



Rediscover Nature in Pottawattamie County Parks

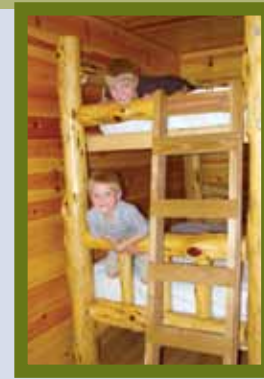
Main Office
223 S. 6th Street
Council Bluffs, IA 51501
712-328-5638

Visit us at
www.pottcoconservation.com



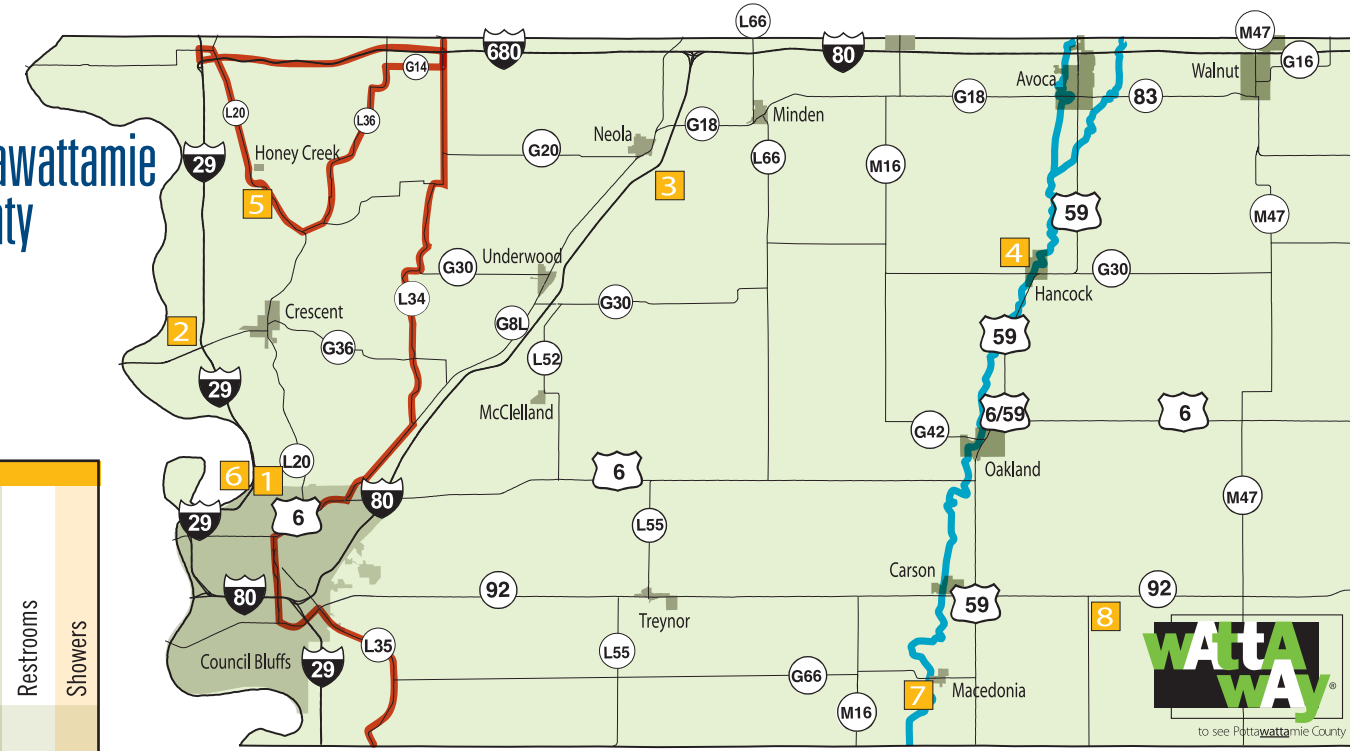
Camping Cabins

Cabins at Arrowhead and Hitchcock Nature Center provide heat and air conditioning, beds, electricity, refrigerator, picnic table, campfire ring, grill and outside water hydrant. Restrooms and modern shower house are nearby. All you need to bring is your



bedding, pillows, and a spirit of adventure. To reserve a cabin, please call 712-485-2295 (Arrowhead Park) or 712-328-5833 (Hitchcock Nature Center).

Pottawattamie County



Parks & Habitat Areas

	Acres	Archery	BB & VB Courts	Biking in Park	Boat Ramp	Cabin Rentals	Camping	Dump Station	Electric Hookups	Equestrian Trail	Fishing	Handicap Accessible	Hiking Trails	Hunting	Interpretive Facility	Canoeing	Kayaking	Paddle Boating	Picnicking	Picnic Shelters	Playground	Restrooms	Showers	
1 Blackbird Marsh Intersection of I-29 and 16th St., Council Bluffs	14																							
2 Pheasants Forever Food Plot N.W. of I-680 & I-29 interchange on 145th St.	13													•										
3 Arrowhead Park I-80 exit #23, left on L55 one mile	147		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•					•	•	•	•	•	•	•
4 Botna Bend Park Bison & Elk Exhibit, Nishnabotna Rlver I-80 exit #40, 8 miles south on US Hwy. 59	117	•	•	•	•		•	•	•		•	•	•				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
5 Hitchcock Nature Center I-29 exit #61A to Crescent, 5 miles north on Old Lincoln Hwy.	1,248	•		•		•	•	•				•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•	•	•
6 Narrows River Park, Missouri River I-29 exit #55, north on 25th St. to River Road	36	•		•							•	•	•						•	•	•	•		
7 Old Town Park, Nishnabotna River Macedonia	8				•		•				•					•	•		•		•			
8 Farm Creek Public Wildlife Area 10-acre pond and wetlands One mile south of Hwy. 92 on 460th St.	320				•						•			•										

Natural Encounters in Pottawattamie County Parks



February: **Owl Prowl** Hitchcock
 March: **Maple Tree Tapping** Botna Bend
 April: **Spring Scavenger Hunt** Hitchcock
 May: **Hitch Hikes** Hitchcock
 June: **Kids' Fishing Derby** Arrowhead
 August: **Maple Syrup Pancake Feed** Botna Bend
Night Sky Program Hitchcock
 September: **Monarch Tagging** Hitchcock
HawkWatch Festival Hitchcock
 October: **Trail Run** Hitchcock
Chili Feed Arrowhead
Enchanted Forest Hitchcock
 November: **Eagle Migration** Hitchcock
 December: **Nature's Noel** Hitchcock

Throughout the year, programs are also presented to school, youth, civic groups and motorcoach tours. To schedule a program, please call the Program Manager at 712-328-5831.

The West Nishnabotna River Water Trail runs north to south through Pottawattamie County. River access can be obtained through Avoca, Hancock, Oakland, Carson and Macedonia. For canoes and kayak rentals call Botna Bend Park at 712-741-5465. For a Water Trail map call 712-328-5638.



Pottawattamie County Parks

in Western Iowa





Explore the Loess Hills at Hitchcock Nature Center

The Loess Hills have some of the last remaining stands of Iowa native prairie. This unique habitat is home to over 300 documented species of native plants, 243 species of birds, and a variety of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, butterflies, moths, dragonflies, damselflies, beetles, spiders, and ants. Many of the plant species found in Iowa's prairies are more typical of western Nebraska and Wyoming.

The dry loess creates a desert-like growing condition much more similar to the rain shadow of the Rockies than in the rest of Iowa.

The Loess Hills of western Iowa are truly an American treasure. Visitors of all ages will enjoy exploring this natural wonder in Pottawattamie County.



Photo by Brian Petersen

Arrowhead Park

Arrowhead Park (I-80 exit #23, left on L55 one mile) offers activities that your entire family will enjoy. Arrowhead Park has a 17-acre fishing lake filled with bluegill, bass and catfish and visitors are invited to fish from shore, off the equal access fishing



dock, or from their own boat. Canoe and paddle boats are also rented by the 1/2-hour, half or full day.

Extend your visit to Arrowhead and stay in one of the camping cabins or four modern camping areas featuring 58 camp sites. Tent camping is also allowed throughout the park.

Arrowhead Park also features a playground, basketball and volleyball courts, woodland hiking trails, equestrian trails and wildlife viewing.

Breezee Lodge enclosed shelter is the perfect place for a group gathering with heat and air conditioning, kitchen, fireplace and large deck. Open shelters throughout the park also offer perfect picnic spots.

For more information, or for cabin and lodge reservations, contact the park ranger at 712-485-2295.



Arrowhead Park
29357 310th St.
Neola, IA
712-485-2295



Narrows River Park

Narrows River Park (I-29 exit #55, North on 25th Street to River Road) provides boat access to the mighty Missouri River. A covered shelter with large

deck overlooking the river invites visitors to stay and enjoy the beauty of the river and the Omaha skyline just downstream.

In addition to the boat ramp, facilities include a restroom, hiking trails along the river, horseshoe pits, archery range, and a playground. For more information or shelter rentals, contact the park ranger at 712-323-1342.



Narrows River Park
2500 N. 25th St.
Council Bluffs, IA
712-323-1342

Botna Bend Park

Botna Bend Park (I-80 exit #40, 8 miles south on US Hwy 59) is a favorite for campers who enjoy a small town atmosphere. The park is equipped with a modern shower house, dump station, fifty-seven 30-amp electric sites and plenty of tent camping sites. Park visitors can also enjoy the playground,



basketball and volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, picnic shelters, and hiking trails through native grasses and alongside the elk and bison pens. While at Botna Bend, anglers commonly catch flathead catfish, carp,

Botna Bend Park
42926 Mahogany Rd.
Hancock, IA
712-741-5465

bluegill, gar, and walleye. Bison and elk herds reside in the park's pasture areas.

The park is one of the entry/exit points on the West Nishnabotna Water Trail that runs through the communities of Avoca, Hancock, Oakland, Carson and ends at Old Town Park near Macedonia. Visitors can rent canoes and kayaks for half and full-day trips. While on your journey, enjoy a picnic on one of the sandbars.

For more information about Botna Bend Park or to make canoe and kayak reservations, contact the park ranger at 712-741-5465.



Hitchcock Nature Center

This 1,248 acre preserve is located in the heart of the globally significant Loess Hills and harbors some of the largest remaining prairie remnants in the state. At Hitchcock (I-29 exit #61A to Crescent, five miles north on Old Lincoln Hwy.) visitors can enjoy many unique low-impact recreation opportunities such as hiking, camping, picnicking, bird watching, sledding, star gazing or simply enjoying nature.

Hikers of all abilities can explore the Loess Hills



Hitchcock Nature Center
27792 Ski Hill Loop
Honey Creek, IA
712-545-3283

via a network of over 10 miles of hiking trails and an equal access boardwalk trail. Children will enjoy the Loess Hills playground and a visit to the Loess Hills Lodge and adjoining 45' observation tower.

This fall, bring your binoculars to the Hitchcock HawkWatch and keep your eyes on the sky for migrating raptors.



Photo by Renee Rhodman

Visit Hitchcock Nature Center and extend your stay.

Hitchcock now has the perfect overnight facilities for modern-day nature lovers. The modern campground features camping cabins and 19 spacious RV sites with 20, 30 and 50 amp electric service.

Campers who prefer to "rough it" will enjoy the scenic backpack campsites that are located deep in the back country of the preserve. Tent sites with picnic tables and fire rings are also available for individual or group camping and are in close proximity to water, the shower house and restrooms.

Old Town Park

Located on the historic Mormon Trail one mile west of Macedonia, Old Town Park offers visitors a wonderful "back to nature" feeling by providing Nishnabotna River access and primitive camping opportunities.



Old Town Park
12515 385th St.
Macedonia, IA
712-741-5465



Habitat Areas



Blackbird Marsh

Blackbird Marsh is a small wetland located in Council Bluffs, IA. A multitude of wetland wildlife reside at Blackbird Marsh including ducks, geese, frogs and turtles.

Council Bluffs, IA

Farm Creek Public Wildlife Area

Restoration of the original 80-acre tract (one mile south of Highway 92 on 460th Street), began in 2001 with construction of an earthen dam to create a 10-acre pond. The remaining 70 acres was planted to habitat creating a public hunting and fishing area. In 2006, an additional 240 acres was added and has been converted to wildlife habitat including a wetland, bringing total acres to 320.

Carson, IA

Pheasants Forever Food Plot

The Pottawattamie County Conservation Board maintains a 13.27 acre area to serve as a plot for pheasants. In cooperation with Pottawattamie County Chapter of Pheasants Forever, the land was purchased in 1989 and is open for public hunting.

North of Council Bluffs, IA

For more information on any of our habitat areas, please contact the Natural Resource Manager at 712-328-5832.