

# Nahant News

*Summer 2022*

Volume 16, Issue 3



Photo by C. Shirk



**NAHANT MARSH**  
EDUCATION CENTER

4220 Wapello Ave. • Davenport, IA 52802  
[www.nahantmarsh.org](http://www.nahantmarsh.org) • 563.336.3370

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## *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. The educational programming is overseen by Eastern Iowa Community Colleges (EICC).





# DOCUMENTING SPECIES TODAY MAY HELP TO SAVE THEM FOR TOMORROW

by Brian Ritter, *Executive Director*



Recently, volunteers and experts from across the area, including Nahant Marsh staff, participated in a BioBlitz in Davenport's Sunderbuch Park and Fairmount Cemetery. During this 24-hour event sponsored by partners from Bi-State Conservation Action Network (BiCAN), 566 different species of plants, animals, and fungi were identified.

BioBlitzes, like other citizen-science based efforts, are a great way to learn about the state of our local biodiversity and parks. Over the past decade, BioBlitzes around the Quad Cities have allowed us to document the presence of thousands of species. Events like BioBlitzes are critical for identifying both rare and common species in the area and will hopefully allow us to better protect these species and their habitat. As our natural world continues to shrink and decline, the race to catalog species grows ever more important. If you don't know what you have, you won't know what you're losing.

The history of citizen science in our area goes back to the earliest days of the city. One of the earliest citizen scientist was a young physician named Charles Parry, who moved to Davenport in 1846 and began documenting plants in the area. His work, followed by other botanist like Barnes in the 1890's and Guldner in the 1950's, provided a critical record for what native plants once existed in the area and for what has been lost. Other early amateur scientists documented birds, mammals, reptiles, insects, and mushrooms. Species such as prairie chickens, passenger pigeons, Mead's milkweed, and fringed prairie orchids are just a few examples of what were once found here and are now absent, largely because habitat loss, overhunting, and invasive species. These old documents also provide a guide for our future restoration efforts. By knowing what was here, we can better restore habitats using local species. Hopefully, in 170 years from now, future conservationists can use our data as a guide and as a way to glimpse back to our era.

You too can get involved in citizen science efforts. You can track birds in your own backyard or get involved in the [Backyard Bee Blitz!](#) You also can download apps like iNaturalist or Seek and simply take a picture of a plant or animal to identify and learn more. Getting involved and protecting tomorrow's biodiversity has never been easier!

## 2022 BioBlitz Results

**Plants** ..... **310**  
**Birds** ..... **83**  
**Invertebrates** ..... **81**  
**Fungi/  
Bryophytes** ..... **67**

**Mammals** ..... **13**  
**Fish** ..... **6**  
**Herps** ..... **6**

Notable species included an Acadian Flycatcher, Michigan Lily, and American Mink!

# A SIGN TO BEHOLD

by Amy Loving, *Director of Education*

In case you missed it, we have new interpretive trail signs! The vibrant signs range in topic from wetland birds, milkweed and monarchs, reptiles, insects, prairie habitat and more. As you approach the education center, the welcome sign greets visitors with a trail map and general information about the marsh. The signs will be a great way for visitors to learn about the inhabitants and habitats at the preserve. Our naturalists have already taken advantage of the informative signs during guided hikes and field trips.

This is the first completed project funded by the capital campaign— thank you to all those that donated. We look forward to sharing more projects as they are implemented!







## Hannah Reynolds

Hannah is one of the newest members of the summer staff at Nahant Marsh, serving as an AmeriCorps Educator intern! Hannah is from Muscatine, Iowa and is currently studying Biology with an Environmental Studies minor at St. Ambrose University. After earning her bachelors, she hopes to either pursue a graduate degree in marine sciences or continue her work experience in the field of wildlife conservation.

Hannah has previously worked for the Muscatine County Conservation Board as a summer conservationist. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, swimming, surfing, camping, and being with animals!

## Emily Schallert

Emily is from Joy, IL and is serving as an AmeriCorps Educator intern at Nahant Marsh for the summer. She is currently attending Muscatine Community College to earn a degree in conservation. After graduating, she plans to get a variety of work experience in different areas and explore the field of conservation. She hopes to someday work in prairie and habitat restoration throughout the midwest. In her free time, she enjoys reading, hiking, cooking, and riding horses.



# MEET THE SUMMER STAFF: NATURAL RESOURCES



Last year, Nahant Marsh partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide a unique summer internship experience. We are excited to continue this partnership, and even more excited to bring on Paige and Allyson as this summer's natural resource technicians and Rusty Patch Bumblebee surveyors!

## Allyson Smithson

Allyson is from Rock Island, IL and is a sophomore at Iowa State University as a double major in Animal Ecology with a wildlife research focus and Forestry with a natural resource conservation focus.

Her future plans include getting more experience in resource conservation and wildlife research, with an end goal of getting a master's degree.

Allyson spent the summer of 2021 as a LSAMP intern doing a population study of bats. She loved the experience and is excited to continue her time at Nahant.



## Paige Lundborg

Paige is from Batavia, Illinois and is going to be a senior at Augustana College. She is studying Biology and Environmental Studies, with a minor in Sociology/Anthropology.

Her future plans include pursuing a job or Master's degree in conservation biology or ecology. Her goal is to continue conducting research in these fields.

In her free time, Paige enjoys hiking, exploring, plant shopping, and drinking coffee!



# REPLANTING RUHL

by Kinsey Nielsen, *Natural Resource Manager*

Tree planting is complete in the bottomland forest restoration at Nahant's "Ruhl Property!" During the months of April and May, staff and volunteers worked hard to prepare the site and plant trees.

*In total, 1,251 trees were planted over 30 acres.*

This reforestation effort was incredibly challenging due to several factors including mud, standing water, and the long distance we had to carry supplies. The natural resource team had to haul in every tree, tube, and wooden stake, which involved trekking through water and mud to reach each planting area. A plastic sled aided in getting some materials across the 30 acres of wet ground.

Fortunately, we checked on the trees in mid-June and they are looking great! We will continue to monitor them each year to document survivability and how well they are growing.

Drone view of the tree planting. 5/13/22. Photo by Jimmy W.



Pictured is one of the many tree planting days! Taken on May 10th, these volunteers worked to plant, stake, and mark the new trees.

Volunteers pictured (from left to right) include Joe, Mark, Kinsey, Mike, and Cindy.





## HIDDEN GEMS AT THE MARSH

by Allison Nodurft, *AmeriCorps Naturalist*

Calling all geocachers! Four new geocaches have recently been hidden at Nahant Marsh. Each geocache highlights something special about Nahant.

For those of you new to geocaching, it is a great way to get outside and explore new places! Geocaching is a global scavenger hunt where participants hunt for hidden objects using only coordinates that are loaded into a GPS or found on the Geocaching app. Caches can be hidden anywhere that is open to the public, such as Nahant Marsh's trails!

If Geocaching sounds interesting to you, then go to the official Geocaching website and create an account. Once you have created an account all you need is a smart phone and the app. Stay tuned for more geocaches from Nahant Marsh. Happy caching!

Nahant staff Kinsey and Allison with a Geocache.



Learn more about Geocaching and set up an account at [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com)





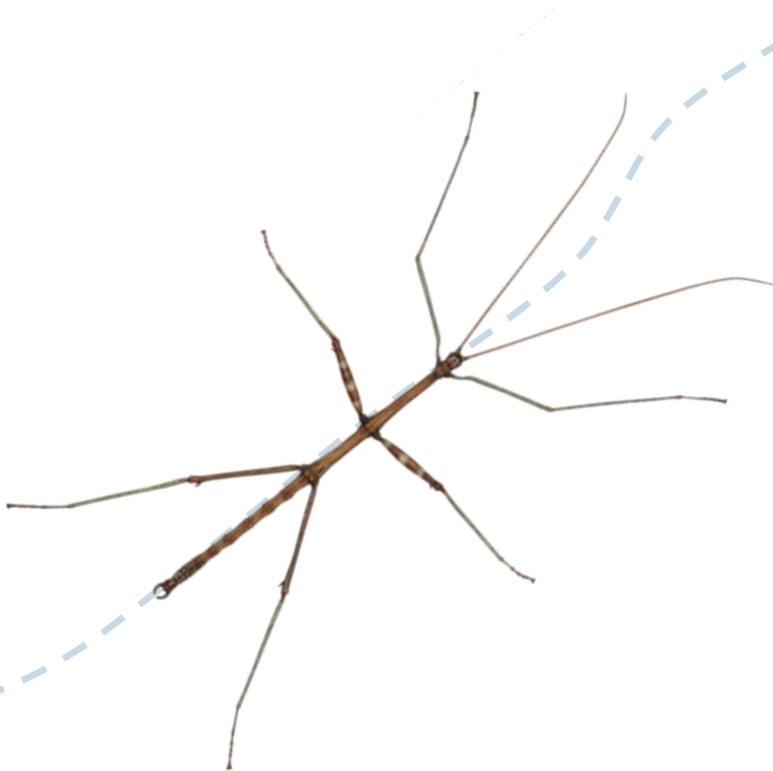
## MARSH WALKERS

by Colin Shirk, *AmeriCorps Naturalist*

Lately, we have been finding northern walking sticks (*Diaperomera femorata*) around Nahant Marsh, which has led me to do some research on these strange and fascinating creatures! Many people are afraid of these gentle insects due to their odd appearance, but they pose no threat to humans and are actually herbivorous!

Northern walking sticks reach an average length of 3-3.5 inches and can live for up to 1 year. Eggs are laid in leaf litter in the fall and remain dormant through winter. The insects later hatch in the spring, reaching their adult size by late summer.

The favorite meal of the northern walking stick is oak leaves, but they will feed on many deciduous tree leaves. They can be either green or brown, and are masters of disguise. Keep an eye out around piles of leaf litter to find one of these mysterious insects for yourself!



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## SPEAKING OF RESEARCH...

Summer research is well underway at Nahant Marsh! Seven college student interns from four different colleges and universities are currently studying the local flora, fauna, and landscape at Nahant Marsh. Projects this year include investigations of aquatic plants, turtles, insects, zooplankton, and bats. One student is also using an infrared drone to create a heat map of the preserve.

To learn about their findings this summer, please join us on **August 8th from 5:00-7:00pm** as these students present a poster of their research at Nahant Marsh.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## BREAKFAST NATURE CLUB (BNC)

BNC meets year-round on the first Friday of the month. Enjoy a continental breakfast while listening to nature-themed presentations from 8-9 am.

**August 5:** Summer Research at the Marsh

**September 2:** Prairie Insects

Cost: \$5 Members | \$10 Guests

## 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.

**Aug 6, Sept 3 • 9- 10 am**

Cost: Suggested Donation \$5

## QIGONG AND SOUND BATH

Surround yourself with nature at Nahant Marsh while practicing qigong. Qigong is a gentle exercise that helps develop balance, coordination, and flexibility. Practice will conclude with a sound bath. Sound baths help to calm and relax you, making it easier to come into a meditative state of mind. You may want to dress in layers and bring a yoga mat for the sound bath.

This event is instructed by Becky Nakashima Brooke, owner of Illuminate Healing Studio.

**Aug 6 • 10:30–11:45 am**

Cost: Suggested Donation \$10



## TODDLER TALES

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

**August 3:** Sensing Nature

**September 7:** Insect Safari

Cost: \$4 Members | \$8 Guests

## BIRD HIKE

Join our naturalists for a guided bird walk through Nahant Marsh! These walks are for everyone: experts, novices, and people who have never gone birding in their entire life. Loaner binoculars are available for participants.

**Jul 23, Aug 20, Sept 17 • 8- 10 am**

Cost: Suggested Donation \$5

## MONARCH RELEASE PARTY

Come and tag butterflies and enjoy various crafts and activities for the whole family!

**September 10 • Time TBD**

Cost: Free!

## WILD WOODWORKING

Build a nature themed project with us! All materials and tools will be provided. No woodworking experience necessary.

**Begins Sept 15**

Cost: Varies

## HOMESCHOOL PROGRAM

Homeschool programs are offered once a month on Fridays at two different times. View program details on our website!

**Begins Sept 30**

Cost: \$6 Members | \$8 Guests



# VOLUNTEER NEWS

by Kelsi Massengale, *Volunteer Coordinator*

## SEASONAL VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

This issue, we'd like to highlight long time volunteer and current Friends of Nahant Marsh President, Britt V!

Britt has been with Nahant Marsh for several years, and is always willing to help staff a booth, bake amazing cookies, conduct bird counts, staff the building, and so much more. Just this year, Britt has logged nearly 90 hours of volunteer service!

Britt's dedication, passion, and leadership are admirable and beyond appreciated by staff and visitors alike. Britt, thank you for all you do for the Marsh! Keep being awesome!

## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

Be sure to mark your calendars and join us for the annual Volunteer Appreciation Event on **Wednesday, August 31st at 6pm!** We can't wait to celebrate all of our amazing volunteers with a potluck and games (with prizes, too, of course!)

RSVP today at [bit.ly/VolunteerAppreciationEvent2022](https://bit.ly/VolunteerAppreciationEvent2022)

### Not a volunteer yet?

No worries, becoming a Nahant volunteer is easy! Just visit our website at [www.NahantMarsh.org/volunteer-opportunities](http://www.NahantMarsh.org/volunteer-opportunities) and complete an application. After applying, you'll be prompted to create a Nahant account so we can track your volunteer hours and send you all the upcoming volunteer opportunities through our monthly e-blast, *The Volunteer Buzz!*

Questions? Contact Volunteer Coordinator, Kelsi, at [kmassengale@eicc.edu](mailto:kmassengale@eicc.edu)



## 2022 DONATIONS

Aaron Schulze	Fred and Martha Burnham	Julie Farmer	Nicole Cline
Allen Ross	Fred Priestler	Julie Malake	Norm and Janet Moline
Ann Werner	Gail Rinkenberger	Kathleen and Alexander North	Pat Tandy
Anonymous	Gary and Jeanne Ihlefeld	Kathleen and Andy Lenaghan	Paul Crosser
Bill and Sue Tate	Gene and Mollie Conrad	Kathy and Jim Phelan	Paul Mayes
Bohdan Dziadyk	George and Pat Olson	Kathy Laird	Paustian Enterprises
Brian and Fawn Moncrief	Gretchen Waters	Kay Runge	Perry Hansen
Brian Burkholder	Heidi Parkhurst and Steve McCann	Kelly Drumm-Janoski	Peter Benson
Brian Tugana	Helen and Geoff Macalister	Kent Turner and Amy Groskopf	Quad City Audubon Society
Brock Earnhardt	Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation	Kim Strunk	Quoc Chu
Cal Werner	J Hobart Darbyshire	Kirsten Johnson	Randy Pribyl
Candace Egger	James and Teresa Mesich	Kory Darnall	Remona Druhl
Candace Ritchie	James M Entwistle Jr	Lee Woodward	Rock Island County Soil & Water Conservation District
Christine Illichmann	Jane and Les Cox	Leland Searles	Schiller Family Foundation
Chuck and Faye White	Jeff Shelley	Lisa Dietz	Sierra Club Eagle View Group
Claire Wilson	Jerry Bald	Lynn Abel	Siv Brit Saetre
Clarice Wunderlich	Jim Wester	Marcia Robertson	Steve and Lora Kull
Claudia Scharf	JoAnn Whitmore	Marilyn Andress	Steve Barnett
Curtis Lundy	John and Amy Telleen	Mark and Cindy Slater	Steve Gustafson
Damion and Amy Sadd	John and Joan Maxwell	Mark and Rita Bawden	Stompbox Brewing
Davenport Branch and The Pribyl Group of Baird	John and Robin Jurich	Martin Equipment Inc.	Susan Schwartz
David Cooney	John Arter	Mary and James Pelzer	Tegan & Gary Trees
David Gaul	John Hintze and Tracey Kuehl	Mary Ann and Thomas Stoffel	Terry Collins
David Urush	Jolinda Eggert	Michael Thoms	Thomas Nagle
Decker Ploehn	Jon Duyvejonck	Mindy Williams	Tom and Sue Leabhart
Denise Bulat	Jonathan Wilmshurst	Nan Horsi	Tracey McLoone
Dennis and Alice Mans	Josh Hoffman	Naomi Dewinter	Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Quad Cities
Eileen Smith	Joyce & Tony Singh Family Foundation	Nathan and Elizabeth Schramm	Will Moon

## 2022 TRIBUTES

### In memory of Richard A. Carstensen

Amy Waggoner	Elizabeth Brooke	Eric Loeb	Brandon Patterson	Ken and Sandra Brady in memory of Duk
Anonymous	William Burress	Curtis Lundy	Margaret Taylor	Bob Bryant in memory of Georg W. "Jun" Fortune
Anne Balzer Powers	Donald Carlson	Helen Macalister	Ellen Urton	Michael and Michelle Hahn in memory of Teresa Marxen
Dianna Brenny	Joel Elliott	James and Kathryn Nagle		
	Georgia Jecklin			



## 2022 MEMBERS

Barbara Palen	Susan McPeters
Bernadene Bowles	The Avise Family
Betty Wood	The Brodersen Family
Britt Vickstrom	The Brown Family
Carla Chapman	The Brus Family
Cathy White	The DeMay Family
Chris Barnard	The Douglas Family
Christine McCarthy	The Flathman Family
Claudia Scharf	The Fuller Family
Connie King	The Gayman Family
David Schramm	The Haars Family
Eileen Smith	The Haas Family
Gail Rinkenberger	The Haddock Family
Gary Ihlefeld	The Halverson Family
Gayla Hickerson	The Haney Family
Jeff Shelley	The Hartman Family
Jenny Bloomquist	The Heninger Family
JoAnn Whitmore	The Hervey Family
John Walston	The Hessenkempers
Jonathan Jeschke	The Hodge Family
Joseph Ambrose	The Huston Family
Judy K Hartley	The Iavarone
Kurt Fishwild	The Lenaghan Family
Leo Moench	The Muir Family
Linda and Oliver Cook	The Pappas Family
Lorrie Newman	The Roorda Family
Lynne Allison	The Sadd Family
Lynne Groskurth	The Schiltz Family
Marilyn Davis	The Schwartz Family
Mark Marmorine	The Scott Family
Nancy Orchard	The Slater Family
Olivia Dorothy	The Strunk Family
Paul Crosser	The Tobin Family
Remona Druhl	The Wagher Family
Robert Loch	The Wille Family
Sue Albrecht	Virginia Parer

Learn more and become a member today at [www.nahantmarsh.org/](http://www.nahantmarsh.org/)



## LIFETIME MEMBERS

Amy and Kevin Kay	John and Amy Telleen
Ann Werner	John and Joan Maxwell
Anne Colville	John and Liz Arter
Bob Bryant	Jonathan and Sarah Wilmshurst
Brian Ritter	Josh and Kate Hoffman
Brian Tugana	Kathleen Logan
Brock and Carol Earnhardt	Kathy and Gary Morris
Cal and Jill Werner	Kathy Wine
Chris and Mary Rayburn	Marion Lardner
Curtis Lundy	Mary and Greg Schermer
Darrell and Anne Thode	Michael and Hedy Hustedde
David Linde	Michael and Julia Angelos
Denise Bulat	Michael Ryan
Dick Ryan	Randy and Carol Pribyl
Elizabeth and Nathan Schramm	Shirley Johnson
Ellen Bluth	Stan Reeg
Frank and Ann McCarthy	Sue and Bob Thoresen
Fred and Martha Burnham	Thomas Thoms
James and Cathy Van Fossen	Tim Murphy
Jane and Les Cox	Todd and Amy Kersten
	Tony and Joyce Singh

# WITH APPRECIATION

## 2022 ANIMAL ADOPTIONS



**Captain**  
Blanding's Turtle  
Cathy and John White  
Mark Cleve  
Alicia Stowe



**Squirtle**  
Ornate Box Turtle  
Cathy and John White



**Bob**  
Three-Toed Box Turtle  
Nicole Laurito



**Buddy**  
Painted Turtle  
Cassie Druhl



**Sunny**  
Fox Snake  
Cathy and John White



**Rocky**  
Bullsnaek  
Liz Schramm  
in memory of Shirley Horstmann

To learn more about adopting an animal ambassador, please visit [nahantmarsh.org/adopt-an-animal/](http://nahantmarsh.org/adopt-an-animal/)

## CORPORATE SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

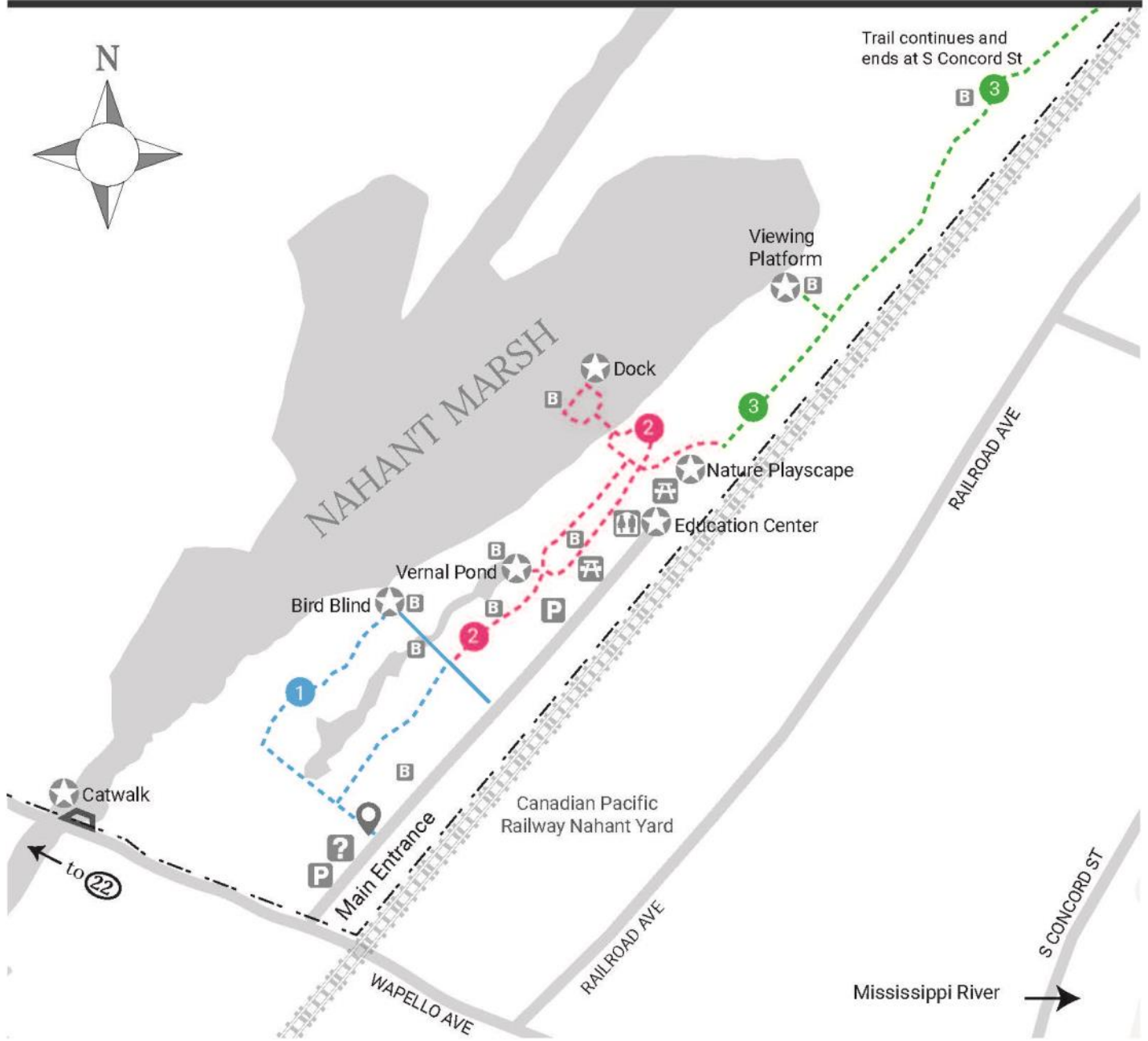


Linwood Mining & Minerals Corp.



WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY Quad Cities





### MAP KEY

- Trail
- Paved Trail
- ☆ Point of Interest
- B Bench
- P Parking
- ? Info Kiosk
- ♿ Restrooms
- ⛶ Picnic Area
- P Parking
- Preserve Boundary
- Railroad

TRAIL NAME	LENGTH	TRAIL ACTIVITY	TRAIL FEATURES
<span style="color: blue;">1</span> Woodland Loop	0.4 mile	Hiking	Bottomland Forest, Tallgrass Prairie
<span style="color: red;">2</span> Marsh Trail	0.4 mile	Hiking	Tallgrass Prairie, Marsh
<span style="color: green;">3</span> East Trail	0.9 mile	Hiking	Sand Prairie, Bottomland Forest

## EDUCATION CENTER HOURS

**Monday–Friday: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm**

**Saturday: 9 am 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.**