

Naturally LOUISA COUNTY

Rich in Nature, History and Culture

Fall 2026
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EDITED BY
Lana Artz-McComb

Storybook Adventures Merge Hiking and Reading

By: Lana Artz-McComb, Naturalist

Two new Storybook Adventures are now available in Louisa County. Joining the existing Adventure at Possum Hollow Trail in Columbus Junction, are Adventures at Chinkapin Bluffs and Virginia Grove Recreation Areas.



A Storybook Adventure consists of 15 pedestals each containing a page or two of a children's book. You hike along the path and stop at each pedestal to read the book! Books will be changed out by local librarians each season.

Chinkapin Bluff's Storybook Adventure is located near the shelter and playground, heading out to the overlook and back. Virginia Grove's Storybook Adventure winds around the playground, shelter, and schoolhouse near the campground.

Stop out and enjoy an Adventure!



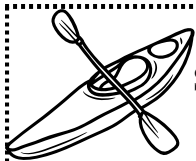
Ethan Brown

Made Possible By:



www.LouisaCountyConservation.org

LOUISA COUNTY CONSERVATION EVENTS



Full Moon Float

Saturday, September 26

6:30 pm-9:00 pm

Snively Campground

Need a boat? \$10 canoe, \$5 kayak



Join us for a leisurly paddle on Odessa under the light of the full moon. We will depart from Snively Campground and explore the channels before returning to shore.

We have a limited number of LCC canoes and kayaks available so please let us know ASAP if you'd like to rent one.

Registration required for participants renting boats AND bringing their own boats.

Please call 319-523-8381 or email conservaiton@louisacountyia.gov to register.

Intro to Native Landscape Design

Tuesday, November 17th

5:00 pm-6:00 pm

Letts Library

Free!



Interested in planting prairie plants on your property? Come learn the steps on how to do so!

Halloween Trick or Treat at the Campground

Saturday, October 24

6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Virginia Grove Campground

Free!



The annual Trick or Treat in the campground is back! The campground will be decorated and lit by our amazing crew of regular campers. Wear your costume and trick or treat through the campground, enjoy a flashlight hike, have some treats around the campfire, and more.

Fun for the whole family!



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LOUISA COUNTY CONSERVATION



First Annual Wilson Prairie Workday

By: Amanda Stallman, Naturalist Technician

While many were winding down to relax for Labor Day weekend, a dedicated conservation crew laced up their boots to protect Wilson Prairie.

Thanks to a new small grants program from the Iowa Prairie Network, LCCB was recently awarded funds to purchase a Stihl 461c brush saw, supercharging prairie management efforts.

Armed with this new tool—along with chainsaws, loppers, and herbicide—volunteers divided into teams to take down invasive shrubs, mulberry trees, and other woody plants threatening to take over the ecosystem. Removing aggressive trees and shrubs opens up the landscape, giving native forbs and grasses the space and essential resources they need to thrive.

This vital restoration work also creates critical habitat for pollinators like the Monarch butterfly. With Iowa's historic prairies reduced to a fraction of their former size, grassroots teamwork is more important than ever.

This successful workday wouldn't have been possible without the incredible volunteers and staff representing:

- Big Sand Mound
- The Nature Conservancy
- Jackson County Conservation
- The Iowa Prairie Network

Coming together as a collaborative is how we can make a difference on the land we love.

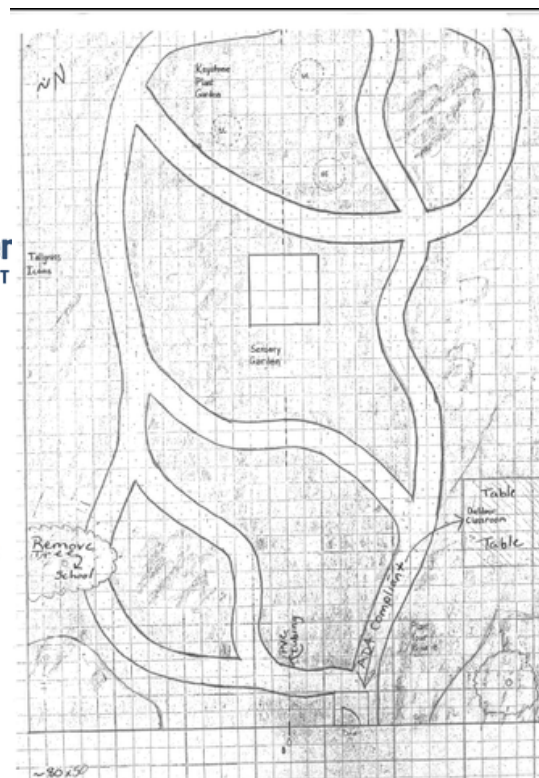


TRI-RIVERS CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

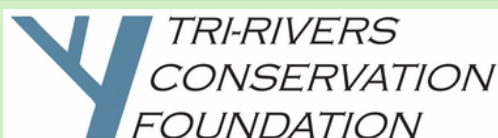
Columbus Community High School Courtyard Project Underway

The largely unused courtyard at Columbus High School is getting a facelift! Work began over the summer to transform the courtyard into an Outdoor Learning Classroom. The area will be filled with native plants organized into designated spaces including a sensory garden, flowers and forbs, tall grasses, and more. Winding pathways and seating areas will allow students and staff to relax, enjoy, and learn in the space.

Pathways and mulch will be completed in Fall of 2026 with the addition of hardscaping in early 2027. CCSD Biology students will help with planting in the Spring.



This project is made possible thanks to grants from the Roy J. Carver Foundation, Iowa Resource Enhancement and Protection Conservation Education Program, Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Community Foundation of Louisa County. Work is being completed in partnership with Louisa County Conservation, Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation, Columbus Community School District, and Prairie Roots Landscaping, LCC.



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The Mission of Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation is to provide funds for the protection and enhancement of the natural resources in the environmentally rich area of the confluences of the Cedar, Iowa and Mississippi Rivers in eastern Iowa. The Foundation will employ enjoyment and use of these resources to educate and instill an appreciation for good land stewardship. It will seek to distribute these funds to carefully chosen public, civic, institutional, and quasi-public programs.