

Nahant News

SPRING 2018 Volume 12, Issue 2



4220 Wapello Ave. • Davenport, IA 52802
www.nahantmarsh.org • 563.336.3370

A Spring Celebration and Eco Egg Hunt participant
investigates touch tables at the March 31 event.



ABOUT NAHANT MARSH



4220 Wapello Avenue
Davenport, IA 52802
Phone: 563.336.3370
Email: nahantmarsh@eicc.edu
www.nahantmarsh.org

STAFF DIRECTORY

BRIAN RITTER, Executive Director
britter@eicc.edu • 563.336.3372

AMY LOVING, Education Coordinator
aloving@eicc.edu • 563.336.3373

LINDSEY KENNEDY
Marketing & Events Coordinator
lmkenedy@eicc.edu • 563.336.3374

LIZ SCHRAMM
Program Specialist/Naturalist
eschramm@eicc.edu

AMERICORPS EDUCATORS • 563.336.3370

Jenna Skopek
jskopek@eicc.edu

Kinsey Nielsen
kedmonds@eicc.edu

Eric Shershen
dshershen@eicc.edu

NATURAL RESOURCES TECHNICIANS

- Kory Darnall
- Zach Strong
- Madeline Kull



AmeriCorps Week

by Kinsey Nielsen, *AmeriCorps Naturalist*

Nahant Marsh is the proud host of three AmeriCorps members each year who serve as naturalists teaching environmental education. One of the AmeriCorps focus areas is Environmental Stewardship, which is taught through youth field trips and outreach programs.

To celebrate AmeriCorps week during March 11-17, 2018, each member promoted AmeriCorps through career days, environmental education fairs, and professional networking workshops.



Jenna Skopek, 3rd year full-time member (left), Kinsey Nielsen, 2nd year full-time member (middle), and Eric Shershen, 1st year part-time member (right).



Nahant Marsh preserve is one of the largest urban wetlands on the Upper Mississippi River. It is comprised of marshy areas, mesic, wet and sand prairie, and bottomland forest. A spring-fed quarry, known as Carp Lake, and the surrounding grounds are part of the Nahant Marsh preserve as well. The 305-acre preserve is owned by the City of Davenport and the Nahant Marsh Board, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Conservation and restoration efforts on the preserve are directed by the Nahant Board. The educational programming is overseen by Eastern Iowa Community Colleges (EICC). EICC's Advanced Technology Environmental Education Center (ATEEC) is also a critical part of Nahant Marsh.



EASTERN IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
CLINTON ♦ MUSCATINE ♦ SCOTT

WELCOME SPRING

by Brian Ritter, *Executive Director*



Education Coordinator, Amy Loving, leads a group into the prairie looking for insects.

Spring is a great time to be in nature. Birds return, flowers and hibernating mammals emerge from their long sleep, and places like Nahant Marsh seem to come back to life in a flash. But in reality, the life that we suddenly see has just been waiting for the right moment to emerge and grow. This spring, we look forward to welcoming thousands of school children and other visitors who will be coming to the marsh to learn and experience spring with us.

Nahant Marsh is in the process of conducting a feasibility study to determine how we can better serve our community while protecting the marsh. We want to ensure that any future growth is both environmentally and economically responsible. We've

come a long way over the years, and we hope that by going through this process, we will be able to provide more opportunities for kids and adults to experience and enjoy the marsh. Just like nature in spring, we will begin to grow when the time is right.



Iowa
Natural Heritage
Foundation

One of the first steps in this growth has started. We have been working with our partners at the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for several years to acquire a 40-acre parcel at Nahant Marsh. At this year's spring cleanup on April 21, we will begin the hard work of cleaning up this area and preparing it for future ecological restoration. We welcome volunteers to help us begin this journey.

In other news, our Natural Resources Manager, Jevonnah Foster, has taken a position in New York. Jevonnah is originally from New York, and will be moving closer to family. She has been with Nahant Marsh since 2014, and was instrumental in developing new techniques for managing invasive species, implementing new safety procedures, and being an overall great steward of the marsh. We will greatly miss her and will begin searching for her replacement over the next several months.

And finally, we are happy to welcome Martin Equipment of Illinois as our newest corporate sponsor. Martin is a family business that has served the Quad Cities for generations, and we greatly appreciate their support. Thank you to all our sponsors, donors, and volunteers. Nahant Marsh is able to thrive because of you.



A NEW CHAPTER

by Jevonnah Foster, *Natural Resource Manager*



Jevonnah moving goats on the preserve.

Over the past four years at Nahant Marsh, I have gained a wealth of knowledge and many experiences that I will always look back on. Having previously only worked with wetlands and forests, the prairie was something new to me. I felt I had a lot of catching up to do.

With time, I discovered that many of the invasive species I've battled in other areas are the same ones we have here in the prairies, the toughest ones being reed canarygrass and phragmites, both of which Nahant now has a successful plan to tackle and maintain. It brings great joy knowing you have helped to further the restoration of native areas, promoting native species and biodiversity.

One of my favorite maintenance techniques from Nahant is the prescribed burn. It helps to release nutrients into the ground, stimulating growth and production, as well as improve the habitat for wildlife and increase species diversity.

I have greatly enjoyed learning and working at Nahant Marsh, and will truly miss it. I will also miss all the great people I've worked with and met during my time here! I know my Natural Resource crew will continue to do great work in restoring and managing Nahant's resources. It's not an easy job, but they have the knowledge and skills to excel.



Controlled burning at Nahant Marsh.

The East Coast is calling me back, but I will be taking a piece of the Midwest with me!

EXPLORE THE MARSH WITH OUR LENDING LIBRARY

by Amy Loving, *Education Coordinator*

We often have students who, after coming to Nahant Marsh on a field trip, beg their parents to take them back to the marsh so they can continue to explore. These children jump at the opportunity to show mom and dad, or grandma and grandpa, how to catch dragonfly larvae from the water or how to look for animal signs along the trail. As naturalists, we know the importance of improving opportunities for children to play in nature, because that is how they learn best. This play connects them to the outdoors and engages their growing minds. So, grab your kiddos, or your inner child, and come play in nature at the marsh! Check with staff or volunteers to check out the following items:

- Binoculars
- Compass
- Dip nets and buckets for pond critters
- Insect houses
- Guidebooks on common birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, insects, and trees
- Insect nets
- Magnifying glass
- Insect nets
- Nature-themed story books



FEATURED INSECT: MOURNING CLOAK

by Kinsey Edmonds, *AmeriCorps Naturalist*



Communal web of larva on a willow tree.

The mourning cloak butterfly has always fascinated me. Its gold-edged wings shimmer in the sunlight as it flies through the forests. They are usually the first butterfly I see in the spring, because the adults overwinter in Iowa. They survive the cold temperatures by hibernating under tree bark, in log piles, and even in the cracks of garages and sheds. When temperatures reach around 60°F, the adults emerge to find food such as tree sap and rotting fruit. They are not commonly found feeding on flower nectar. Host plants for the caterpillars include willow, cottonwood, American elm, and hackberry.



Adult morning cloak.

BIRDIES FOR CHARITY

Maximize your gifts to Nahant Marsh by donating through the Birdies for Charity program.

The Birdies for Charity Fund was established to support the continuing efforts of the John Deere Classic golf tournament, to provide bonus dollars to participating charities. Through this generous program, all donations to Nahant Marsh will be eligible for an additional 5-10% match.

If you are not already participating, think of the IMPACT you'll have! Plus, as a donor you can also win some great prizes, like a 2-year lease on a 2018 Lexus NX.



You can either make a one-time flat donation, or pledge one cent or more per birdie. If choosing to donate per birdie, you'll be mailed a notice of your pledge amount due after the tournament in mid-August. For reference, birdies made per tournament range from 1,914-2,160.

Pledges can be made online at www.birdiesforcharity.com/partner-program/partner-program-donate. Nahant Marsh's bid number is 1940. You may also request a brochure by emailing lmkennedy@eicc.edu.

Please mail or deliver pledges by July 5 to the Nahant Marsh Education Center. Each gift we receive is used to restore, enhance, and protect the dynamic, yet fragile Nahant Marsh ecosystems. Private support also helps to fund educational programming and ongoing research.

FEATURED MAMMAL: RED FOX

by Jenna Skopek, *AmeriCorps Naturalist*



Adult red fox.

Red fox always have a white tip on their fluffy red tail.

Whereas grey fox always have a black tip on their tail. Grey foxes are also smaller and have a slightly rounder face, with a pointier snout. Like a cat's, the fox's thick tail aids its balance, but it has other uses as well. A fox uses its tail as a warm cover in cold weather and as a signal flag to communicate with other foxes. Foxes also signal each other by making scent posts—urinating on trees or rocks to announce their presence.

Red foxes are highly adaptable and live in habitats such as woodlands, rural and suburban neighborhoods, wetlands, and brushy fields or wherever their food is found. Red foxes compete for space with coyotes, which will kill foxes. Foxes have excellent hearing. They can hear low-frequency sounds and their preferred food source is rodents digging underground. Red foxes will occasionally eat birds, amphibians, and fruit. Red foxes have also been observed stealing food from garbage cans or farms in the winter when food availability is low.

Females can have anywhere between 1 and 12 pups per litter. Pups will get their distinct coloring within about a month when they turn from brown or gray to red. Fox parents will both take care of their offspring until the next fall, when they send young foxes out on their own.



Red fox jumping.



Trash collected during the 2017 cleanup.

SPRING CLEANUP

Join us for our Annual Spring Cleanup on Earth Day, Saturday, April 21 from 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome. Key projects include: trash removal from our newly-acquired 40 acres, garlic mustard removal, clay pigeon removal, and picking up litter along the roadways of South Concord and Wapello Avenue. Groups are welcome and encouraged to call ahead: 563.336.3374.

Glove, tongs, and safety gear will be provided, as well as water stations and light snacks. Please wear comfortable, durable clothes, a hat, and shoes that can get dirty. There may be wet areas, so rubber boots or water-resistant shoes are recommended. You may also bring a reusable water bottle.

WHAT FUN WE'VE HAD

Thank you to everyone who attended our late winter and early spring programs!

On March 1, 135 people attended the

INVASIVE SPECIES WORKSHOP

Presented by Bi-State Conservation Action Network

Organizers of the Quad Cities Pollinator Conference



After postponing due to a snow storm the week before, much fun was had at our annual Spring Celebration and Eco Egg Hunt on March 31!



MARSH MADNESS TRIVIA NIGHT SILENT AUCTION DONORS

11th Street Precinct	Loving Paws Bakery
Animal Playground	Kelly McKay
Brenny's Motorcycle Clinic	Miss Effie's
Buffalo Bill Museum	Necker's Jewelers
Jolinda Burr	Mitch and Kinsey Nielsen
Carousel of Delights	Olde Towne Bakery
Celebration Belle	Pampered Pets
Chocolate Manor	Panini & Friends
Comedy Sportz	Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center
Connie Cotton	Quad City Botanical Center
Country Kitchen	Quad City Family Entertainment
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Faithful Pilot	Thunder Bay Grille
Figge Art Museum	Unique Creations
Float QC	Ray Verbraak
Front Street Brewery	Britt Vickstrom
Glass Farm	Liz Wakita
Amy Groskopf and Kent Turner	Wapsi Environmental Education Center
Helium Trampoline Park	Cal and Jill Werner
Katy's Import Foods	Whiterock Conservancy
Lindsey Kennedy	
Kathy Lenaghan	

A special thank you to our event sponsors



and the



Table 20 won 1st place at trivia with members, including Dave Kinney, Chris Ferris, Michael Edmonds, Paul Thielmann, Karl Thielmann, Sue Thielmann, Heather Sanders, and Tim Garner.

SUMMER CAMPS AT NAHANT MARSH

by Amy Loving, *Education Coordinator*



Campers learn about animal adaptations.

This summer, Nahant Marsh is hosting a variety of summer camps for children from ages 3-14 from mid-June to the end of July. There are a lot of great options to choose from to keep your children busy all summer long! Our week-long camps, Nature Adventure Camp and Wilderness Skills Camp, will both include field trips to West Lake Park and Wild Cat Den for activities like canoeing, fishing, and creek stomping. Campers will need to bring a sack lunch to any full day camp, but we will provide snacks and beverages to keep the children hydrated on the hot summer days.

Campers must register by calling Eastern Iowa Community Colleges at 1.888.336.3907 or register online at eicc.edu/summercamp.



ECO ART CAMP FOR AGES 8-12 | COST: \$70

Connect nature, art, and doing your part to protect the earth. Campers will get to take home their creations like handmade paper and grapevine wreaths. The campers will also create a sculpture from natural and recycled materials to be displayed at Nahant Marsh.
June 13-14, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Nahant Marsh (section 195768)
July 12-13, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Bickelhaupt Arboretum (section 195768)

FROM TADPOLES TO FROGS FOR AGES 3-4 COST: \$18

Hop on over to Nahant Marsh for a morning of frog catching, tadpole scooping, and salamander spotting. Campers will meet live amphibians and explore their wondrous world through hands-on activities followed by an amphibian-themed snack.

June 21, 9-11 a.m. (section 195766)
July 19, 9-11 a.m. (section 195767)



Leopard frog.

CRITTER CAMP FOR AGES 5-6 | COST: \$24

Connect your child with nature as they learn about insects, reptiles, and other critters. Children will be fully engaged in activities like live animal encounters and outdoor exploration. Camp includes a snack.

June 21, 1-4 p.m. (section 195765)
July 19, 1-4 p.m. (section 195763)



Campers investigate their catch.

NATURE ADVENTURE CAMP FOR AGES 7-10 | COST: \$180

Explore wetlands, woodlands, and prairies with the naturalists at Nahant Marsh. Campers will get hands-on experience learning about wildlife and practicing outdoor skills. This camp offers youth an opportunity to create memories and dig into nature.
June 25-29, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (section 195772)



Dragonfly photographed by Larry Williams.

WILDERNESS SKILLS CAMP FOR AGES 11-14 | COST: \$180

In this camp, youth will explore the wetlands, woodlands, and prairies while learning practical survival and outdoor skills. Activities will include fire building, fishing, canoeing, and much more!
July 23-27, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (section 195773)

NEW! GETTIN' BUGGY WITH IT FOR AGES 7-12 | COST \$70

Summer day camp focusing on butterflies, dragonflies, native bees, aquatic insects, and more. Through a variety of hands-on, interactive field activities this camp will teach kids how amazing insects are. Campers will gain skills in the field and lab setting and will learn about insect conservation and the vital relationship between humans and insects.

Other fun summer camps are also listed at eicc.edu/summercamp.

THE
Community's
College

UPCOMING FAMILY AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

FAMILY-FRIENDLY PROGRAMS

\$3 Nahant Members, \$6 Guests. *There is no fee for adults accompanying children. These programs are geared toward school-age children, but adult nature lovers are welcome to attend.*

Scaly Snakes: May 13 | 10-11 a.m.

Discover the unique lives of snakes, turtles, and frogs in this family-friendly program. Participants will explore our “frog pond” and be introduced to our resident, education reptiles.



Porky, the Hognose snake animal ambassador.

Pond Study: June 16 | 10-11 a.m.

Join a naturalist as we study the invertebrates that live in the marsh. Using dip nets, participants will catch ghost shrimp, dragonfly nymphs, water boatman, and more! Participants will learn about pond life, food webs, water quality, metamorphosis, and adaptations. This fun, educational activity is perfect for families looking to explore the outdoors.

Prairie Insects: August 11 | 10-11 a.m.

Families will learn about the habitats, food sources, and adaptations of prairie insects. Participants will use nets to catch various species of dragonflies, butterflies, grasshoppers and more. Monarchs will be migrating at this time, and tags will be available to be attached for any captured Monarchs before they are released.

TODDLER AND K-9 YOUTH PROGRAMS

Homeschool: Fishing (Grades K-9): April 28

2:30-4 p.m. | \$6 Member, \$8 Guest

Students will learn basic techniques and how to identify common fish species. Meet at Carp Lake, 3706 S. Concord, Davenport, IA. Students may bring their own fishing poles and tackle. Equipment will be available as well.

Toddler Tales: Gardening (Ages 3-5): May 9

10-11 a.m. OR 2-3 p.m. | \$3 Member, \$5 Guest

It's time to start your gardens! We are going to read about Little Groundhog and how he grows his garden!

Homeschool: Spring Wild Edibles (Grades K-9): May 26

2:30-4 p.m. | \$6 Member, \$8 Guest

Students will learn about common wild edibles found this season and how to harvest and prepare them.

Toddler Tales: Nature's Shapes (Ages 3-5): June 13

10-11 a.m. OR 2-3 p.m. | \$3 Member, \$5 Guest

We are going to read about shapes found in nature and then go out and find our own!

Toddler Tales: Life in the Marsh (Ages 3-5): July 11

10-11 a.m. OR 2-3 p.m. | \$3 Member, \$5 Guest

There are so many creatures found in the marsh and we are going to read about turtles and see if we can find some!



Toddler Tales: Observing Nature (Ages 3-5): August 14

10-11 a.m. OR 2-3 p.m. | \$3 Member, \$5 Guest

We will learn about some amazing things found in nature and see what we can observe at Nahant.

Pre-registration for programs is strongly recommended, either online at www.nahantmarsh.org/events or by phone at 563.336.3370.

SAVE THE DATES

BOOBLITZ

JUNE 22-23

Family-friendly public programs will be offered Friday evening and Saturday morning as part of this 24-hour BioBlitz inventorying of species found on Nahant's preserve. Coordinated with:



UPCOMING ADULT PROGRAMS

Pre-registration for programs is strongly recommended, either online at www.nahantmarsh.org/events or by phone at 563.336.3370.

BREAKFAST NATURE CLUB

Learn the secrets of Iowa's wildlife during this monthly class at Nahant Marsh. A continental breakfast with coffee, juice, and tea is included in the fee. Feel free to bring your own coffee mug or travel container. Programs are held on the first Friday of the month and begin at 8 a.m.

Ferns of the Quad-City Region with Bob Bryant: May 4 8-9 a.m. | \$5 Members / \$10 Guests

Bob Bryant (retired director/naturalist of the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center and fern enthusiast) will conduct a mini-fern workshop. Using his PowerPoint program, "Ferns of the Quad-City Region" and pressed fronds, the following topics will be briefly covered: field guides and keys, morphology, life cycles, identification, distribution, uses, folklore, and photographing ferns.

Pollinator Citizen Science: June 1 8-9 a.m. | \$5 Members / \$10 Guests

Citizen Science is a great way to help the science community gather data across the globe. From bumblebees to monarchs, there are many monitoring projects that help gather critical data for pollinators. In this presentation, you will learn about the projects out there and how you can help conserve our pollinators.



Native Pollinators: July 6 8-9 a.m. | \$5 Members / \$10 Guests

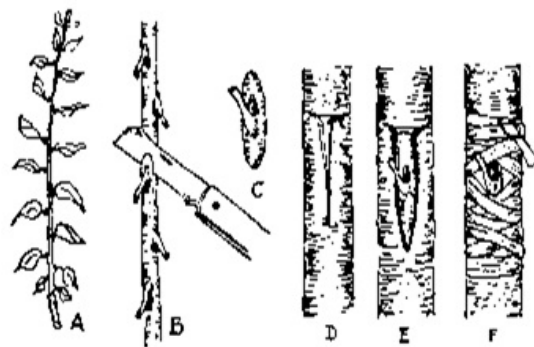
Pollinators play a very important role in the habitats in which they are found and in people's lives. They are responsible for the flowers that grow and the food we eat. Attendees will learn about pollination and the pollinators found in Iowa and Illinois.

Native Fruit and Nut Trees: August 3 8-9 a.m. | \$5 Members / \$10 Guests

There are dozens of native fruit and nut-bearing trees that are indigenous to the Midwest. In this class, we will learn about the vast variety and how they are beneficial to wildlife.

Enjoy programs at Nahant Marsh? Get a membership to receive up to 50% off on programs and events. Sign up online: www.nahantmarsh.org/membership.

OTHER ADULT PROGRAMS



Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop: May 5 1-5 p.m. | \$30 Members, \$35 Guests | Limit of 15

Taught by Tom Wahl of Red Fern Farms, this class will demonstrate techniques for propagating trees on your own. You will take home one apple tree that you proudly grafted.

Hidden Gems Tour: May 7 8:30-11:30 a.m. | \$10 Members, \$15 Guests

This tour will feature a guided hike through one of the unique parts of Loud Thunder Forest Preserve. Bob Bryant and Brian Ritter will discuss some of the rare plants and animals found in the park. The group will meet at Nahant Marsh Education Center at 8:30 a.m. and car pool to Loud Thunder. The hike will be easy to moderate.



Beginning Birding: May 2, June 6, June 16, July 11, July 21, August 8, August 18 6:30-9 a.m. | \$6 Members, \$12 Guests

Learn how to identify birds and their habitats with expert ornithologist Kelly McKay. Kelly will lead birding tours to various areas of Nahant Marsh. Participants will learn how to identify birds by sight and call and will learn how to properly use the equipment. The tour series is sponsored by Quad City Audubon Society.

What's on My Milkweed? June 19 6-8 p.m. | \$6 Members, \$12 Guests

Learn about the different types of native milkweeds, what insects are attracted to each, and the growing needs of the various species.

WITH APPRECIATION

PARTNERS



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ANIMAL ADOPTIONS

Shirley Horstmann
Rakus and Wille Families

KIDS CORNER: SPRING IS HERE!

by Kinsey Edmonds, *AmeriCorps Naturalist*



The weather is getting warmer and animals are becoming more active at Nahant Marsh!

Can you guess what each of these wetland animals might be?



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____

Challenge: Next time you are in your backyard or a park, close your eyes for 30 seconds and listen to all the sounds around you. Write down everything you heard below.

SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY



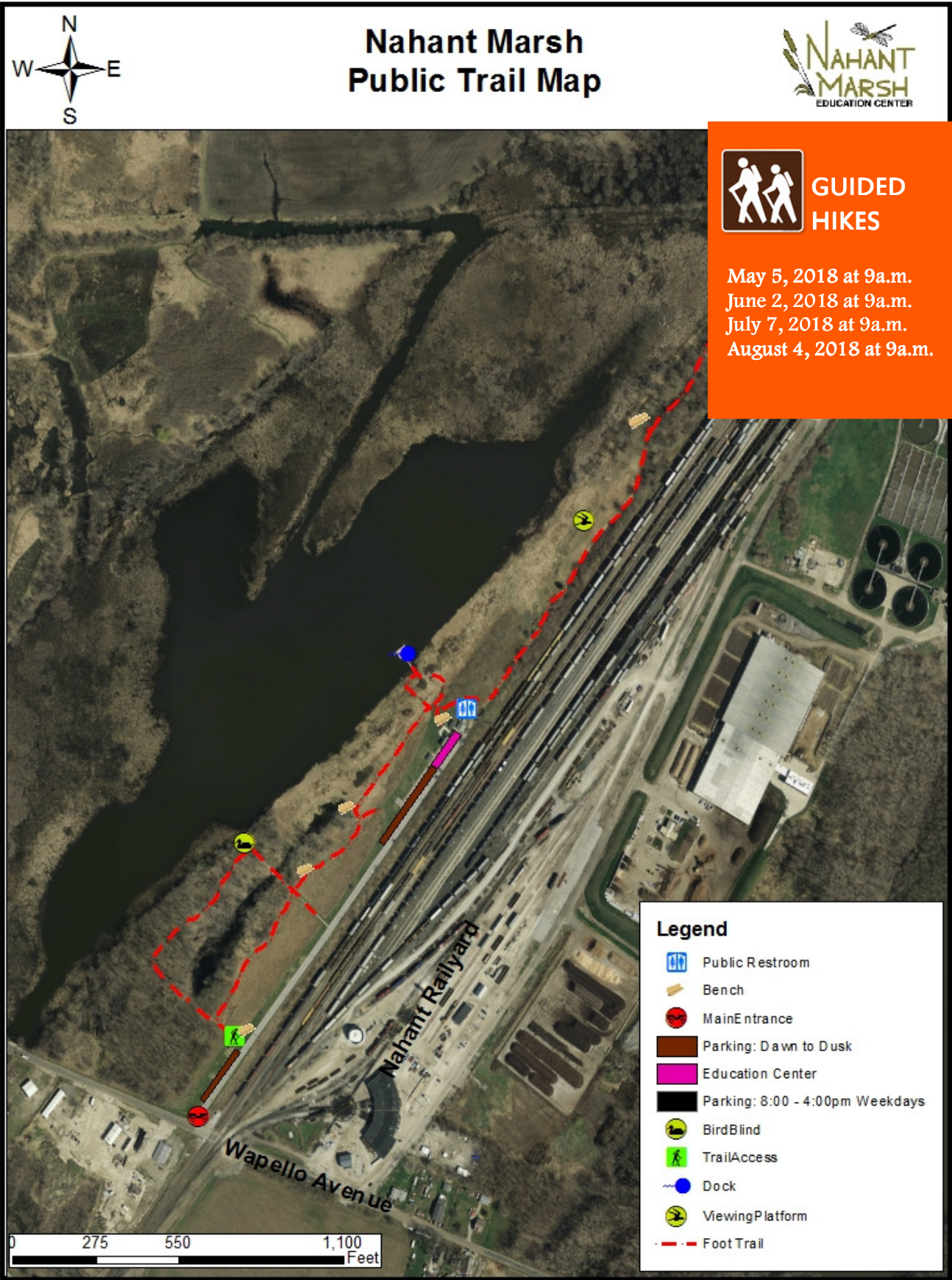
(LSAMP). We have had many different projects in the past including turtle monitoring, goat grazing studies, mushroom surveys, wildlife monitoring, and various water quality projects. Students will be responsible for designing their project, carrying out the research, and making a poster of their results.

The deadline to apply is May 7th! Any student is allowed to participate, but there is compensation available for students that meet the qualifications of the LSAMP grant. For more information, please contact Liz Schramm at eschramm@eicc.edu or check out our website www.nahantmarsh.org/whatwedo/research.



Blanding's turtle.

MAP YOUR ADVENTURE



EDUCATION CENTER HOURS

Monday–Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon (extended to 3 p.m. April–October)

There is no fee to visit the Education Center, but donations are always appreciated.

PRESERVE HOURS

Open Daily from Sunrise to Sunset.

If the main gate is locked, trails are accessible from the front parking lot. Look for the opening in the fence near the kiosk.



GETTING TO NAHANT MARSH

**Nahant Marsh
4220 Wapello Ave.
Davenport, IA 52802**

From Davenport, Iowa—Take Highway 22 south (Rockingham Road), turning left on Wapello Avenue (the last turn before the I-280 overpass).

From Rock Island, Illinois—Take I-280 into Iowa to the Highway 22/Rockingham Road exit. Turn right onto Highway 22, and then right onto Wapello Avenue.

**Follow Wapello Avenue toward the river.
Nahant Marsh will be on the left just before the railroad crossing.**