

Beaver Creek

































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Fertile



Fertile dates back to the arrival of William Rhodes, a Canadian who came to Iowa in August of 1856. He and other early pioneer settlers selected this area because of its location near the Beaver and Lime Rivers. This region has always been a popular area due to the vast supply of timber and water. Rhodes used these nearby resources to build a mill to process wheat into flour on the banks of Lime River, now known as the Winnebago River.

Along with the early settlers, Native Americans also played a part in Fertile's history. The Winnebago River is named for the tribe whose last Iowa home was south of town. There is also evidence that of Indian battle grounds north of town and burial sites along the river.

Today, Fertile remains being a small, beautiful river town that is defying the odds – it was one of several smalls towns to grow in the last census. Along with that fun fact, Fertile's citizens have a lot to celebrate.

They honor their hometown each year during Fertile Days, which features a parade, a walk/run event, bed and golf-cart races, a live band, a free community meal, and several kids' activities including face painting and inflatable rides.

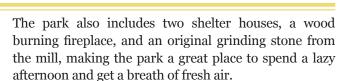
Located right on the Winnebago River, Fertile offers plenty of outdoor activities such as canoeing/kayaking and fishing. The town's event centers such as Rhodes Island Park draw guests to the town every year to appreciate the dam, mill, and footbridge.

Beaver Creek Gardens, Inc. offers a unique opportunity for customers to pre-order fresh locally grown vegetables. Bulk tomatoes and peppers are also available for canning by calling in advance. In the spring their greenhouse is open on the weekends beginning around Mother's day and offer specialty annuals, hanging basket, planters and a large variety of peppers and tomato plants for your garden. In the fall, pumpkins, squash and gourds are for sale at the end of the driveway for fall decorators. The local business welcomes you to enjoy the fruit of their land, just make sure to call ahead at 641-590-3102 or check their Facebook page.

Along with offering plenty of activities, Fertile is also an ideal place to raise a family. Fertile is in the Forest City School District, which offers a top-notch educational system complete with sports, theater, band, and many more extra-curricular activities. Additionally, Fertile's Little League program is one of the best in the area.

Fertile maintains a strong connection with its history and makes sure to maintain all of its historical buildings and monument.

William Rhodes Island Park is home to most of Fertile's historic structures. The park sits along the south bank of the Winnebago River on the south edge of town. Gifted to the community from William Rhodes, the park and its recreational facilities have been greatly improved by the local Lions Club over the years. Such improvements include replacing the wood band stand with a sturdier one made of brick and cement and building concrete tennis and basketball courts. Private parties also pitched in and installed a horseshoe court and a large fireplace.



The park also includes 1.1 acres at its west end which were acquired by the Worth County Conservation Commission. The commission has the water rights to this area for further general recreational use and cooperates with the City in furnishing material for picnic tables, and two shelter houses. The commission also raised and cemented the small south dam in 1973.

Along with being a great place to cook over a wood fire, or fish in one of the area's best Walleye hot spots, William Rhodes Island Park offers a great view of the Fertile Dam as well as the Rhodes Mill, which is recognized and is

> listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The mill and wood dam were both constructed in 1858 by William Rhodes. The pair were originally used for milling lumber but were converted for grain milling in 1868 and continued in that capacity through the 1930s. The wooden dam was replaced with a concrete dam around 1917. Today, the mill is presently available for vacation rental.

> Other historic structures in the park are the William Rhodes Log Cabin and the Veterans Monument, which was built in 1956 by the Veterans of the Fertile Community. The group dedicated the memorial in the park to the memory of those service men who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country during the two World Wars and the Korean War. The

> Across the bridge from the park sits Fertile's Creamery, which was founded in 1896 and whose original location at the west end of Main Street was where milk was taken to be separated. Later, farmers purchased their own separators and the

monument still stands in William Rhodes

Island Park.

creamery was then used to churn cream into butter. In 1908, the firm built a brick building toward the east end of town next to the Winnebago River. By 1964, the creamery's volume totaled more than 30,000 pounds of butter churned and wrapped. Operation ceased in December of 1971 along with various other creameries in northern Iowa due to the decline in family farm milking herds as most farmers switched to only grain farming. After 75 years, the Fertile Cooperative Dairy Association, the oldest creamery in Worth County, liquidated its assets through an auction sale of buildings and equipment. Today, the Creamery building is a private residence. The owner operates a Bed & Breakfast and attracts many guests, including international visitors.

Farther away from the park is Chapel Hill, located northwest of town and 1.25 miles east of Bluebill Ave. on 370th St. The hill features a miniature chapel with only four pews and an old pioneer cemetery.





CITY OF FERTILE

3494 Eagle Avenue, PO Box 161 641-797-2121 Wednesday 1:00 - 5:00 pm or by appointment www.fertileiowa.us

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FERTILE ORGANIZATIONS

Chapel Hill	Historical Society	641-924-1180
Fertile Days	Holly Lovik-Hanna	641-797-2002
	Ron Rachut	641-420-6555
Fertile Book Club	Angie Thompson	641-797-2787
Fertile Mill	Ann Jones	918-630-9935
Fire Chief	Mike Dahn	641-425-2931
Fire Station	Mike Dahn	641-797-2238
Garden Club	Penny Miller	641-797-2704
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School District	Forest City	641-585-2323
Ambulance	Forest City	641-585-4634
TD Young Rentals LLC	Apartment Complex	641-903-7696

Sandifer Apartments Apartment Complex 641-797-2281

BUSINESS INCUBATOR

The Fertile Economic Development Committee (FEDC) is the primary sponsor of the Incubator Program. The program's mission is to provide an environment for the creation and growth of quality companies through incubation. The program's resources are focused on finding, helping, and encouraging incubator companies to grow into quality companies, so that they can in turn give back to our community to continue the cycle of giving for generation after generation.

Our Incubator Program is driven through a partnership between the FEDC, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and area Chambers of Commerce. Much of the funding and time donated to the program comes from community minded individuals and citizens. Therefore, it is expected that successful incubator graduates will begin a lifetime of giving back to those who gave to them in their time of need. Contact the City Clerk or visit www.fertileia.us for more information.



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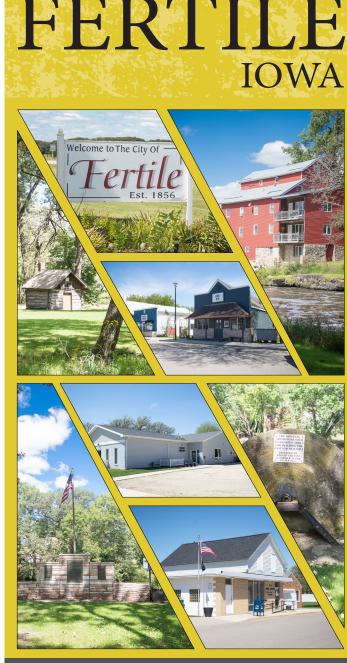
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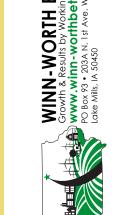
Check us out on Facebook or for weekly job postings & Community Events



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