



THINK YOU KNOW IOWA?



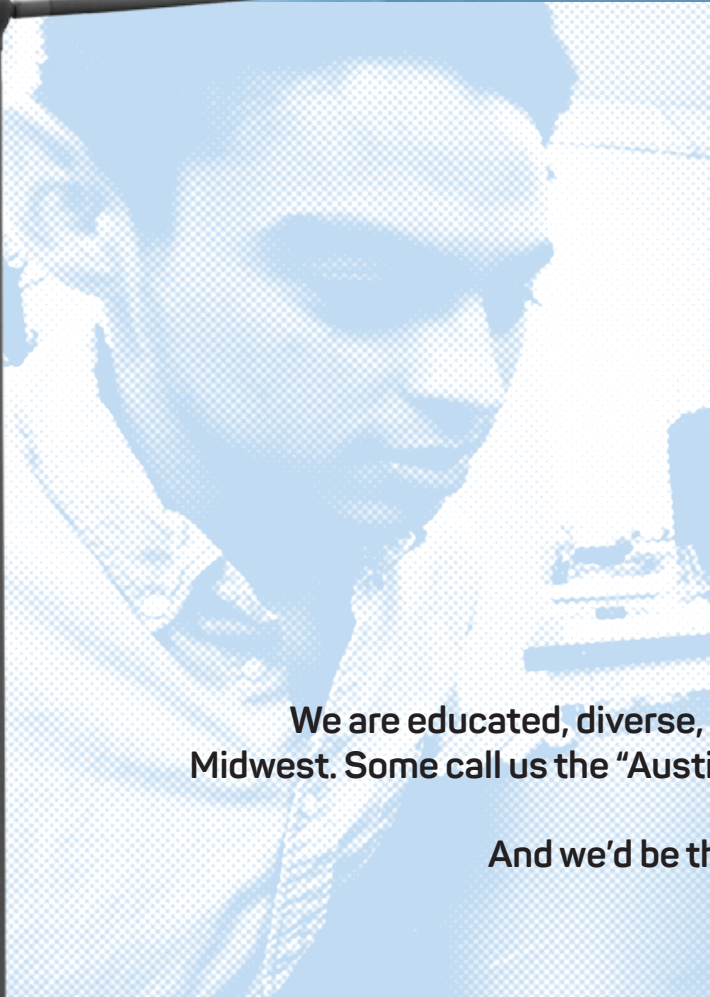
Think again.



IOWA CITY – CEDAR RAPIDS
HERE, IT'S REAL.

CONSIDERING A CHANGE OF PACE?

How about a **change**



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OH,



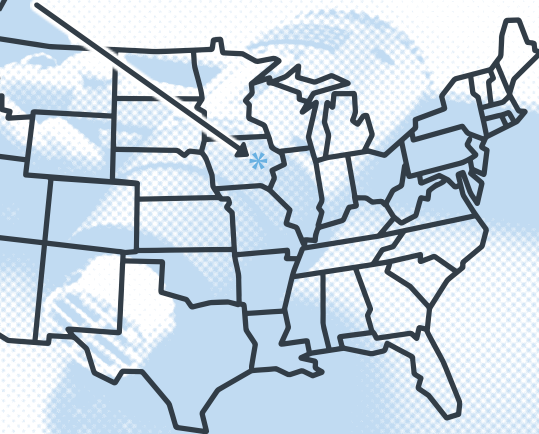
We are educated, diverse, and, well, the cool kids of the Midwest. Some call us the "Austin of Iowa," but we prefer ICR.

And we'd be thrilled to welcome you home.

of place?



R IOWA: THERE IT IS!



Want the opportunity to own a home (with a yard), send your kids to amazing and safe public schools, and ditch the crazy commute? Maybe you think a place in Iowa can't offer exciting career opportunities, educated and diverse neighbors, award-winning dining and entertainment, and that cool factor that lures some folks to the big city. Take another look. The Iowa City-Cedar Rapids (ICR) metro is home to almost half a million people, the University of Iowa (Go Hawks!), and internationally recognized industries like Collins Aerospace, ACT, and General Mills. We offer a Big Ten college town lifestyle with a 15-minute commute, award winning public schools, and homes that you can afford without a roommate.





TIME TO P

HERE, IT'S REAL.

One of the best things about ICR is our quality of life. We've got that cool college town vibe with award-winning eateries and food trucks, trendy bars and breweries, and some truly unique shops and events. Nightlife is hopping, but you are just as likely to find a crowd attending a book reading, Broadway musical, college basketball game, or an art exhibition. We love the outdoors (even in the winter), so most of our parks, downtowns, and neighborhoods are connected by over 300 miles of scenic bike trails and walking paths. Whether you are searching for an over-the-top dog park, a library with a green roof garden, goat yoga (just as fun as it sounds), or a microbrew launch party, you can find it in ICR.





LAY



300+ miles of scenic trails

28 breweries, distilleries, and cideries

15 performance venues

7 beaches. Not kidding.



Real communities are places where shared pride and individual energy come together.

Whether you want to go carless in the heart of the city, live off the beaten path surrounded by nature, or relive your childhood in a quiet, suburban neighborhood—there's a place for you in ICR. Housing development in downtown Cedar Rapids and Iowa City has exploded in recent years, so modern lofts and updated cottage homes are available for those who enjoy urban lifestyles. Suburban communities like Coralville, Marion, Solon, North Liberty, and Hiawatha continue to add new subdivisions with amenities ideal for growing families. If you are pining for a fixer-upper farmhouse or a renovated Victorian, we have those too. Check out Washington, Vinton, Amana, Mt. Vernon, and Williamsburg for a small town setting with plenty of charm. We've got neighbors just like you, nothing like you, and everyone in between. This place is everyone's place.



FIND A WINGMAN

New to Iowa City-Cedar Rapids? Let us help you get connected! Wingman is a program designed to help ICR newcomers navigate their new home. Through the program, newcomers (that's YOU!) are connected to a Wingman, a community champion with a robust network and knowledge of the region. Consider it a "first friend" who can answer questions, make connections, and help you take flight in ICR. The program is open to anyone newly locating in our region. To get started, go to icriowa.org/wingman/ and take our Pre-Flight Checklist so we can find a Wingman that shares some common interests.

FIND YOUR OWN SLICE OF IOWA





FIND YOUR CREW

When you're trying to find your place in a new city, it helps to be surrounded by friendly, honest people that welcome newcomers. In ICR, we're eager to help you get connected with new friends and a growing network that will make this place really feel like home.

These online guides will point you to professional networks, social networks, alumni chapters, arts and entertainment, places of worship, personal care resources, dining and markets, and other resources.

Check them out at icriowa.org/people/get-connected/





LINE UP AN AWESOME JOB IN ICR (BEFORE YOU MOVE!)

Whether you are ready for the next step in your career in a fun city, a chance live closer to friends and family, or a better place to raise your kids, we can help. Our talent hub is a gateway to innovative ICR employers who are excited to add top talent from around the country to their team — **at no cost to you!**

First, we connect with you to learn more about you and your career aspirations. Then we add you to our database of uber-talented job candidates and look for matching opportunities from area employers. When there's an open opportunity in your area of interest or expertise, we'll share your resume with the employer.

offers.icriowa.org/recruit-me



FIND A JOB YOU'LL



LOVE



Think Iowa is only about farming?
Think again. ICR is home to 30
Fortune 500 Companies and
brimming with opportunities
in tech, education, medicine,
finance, manufacturing,
and everything in between.
We're full of self-starters and
entrepreneurs ready to create
the next big thing—and bring
on talented employees to help
make it happen. Whether you've
got dreams of starting your own
business, or you're looking to
build new skills and elevate your
career, ICR is the place to do it.





AWARD-WINNING PUBLIC EDUC

HERE,





ATION IT'S REAL.



For decades, Iowa has been recognized as one of the best states in the nation for public education. We are extremely fortunate to have that foundation here in ICR, but we have gone way past the traditional for our students.

Project-based learning programs like Iowa BIG and CASL allow ICR middle and high school students to learn core subjects while working on employer-initiated projects. The University of Iowa Belin-Blank Center offers special programming for gifted and talented students while NewBoCo and Kirkwood Kick Camps provide robotics and coding enrichment. Young entrepreneurs will enjoy the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center summer camps, while future writers take advantage of the Iowa Writer's Workshop youth programs.

Middle and high school students throughout ICR have the opportunity to explore careers through job shadow or internship experiences with the Workplace Learning Connection and Kirkwood Career Academies provide early college opportunities for high school juniors and seniors.

Adults can experience a wide variety of continuing education courses and life-long learning activities through Kirkwood Community College, the University of Iowa, Coe College, Cornell College, and Mt. Mercy University. NewBoCo also offers DeltaV coding school for adults interested in kick-starting a new software development career in a few short months.





ADA WOO MY 7,500 MILE JOURNEY TO ICR IOWA

My journey to Iowa, over 7,500 miles from where I was born, was a bit unlikely. I grew up in Hong Kong, came to the U.S. as a high school student, went to college in Alabama and got my PhD in Texas. City life is in my blood (Hong Kong has a population of 7.4 million), so after completing my doctorate I gravitated toward working in a large city.

In 2016, at a conference in Lisbon, Portugal, I heard ACT CEO Marten Roorda speak about his vision for the future of education. I was so inspired I started following ACT's work closely. When ACT approached me about joining ACTNext as the unit's chief of staff, I knew I wanted to be a part of this amazing group.

Two years later, I am happy to report that moving to Iowa is one of the best decisions my husband and I have made. We've met professionals from all walks of life who arrived like we did, unsure but unafraid of seeking out what the Silicon Prairie had to offer. We've been embraced by friends and colleagues all deeply invested in each other, our communities, our professions, and being a part of something truly rare. Before we moved, we'd heard that you could grow nearly anything in Iowa. We had no idea it would be us.



ASMAA ELKEURTI FINDING HOME IN AMERICA'S HEARTLAND

In college I envisioned starting my career in a glass high rise or a sprawling campus in a coastal city, commuting by bike or train and developing a rapport with the barista at some trendy neighborhood cafe. I tried this for a while. I spent most of 2015 living in Portland, Oregon, but my life didn't exactly mirror those romantic expectations of big city living. I rarely took the train to the office. My coffee was mostly homemade to save money. Sadly, no barista learned my order or name.

After I graduated, I stayed in Iowa City and took a job with a mission-driven educational tech startup. Few people expect to find a tech startup like this in America's Heartland, but it was partly this unique environment that helped me decide not only to stay in Iowa but also to put down roots here.

My days start with a 10-minute bike commute that takes me past my favorite coffee shops and hangouts. I can buy groceries, go out to dinner, grab a beverage and shop for books, clothes or vinyl without ever needing a car.

Creativity and innovation is everywhere here, and that's why I stay.



JASON NAPOLI **MY BOOMERANG SHOT** **BACK TO ICR**

Like many Chicago kids in the mid-90s, I headed west for college...to Iowa City. It wasn't to be with my friends, for the academics, the Hawkeyes or promises of financial assistance. It just felt right... and it still does 25 years later.

After graduating from the University of Iowa in 1998 I left with fond memories and a goal to travel the world. After an 18-month stint in Ecuador, the next seven years were primarily spent living and working in Chicago.

As much as me and my wife loved Chicago, we realized shortly before my 30th birthday we weren't done traveling, so we left. We left solid jobs, a beautiful condo, amazing friends, supportive family, all of it, and traveled around the world ... and ended up back in ICR.

It was an easy choice. We knew upon returning from our travels we wanted to stay in the Midwest, but Chicago wasn't the place. We wanted a house in the woods, mountain bike trails, and quiet lakes. With my career in international education and my wife's in human resources, we figured a cool Midwestern college town would offer solid employment opportunities. It did...in ICR.

That's the short story of how we got here, but I think the more important story is why we stayed. In two words: Opportunity + Community. An amazing community full of people acting on important issues, living out their passions, supporting one another's families, educating our youth, filling our minds and hearts with art, thought and cheer. That's why I'm here...to feel a part of something.



DANA LARSON **WHY I CAME BACK** **TO IOWA**

It seems like there are three kinds of Iowans: Those who grew up here and moved away, those who were smart enough to know what they had and stayed put, and then the rest of us. We grew up here, moved away, and were lured back by family, friends, community, and opportunity.

I was born in Cedar Rapids, went to school at the University of Oregon, then moved to San Francisco. I ended up in a Silicon Valley job, writing about technology. I loved the city but didn't love writing about computers, so I moved to New York City, where I found my dream job at a marketing agency, traveling the world and helping to open new art museums.

After living in Manhattan for a decade, and with a toddler and newborn baby, I began to think hard about how we could afford to stay in New York (private school is at least \$25,000 a year, per kid). I started thinking about Iowa.

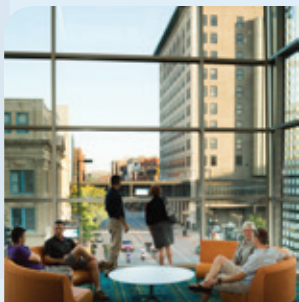
People sometimes ask me how I adjusted from New York to Iowa. There are the obvious quality of life improvements (great schools, affordable housing, short commute, strong community). The biggest surprise to me is the quality of creative talent in Iowa City-Cedar Rapids (ICR). In New York, I worked with creatives considered at the top of their field, and some of the most talented people I've ever worked with are here in ICR. I love working with the talented creatives that are smart enough to call Iowa home.



THE AMANA COLONIES THE HANDCRAFTED ESCAPE.

The seven villages of the Amana Colonies are a national Historic Landmark and one of America's longest-lived communal societies. Established in 1855, they attract hundreds of thousands of visitors annually.

The historic brick streets, stone and clapboard homes, flower and vegetable gardens, and lanterns and walkways provide the backdrop for a winery, golf course and authentic Amana Furniture and Clock Shop.



CEDAR RAPIDS THE CITY OF FIVE SEASONS.

Cedar Rapids is a vibrant community, encompassing unique attractions, exciting events, specialty shopping, a dynamic art scene, outdoor recreation, and a large variety of restaurant and nightlife options. Cedar Rapids offers a unique balance of big city amenities without all the typical traffic, hassles and headaches that come with a large city. This extra time afforded to our residents and visitors is why Cedar Rapids is known as "The City of Five Seasons." The fifth season is time to enjoy all other seasons, and to enjoy life.

The Cedar Rapids economy is thriving, thanks in part to our 10,000+ businesses—including over 300 manufacturing plants and two dozen Fortune 500 companies.

As the second largest city in Iowa, Cedar Rapids offers one of the best places in the country to live, work and play. In fact, the city has been nationally recognized as one of the best, most affordable places to live in the US.



CENTER POINT EASTERN IOWA'S BEST-KEPT SECRET.

Center Point, IA is a community in northern Linn County that is home to approximately 2,500 people. Located off of Interstate-380, it is convenient to commuters heading north or south to nearby Cedar Rapids or Waterloo. A small but vibrant community, we have many amenities including multiple city parks, the Cedar Valley Nature Trail, several churches, numerous community organizations, and a state of the art Public Library and Community Center.

The Center Point-Urbana Community School District boasts a Pre-K-12th grade school that is recognized as one of the best in the State of Iowa. In 2018 Center Point Urbana High School was recognized with a prestigious National Blue Ribbon Schools award. CP-U not only excels at academics it also boasts very strong extracurricular programs including men and women's athletics, music, thespians, and much more.

Make this best kept secret in Eastern Iowa your next home!



CORALVILLE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

Coralville is a growing and vibrant community situated along the Iowa River, with the University of Iowa as its next-door neighbor. This community of 20,000 offers festivals celebrating winter beer, Independence Day, and beloved Coach Hayden Fry; abundant trails for cross country skiing, cyclo-cross, single track cycling, and more; and sports fields for youth and adults. A hub of commerce along Interstate 80, Coralville's Iowa River Landing and Coral Ridge Mall include national retailers and local one-of-a-kind shops, restaurants to satisfy all cravings, and sculpture walk, wetlands park, and indoor ice rink for a change of pace. Coralville has something for everyone!



FAIRFAX WELCOME HOME.

Named #1 on Best Towns to Live in Iowa list, populations 1,000-5,000 with perfect scores in affordability, education, and safety by HomeSnacks. Enjoy the lowest tax levy of any full-service community in Linn County. Build in our new housing development or act quickly on an existing home, they sell fast! Close to employment, education, entertainment, and healthcare. Students attend College Community School District where Prairie Pride runs high. USA Days celebration each June ends with the best fireworks around! Love parks? Enjoy six city parks featuring a dog park, sports fields, basketball court, disc golf, tennis court, volleyball courts, playgrounds, and trails. Our year-round bike & pedestrian trail system will soon link to Cedar Rapids. Let Fairfax welcome you home!



HIAWATHA SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING.

Hiawatha's easy access to Interstate 380, upscaled affordable neighborhoods and its big city living with a small-town atmosphere makes Hiawatha a perfect place to raise a family and grow a business. Come explore our trails, play a round of Frisbee golf, enjoy our beautiful parks while you soak up the sun as your family kicks around at the splash pad.

Hiawatha is an engaged community who prides ourselves on the safety and health of its residents. Its rich culture, world-class medical care, shopping, outdoor entertainment, excellent schools and the city's like-minded business attitude is reflected in their one stop shop promoting growth.

We invite you to come find your perfect place and grow with us!



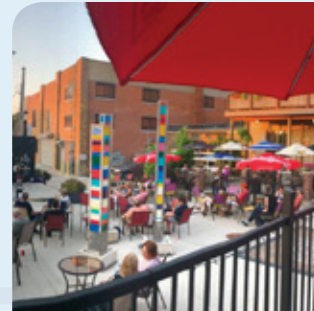
IOWA CITY AN UNESCO CITY OF LITERATURE.

Arts, culture, education and athletics is the bedrock upon which Iowa City is built. The capital of Iowa for ten years until 1857, legislators traded that designation for the honor of becoming home to the new State University of Iowa. The gold-domed Old Capitol building, now the centerpiece of the University campus, provides the backdrop for myriad festivals and events throughout the year. Downtown Iowa City pulses with live music and sidewalk cafés, a robust retail landscape and author readings in iconic bookshops. A UNESCO City of Literature for ten years on, Iowa City also boasts a renowned Book Festival and a children's literature event called One Book Two Book. These gems, combined with world class healthcare, a top-notch school district, and terrific recreational opportunities, make Iowa City an enviable place to call home.



MARENGO DOING INDEPENDENCE DAY RIGHT.

Marengo is a small town, that offers big town amenities and a chance to get away from the hustle and bustle of the bigger cities in the region. Local, family-owned grocery, hardware, farm, and convenience stores provide services close to home. Compass Memorial Hospital is a full-service hospital and family medical clinic that offers inpatient and outpatient procedures, internal medicine, pediatrics, women's health services, dialysis, and MRI services. Iowa Valley School District is strongly supported by the parents and community, providing fine arts programs, athletics, FCS, FFA, Silver Cord, National Honor Society, and Nerd Herd affiliations. Local Gateway Park includes a clear, 41-acre lake surrounded by walking and biking trails, offering great fishing and kayaking. Marengo is also one of "10 Iowa Towns that do Independence Day Right" according to the *Des Moines Register*!



MARION REACH HIGHER. ACHIEVE MORE.

Marion is one of the Midwest's fastest growing cities—and one of the youngest per capita. We pride ourselves on being the best place in Iowa to raise a family and grow a business.

Whether you enjoy music in the City Square on a warm summer night, Christmas in the Park in December, the nationally-acclaimed Marion Arts Festival in the spring, or walking the trails on a crisp fall morning, it's no wonder Marion is named one of the 10 Best Towns for Families by *Family Circle Magazine*.

Reach Higher. Achieve More. In business and in life.



MOUNT VERNON **ONE OF THE COOLEST** **SMALL TOWNS.**

Mount Vernon is a historic college town on the Old Lincoln Highway with distinctive, nationally recognized restaurants, art studios, antiques, specialty shops and bed-and-breakfast inns. Guests in town can visit one of Mount Vernon's three registered National Historic Districts, including the entire Cornell College campus, the downtown shopping area with 36 retail stores and nine restaurants, or the Ash Park neighborhood full of Victorian homes. Drop by on the first weekend in May and take part in Iowa's largest chalk festival or come by the first Thursday after Thanksgiving and take part in Magical Night. Throughout the year, attend one of many festivals, concerts or events, or come simply to enjoy the small-town charm. We love guests! Find out why *Budget Travel Magazine* voted Mount Vernon one of America's Coolest Small Towns!



NORTH LIBERTY **CONNECTED TO** **WHAT MATTERS.**

In the heart of the region, North Liberty is a thriving and young community; a family-friendly small town with easy access to big-city amenities. North Liberty offers sweeping sunsets over backyards and open fields, ice cream on the way home from baseball practice, miles of trails and acres of parks. The town is home to the headquarters of local media, regional financial and national transportation companies, and with solar energy and tech startups and entrepreneurs getting their big ideas off the ground. The kid-friendly community offers great schools, recreation and library programs and some of the best restaurant patios around. North Liberty is home to neighbors you know and people you love, and a place near Hawkeye sports, world-class healthcare, performing arts and shopping in ICR.



ROBINS **COMMUNITY. FAMILY.** **FRIENDS.**

Robins, Iowa, the third largest city in Linn County in terms of area, is a welcoming small town ideal for family life. Located four miles north of Cedar Rapids, Robins has more than 3,440 residents, and it's always growing! In order to better serve its growing population, Robins has grown its park space and walking trails over the last decade. In 2008, grants from the Resource Enhancement and Protection and Department of Natural Resources made it possible to expand South Troy Park, the oldest park in Robins. The concepts for East Knoll Park were completed in 2008 and the new pavilion opened in 2011.

The Cedar Valley Nature Trail can be accessed from several points in Robins. Four miles of the trail run through the city, north to south, County Home Road to Tower Terrace Road. Trailheads with parking can be accessed just off of Boyson Road as well as just off County Home Road. The trail in South Troy Park will be expanded and will connect to the Cedar Valley Nature Trail near Robins Road.



SOLON **A PLACE TO PUT** **DOWN ROOTS.**

Solon is ideally located in northern Johnson County between Iowa City and Cedar Rapids which brings a combination of opportunities that enhance the quality of life for those who call the Solon community home. A neighbor to Lake Macbride State Park and Coralville Reservoir, these scenic nature areas near Solon provide a variety of recreation activities such as bike trails, hiking, camping, boating and fishing, and two golf courses add to the outdoor recreation opportunities. The Solon Recreation and Nature Area is a 57-acre city park on Solon's west side that is a wonderful reflection of community collaboration of the city and school district working together as a community. Solon Main Street is a destination, and foodies won't be disappointed when they stroll Main Street and find authentic recipes and farm-fresh menus.



TIFFIN **A GROWING** **COMMUNITY.**

Tiffin is a small but growing community with big opportunities. Although primed for growth, Tiffin still has a quiet lifestyle without the hustle and bustle. It has all the conveniences of ICR Iowa like great working, shopping and cultural prospects that are only minutes away. Tiffin is a young community that has pristine parks, a great trail system and home to the fantastic Clear Creek Amana School District. Tiffin prides itself on its long history and strength of a growing community.

F.W. Kent Park is located just west of Tiffin and is a popular site for outdoor recreation. This picturesque 1,052-acre park has a 27-acre lake and offers fishing, hiking, general exploring and a wonderful campground. Whether you come to simply appreciate the views of the park or participate in all the outdoor activities, you will truly love one of Iowa's premier county parks.

Marion



TIPTON WELCOME.

Tipton has the warmth and friendliness of a small town that will make you feel right at home. As the county seat, Tipton is center of the area with a busy downtown, growing Business Park and plenty of amenities to make it an enjoyable place to stay, work and play. Tipton offers a wide array of housing; from turn-of-the-century historic Victorian homes to newly-built modern homes. You don't have to travel far to dive into some fun at Tipton's James Kennedy Aquatic Center! Then, relax at Tipton's 33- acre park where it is home to play equipment, tennis courts, disc golf, skateboard park, basketball courts and ball diamonds as well as 3 pavilions. Tipton offers retail stores, a full-service grocery store, art galleries, antiques shops, pharmacy, flowers, coffee, furniture, bakery and the list goes on! Tipton Community School District serves approximately 900 K-12 students in three buildings. Class sizes are small, and educators are top-notch!

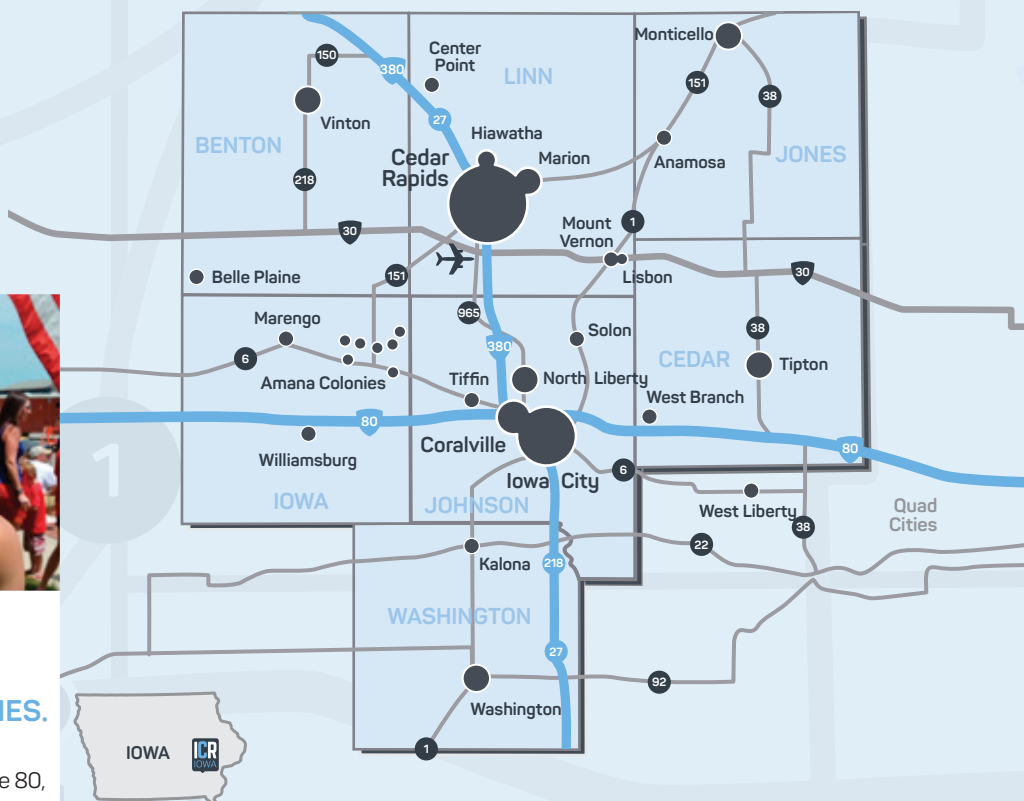


WILLIAMSBURG SMALL TOWN. BIG OPPORTUNITIES.

Located just off Interstate 80, Williamsburg is not your typical small town! Williamsburg is home to a vibrant business community including leading agricultural manufacturers, a strong entrepreneurial spirit as well as a large retail offering.

Williamsburg takes quality of life very seriously, with award-winning recreational opportunities, active civic organizations, community events and an Iowa Top 10 school district. The Williamsburg square is rich with history and commerce and has consistently been named as one of the "best town squares in Iowa."

No matter your stage in life, you can plant your roots in Williamsburg! Whether you're just starting out, growing your family or looking for the perfect place to retire...you'll find it all in Williamsburg!

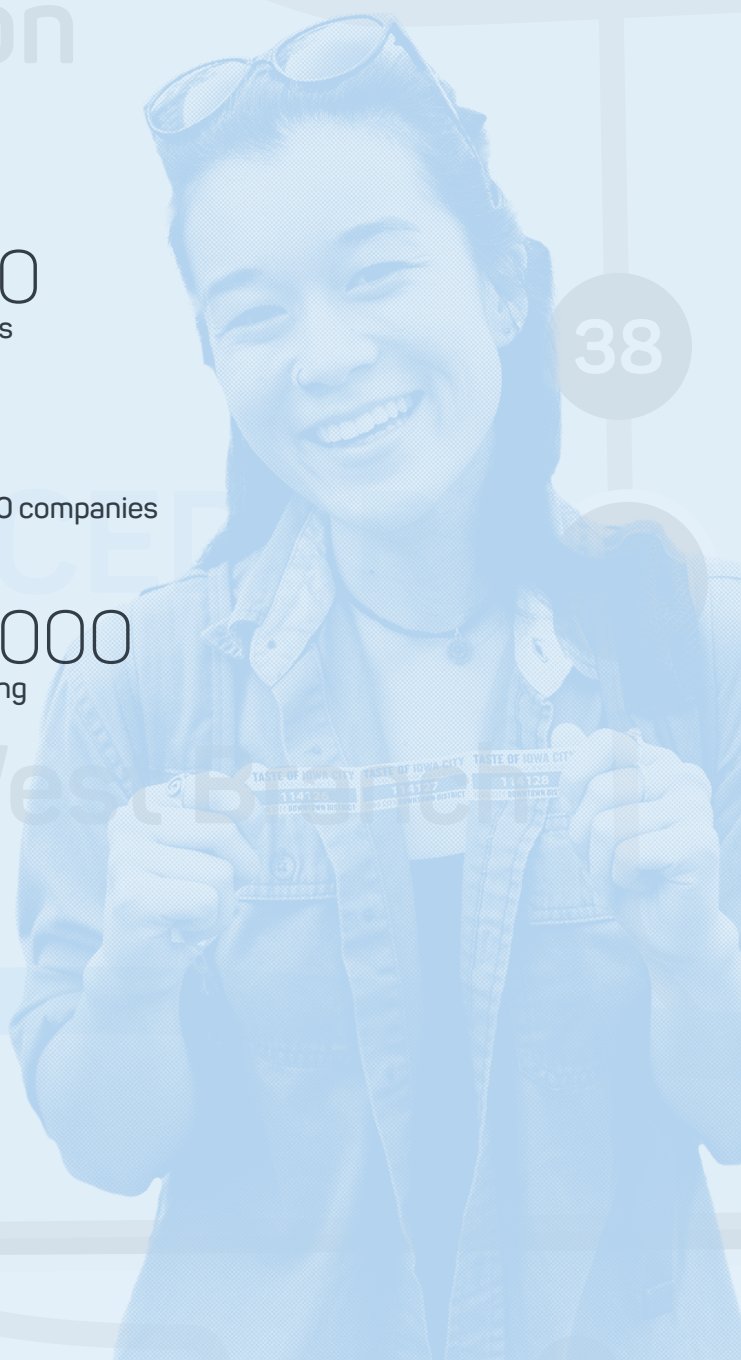


7
counties

4,400
square miles

30
Fortune 500 companies

463,000
people strong





WHY WE LOVE ICR IOWA

1. Our neighbors are smart and reliable.
2. We never worry about earthquakes.
3. A 15-minute commute IS rush hour.
4. Our kids go to award-winning PUBLIC schools.
5. 10 gigabytes is how we roll.
6. Have you seen the Kinnick Wave?
7. We can afford houses without roommates.
8. Time for dinner parties and little league (see #3).
9. Yep, we really are Iowa Nice.
10. That Big Ten college vibe! Go Hawks!







#6 ON OUR LIST OF WHY WE LOVE ICR IOWA

HERE, IT'S REAL.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The University of Iowa Office of Strategic Communication
Christopher Hunter of the Iowa City Downtown District
Robyn Hepker
Think Iowa City
Cedar Rapids Community School District
Mehrdad Zarifkar



ICRIOWA.ORG



501 FIRST STREET SE
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401



136 SOUTH DUBUQUE STREET
IOWA CITY, IA 52240