

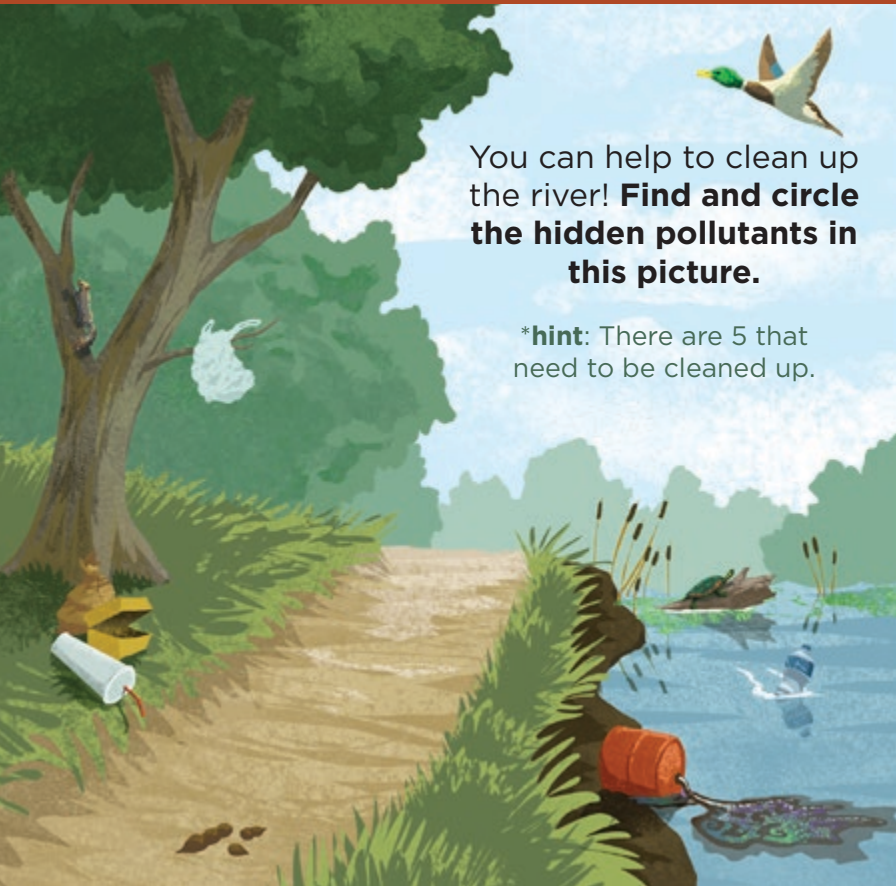
HOW CLEAN IS THE OXBOW?

The oxbow and the Big Sioux River both contain a lot of pollutants, such as garbage, fertilizers, or dog waste. Polluted water is never safe for people to drink and is often not safe to swim in.

Many animals and plants call the river home. By cleaning up our local river, we are making it safe and healthy for people and wildlife. It is a win for all species involved!



WHAT DOESN'T BELONG?



You can help to clean up the river! **Find and circle the hidden pollutants in this picture.**

*hint: There are 5 that need to be cleaned up.

TRACK your hike at

kidsinparks.com

and get **FREE** prizes!



Visit our website to find more TRACK Trail™ adventures near you!

Thanks for joining us today!



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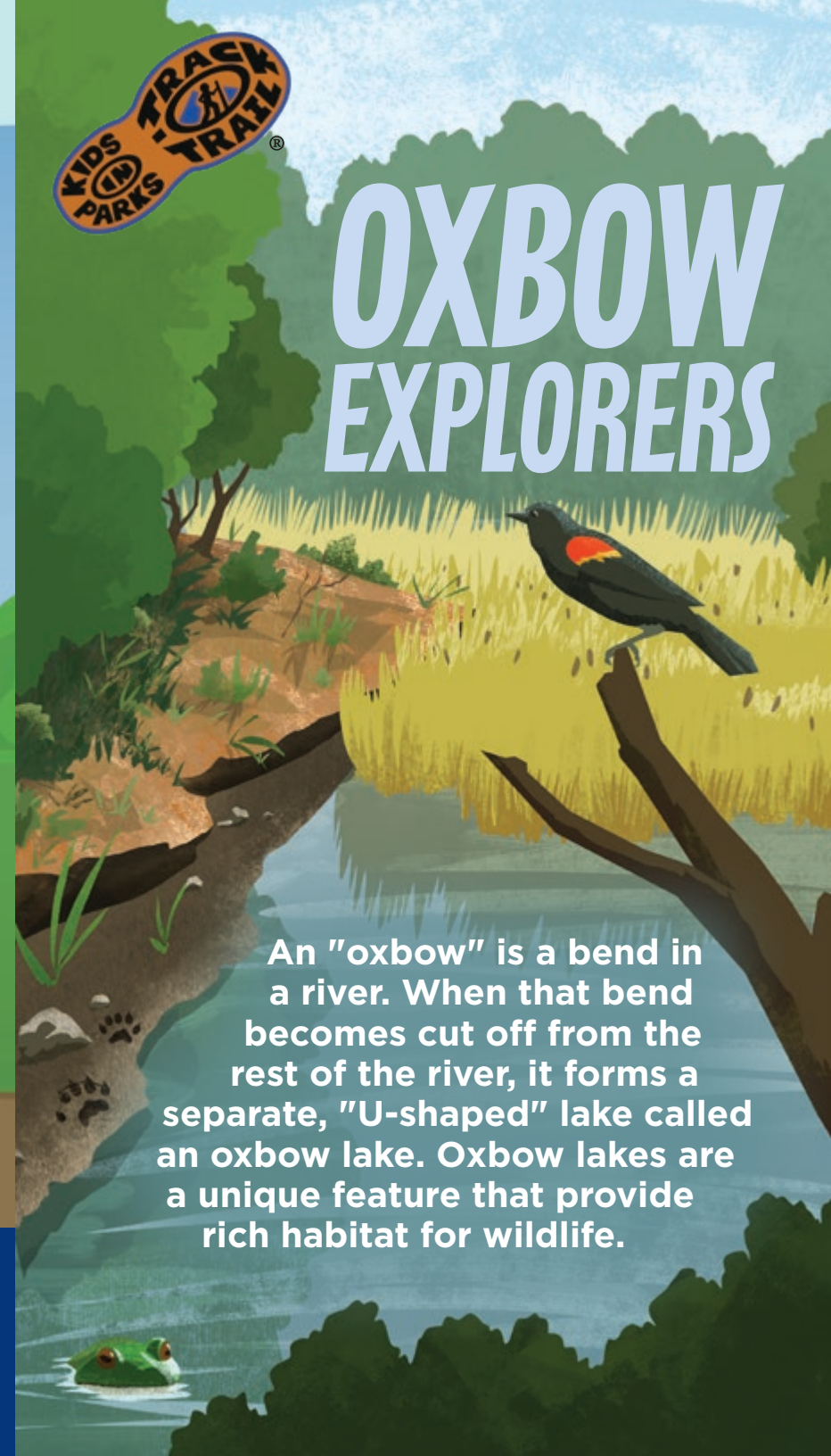
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OXBOW EXPLORERS

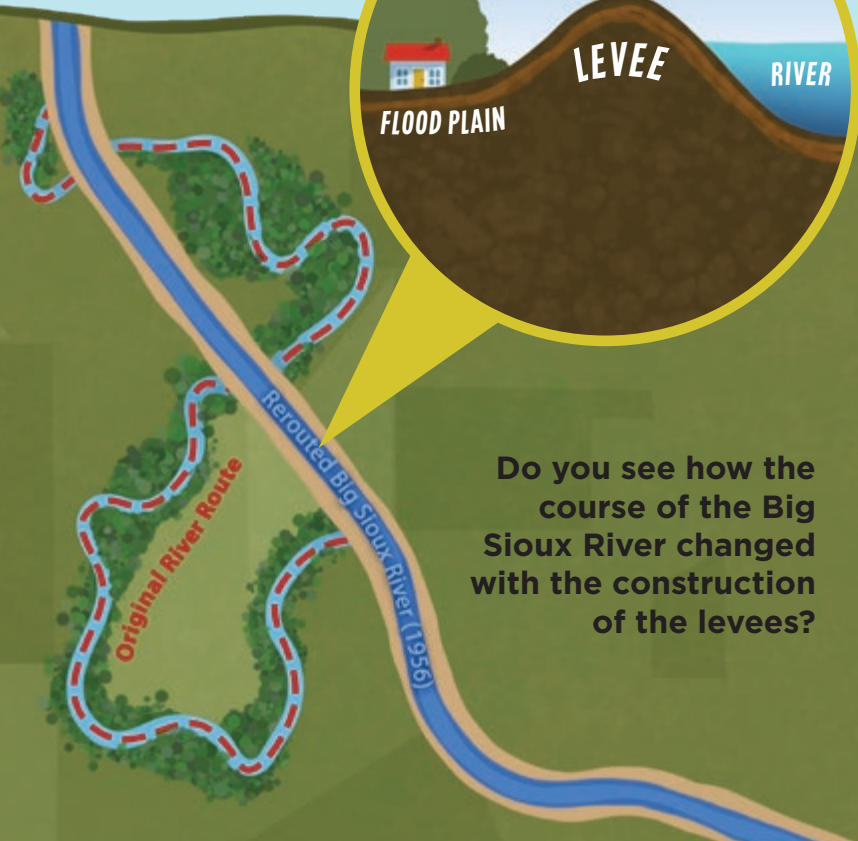
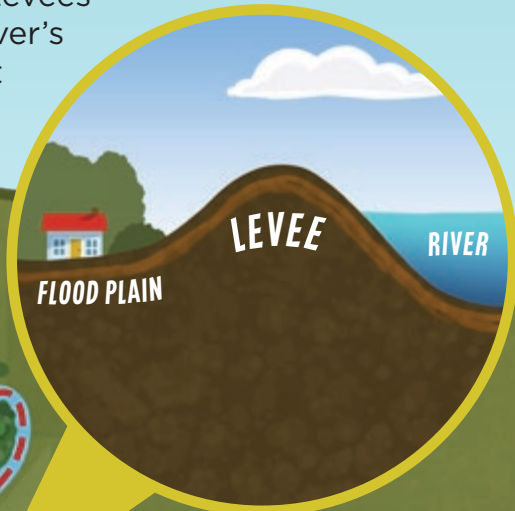


An "oxbow" is a bend in a river. When that bend becomes cut off from the rest of the river, it forms a separate, "U-shaped" lake called an oxbow lake. Oxbow lakes are a unique feature that provide rich habitat for wildlife.

WHY IS THE OXBOW HERE?

Sioux Falls is located along the Big Sioux River and has experienced periods of flooding over the years. In 1956, levees were created for flood control management. The levees redirected the Big Sioux River, cutting off the water around Sertoma Park and creating the oxbow lake.

A **levee** is a structure, often made of earth, that runs parallel to a river. Levees help to keep the river's course and protect against flooding.



Do you see how the course of the Big Sioux River changed with the construction of the levees?

5 SENSE SCAVENGER HUNT

Discover the hidden secrets of the oxbow lake!

The Oxbow Lake is more than meets the eye. Use your 5 senses to explore and discover the hidden secrets here.



SIGHT

What plants and animals do you see?

As you walk the Riparian Trail, can you spot these plants and animals?



Mallard

Painted Turtle

Duckweed

Cattails



SOUND

What do you hear that is in or near the oxbow?

A variety of different animals use the oxbow lake as their home or as a resting place on their journey. Check the animals below that you hear (or see).



Green Heron

Wood Duck

Bull Frog

Wild Turkey



SMELL

Why does the oxbow stink?

When water is not moving, some plants and aquatic creatures die because the oxygen levels drop. The natural breakdown or rotting of these plants and animals creates a "rotten egg" smell.

What do you think the oxbow smells like?

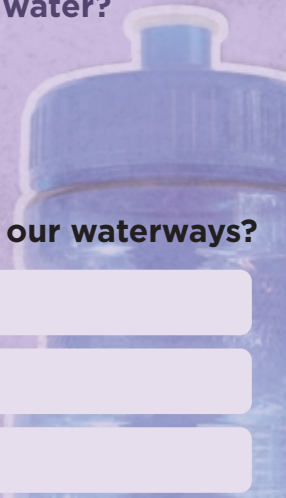


TASTE

Why wouldn't you drink this water?

Do NOT drink the oxbow water!

Take a drink out of your water bottle and appreciate the clean water the city provides for us.



What can you do to help clean up our waterways?

1.
2.
3.



TOUCH

How does the water of the oxbow lake move?

Roughly 1,514 acres drain into the oxbow and exit into the Big Sioux River through one-way pipes when it rains or snows.

Drop a leaf on one side of the bridge and time how long it takes for it to flow to the other side.



Record that time

 seconds