

Nahant News

SUMMER 2021

Volume 15, Issue 3



Photo by A. Loving

ABOUT NAHANT MARSH

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Natural Resources Technician I



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).



IT'S IN OUR NATURE

by Brian Ritter, *Executive Director*

Our Campaign to Connect, Protect, and Grow Nahant Marsh

On June 4, 2021, Nahant Marsh held a special event to celebrate 20 years as an organization and to publicly announce our \$3.7 million Capital Campaign to Connect, Protect, and Grow Nahant Marsh. Even though we are just now announcing the campaign to the public, Nahant staff and campaign volunteers have actually been working behind the scenes since 2019 and have already raised \$2.73 million. With under \$1 million to go, we are now asking for community's support to get us over the hurdle.

Why now? With increased demand for educational programming, recreation, and a need to better protect the marsh, we decided that now is the best time to take a leap forward.



How will we put \$3.7 million to work?

Education: \$950,000 will be used to expand the education program by adding more staff, equipment, and by expanding the Nahant Fund for Recreation and Environmental Education (Nahant FREE). Nahant FREE will essentially allow local lower income schools and children to attend programming at Nahant Marsh at no cost to them.

Conservation and Research: \$1,760,000 will be used to purchase land, construct a wetland mitigation bank, and for long-term maintenance.

Recreation: \$990,000 will be used to expand our trail network, including the construction of a paved bike trail that will connect the main marsh with the Mississippi River Trail. Additionally, an operations building will be built that will have classroom/lab space. This building will free up much-needed space in the main education center.

What's been done so far to Connect, Protect, and Grow Nahant Marsh?

Connect: A trail network, shelter, restroom, and other amenities are being planned on our newest 39-acre tract. This will allow us to connect the main marsh with the Mississippi River Trail.

Work has begun to enhance the east trail that will eventually connect the education center to South Concord and River Drive.

New interpretative signage will be installed along the trails that will allow for self-guided tours around the Nahant Preserve.

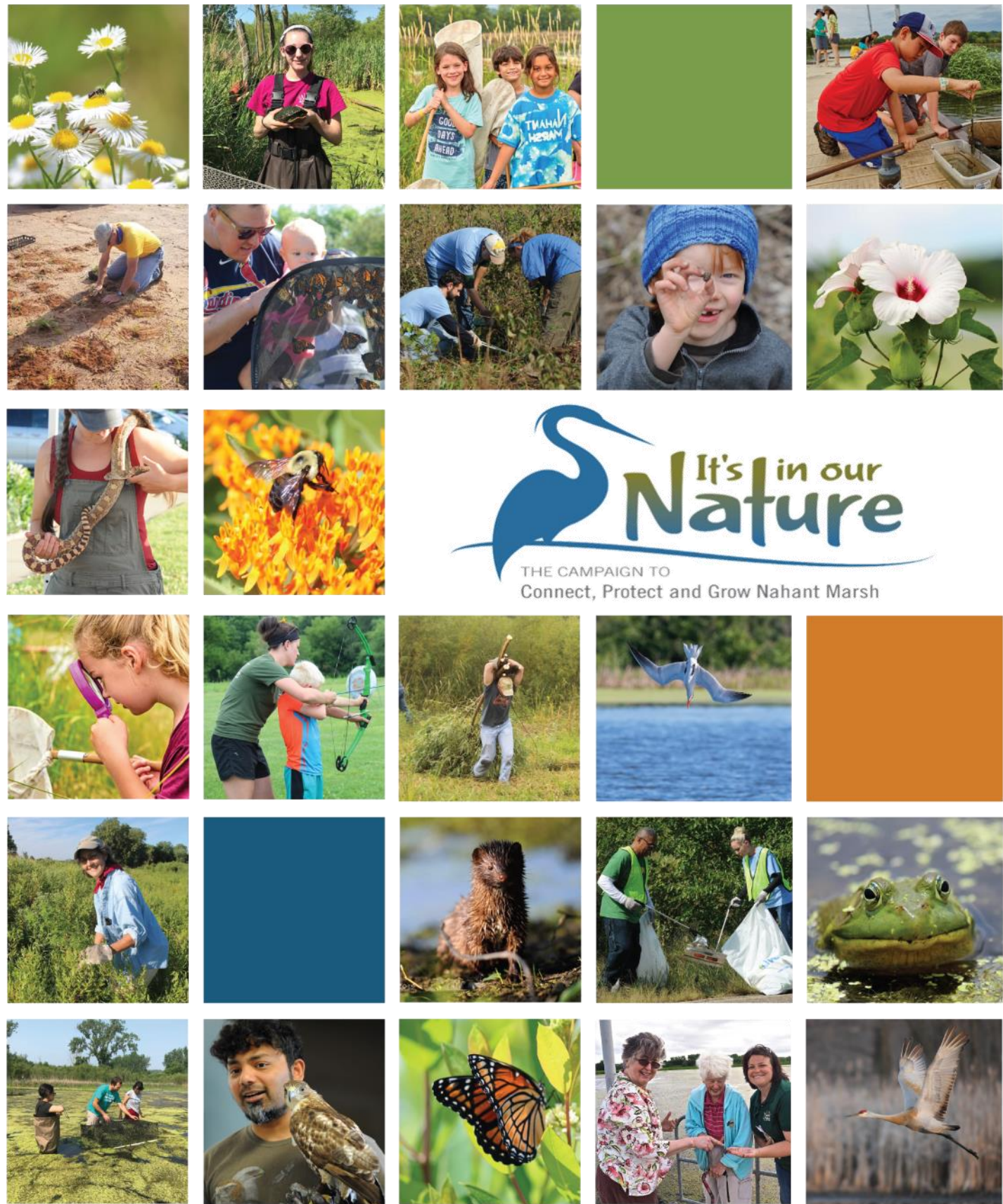
Protect: A 39-acre parcel was purchased in 2018 and work to convert into wetland and prairie was completed in fall 2020.

Work has begun to restore a 30-acre bottomland forest on Nahant's northeast end. Thirty shallow ponds and ridges were constructed in 2020. Silver Maples will be cut from the parcel later this year, and over 1,000 trees (including oaks, hickories, pecans, and others) will be planted.

Grow: A National Science Foundation grant, secured by Eastern Iowa Community Colleges, allowed us to purchase nearly \$175,000 in new research/science education equipment. This equipment will allow us to better study the marsh ecosystem while also training the next generation of scientists.

We will continue to grow the education program by adding more staff, including a new research coordinator/educator position that will begin by the end of the year.

Please help us get to \$3.7 million! Learn more by going to www.nahantmarsh.org



TO HELP CONNECT, PROTECT, AND GROW NAHANT MARSH,
GO TO WWW.NAHANTMARSH.ORG/CAPITAL-CAMPAIGN

2021 SUMMER CAMPS

Registration for summer camps has closed, but check out the great opportunities we are offering children this summer!



Toadstools Camp (Grades PreK-K)

Hop on over to Nahant Marsh for a morning of nature exploring. Campers will meet live creatures and explore their wondrous world through hands-on activities.

Critter Camp (Grades 1-3)

Connect your child with nature as they learn about insects, reptiles, and other critters. Children will be fully engaged with activities such as live animal encounters and outdoor exploration.

Jr. Naturalist Camp (Grades 3-6)

Dive deep into the world of plants and animals. Campers will engage in various research techniques that are used by wildlife biologists to study insects, birds, plants, fish, reptiles, and mammals.

Outdoor Survival Camp (Grades 3-6)

Getting back to the basics, campers will learn skills like fire building, shelter building, and navigation. They will also learn how to safely forage, harvest, and prepare wild foods.

Nature Adventure Camp (Grades 2-6)

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 in to nature.

Prairies and Fairies Camp (Grades 2-6)

Discover enchanting wild things and wildflowers as we immerse ourselves in the prairie. Campers will create fairy houses, learn about wildflowers, and collect beautiful, winged creatures.

Getting Buggy With It Camp (Grades 2-6)

Spend the days catching butterflies, dragonflies, native bees, aquatic insects & more! Through a variety of hands-on activities, this camp will teach kids how amazing insects are. Campers will learn about insect conservation and the vital relationship between humans and insects.

Follow us on social media to stay up to date on our program offerings and registration deadlines!



@nahantmarshiowa



@nahantmarsh



@nahant_marsh

MEET THE SUMMER STAFF

Education Team

Colin Shirk, Naturalist Intern

Colin is newest member of the Nahant Education Team! This summer, he is serving as a Naturalist Intern, assisting in summer camp and other education programs.

Colin is from Davenport, IA and is a recent graduate of the Conservation Technology pathway at Eastern Iowa Community College.

Colin is an Apprentice Class Wildlife Rehabilitator; he volunteers part-time to rehabilitate sick and injured birds of prey and conduct raptor education programs with The RARE Group (Raptor Advocacy, Rehabilitation, & Education) in Iowa City, IA.

In his free time, he enjoys photography, birding, hiking, camping, and fishing.



Alexis Azure, AmeriCorps Environmental Educator



Alexis has joined the Nahant Education Team for the summer, serving as a part-time AmeriCorps Naturalist! She is well-versed in environmental education, as she previously served Scott County Conservation as an AmeriCorps Naturalist at the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center.

Alexis is from Davenport, IA, and went to Kirkwood Community College for Parks and Natural Resources. She is currently a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville majoring in Reclamation, Environment, and Conservation and receiving a minor in Environmental Horticulture.

In her spare time she enjoys camping, longboarding, and herping.

MEET THE SUMMER STAFF

Natural Resources

This summer, Nahant Marsh has partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to offer two very unique internships! In this position, interns work as natural resource technicians for Nahant Marsh and conduct Rusty Patch Bumblebee surveys for the USFWS. We are thrilled to offer such an exciting opportunity this summer!

Chloe Proffitt

Chloe is from Crawfordsville, IA and currently attends Iowa State University as a Forestry major. Before attending ISU, she spent her first two years of college at Muscatine Community College as a conservation major.

Chloe's future plans include getting a Master's degree within the forestry field — specifically in forest ecosystem management. After, she plans on continuing her work as a Natural Resources Technician, or any job similar to surveying through the USFWS.

Chloe spent a lot of time at Nahant Marsh during undergrad, helping guide her career and education goals. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, kayaking/canoeing, fishing, and hunting.



Clarissa Whitaker

Clarissa is the second Natural Resource intern this summer! She is from Jasper, Indiana and is currently a Senior at Brigham Young University in Utah studying Wildlife and Wildlands Conservation with a minor in non-profit management.

She is already loving her work at Nahant Marsh and USFWS! Her dream job is to one day work for the Jane Goodall Institute in London.

In her spare time, Clarissa enjoys rock climbing, art, movies, organizing, and nature.



NATURAL RESOURCES UPDATE

by Kinsey Nielsen, *Natural Resource Manager*

Spring has kept us busy with plenty of projects! With the help of volunteers, interns, and staff we transplanted over 500 native plants to our new restoration site, planted 483 trees and shrubs, finished removing the invasive mulberry trees down the East trail, and performed a prescribed burn on the prairies along the driveway. We are currently working to remove small trees, curly dock, sweet clover, poison hemlock, and other invasive species from the prairies throughout the upcoming months.



Volunteers Kurt and Todd transplanting natives to the Clarke property on 4-19-2021. Photo by K. Nielsen.



Interns Chloe and Clarissa removing thistles by the main entrance on 5-27-2021. Photo by K. Nielsen.



Prescribed burn crew! Maddie, Chloe, Zach, and Kinsey on 5-26-2021. Photo by C. Whitaker.



Prescribed burn in progress on 5-26-2021. Natural Resources are managing grasses in the prairie and working to add more forb diversity in future years. Photo by K. Nielsen.

EASTERN KINGBIRD

by EmiLee Novak, *AmeriCorps Educator*



Photo by C. Shirk

The Eastern Kingbird is a member of the large-headed flycatcher genus, *Tyrannus*, meaning tyrant, despot, or king. The Eastern Kingbird represents these characteristics so well, it was given the scientific name *Tyrannus tyrannus*. This flycatcher uses his bullying behavior to ward off any predators interested in his breeding grounds or partner.

The Eastern Kingbird can be identified by its contrasting black upperparts and white underparts. Specific characteristics of the Eastern Kingbird is the white band along the end of the tail feathers and its upright body posture.

Typically, this Kingbird is socially monogamous and will continue to mate with the same individual if both survive to the following breeding season. Although they prefer to breed in open habitat with scattered shrubs and trees, the Eastern Kingbird will also breed along woodland edges in forested areas and almost always near water.

Most Kingbirds begin their migration from South America in April and will often be seen in Iowa by mid-May. Once breeding grounds are established, pairs will start to breed in May and begin laying eggs in June. Generally, females will lay one brood during the breeding season, with 3-4 eggs per brood, but will lay up to four broods if the first don't survive. Migration to South America begins in August for the Eastern Kingbird, so be sure to make time to come out to Nahant Marsh to see this tyrant King!

MEADOW ROSE



by Allison Nodurft, *AmeriCorps Educator*

Meadow Rose, or *Rosa blanda*, is a stunning pink flower native to the north east and central regions of the US, as well as southern parts of Canada. Also known as Smooth Rose or Early Wild Rose, this perennial flower consists of five pink petals, a yellow center, and small bristles instead of thorns. These roses spread by root suckers and create large patches, growing particularly well in dry soils with plenty of sun.

Meadow Rose blooms its bright pink petals from June to August. In the late summer, their berry-like fruits, called rose hips, turn a bright red. Rose hips are a rich source of vitamin C and can be made into tea, jelly, and syrup.

Even more, Meadow Rose falls under the umbrella of wild roses that are Iowa's state flower! This rose is also of special value to native bees, as it provides beneficial nesting materials and structure.

Over the last few years, a patch of Meadow Rose has grown at the marsh! Next time you visit Nahant, be sure to look for the growing patch of Iowa's state flower at the head of the boardwalk.



Photo by A. Nodurft

UPCOMING EVENTS

NATURE HIKE

Join a Naturalist for an interpretive trail walk through the Marsh. Hikes are offered year-round on the first Saturday of the month and give visitors an opportunity to learn more about the diverse flora and fauna of this unique natural area. Goodwill donation goes towards our public education programs.

July 3, August 7, Sept. 4 • 9-10 am

Cost: \$5 Suggested donation

TODDLER TALES

A great way to introduce young children, ages 3-5 years old, to the wonders of the outdoors! The second Wednesday of each month from April-October, Nahant Marsh educators will lead a nature-themed story, craft, and outdoor adventure. Join us from 10-11 am for this great program!

July 7 : Tracks!

August 4: Seed Need

Sept. 1: In a Grasshopper World

Cost: \$4 Members / \$8 Guests

POP-UP PROGRAMS

Somedays, you've just got to take a hike! To catch some of the amazing natural phenomena, join one of our pop-up programs! We will share information regarding programs about one day before, so be sure to watch for emails or check our Facebook to stay in the loop.

BREAKFAST NATURE CLUB

The early bird gets the worm! Join Colin Shirk, Nahant Naturalist Intern and RARE Group volunteer for a morning with some of Iowa's amazing raptors. Learn about the avian species, and the differences between diurnal and nocturnal raptors.

July 9 • 8-9 am

Cost: \$5 Members / \$10 Guests

A portion of the proceeds will go to the RARE Group.

WILD WOODWORKING

Get ready to harvest your garden with this installment of Wild Woodworking. Join Naturalist Allison to build a versatile basket that can be used for vegetables, flowers, or foraging. All materials and tools will be provided. No woodworking experience necessary.

July 20 • 6-7:30 pm

Cost: \$28 Members / \$35 Guests



BIRDING WITH JIMMY

Experienced and beginner birders will enjoy this series of exploring bird populations at Nahant Marsh with AmeriCorps Naturalist, Jimmy. Each season brings in new visitors to the Marsh, and the hikes will allow you to learn more about bird identification and behavior.

July 24, August 28 • 8-10 am

Cost: \$5 Members / \$10 Guests



PLEASE JOIN US

Monday, August 9, 2021

from 5-7 p.m.



for a **PUBLIC POSTER SESSION & RECEPTION**

Our research interns are working hard this summer gathering data for their various projects at Nahant Marsh. Projects this year focus on tracking the movement of Blanding's turtles; monarch butterfly flight performance; bat, frog, and snake surveys; water quality as it relates to zooplankton and macroinvertebrates; and biodiversity of prairie plants.

Please join us Monday evening as our students present their findings at Nahant Marsh.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

by Kelsi DeNoyer, *Volunteer Coordinator*



On Saturday, May 1, an AMAZING group of 46 volunteers participated in the 2021 Nahant Marsh Spring Cleanup.

Thanks to their hard work, **88 bags of trash, 67 tires, and hundreds of invasive plants** were removed from the marsh, along with...

- 2 refrigerators
- 4 car gas tanks
- 4 bags of yard waste
- 4 blankets
- A toilet
- Car door panel
- Vacuum
- And so much more!

We appreciate everyone who participated in the Spring Cleanup and helped make Nahant Marsh a better place!

CONGRATS CASSIE!

Congratulations to Cassie Druhl on her new position!

On April 1st, Cassie began working as an Urban Conservationist for the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS). For two years, she did great work as the Volunteer Coordinator and Administrative Assistant for Nahant Marsh.

Good luck in Des Moines Cassie; you will be missed!



WELCOME KELSI

Nahant's new Volunteer Coordinator/Admin. Assistant is Kelsi DeNoyer!

Kelsi has been at Nahant Marsh for over two years, serving two terms as an AmeriCorps Environmental Educator and one year as a Graduate Assistant through Western Illinois University.

She recently graduated from WIU with a master's degree in Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration. This was also her undergraduate degree, with a minor in environmental studies.

In her free time, Kelsi enjoys biking, kayaking, hiking, DIY projects, and spending time with friends and family. She looks forward to working with Nahant's amazing volunteers!



WITH APPRECIATION

2021 DONATIONS

Cristina Amador Perez	Elizabeth Hodges	Norm and Janet Moline	Tony and Joyce Singh
Dee Bruemmer	Josh Hoffman	Gordon Muller	Darren Speth
Delta Kappa Gamma Society	Bob Holmes	Chris Newman	Sherry Staub
Lisa and Mark Cleve	Iowa Ornithologists Union	Allison Nodurft	Mary Ann Stoffel
John Conley	Beth Johnson	Anonymous	Anonymous
Jane and Les Cox	Jared Johnson	Randy and Carol Pribyl	Larry Stone
Paul Crosser	Derek Jones	RDA	Robert Suthers
Nicholas De La Cruz	Steve and Lora Kull	Heath Reed	Susan Tate
Olivia Dorothy	Whitney Kylo	Project Renewal	Brian Tugana
Brock & Carol Earnhardt	Linwood Mining & Minerals Corp.	Ruhl and Ruhl Realtors	JiMelissa von Maur Charitable Foundation
Estes Construction	Curtis Lundy	Mike Ryan	Susan von Maur
Kim Findlay	Kent Marcek	Dick Ryan	Cal Werner
GreenState	Kathleen McLaughlin	Greg and Mary Schermer	Cathy and John White
Amy Groskopf and Kent Turner	MidAmerican Energy CO	Alexandra Schmidt	Whitey's Ice Cream
Lynne Groskurth	Miller Trucking and Excavating	Ramona Schramm	Claire Wilson
Steve and Angie Gustafson	Mississippi Valley Sportsmen Inc.	Nathan and Elizabeth Schramm	Anonymous
Glenda Guster			

Consider Nahant Marsh in your legacy plan to help ensure that future generations can appreciate and enjoy this unique natural area.

CORPORATE SPONSORS AND PARTNERS



2021 HONORS & MEMORIALS

ATEEC in memory of Melonee Docherty
 Frank McCarthy in honor of Finn and Gavin Hoffman

Elizabeth Schramm in honor of Shirley Horstmann
 Wolfe Family Foundation in memory of Robert A. Wolfe

WITH APPRECIATION

2021 ANIMAL ADOPTIONS

Captain • Blanding's Turtle

Lisa and Mark Cleve

Nicolina Turtle Co.

Cathy and John White

Rocky • Bull Snake

Continental Cement Company

Elizabeth Schramm in memory of
Shirley Horstmann**Squirtle • Ornate Box Turtle**

Cathy and John White

Squirtle (the dog!) VanCamp

Buddy • Painted Turtle

Cassie Druhl

Nicolina Turtle Co.

Micheline • Three-Toed Box Turtle

Nicolina Turtle Co.

Sunny • Fox Snake

Cathy and John White

To learn more about adopting an animal ambassador, please visit nahantmarsh.org/adopt-an-animal/

2021 MEMBERSHIPS

Catherine Alexander

Michael and Julia Angelos

John and Liz Arter

Josh and Healthy Ballou

Shannon Bernhard

Barbara Biggs

Ellen Bluth

Bernadene Bowles

John and Kathy Bowman

Paul and Kathy Brown

Bob Bryant

Denise Bulat

Fred Burnham

Anne Colville

Linda Cook

Jane and Les Cox

Richard Craddick

Paul Crossover

Marilyn Davis

Olivia Dorothy

Brock and Carol Earnhardt

Mark Fenner

Sarah Ferguson

Veronique Fernandez

Larry and Monica Flathman

Martina and Dived Garrison

Lynne Groskurth

Judith Guenther

Duane Haas

Pat Halverson

Judy Hartley

Hank Hartman

Randy and Coni Hervey

Josh and Kate Hoffman

Michael and Hedy Hustedde

Betsy Huston

Shirley Johnson

Amy and Kevin Kay

Karen Kelly

The Kelly Family

Todd and Amy Kersten

Steve Kull

Marion Lardner

Judith Lee

Kathleen and Any Leneghan

Robert Loch

Kathleen Logan

Curtis Lundy

Mark Marmorine

John and Joan Maxwell

Paul Mayes

Frank and Ann McCarthy

Susan McPeters

Leo Moench

Kathy and Gary Morris

Tim Murphy

Lorrie Newman

Pam Ohnemus

Barbara Palen

Virginia Parer

Randy and Caron Pribyl

Rita Rawson

Chris and Mary Rayburn

Stan Reeg

Gail Rinkenberger

Brian Ritter

Elizabeth Russell

Michael Ryan

Dick Ryan

Damion and Amy Sadd

Claudia Scharf

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Nathan and Elizabeth
Schramm

David Schramm

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John Telleen

Darrell and Anne Thode

Robert Thompson

Thomas Thoms

Sue and Bob Thoresen

Elizabeth Tobin

Brian Tugana

James and Cathy Van Fossen

Britt Vickstrom

The Wagher Family

Lori Walljasper

Cal and Jill Werner

Ann Werner

Cathy White

JoAnn Whitmore

Lee Ann and Wayne Wille

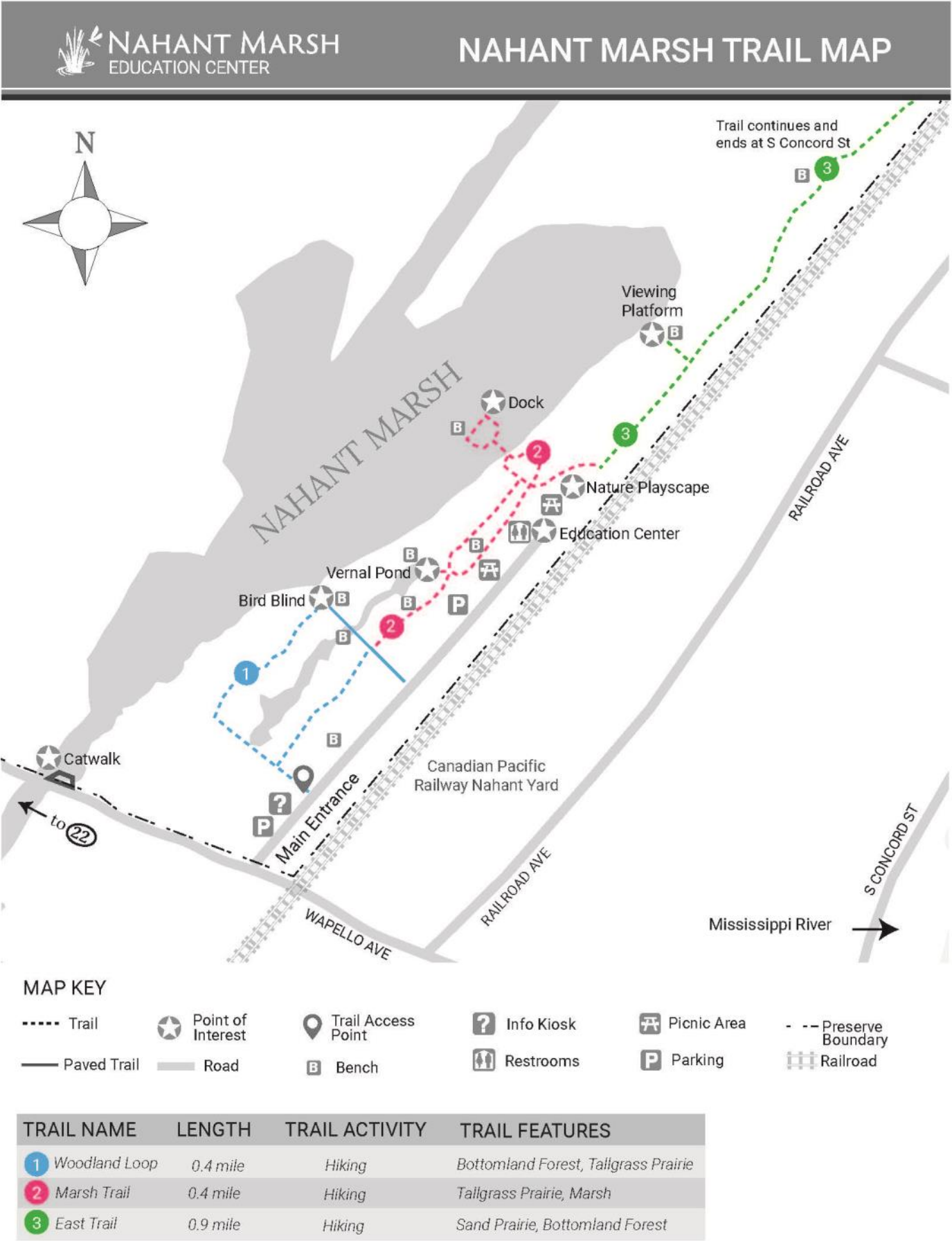
Jonathan and Sarah

Wilmshurst

Kathy Wine

Betty Wood

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.