

City of Cedar Falls



About

The City of Cedar Falls is located in Black Hawk County, in the State of Iowa, United States of America. Originally named Sturgis Falls after its first settler, William Sturgis, it was later renamed after the river that flows through the city. However the city's founders are honored each year with a three day community-

wide celebration named in their honor - the Sturgis Falls Celebration.

Because of the availability of water power, Cedar Falls developed as a milling and industrial center prior to the Civil War. The establishment of the Civil War Soldiers' Orphans Home in Cedar Falls changed the direction in which the city developed when, following the war, it became the first building on the campus of the Iowa State Normal School (now the University of Northern Iowa).

Cedar Falls is home to the University of Northern Iowa, one of Iowa's three state universities. In addition to programming provided by the City's Hearst Center for the Arts and Parks and Recreation Divisions and the outstanding education provided by the Cedar Falls Schools, the University provides additional opportunities for academic, cultural and athletic activities.

Mayor Jon T. Crews



Jon Crews was sworn in as Mayor in January of 2000. He is currently serving his thirteenth term, which will expire December 31, 2011. Mayor Crews is a native Iowan, born in Waterloo and raised in Cedar Falls.

Jon received his BA in teaching in 1970, MA in History in 1975, and MBA in 1991. Jon and his wife Ronelle have six children and two grandchildren.

Jon has been active as a community volunteer. He has served on boards for the United Way, the American Heart Association, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and volunteers for Habitat for Humanity and various church projects.

He has taught at UNI, worked for Deere & Co., MCI-WorldCom, Omega Cabinets, and served as Black Hawk County Treasurer.

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220 Clay Street, Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 273-8600

ci.Cedar-Falls.ia.us

Going Green in Cedar Falls

The City of Cedar Falls is a progressive town with multiple efforts toward sustainability. The city benefits from being the home of the University of Northern Iowa, which hosts the State of Iowa's Center for Energy & Environmental Education. From responsible food systems to energy conservation and renewability, Cedar Falls acts as a demonstration laboratory for many of their programs. Economic development organizations banded together in 2009 to sponsor a Cedar Valley Green Certified Business program that provides a pathway for businesses to assess their green practices and plan for a steady change towards a more sustainable future. Source: PreservationNation.org



Environmentally Sensitive Lands Survey

Background and Introduction (excerpt)

Cedar Falls and the surrounding area host a range of desirable natural features, including the Cedar River, Dry Run Creek, various wetlands and floodplains, quality natural communities, and rare plants and animals.

In addition to their intrinsic value as natural areas, these open spaces also provide passive and active recreational opportunities such as hiking, biking, canoeing, and nature observation.

If well planned for during the development process, these open spaces can also reduce flooding, reduce infrastructure and its long-term maintenance cost, provide buffers for wildlife and water quality, and others.

Natural areas contribute to the unique identity and quality of life here, helping Cedar Falls attract and retain quality businesses and residents.

Cedar Falls has experienced increased growth pressure in the last ten to fifteen years. The city staff, elected officials and residents recognize the pressure that this growth will place on its natural resources, and is moving proactively to identify sensitive natural features and opportunities to develop planning policies that balance growth with appropriate protection of natural areas and water resources.

In order to successfully incorporate natural areas and water resources into the planning process, the city also recognized the need for a survey of the location and type of existing resources. This [Environmentally Sensitive Lands Survey \(ESLS\)](#) provides a solid set of information that can be used to guide a variety of land use planning efforts and policy decisions.

