

OUR HISTORY

1981

GHRCD was formed and opened first office in Oakland, IA

1999

GHRCD helped revive the western Iowa grape industry, while the Loess Hills Development & Conservation Authority and Loess Hills Alliance were formed to protect natural resources in the region.

2005

GHRCD helped launch Southwest Iowa Renewable Energy (SIRE) - a locally controlled processing plant that converts corn to higher value products

2010

USDA identified the GHRCD service area as one of seven "Great Regions"; GHRCD facilitated the designation of the West Nishnabotna River as a State Water Trail

2012

GHRCD and Iowa Western Community College launched Dream to Farm program, instructing potential producers on how to start a small-scale local food farm

2015

GHRCD facilitated the Parks to People Region Designation

2018

GHRCD started prairie seed harvest program, engaging volunteers to help restore prairies with local ecotype seed

2020

GHRCD led regional partnership that leveraged over millions of dollars in outdoor recreation improvements

1992

Hungry Canyons Alliance was formed to research and implement solutions to stream channel erosion and degradation in a 23-county area of the deep loess soils region of western Iowa

2000

GHRCD helped the Loess Hills Scenic Byway receive National Scenic Byway designation; GHRCD built its current location as a "green" building

2008

Southwest Iowa Food & Farm Initiative was formed; Loess Hills Land Use Ordinances were developed

2011

GHRCD participated in the archaeological survey of the Loess Hills with the University of Iowa. All RC&D offices were federally defunded. GHRCD restructured as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit

2014

GHRCD helped start the Southwest Iowa Art Tour

2016

GHRCD helped preserve the Reverend Todd House in Tabor, Iowa, designated the Loess Hills District American Viticultural Area, and completed water trail plans for the West Nishnabotna River

2019

GHRCD supported the completion of award-winning watershed plans for the East and West Nishnabotna Rivers

2021

GHRCD started LoHi Trek, a multi-day supported hike in Iowa's Loess Hills utilizing public ground, private land and remote gravel roads

OUR MISSION

To collaboratively develop and lead community, conservation, and cultural initiatives to improve our quality of life in rural western Iowa.

OUR GOALS

- Develop industries in local communities that utilize local resources.
- Ensure healthy natural resources that meet the needs of agriculture, industry, private use, and recreational facilities.
- Promote and enhance art, culture, and historic resources in rural communities.
- Collaborate with local governments and organizations on projects that benefit the environment.
- Work on projects that fill gaps in community services to benefit people of southwest Iowa.

WHERE WE WORK





LAND STEWARDSHIP

Our work helps restore and reconstruct prairies in the Loess Hills and beyond, which provides benefits such as wildlife habitat, water quality improvement, erosion reduction, and improved scenery.



OUTDOOR RECREATION & TOURISM

Golden Hills has worked for decades to expand and improve upon low-impact recreational opportunities in western Iowa such as hiking, bicycling, birding, wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, and paddling.



WATER RESOURCES

We partner with Hungry Canyons Alliance to implement grade and streambank stabilization projects and coordinate the East and West Nishnabotna Watershed Coalitions to improve water quality and flood resiliency.



LOCAL FOODS

Golden Hills coordinates the Southwest Iowa Food and Farm Initiative (SWIFFI), a multicounty coalition of individuals and organizations that value and work within the local food system.



ARTS & CULTURE

Golden Hills understands the value that arts and culture bring to southwest Iowa, from both a quality of life and a tourism perspective. We coordinate events and help find funding for a variety of projects.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Our talented staff can offer a wide variety of services on a contractual, fee-for-service basis, such as grant writing, project management, strategic planning, visioning, meeting facilitation, fiscal agent sponsorship, and much more.

712 S. Highway Street
Oakland, IA 51560
712-482-3029



DONATE ONLINE!

Scan this QR code or go to www.goldenhillsrcd.org/donate.html



CONTACT US



www.goldenhillsrcd.org



@goldenhillsrcd



@goldenhills