

# VOLGA RIVER

## Langeman's Ford to Garber

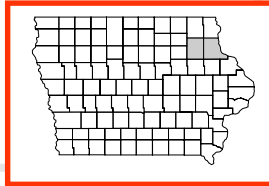


**T**HE VOLGA RIVER is a tributary of the Turkey River. It rises in Fayette County and joins the larger stream at Elkport in Clayton County. The Volga is a beautiful little stream, flowing through a deep, narrow valley bounded by high rolling hills and steep rock bluffs. In many places, the rugged scenery rivals that of the Upper Iowa.

**BECAUSE THE VOLGA** is a small stream, the water level can fluctuate rapidly. Be alert for sudden storms that may cause unexpected rises in river levels.

Paddlers should

also be aware of low water conditions occurring in late summer, particularly in the upper reaches of the river.



**FISHING THE VOLGA** is typical of other northeastern Iowa streams — smallmouth and rock bass in the upper sections with channel catfish further downstream.

**THE RIVER HAS NO** dangerous rapids or dams to portage, but users should be aware of occasional fallen trees that can easily flip the unwary canoeist. The river is also classified as a non-meandered stream throughout its course. This means the river bottom is private property. Landowners occasionally need to control their livestock on both sides of the river and may install fences across the path of your canoe or tube. Respect the landowners' property and negotiate their fences with care.

**THE UPPER RIVER SEGMENT** starts just east of Fayette at Langeman's Ford. The river curves north and west into the expansive Volga Lake Recreation Area.

Here you'll find camping, equestrian trails, hiking, sight-seeing and fishing in Volga Lake. The river then turns eastward toward Wadena, Volga and the Osborne Conservation Center. The latter is a highlight of any trip down the Volga and extra time should be set aside for a tour of the animal exhibit and the Iowa Welcome Center. Downstream, an old sawmill site is visible in Mederville on the right bank.

**AT NUMEROUS PLACES** along the lower river, bridge abutments of the old Milwaukee-Turkey railroad can be found. This branch ran up the narrow, twisting valley of the Volga from Garber to West Union. It was built between 1878 and 1882. The last train went over the line on February 2, 1938. The tracks were taken up and the bridges removed later that year. The old roadbed is still visible in many places.

**THE FINAL SEGMENT** of the river flows through Littleport — the site of an Indian meeting ground. The Volga then joins the Turkey River just above Elkport and flows on to Garber.

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Distance from Previous Access	Access Name	Location
0 miles	1. Langeman's Ford	1.5 mi E Fayette
5 miles	2. Volga River Campground	Volga River Recreation Area
2 miles	3. Volga River Access	Volga River Recreation Area
16 miles	4. Volga City Park	Volga
8 miles	5. Osborne Access	Osborne Conservation Cntr.
4 miles	6. Mederville Access	Mederville
14 miles	7. Garber Bridge	S edge Garber

