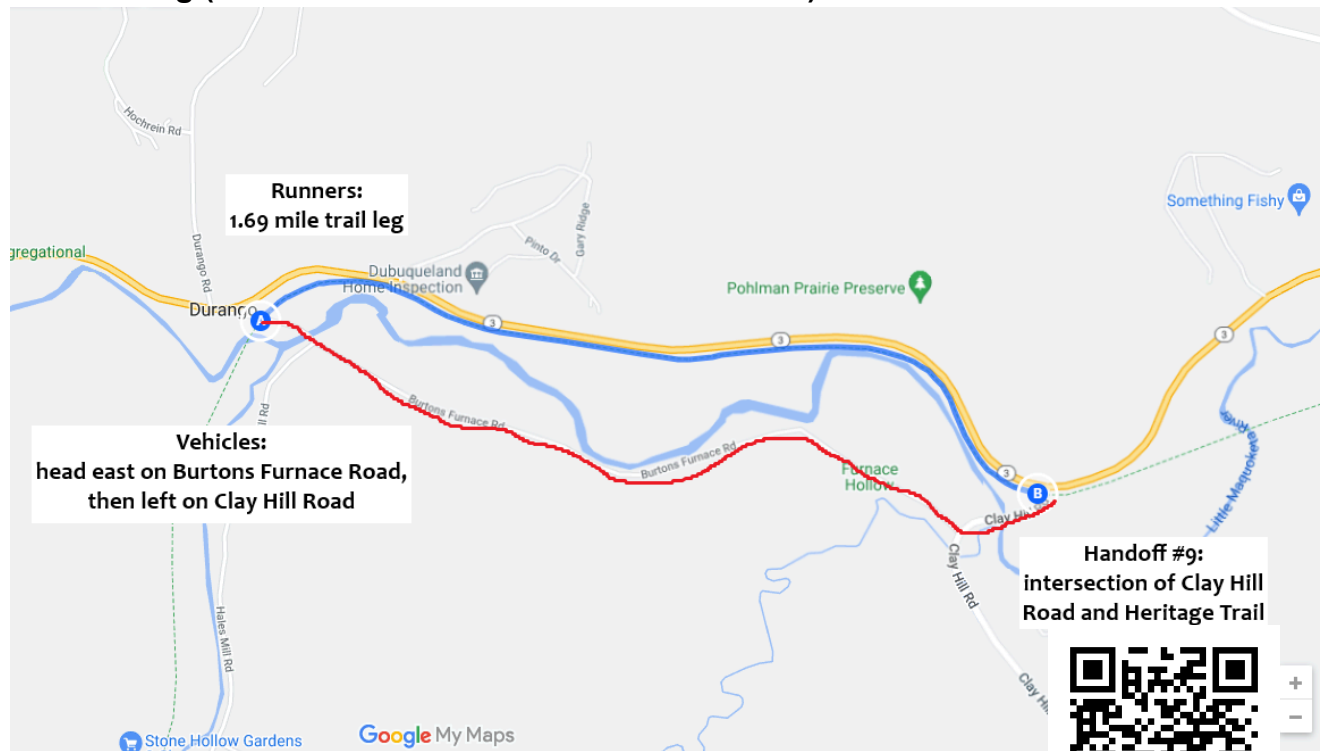


### 8th Trail Leg (Run: 1.38 miles / Drive Time: 3 minutes):





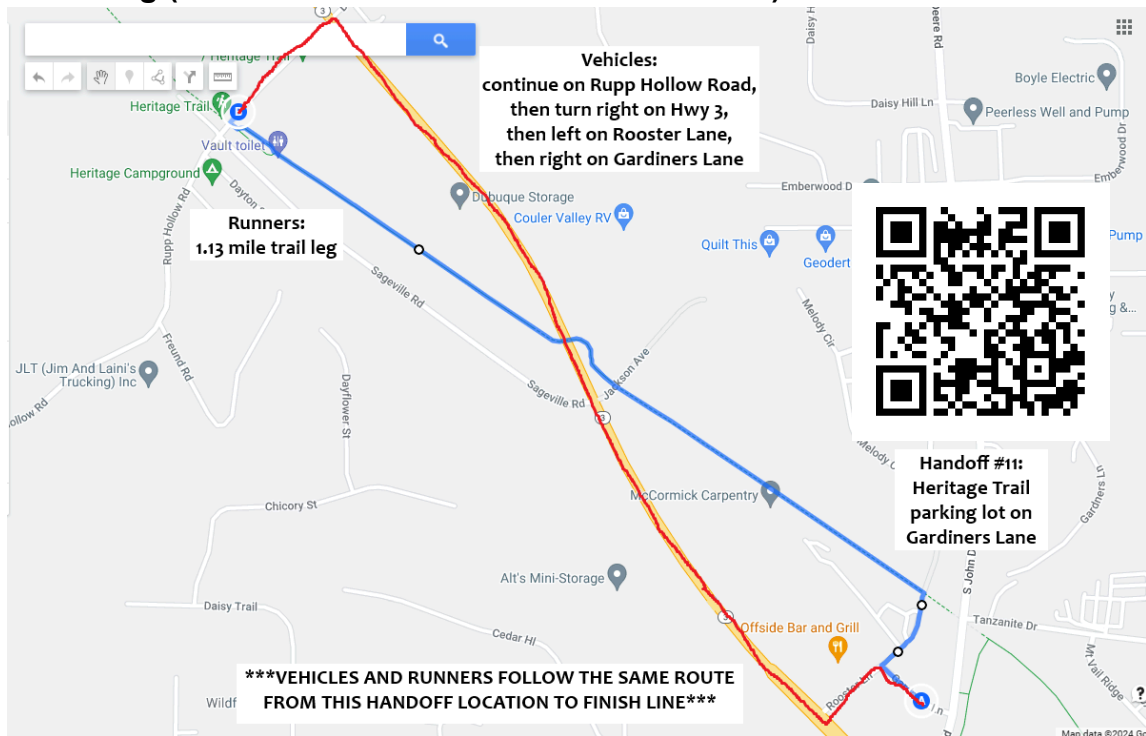
### 9th Trail Leg (Run: 1.69 miles / Drive Time: 3 minutes):



### 10th Trail Leg (Run: 2.01 miles / Drive Time: 4 minutes):



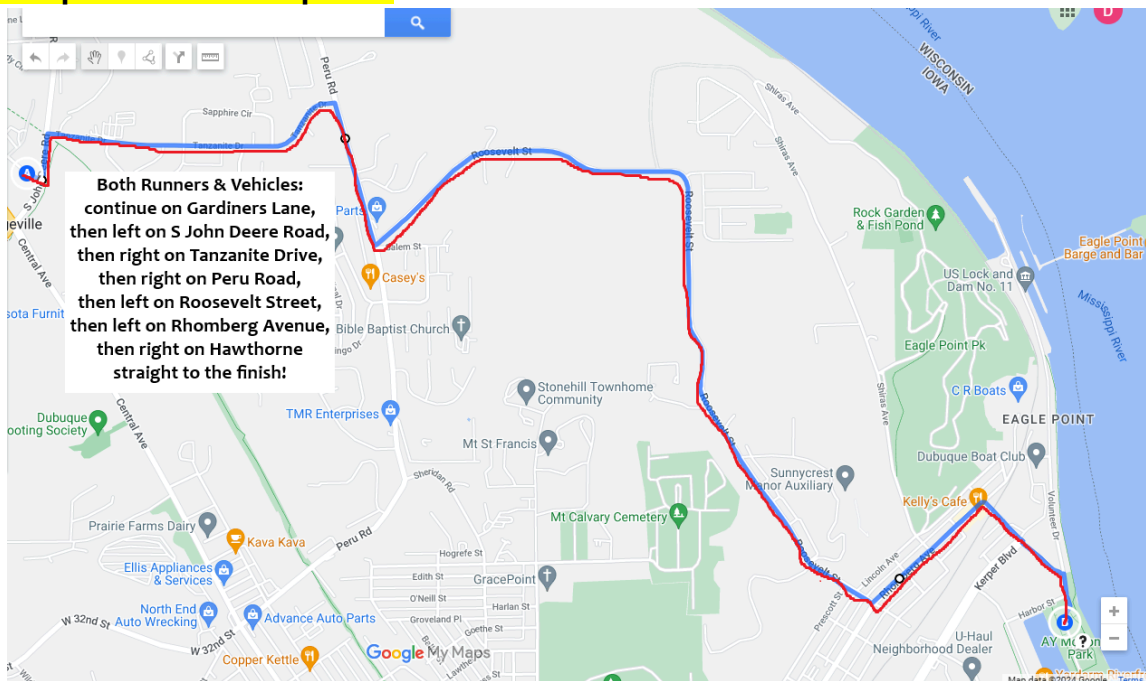
## 11th Trail Leg (Run: 1.13 miles / Drive Time: 3 minutes):



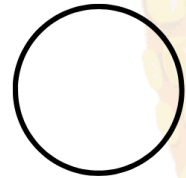
## Trail End to Finish Line (4.06 miles):

This portion of the route is the same as previous years!

**\*\*There are no set handoff spots in this section - teams can determine leg lengths on their own, just as they did for the beginning 95% of the route. Physical signs will be posted at turn spots\*\***



# 15th Anniversary Corn Cob Challenge!



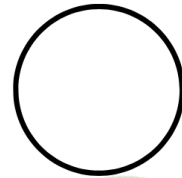
Sioux City



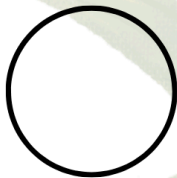
Anthon



Ida Grove



Lake City



Dayton



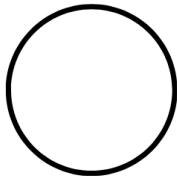
Jewell



Eldora



Hansen's Dairy



Hudson



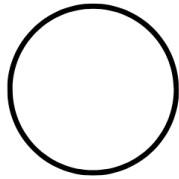
Independence



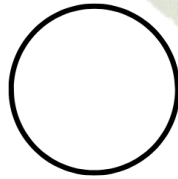
Manchester



Field of Dreams



Epworth



Dubuque



MYSTERY!

## Rules:

1. There are 15 cobs hidden along the route. They will be in **PUBLIC** spaces within the general vicinity of the checkpoint. They will **NOT** be in bathrooms, shower spaces, or sleep spaces.
2. When you find a cob, **LEAVE IT WHERE IT IS** so others can also find it.
3. Go and tell the volunteer working the checkpoint where you found it and they will initial the circle on this page corresponding to their checkpoint.
4. If there isn't a volunteer present, write the cob's location in the circle yourself.
5. Turn this page in at the end of the relay with your GPS unit. Enjoy!