



Participant Information

Please read through the following document carefully so that you are prepared for Field Day!

You should bring/wear:

- A reusable water bottle and a small backback to carry it in. Water bottle refilling will be available at the Rec Building and at stations throughout the preserve.
- A sack lunch. There are two gas stations located within 10 miles of the Preserve but that is it for nearby lunch options.
- Wear long pants (the sturdier the better); there are no trails on the Preserve. You will be walking through tall grass and brush.
- Wear sturdy shoes that will stay on your feet (not crocs, slip-ons, sandals); there are no trails on the Preserve. Prickly Pear Cactus are prevalent!

Big Sand Mound always finds extremes.

In full sun, the Preserve is ~20 degrees warmer than the Muscatine air temperature reading.

Dressing in layers with fabric that will keep you cool is a must.

With the exertion of hiking in sand, it's easy to overheat quickly.

Please drink plenty of water and flag down a volunteer or EMT if you need assistance.

Tick Safety

Ticks are an arachnid that can cause an itchy bite and are known to cause diseases if they are allowed to remain attached for long enough. Ticks like to hang out in dark, warm places. Check through your hair and behind your ears. Check any place where clothes are tight on the skin (sock line, waistband, armpits, etc.) If you find a tick, there is no need to be concerned. Simply remove the tick and dispose of it. Remember- ticks need to be attached for well over 24 hours in order to transmit most diseases. If you'd like to learn more about tick safety and removal please visit [cdc.gov/ticks](https://www.cdc.gov/ticks).

Questions?

Contact Louisa County Conservation at 319-523-8381 or conservation@louisacountyia.gov.

Directions to the Bayer Rec Building

The address of the Rec is
2705 Ogilvie Ave.
Muscatine, IA 52761.

**Do NOT Trust
your Maps App!**

Check what your app is
telling you with this map.



Remember:

DO NOT TRUST YOUR GPS or PHONE APP!

Entering the physical address in almost always directs you either to the Bayer Plant itself
or to a neighbor's house on Ogilvie.

SAND MOUND BIG MOUND NATURE PRESERVE



Field Day 2026



Amenity Locations



Road from Ogilvie



Rec Building



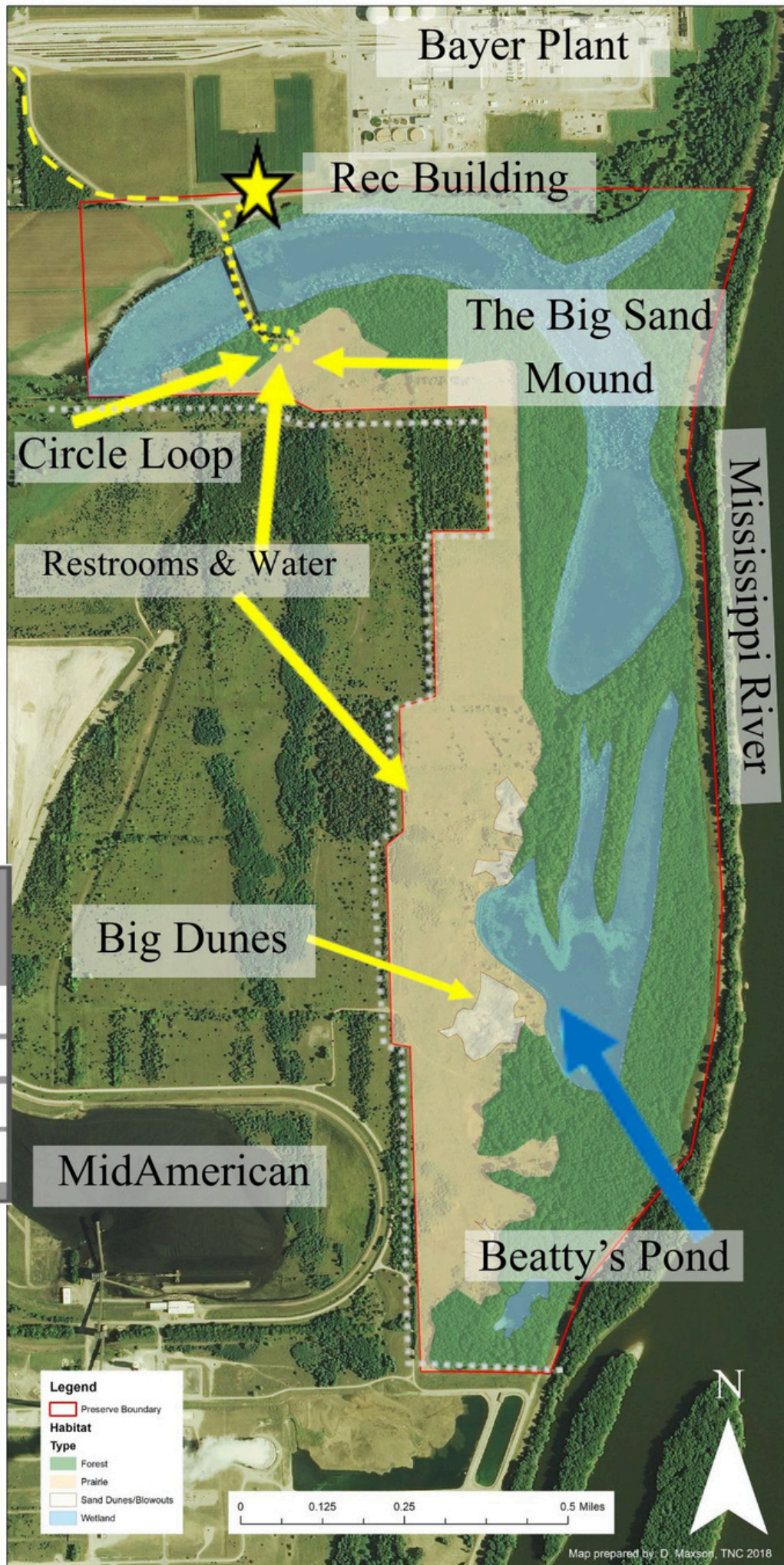
Gravel Path



Chain Link Fence



LOUISA COUNTY CONSERVATION



5:30 a.m. – **Early Morning Hikes** - meet at the Bayer Rec Building no later than 5:30 am

- **Bird Watching** Brian Blevins, Ornithologist
- **Photography** with Tom Rosburg, Drake University

8:00 a.m. - **Refreshments** and check-in/registration at the Bayer Rec Building

8:30-9:00 a.m. – **Welcome and Introduction**, explanation of sessions and presenter bios.



Saturday, June 13

Morning Sessions

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Presenters	Exertion
Explore the Big Sand Mound	Explore the Big Sand Mound	Lana Artz-McComb, Louisa CCB Katie Hammond, Muscatine CCB	3
WLU Grad Student Projects - Telemetry, Data Collection		West Liberty University Grad Students	4
Exploring the Big Sand Mounds		Tom Rosburg, Drake University Brian Ritter, Nahant Marsh	4
Hands-on Herps	Hands-on Herps	Luke Hart, Muscatine CCB	1
Early lowans	Early lowans	Cherie Haury-Artz, Office of the State Archaeologist	1
Formation of the Big Sand Mound	Formation of the Big Sand Mound	Joe Artz, Retired from the Office of the State Archaeologist	3
Turtles, Snakes, and Other Fauna	Turtles, Snakes, and Other Fauna	Josh Otten, Cornell College Don Becker & Jim Scharosch, Research Team	2
Lichens of the Big Sand Mound	Lichens of the Big Sand Mound	James Colbert, Iowa State University	2
Pollinator Hike	Insects of Big Sand Mound	Paul Mayes, Retired EICC & Jim Durbin	2



Session Exertion Key - Locations Correspond with Map

Level 1	Seated, inside or outside at Rec Building
Level 2	Shorter walk onto Preserve, generally flat and on the road to Circle Loop
Level 3	Longer Walk into Preserve, off trail and up the Big Sand Mound
Level 4	Multiple miles of hiking through sandy hills, off trail to Big Dunes

**12:00 pm - 1:00 pm - Lunch - bring a sack lunch/drink
seating inside Rec Building or Outside**



Saturday, June 13

**LOUISA COUNTY
CONSERVATION**



Afternoon Sessions			
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Presenters	Exertion
Explore the Big Sand Mound	Explore the Big Sand Mound	Lana Artz-McComb, Louisa CCB Katie Hammond, Muscatine CCB	3
WLU Grad Student Projects - Telemetry, Data Collection		West Liberty University Grad Students	4
Exploring the Big Sand Mounds		Josh Otten, Cornell College Don Becker & Jim Scharosch, Research Team	4
Fire Ecology	Prairie Management	Dale Maxson, The Nature Conservancy Amanda Stallman, Louisa CCB	3
Early Iowans	Early Iowans	Cherie Haury-Artz, Office of the State Archaeologist	1
Formation of the Big Sand Mound	Formation of the Big Sand Mound	Joe Artz, Retired from the Office of the State Archaeologist	3
Flora of the Sand Prairie	Flora of the Sand Prairie	Tom Rosburg, Drake University	3
Native Pollinators and Native Habitat	Monarch Butterflies	Michelle Berns, Muscatine CCB	1

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