

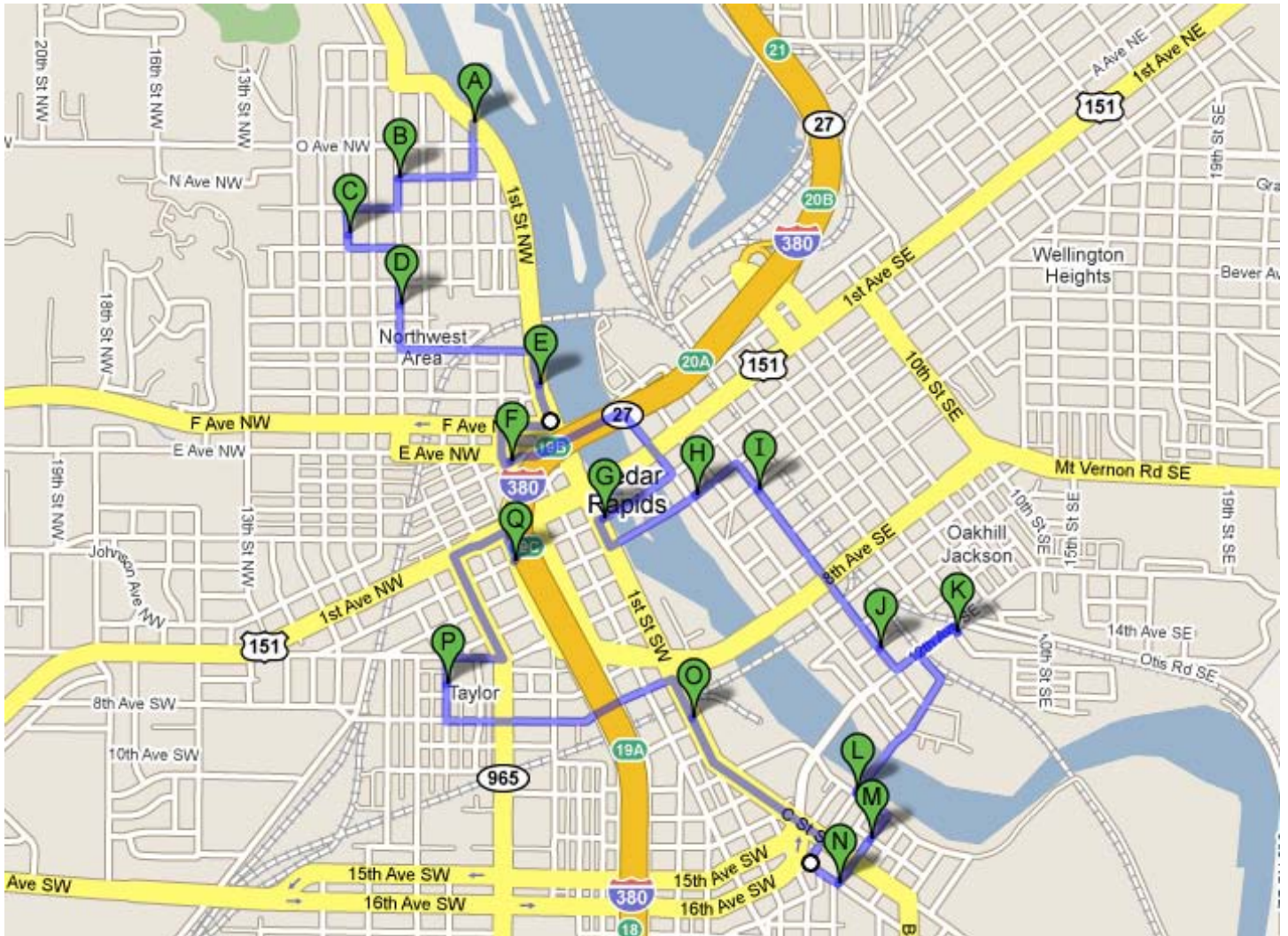


# CEDAR RAPIDS

## FLOOD STORY™



## Driving Tour



The Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and Cedar Rapids Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and Corridor Recovery have teamed up to bring you the Cedar Rapids Flood Story Driving Tour, a RIVERnaissance affiliated event.

Each location on the tour is marked with a sign noting the height of the water on June 13, 2008.

The Flood of 2008 forever changed Cedar Rapids. When the Cedar River crested, it extended well beyond the 500-year flood plain covering more than 10 square miles of the city. The Cedar Rapids Flood Story Driving Tour takes you through the city, telling the stories of 17 participating organizations; stories of triumph, strength, resilience, struggle, heartbreak, and progress

A year later, thousands of residents are struggling to rebuild. The water overtook neighborhoods no one ever dreamed would flood; it flowed through nearly every downtown business and most public buildings, displacing city and county services. This tour will highlight points of interest that were flooded, providing an opportunity for visitors and residents to see first-hand where the water went.

**A** **Time Check House**  
1600 1st St NW



Head **south** on **4th St NW** toward **O Ave NW** 0.1 mi  
Turn **right** at **N Ave NW** 0.2 mi

**B** **Boys & Girls Club**  
1501 Ellis Blvd NW



We recieved an estimated 12 to 13 feet of water. Floodwaters got 3 feet into second floor gymnasium...entire first floor areas flooded. Fate of existing building yet to be determined. (built as the Ellis YMCA beginning around 50 years ago. Site was where the original St. James Church stood). Building considered close to total loss.

Head **south** on **Ellis Blvd NW** toward **M Ave NW** 407 ft  
Turn **right** at **M Ave NW** 0.1 mi  
Turn **left** at **9th St NW** 341 ft

**C** **Mother Mosque**  
1335 9th St NW



National Historic Landmark. Oldest mosque structure in North America. 10 feet of floodwater in half basement came within 6 inches of entering main floor. Major historic losses...irreplaceable documents, photos, artwork gone. Now completely restored and accepting visitors again.

Head **south** on **9th St NW** toward **L Ave NW** 184 ft  
Turn **left** at **L Ave NW** 0.1 mi  
Turn **right** at **Ellis Blvd NW** 0.1 mi  
Destination will be on the right

**D** **A & W on Ellis**  
1136 Ellis Blvd NW

A & W Root Beer restaurant was an icon in the blue collar neighborhood called Time Check. It was the oldest drive-in restaurant in Cedar Rapids. The owner, Doug Ward, lost his home, business and church in the flood.



Head **south** on **Ellis Blvd NW** toward **J Ave NW** 0.1 mi  
Turn **left** at **I Ave NW** 0.3 mi  
Turn **right** at **1st St NW** 449 ft  
Destination will be on the right

**E** **Diamond V. Mills**  
838 1st St NW

We were the first manufacturer affected by the flood to be up and running in just 8.5 days. The commitment of our employees truly make this a great company!



Head **south** on **1st St NW** toward **G Ave NW** 476 ft  
Turn **right** at **F Ave NW** 0.1 mi  
Turn **left** at **3rd St NW** 0.1 mi

**F** **Central Fire Station**  
200 3<sup>rd</sup> St NW

The Fire Department's Central Fire Station was built in 1985 and was the main administrative office and largest fire station in the City. A dozen pieces of fire apparatus, three firefighter crews, and fire administrative staff were evacuated on June 11th prior to flood waters inundating the facility. This Central Fire Department was badly damaged. The building, not considered within the 100 year floodplain, had approximately 12 feet of water flowing through it. Hundreds of thousands of dollars of valuable safety equipment, files, and supplies was lost.



Turn **left** at **B Ave NW** 62 ft  
Slight **right** at **E Ave NW** 0.1 mi  
Continue on **E Ave NE** 0.2 mi  
Turn **right** at **1st St NE** 0.2 mi  
Turn **right** at **2nd Ave SW** 0.2 mi

**G** **Veterans Memorial Coliseum/  
Cedar Rapids City Hall**  
50 2nd Ave SW

On the island, water levels reached as high as 5.65 feet above the mezzanine level! The Veteran's Memorial Building was home to City Hall and approximately 120 employees. Thankfully most of the files and equipment were saved. The City did lose some furniture and archival records stored in the basement. City Hall is now in a temporary location and options are being explored for the future.



Head **southwest** on **2nd Ave SW** toward **1st St SW** 69 ft  
Turn **left** at **1st St SW** 381 ft  
Turn **left** at **3rd Ave SW** 180 ft  
Continue on **3rd Ave Bridge** 0.1 mi  
Continue on **3rd Ave SE** 328 ft  
Destination will be on the right

**H** **Paramount Theatre**  
123 3rd Ave SE

Flood water level reached 8 feet along Third Avenue SE entrance lobby (less than 2 feet from underside of marquee)



Head **northeast** on **3rd Ave SE** toward **2nd St SE** 0.1 mi  
Turn **right** at **3rd St SE** 453 ft

**I** **Sokol Hall**  
417 3rd St SE

9 feet of floodwater within the building from sidewalk level and up. Entire lower level flooded. Four feet of floodwater on main floor. Building had just reached the century mark at the time of the flood. Historic details uncovered during post flood cleanup including original 1908 mosaic tile "Sokol" emblem on main floor. Final decision not yet made on fate of the building and/or whether Sokol will return here.



---

Head **southeast** on **3rd St SE** toward **5th Ave SE** 0.5 mi

---

**J** **CSPS/Legion Arts**  
**1103 3rd St SE**

Flood water level was 10.5 feet on the first floor, 11 feet from sidewalk level into the first floor of the building. All front plate glass windows blown out from force of rushing water.



---

Head **southeast** on **3rd St SE** toward **12th Ave SE** 358 ft  
Turn **left** at **12th Ave SE** 0.2 mi  
Turn **right** at **5th St SE** 98 ft

---

**K** **St. Wenceslaus Church**  
**1224 5th St SE**

Flood water level was 6 feet high from sidewalk. Water was one foot high on main floor. Entire basement submerged.



---

Head **northwest** on **5th St SE** toward **12th Ave SE** 98 ft  
Turn **left** at **12th Ave SE** 0.1 mi  
Turn **left** at **4th St SE** 456 ft  
Turn **right** at **14th Ave SE** 0.2 mi  
Continue on **16th Ave SE** 0.1 mi

---

**L** **National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library**  
**30 16th Ave SW**

Floodwater reached 8 feet high inside main building from sidewalk. Water slightly touched lowest element of large chandelier in the Grand Hall. (Rushing water moved the chandelier slightly)



---

Head **southeast** on **A St SW** toward **17th Ave SW** 0.1 mi  
Turn **right** at **18th Ave SW** 384 ft

---

**M** **Residential Area**  
**1800 B St SW**



---

Head **southwest** on **18th Ave SW** toward **C St SW** 0.1 mi  
Turn **right** at **D St SW** 402 ft  
Turn **right** at **16th Ave SW** 380 ft  
Turn **left** at **C St SW** .4 mi  
Slight **right** at **1st St SW** .1 mi

---

**O** **Linn County Administration Building**  
**930 1st St SW**

The Linn County Administrative Office Building (AOB) was one of 10 County buildings damaged by the flood. The offices are temporarily located at 2500 Edgewood Rd. SW in Cedar Rapids. The County plans to return the AOB following reconstruction.



---

Head **northwest** on **1st St SW** toward **8th Ave SW** 0.1 mi  
Turn **left** at **8th Ave SW** 0.5 mi  
Turn **right** at **7th St SW** 331 ft  
Turn **left** at **7th Ave SW** 115 ft

---

**P** **Taylor Elementary School**  
**720 7th Ave SW**

3 Feet of Water.



---

Head **east** on **7th Ave SW** toward **6th St SW** 413 ft  
Turn **left** at **6th St SW** 0.4 mi  
Turn **right** at **1st Ave NW** 0.1 mi  
Turn **right** at **L St SW** 384 ft  
Turn **right** at **2nd Ave SW** 43 ft

---

**Q** **Cedar Rapids Community School District**

**Educational Service Center (ESC), Annex, and Carpenter/Paint Shop**

**346 2nd Ave SW**

When record floods besieged the Cedar Rapids community in June 2008, eight school district facilities were badly damaged, including the central service and administrative offices and Taylor Elementary School. Total school district damage tallies \$33.5 million. Since the flood, students and staff have adjusted to changes that include temporary classroom locations, a move to modular or leased office spaces, and an ongoing search for damaged documents. The forward focus remains key as the District continues the recovery effort.



(ESC: Educational Service Center = Annex, Carpenter and Paint Shop)