

Facts About Iowa County

Iowa County lies in a scenic area of southwestern Wisconsin. The northern boundary of the county is the Wisconsin River. Highway 23 runs north and south through the county and Highway 18 runs east and west. The county seat is Dodgeville.

A History of Iowa County

Iowa County was part of the Michigan Territory in the 1830's. In 1836 the Wisconsin Territory was created from the Michigan Territory, and in 1848 the State of Wisconsin was created from the Wisconsin Territory. Dodgeville became the county seat in 1861, and is the site of Wisconsin's oldest operating Courthouse.



Early settlers came to Iowa County to mine lead, and several mines were operating around Dodgeville, Mineral Point and Barneveld. In the late 1820's this area furnished 75 percent of the U.S. needs for lead.

Population Numbers

[Iowa County](#) is a region of villages and small cities. Population density is about 25 people per square mile.

The 2000 Census shows a total population in Iowa County of 22,780. This includes 5,891 in the villages, 10,052 in the 14 rural townships, and 6,837 in the cities of [Dodgeville](#) and [Mineral Point](#).

Industry

The degree of industrialization is light, and agriculture is by far the largest employer of labor. Some of the large non-agriculture industries include [Lands' End](#), an international catalog retailer, [Upland Hills Health](#), located in Dodgeville, [Alliant Energy](#) at Mineral Point, [Iowa County Government](#), and [Walnut Hollow Farms](#), a distributor of hardwoods for craft projects.

Recreation Resources

In the last several years, tourism has had a considerable impact on Iowa County. Three state parks are located in Iowa County: [Governor Dodge Park](#) at Dodgeville, [Blue Mounds State Park](#) at Blue Mounds, and Tower Hill State Park at Spring Green. In addition, the Cobb/Highland Commission oversees [Blackhawk Lake](#) between Cobb and Highland.

In addition, there are many private attractions in the area, the largest being [House on the Rock](#) near Spring Green. [Mineral Point](#) with its steep hills and narrow streets has become famous for the artist and craftspeople who have settled there and is the home of [Pendarvis Historical Site](#). [Folklore Village](#) east of Dodgeville hosts ethnic and cultural activities year around. The [American Players Theatre](#) near Spring Green is a professional, classical theatre with 1148 comfortably cushioned seats in a natural amphitheater just off the Wisconsin River. Founded in 1979, the Theatre has grown in popularity and now is the most popular outdoor classical theater in the country.

Schools

There are four school districts in Iowa County: [Dodgeville](#), [Mineral Point](#), Highland and [Barneveld](#), and four that border Iowa County and include Iowa County youth ([Iowa Grant](#) at Livingston, [River Valley](#) at Spring Green, [Pecatonica](#) at Blanchardville, and [Riverdale](#) at Muscoda).

