



Jessica Rilling/INHF

The half-mile long, 13-story High Trestle Trail bridge will be one of the largest trail bridges in the world. Join us in any of the five trail towns for the trail's Grand Celebration on April 30, 2011 (rain or shine).



# Celebrate a world-class trails destination

by Jack Thumser

The Grand Celebration of central Iowa's High Trestle Trail will mark both a finish line and a starting line for Iowa trails.

"Iowa is positioning itself as the world capital of trails, and this trail's stunning bridge will be one of the showpieces," said Lisa Hein, Program and Planning Director for the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. "The High Trestle Trail is also a key segment in what's now a 670-mile trail system throughout central Iowa."

Formerly called the Ankeny to Woodward Trail, the High Trestle Trail winds 25 miles through rural and urban landscapes in five towns and four counties. Its centerpiece is the High Trestle bridge – a half-mile, 13-story jewel that spans the Des Moines River between Woodward and Madrid. Union Pacific, sold this former railroad corridor to INHF at a bargain price.

## Showcasing railroad towns

In addition to benefiting trail-users, the trail is expected to bolster the economies of its host communities: Ankeny, Slater, Sheldahl, Madrid and Woodward.

As part of the trail's Grand Celebration festivities, each town will feature events or activities designed to take people off the trail and into the communities. Planned events range from a pancake breakfast in Ankeny to an outdoor art show

in Slater, with more on the drawing board. Participants will receive a Grand Celebration "passport" to check off as they complete their trip to all five towns.

"It's just amazing to see what these towns and counties can accomplish," said Liz Neumann, chair of the High Trestle Trail Grand Celebration Committee. "They've had so much enthusiasm about this project and the Celebration."

## Almost ready...

The trail is open except where construction continues on the bridge and some trailheads. Trail users must respect construction signs and closed areas to avoid delaying completion.

INHF partnered with the Polk, Boone, Dallas and Story County Conservation Boards, as well as the trail towns, to complete the trail. The partners will continue to work together in the future to maintain and manage this world-class trail.

In the meantime, mark your calendar for the Grand Celebration on April 30 and keep watching [www.hightrestletrail.info](http://www.hightrestletrail.info) as event plans unfold. 🍷

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