

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 lowa wetland habitat. Life along the Mississippi River will connect you with Land, Place & Home.

LAND The confluence of the Cedar, lowa 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 X6l Wapello

Wildlife Viewing:

- Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge 10728 Co Rd X6I, Wapello (~8 miles)
- Odessa Wildlife Management Area (Paddle, Fish, Hunt, Explore!)

Cultural & Historic Sites:

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

Vineyard & Winery:

Odessa Vineyard & Winery 10448 77th St.
Wapello

LOUISA COUNTY CONSERVATION

A National Scenic Byways Project Louisa County Conservation 12635 County Road G56 Suite 101

Wapello, IA 52653 319-5<u>23-8381</u>

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LANGWOOD

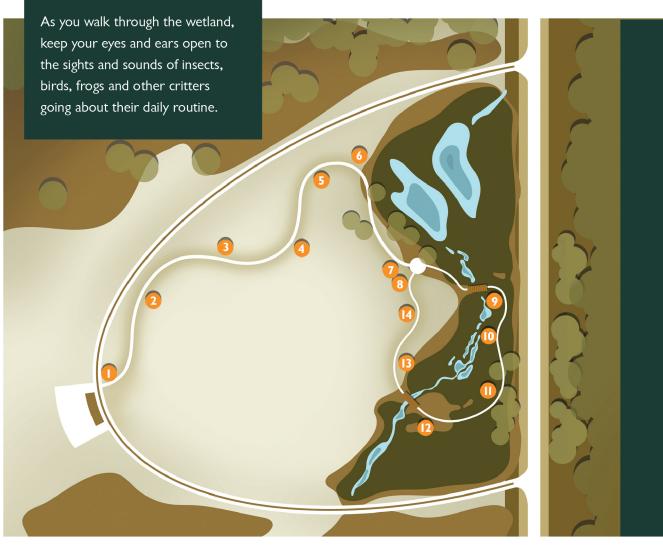
Future site of the Louisa Interpretive Center





WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THE

WETLAND INTERPRETIVE TRAIL AT LANGWOOD!



- Welcome
- 2 Songbirds & Raptors
- Mammals
- Trees & Shrubs
- Insects
- 6 Fish
- **7** Ecosystems & Habitats
- Wetlands

- Watersheds
- Cattails & People
- Reptiles
- Amphibians

- Mater Birds
- Wetland Plants
- Aquatic Invertebrates
- 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, II% of lowa was covered in wetlands, which amounted to somewhere around 4 million acres. In the span of I00 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.