

LANGWOOD
EDUCATION
CENTER



Wetland Interpretive Trail

Future site of the
Louisiana
Interpretive
Center



LAND • PLACE • HOME

Life along the Mississippi



Welcome!

We hope you have a great walk on this half-mile loop and that you enjoy viewing and learning about the plants and animals that are frequently found in a typical Iowa wetland habitat. Life along the Mississippi River will connect you with **Land, Place & Home**.

LAND The confluence of the Cedar, Iowa and Mississippi Rivers give the land its distinctive characteristics.

PLACE is the understanding and familiarity with the plants, wildlife and landscape at a local level.

HOME is the powerful emotional connection people have with a particular place.



HOME doesn't have to be a man-made structure, it is a **PLACE** where you feel a sense of belonging, which connects you to the **LAND**.

Great River Road & Mississippi River Trail Points of Interest:

Camping:

- Snively Campground (~9 miles) 9246 Co Rd X61 Wapello

Wildlife Viewing:

- Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge 10728 Co Rd X61, Wapello (~8 miles)
- Odessa Wildlife Management Area (Paddle, Fish, Hunt, Explore!)

Cultural & Historic Sites:

- Toolesboro Mounds National Historic Landmark 6568 Toolesboro Rd (~11 miles)
- Six Littleton Brothers Civil War Memorial at Toolesboro (~11 miles)

Vineyard & Winery:

- Odessa Vineyard & Winery 10448 77th St. Wapello

LOUISA COUNTY CONSERVATION



A National Scenic Byways Project

A large graphic featuring a map of Iowa in the background. The text "Wetland Interpretive Trail" is prominently displayed in the center. To the right, there is a box with the text "Future site of the Louisa Interpretive Center". At the bottom, there is contact information for Louisa County Conservation. The graphic also includes a logo for the Great River Road Iowa and a stylized fish. The text "LAND PLACE HOME Life along the Mississippi" is repeated at the bottom of the graphic.

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LAND PLACE HOME
Life along the Mississippi

Louisa County Conservation
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conservation@louisacountyia.gov
LouisaCountyConservation.org

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THE WETLAND INTERPRETIVE TRAIL AT LANGWOOD!

As you walk through the wetland, keep your eyes and ears open to the sights and sounds of insects, birds, frogs and other critters going about their daily routine.



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|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Welcome | 5 Insects | 8a Watersheds | 11 Water Birds |
| 2 Songbirds & Raptors | 6 Fish | 8b Cattails & People | 12 Wetland Plants |
| 3 Mammals | 7a Ecosystems & Habitats | 9 Reptiles | 13 Aquatic Invertebrates |
| 4 Trees & Shrubs | 7b Wetlands | 10 Amphibians | 14 Threatened & Endangered |

What Are Wetlands?

Wetlands are places where plants and animals live among standing water or saturated soils. They are often called marshes, sloughs, bogs, fens, wet meadows or swamps.

The benefits of wetlands are numerous:

- **IMPROVE WATER QUALITY** wetlands help to slow down the above ground flow of water and allow water to infiltrate the soil. Wetlands act as a sponge, filtering nutrients and cleaning the water.
- **ECONOMIC IMPACT** Improved water quality means safer water to drink for humans, wildlife and livestock. Water treatment facilities can use less chemicals with cleaner water.
- **ENVIRONMENTAL** Wetlands slow erosion and siltation to keep lake and river water cleaner. This provides better habitat for fish and wildlife as well as improved timber, prairie and soil health.
- **RECREATIONAL** Wetlands provide excellent hunting opportunities, especially for ducks and geese. They are also great places to fish, hike, paddle, photograph and bird watch.
- **DOWNSTREAM BENEFITS** Wetlands help to slow runoff, keep water on the landscape longer and slow sediment. The creation of more wetlands across the state could help reduce the impacts of flooding.

Prior to European settlement, 11% of Iowa was covered in wetlands, which amounted to somewhere around 4 million acres. In the span of 100 years, over 95% of those wetlands were drained.

Wetlands have been called “**biological super systems.**” The shallow water and high nutrients create a great base for the food web, allowing for a diversity of plants and animals to thrive.