
Nahant Marsh

Nahant Marsh is a 265 acre treasure nestled in Southwest Davenport. It is part of a 513 acre wetland complex that is bordered by the Mississippi River, Interstate 280, and Highway 22. Nahant Marsh preserve is one of the largest urban wetlands on the Upper Mississippi River.



Nahant Marsh was used for skeet and trap shooting from the 1960's to the 1990's. Because of the lead left behind, the marsh was declared an EPA Superfund site and was cleaned up in 1999. After that time, the site was declared a preserve and educational center. The City of Davenport, the Nahant Board, Eastern Iowa Community College District, and River Action are all critical parts of Nahant Marsh.

Getting to Nahant Marsh...

From Davenport, Iowa:

Take Highway 22 South and turn left on Wapello Avenue (last left turn before the I-280 overpass). Follow Wapello Avenue and you will see Nahant Marsh to your left, just before the railroad crossing.

From Illinois:

Take I-280 to Iowa and take the Highway 22/Rockingham Road Exit. Turn right onto highway 22 and right onto Wapello Avenue. Nahant Marsh is on the left, just before the railroad crossing.



Nahant Marsh Education Center

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 EASTERN IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
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Research Opportunities



The Mission of Nahant Marsh Education Center is to preserve and enhance the ecological integrity of the marsh and to foster wonder, appreciation, interaction, and stewardship of the natural world through education.

Research Opportunities at Nahant

Research is an integral part of Nahant Marsh. We are able to expand our knowledge of the ecosystems found here, which allows us to better maintain this amazing natural area.

Research projects also allow students to participate in exciting projects and gain hands-on experience in their field of study.

We offer research opportunities in the fields of Wildlife Biology, Ecology, Animal Behavior, Botany, Hydrology, Chemistry, Genetics, Geology, Geography, Toxicology, and many more.



St. Ambrose University Students conducting a fish survey.

Flora and Fauna

Many of our research projects are related to the flora and fauna found here at Nahant Marsh. Some possible opportunities include:



Mik Holgersson working on a turtle research project.

- Flora and Fauna Surveys.
- Turtle Survey.
- Frog Survey.
- Dabbling Duck Activity and Foraging Response to Aquatic Invertebrates.
- Bio-acoustic Study of the Effects of Noise Pollution on Frogs and Toads.
- Aquatic Invertebrate Abundance in Relationship to Changing Marsh Vegetation.
- And Many More.

Effects of Pollution

Several of our research projects are related to possible pollution sources found in or around Nahant. Some possible opportunities include:

- The Use of Lead Absorbing Plants for Mitigation of Contaminated Soils.
- The Effects of Lead on Cattail growth and Development.
- The Effects of Lead-contaminated Cattails on Muskrat Populations and Distribution
- The Effect of Urban Runoff.
- And Many More.

Invasive Species

One of the major concerns at Nahant is invasive species. Often, invasive species can take over an area because there are no natural predators and they can out-compete our native species. Some possible research opportunities include:

- Effects of Goat Grazing on Invasive Plant Species.
- Impact of Fire on Invasive Plant Species.
- Invasive Plants Surveys.
- Impact of Carp on Water Clarity.
- Impact of Carp on Aquatic Vegetation.
- Impact of Water Levels on Reed's Canary Grass.
- Nesting Success in Honeysuckle versus Native Vegetation.
- And Many More.



St. Ambrose Students