

GRAND PENING



APRIL(25

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WELCOME TO THE GRAND OPENING

A trip on the Chichaqua Valley Trail is as rich in scenic beauty as it is in history. Tall grass prairie once flooded the valley. Buffalo roamed the landscape and wild onion lined the riverbanks. It was the strong smell of the onion that prompted the Fox Indians to name the river Chichaqua, interpreted as "Skunk", which probably referred to the wild onions. While the area no longer carries buffalo or retains the overwhelming odor of skunk, a ride on the Chichaqua Valley Trail gives visitors the complete illustrative range of Iowa's natural land. The twenty-six mile route is constructed on a converted railroad bed. It connects several small towns along the Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt just as the railroad did many years ago.

The Chichaqua Valley Trail (from west of Bondurant to Baxter) was built in 1987; four years after the Chicago Northwestern Railway abandoned the corridor. The alignment has seen many rail lines over the past 100 years including the Wisconsin, Iowa, and Nebraska Railroad; Chicago, St. Paul, and Kansas City Railroad; and the Chicago Great Western Railroad. Traces of all of these companies can still be seen on the route.

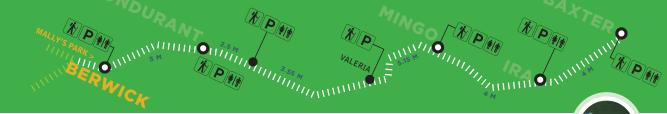
The slope of the Chichaqua Valley Trail is very gentle due to the railroad bed it is constructed on. This makes it a great trail for beginners and families.

OF THE CHICHAGUA VALLEY TRAIL!

The route crosses through open farmland, rolling meadows, forested river valleys. The western portion of the trail is shaded by tree arches. Mid way along the trail a long wooden railroad trestle crosses the Skunk River, which is the backbone of the 7000+-acre Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt conservation area. The River bridge has pull out areas where users can stop to admire the tranquil Skunk River and Greenbelt. Nowhere else in Iowa do trail users have the access to such an extensive natural area.

Today's grand opening festivities celebrate the 8+ miles of *new* trail that now connects the trail through Bondurant and Berwick to the Gay Lea Wilson Trail which leads users into Ankeny, Altoona, and Des Moines. Join in the fun as we reunite all of the amazing communities along this 25-mile historical trail.

Trail conditions between the towns of Mingo and Baxter present users with various patches of crushed gravel that makes travel less ideal until more funding can be secured to correct these repairs in the future. However, the trail is still operative and all of the trail communities are looking forward to your arrival on the day of the grand opening.



WELCOME TO BERWICK

Berwick is an unincorporated community in Polk County on the east bank of Fourmile Creek. In the early 20th century, Berwick and Norwoodville (one mile southwest of Berwick) were home to several coal mines.

TODAY'S EVENTS:

Kick-off Breakfast -

• 7 – 10 a.m. Berwick Congregational Church (free will donation)
5673 NF Berwick Dr

Mally's Weh Weh Neh Kee Park — 5792 NE Berwick Dr.

• 8 & 9 a.m. Yoga in the Park — free for all ages instructed by: Patty Van Meter

• 8 – 10 a.m. Free Bike Tune-ups by Bike World

Bike helmet fittings and give-a-way from Blank Children's Hospital

Delaware Township Fire Department Truck on display

• 10 a.m. Trail Ribbon Cutting Celebration!

HISTORY OF MALLY'S WEH WEH NEH KEE PARK:

- Property was owned by Alton Mally who used the area as a cow pasture. In the late 20's, the pastor of the local church decided that the town needed a men's softball team. Mally let the team use his pasture during the evening hours. Eventually the team members built fences, a backstop, and infield.
- By the early 30's, the field had lights and the team had become one of the best softball teams around. They just called themselves BERWICK.
- Once the men got older and the team faded away, the land remained unused for a period of time. Then in 1961, Alton & Florence Mally donated the land for use as a park.
- Many people ask what "weh weh neh kee" means. Originally
 discussion took place to name the park Muchikinock since that was
 the name of this creek. However, they discovered the meaning of the
 word meant "bad place" so they wrote a letter to George Youngbear
 in Tama asking for a good name. He replied recommending "weh weh
 neh Kee" which means...good place, good camping, hunting, and the
 people are good.



WELCOME TO BONDURANT

TODAY'S EVENTS:

• 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Vendor booths, Bottle Fill Station and

Restrooms - at Trailhead

• 10 a.m.-10 p.m. **Human Foosball** — across from Founder's Irish Pub

sponsored by: Bondurant Park & Rec

9 Square — across from Founder's Irish Pub sponsored by: Bondurant Park & Rec

Giant Beer Pong — at Founder's Irish Pub

sponsored by: Budweiser

Big Wheel Races — at Founder's Irish Pub

sponsored by: Budweiser

• 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. **Lunch Special** — pulled pork sandwiches & chips

at Founder's Irish Pub

• 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Regular menu available — at Founder's Irish Pub

• Noon-10 p.m. **Band/DJ/Street Dance** — at Founder's Irish Pub

• 3 p.m. Wing Eating Contest — at Trailhead sponsored by Buffalo Wild Wings

ATTRACTIONS:

• Bondurant Regional Trailhead & Parking Main St. & Railroad St.
• City Park
• Lake Petocka
• Library
• High School

REFERSHMENTS AND RESTAURANT:

• Founder's Irish Pub	
 Brick Street Market and Butler 	Café114 Brick St. SE
• Polito's Pizza	
· Casav's Canaral Stores	1455 Crant St S and 300 2nd St NE

ANNUAL EVENTS: 2015 DATES

3rd Saturday/Month

Sid Saturday/Months	Dieakiast at Legioni natt
2nd & 4th Wednesday / May-Oct	Farmers Market
• May 9	City Wide Garage Sale
June 15-16	Summerfest
June 20	Biking Bondu

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INFORMATION: cityofbondurant.com, (515) 967-2418

Community Breakfast at Legion Hall



WELCOME TO VALERIA

TOWN OF A RAILROAD ROMANCE

Valeria is a town in Jasper County, that came to be in the year 1883 by the building of the Chicago Great Western Railway through that territory. Valeria lies among the rolling hills, extending north and east of the South Skunk River, approximately one mile east of Poweshiek Township.

In the early 1860s, the William H. Johnson family left the South to escape the atmosphere and attitudes of the Civil War, and settled at the present-day site of Valeria. William's son Nicholas and his sister Edna Valeria would play key roles in the birth of the village. Edna fell in love with a young civil engineer named McBride, who worked for the Chicago and Great Western Railroad. She and her beau convinced her father to allow the tracks to cross the Johnson land. An agreement was reached based on the condition that the community's depot would be known as Valeria. The couple ultimately married, though McBride left the railroad to become a dentist. Brother Nicholas entered into a real estate venture, and his signature appears on the papers that officially platted the town in 1883 and on abstracts of present property owners in Valeria

INFORMATION: City Clerk (515) 689-0201

WELCOME TO MINGO



TODAY'S EVENTS:

 12:00 Noon Drink specials and live music Greencastle Tavern, 115 N. Station St.

ATTRACTIONS:

City Park	Railroad St. & East St.
Casey Gannon Field	East St.
Mingo Public Library	
Mingo Community Center	
Colfax-Mingo Community Schools	. www.colfax-mingo.k12.ia.us

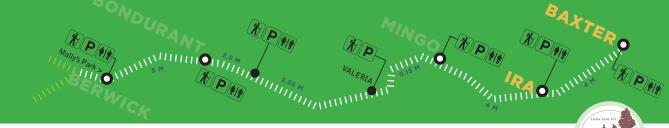
ANNUAL EVENTS: 2015 DATES

Mingo Days	June 27
Christmas Tree Lighting & Soun Sunner	Mid-Docombor

REFRESHMENTS AND RESTAURANTS:

• Greencastle laveili	IID IN Station St.
• Friday Night Bikes (bicycles)	May 29 – August 28 (<i>Fridays</i>)
Live Music great home cooked meals	and awasama givoaways

INFORMATION: www.mymingoiowa.com • (641) 363-4441



WELCOME TO IRA

TODAY'S EVENTS:

• 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Snack and Water Station

Community Center

hosted by: Ira Park Committee

ATTRACTIONS:

Community Center & Park — Co. Hwy F24 W
United Church of Ira — Main & North Street intersection

Ira is an unincorporated community located in Jasper County. Ira was platted in 1883. It was originally called Millard. Other historical facts include:

- The Ira railroad station closed for business in March of 1930, but the trains continued to run for many years thereafter. In the early forties one could still have the mail messenger flag the passenger train down and ride it to Des Moines
- Early day pupils attended the Elm Grove School. In 1901 the Ira School
 District of Independence Township was formed which later became
 known as the Ira Independent School District. They became a part of
 the Mingo school system in 1955.

WELCOME TO BAXTER

TODAY'S EVENTS: at Cadillac Jack's - 108 N. Main St.

• 12:00 Noon Grillin' and Chillin' on the patio

• 2-6 p.m. Live music

ATTRACTIONS:

- Baxter School/City Library 202 E State St.
- Baxter Community Schools www.baxter.k12.ia.us
- Baxter Community Recreation Area west edge of town
- Caboose & Armed Forces Memorial north CVT trailhead, downtown
- Ashton Wildwood Park & Observatory 7 miles west, off Hwy F17 West

ANNUAL EVENTS: 2015 DATES

REFRESHMENTS AND RESTAURANTS:

Cadillac Jack's — 108 N Main St. Hometown Foods — 103 N. Main St. Kountry Korner — 312 E Buchannan St.

INFORMATION: www.baxter-jowa.com 641-227-3120