

WHITEROCK CONSERVANCY

ADVENTURE BOOK

20 ADVENTURES FOR 20 YEARS



2024 Guidebook

Family/Group Name:

Welcome to Whiterock Conservancy's Adventure Book!

Help us celebrate our 20 year anniversary!

Whiterock Conservancy has developed this adventure guide to experience and explore the beauty of Whiterock's land.

From January 1st - December 31st (2024), you will have the opportunity to experience 20 different adventures. These quests include camping, stargazing, hiking, and attending one of our many yearly events.

❖ Please take a photo of your experiences here at Whiterock, and show a staff member at the Bur Oak Visitor Center to receive a stamp in your adventure passport.

Once you have completed your book, please turn it in for a special 20th Anniversary Whiterock Conservancy t-shirt (while supplies last). Your name will also be entered into a raffle drawing to win a 2 night stay in Hollyhock Cottage.

Things to remember:

- **Leave no trace-remember to pack out what you pack in. Take only pictures and leave only footprints.**
- **Come prepared!**
- **Know your limits.**
- **Be conscientious of other people and pets you may encounter.**
- **Bikers yield to equestrian riders and hikers.**
- **Hikers yield to equestrian riders.**
- **Pets must be on a leash or on voice command recall.**
- **Do not forget to have fun!**

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Extra Adventures

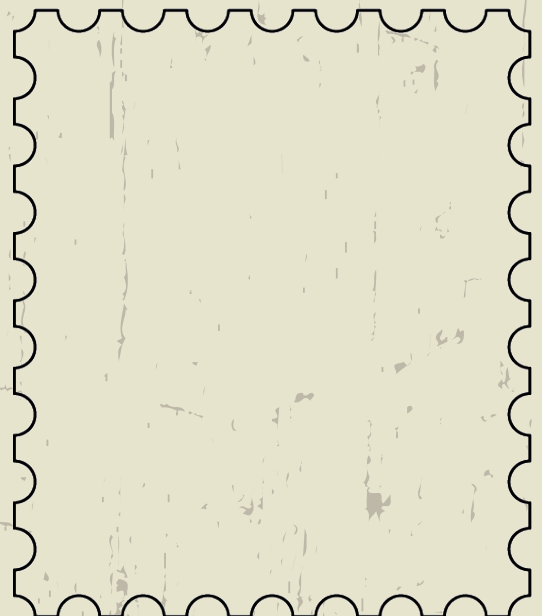
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HISTORIC GARST FARMHOUSE

1390 HWY 141, COON RAPIDS, IA 50058

In 1959, Nikita Khrushchev, the First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, came to visit this farm. Today, the house is one of the most famous landmarks on Whiterock's property, is on the National Registry of Historic Places and it is available to rent overnight.

Find and take a photo with the **Pounding Swords Into Plowshares** statue located in front of the Historic Garst Farmhouse.



SELFIE SPOT AT THE BUR OAK VISITOR CENTER

1436 HWY 141, COON RAPIDS, IA 50058

The Bur Oak Visitor Center serves as the headquarters for Whiterock Conservancy. Our Event Center is also located in the Visitor Center and is available for guest rentals.

Make your way over to the Bur Oak Visitor Center and follow the sidewalk to find a designated selfie spot.

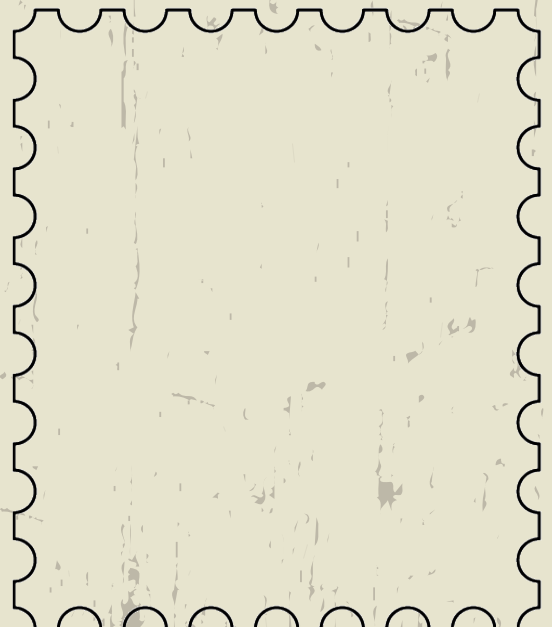


INSPIRATIONAL POLES

park at the historic Garst farm house, and take the town loop trail (head east and then south GPS coordinates: 41°51'20.1"N, 94°40'09.0"W)

We hope you're ready for a short hike! Follow the directions above to get to your location. Once you reach the top of the hill, take a picture in front of the inspirational quote poles.

These poles were installed by Coon Rapids native Doug Carpenter in 2011.

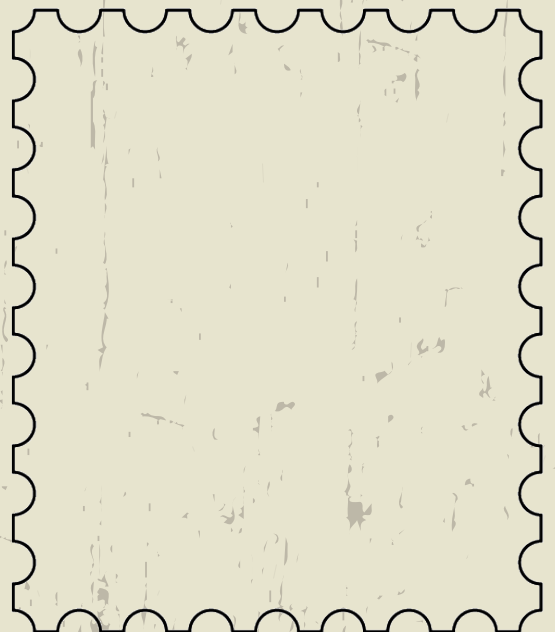
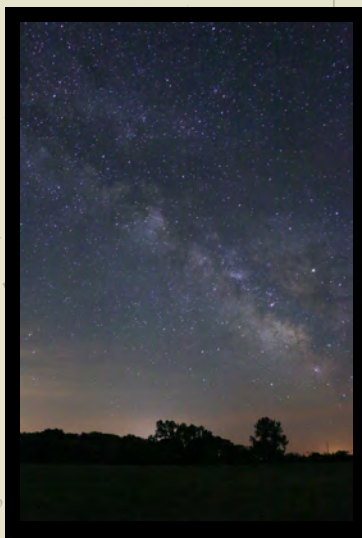
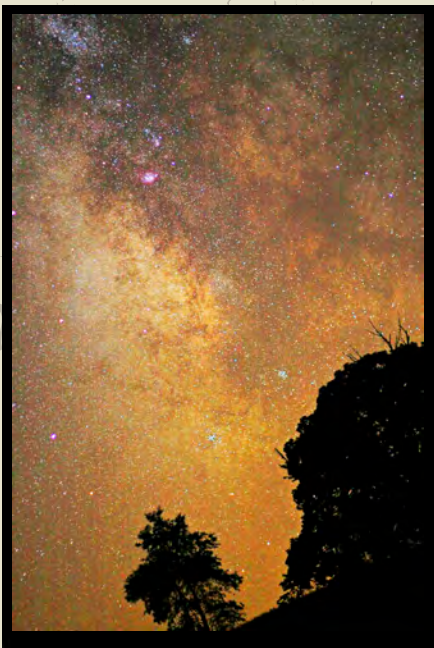


STARGAZE AT STAR FIELD CAMPGROUND

1523 140TH ST., COON RAPIDS, IA 50058

Would you like to experience one of the best stargazing spots in Iowa? Star Field Campground boasts some of the darkest skies in Iowa. Take a NIGHT picture in front of the kiosk at Star Field Campground. Don't forget to turn your flash on!

Helpful Hints: You don't need a fancy camera to get some incredible astrophotography shots. Setting your phone down on a tripod (if you have one) and turning the exposure all the way down on your phone can get you some beautiful shots!

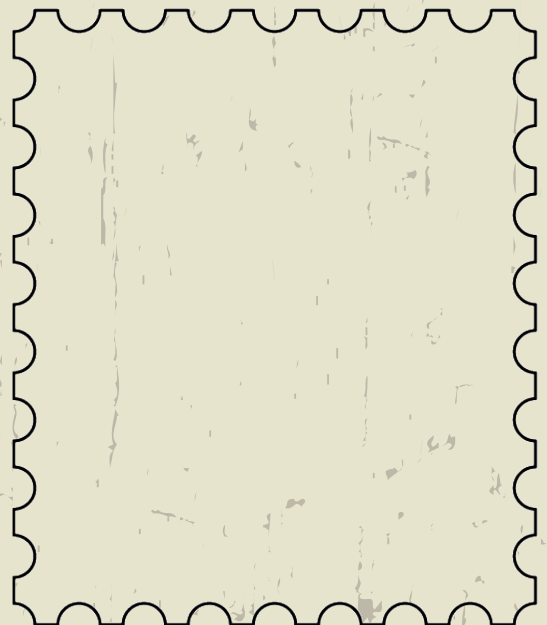


CAMP AT ANY OF OUR THREE CAMPGROUNDS

OAK RIDGE: 1564 125TH ST / RIVER: 1314 FIG AVE / STAR FIELD: 1523 140TH ST

Treat yourself to a little getaway and spend the night (or a few) at Whiterock! Attach your reservation stub to this book.

Things to know: Oak Ridge (RV) Campground is by online reservation **ONLY**. You can book your stay by scanning the QR code below. River Campground (tent, camper, horse trailer accessible) and Star Field Campground (tents, vans, trucks & pop-up campers) are on a first-come-first-served basis.



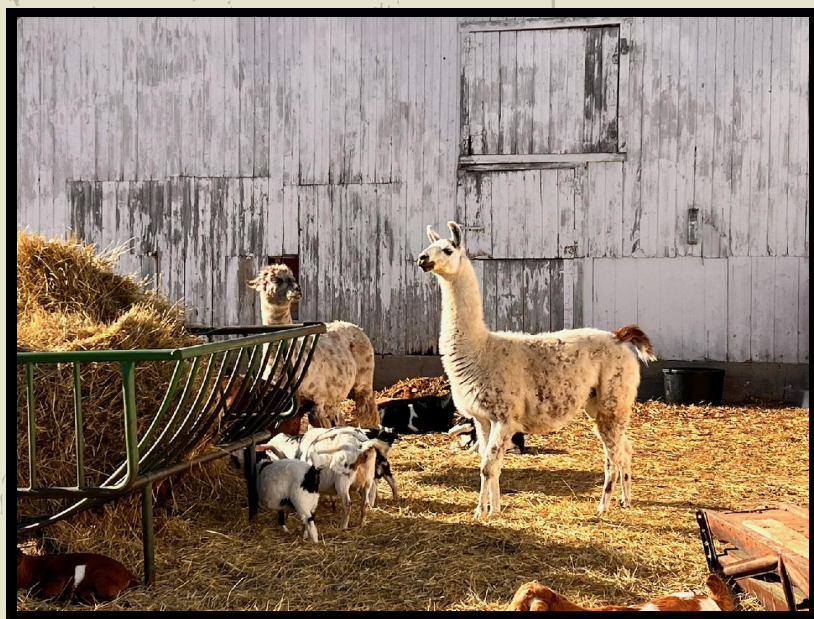
RESERVE A SPOT AT OAK RIDGE

GET YOUR PHOTO WITH FRANKIE

Meet the hardworking guard llama, Frankie.

Frankie's job at Whiterock is to protect the goat herd from predators. Frankie is often found at the Garst Home Farm, and enjoys seeing kind and respectful guests. Please remember to be gentle in approaching.

Llamas do not bite, but may spit when agitated.



TAKE A PICTURE OF THE WHITEROCK BLUFF AT RIVER CAMPGROUND

1314 FIG AVE, COON RAPIDS, IA, 50058

Nestled in the Whiterock valley along the Middle Raccoon River is where you'll find this noteworthy Whiterock site. Whiterock Conservancy was named after this historic bluff!

Once you get to River Campground, go down to the beach area and take a selfie with the bluff as the background.



FIND THE BRUTSCHE CABIN

The Brutsche family resided in this cabin during the 1920's. Due to the Great Depression, the family was forced to move out of town, to the woods and live off the land.

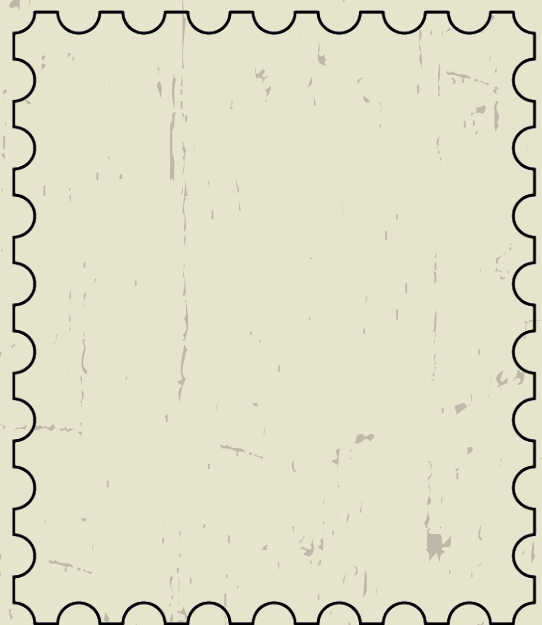
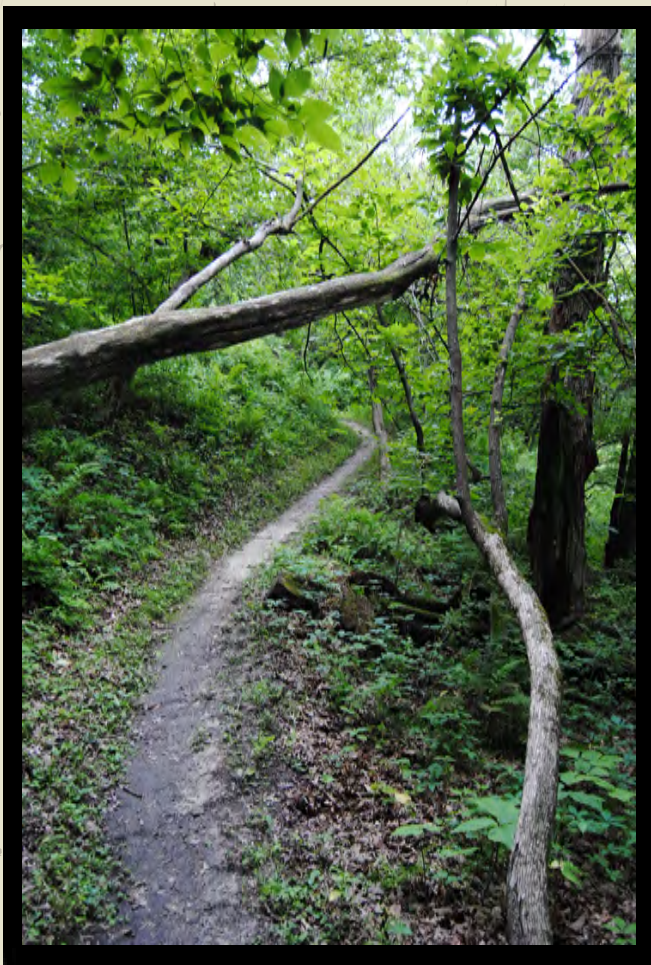
Take a hike on Pond Hopper Trail and search for the historic Brutsche cabin!



HIKE THE SHOOTING STAR TRAIL

Get ready for one of our most difficult hikes!

Although Shooting Star Trail is only 1 mile long, it takes you winding up the Whiterock Bluff hillside. To complete this task, you must start at the trail head on Fig Ave and hike up to the intersection of Shooting Star Trail and Big Dipper Trail. Grab a selfie in front of the trail signs, giving us a "thumbs up", because "Yay! You did it!"



CHECK OUT THE APPLE TREE BLOOMS IN SPRING OR APPLES IN SUMMER

HOW TO ACCESS THIS LOCATION: PULL UP GOOGLE MAPS AND TYPE IN THE COORDINATES: 41°52'14.6"N 94°40'06.5"W (OR 41.870707, -94.668473) THIS WILL LEAD TO THE TRAIL HEAD OF THE STEVE GARST TRAIL LOCATED ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF COON RAPIDS. FOLLOW THIS TRAIL IN FOR ABOUT 0.25 MILES, AND YOU WILL

SEE OUR APPLE TREES.

This location is one of the trail heads for the Steve Garst Trail. Follow this trail South for nearly 0.25 miles, and you will find apple trees on your right. Snap a picture of the apples or the blooms.

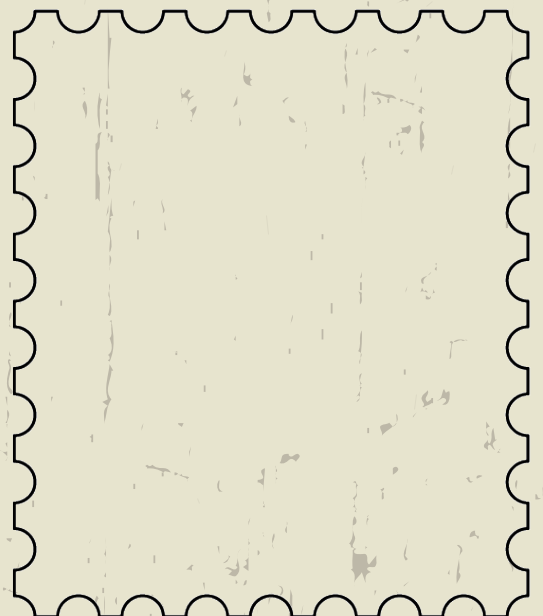


SNAP A PICTURE OF OUR SCENIC AGRICULTURAL VIEWING STATION

INTERSECTION OF FIG AVE AND 125TH ST

The STRIPS project began back in 2014 in conjunction with Iowa State University. Implementing these strips involves planting native prairie plants on the contour of crop fields to provide habitat for animals and pollinators as well as aiding with water and nutrient retention.

Visit this overlook and take a picture with our row crop fields and prairie strips in the background.



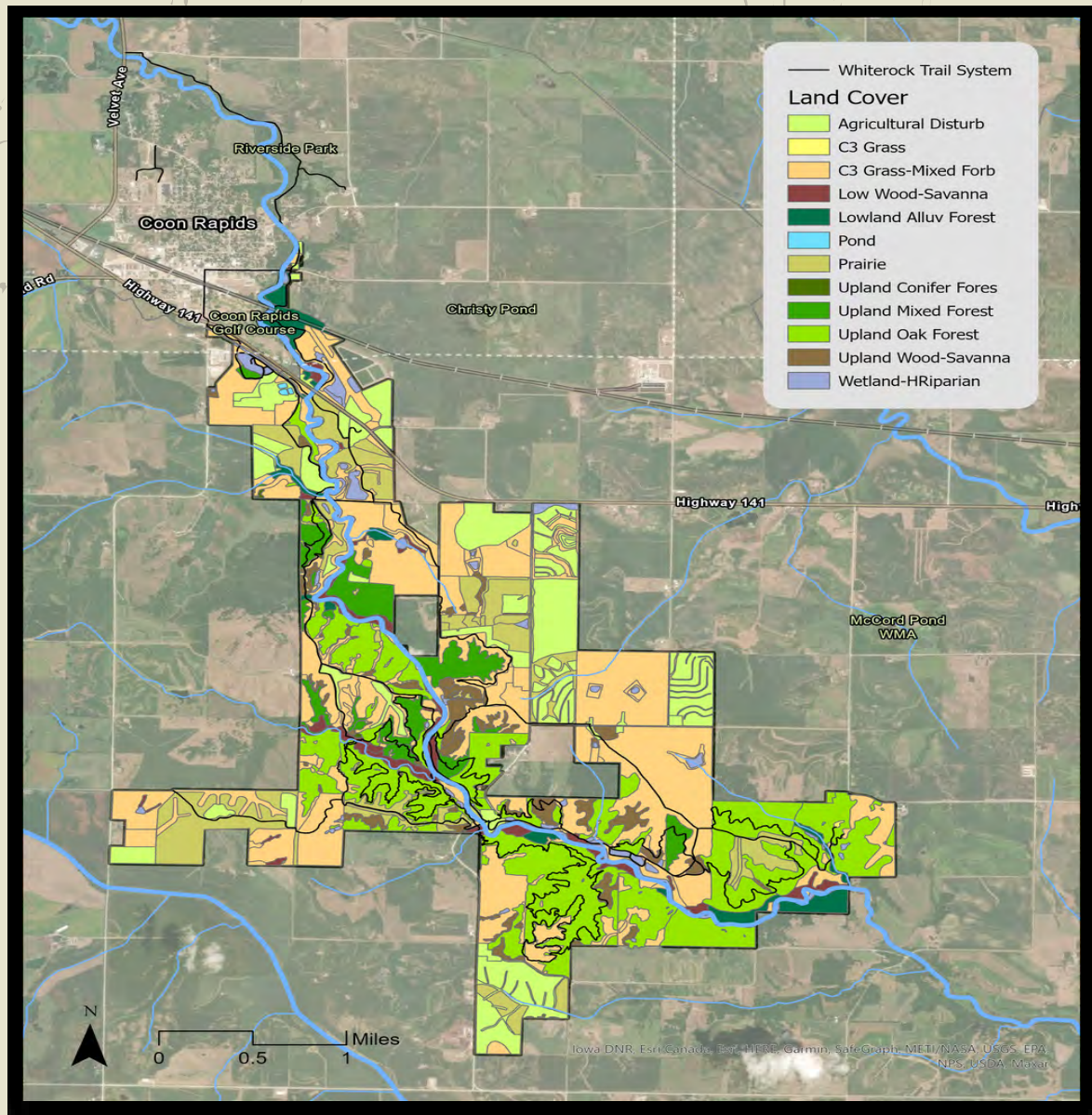
LEARN ABOUT ONE OF OUR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROJECTS AND TAKE A PHOTO.

Check our blog to find out the sustainable agriculture techniques we employ to keep our land and water clean. Find an example of sustainable agriculture on Whiterock property and snap a picture.

<https://www.whiterockconservancy.org/blog>



SNAP A PICTURE OF ONE OF WHITEROCK CONSERVANCY'S HABITATS: (PRAIRIE, OAK SAVANNA, WETLAND, ETC.)



ATTEND ONE OF OUR EVENTS

TIP: CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND OUR EVENTS CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE

Join us at Whiterock for one of our special anniversary events and take of photo of yourself enjoying it!



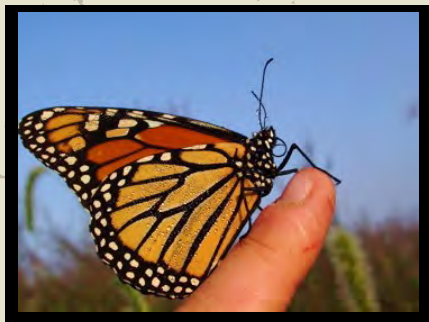
Star Party



Whiterock Ultra



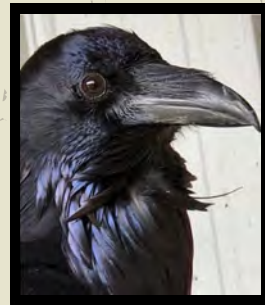
History talk by Liz Garst



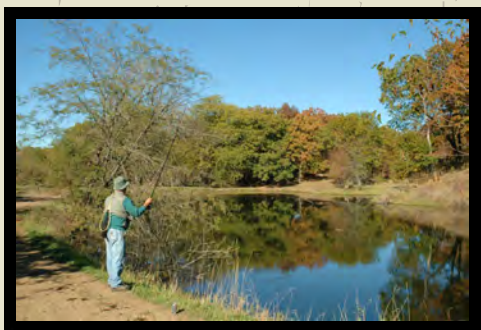
Monarch Tagging



Cardboard Sledding



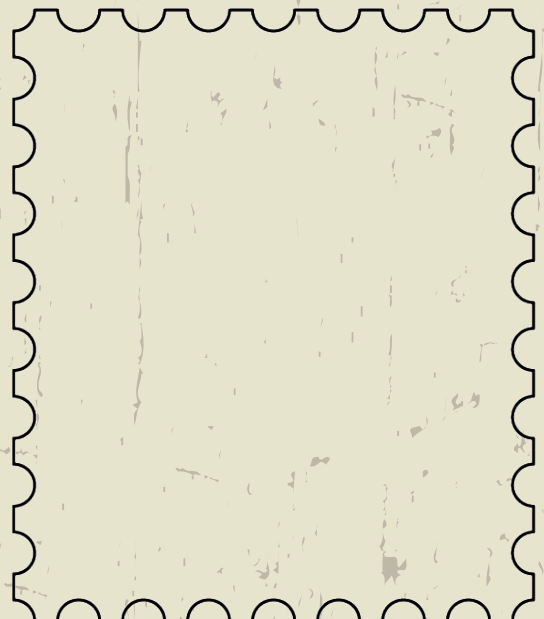
Bird Program



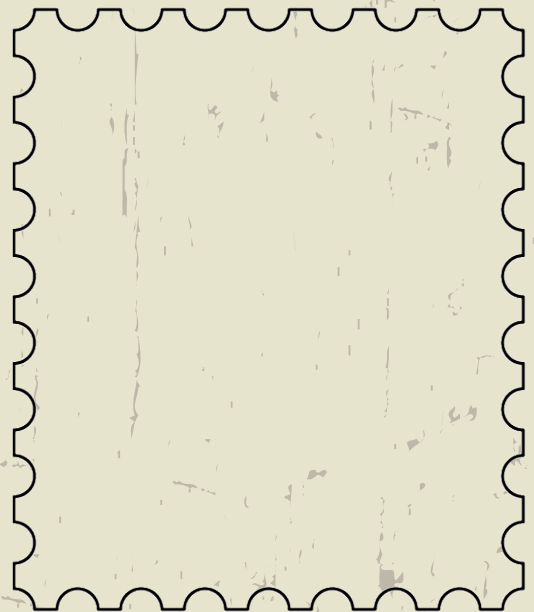
Fishing Derby



Events Calendar



ATTEND OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION October 5, 2024



ENJOY THE WILDFLOWER BLOOMS ON THE PRAIRIE

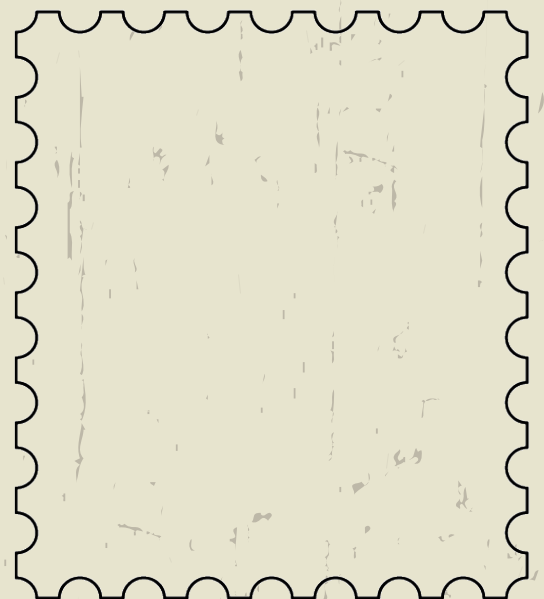
Capture a photo of one of the many native prairie species at
Whiterock Conservancy and identify it.

Name of Flower



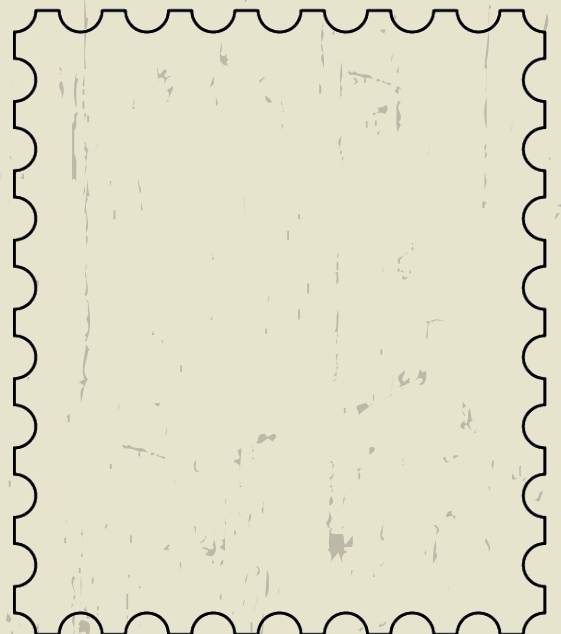
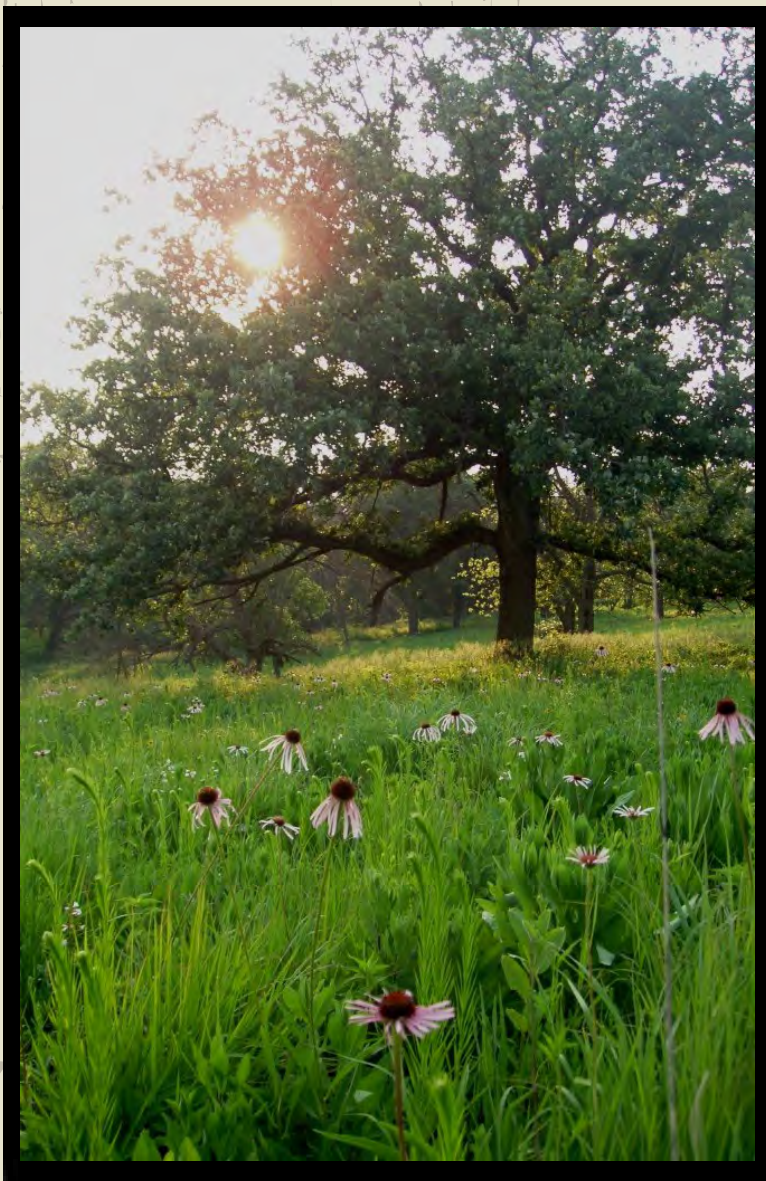
GO FISHING AT ONE OF WHITEROCK'S PONDS

Did you know that we have 12 different fishing ponds scattered across Whiterock? Spend the day relaxing and fishing at one of our many and scenic ponds.



TAKE A PHOTO WITH A MAJESTIC OAK TREE

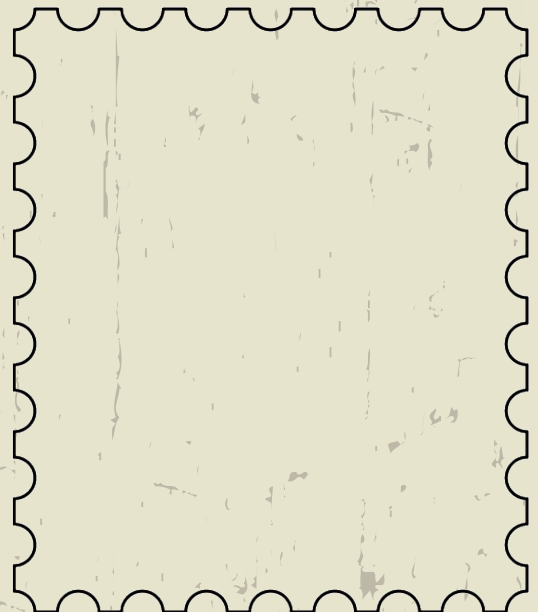
Oak savannas are a lightly forested area of land with fire-tolerant oak trees. With only 10-30% canopy cover, this ecosystem allows lots of vegetation to grow in the under-story. These ecosystems are native, but endangered, so preserving and restoring them is vital to our landscape.



SEE THE HOLLYHOCKS IN BLOOM AT HOLLYHOCK COTTAGE

1390 Hwy 141, Coon Rapids, IA 50058

Visit in June or July for peak blooms!

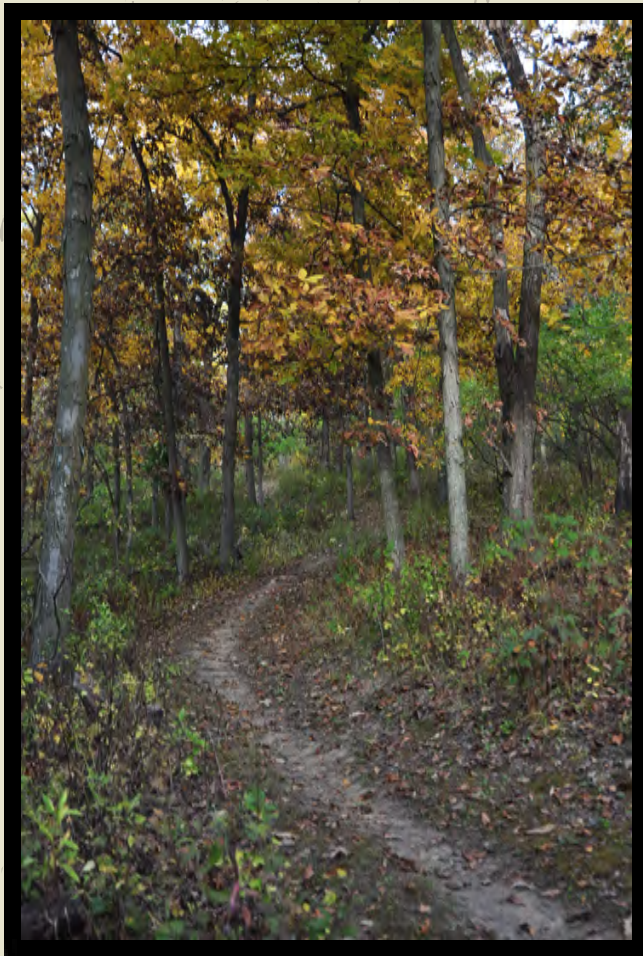


PURCHASE ONE OF WHITEROCK'S ANNUAL TRAIL PASSES

(PASSES FOR HIKING, MOUNTAIN BIKING, AND EQUESTRIAN)

Whiterock has a trail use fee to assist with trail maintenance. More information about the trail use fees and passes can be found using the QR code below.

Stop in the visitors center to purchase your trail pass and bring this book in to receive a stamp. You can also purchase a trail pass online and show your card to an employee of Whiterock to receive your stamp.

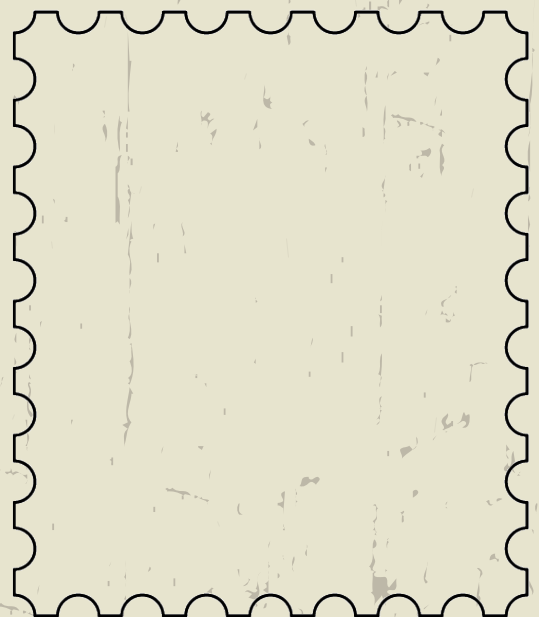
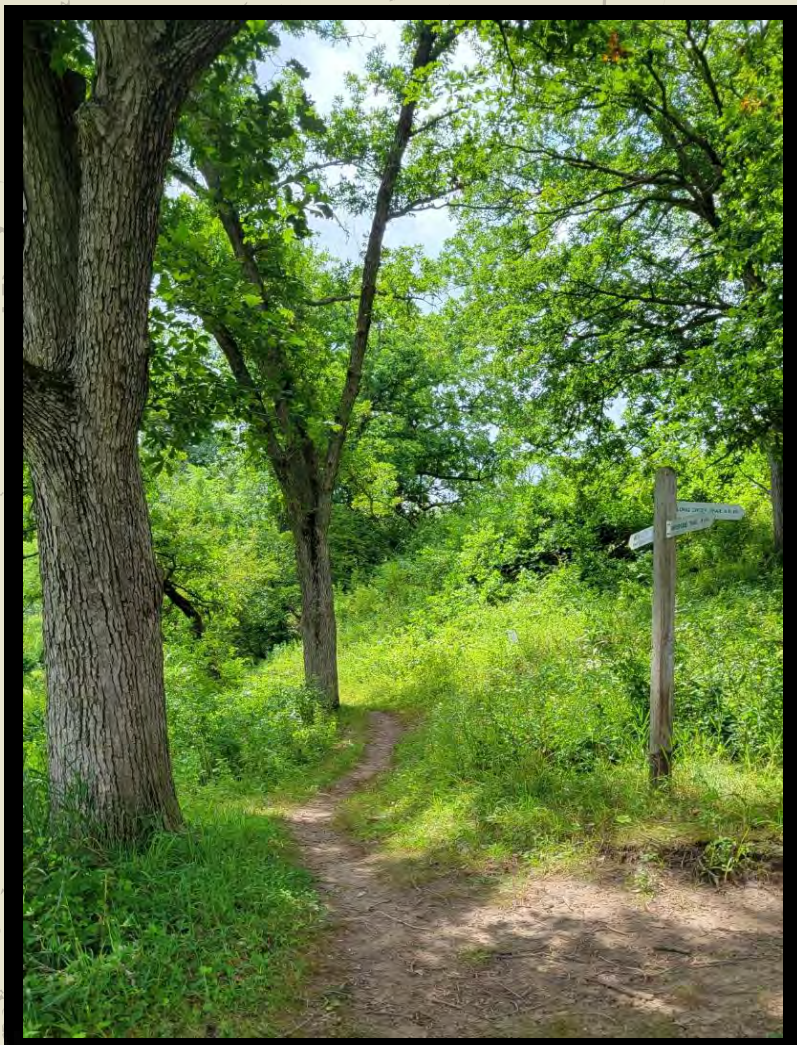


COMPLETE OUR ENTIRE TRAIL SYSTEM (ALL 40 MILES)

(TRACK YOUR HIKE/BIKE RIDE/GATOR RIDE/HORSE RIDE ON AN APP)

Did you know that we include the river as part of our trail system? If the river is high enough, you can rent one of our canoes or kayaks and float the river. Completing all of the land trails will work for this challenge, however.

Track your adventure in an app such as All Trails, Nike Run Club, your Apple watch, etc. to show proof of trail completion to receive a stamp.



RENT A WHITEROCK CONSERVANCY FACILITY

Contact our Director of Guest Service by email: guestinfo@whiterockconservancy.org or by calling: 712-790-8221 x1, if you'd like more information about renting one of our venues.

Attach your receipt to this guide.

- Bur Oak Visitor Center Events Center
- The Historic Garst Home Farm
- The Woodland Carriage House
- Log House
- Oak Ridge Farmhouse
- Hollyhock Cottage
- River Barn
- Betts Farmhouse
- 805 River Cabin



BOOK A VACATION RENTAL

**Thank you for the kindness and
generous support you have given
Whiterock for the last 20 years.**

**Whiterock Conservancy is honored to
have so many incredible visitors come
experience this vital Iowa resource.**

**We look forward to offering many
more years of adventures.**



1436 Hwy 141, Coon Rapids, IA 50058