



THE Heron



By Phil Visser,
Executive Director

A Quiet Place to Rest

Just like how people are different from each other, all the areas managed by the Clinton County Conservation board have their own differences and unique personalities, if you will. Some are more social with lots of visitors interacting with each other, while others tend to be quieter and calmer. One little-known area that offers a great chance to find some peace and reconnect with nature is Sherman Park.

Sherman Park is nestled in the southwest corner of Clinton County, right

along the Wapsipinicon River. It is about a 30-minute drive from Davenport, and about 15 minutes west of DeWitt.

The Park has several interesting and unique features. It offers trails, public access to the Wapsi River, camping and public hunting. For camping, it offers both electric and primitive camping. All sites offer a fire pit and a picnic table. Primitive sites are located along the Wapsi and offer riverfront views, and you can fish right from your site. The downside to this being that the sites are subject to flooding when the river is high. The electric sites are located on the upper side of the campground and are situated quietly in the timber. There is a playground, picnic shelter, and shower house located nearby. All sites are available on a first come-first serve basis, apart from an accessible site that is available for online reservation by those with special requirements.

The park also offers public hunting throughout most of the area. Much of the park is forested, with small open areas patched in. This offers great opportunities

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Unplug and Unwind AT EDEN VALLEY REFUGE

Constantly attached to mobile devices, endless scrolling on social media, watching news feeds, checking texts, gaming, etc.; today's world seems to have accelerated to say the least in terms of our connection to technology. I feel many of us have lost our connection to the natural world around us. That said, breaking away from these routines by getting outside to exercise or just to ground ourselves can benefit us both physically and mentally. Whether it is for 15 minutes or several hours a day, it has been scientifically proven that time outdoors decreases stress, anxiety, depression, and obesity. It can lower cortisol and blood pressure, improve cardiovascular health, boost serotonin (a happy chemical in the body), replenish vitamin D (enhancing immune function), and create an overall sense of well-being and enlightenment in our lives.

I think we could all agree, physical activities are the most beneficial for our mind and body. However, just being mindful of our natural surroundings has a tremendous impact on our mental health. Connecting with nature by using our five senses helps us tune in

and focus on the immediate environment which we are in. There is a method utilizing the five senses (sight, touch, sound, smell, and taste) that helps us connect to our environment, this is called the "5-4-3-2-1 Grounding Method." Whether you are out on a hike in a remote area or just stepping outside your back door, you can practice this technique.

"5-4-3-2-1 Grounding Method"

- Visually observe 5 things, notice their shape, color and fine details.
- Grab 4 different objects to touch, sensing the different textures, temperatures and how they feel next to your skin. This could be as basic as a subtle breeze.
- Listen to 3 different sounds, near and far.
- Take a deep breath and try to find 2 things you can smell.
- Recognize 1 thing you can taste, this is more so a lingering taste in your mouth from a food or beverage you may be enjoying while you ground (it is not advised to ingest anything outdoors unless properly identified).

One of my favorite places to reconnect with nature, aside from my own backyard, is Eden Valley Refuge. Located just south of Baldwin, this park has plenty of space to ground, reconnect, and get a good workout in!

Nature enthusiasts can enjoy beauty here, year-round in this 200-acre park while doing just that. It is a host for beautiful spring ephemeral flowers, summer pollinating prairies (native grasses and flowers), migrating and resident birds (over 100 total bird species observed this year), forest flora and fauna, and aquatic life.





There are nearly five miles of scenic hiking trails that wind through the woods blanketing limestone bluffs and outcrops, meandering *Bear Creek*, and popping into petite prairie areas found within the refuge. The trail system is easy to navigate, depending on skill level. While on a hike, you can visit the “main attractions” the favorite features of the park, which include the popular *swinging bridge*, the *lookout tower* and *Wulf’s Den*- a shallow cavern inside the bluff along the trail that once had the original owner, Arnold Wulf’s cabin attached to it. *Stone face* is another park feature that is hidden within the forest and can be challenging to find. This unique boulder resembles the profile of a human face and is located high on a bluff just before the fork in the trail that leads you to either the *swinging bridge* or *lookout tower*.

If you are an ambitious hiker and a puzzle lover, you are invited to play Eden Valley’s *Treasure Quest*! A riddle/hands-on game that starts at the parking lot on the NW side of *Bear Creek*, here you will find the first treasure quest box and a clue. It will guide you to the next box, so on and so forth, journeying through the park until you have reached box six and get to collect your prize!

With so much to do, Eden Valley is a spectacular place to spend the weekend! To really soak it all in, consider renting the Bunkhouse cabin located along the trail or one of the camping cabins located next to the nature center. It also offers plenty of modern and primitive campsites. Close to camp they have many things to do including a basketball hoop, playground, and disc golf! Test your disc throwing skills here with no worries as this is not a championship course by any means! It is an open/free style course with 3 “holes” or baskets. I like to play one way through then turn around and play backwards, it can easily be a 3-, 6-, or 9-hole course if you repeat that method and you can set the par as you wish.

Although it is a great place to visit year-round, one of my favorite seasons of the year to visit Eden Valley is quickly approaching, and that’s autumn! The trees will be changing colors, losing leaves, and opening the scenery that is hidden below the canopy. Take a trip there this fall and see for yourself! As you go and enjoy, here are a few outdoor principles I live by and would like to share with you before your journey: Leave NO Trace, Know Before You Go, Take Only Photographs, Respect Wildlife, and Be Considerate of Others!



A Place to Rest

(cont. from front page)

for hunting deer, turkey, and squirrel. There are occasional pheasants and wood ducks, but not in numbers sufficient to target. Other animals that frequent the area include raccoons, opossums, coyotes, foxes, and the occasional bobcat. There are also many species of birds. Eagles frequent the riverfront, and Indigo Buntings and Orioles are a common sight in the primitive camping area. American woodcocks are also a commonly seen in the park, particularly in the spring. Each spring, the naturalists with the Conservation Board will host a “Woodcock Dance” in the park, where the public can witness the unique courtship of woodcocks in their natural habitat.

We are always looking at ways we can improve the park. For the 2025 camping season, we added free internet service to the campground. This addition was well worth it, especially considering cell service along the Wapsi can be questionable, depending on your provider. Now, campers and visitors are able to stay connected while enjoying the outdoors. In 2024 we also added the option for an online registration method, allowing for campers to register easily online.

Due to the location and size of the park, Sherman Park can be a great spot to get away from everyone and everything else. You may have to deal with the gravel roads but, if you are looking for a quiet spot to rest, it can be found.



Where the **WILD** Kids Go

“There is no Wi-Fi
in the forest, but
I promise you will
find a better
connection.”

- RALPH SMART

This summer Clinton County Conservation teamed up with Jackson and Dubuque County naturalists to lead a backpacking trip for local youth. We made the trek 2.5 hours away to Sand Ridge State Forest near Forest City, Illinois. This is the largest state forest in Illinois, spanning 7,550 acres, and it is a natural oasis in a desert of agricultural fields. This forest is very unique in the fact that it has a component of native oaks and hickories, but it also contains an expansive pine plantation. The purpose of the pine plantations were to prove that you could sustainably grow and harvest pine trees without irrigation. This was especially important due to the forest having extremely sandy soils! Due to the sandy soils, Sand Ridge State Forest contains a very unique habitat that also occurs here in Iowa, sand prairies! These sand prairies and dense forests not only had unique plant life, but also interesting and uncommon animal life. The forest is home to Prickly Pear Cactus, Reindeer Moss, Plains Hognose Snakes, Six-lined Racerunners, Fowler's Toads and one of the largest breeding populations of Eastern Whip-poor-wills! Being able to catch a glimpse of just a few of these interesting plants and animals was certainly a highlight!

On our first day we gathered our gear, put on our heavy packs, and hit the trail! We hiked around 3 miles into our first camp site. We walked up sandy

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hills, through the pine forests and had a few wild strawberry snacks along the way. Once we got to camp the kids were eager to show off their fire building skills, even though it was over 80 degrees outside! The night consisted of learning how to use portable camping stoves, munching on our freeze-dried meals, drinking our "sasquatch soup" and learning how to hang a bear bag. As the night continued, the forest was filled with laughter and the sounds of owls and Whip-poor-wills.

The next morning came and it was time to head out on our longest trek of the trip. On the second day we hiked around 8 miles to reach our final resting spot in the forest. On our journey we took lots of breaks in the shade, played games at lunch and saw fields filled with blooming Prickly Pear Cactus. Unlike the previous night, the long hike wore the kids out and the camp and fire took a little longer to set up. Many games were played, scary stories were shared and even a hike to an open prairie to see the strawberry moon filled our final night.

On our final morning, we had a short 1-mile hike to our air-condi-

tioned cars, but our journey was not over just yet. We had the opportunity to tour Illinois largest of three hatcheries, the Jake Wolf Memorial Fish Hatchery. They were currently raising Northern Pike and Muskelunge that we got to see and we learned about the process that the fish go through from egg to release. This hatchery is currently the only state facility in Illinois that rears and stocks salmon and trout into Lake Michigan. At peak fish production, the hatchery can produce over 30 million fish!

This trip was my first of hopefully many backpacking trips with youth. It was amazing to see them break out of their shells and make friends with total strangers. Not only was it a mentally challenging trip, being away from family, friends and most importantly their phones, but the physical challenge was a whole other beast. Our trip was filled with very hot, sunny days in a park with no natural water sources and the occasional sand dune we had (or more accurately, got to) walk up. I am so proud of each and every one of the kids that went on this trip, they followed Leave No Trace principals,

helped one another around camp and made us all laugh. It isn't always about giving formal programs about animals or the importance of protecting habitats, sometimes it is just about getting out in nature and seeing it for yourself. Seeing and being immersed in a wild habitat can do wonders for you.

Spending time outdoors is growing in importance as our screen time increases, especially for our youth. Studies have shown that spending time outdoors can reduce stress and anxiety, improve mood and enhance cognitive functions. Along with mental wellbeing, hiking helps reduce your risk of chronic diseases such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes and can lower blood pressure and heart rates. Being in the sun helps your body absorb Vitamin D too! It doesn't have to be a 3-day 2-night backpacking trip in a forest, it can be as simple as reading a book outside, taking a walk around the block or going fishing. However you choose to spend your time outside, just know that it will have lasting benefits to both your mental and physical health.

BY JILL SCHMIDT, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Fall, Field Trips & the Foundation

Help us Celebrate!

Fall field trip season is right around the corner and the environmental education calendar is filling up quickly. Soon hundreds of students from around the area will be loading buses and traveling to one of our county parks for a fun-filled day of outdoor adventures. Many of the experiences are new for children, like riding a boat on the Mississippi River or holding a snake. Most have never scooped a water scorpion from the water or let alone even know it existed! The Naturalists are eager to share their knowledge and provide these opportunities to all that show up.

The Clinton County Conservation Foundation is the backbone to a lot of the environmental education these students experience. They provide bussing scholarships to our local schools to help reduce the cost for the schools to attend these field trips. They support the Blue Heron Eco Cruise that not only is utilized by the schools but is offered all summer long to the public and they are currently working on updating the Eden Valley Nature Center, where several schools enjoy unique hiking and caving opportunities! Without the generosity of the Foundation, many of these programs would be limited or nonexistent. We are proud to have the Foundation by our side, and we need your help to keep this organization in motion.

You can help us celebrate and support the future of environmental education by attending our annual fundraising banquet on Saturday November 1st, at the Rock Creek Eco Tourism Center. Proceeds from the event will be used to fund the renovation of the nature center at Eden Valley and for the continued support of environmental education opportunities for children and adults.

To reserve tickets, please email ClintonCCF@yahoo.com, or call (563) 847-7202. With your generous, tax-deductible support, environmental education programs and hands-on nature experiences can continue to thrive.

Thank you for sharing our vision and enabling the Conservation Foundation's success.





CALENDAR OF Events

Note on Blue Heron Eco Cruises:

Sign-up for each cruise will begin one week before each trip. Check the forecast, gather your friends and sign-up! 563-259-1876. Note: The Blue Heron does not go out if winds are 20+ MPH, lightning is (or is forecasted) within 10 miles or the river stage is 17+ feet (Camanche River Gauge).

September Events

Sunset Cruises ~ 6 PM in September & 5 PM in October

4th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek

Thursday evenings there will be naturalist-guided Mississippi River cruises aboard the Blue Heron pontoon. Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot one week in advance for all Sunset Cruises.

5th ~ Tag & Track Monarchs ~ 10 AM ~ Malone Park

Monarch tagging is a captivating and vital process that involves attaching small, lightweight tags to the wings of monarch butterflies. After learning a little monarch ecology, we will "hunt" for monarchs in the newly added prairie and document the tagging process before sending them on their way. Be sure to wear appropriate clothing and footwear to walk through the tall prairie plants. Call or text Jill with any questions, 563-349-8680.

11th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek ~

Thursday evenings there will be naturalist-guided Mississippi River cruises aboard the Blue Heron pontoon. Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot one week in advance for all Sunset Cruises.

13th ~ Youth Outdoor Skills Day ~ 9 AM - 3:30 PM ~ Clinton Izaak Walton League, 4167 US 136 Clinton. IA

Children ages 11-17 are invited to spend a day challenging themselves in a variety of outdoor skills including many shooting sports. Registration is required, send a check to 1801 S. 21st St. Clinton, IA 52732 for

\$15 per child. Make checks payable to Youth Outdoor Skills Day (YOSD). Please include the child's name, age and shirt size. For questions, call Jeff Beckwith at 563-249-7358. DEADLINE: September 1st for sign-up and payment.

14th ~ Turtle Sunday ~ 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM ~ Rock Creek

Join us for a fun day of turtles! We will start the morning with a live animal presentation, followed by turtle races, crafts and finish the day with turtle sundaes!

15th ~ Friends of Rock Creek Meeting ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek

Join this amazing volunteer group to help make a difference at Rock Creek! For more information, email hedfors@clintoncounty-ia.gov.

16th ~ Herping Experience! ~ 5:30 PM ~ Ringneck Marsh

Join a Naturalist to learn about reptiles and amphibians. Explore what makes a good habitat and look for wild herps firsthand! This event will include a hike, please dress accordingly, bring water and bug spray, and be ready for a GREAT TIME! Registration is limited and required. Please call or text Emma at 563-357-0759 with questions or reserve a spot. Meet at the parking lot off the intersection of 150th Ave. and 215th St.

17th ~ Creating an Angler ~ 5:30 PM ~ Malone Park

Providing new experiences in nature for children helps build an appreciation for the outdoors at a young age that they may carry on throughout their life. We have worms, poles and tackle...let's just catch the fish! Experience and licenses are not required unless you plan on fishing yourself. We will teach you how to encourage your angler even if you're not an angler yourself. This is a free event and open to the public.

18th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek

Thursday evenings there will be naturalist-guided Mississippi River cruises aboard the Blue Heron pontoon. Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot one week in advance for all Sunset Cruises.

20th ~ Enabled Deer Hunting Starts ~ Ringneck Marsh

Call Jill at 563-847-7202 for information on this opportunity for people with disabilities. The blind is set in the oak forest along the Wapsipinicon River.

24th ~ WILDNESS Watercolors ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek

Artist Gabi Torres of Clinton is back to help guide us on making our very own custom gift card using inks from natural materials like walnut, goldenrod, mulberries, poke berries, sumac and more! Register at www.mycountyparks.com

25th ~ Sunset Eco Cruise ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek

Thursday evenings there will be naturalist-guided Mississippi River cruises aboard the Blue Heron pontoon. Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot one week in advance for all Sunset Cruises.

27th ~ Fall Mushroom Foray with Prairie States Mushroom Club ~ Noon – 3 PM ~ Eden Valley Refuge

Join the Prairie States Mushroom Club and Clinton County Conservation for another mushroom foray! Stomp through Eden Valley Refuge with mushroom experts searching for fall fungi. For more information, call or text Emma at 563-357-0759.

October Events

2nd ~ Fall Color Cruise ~ 5 PM ~ Rock Creek

Thursday evenings there will be naturalist-guided Mississippi River cruises aboard the Blue Heron pontoon. Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot one week in advance for all Sunset Cruises.

Halloween Weekend at Eden Valley & Walnut Grove!

Adults must accompany children during activities.

Friday the 3rd

- **Decorate Your Campsite** ~ Get into the holiday spirit by decorating your campsite for Halloween. We will be awarding prizes for the most creative Halloween campsites.
- **Frightening Family Movie Night** ~ 7 - 9 PM ~ Come in your pj's and bring your favorite blanket for a Halloween family-friendly movie near the playground.



Saturday the 4th

- **Trick or Treat!** ~ 4 - 5 PM ~ We invite all our camper ghouls and goblins to trick or treat the campground. We ask our campers to please pass out candy.
- **Lighted Hayrack Ride** ~ 5 PM ~ Join us aboard our hayrack as we drive through the campground looking at the decorated campsites. Adults must accompany children.

9th ~ Fall Color Cruise ~ 5 PM ~ Rock Creek

Thursday evenings there will be naturalist-guided Mississippi River cruises aboard the Blue Heron pontoon. Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot one week in advance for all Sunset Cruises.

Halloween Weekend at Rock Creek!

Adults must accompany children during activities. All activities originate at the Eco Tourism Center.

Friday the 10th

- **Decorate Your Campsite** ~ Get into the holiday spirit by decorating your campsite for Halloween. We will be awarding prizes for the most creative Halloween campsites.
- **Frightening Family Movie Night** ~ 7 - 9 PM ~ Come in your pj's and bring your favorite blanket for a Halloween family-friendly movie on the patio. Concessions will be available for some favorite movie treats. Cash only please, plan accordingly.

Saturday the 11th

- **Outside Archery Range** ~ 10 AM ~ Test your hand at slaying wild animals that have been infected by zombies on our outside archery range. The event will include both safety and practical instruction. Participants must use our equipment and will be under the watchful eye of a range master. Children (9+) must be accompanied by an adult.
- **Spooktacular Crafts** ~ 11 AM - 1 PM ~ Creepy crawly crafts will be provided for people of all ages.
- **Balloon Art** ~ 12 - 2 PM ~ Magician Jason Hamilton will be at the Eco Center making creative balloons for the children to enjoy!
- **Apple Launching** ~ 12:30 PM ~ Apple slinging at the back boat ramp! Prizes to be won!

- **Boo! Bags Tournament** ~ 1 PM ~ \$25/team of two, prizes to be won! Call the Eco Center Store to sign up at 563-259-1876. We will be looking for regulation cornhole boards to borrow for this event. Dimensions must be 4 feet (48 inches) long and 2 feet (24 inches) wide.
- **Pumpkin Carving** ~ 3 PM ~ Come carve your pumpkin at the Eco Center! We will supply the carving tools, stencils and a place to make a mess! Bring your own pumpkin!
- **Trick or Treat!** ~ 5 - 6 PM ~ We invite all our camper ghouls and goblins to trick or treat the campground. We ask our campers to please pass out candy. Note: the road to the back part of the campground will be closed 4:30 - 6:30 PM to driving traffic.
- **Lighted Hayrack Ride** ~ 6 PM ~ Join us aboard our hayrack as we drive through the campground looking at the decorated campsites. Adults must accompany children.

12th ~ Eco Printing on Silk Scarves ~ 1 PM ~ Eden Valley

Arrive at 1 PM to hike and collect leaves to then eco print onto silk scarves at 2 PM. If you are unable to hike, just show up at 2 PM and there will be leaves available to use. Feel free to bring your own leaves and berries from home too! The process takes 1.5 hours to simmer after you have designed and rolled up your scarf, so expect to be at Eden Valley at least till 4 PM. During that time, bring something to do, eat or hike some more. The porch at Eden Valley is perfect for bringing a camp chair and read while looking at the beautiful fall landscape. Or bring a hammock to relax. All materials are provided; scarf is 8" X 54". You must register for \$10 at mycountyparks.com.

12th ~ Water shut-off begins ~ Clinton County Campgrounds

Pending weather and vary/park.

14th ~ Herping Experience! ~ 5:30 PM ~ Ringneck Marsh

Join a Naturalist to learn about reptiles and amphibians. Explore what makes a good habitat and look for wild herps firsthand! This event will include a hike, please dress accordingly, bring water and bug spray, and be ready for a GREAT TIME! Registration is limited and required. Please call or text Emma at 563-357-0759 with questions or to reserve a spot. Meet at the parking lot off of the intersection of 150th Ave. and 215th St.

16th ~ Fall Color Cruise ~ 5 PM ~ Rock Creek

Thursday evenings there will be naturalist-guided Mississippi River cruises aboard the Blue Heron pontoon. Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot one week in advance for all Sunset Cruises.

18th ~ Halloween Fun, Trick or Treat! ~ 4 - 5 PM ~ Sherman Park Campground

We invite all our camper ghouls and goblins to trick or treat the campground. We ask our campers to please pass out candy.

20th ~ Friends of Rock Creek Meeting ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek

Join this amazing volunteer group to help make a difference at Rock Creek! For more information, email hedfors@clintoncounty-ia.gov.



23rd ~ Fall Color Cruise ~ 5 PM ~ Rock Creek

Thursday evenings there will be naturalist-guided Mississippi River cruises aboard the Blue Heron pontoon. Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot one week in advance for all Sunset Cruises.

28th ~ Rod Building Workshop ~ 5 PM ~ Rock Creek

Custom Rod Builder, Ryan Waltz will be on hand to help you complete your very own custom spinning rod for only \$75. If you are not able to arrive by 5 PM, please text 563-212-0955 when you sign up to let us know when you are able to arrive. This project will take around 3 hours depending on skill level, but rods must stay overnight, to be picked up at a future time for the epoxy to harden on the spinners.

29th ~ Lost Mound Unit Tour ~ 9 AM – 11 AM ~ Lost Mound Army Depot, Savanna, Illinois

We are partnering with the Stewards of the Upper Mississippi River to take a tour through Lost Mound Unit, formerly known as the Savanna Army Depot, to view a variety of wildlife. This is a 2-hour bus tour through the largest remnant prairie in Illinois, where we may see some rare and endangered plants and animals like the Western meadowlark or the Loggerhead shrike. This tour will take you into areas not open to public access, so don't hesitate to sign up as space is limited! Contact Hannah at 563-349-0956 to sign-up. You will be able to meet the group at the entrance to the depot or caravan over.

29th ~ Creatures of the Night ~ 5:30 PM ~ Rock Creek

Embrace the spooky season by learning about animals that wake up at night! We will have animal artifacts for you to feel and live animals to meet!

30th ~ Fall Color Cruise ~ 5 PM ~ Rock Creek

Thursday evenings there will be naturalist-guided Mississippi River cruises aboard the Blue Heron pontoon. Call 563-259-1876 to reserve a free spot on week in advance for all Sunset Cruises.

November Events

1st ~ Clinton County Conservation Foundation Fall Fundraiser Banquet ~ 5 PM ~ Rock Creek

Join us for a night celebrating 26 years as an organization supporting environmental education! Doors open at 5 PM with dinner following at 6:30 PM. Seating is limited, so call the Rock Creek store at 563-259-1876 or Conservation Headquarters at 563-847-7202 to purchase your \$30 ticket!

12th ~ Sourdough for Beginners ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek

Do you want to hop on the sourdough train but aren't sure where to start? Join us for a sourdough beginners' class. We will talk about all things sourdough, and you will even leave with your very own starter! Registration is required and limited. The cost is \$5.



17th ~ Friends of Rock Creek Meeting ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek

Join this amazing volunteer group to help make a difference at Rock Creek! For more information, email hedfors@clintoncounty-ia.gov.

21st ~ Turkey Talk! ~ 10:30 AM ~ Discovery Center, Clinton

What has no thumbs and likes to strut its stuff? That's right... a Turkey! Join a naturalist and learn all about wild turkeys! We will read a book, get up close and personal with animal artifacts, and create a craft!

24th ~ History of Beaver Island ~ 5:30 PM ~ Rock Creek

Did you know that one of the largest islands on the Mississippi River has history dating back to the 1840s?

Join Naturalist Hannah, as you dive into local history that is not often talked about.

December Events

5th ~ Animals in Winter ~ 10:30 AM ~ Discovery Center, Clinton

Iowa's wildlife face many challenges throughout the cold months of winter, learn about their fascinating adaptations that help them survive! This presentation will have story, puppets, animal artifacts, a live turtle and barred owl!

13th ~ Nature Journal Workshop ~ 9 AM – Noon ~ Rock Creek

What better way to spend a cold winter's day than getting crafty? Join a naturalist and create your own hand bound journal. Ideal for ages 14 and up. The cost is \$25 per person. Registration is limited and required on mycountyparks.com. Registration will close on Wednesday, December 3rd at 4:30 PM. For questions, please call or text Emma at 563-357-0759.

15th ~ Friends of Rock Creek Meeting ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek

Join this amazing volunteer group to help make a difference at Rock Creek! For more information, email hedfors@clintoncounty-ia.gov.

16th ~ Homemade Christmas Ornaments ~ 5 PM – 7 PM ~ Rock Creek

Get into the holiday spirit by joining us for a fun night of ornament making! We will have a few different types of ornaments to choose from. Registration is not required but if you want to let Hannah know that you're coming by text/call at 563-349-0956 it would be appreciated!

January Events

9th ~ Happening Hawks ~ 10:30 AM ~ Discovery Center, Clinton

Did you know that red-tailed hawks can spot a mouse from 100 feet in the air! You and your child will be able to touch real animal artifacts and see a live red-tailed hawk!

10th ~ Nature's Gold: Crafting with Deer Tallow ~ 10 AM

From rendering fat to creating household items, deer tallow has many uses. During this program you will learn about collecting the fat from the deer, storing it, rendering it and transforming it into items such as candles, soap, lotion and bird suet for you to use at home. The cost for this program is \$25 and registration is required. Visit www.mycountyparks.com to sign up or call Jill with any questions, 563-349-8680.

Clinton County Conservation

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2308 255th Street
Grand Mound, Iowa 52751
Phone: 563-847-7202
Email: conservation@clintoncounty-ia.gov
Web: www.mycountyparks.com

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MAILING LIST

Clinton County residents may receive this newsletter at home, free.
Others are charged \$5 annually. "The Heron" is on our website or emailed, free of charge.

BOARD MEETINGS

The Clinton County Conservation Board meetings are open to the public and visitors are welcome. The Board regularly meets the third Tuesday the month, at 6 PM, in the Conservation Office, located 1 mile south of Grand Mound at 2308 255th St. Please note, date and location may be changed.

Clinton County Conservation Board in the provision of services and facilities to the public does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, national origin, age or handicap. If anyone believes he or she has been subject to such discrimination, he or she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Clinton C.C.B. or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

