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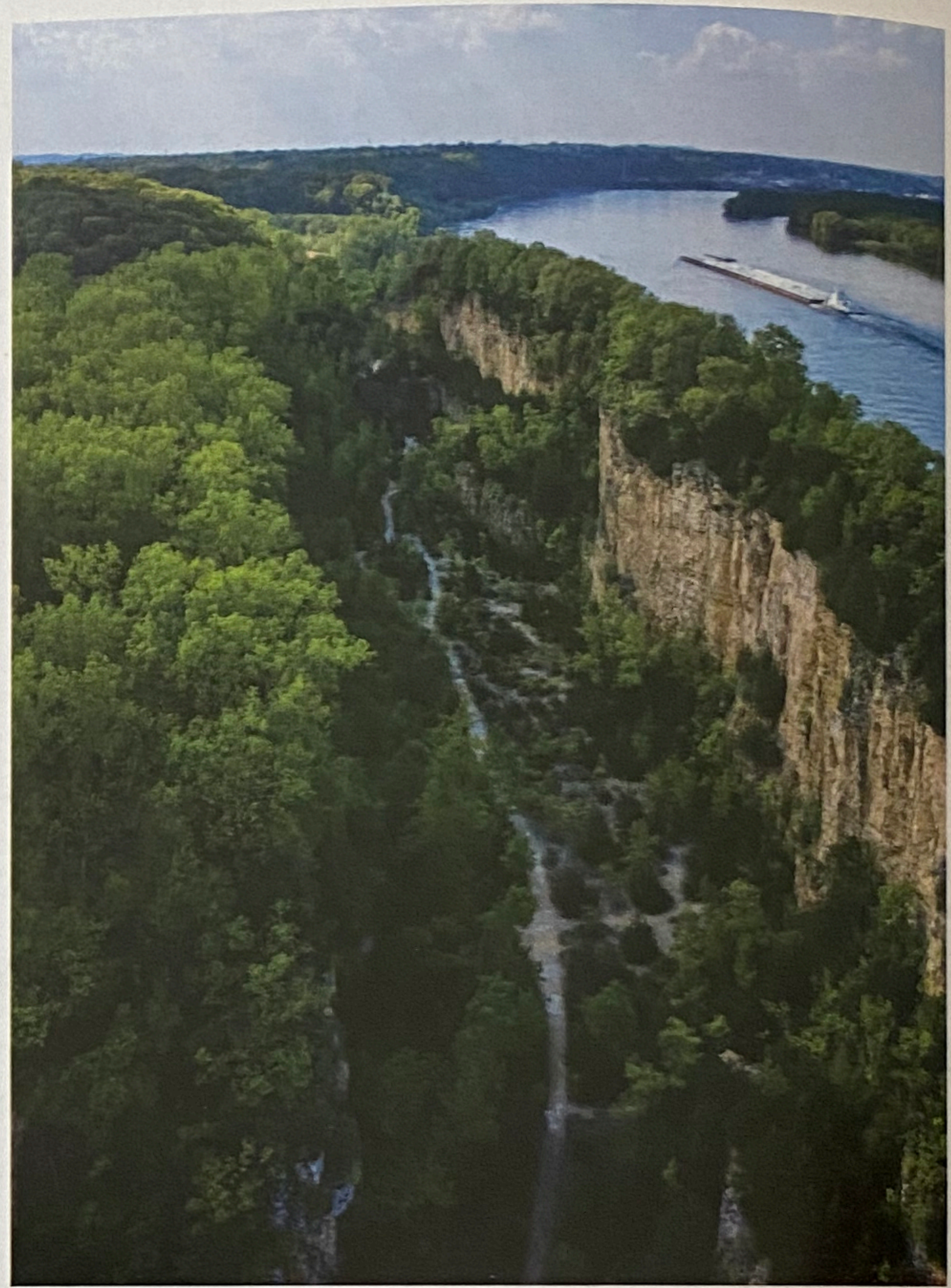
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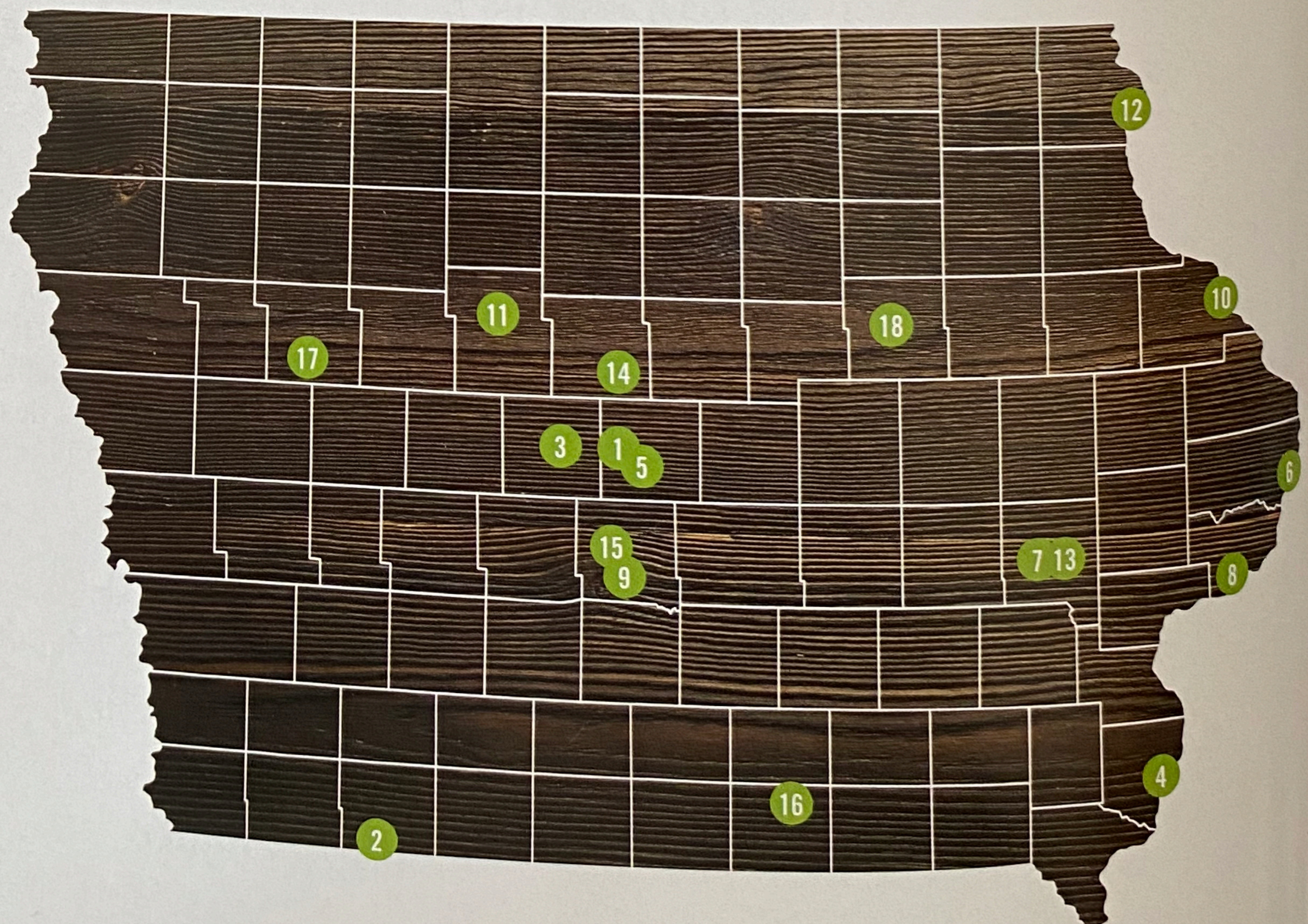
In January, Waterloo-based Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area announced the winners of its annual Capture the Heart of America photo contest. Awards went to top photos in each of six categories voted on by a panel of judges. Among those winners, Greg Punelli won best in show among online voters for his photo “Battle in the Blizzard” (below left), taken at the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge; Bee Klemzak took first place in the ‘Life on the Iowa Farm’ category for her photo “Ready to Work” (below middle); and Iowan contributor Brian Abeling submitted a photo (right) from the Mines of Spain Recreation Area that Silos & Smokestacks has chosen to appear on its 2021–22 Visitor’s Guide. View the complete list of award recipients at silosandsmokestacks.org.

Correction: In the Jan/Feb issue, an article about Whiterock Conservancy incorrectly stated that guests can drive their own utility terrain vehicles (UTVs) at the conservancy. You must rent a Whiterock-owned UTV to drive on conservancy land.



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BURLINGTON IN BLOOM

When its trees flower, Burlington is a splendid destination for daytrips or weekend getaways

Text by Erich Gaukel Photography by Brian Abeling



A crabapple tree in bloom at Crapo Park in Burlington.

Spring may begin just a little earlier here in the southeast corner of the state. Burlington, positioned on the Mississippi River, is scenic at any time of the year, but it's particularly appealing when the trees are blossoming in April and May. You'll find crabapple, flowering dogwood, red bud, and other trees showing their colors throughout the hilly city, but Crapo Park is the best place to walk among the trees. The park's arboretum is filled with more than 200 varieties of trees and shrubs.

Its garden also boasts an impressive collection of annuals and perennials. Walking paths will guide you, and you can gaze down on the mighty river from atop a bluff.

Though it's not as well known as San Francisco's Lombard Street, Burlington's Snake Alley (North 6th Street) is just as impressive. Consisting of five half curves and two quarter curves, this winding stretch of road connects Columbia and Washington Streets. According to the city, Snake

Alley curves over a distance of 275 feet, rising 58.3 feet (a 21 percent grade). Cyclists who compete in the annual Snake Alley Criterium know (and dread) the incline of this limestone and blue-clay lined street all too well. All sorts of trees and shrubs line Snake Alley, so take your time and walk up and down the street and enjoy the colors and smells of spring in Burlington.

Learn more at about attractions in the area at burlingtoniowa.org.



Top: From this angle, you can barely see the limestone and blue-clay surface of Snake Alley. **Above:** A flowering dogwood boasts its colors at Crapo Park.

From the bottom of the hill, you can visualize the steepness of a 21 percent climb. ▶

◀ An aerial view of the winding Snake Alley.



Above and opposite: Red bud trees bloom at South Hill Park overlooking downtown Burlington and the Mississippi River.

The Great River Bridge, built in 1993, is now a Burlington icon. ▶

▼ At Crapo Park, a crabapple tree blooms.

