

## = Iowa Highway 173 =

Iowa Highway 173 ( Iowa 173 ) is a 14 @-@ mile @-@ long ( 23 km ) state highway in western Iowa . It begins at Iowa 83 northwest of Atlantic and ends at Iowa 44 in Kimballton . Iowa 173 connects Elk Horn and Kimballton , two small towns with tributes to their residents ' Danish heritage . From its intersection with Interstate 80 ( I @-@ 80 ) north to Iowa 44 , Iowa 173 is designated as part of the Western Skies Scenic Byway . Designated in 1930 , the highway was originally a spur route into Elk Horn from Kimballton . The route was lengthened to its current extent in 1980 .

## = = Route description = =

Iowa 173 begins at an intersection with Iowa 83 three miles ( 4 @.@ 8 km ) northwest of Atlantic . It heads north through rural Cass County and intersects Interstate 80 ( I @-@ 80 ) at a partial cloverleaf interchange . Just north of the Interstate Highway , the route enters Shelby County . Further north , Iowa 173 passes through Elk Horn along Main Street where an authentic Danish windmill greets visitors to the Iowa welcome center .

North of Elk Horn , the highway curves to the west along the Shelby ? Audubon county line and then back to the north . It continues north for three miles ( 4 @.@ 8 km ) until it reaches Kimballton , where it also runs along Main Street . Near its northern end at Iowa 44 , Iowa 173 passes a replica of The Little Mermaid , a tribute to the town 's Danish heritage . The section of Iowa 173 from I @-@ 80 north to Iowa 44 is part of the 140 @-@ mile @-@ long ( 230 km ) Western Skies Scenic Byway .

## = = History = =

Iowa 173 was designated in 1930 along a dirt road as a 3 @-@ mile @-@ long ( 4 @.@ 8 km ) spur route from Iowa 7 near Kimballton south to Elk Horn . The road was graveled in late 1932 , and it was paved in 1956 . In 1980 , Iowa 173 was lengthened significantly to the south . The new 11 @-@ mile @-@ long ( 18 km ) section of the route was paved when it was designated . Since its extension , the route has not undergone any changes .

## = = Major intersections = =