



Photo by Heartland Photos & Design

Loess Hills Lodge Exhibit Gallery

The exhibit gallery in Hitchcock's Loess Hills Lodge is an excellent place to begin your exploration of the Loess Hills landform.

Loess Hills



Discover how the Loess Hills were formed and identify common prairie plant species found on the preserve.

Stewardship

Take a 3D tour of the entire 1,003 acre preserve in our mini-theatre and learn about the fascinating tools used at Hitchcock to preserve the native prairie ecosystem.



Raptors



Simulate raptor wing motions as you move through aerial centers, identify raptors in flight, and listen to their unique calls. Learn more about the 20 migrating raptor species spotted at Hitchcock during the fall.

Curiosity Cove



Explore Curiosity Cove, a hands-on learning area for children of all ages. Enjoy the tracks pin board or find antlers, leaves, insects and more at the discovery amoeba table.

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Gift Shop



Purchase unique nature gifts in our gift shop. Perfect for the nature lover on your list!

The Loess Hills Lodge also features newly renovated equal access restrooms.



Park Hours

6:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Open all year

Admission: \$2.00/vehicle/day
\$10.00 Annual Permit

Loess Hills Lodge Hours

March - November

Tuesday - Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sundays: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

December - February

Friday & Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sundays: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Please call ahead for holiday hours.
All hours subject to weather conditions.

Admission: Free with paid park entrance fee
Directions: Take I-29 exit 61A. East 2 miles to Crescent, IA. Turn north on the Old Lincoln Highway and follow it 5 miles to Page Lane. Follow signs to entrance.

Hitchcock Nature Center and the Loess Hills Lodge Exhibit Gallery



Located on the Hitchcock Loop of Iowa's Loess Hills National Scenic Byway



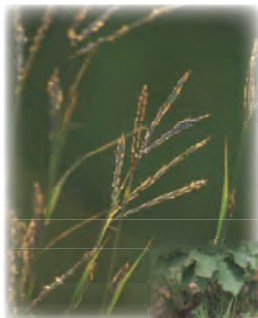
27792 Ski Hill Loop
Honey Creek, IA 51542
712.545.3283
www.pottcoconservation.com



Loess Hills

The Loess Hills are a globally significant geological landform located along the eastern edge of the Missouri River floodplain. They were formed when westerly winds lifted silt from Missouri

River floodplain which had been deposited by glacial floods. The Loess Hills are characterized by rugged terrain and extremely deep deposits of loess (60-200 feet deep). The unique nature of the Loess Hills landform enables it to support rare plants, animals, and biological communities.



Observe

The Loess Hills Lodge at Hitchcock features a new 45' adjoining observation tower. Ascend the tower to get a unique view of the surrounding Loess Hills flora and fauna.



Bring your binoculars to catch a glimpse of the local wildlife. Common Loess Hills species include deer, fox, and turkey as well as numerous raptors and songbirds. Rare animals such as the Ornate Box Turtle, Prairie Racerunner, and Regal Fritillary also find refuge on the preserve.

Discover

Encounter a different side of nature. Hitchcock offers a variety of options for visitors wishing to extend their stay. Spend an evening in one of our camping cabins, or in the modern campground featuring spacious RV sites. For the more adventurous, Hitchcock also has a large tent camping area and several scenic backpack campsites that are located deep within the preserve.



Visit the Loess Hills playground. Children will love the giant spider web, hidden cave, and zip line.

Reflect

Hitchcock is the perfect place to spend a quiet, relaxing afternoon emerged in the natural world. Hikers of all abilities are encouraged to explore over 10 miles of hiking trails that wind through Loess Hills woodlands, oak savannas and prairie remnants, including an equal access boardwalk trail. Geocaching is also popular at Hitchcock. Bring your GPS unit and search for hidden caches in the hills.



After your hike, relax at one of our scenic overlooks or picnic areas.

Share

You are invited to share your enthusiasm for nature throughout the year. Listen to the sound of songbirds in the spring and visit our nationally recognized HawkWatch in the fall. Hitchcock was named the first Important Birding Area (IBA) in Iowa and is also identified as 1 of 4 hawkwatching sites in the world with 500+ migrating bald eagles.



Annually, the Hitchcock HawkWatch volunteers count migrating raptors from early September to late December. Visit us and see some for yourself!

Experience

Throughout the year, special public programs are presented at Hitchcock that are designed to engage nature lovers of all ages. Visit during one of our popular annual events.



- 🌿 Owl Prowl (Feb.)
- 🌿 Hitch Hikes (May-Sept.)
- 🌿 Mommy & Me: Growing in Nature (May)
- 🌿 Night Sky (Aug.)
- 🌿 Monarch Tagging (Sept.)
- 🌿 HawkWatch Festival (Sept.)
- 🌿 Trail Run (Oct.)
- 🌿 Halloween Hike (Oct.)
- 🌿 HawkWatch Eagle Migration (Nov.)
- 🌿 Nature's Noel (Dec.)

Experience nature on your own and embark on one of the self-guided trails using the Trailcasts. Trailcasts are enhanced nature podcasts- audio tours augmented with sound, video and still imagery all pertinent to the natural world found at Hitchcock.



For more information about our unique public programs, please contact us at 712.545.3283 or online at www.pottcoconservation.com



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