

Project Focus Areas



Land & Water Conservation

- Hungry Canyons Alliance
- East & West Nishnabotna Watershed Management Coalition
- Native Oaks Project
- Loess Hills Prairie Seed Collection
- Master River Stewards
- ISU Master Conservationist Program
- Rural/Urban Water Quality Practices
- NRCS Iowa Dam Inventory



Rural Tourism & Outdoor Recreation

- Frontier Iowa Trails
- Loess Hills Missouri River Parks to People Region
- Southwest Iowa Art Tour
- Loess Hills Parks & Peaks Bicycle Tour
- West Nishnabotna Water Trail
- Loess Hills National Scenic Byway™
- Western Skies Scenic Byway™
- Glacial Trail Scenic Byway™
- Waubonsie Artists in the Parks Residency Program
- Iowa Trails Summit
- Fremont County Outdoor Adventures



Community Backbone Support

- Boost4Families
- Corner Counties Early Childhood Area
- Loess Hills Alliance
- Friends of Waubonsie State Park
- Loess Hills Development & Conservation Authority
- Western Iowa Development Association
- The Naturalist School



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Cultivating vibrant rural communities for Southwest Iowa.

2019 Annual Report



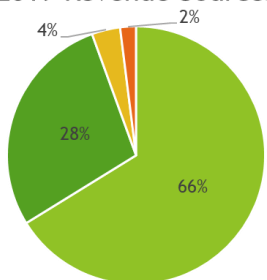
Some of Our Successes for 2019:

The East and West Nishnabotna Watershed Management Coalition, Golden Hills RC&D and JEO Consulting Group, received an award from the Iowa Chapter of the American Planning Association in the area of Environmental Planning for the East and West Nishnabotna River Watershed Resiliency Plans! This award honors efforts to create greener communities that reduce the impact of development on the natural environment and improve environmental quality!

The Loess Hills Missouri River Parks to People Region, coordinated by Golden Hills RC&D, has leveraged a MidAmerican Energy Foundation challenge grant through the Iowa Parks Foundation toward more than \$13 million in outdoor recreation infrastructure projects for Harrison, Pottawattamie and Mills counties. Some of the projects include cabins, expanded public hunting ground, Loess Hills

hiking trails, regionally connected bike trails, park shelters, and playgrounds—all in a collaborative effort to encourage healthy outdoor activities, develop alternative economic drivers for rural places, and attract and retain a vibrant and active work force to our rural communities.

2019 Revenue Sources



- Project Grants
- Contract Services
- Fundraising & Sponsorships
- Earned Income



“Golden Hills RC&D is an asset to our region. Their knowledge and work ethic is best in class and they are impressive in navigating complex situations. Their commitment to a thriving region runs throughout their organization and all of Southwest Iowa benefits.”

Shawn Koehler, Chair—Loess Hills Missouri River Region, Mills County Trails Board

“The personalities representing Golden Hills RC&D are forward thinking and truly care about the region. Golden Hills has been crucial in developing and strengthening the Southwest Iowa Art Tour which identifies regional artists while impacting tourism and rural economic development.”

Zack Jones - Art Church, Malvern IA

The Sixth Annual **Southwest Iowa Art Tour** promoted over 90 artists in 12 communities and 16 stops throughout the region during September 2019. The weekend event generates more than \$160,000 of economic impact for the region each year.

For the second year, we hosted the **Loess Hills Parks & Peaks Bicycle Ride**. This year, riders began at Lewis and Clark State Park in Monona County and ended at Waubonsie State Park in Fremont County, camping along the way and learning about the unique natural resources of the Loess Hills.

Golden Hills also led a series of **prairie** seed harvests in the Loess Hills, facilitated learning opportunities about **native oaks**, partnered to bring Master River Stewards and Master Conservationist programming to the area, and deepened a spirit of stewardship and love for our rural places.

Our 2019 Funding Partners

- Iowa Economic Development
- Iowa Arts Council
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Iowa Department of Transportation
- Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
- Mills County Board of Supervisors
- Harrison County Board of Supervisors
- Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors
- Iowa West Foundation
- Clif Bar Family Foundation
- Pottawattamie County Community Foundation
- National Park Service
- The Wellmark Foundation
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources REAP
- Fremont County Tourism
- Gilchrist Foundation
- O’Brien County Community Foundation
- Iowa Rivers Revival



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