

WELCOME TO OTTUMWA

PRESS KIT AND RESOURCE GUIDE

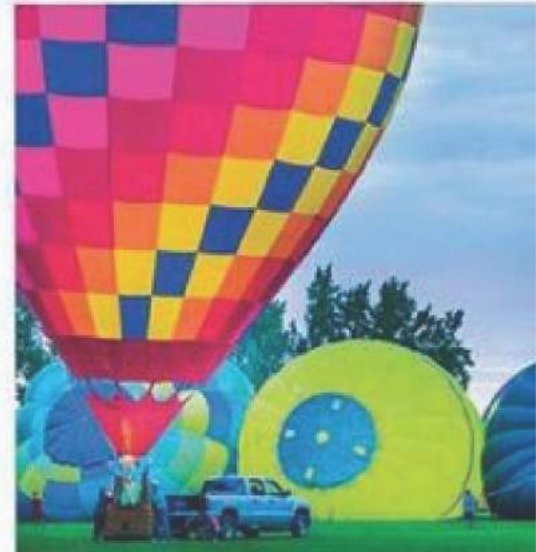


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DIRECTORY

OTTUMWA

A MIDWEST RENAISSANCE STORY



How does one get the true pulse of any Midwestern city? Is it where it's been, where it is or where it's going? Ottumwa has a proud past and an even more exciting future. Completed or ongoing projects include:



BRIDGE VIEW CENTER

Opened in 2007, this beautiful 92,000-square-foot events center located on the banks of the Des Moines River features a 664-seat theater, multiple meeting rooms and a 30,000-square-foot, multi-purpose exposition hall. Bridge View Center has become the preeminent meeting and event center for southeast Iowa. A 97-room attached hotel is currently being planned.

HELGERSON FLATS CERTIFICATION

In March 2019, Helgerson Flats in Ottumwa became the 23rd site in Iowa granted certification. Certified sites are ready for building, with all surveys and analyses complete, and certification assures potential tenants the infrastructure they need either exists or can be quickly put in place.

CULTURAL SIGNAGE

The City of Ottumwa has initiated a long-term signage program that will include Gateway, Wayfinding and directional signage. For more information, go to www.greaterottumwacvb.org

DOWNTOWN RENOVATIONS

Ottumwa received National Main Street accreditation in 2017. A façade improvement program was completed in 2018, which included 13 building facades and 22 storefronts. Work commenced on a Streetscape program in July 2019. The two-year project will include road reconstruction, utility upgrades and removal of existing sidewalks and street pavements, to be replaced with new concrete, pavers, plant beds, lighting and site amenities

DESTINATION ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Ottumwa has instituted a free customer service and Destination Advocacy program for city businesses and organizations.

SPORTS COMPLEX

Plans are underway to construct a 60,000-square-foot indoor sports facility in Greater Ottumwa Park. The facility will include basketball courts, an indoor baseball diamond, an indoor soccer field, retractable batting cages and a gymnastics and wrestling area.



STREET ART

It is rare that a city's visitors are encouraged by locals to walk down an alley. In Ottumwa, it is an absolute must because it's a walkable art gallery. The alley between Main Street and Second Street serves as the cornerstone for a large, unique array of street art that graces downtown Ottumwa. Sculptures, murals and even interactive digital art from both local and national artists can be found here.



RIVERFRONT RENAISSANCE PLAN

A comprehensive riverfront redevelopment program is now in the planning phase. The plan includes upgrades to the Amtrak station and the surrounding area, new riverside residential and business development, an enhanced Riverwalk system with an electric park venue and an advanced green energy grid.

RIVER TRAIL SYSTEM

The 16-mile Wapello County Trail System provides a scenic route along the Des Moines River through the center of Ottumwa. Along the way, trail-goers can enjoy many of the city's natural treasures, including Gray Eagle Nature Preserve, Turkey Island and Greater Ottumwa Park.

ST. JOSEPH'S SQUARE

The former site of St. Joseph's hospital is transforming into St. Joseph's Square, an upscale residential community. The first homes will become available in 2020.

AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS

The City of Ottumwa is currently undertaking a runway improvement program at Ottumwa Regional Airport. When finished, the main runway will be 6,000 feet long – more than 1.1 miles – and 100 feet wide.





FAST FACTS

[CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

WHERE TO MEET

Ottumwa offers a diverse choice of meeting venues. The 92,000-square-foot Bridge View Center features an Expo Hall capable of seating 3,000. The venue also features adjoining conference and meeting space for conventions and meetings of all sizes, as well as a 664-seat theater. The historic Hotel Ottumwa allows you to have your next meeting in a classic and intimate setting. Located in downtown Ottumwa, the hotel offers some of southeast Iowa's finest meeting, wedding and banquet facilities, including the Grand Ballroom. Market on Main is not a supermarket or a stock market - it's more like a town square, only indoors. The casual meeting spaces make the perfect backdrop for an intimate Town Hall event.

WHERE TO SLEEP

Ottumwa offers accommodations for every taste and budget. We have historic hotels, name brands, Airbandbs and intimate bed and breakfasts. All properties are located within minutes of our meeting venues.

WHERE TO EAT

Ottumwa's cultural diversity is reflected in its food. From award-winning Latin cuisine to family-owned icons to great American barbecue, you can find it all in Ottumwa.

WHERE TO PLAY

Take a break! Hike on Ottumwa's 16 miles of river trails. Check out the Video Game Capital of the World Museum. Visit the American Gothic House Center Museum. Cool off at the Beach Ottumwa Waterpark. Visit an antique aviation museum. Take a walking tour in one of Ottumwa's seven historic districts. The possibilities are endless.



GO WHERE THE LOCALS GO

Want to find out what Ottumwans are thinking?
Want to enjoy the best Ottumwa has to offer?
Here are some recommendations:

BEST COFFEE

Top Hat Coffee & Entertainment - Located in an historic building on Main Street, Top Hat Food and Entertainment is one of the most popular gathering places for Ottumwans. A coffee house with a heart, proceeds go to the soup kitchen located behind the coffee shop.



BEST ICE CREAM

Graham's Dairy Freez - An Ottumwa tradition, this family-owned ice cream shop has been satisfying the sweet tooth of Ottumwans for more than 50 years.



BEST BURGER

Morgan's Corner - A true "Go Where the Locals Go" restaurant, Morgan's was voted Top Ten Best Burger in Iowa two years in a row.

BEST MEXICAN FOOD

Rancho Grande - Located in the heart of downtown, Rancho Grande serves some of the most authentic Hispanic food this side of Texas. Generous portions and reasonable prices.



BEST RESTAURANT TO TAKE OUT-OF-TOWN VISITORS

Canteen Lunch in the Alley - The world-famous Canteen has been serving loose-meat sandwiches and homemade pies since 1927. The Canteen received the 2019 Travel Iowa Outstanding Dining Business (Metro) award.



BEST PLACE FOR AN ADULT BEVERAGE

Tom-Tom Tap - Located in the historic Hotel Ottumwa, Tom-Tom Tap is a 1950's-style hotel lounge. Step back in time at the horseshoe-design bar and check out the mural painted in 1951 to celebrate Ottumwa's Native American heritage.

BEST VIEW OF THE CITY

Bridge View Center Terrace - The 92,000-square-foot Bridge View Center sits on the Des Moines River. Stroll out on the terrace and enjoy views of the river, bridges and Ottumwa's historic downtown.

BEST MUSIC SCENE

Market on Main - Often called "Ottumwa's town square," Market on Main is a multi-use facility that features international food vendors, crafts booths and live music and entertainment featuring local artists.



BEST PHOTO OP

Jefferson Street Bridge and Market Street Bridge - Known as the "City of Bridges," both bridges have pedestrian walkways that offer spectacular views of the city. They are also great spots to see Bald Eagles in the winter.



BEST DIVERSION

Beach Ottumwa - Ottumwa's 13-acre outdoor water park features a wave pool, slides, kiddie play area and sand volleyball. The indoor pool is open year-round, and the outdoor water park is open Memorial Day to Labor Day.





BEST TACO

Mimi's Taqueria and Bakery – Ottumwa's premier Taqueria was named Iowa's Best Taco by blogger The Iowa Gallivant.

BEST BARBECUE

Warehouse Barbecue Co. & Brewhouse – Iowa means barbecue, and Warehouse Barbecue Co. delivers! Warehouse Barbecue was voted Iowa's Best Pulled Pork in 2019 by the Iowa Pork Association. It's a great place to hang out with the locals and enjoy the food, drinks and atmosphere.

BEST LOCAL ART GALLERY

Anomaly Gallery - Anomaly's mission is to expose southeast Iowa to contemporary art in a space unique to the area. The goal is to create a connection and dialogue between artists from Iowa and artists from other communities.

BEST LOCAL PARK

Greater Ottumwa Park - Unwind at the city's largest park, 340 acres, which has picnic tables, grills, restrooms and a shelter. Fishing ponds, trails and camp sites are all available, plus a playground, ball fields, a tennis court, a basketball/volleyball court and soccer fields.

BEST "BRING ME HOME SOMETHING" SHOPPING AREA

Main Street Corridor – From antiques to rare coins to bicycles, Main Street's locally owned businesses offer an eclectic selection of gifts.



OTTUMWA STORIES

Searching for a unique story? Let the Greater Ottumwa Convention and Visitor's Bureau help with story ideas and content assistance. Here are a few story board concepts:



MARKET ON MAIN
Ottumwa's Town Square

THE AMERICAN GOTHIC HOUSE AND POLITICS

The American Gothic House visitor center features an entire section of political caricatures of Grant Wood's famous painting



WHY DID RICHARD NIXON LIVE IN OTTUMWA?

Ottumwa's aviation history



SOUTHEAST IOWA
Great Places, Open Spaces

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH US
How the Des Moines River has shaped the community (literally)



OTTUMWA'S HISTORIC CHURCHES

OTTUMWA, IOWA
Birthplace of Radar O'Reilly

LOCALLY OWNED, NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED

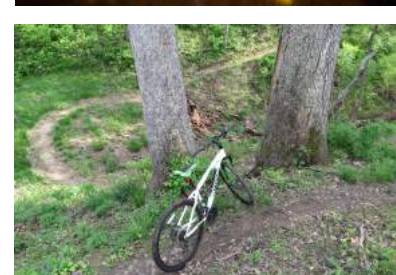
Ottumwa's award-winning restaurants



MIDWEST MELTING POT
Residents from more than 40 countries call Ottumwa home



WHO NEEDS MOUNTAINS FOR MOUNTAIN BIKING?
Ottumwans don't



OTTUMWA'S COFFEE SHOPS
Coffee and Community



HOW OTTUMWA BECAME THE VIDEO GAME CAPITOL OF THE WORLD



DIRECTORY

Contact us today and let us help
you write your story



GREATER
OTTUMWA
[CONVENTION + VISITORS BUREAU]

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[CITY OF]
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**WAPELLO
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💻 wapellocounty.org



**WAPELLO COUNTY
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Bridge View Center

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FOUNDATION**

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