

## HISTORIC BLUFF COUNTRY SCENIC BYWAY RESOURCE INVENTORY

Name	Location (Address)	City/ Township	County	Nearest Town	NRHP ?	Open to Public?	Root River Trail Access	Root River Access	Distance from TH 16	Description/Notes
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES</b>										
Root River	n/a	n/a	Mower, Fillmore, Houston	n/a	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a	Includes the North, Middle, and South Branches and South Fork of the Root River.
Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest	Central and East parts of bluff country	Mound Prairie Twp, Hokah Twp, Mayville Twp, Crooked Creek Twp, Winnebago Twp, Jefferson Twp, Brownsville Twp	Fillmore, Houston	n/a	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a	Includes the following Forest Units: Reno, Oak Ridge, Isinours, Brightsdale, Vinegar Ridge, Gribbon Valley, Diamond Creek, and Money Creek. Forest Unit Offices are located in Preston and Caledonia.
Niagara Cave	PO Box 444 Harmony 55939	Harmony Twp	Fillmore	Harmony	n/a	Yes	No	No	5-10 miles	2 miles south of Harmony; 2 miles west of hwy 139; Significant feature- good education of area geology
Mystery Cave	Approx. 2 miles west of CR 5	Forestville Twp	Fillmore	Preston	n/a	Yes	No	No	5-10 miles	Located within Forestville/ Mystery Cave State Park
Mound Prairie Scientific and Natural Area	west of Hokah	Mound Prairie Twp	Houston	Hokah	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes	0-2 miles	Area of native prairie preservation and restoration- managed by the DNR.
Wykoff Balsam Fir Scientific and Natural Area	Off CR 8, northwest of Wykoff	Wykoff	Fillmore	Wykoff	n/a	Yes	No	No	2-5 miles	Unique micro climate of steep north- facing slopes and cold air drainage. Special conditions support rare species. Managed by the DNR. Research area is open only to those possessing special research permits.
Rushford Sand Barrens Scientific and Natural Area	Off TH 16, west of Rushford	Rushford	Fillmore	Rushford	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes	0-2 miles	Complex of rare natural communities, 1 endangered and 3 threatened. Thirteen rare plant species and other rare species reside there. Managed by the DNR.
Pin Oak Prairie Scientific and Natural Area	4 miles SW of Chatfield	Chatfield	Fillmore	Chatfield	n/a	Yes	No	Yes	5-10 miles	Contains 3 natural communities: wet meadow, dry prairie, and oak forest. Botanically diverse. On banks of Middle Branch Root River.

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<b>RECREATIONAL RESOURCES</b>										
Mount Tom	Near junction of TH 16 and CR 7	Hokah	Houston	Hokah	n/a	Yes	No	Yes	0-2 miles	Natural landmark in the town of Hokah, adjacent to Thompson Creek.
Lanesboro DNR Fish Hatchery	Off TH 16, just south of Lanesboro	Carrolton Twp	Fillmore	Lanesboro	n/a	Yes	No	No	0-2 miles	DNR Hatchery - works to manage trout populations in regional streams. Produces stock. Includes interpretive trail where visitors can learn about trout populations and habitat. Adjoining fishery mgt office also manager habitat, access, and monitoring.
Sinkholes	Major ones located near trailhead and city sign	Fountain	Fillmore	Fountain	n/a	Yes	No	Yes	2-5 miles	Fountain considered "Sinkhole Capital of the USA" - identified sinkholes near Fountain trailhead and sign; no parking or good pull-offs or interpretation near them
Root River Canoe Accesses	see description/ notes	Chatfield, Houston, Preston, Rushford, Lanesboro, Peterson and west of Whalan	Fillmore, Houston	n/a	n/a	Yes	Yes (some)	Yes	n/a	Located in the following towns: Houston, Rushford, Peterson, Lanesboro, Preston and Chatfield - also one on TH 16 just west of Whalan.
Root River State Trail	53 miles between Rushford and Fountain	n/a	Fillmore, Houston	n/a	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes	0-2 miles	Trailheads located in Fountain, Rushford, and Houston.
Harmony-Preston Valley State Trail	17.8 miles between Harmony and Preston	n/a	Fillmore	n/a	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes	0-2 miles	Trailheads at Harmony & Preston; Junction with Root River State Trail north of Preston at Isinours Forestry Unit.
Forestville/ Mystery Cave State Park	Approx. 4 miles south of Hwy 16, on Hwy 5	Forestville Twp	Fillmore	Preston	n/a	Yes	No	No	2-5 miles	State park with natural cave and historic town of Forestville within borders. Also offers visitors hiking, camping, trail riding, picnicking.
Beaver Creek State Park	CSAH 76 near Caledonia	Caledonia	Houston	Caledonia	n/a	Yes	No	No	2-5 miles	State park offering visitors camping, hiking, trout fishing, picnicking.
Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center	Rt 2 Box 156A, 55949	Lanesboro	Fillmore	Lanesboro	n/a	Yes	No	Yes	0-2 miles	Offers a variety of programs for groups of all ages that included topics on wildlife, ecology, outdoor skills, and outdoor recreation.
Houston Nature Center	At Trailhead in Houston	Houston	Houston	Houston	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes	0-2 miles	New facility located at the Root River Trailhead in Houston.

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Como Falls	Falls St. just east of Main St.	Hokah	Houston	Hokah	n/a	Yes	No	No	0-2 miles	Located within Como Fall Park which includes some short trails at falls, along Thompson Creek and immediate area.
Grand Meadow Wayside	north side of TH 16	Frankford Twp	Fillmore	Grand Meadow	n/a	Yes	No	No	0-2 miles	Located along Deer Creek. Facilities include restrooms, playground, picnic tables and shelter. Some camping nearby.
Preston Wayside	south side of TH 16 on northeast side of town	Preston	Fillmore	Preston	n/a	Yes	Yes	No	0-2 miles	Old WPA project. Stone walls, good condition. No facilities. Overlooks town and valley, but views are limited by large trees
Inspiration Point	At switchback in TH 16, just west of Lanesboro	Carrolton Twp	Fillmore	Lanesboro	n/a	Yes	No	No	0-2 miles	Old WPA project. Stone walls, good condition. Facilities include benches and picnic tables. Overlooks valley and Lanesboro in distance, but views are limited by large trees
Magelssen Park	On top of bluff, access north side of TH 30	Rushford	Fillmore	Rushford	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes	0-2 miles	Small winding gravel access road; scenic overlook; nice parking facility; pit toilets; old stone wall; picnic shelter; narrow vista due to trees; no signs until nearly outside of town. Views show results of processes when prehistoric streams cut down through layers of glacial till and bedrock, leaving level bluffs and steep valley sides.
Bluff Views	Along the central and eastern segment of byway	n/a	Fillmore, Houston	n/a	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a	Dramatic views as roadway winds through and over bluffs.

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Root River Views	Along the central and eastern segment of byway	n/a	Fillmore, Houston	n/a	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a	Byway criss-crosses Root River, where the main branch is located more on the eastern half of the corridor.
Rock Columns and "Pulpit Rock"	Off Root River Trail near Isinours Junction	Carrolton Twp	Fillmore	Lanesboro	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes	0-2 miles	Isolated columns of resistant carbonate rock left when surrounding rock was eroded away.
Yucatan Valley	West of Houston on CR 4	Yucatan Twp	Houston	Caledonia	n/a	Yes	No	Yes	0-2 miles	Dramatic and historic landscape.
Farmland and Small Town Landscape	Throughout corridor	n/a	Mower, Fillmore, Houston	n/a	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a	Entire byway winds through quaint small towns and rolling farmland.
<b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES</b>										
Grand Meadow Quarry Site	1 mile NW of Grand Meadow	Grand Meadow	Mower	Grand Meadow	Yes	No?	No	No	0-2 miles	10,000 year old chert quarry pits, now owned by the Archaeological Conservancy
Yucatan Fort Site	Off CR 4 southwest of Houston	Black Hammer Township	Houston	Houston	Yes	Yes	No	No	5-10 miles	Small grouping of earthworks believed to be associated with the Oneota people who occupied the area from 1400 A.D. to 1650 A.D. Provides insight into the importance of agriculture to Native American groups in the Upper Mississippi River Valley. Also illustrates how the availability of a more stable food source that agriculture provided allowed for the creation of larger villages and settlements.

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<b>CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>										
Houston County Historical Society Museum Complex	104 History Lane	Caledonia	Houston	Caledonia	No	Yes	No	No	5-10 miles	Log Home, early school house, church, agriculture building, town hall and other displays of early life in Houston County; open year round M, T & W 10-4; and Sat & Sun 1-4 June-Sept.
Amish Country/Amish Tours	Canton/ Harmony		Fillmore	Harmony	n/a	Yes	Yes	No	5-10 miles	Several tour operators in Harmony and Lanesboro provided guided tours of Amish farms and countryside
Historic Preservation Museum	Lanesboro	Lanesboro	Fillmore	Lanesboro	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	0-2 miles	Open M-SU 10am-5pm; City history and artifacts. Located on the Root River Trail in downtown Lanesboro.
<b>HISTORICAL RESOURCES</b>										
Schech's Mill	off Co. Hwy. 10 (Beaver Creek Valley State Park) T102N, R6W, NW-NW-SE Sec. 5	Caledonia Twp	Houston	Caledonia	Yes	Yes	No	No	5-10 miles	Phone 896-3481; Open to public for mill tours; privately owned, but located within Beaver Creek State Park; tours usually by appointment only.
Fillmore Country History Center and Genealogy Library	Hwy. 52 & Co. Rd. 8	Fountain	Fillmore	Fountain	No	Yes	Yes	No	2-5 miles	Features museum displays on history of Fillmore County, agricultural displays, Pietenpol Airplane and hangar; genealogy library. Open 7 days during summer; Open M-F during winter.
Exchange State Bank	NW corner Main St. & 1st St.	Grand Meadow	Mower	Grand Meadow	Yes	Yes	No	No	0-2 miles	Architecturally significant and attractive bank building in downtown.

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Lanesboro Historic District	vicinity of Kirkwood St. , Coffee St. and Parkway St.	Lanesboro	Fillmore	Lanesboro	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	0-2 miles	Grouping of commercial buildings dating from 1868 to 1929. Mostly commercial businesses directed to tourists, includes museum, theater, art gallery.
Lanesboro Stone Dam	off Kirkwood St. on Root River, T103n, R10W, SW-SW-SE Sec. 13	Lanesboro	Fillmore	Lanesboro	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	0-2 miles	Historic dam is viewable from public park, offering a scenic place by the water
Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul Bridge	off Parkway St. over Root River	Lanesboro	Fillmore	Lanesboro	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	0-2 miles	Bicycle trail uses bridge; interpretive signs about Lanesboro and the Milwaukee Road are located near bridge; Museum is near bridge.
1877 Peterson Station Museum	Peterson	Peterson	Fillmore	Peterson	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	0-2 miles	Open SA-SU 11am-4pm; Established in 1974 after Community of Peterson moved the former CMStP Railroad Station to its present site; local memorabilia, artifacts, photographs of local interest; original depot authorized in 1876 and built in 1877;
Forestville Townsite	Off Co. Rd. 12 (Forestville State Park) T102N, R12W, Sec. 12, 13	Forestville Twp	Fillmore	Preston	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	5-10 miles	Includes 8 properties listed on the National Register. MHS historical site, open to the public. Closed in winter.
Allis Barn (Reliance Stock Farm)	off Co. Hwy. 17	Carrolton Twp	Fillmore	Preston	Yes	Yes	No	No	2-5 miles	The Old Barn Resort has as much or as little as you would like. Tucked away in a scenic Southeastern Minnesota valley, you'll find a National historic site, the Allis Barn. Built in 1884-85 and re-built in 1988-90, the Barn is the centerpiece of the property

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Milwaukee Elevator Company Grain Elevator	NW corner Fillmore St. & Center St.	Preston	Fillmore	Preston	No	No	Yes	Yes	0-2 miles	Located at rail parking lot and rest area with public restrooms.
Southern Minnesota Depot (Restored Railroad Depot)	Elm St. & Pickle Alley	Rushford	Fillmore	Rushford	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	0-2 miles	"Oldest depot in Minnesota" now serves as the trail center. Built 1868.
Spring Valley Carnegie Library	201 Broadway S.	Spring Valley	Fillmore	Spring Valley	Yes	Yes?	No	No	0-2 miles	1904 Carnegie Library "representative of the educational aspect of Spring Valley' prosperity and progressive aspirations at the turn of the century."
Spring Valley Methodist Episcopal Church (a.k.a. Laura Ingalls Wilder Site)	221 Courtland St. W.	Spring Valley	Fillmore	Spring Valley	Yes	Yes	No	No	0-2 miles	Built 1876. Includes museum with a Wilder Photo Display, Religious Artifact Collections, Conley Camera Collection, Old-time Country Store, Local Pioneer Business Artifacts and Displays, Richard Sears Exhibit, 1874 Wooden Fire Wagon.
Washburn-Zittleman House	220 W. Courtland St.	Spring Valley	Fillmore	Spring Valley	No	Yes	No	No	0-2 miles	1865 Home & artifacts, 2 floors; 12 exhibit areas; also carriage house ag. Building, history hall, Fillmore County Veterans Memorial; jointly run with Wilder Site church.
Parson's Block and Hall	112 Broadway S.	Spring Valley	Fillmore	Spring Valley	Yes	Yes?	No	No	0-2 miles	1871 High Victorian Italianate commercial block illustrating the town's prosperity.
Wykoff Commercial Historic District	100 Gold St. S. - 123 Gold St. N.	Wykoff	Fillmore	Wykoff	Yes	Yes	No	No	0-2 miles	District includes 18 individual structures; mostly commercial structures, some have businesses related to tourists.

