

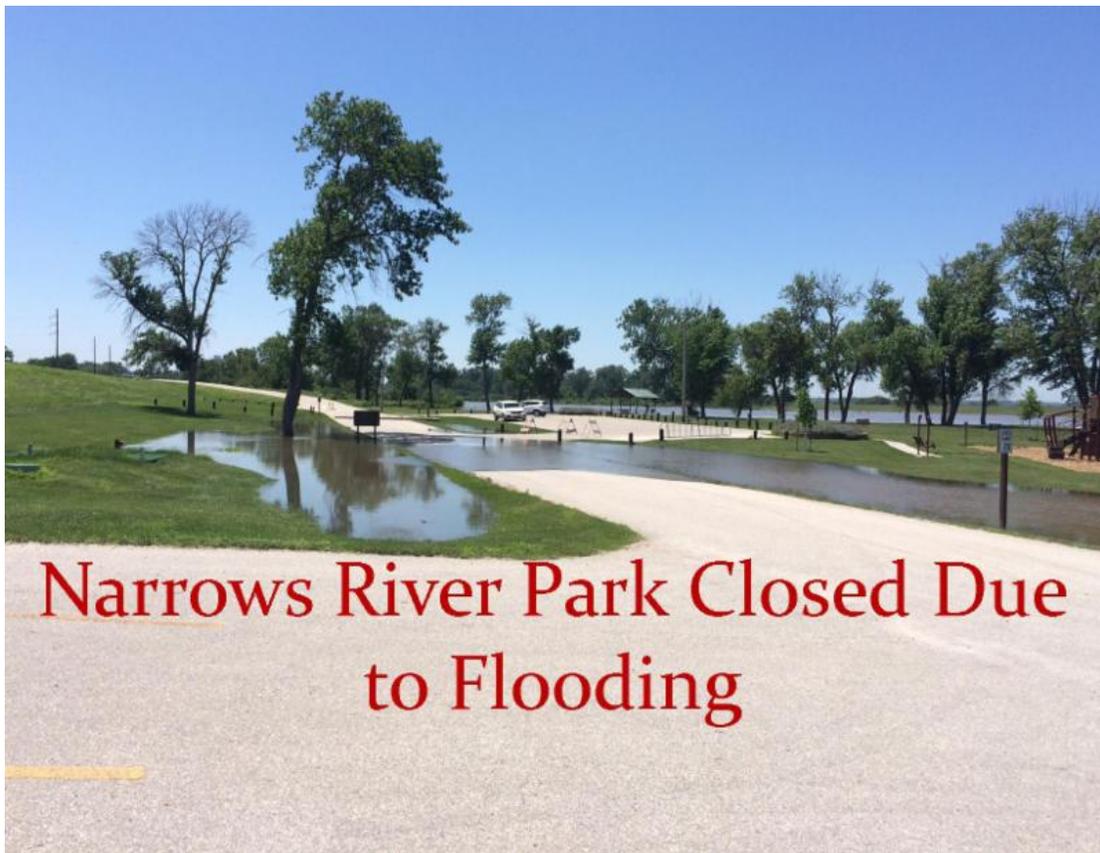
# THE CONSERVATOR

July, 2018

THE MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER FROM POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY CONSERVATION



Become a Member Today!



As of June 27th Narrows River Park in Council Bluffs is closed due to Missouri Rive flooding. At this time we do not have a projected date to re-open the park. Follow the Narrows River Park Facebook page for more news on this park closure.

Additionally, the flooding of Narrows has necessitated the cancellation of our July 1st Summer Concert Series event featuring the Omaha band Happy Together. We are currently looking at potential dates to reschedule this event and will announce the new date as soon as possible.

We thank you for your understanding.

[Click Here to Follow Narrows River Park on Facebook](#)

**Register Today for**

# Adult Summer Camp!



**Pottawattamie County Conservation**

*Adult Summer Camp*

**JULY 23RD**  
7pm-9pm  
Botna Bend Park  
Archery, Birding, Bison and Elk 101

**JULY 25TH**  
7pm-9pm  
Arrowhead Park  
Canoeing and Fishing

**JULY 27TH**  
8pm-10pm  
Hitchcock Nature Center  
Camp Cooking and Night Hiking

**\$30 PER DAY**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER LOG ON TO:**  
[www.pottcoconservation.com](http://www.pottcoconservation.com)

Adults 18 & over are invited to join us for a unique experience during our first ever Adult Summer Camp! This new program features three sessions at three different Pottawattamie County parks and is designed for maximum fun!

Please click the program dates below for more information & online registration.

[July 23rd, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. - Botna Bend Park, Hancock](#)

Archery, Birding, Bison & Elk 101

[July 25th, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. - Arrowhead Park, Neola](#)  
Canoeing & Fishing \* Adults must have valid Iowa fishing license

[July 27th, 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. - Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek](#)

Campfire Cooking & Full Moon Night Hike

Each of our three camp sessions is designed for adult learners to introduce them to new concepts

and outdoor skills. Cost is \$30.00 per person per camp session. Register for all three sessions or only the ones that interest you. Space is very limited and online pre-registration is required for attendance. This programming series is being presented as part of our adult education programming. Attendees must be 18 years and over to attend.

All camp supplies will be provided but campers are advised to dress for the weather & wear appropriate shoes. Water bottles, sunblock, & bug spray are also recommended. Please note, adults wishing to participate in the fishing unit on July 25th must have a valid Iowa Fishing License. [Please click here for more information on Iowa fishing regulations and online purchase options.](#)

Space is limited so register today!

## Pottawattamie County Naturalist Kristen Bieret Says Goodbye



It is with a hearty congratulations & a touch of sadness that Pottawattamie County Conservation staff announces the departure of our friend and Naturalist, Kristen Bieret.

For the past two years we've enjoyed the enthusiasm, creativity, positivity, and production of Kristen as a Pottawattamie County Conservation Naturalist. She has been a strong asset to our team, and along with Rene Stroud, has guided our EE program down new and exciting paths. She has heavily influenced our adult educational opportunities and has fostered new relationships and partnerships that have expanded the influence of PCCB in the most positive of ways. In short, the EE program would not be what it is today without her.

We wish her luck on her new adventure with the Harlan Public Library, they are lucky to have acquired such a talented and driven professional to join their team.

The open position of Naturalist has been posted & is accepting applications from qualified individuals. [Click here for more information.](#)

Register Online for our July Speaker Series  
Event, Nature As Our Teacher with Dr. Bud Grant  
July 14th, 4:00 p.m. at Hitchcock Nature Center

## Pottawattamie County Conservation

**FREE!** Speaker Series Presents

*Dr. Bud Grant*

HITCHCOCK  
NATURE CENTER  
SATURDAY  
JULY 14TH, 2018  
4PM

**NATURE AS OUR  
TEACHER**

THIS PROGRAM WILL  
DELVE INTO THE  
MYRIAD WAYS THAT  
HUMANS INTERACT  
WITH THE LOESS  
HILLS ENVIRONMENT.

Please register at [www.mycountyparks.com](http://www.mycountyparks.com)  
or by calling 712-545-3283  
Free-will donations encouraged



**Humanities Iowa**

This program is supported by Humanities Iowa and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The views and opinions expressed by this program do not necessarily reflect those of Humanities Iowa or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

### **Emerald Ash Borer Discovered in Pottawattamie County**

A destructive pest of ash trees has now been confirmed in Buchanan, Hamilton, Hardin and Pottawattamie counties. The Emerald ash borer (EAB), an exotic pest from Asia, was first found in Iowa in 2010 and has now been detected in 61 Iowa counties.

Insect samples were collected from ash trees in Winthrop (Buchanan County), a rural area

east of Randall (Hamilton County), Eldora (Hardin County), and Council Bluffs (Pottawattamie County). The samples were submitted to the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, which confirmed them positive for EAB. Buchanan and Hardin Counties involved ash trees on private property, whereas Hamilton and Pottawattamie County findings occurred in the right-of-way along I-35 and I-80, respectively.

"June is typically the time of year we receive a surge in phone calls about poorly looking ash trees. We urge people to continue to report suspicious symptoms in counties that are not yet known to be infested," said Mike Kintner, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship EAB and gypsy moth coordinator. "People can really help minimize the spread of this pest by not giving it a ride in infested firewood between counties or from home to campsite."

[Click Here for the Full Press Release](#)

## Last Call to Register for July Summer Camps

Summer camp season continues in July. All camp registrations close the Friday before camp begins at 10:00 a.m. so you are running out of time to get your July campers registered!

[Click Here For More Information on our 2018 Summer Camp Offerings](#)

| PRESCHOOL AGES 3-5   | ENTERING 1ST AND 2ND GRADE  | ENTERING 3RD AND 4TH GRADE   |
|--|---|--|
| <p><i>Fairies and Pirates</i><br/> <b>JUNE 11TH-15TH</b><br/> <b>AUGUST 6TH-10TH</b><br/> <b>\$15 PER CAMP</b><br/> <b>HITCHCOCK NATURE CENTER</b><br/> <b>9AM-11AM</b></p> <p><i>Sign up for them all or just a few!</i></p> <p><b>Monday</b>- Fawn and the World of Animals<br/> <b>Tuesday</b>- Gruff and the Legends of the Neverbeast<br/> <b>Wednesday</b>- Silvermist and Iridessa Explore Sunshine and Water<br/> <b>Thursday</b>- Rosetta and Nature's Gardens<br/> <b>Friday</b>- Zarina the Pirate Fairy Adventure Through the Wilderness</p>   | <p><i>Trolls</i><br/> <b>JUNE 19TH-21ST</b><br/> <b>\$75 PER CAMPER</b><br/> <b>HITCHCOCK NATURE CENTER</b><br/> <b>9AM-4PM</b></p> <p>Embark on a journey over the hills and under the tall trees as we learn about Hitchcock Nature Center's Fantastical Forest. Join our team and work together to discover a troll-iday every day in every way (spontaneous dance party included).</p> <p>From canoeing and paddle boats to fishing and dip netting we will tackle all the fun challenges water can bring our way!</p> <p><i>Water Warriors</i><br/> <b>JULY 17TH-19TH</b><br/> <b>\$75 PER CAMPER</b><br/> <b>ARROWHEAD PARK</b><br/> <b>9AM-4PM</b></p> | <p><i>The Last Rusty</i><br/> <b>JUNE 26TH-28TH</b><br/> <b>\$75 PER CAMPER</b><br/> <b>HITCHCOCK NATURE CENTER</b><br/> <b>9AM-4PM</b></p> <p>Join the forces of the Dump Busters to track down and save the last Rusty as we thwart the environmental destroyers in our midst.</p> <p><i>Aquatic Adventures</i><br/> <b>JULY 31ST-AUGUST 2ND</b><br/> <b>\$75 PER CAMPER</b><br/> <b>ARROWHEAD PARK</b><br/> <b>9AM-4PM</b></p> <p>From canoeing to fishing we will tackle all the fun challenges water can bring our way!</p>       |
| <p><b>REGISTER AT WWW.POTTACOCONSERVATION.COM</b></p>  |   |  |
| <p><i>Voyagers</i><br/> <b>JULY 10-12TH</b><br/> <b>\$75 PER CAMPER</b><br/> <b>July 10th</b><br/> <b>Arrowhead Park</b><br/> <b>9am-4pm</b><br/> <b>July 11th-12th</b><br/> <b>4pm-10am</b><br/> <b>Botna Bend Park</b></p> <p>New this year! Join in as we learn all the skills of the great outdoors. We will try our hand at canoeing on the first day at Arrowhead Park, then learn how to pitch a tent and stay overnight at Botna Bend Park.</p> <p><i>Camper Vs. Wild</i><br/> <b>JULY 24TH-26TH</b><br/> <b>\$75 PER CAMPER</b><br/> <b>HITCHCOCK NATURE CENTER</b><br/> <b>9AM-4PM</b></p> <p>Join in as we tackle the great outdoors. We will learn all the skills needed to master adventures in the wild.</p> | <p><i>Paddling Pioneers</i><br/> <b>JULY 11TH 9AM-</b><br/> <b>JULY 12TH 4PM</b><br/> <b>\$75 PER CAMPER</b><br/> <b>BOTNA BEND</b><br/> <b>OLD TOWN PARK</b></p> <p>Grab your sense of adventure and your sleeping bag as we canoe to Botna Bend Park for an overnight!</p> <p>Paddlers continue on to Old Town Park by canoe for a second day of adventure</p>  | <p><i>Helping Hands Camp</i><br/> <b>JUNE 12TH-14TH</b><br/> <b>\$30 PER CAMPER</b><br/> <b>HITCHCOCK NATURE CENTER</b><br/> <b>1PM-3PM</b></p> <p>A camp tailored to children with special needs and their guardians.</p> <p><i>Family Camp Out</i><br/> <b>AUGUST 11TH 3PM-</b><br/> <b>AUGUST 12TH 10AM</b><br/> <b>\$25 PER FAMILY</b><br/> <b>HITCHCOCK NATURE CENTER</b></p> <p>Want to camp but not sure where to start? We will provide meals, activities and most of the supplies. Registration is limited to 6 families.</p> |

## Adult Education Opportunities Continue with A Pottawattamie County Almanac & Introduction to Land Management

Adult educational programming continues to grow at your county parks & we encourage all interested adult learners to join us during two continuing program series, *A Pottawattamie County Almanac & Introduction to Land Management*. Both programs are designed for adults of all experience levels & aim to provide a new understanding of

outdoor concepts for all interested learners.

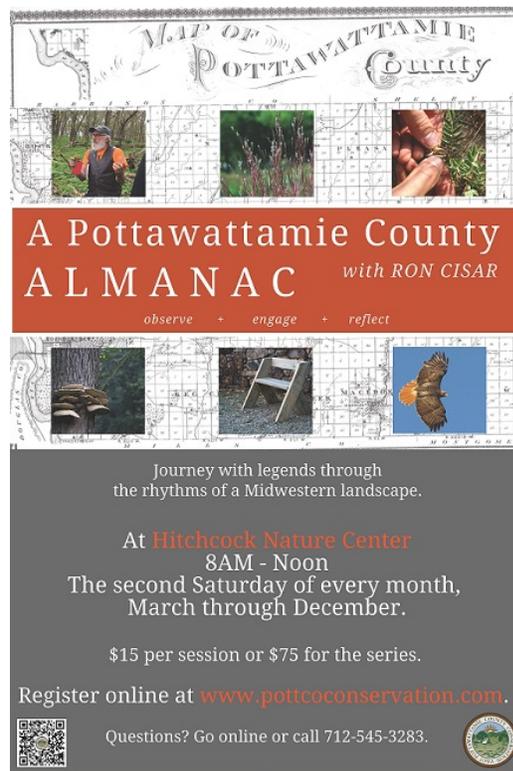
## **A Pottawattamie County Almanac** **July 14th, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** **Hitchcock Nature Center**

In his classic work, *A Sand County Almanac*, Aldo Leopold stressed the importance of the individual's responsibility in caring for the health of the land through the development of one's own "ecological conscience" and "land ethic". Nearly 70 years later, our nation's landscape is waning but Leopold's vision for the individual is no less diminished. *A Pottawattamie County Almanac*, instructed by Ron Cisar, is a series of classes held monthly at Hitchcock Nature Center inspired and guided by Leopold's best known work, his lasting legacy, and his challenge to future generations.

This programming series is intended for people of all experience levels and walks of life, and from all areas of the Midwest; anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Participants should note that classes will be held at Hitchcock Nature Center, located on the western edge of Iowa's Loess Hills and will at times require pedestrian travel over difficult terrain; some sessions may be physically challenging. Much of each session will occur out-of-doors and participants should come prepared for weather and the elements.

Cost is \$15.00 per student per session & pre-registration is required for these events.

[Click Here for More Information & to Register for Our July 14th Session](#)



*MAP OF THE*  
**POTTAWATTAMIE**  
*COUNTY*

**A Pottawattamie County**  
**ALMANAC** with **RON CISAR**  
*observe + engage + reflect*

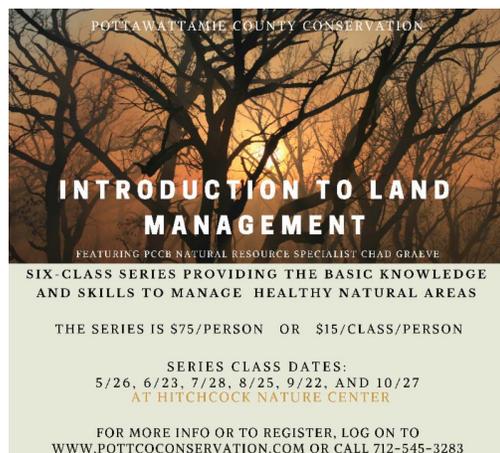
Journey with legends through  
the rhythms of a Midwestern landscape.

At **Hitchcock Nature Center**  
8AM - Noon  
The second Saturday of every month,  
March through December.

\$15 per session or \$75 for the series.

Register online at [www.pottcoconservation.com](http://www.pottcoconservation.com).

Questions? Go online or call 712-545-3283.



POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY CONSERVATION

**INTRODUCTION TO LAND  
MANAGEMENT**

FEATURING PCB NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST CHAD GRAEVE

SIX-CLASS SERIES PROVIDING THE BASIC KNOWLEDGE  
AND SKILLS TO MANAGE HEALTHY NATURAL AREAS

THE SERIES IS \$75/PERSON OR \$15/CLASS/PERSON

SERIES CLASS DATES:  
5/26, 6/23, 7/28, 8/25, 9/22, AND 10/27  
AT HITCHCOCK NATURE CENTER

FOR MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER, LOG ON TO  
[WWW.POTTCOCONSERVATION.COM](http://WWW.POTTCOCONSERVATION.COM) OR CALL 712-545-3283



PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



## **Introduction to Land Management** **July 28th, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** **Hitchcock Nature Center**

This programming series is designed to provide members of the public the basic knowledge and skills required to create and maintain a healthy environment in a Midwestern natural areas setting. The series will provide extensive hands-on experiences facilitated by natural resource professionals in the areas of invasive and noxious weed control, brush management, timber stand improvement, seed harvesting, and the application of prescribed fire. Students will gain holistic and working knowledge of the tools and philosophies employed by the regional leaders at Pottawattamie County Conservation to manage county- and privately-owned lands including the safe operation of power tools (e.g. chainsaws and brush cutters), responsible herbicide application, working with the timing and rhythms of the

land, prescribed fire ecology and theory, and the Natural Areas Management Program's "Guiding Principles".

This six-class series will be held the 4th Saturday of the month, May through October. Class will be held 8:00 a.m. to noon each day, rain or shine. The series is intended for people of all experience levels; those with little or no experience should feel encouraged to attend. Attendees should note: the series will primarily take place outdoors in the Loess Hills of western Iowa and will, at times, require pedestrian travel over difficult terrain.

Cost is \$15.00 per student per session & pre-registration is required for these events.

[Click Here for More Information & to Register for Our July 28th Session](#)

College students can receive a discounted student rate for the series; please call 712-545-3283 for details or email [jeff.franco@pottcounty-ia.gov](mailto:jeff.franco@pottcounty-ia.gov). Student ID is required.

Please call 712-545-3283 for more information.

## Hitchcock Oak Inventory Project: Training Session Rescheduled for July 28th

Due to presenter schedules we have rescheduled our second Oak Inventory Project Training session. Originally planned for June 23rd this session has been moved to July 28th & will be held from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Hitchcock Nature Center.

This is the second of three training sessions for volunteers interested in joining a new and unique volunteer program aimed at helping us document a new, swift and little understood disease affecting oak tree populations throughout the Midwest. Join us at Hitchcock Nature Center to be a part of a new volunteer project aimed at understanding and alleviating the effects of this new threat.

Our second training session will introduce volunteers to identifying and understanding the signs of oak decline in our region as well as a review of the smartphone data collection application. This training session is for new participants as well as participants who joined us for our first training in March.

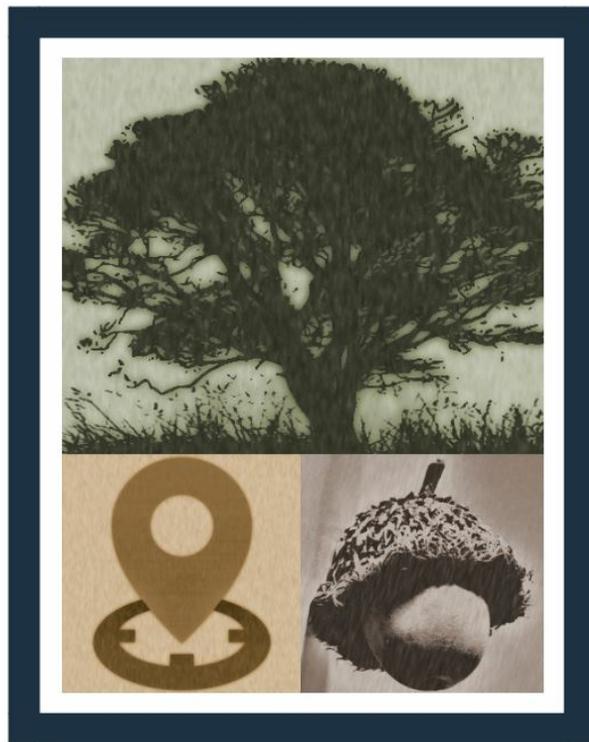
Participants will need to provide their own smartphone for data collection and must be willing to download and install the project and data collection application for use. The app is available for both iPhone & Android users. Participants are also asked to dress for the weather including appropriate footwear for outdoor terrain. A notebook, water bottle and snack are also recommended.

Due to the paperwork needed to register new participants we are asking that interested parties register online in advance.

[Click Here to Register for the July 28th Training Session](#)

Pottawattamie County Conservation's Hitchcock Oak Inventory Project is a truly original volunteer-led citizen science effort. The project aims to support researchers' effort to better understand the dramatic decline and mortality of oaks observed throughout our region. Additionally the project helps ensure that current and future generations of oaks remain part of the Hitchcock Nature Center landscape through volunteer-led protection & planting.

During the spring and summer volunteers will be using a specially designed smartphone app as they walk the wilds of Hitchcock Nature Center documenting the health and condition of our bur & red oak trees. In the fall volunteers will learn what it takes to prepare oaks for annual prescribed fire, how to select viable acorns, as well as when and where to plant them.



[Click Here for More Information & FAQ's](#)

Participants should note this project will require pedestrian travel over difficult terrain. Accordingly this project may be challenging for young children and those with restricted mobility.

The Hitchcock Oak Inventory Project is proudly funded by the Resource Enhancement and Protection Conservation Education Program (REAP CEP).

## Upcoming Programs

### **Yoga in the Park**

8:00 a.m.

Saturday, July 7th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join us for a 45-50 minute beginners yoga session presented in the beautiful Loess Hills, yogis of all ages and experience levels are invited to join us. [Read More ...](#)

### **A Pottawattamie County Almanac: July Session**

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 14th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

A Pottawattamie County Almanac, instructed by Ron Cisar, is a monthly series of classes inspired and guided by Leopold's best known work, his lasting legacy, and his challenge to future generations. [Read More ...](#)

### **2018 Speaker Series: Nature as Our Teacher**

4:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 14th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join us in welcoming Dr. Robert "Bud" Grant for a fascinating presentation on the the Loess Hills entitled "Nature as our Teacher: Learning How to Save Our Relationship With the Loess Hills". This program will delve into the myriad ways that humans interact with the Loess Hills environment. [Read More ...](#)

### **July Hitch Hike**

7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 17th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Enjoy a guided hike out Fox Run Ridge trail to take in the stunning views of the Missouri River valley, beautiful prairie & pasture land and catch a glimpse of our research plots. [Read More ...](#)

### **July Living Loess Tour**

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 21st

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

And various partner businesses

Connect with the culture of the Loess Hills on our July Living Loess Tour. Join all of our partner businesses from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the third Saturday of the month, May through October, to experience the culture of Iowa's Loess Hills. [Read More ...](#)

### **Adult Summer Camp**

Monday, July 23rd, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Botna Bend Park, Hancock

Wednesday, July 25th, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Arrowhead Park, Neola

Friday, July 27th, 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Adults 18 & over are invited to join in the fun and explore three Pottawattamie County Parks during our brand new Adult Summer Camp programming. [Read More ...](#)

### **July Insect Club Meeting**

5:30 p.m. Pre-Meeting Hike

6:30 p.m. Meeting

Thursday, July 26th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Everyone is welcome to join in the fun with the new Hitchcock Nature Center Insect Club at their third meeting of the season, July 26th. [Read More ...](#)

### **Introduction to Land Management: July Session**

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 28th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

All members of the public including students, land owners, and anyone interested in learning responsible land management practices are invited to join us for our Introduction to Land Management program. [Read More ...](#)

### **Hitchcock Oak Inventory Project: July Training**

12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 28th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join us for this new and unique volunteer opportunity as we document the location & condition of burr oak trees in an effort to preserve them. [Read More ...](#)

### **2018 Summer Concert Series: SkreTTa eTc.**

4:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 5th

Narrows River Park, Council Bluffs

Join us for an outdoor concert set against the stunning Missouri River on Sunday, August 5th at 4:00 p.m. [Read More ...](#)

[Click Here for More Upcoming Programs & Events](#)

Visit Our Website

STAY CONNECTED:

 Hitchcock Nature Center  Arrowhead Park  Botna Bend Park  Narrows River Park

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 [View on Instagram](#)

[Visit our blog](#)