John Deere Tractor & Engine Museum

Explore interactive displays and marvel at classic machines. At the John Deere Tractor & Engine Museum, discover how the innovations of the past help to shape our future.

The evolution from horse-drawn to horsepower:

Opened in December 2014, the John Deere Tractor & Engine Museum in Waterloo, Iowa, offers a variety of exhibits educating visitors of all ages about the history of tractor and engine design and manufacturing in Iowa’s Cedar Valley. Built in 1941, the historic building that houses the facility is located on the site of the very first John Deere tractor factory. The original floors, beams, and brick wall stand as a lasting tribute to the work of past and present Deere employees.

The facility showcases the most comprehensive history of John Deere’s entry into the tractor business and the evolution of the company’s growth over time. It includes a collection of rare Deere artifacts such as the original check used to purchase the Waterloo Gasoline Engine Company. Several temporary exhibits on loan from private collectors are also featured. All equipment on loan includes the personal story behind it to share the history and bring the sentimentality of the piece to life.

Guests to the facility take an interactive walk through the history of John Deere tractors and engines, and are able to celebrate customers, employee contributions, and the continuing values of Deere & Company. Open during regular hours of operation, the gift shop features a large selection of branded apparel, toys, and other collectibles.

The John Deere Tractor & Engine Museum is located on the west side of the TechWorks Campus, a 30-acre advanced manufacturing, research and development, innovation, education, and commercial center in downtown Waterloo.
Tractor & Engine Museum
galleries and exhibits:

Our facility houses four main galleries, each featuring a variety of exhibits:

**Working the Land** — In the first gallery, guests trace the evolution of work from people power to the early days of tractors and engines.

**Storyline** — This area allows guests to explore the story behind John Deere’s arrival in Waterloo, how the company survived during times of global conflict and economic unrest, and uncovers the top-secret story behind the New Generation of Power.

**Product Spotlight** — In this section, learn about historic John Deere products. Hear the personal stories of John Deere owners from around the world. Sit in different tractor seats to experience the evolution of comfort and design. Test your ability to identify tractors by their engine sounds or their front ends.

**The Factory Site** — Explore the historic John Deere factory site through a fun, interactive floor map. See how the factory and its surrounding community changed over time.

**Employee Break Room** — Experience what it was like to work for John Deere and learn about the relationships forged by employees on and off the job.

**Making a Tractor** — This area follows the production of historic John Deere tractors from design to final assembly. Create a customized keepsake using your admission ticket as a time card to “clock in” and explore the historic Deere factory site on Westfield Avenue.

**Into the World** — The final gallery showcases the experience of how John Deere tractors and engines help people do their work today. Guests also learn about the important role of Deere dealerships throughout time and in the present day.

Visitor information:

The John Deere Tractor & Engine Museum is open daily year-round and is a free attraction. The Museum is closed New Year’s Day, July 4th, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Eve.

**Hours of Operation**
- Monday: 1–5pm
- Tuesday–Saturday: 9am–5pm
- Sunday: Closed

For more information about the John Deere Tractor & Engine Museum and our other Attractions, go to VisitJohnDeere.com. Photography of the Museum is available upon request. Members of the media should contact Wendy Artman at 920.819.8968 or email ArtmanWendy@JohnDeere.com. For lodging accommodations and to plan a trip to the area, check out ExperienceWaterloo.com.