

2021

ANNUAL REPORT




NAHANT MARSH
EDUCATION CENTER

ABOUT NAHANT MARSH


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.

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, while the educational programming is overseen by Eastern Iowa Community Colleges (EICC).

 563-336-3370

 nahantmarsh@eicc.edu

 www.nahantmarsh.org

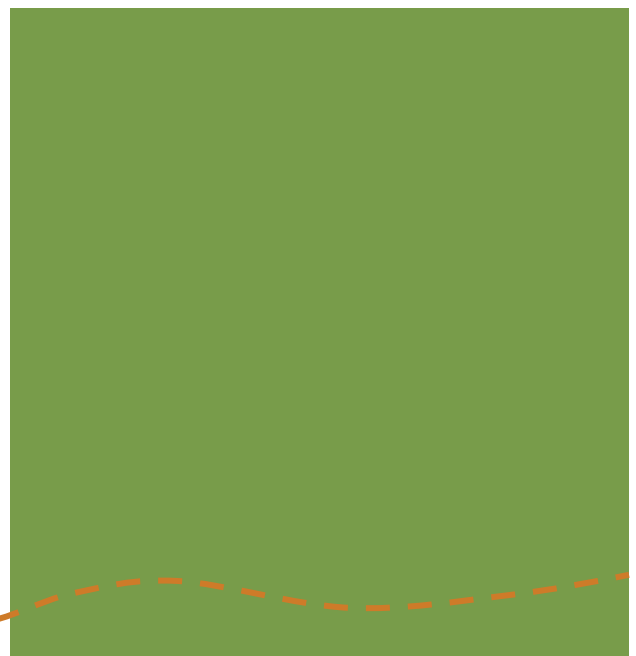
 4220 Wapello Ave. | Davenport, IA 52804

MISSION

To protect, enhance, and restore the Marsh through education, research, and conservation.

VISION

To foster wonder, appreciation, and stewardship of the natural world.





FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BRIAN RITTER

Foresters have an old saying: “the best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The second best time is now.” At Nahant Marsh, we have been carefully planting conservation and education seeds for over 20 years and that investment has allowed the Marsh to mature and thrive. In 2021, we wrapped up a \$4 million Capital Campaign that will have both short and long term impacts on the Marsh, the Mississippi River, and on the people that live here.

This past year was a success for many reasons. Our education program served almost 15,000 people, despite being closed for the first five months because of the pandemic. Volunteers put in thousands of hours towards making the Marsh a healthier place. Our work on several ecosystem restoration projects and towards a new Master Plan continued. And research continued on some of our rarer species- the rusty patched bumble bee and the Blanding’s turtle.

This year will be a busy one at the Marsh as well. Dozens of school groups will be returning to the Marsh this spring. We will begin work on our new operations building, trails, and signage. And we will be planting over 1,000 trees as part of a major restoration project in the hopes that in 20 years they will provide food, shelter, and clean air.

Thank you for working with us to make Nahant Marsh a better place now and in the future!

NAHANT STAFF

Back Row (left to right)

Jimmy Wiebler

Naturalist & Research Coordinator

Brian Ritter

Executive Director

Shannon Bernhard

Marketing & Events Coordinator

Amy Loving

Director of Education

Colin Shirk

AmeriCorps Naturalist

Front Row (left to right)

Kelsi Massengale

Watershed & Volunteer Coordinator

Allison Nodurft

AmeriCorps Naturalist

Maddie Kull

Natural Resource & Animal Caretaker

Kinsey Nielsen

Natural Resource Manager

Liz Schramm

Director of Operations & Donor Relations



Not Pictured:
Zach Strong & Kory Darnall, Natural Resource Technicians

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR, CURTIS LUNDY

At the stroke of midnight on December 31, 2021, the capital campaign ended. The \$3.7 million goal was reached and exceeded, thanks to the tenacity and creativity of the Steering Committee that met, pondered, pleaded, did everything but say no to three years of effort. The Steering Committee was comprised mainly of folks from the community who knew something about Nahant, often not a lot. However, they knew enough to say in their minds and hearts it was worth fighting for— and they did. In addition to those from the community, various board members and staff comprised the Steering Committee. A big thanks goes out to each and every one. And, of course, enormous thanks goes out to all the donors who invested their hard earned money.

Now the fun part: investing the funds in the Marsh creatures, habitat, and staff. The Capital Campaign will be used to provide a much-needed operations building, scholarships, bussing for area schools, recreational trails, habitat protection, enhancement and restoration. It is going to be exciting and will require all the tenacity and creativity that fund-raising demanded, if not more. Visit the Marsh and witness its growth . The creatures (otters, beavers, 100s of bird species, turtles, frogs, butterflies, muskrats, snakes, dragonflies and friends, and the myriad of plant life upon which all rests) want to see your smiling faces.

2021 was a fantastic year at the Marsh. 2022 promises to be more enriching. We hope you'll join us.



THE BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair

Curtis Lundy

Vice-Chair

Ellen Bluth

Treasurer

Jonathan Wilmshurst

Secretary

Kathy Wine

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Bryant

Denise Bulat

Nicole Cline

Brock Earnhardt

Steve Gustafson

Josh Hoffman

Amy Kay

Kathy Morris

Tim Murphy

Michael Ryan

Cal Werner

2021 BY THE NUMBERS

EDUCATION

1,844

EDUCATION
CENTER
VISITORS

496

STUDENTS
ATTENDED
FIELD TRIPS

4,148

ADULT
PROGRAM
ATTENDEES

CONSERVATION

48

ORGANIZED
VOLUNTEER
EVENTS

220

BAGS OF
TRASH
REMOVED

51

SPECIES OF
NATIVE SEED
HARVESTED

RESEARCH

8

LSAMP
RESEARCH
STUDENTS

1,261

HOURS OF
RESEARCH
AT NAHANT

4

BLANDING'S
TURTLES RAISED
& RELEASED

Additionally, due to a traffic sensor study, we estimate that **46,000 cars** entered the Marsh and nearly **27,000 people** walked Nahant's trails in 2021.



EDUCATION IN 2021

FINDING NEW WAYS TO CONNECT

After over a year of being closed to the public, we were excited to open our doors in May and offer new, innovative ways to connect people with Nahant Marsh and the natural world.



15,226 PEOPLE REACHED IN 2021

14 SUMMER CAMPS - **248** WITH CAMPERS

2,953 PEOPLE CONNECTED TO NATURE THROUGH OUTREACH PROGRAMS

221 PROGRAMS PROVIDED TO **32** SCHOOL GROUPS

IN TOTAL, **9,425** IMPACT HOURS WERE PROVIDED BY NAHANT'S EDUCATION TEAM



2021 EVENTS



Capital Campaign Kickoff | June 4

We celebrated both Nahant's 20th Anniversary and the final push of our Capital Campaign with staff, the Board, key stakeholders, and donors.

6th Annual Monarch Release Party | September 11

Over 100 people joined us to celebrate, learn about, and release monarch butterflies for their fall migration!

Gift Wrap to Give Back | December 11

The Friends of Nahant Marsh raised over \$500 with this holiday fundraiser, offering gift wrapping, baked goods, and nature-themed gifts to benefit the Reptile Room Remodel.

A YEAR OF CONSERVATION

WORKING TO PROTECT THE MARSH

2021 marks yet another year of incredible work by the natural resource team and volunteers, who worked tirelessly to restore and protect the Marsh.

220 BAGS OF TRASH
REMOVED

8.5 ACRES OF PRAIRIE
BURNED

100 TRAILER LOADS OF
BRUSH REMOVED

7.5 ACRES OF PRAIRIE
CLEARED OF SHRUBS

197 TIRES COLLECTED
FROM NAHANT
PROPERTY

165 NATIVE TREES
PLANTED

1,466 HOURS OF AMAZING WORK FROM
NATURAL RESOURCE VOLUNTEERS



2021 RESEARCH GROWING OUR KNOWLEDGE

In 2021, **8 college and high school students** took part in the Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP IINSPIRE) summer program at Nahant Marsh, resulting in...

8 RESEARCH PROJECTS ON

- Biodiversity of plants in different stages of restored prairie
- Water quality at Nahant Marsh
- Effects of noise pollution on monarch butterflies
- Vocal presence of both bat and frog species
- Zooplankton biodiversity as it relates to Nahant's water quality
- Snake populations and dynamics
- Movement and patterns of Blanding's turtles in the marsh

3 PAID INTERNSHIPS

5 LOCAL SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

1,202 HOURS OF RESEARCH



2021 HIGHLIGHTS

CELEBRATING A YEAR OF SUCCESS



Along with the rest of the world, we worked to find our place in the new normal that 2021 brought. Despite challenges, we are exceptionally proud of all the year's accomplishments highlighted below.

- Hatched, raised, and released 4 baby Blanding's turtles into the marsh to help reestablish the threatened species' local population
- Received nearly \$200,000 in grants
- Started a Wild Woodworking program and had nearly 100 total participants
- Partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide two summer internships researching the endangered rusty patched bumble bee
- Had our first documented pair of successfully-nesting Sandhill Cranes!
- Established a new trail through our oak savanna habitat
- Hosted our first wedding. Congrats again to Mr. & Mrs. Brown!
- Observed our first year of fledglings in the newly-built Purple Martin house
- Raised over \$3,700 with our Save the Blanding's fundraiser!
- Planted and enjoyed an acre of sunflowers on our newest property
- Exceeded our Capital Campaign goal!



VOLUNTEERS AT THE MARSH

2021 brought yet another year of incredible volunteers who generously donated their time, energy, and talents to Nahant Marsh. While volunteers were involved in nearly every project, here are some of the past year's highlights:

725 HOURS OF INVASIVE
SPECIES REMOVAL

267 BIRD COUNT HOURS

197 HOURS OF HABITAT
ENHANCEMENT

Volunteers also...

- Took photographs for events
- Staffed the education center every Saturday
- Collected data at the Bi-CAN BioBlitz
- Helped staff the Monarch Release Party
- Managed our Instagram & Twitter pages



2021 FRIENDS

President
Jolinda Eggers

Treasurer
Curtis Lundy

Secretary
Julie Malake

Lynn Abel

Jane Broughton

Bob Bryant

Terry Collins

Sheri Colman

Amy Groskopf

Andy Lenaghan

Kathy Lenaghan

Cindy Slater

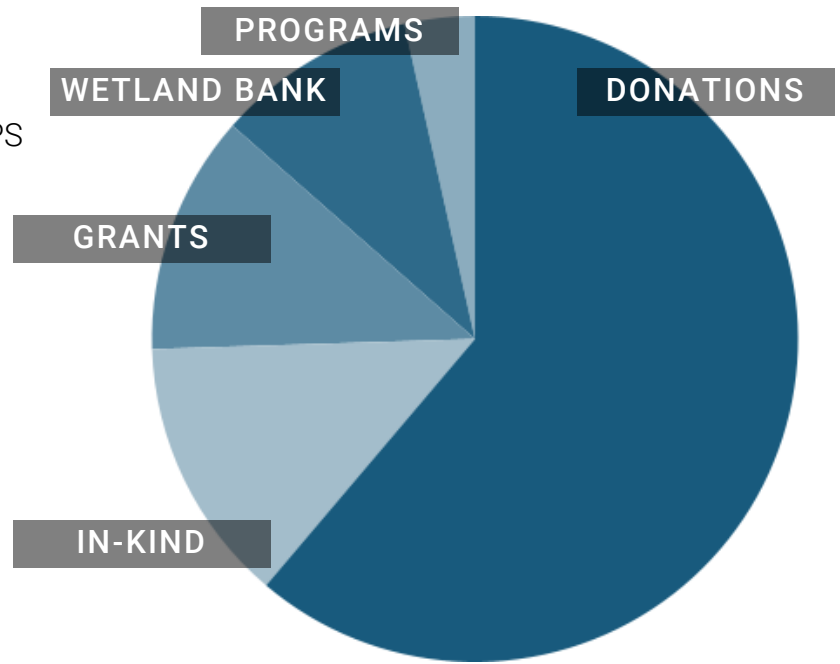
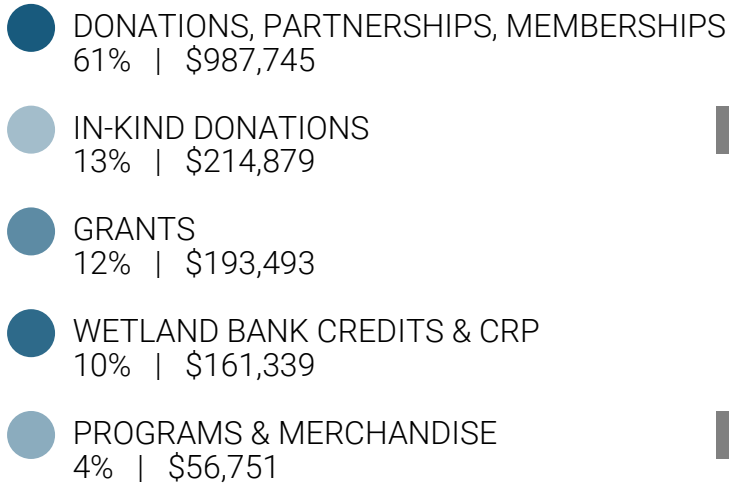
Mark Slater

Kent Turner

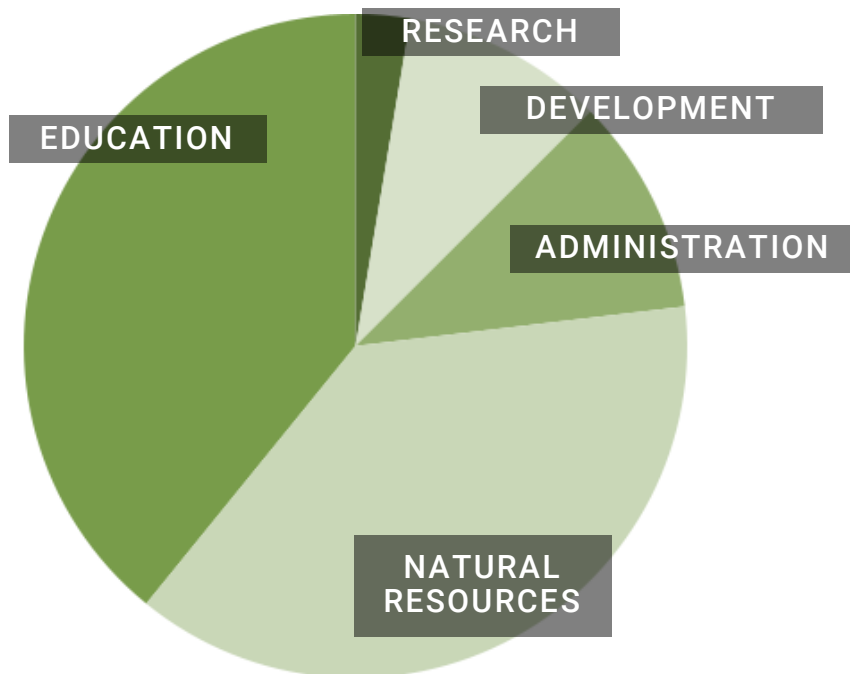
Britt Vickstrom

Cathy White

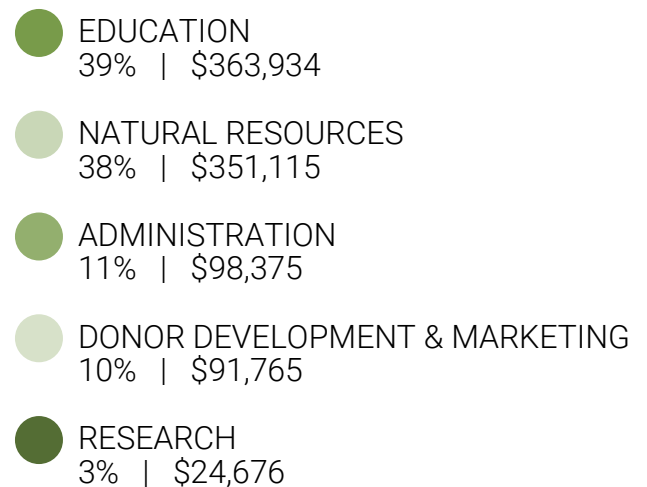
REVENUE



In 2021, Nahant Marsh Education Center's total revenue was \$1,614,267. Of this, \$885,940 were restricted donations for the Capital Campaign. In-kind donations included support from our partners at Eastern Iowa Community Colleges, the City of Davenport, AmeriCorps, and other individual donors.



EXPENDITURES



Of Nahant Marsh's total \$929,865 expenditures for 2021, 80% went directly to supporting education, research, and conservation of natural resources at the marsh. This year, more funds were used for development and administration due to staff time and marketing expenses incurred while working on and completing the Capital Campaign.

2021 PARTNERS & SPONSORS



Linwood Mining & Minerals Corp.



2021 GRANTS



Bechtel Trusts



Rauch Family Foundation



ARCONIC FOUNDATION



2021 NAHANT MEMBERS

Alma Gaul
Ann Werner
Anne Colville
Ballou Family
Barbara Biggs
Barbara Palen
Bernadene Bowles
Betsy Huston
Betty Wood
Bob Bryant
Brian Ritter
Brian Tugana
Britt Vickstrom
Brock and Carol
Earnhardt
Cal and Jill Werner
Catherine Alexander
Cathy White
Chris and Mary Rayburn
Claudia Scharf
Cooney Family
Curtis Lundy
Darrell and Anne Thode
David Linde
David Schramm
Denise Bulat
Dick Ryan
Duane Haas
Eileen Smith
Elizabeth and Nathan
Schramm

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Mark Marmarine
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Hustedde
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North Family
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Robin Orgeron
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Sadd Family
Schierbrock Family
Schroer Family
Schwartz Family
Sharon Blott
Shirley Johnson
Smith Family
Soderstrom Family
Spratt Family
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Steve Kull
Stone Family
Strickler Family
Sue Albrecht
Sue and Bob Thoresen
Susan McPeters
Susan Wilden
Thielmann Family
Thomas Thoms
Tim Murphy
Tobin Family
Todd and Amy Kersten
Tom Lawson
Tony and Helen Schiltz
Tony and Joyce Singh
Tree Family
Virginia Parer
Wagher Family
Wells Family
Wilbourne Family
Wilson Family



2021 DONATIONS

Abernathy's	Caroline Kimple	Charitable Fund	J Hobart Darbyshire
Alexandra Schmidt	Catherine Weideman	Duncan J Cameron	James Entwistle Jr. and
Allan Celada	Charitable Giving Fund	Family Foundation	Siv Brit Saetre
Allison Nodurft	Cathy and John White	Eldon Bird	Jamie Myers
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Candace Egger	Vickstrom	IMEG Corp.	Julie Malake
Carmen Minor	Drymiller Family	Iowa Ornithologists	Julie Vanpelt
		Union	

2021 DONATIONS, CNT.

Karen Beetham	Marie Arnold	Peterson	Steven and Mary Ellen Hunter
Kathleen and Andy Lenaghan	Marilyn Davis	Phillip Crandall	Susan and Paul Castro
Kathleen Logan	Mark and Cindy Slater	Phillip Janecek	Susan Tate
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Kent Marcek	Michael and Sue Johannsen	Rich Craddick	The Purple Violet Shop
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Larry Koberg	Nancy Gesy	Rose and Joaquin Espejo	Tony Knobbe
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Laurel Davis	Nicolina's Turtle Co.	Russell Nelson	Tracey Connell
Linda and Oliver Cook	Norm and Janet Moline	Ruth & John McAndrews	VON MAUR and JiMelissa von Maur Charitable Foundation
Linda and Randy Lewis	Olivia Dorothy	Schiller Family Foundation	Wallace's Garden Center
Linda Goff	Pam Kaufman	Scott and Beth Tinsman	Waste Commission of Scott County
Linwood Mining & Minerals Corp.	Pat Tandy	Scott and Melita Tunnicliff	Whitey's Ice Cream
Loren Schmidt	Patrick Walton	Shannon Bernhard	Whitney Kylo
Lori McCollum	Paul and Cindy Gilbert	Sherrie and Al Blott	William Davies
Luca Bragazza	Paul and Kathy Brown	Sherry Staub	William and Judith McFarlin
Lynn Drazinski	Paul Crosser	Sr Margaret Kruse	WVik, Quad Cities NPR
Lynne Groskurth	Paula Revell	Steve and Kathi Morency	
Maria Ontiveros	Peter and Janet	Steve and Angie Gustafson	
Mariann Reese		Steve and Lora Kull	
Marianne Marcek			

2021 ANIMAL ADOPTIONS

Bob • Three-Toed Box Turtle

Ambrose Kerr
Judith Lee
Kody Craddick

Buddy • Painted Turtle

Cassie Druhl
Lee Ann Wille
Nicolina Turtle Co.

Captain • Blanding's Turtle

Cathy and John White
Lisa and Mark Cleve
Nicolina Turtle Co.

Ethel • Red-Eared Slider

Cathy and John White
Mark and Cindy Slater
Nicolina Turtle Co.

Micheline • Three-Toed Box Turtle

Adaira Hadjis
Nicolina Turtle Co.

Pancake • Spiny Softshell Turtle

Aletheia Hadjis
Caden and Elysa Huynh-Smith
Kathleen Logan
Nicolina Turtle Co. • Patti Holmlund
Sally Stewart • Terry Collins

Picasso • Painted Turtle

Steve Coon

Rizzo • Black Rat Snake

Gillette-Hulse Family

Rocky • Bull Snake

Continental Cement Company
Elizabeth Schramm in memory of
Shirley Horstmann
Girl Scout Troop 2668

Squirtle • Ornate Box Turtle

Cathy and John White
Kendall & Susan Schwartz Family
Rescued
Squirtle (the dog!) VanCamp

Sunny • Fox Snake

Cathy and John White



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