

*Prairie Protection, Restoration
and Reconstruction in the
Central & Southern Loess Hills*

2017

*Iowa Prairie
Conference*

Loess Hills | Council Bluffs, IA | July 14-15, 2017

Iowa Western Community College
Looft Hall
Council Bluffs, Iowa

Welcome to the 2017 Iowa Prairie Conference!

The Loess Hills region includes some of Iowa's most precious cultural, historical and natural resources. This unique landform is located in Western Iowa on the eastern edge of the Missouri River floodplain. Spanning seven counties, the Loess Hills encompass roughly 1,080 square miles in size from Akron, Iowa to St. Joseph, Missouri. Nearly 32,500 acres of land are either in public ownership or public protection. The Loess Hills also contain 50-75% of Iowa's remaining native prairies.

The Loess Hills are made almost entirely of windblown soils. Toward the end of the last ice age, winds picked up soils that had been ground as fine as flour and formed dunes along the ancient waterway that became today's Missouri River. The process repeated itself during the thousands of years the ice age took to end, enlarging the dunes. Because the prevailing winds were from the northwest, the dunes on the Iowa side of the river were higher than those west of the Missouri. Although deposits of loess are found across the world, nowhere else but in the Yellow River Region of China are those deposits higher than they are in Iowa.

Eventually, topsoils evolved on the dunes and a unique natural community developed. Ice age animals like woolly mammoth, camel, giant beaver and giant sloth roamed the Loess Hills during its early years. Humans have lived here off and on for 6,000 years as evidenced by stone tools, spear points, pottery and burial sites.

The unique geological and topographic features of the hills, the extensive natural and semi-natural grasslands and forests and the many archaeological sites found in this one geologic landform create a treasure for the region. The Loess Hills National Scenic Byway, designated a national scenic byway in 2000, provides a great way for visitors and residents to explore this richness of resources. We hope that as you explore the central and southern portions of the Loess Hills during this year's Iowa Prairie Conference, you will come to love and appreciate the area as much as we do.

The 2017 Iowa Prairie Conference planning team:

Chad Graeve, Pottawattamie County Conservation Board

Glenn Pollock, Loess Hills Preservation Society

Graham McGaffin, The Nature Conservancy

Tim Sproul, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Lance Brisbois, Golden Hills RC&D



Special thanks to the Gilchrist Foundation for supporting the 2017 Iowa Prairie Conference.

Friday, July 14th

Registration & Breakfast

7 to 8 AM

Opening & Welcome, Lance Brisbois, Golden Hills RC&D

8 AM

Keynote At Home in the Hills, John Price

Looft Auditorium

Break 9 to 9:15 am

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

9:15 to 10:00 AM

Can Prairies and Agriculture Coexist? A Tale of Two Projects

Lisa Schulte Moore and Russ Benedict

Looft Auditorium

Land Protection Options

Erin Van Waus and Patrick Swanson

Looft Room 006

America's Great Outdoors (AGO)

Tim Sproul and Doug Helmers

Looft Room 008

Break 10:00 to 10:15 AM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

10:15 to 11:15 AM

Cooperative Burn Programs

Kody Wohlers, Scott Moats and Doug Chafa

Looft Auditorium

Conservation Corps of Iowa (CCI)

Mark Wilson

Looft Room 006

A History of Protecting the Loess Hills through Collaboration

Michelle Wodtke Franks

Looft Room 008

Break 11:15 to 11:30 AM

PRE-TRIP PRESENTATIONS

11:30 TO NOON

Northern Tour

Loess Hills State Forest, Murray Hill and Hitchcock Nature Center

Guides: Tim Sproul and Chad Graeve

Looft Room 006

Southern Tour

Folsom Point, Baylor Bowl, Biscuitroot Bluff, Militia Hollow, Waubonsie State Park

Guides: Matt Dollison and Suzanne Hickey

Looft Auditorium

Urban Tour

Vincent Bluff, Fairmount Park, Lewis & Clark Monument

Guides: Glenn Pollock, Jack Phillips and John Batt

Looft Room 008

Lunch Noon to 12:30 PM Boxed lunches available in Looft Hall lobby, catered by Iowa Western Community College.

Depart for Field Trips at 12:30. Buses will depart at the front entrance of Looft Hall.

Upon returning from field trips to Iowa Western, conference participants will drive to Hitchcock Nature Center for evening activities. Carpooling is encouraged. **Directions can be found at the end of the conference packet.**

FRIDAY EVENING SESSIONS:

Iowa Prairie Network Membership Meeting	5:30 to 6:00 PM	Hitchcock Nature Center
Iowa Native Plant Society Membership Meetings	6:00 to 6:30 PM	

DINNER

Catering provided by Staley's Chicken	6:30 to 8:00 PM	
Musical entertainment provided by Jeremy Douglas Powers	www.jeremydouglasspowers.com	

Saturday, July 15th

Registration & Breakfast	7 to 8 AM	
Opening & Welcome, Lance Brisbois, Golden Hills RC&D	8 AM	
Keynote Prairie Conservation in Minnesota, Steve Chaplin		Looft Auditorium

Break 9:00 to 9:15 AM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS	9:15 AM to 10:00 AM	
<i>Plants, Pollinators, and People: What pollinators do for us & what we can do for pollinators</i>		Looft Auditorium
Jennifer Hopwood		
<i>More than a Pretty Place: Conservation Initiatives at Lauritzen Gardens</i>		Looft Room 006
Jim Locklear		
Urban Prairies		Looft Room 008
Kevin Pape, John Batt, and Brian Hazlett		

Break 10:00 AM to 10:15 AM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS	10:15 AM TO 11:15 AM	
<i>Landowner Panel Discussion</i>		Looft Auditorium
Bill & Dotty Zales, Teresa Troxel		
<i>Prairie Visioning</i>		Looft Room 006
Steve Chaplin		
<i>Invasive Species</i>		Looft Room 008
Allison Zach		

Break 11:15 AM to 11:30 AM

PRE-TRIP PRESENTATIONS	11:30 AM to NOON	
Northern Tour		Looft Room 006
<i>Loess Hills State Forest, Murray Hill and Hitchcock Nature Center</i>		
Guides: Tim Sproul and Chad Graeve		
Southern Tour		Looft Auditorium
<i>Folsom Point, Baylor Bowl, Biscuitroot Bluff, Militia Hollow, Waubonsie State Park</i>		
Guides: Matt Dollison and Suzanne Hickey		

Lunch Noon to 12:30 PM Boxed lunches available in Looft Hall lobby, catered by Iowa Western Community College.**Depart for Field Trips at 12:30 pm**

Buses will be located at the front entrance of Looft Hall. Buses will return to Iowa Western Community College at approximately 5:00 pm.

Friday Keynote

8:00 AM -9:00 AM

At Home in the Hills

Location: Loft Auditorium

Description: Native Iowan, professor and nature writer, John T. Price, will read selections from his published work about the Loess Hills, where he lives with his family, and speak about the need to share personal stories about the prairie places we love.

Presenter: John Price

Friday First Concurrent Sessions

9:15 AM -10:00 AM

America's Great Outdoors (AGO) - Iowa Loess Hills Working Lands Initiative

Location: Loft 008

Description: The America's Great Outdoors Initiative (AGO) was developed in 2012 during President Obama's administration through then Secretary of Interior, Ken Salazar. The goals of AGO included: a) reconnecting Americans, especially children, to America's rivers and waterways and landscapes of national significance, b) build upon local priorities for the conservation of land, water, wildlife, historic, and cultural resources, creating corridors and connectivity across these outdoor spaces and c) use science-based management practices to restore and protect our lands and waters for future generations.

The Iowa Loess Hills Working Lands Initiative was chosen to enhance and restore prairies, oak savannas, and forests in ecologically-important Loess Hills of western Iowa. This project built upon an extensive conservation network already in place including the Loess Hills Alliance, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Golden Hills RC&D, Iowa DNR, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pheasants Forever, 7 County Conservation Boards and numerous partners. Local governments and NGO partners provided technical and financial assistance to private landowners and county conservation boards to restore and manage over 1,000 acres of prairies and oak savannas within high priority resource areas through funding provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.

Presenters: Doug Helmers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Iowa Private Lands Coordinator, Prairie City, IA, and Tim Sproul, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Loess Hills Land Conservation Consultant.

Land Protection Options

Location: Loft Room 006

Description: Do you wonder what will happen to your land—its woodlands, prairie, grasslands, wetlands and farmland—after you are gone. There are conservation organizations, such as the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, that can help you make informed decisions about the future of your land. Learn about voluntary, permanent land protection options like conservation easements, reserved life estates, bequests and donations. Some protection options qualify for an Iowa Tax Credit and Federal Deduction.

Harrison county conservation easement landowner, Patrick Swanson, will share his story about how an easement helped fulfill his vision for the land and challenges he encountered along the way. Case studies of bequests and reserved life estates in conjunction with USDA programs will also be shared.

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation has helped Iowa landowners find the best option for protecting their land for nearly four decades. INHF holds and annually monitors 155 easements across the state that have protected over 19,000 acres of private land. More information can be found at <http://www.iowalandoptions.org/>

Presenters: Patrick Swanson, land owner and Erin Van Waus, Conservation Easement Director, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation.

Can Prairies and Agriculture Coexist? A Tale of Two Projects

Location: Looft Room 008

Description: Prairie strips are a new conservation technology designed to alleviate biodiversity loss and environmental damage associated with row-crop agriculture. Results from a multi-year, catchment-scale experiment comparing corn and soybean fields with and without prairie vegetation indicated prairie strips raised pollinator and bird abundance, increased soil retention, and improved water quality. These benefits accrued at levels disproportionately greater than the land area occupied by prairie strips. Social surveys revealed demand among both farming and non-farming populations for the outcomes prairie strips produced. We estimated prairie strips could be used to improve biodiversity and ecosystem services across 3.9 million ha of cropland in Iowa and a large portion of the 69 million ha under similar management in the United States.

Tallgrass Prairie is one of the most endangered ecosystems on earth. As a consequence of extremely high rates of habitat loss, remaining patches of prairie are small and isolated from each other, resulting in reduced genetic diversity, increased rates of inbreeding, and decreased ability to disperse to new habitat. While the days of huge prairie landscapes are gone across most of the Midwest, we can address some problems facing this ecosystem by incorporating prairie into the agricultural landscape. This strategy also will provide benefits to agriculture and to society as a whole. The Prairies For Agriculture Project is a long term research project conducted by faculty and undergraduate students at Central College that examines the benefits of planting prairie in unfarmable sites in the agricultural landscape. Early results of our work will be discussed, providing insight into the process of reconstructing prairie. Additionally, current work is examining how increasing plant diversity in reconstructions impacts the ecosystem services provided including supporting pollinator populations and sequestering carbon underground.

Presenters: Lisa Schulte Moore, Iowa State University and Russ Benedict, Central College

Friday Second Concurrent Sessions

10:15-11:15 AM

Partnering for Stewardship in the Loess Hills

Location: Looft 006

Description: Since 2015, Conservation Corps Iowa has dedicated an AmeriCorps Young Adult Field Crew to stewardship in the Loess Hills. Through a unique partnership with numerous organizations, agencies, and landowners the crew of 18-25 year old members have served to restore thousands of acres across the Loess Hills landform. Come learn about the Corps, the genesis of the crew and the many partnerships that make it happen!

Presenter: Mark Wilson, Iowa Program Manager, Conservation Corps

Cooperative Burn Programs

Location: Looft Auditorium

Description: This panel discussion will discuss Cooperative Burning to promote landowner/firefighter training as a way to grow capacity within Iowa. Presenters will talk about the Cooperative Burning efforts that have been taking place within the Loess Hills the past couple of years. We will be answering questions as to how private landowners, organizations, and firefighters can get more "hands on" training to grow the capacity within our region to enable our state to see more good fire on the ground. It will be a question/answer format for folks to ask the questions that they have, as well as the panel being able to give good direction and purpose as to what has been happening within the Loess Hills.

Presenters: Kody Wohlers, Pottawattamie County Conservation Board

Doug Chafa, Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Scott Moats, Director of Stewardship, The Nature Conservancy

A History of Protecting the Loess Hills through Collaboration

Location: Loft Room 008

Description: The Loess Hills Region has a long history of partnership and collaboration to preserve and protect one of America's natural treasures. This presentation will chart the history and efforts from numerous organizations and initiatives to support stewardship, protection and economic development throughout the Loess Hills corridor. Information will be provided about the Loess Hills Alliance, the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway and the cultural studies conducted over the past 15 years to

Presenter: Michelle Wodtke Franks, Executive Director, Golden Hills RC&D

Friday Pre-Trip Presentations

11:30 AM -12:00 PM

Northern Tour

The northern tour will take Conference attendees to sites in Monona, Harrison, and Pottawattamie counties, travelling the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway, a 220 mile lineal trail of paved and gravel roads, through the 640,000 acre landform.

Attendees will have an opportunity to visit a highly managed native prairie at the Loess Hills State Forest and briefly hike the ridge prairie trail from the Loess Hills Forest Overlook.

Murray Hill's prairie trail, a short steep climb, will lead participants to a specular scenic vista, where bur oak woodlands dominate the view shed to the south, native prairie to the north, and the Missouri River floodplain at your feet.

Harrison County Conservation Board's (HCCB) Old Town Conservation Area will offer attendees a look at a public area, with native prairie, prairie restoration, native CRP and oak savanna habitats.

And our tour will end at Pottawattamie County's Hitchcock Nature Center; a site once slated to be a landfill and now dedicated to restoring natural areas and human relationships with nature.

The tour will be led by Chad Graeve, Natural Resource Specialist for Pottawattamie County Conservation Board and Tim Sproul, Loess Hills Land Conservation Specialist for Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. Both Chad and Tim have been extensively involved with land management, restoration and protection of native prairie resources in the loess hills for decades.

Presenters: Tim Sproul and Chad Graeve

Southern Tour

The southern tour will take Conference attendees to several sites in the southern Loess Hills, including the Iowa DNR's Waubonsie State Park, Militia Hollow Wildlife Management Area (WMA), soon to be acquired Biscuitroot Bluff WMA, and The Nature Conservancy's Folsom Point Preserve, as well as the privately-owned Baylor Bowl. These sites showcase some of the best remaining natural prairie in the southern Hills, as well as the rugged steep terrain that differentiate the southern Loess Hills from the landform further north. Attendees will have the opportunity to explore the sites with a series of brief hikes. The tour will be led by Susanne Hickey, Director of Conservation Programs for The Nature Conservancy in Iowa and Matt Dollison, the Iowa DNR's Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit Biologist. Both Susanne and Matt have been involved in the protection and restoration of sites in the southern Loess Hills and will offer insight on the challenges faced and the techniques used to protect and restore.

Presenters: Matt Dollison and Suzanne Hickey

Urban Tour (Friday Only)

The urban tour will visit three natural areas within the city limits of Council Bluffs. Attendees will tour the 42-acre Vincent Bluff State Preserve that has been under restoration for 17 years. Leaders will describe the restoration process including successes and challenges. Discussion will include the partnership with the City of Council Bluffs and neighbors living next to the preserve. Fundraising for the purchase of the property and for its restoration will be included. The tour will also visit the City of Council Bluffs' Fairmount Park to see prairie and savanna restoration in progress. A member of the City parks will be present to answer questions. A third stop will be Lewis and Clark Park on the north side of Council Bluffs. The Park is located on top of the front range of the Loess Hills and has excellent potential for prairie restoration. This tour will have time to explore the prairie trail on top of the loess bluffs.

Presenters: Glenn Pollock, Jack Phillips, and John Batt

Saturday Keynote

8:00 AM -9:00 AM

Prairie Conservation in Minnesota

Location: Looft Auditorium

Description: After passage of the "Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment" in 2008, the conservation community in Minnesota came together to write and implement the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan. This plan envisions the creation of connected, functioning prairie landscapes, the protection of all 250,000 acres of native prairie in the state, and the maintenance of at least 10% of each watershed in western and southern Minnesota in perennial grassland or wetland habitat. The implementation of the plan focuses not only on public land conservation but also on private working lands where grass-based economic activities result in grassland conservation.

Presenter: Steve Chaplin, The Nature Conservancy, Minnesota

Saturday First Concurrent Sessions 9:15am-10:00am

More than a Pretty Place: Conservation Initiatives at Lauritzen Gardens

Location:

Description: Lauritzen Gardens is situated in Omaha's riverfront hills just minutes from the Old Market and downtown. Renowned for beautiful gardens and plant displays that attract over 220,000 visitors annually, Lauritzen Gardens is also dedicated to the conservation of plants and the biological diversity they support. Our conservation program is focused on the Central Grassland of North America where we conduct studies of at-risk plants in their natural habitat to better understand their ecology and conservation needs. We also have laboratory and greenhouse facilities for conservation seed banking and growing transplants for the restoration and recovery of natural plant populations. On-site, surveys of birds, butterflies, and native bees reveal that the garden's 100 acres hosts a remarkable level of biological diversity. On the education front, our recently-opened Conservation Discovery Garden has significantly enhanced our ability to inspire a conservation ethic among our visitors.

Presenter: Jim Locklear, Director of Conservation, Lauritzen Gardens

Plants, Pollinators, and People: What pollinators do for us and what we can do for pollinators

Location: Looft Room 006

Description: Plant pollination by insects is one of the most widespread and important ecosystem services, and is essential in prairies, as well as in agricultural and urban landscapes. Native pollinators, especially native bees, contribute significantly to this service. The work of pollinators is something that touches us all through the food we eat, the clothes we wear, and the landscapes we enjoy, and yet their future is clouded by habitat loss, pesticide use, and introduced diseases. Join Jennifer Hopwood of the Xerces Society to learn more about the fascinating lives of these insects and information about how you can care for these vital animals wherever you live.

Presenter: Jennifer Hopwood, Senior Pollinator Conservation Specialist, Xerces Society

Urban Prairies

Location: Loft Room 008

Description: Challenges, opportunities and lessons learned from managing a prairie within an urban setting

Presenters: Kevin Pape, Brian Hazlett and John Batt

Saturday Second Concurrent Sessions

10:15 AM -11:15 AM

Renewing the Minnesota Prairie Plan: Process, Challenges, Etc.

Location: Loft Auditorium

Description: After passage of the “Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment” in 2008, the conservation community in Minnesota came together to write and implement the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan. This plan envisions the creation of connected, functioning prairie landscapes, the protection of all 250,000 acres of native prairie in the state, and the maintenance of at least 10% of each watershed in western and southern Minnesota in perennial grassland or wetland habitat. The implementation of the plan focuses not only on public land conservation but also on private working lands where grass-based economic activities result in grassland conservation.

Presenter: Steve Chaplin, The Nature Conservancy, Minnesota

Landowner Panel Discussion

Location: Loft Room 006

Description:

Presenters: Theresa Troxel, Bill Zales & Patrick Swanson, land owners

Invasive Species

Location: Loft Room 008

Description: Learn about Nebraska's invasive plants, insects and aquatic species that threaten our natural resources.

Presenters: Allison Zach, Nebraska Invasive Species Program Coordinator, University of Nebraska

Pre-Trip Presentations

11:30 AM – NOON

Saturday’s field trips will include the Northern and Southern tours, but the Urban Tour is Friday only.

See Page 6 for descriptions.



PRESENTING
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The mission of the Loess Hills Alliance is to "***Protect special natural and cultural resources of Iowa's Loess Hills while ensuring economic viability and promoting awareness.***"

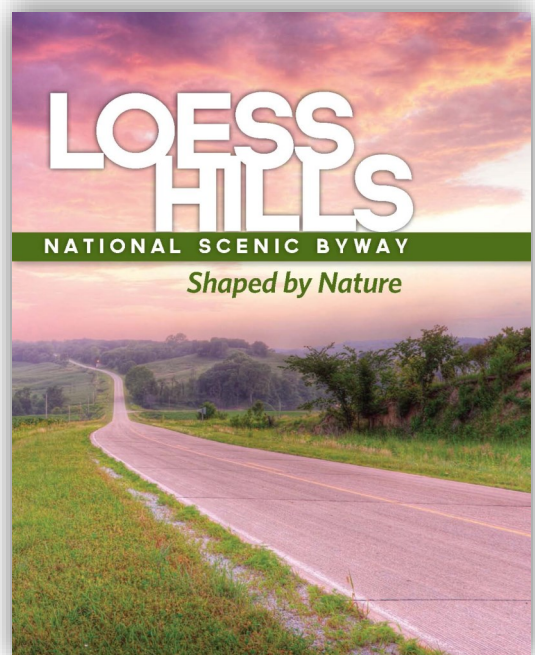
Established through Iowa Code in 1999, the Loess Hills Alliance is comprised of leaders within the seven Loess Hills counties and is tasked with collaboratively addressing protection, stewardship and economic development of this National Natural Landmark.

Majestic views are the hallmark of a trip through the Loess Hills . Formed by deposits of very fine, windblown soil at the end of the last ice age, these are not your average hills. Spanning 15 miles at their widest and nearly 200 miles long from Sioux City, Iowa to St. Joseph, Mo., you'd have to travel to China to see any taller loess formations.

The views include panoramas of the fertile Missouri River Valley farmland, forested hills and vast grasslands. Scenic overlooks are strategically placed and offer interpretive signage along the parking.

The Loess Hills National Scenic Byway features a 220-mile paved main route, with an additional 185 miles of optional excursion loops that range from interstate highways to gravel roads. These roads lead you from the Missouri border to Akron and are easily accessed from Interstates 29 and 80.

www.loesshillsalliance.com



PRESENTING
SPONSORS



Working through many partners in Iowa, the Living Roadway Trust Fund (LRTF) supports integrated roadside vegetation management (IRVM) programs and educates the public on the benefits, use, and care of native plants.

LRTF supports the accomplishment of these goals through:

- Grants, which are administered by the Iowa Department of Transportation. This annual, competitive grant program provides funding for IRVM activities to cities, counties, and applicants with statewide impact.
- Publications produced to inform the public about aspects of IRVM; geared for audiences ranging from youth to adults.
- Research, which is sponsored to address questions about the best management practices of IRVM and develop new and innovative solutions to roadside issues.
- Education programs are sponsored to develop high-quality publications and seminars to educate the public about the benefits of IRVM and provide training opportunities to professionals in the field.

www.iowadot.gov/lrtf/home

The word mark *Iowa Living Roadway Trust Fund* and design mark are registered trademarks of the Iowa Department of Transportation.



www.tallgrassprairiecenter.org/irvm

Integrated roadside vegetation management combines a variety of management techniques with sound ecological principles to establish and maintain safe, healthy, functional roadsides. UNI's IRVM Program Office provides guidance and support to Iowa counties establishing new IRVM programs, and strengthens IRVM statewide in counties with existing roadside programs through partnerships with the Iowa Department of Transportation and other agencies.



Tallgrass Prairie
CENTER
Restoring a National Treasure

www.tallgrassprairiecenter.org

The Tallgrass Prairie Center is a strong advocate of progressive, ecological approaches using native vegetation to provide environmental, economic, and aesthetic benefits for the public good. The Center is in the vanguard of roadside vegetation management, native Source Identified seed development, and prairie advocacy. The Center primarily serves the Upper Midwest Tallgrass Prairie Region and is a model for similar efforts nationally and internationally.

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www.unleashcb.com

The Council Bluffs Convention & Visitors Bureau serves as the destination marketing organization for the city but also works with the countywide tourism committee to promote Pottawattamie County. In 2015, visitors spent more than \$305 million in the county according to the US Travel Association. The community attracts business travelers with the meetings and conventions held at local hotels and the Mid-America Center. Leisure visitors are enticed by CB's railroad heritage, bicycle trails, and three casinos among other attractions. In addition, many athletes and fans participate in the sporting events held at the Council Bluffs Recreation Complex, Iowa West Field House, and other athletic facilities. And of course, the Loess Hills and a number of county parks create a major draw for visitors from near and far. Ready to let loose while visiting the area?



Conservation Corps provides hands-on environmental stewardship and service-learning opportunities to youth and young adults while accomplishing conservation, natural resource management and emergency response work.

Our goals are to help young people from diverse backgrounds become more connected to the environment, engaged in conservation, involved in the community and prepared for future employment.

The Corps has many AmeriCorps opportunities for young adults, ages 18-25, including Field Crews in Minnesota and

Iowa, which engage young adults in year-round natural resource and emergency response work. There are four crews serving out of Ames, Iowa, two crews dedicated to Polk CCB, and two crews serving the Loess Hills based out of Pottawattamie CCB's Hitchcock Nature Center.

This year there are also two members serving as Youth Corps leaders with Polk County Conservation, one member serving with the Iowa DNR River's Program, and four serving with the Iowa DNR conducting wildlife studies.

www.conservationcorps.org



www.iowanativeplants.org

the Erythronium

Iowa Native Plant Society newsletter

INPS Field Trips in July 2017

Saturday, July 22 – two walks:

- **9am Spring Hill Prairie** with INPS board member, Carl Kurtz (INPS & INHF)
- **10am Nelson Paradise Wildlife Area** with former INPS board member, Mark Leoschke

Thursday, July 27

- **7pm Doolittle Prairie Walk** with INPS president, Lloyd Crim (INPS, IPN, and Story County Conservation)



INPS at Hitchcock, Timberhill, & Doolittle Prairie



2017 grants awarded are over \$6,000! Visit our exhibit to learn more about INPS!

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) is a statewide nonprofit conservation organization that works with private landowners and public agencies to protect and restore Iowa's land, water and wildlife. Since our founding in 1979, our members and staff have protected more than 150,000 acres of Iowa's natural resources.

INHF focuses on four priority areas:

- **Protection:** Partnering with landowners and conservation organizations to permanently protect important and threatened lands across Iowa to benefit water, wildlife and people.
- **Stewardship:** Ensuring the long-term health of protected land.
- **Connection:** Strengthen the relationship between wild places and people who will experience, value and advocate for them.
- **Advocacy:** Giving a voice to Iowa's natural resources through funding initiatives, important partnerships and political championship.

www.inhf.org



Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

The Iowa Prairie Network is a grass roots, volunteer organization that is dedicated to the preservation of Iowa's prairie heritage. IPN was formed in 1990 by Iowans concerned that our prairie heritage was disappearing. People needed an organization that would bring those who know about prairies together with those who wanted to learn about them. It was also set up to form a network of advocacy for Iowa's natural heritage.

www.iowaprairienetwork.org



The Nature Conservancy



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

www.nature.org/iowa

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. Our vision is a world where the diversity of life thrives, and people act to conserve nature for its own sake and its ability to fulfill our needs and enrich our lives. The Conservancy and its more than 1 million members have protected nearly 120 million acres worldwide. The Nature Conservancy in Iowa was established in 1963 and currently has more than 7,300 members working throughout the state.

Pottawattamie County Countywide Tourism Promotion Committee

Watta Way to see Pottawattamie County!

Wattawayiowa.com is your source for County Parks, Recreation Areas & Community Attractions in Pottawattamie County. We invite you and your family or friends to come explore everything our WattaWay trail and county have to offer. We have packaged several day trips for you to enjoy. Check back frequently because trips will be updated as the seasons change.

www.wattawayiowa.com



to see Pottawattamie County



Pottawattamie County Conservation promotes an appreciation for Iowa's unique natural areas through year-round environmental education programming, natural resource management and habitat restoration, as well as many recreational activities at any of our county parks. Whether you enjoy

hiking, camping, fishing, or just want to learn something new, Pottawattamie County Conservation offers exceptional opportunities to experience and explore the outdoors.

www.pottcoconservation.com

Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation

Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation (PCF) is a non-profit corporation formed in 1993 to provide financial support for habitat preservation projects and environmental education programs administered by the Pottawattamie County Conservation Board.

Led by a volunteer based board of directors, the long range goals of PCF are to acquire land for habitat preservation and public use, support environmental education activities in Pottawattamie County and utilize partnerships to attain its goals.



www.pottawattamieconservationfoundation.com



SIERRA CLUB

FOUNDED 1892

For forty years, our group of the Sierra Club has been active in exploring, enjoying, and protecting some of the most interesting landscapes in Iowa and surrounding states. The steep Loess Hills running parallel to the once-Wide Missouri provide a climate and a soil where native prairies flourish. Just as Sioux City residents can hike and bike without ever leaving the city, they can look at the surrounding hills and thank them for preserving native prairies that elsewhere disappeared under the plow a

hundred years ago. Opportunities to hike in the hills are provided by state parks, county parks, and city trails.

NORTHWEST IOWA GROUP SIERRA CLUB

www.sierraclub.org/iowa/northwest-iowa



Truax Company has been in business in Minneapolis, Minnesota building grass-seeding equipment since 1974. Truax equipment is designed from the top down to effectively meter and plant grass seeds at the required shallow depth.

Truax Company pledges to continue providing you with grass seeding equipment to meet your needs. "Leading the way... for precision seed placement."

www.truaxcomp.com



TREES FOREVER

Planting a better tomorrow™

Trees Forever is a nonprofit organization nationally headquartered in Marion, Iowa. We are dedicated to planting trees, encouraging volunteer and youth involvement and environmental stewardship. For more than 25 years, we've been planting a better tomorrow. For more information, visit www.treesforever.org or call 800-369-1269.



Established in 2009 through support from the Gilchrist Foundation and the Loess Hills Alliance, the Center for Prairie acts to enable Briar Cliff students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding

community to acquire a sense of place, and to function as a catalyst for prairie preservation through education, research, and outreach.

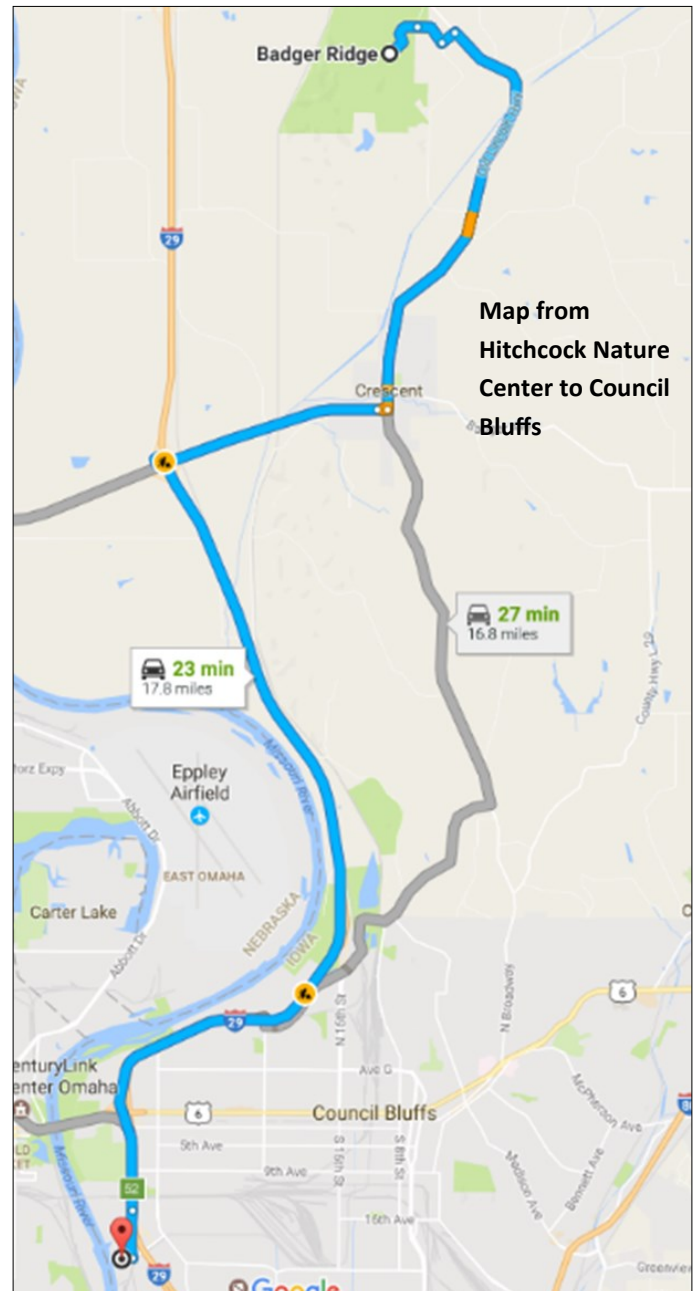
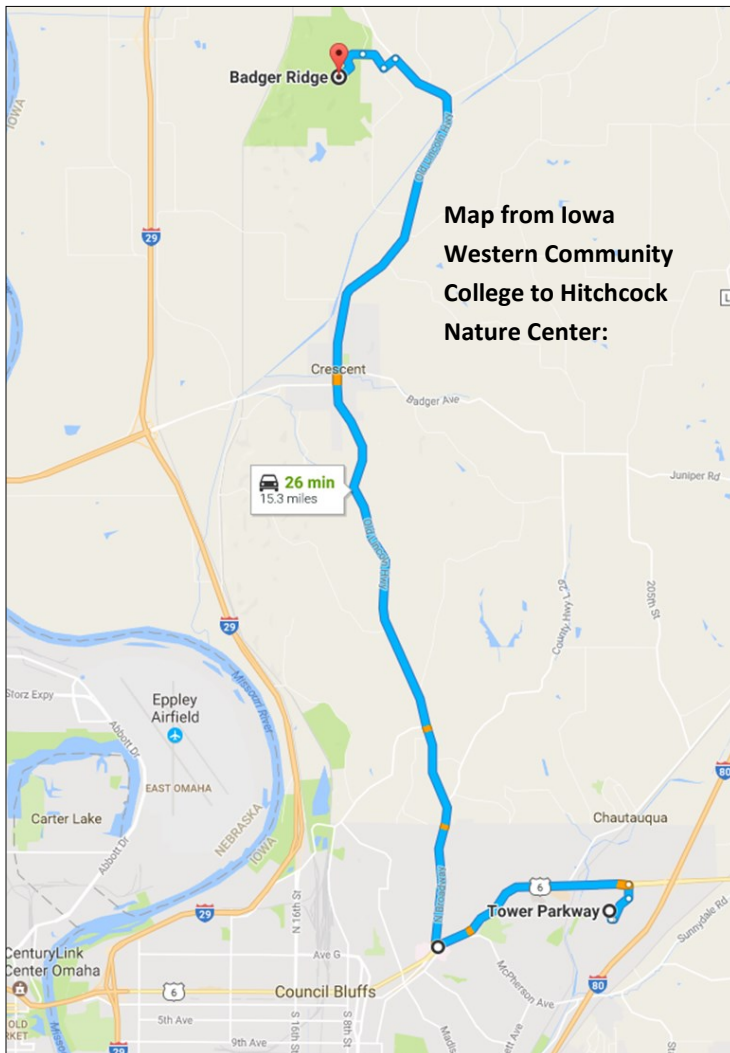
Maps and Directions

Hitchcock Nature Center is located north of Crescent, Iowa.

From the IWCC campus, return to Highway 6 (Kanesville Blvd.) and head left (west) for 2.5 miles.

At North Broadway, turn right (north) and stay on Old Lincoln Highway for 11 miles.

Turn left (west) onto Page Lane for 0.2 miles and turn right (north) on Ski Hill Loop (at the stop sign). Follow the curve, and at the park entrance, follow the signs and arrows to the Lodge.



If returning to one of the designated hotels after dinner at Hitchcock, return to Old Lincoln Highway via Ski Hill Loop and Page Lane.

Turn left (south) and turn into Crescent. At the stop sign near Casey's, turn right (west) onto Old Mormon Bridge Road for 2 miles. Take I-29 south towards Council Bluffs.

Take Exit 52 and turn right onto River Road, and the hotels are located to the west of I-29 along the Missouri River.

