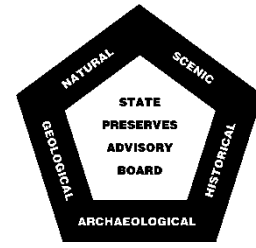


State Preserves Advisory Board

Natural • Scenic • Geological • Historical • Archaeological



January 18, 2023

To: Honorable Governor Kim Reynolds, Lt. Governor Adam Gregg and members of the General Assembly

From: State Preserves Advisory Board

Dear Governor Reynolds, Lt. Governor Gregg, and Legislators:

The State Preserves Advisory Board is pleased to present its biennial report as prepared by personnel of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. This report summarizes the activities of the State Preserves Advisory Board for 2021-2022 biennium.

Looking back at the activities and accomplishments of the past two years, the State Preserves Advisory Board:

- The board met three times during the biennium and conducted three field trips to investigate on-site conditions that required Preserves Advisory Board awareness or action.
- Management plans were approved for three state preserves: Lamson Woods, Turkey River Mounds, and White Pine Hollow.
- Fort Atkinson State Preserve – A \$100,000 “Save America’s Treasures” grant to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources was received from the National Park Service.
- Ames High Prairie – Repair of a sanitary sewer line extending through the preserve as prior infrastructure was approved with conditions.
- Merrill Stainbrook State Preserve – A need for brush control on the roadside bordering the preserve to re-open the view of geological strata was identified and approved.
- Starr’s Cave State Preserve – Pending review by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), an old, empty, deteriorating farmhouse behind the nature center will be removed.

Throughout all the activities of the State Preserves Advisory Board, expert advice and recommendations were provided to the Board by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources professional staff and others. We are especially grateful for the expertise and guidance from the DNR’s staff members: ecologists John Pearson, Kelly Poole, and attorney Aaron Brees.

During the biennium, Board members, Barbara Schroeder and Michael Sullivan, completed their service. We greatly appreciate their service to the Board.

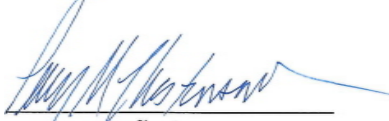
The State Preserves System represents some of the best archaeological, historical, geological, biological, and scenic landscapes for present and future generations. In order to protect and

preserve these areas, it is imperative that careful, reasoned management occur as elementary steps of proper stewardship. For the first time since 2016, funds were available in 2022 to the Preserves Board for research, inventory, and management projects. A request for proposals was released in March 2022 and four proposals were selected:

- Twenty-year resurvey of herbaceous vegetation in northeast Iowa forest monitoring plots.
- Northern Long-eared Bat acoustic surveys on priority sites.
- Land management activities at four hill prairie and bedrock glade remnants within the state preserve system.
- Northern Long-eared Bat acoustic surveys on eight state preserves.

The Iowa State Preserves Board System has a long history of protecting the best of Iowa's landscapes--both historic and natural areas. A backlog of potential future State Preserves exists. We are looking forward to the next biennium. It is hoped that the State Preserves Board will be able to positively recommend for dedication those areas that are eligible and worthy of this special designation in public trust.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Perry M. Thostenson", is written over a horizontal line.

Perry M. Thostenson
Iowa State Preserves Advisory Board Chair

Report of the State Preserves Advisory Board 2021-2022 Biennium

**Iowa State Preserves Advisory Board
and
Conservation and Recreation Division
Iowa Department of Natural Resources**



White Pine Hollow State Preserve, Dubuque County

Introduction

The State Preserves Advisory Board (Board) was created by the General Assembly in 1965. The Act (Chapter 465C, Code of Iowa) defines preserve as “an area of land or water formally dedicated under this chapter for maintenance as nearly possible in its natural condition though it need not be completely primeval in character at the time of dedication or an area which has unusual flora, fauna, geological, archaeological, scenic, or historical features of scientific or educational value.” An area becomes a State Preserve when the landowner and the Board agree on the management of the area and the Governor signs the Dedication Statement.

Preserve designation provides an area with the highest form of protection the State of Iowa offers. Preserve status is considered the highest, best, and most important use of an area for the public benefit. The area shall be held in trust and not converted except to another public use upon a finding of the Board of imperative and unavoidable public necessity and with the approval of the Natural Resource Commission, the General Assembly by concurrent resolution, and the Governor.

The State Preserves System is an effort to protect and maintain examples of significant archaeological, historical, geological, biological, and scenic areas for present and future generations. The five types of preserves are defined as follows:

1. *Archaeological* preserves contain significant deposits left by prehistoric or early historic peoples.
2. *Geological* preserves contain distinctive, representative, or unique geological features or deposits.
3. *Historical* preserves contain structures or places that are of significance in studying the tenure of humans in Iowa since the advent of the first Euro-American explorers.
4. *Natural* preserves contain flora and fauna that are representative of natural communities or contain endangered, threatened, or rare organisms.
5. *Scenic* preserves contain scenic features of scientific or educational value.

Areas nominated for preserve designation must be high quality examples of one or more of the five types of preserves listed. A thorough investigation of a proposed preserve is conducted by Department of Natural Resources staff and/or appropriate experts to determine if the area is of preserve quality. A management plan is also completed to determine if the proposed uses and management are consistent with preserve dedication.

Currently there are 97 preserves, encompassing about 10,795 acres. Ownership and management responsibility for the preserves is presented in the list of State Preserves at the end of this report.

Personnel of the Department of Natural Resources work with the State Preserves Advisory Board to carry out its powers and duties. John Pearson serves as ecologist for the Board with the assistance of Kelly Poole and Whitney Schuhardt.

Chapter 465C requires that a report be submitted to the governor and legislature every two years accounting for the number and status of the preserves in the system and any other pertinent information. This report summarizes activities for the calendar years 2021 and 2022.

State Preserves Advisory Board Meeting Dates and Locations 2021-2022

May 7, 2021	Lamson Woods State Preserve (field trip)
May 14, 2021	White Pine Hollow State Preserve (field trip)
July 19, 2021	Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines (business meeting)
May 4, 2022	Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines (business meeting)
June 23, 2022	Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, Milford (business meeting with field trips to Silver Lake Fen, Cayler Prairie, and Freda Haffner state preserves)
September 29, 2022	Yellow River State Forest (field trip)
September 30, 2022	Turkey River Mounds State Preserve (field trip)

State Preserves Advisory Board Members as of December 30, 2022

Perry Thostenson, Chair
2265 Lynndale Road
Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577

Alex Moon, Deputy Director
Department of Natural Resources
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Rebecca Kauten
1211 West 18th Street
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

Steve Gustafson
728 10th Street
Bettendorf, Iowa 52722

Amy Crouch
10095 Shamrock Avenue
Remsen, Iowa 51050

Rick Cerwick
24250 Ute Avenue
Waukee, Iowa 50263

Rhonda Kendrick
103 E. Maple
Edgewood, Iowa 56392

Board Members Whose Term Expired 2021-2022

Barbara Schroeder

Michael Sullivan

Program Purposes

- To preserve examples of each natural community native to Iowa in as undisturbed condition as possible, allowing scientific investigation, interpretation, and acceptable recreational uses.
- To preserve sites representative of each culture that existed in Iowa in a relative undisturbed condition, allowing carefully regulated excavation and basic interpretive activities compatible with a preservation philosophy and with the concerns of the native people.
- To preserve examples of past geological events and maintain these sites in a condition that will allow scientific study and interpretation to occur.
- To preserve sites which commemorate the tenure of humans in Iowa since the advent of the first Euro-American explorers and to maintain these sites in a condition that will allow a sense of orientation for present and future inhabitants.
- To sponsor research on preserves or potential preserves for purposes of management, acquisition, and interpretation.
- To distribute to the general public, libraries, and colleges information related to preserves in popular or scientific format.
- To assist in surveying Iowa for remaining natural, geological, cultural, historic, or scientific areas.

Powers and Duties

The powers and duties of the Advisory Board are listed under Chapter 465C of the Code of Iowa. They include the following:

1. To approve an area as a preserve.
2. To recommend dedication as preserves, areas owned by the State under the jurisdiction of the Department of Natural Resources.
3. To recommend acquisition of areas for dedication as preserves, subject to approval by the Natural Resource Commission.
4. To recommend dedication as preserves, areas owned by other public agencies, private groups, and individuals.

Activities and Accomplishments 2021-2022

Management plans were approved for three state preserves: Lamson Woods, Turkey River Mounds, and White Pine Hollow. Reconsideration of a portion of the White Pine Hollow plan will occur at an upcoming meeting in (anticipated to be in January 2023) when long-term research data from permanent forest inventory plots in that preserve become available.

Fort Atkinson State Preserve – A \$100,000 “Save America’s Treasures” grant to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources was received from the National Park Service to identify and prioritize repairs to historical buildings in the preserve.

Ames High Prairie – Authorized repair of a sanitary sewer line extending through the preserve as prior infrastructure was approved with the understanding that there would be no disturbance to the native prairie tracts in the preserve.

Merrill Stainbrook State Preserve – A need for brush control on the roadside bordering the preserve to re-open the view of geological strata was identified and approved. This task will be accomplished by the Johnson County Secondary Road Department.

Starr’s Cave State Preserve – Pending review by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), approval of the removal of an old, empty, deteriorating farmhouse behind the nature center.

Preserve Management

Management activities on Iowa’s State Preserves are ongoing and are carried out by the designated preserve managers. Major activities included the following:

- Prescribed burning, mowing, and chemical treatment of stumps on prairie preserves to control woody vegetation encroachment.
- Use of mechanical and chemical control methods for invasive species.

Research, Inventory, and Management Projects

For the first time since 2016, funds were available in 2022 to the Preserves Board for research, inventory, and management projects. A request for proposals was released in March 2022 followed by evaluation by a committee of volunteer Preserves Board members and DNR staff. Four proposals were selected:

- Twenty-year resurvey of herbaceous vegetation in NE Iowa forest monitoring plots. William Norris, William Watson, and Donald Farrar. \$9,450.
- Northern Long-eared Bat acoustic surveys on priority sites. Orbis Environmental Consulting. \$8,514.
- Land management activities at four Hill Prairie and bedrock glade remnants within the state preserve system. William Watson. \$4,553.
- Northern Long-eared Bat acoustic surveys on eight state preserves. Stantec Consulting Services Inc. \$7,480.

Iowa State Preserves December 2022

PRESERVE NAME	PRESERVE TYPE	ACRES	OWNER	MANAGER	COUNTY
A.F. Miller/North Woods	Natural	10	Bremer County	Bremer CCB	Bremer
Ames High Prairie/Pohl Preserve	Natural	22	Ames Unified School District	INHF	Story
Anderson Prairie	Natural, Geological	200	State of Iowa	DNR	Emmet
Behrens Ponds and Woodland	Natural	30	Linn County	Linn CCB	Linn
Berry Woods	Natural, Geological	42	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Warren
Bird Hill	Geological	1	Cerro Gordo County	Cerro Gordo CCB	Cerro Gordo
Bixby	Natural, Geological	183	State of Iowa	DNR	Clayton
Bluffton Fir Stand	Natural, Geological	94	State of Iowa	DNR	Winneshiek
Brush Creek Canyon	Natural, Geological	217	State of Iowa	DNR	Fayette
Brushy Creek	Geological, Natural	260	State of Iowa	DNR	Webster
Cameron Woods	Natural	36	State of Iowa	Scott CCB	Scott
Casey's Paha	Geological	175	State of Iowa	Black Hawk CCB	Tama
Catfish Creek	Geological, Archaeological	600	State of Iowa	DNR	Dubuque
Cayler Prairie	Natural	160	State of Iowa	DNR	Dickinson
Cedar Bluffs Natural Area	Natural, Geological, Scenic	223	Mahaska County	Mahaska CCB	Mahaska
Cedar Hills Sand Prairie	Natural	35	Black Hawk County	Black Hawk CCB	Black Hawk
Cheever Lake	Natural	366	State of Iowa	DNR	Emmet
Clay Prairie	Natural	3	University of Northern Iowa	UNI	Butler
Claybanks Forest	Geological, Natural	56	Cerro Gordo County	Cerro Gordo CCB	Cerro Gordo
Coldwater Cave	Geological, Natural	60	State of Iowa	DNR	Winneshiek
Crossman Prairie	Natural	10	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Howard
Decorah Ice Cave	Geological, Natural	3	City of Decorah	City of Decorah	Winneshiek
Derald Dinesen Prairie	Natural	20	Shelby County	Shelby CCB	Shelby
Doolittle Prairie	Natural	25	State of Iowa	Story CCB	Story
Eureka Woods	Natural	90	Private	Private	Greene
Fallen Rock	Natural, Geological	122	State of Iowa	Hardin CCB	Hardin
Fish Farm Mounds	Archaeological	3	State of Iowa	DNR	Allamakee
Five Ridge Prairie	Natural, Geological	789	Plymouth County	Plymouth CCB	Plymouth
Fleming Woods	Natural	38	Poweshiek County	Poweshiek CCB	Poweshiek

PRESERVE NAME	PRESERVE TYPE	ACRES	OWNER	MANAGER	COUNTY
Fort Atkinson	Archaeological	5	State of Iowa	DNR	Winneshiek
Fossil and Prairie Park	Natural, Geological	292	Floyd County	Floyd CCB	Floyd
Pellett Memorial Woods	Natural	19	State of Iowa	Cass CCB	Cass
Freda Haffner	Natural, Geological	110	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Dickinson
Gitchie Manitou	Natural	91	State of Iowa	DNR	Lyon
Glenwood Archaeological	Archaeological	907	State of Iowa	Mills CCB	Mills
Hanging Bog	Natural	16	The Nature Conservancy	Linn CCB	Linn
Hardin City Woodland	Natural	25	State of Iowa	Hardin CCB	Hardin
Hartley Fort	Archaeological	2	Private	Private	Allamakee
Hartman Bluff	Natural	48	Black Hawk County	Black Hawk CCB	Black Hawk
Hayden Prairie	Natural	239	State of Iowa	DNR	Howard
Hoffman Prairie	Natural	36	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Cerro Gordo
Indian Bluffs Primitive Area	Archaeological, Natural	845	Private	Private	Jones
Indian Fish Trap	Archaeological	1	State of Iowa	Amana Society	Iowa
Kalsow Prairie	Natural	160	State of Iowa	DNR	Pocahontas
Kish-Ke-Kosh Prairie	Natural	17	State of Iowa	Jasper CCB	Jasper
Lamson Woods	Natural	20	City of Fairfield	City of Fairfield	Jefferson
Liska-Stanek Prairie	Natural	20	Webster County	Webster CCB	Webster
Little Maquoketa River Mounds	Archaeological	42	State of Iowa	Dubuque CCB	Dubuque
Malanaphy Springs	Geological, Natural	64	State of Iowa	DNR	Winneshiek
Malchow Mounds	Archaeological	6	State of Iowa	DNR	Des Moines
Manikowski Prairie	Natural, Geological	40	Clinton County	Clinton CCB	Clinton
Mann Wilderness Area	Natural	103	Hardin County	Hardin CCB	Hardin
Marietta Sand Prairie	Natural	20	Marshall County	Marshall CCB	Marshall
Mericle Woods	Natural	132	State of Iowa	DNR	Tama
Merrill A. Stainbrook	Geological	33	U.S. Government	University of Iowa	Johnson
Merritt Forest	Natural	20	State of Iowa	DNR	Clayton
Montauk	Historical, Natural	46	State of Iowa	DCA	Fayette
Mossy Glen	Natural, Geological	80	State of Iowa	DNR	Clayton

PRESERVE NAME	PRESERVE TYPE	ACRES	OWNER	MANAGER	COUNTY
Mount Pisgah Cemetery	Historical	1	Church of Latter-day Saints	Union CCB	Union
Mount Talbot	Natural	90	State of Iowa	DNR	Plymouth
Nestor Stiles Prairie	Natural	10	State of Iowa	Cherokee CCB	Cherokee
Ocheyedan Mound	Geological, Natural	24	Osceola County	Osceola CCB	Osceola
Old State Quarry	Geological	8	U.S. Government	Corps of Engineers	Johnson
Palisades-Dows	Natural, Geological	330	State of Iowa	Linn CCB	Linn
Pecan Grove	Natural	17	State of Iowa	DNR	Muscatine
Perkins Prairie	Natural	30	INHF	INHF	Greene
Pilot Grove Historical	Historical, Natural	7	State of Iowa	Iowa CCB	Iowa
Pilot Knob State Park	Natural, Geological	369	State of Iowa	DNR	Hancock
Retz Memorial Woods	Natural, Geological	49	Clayton County	Clayton CCB	Clayton
Roberts Creek	Natural, Geological	13	State of Iowa	DNR	Cedar
Rock Creek Island	Geological	60	State of Iowa	Cedar CCB	Cedar
Rock Island	Natural	17	Linn County	Linn CCB	Linn
Roggman Boreal Slopes	Natural	20	U.S. Government	USFWS	Clayton
Rolling Thunder Prairie	Natural	123	Warren County	Warren CCB	Warren
Ryerson's Woods	Natural	49	City of Iowa City	Parks & Recreation	Johnson
St. James Lutheran Church	Historical	1	State of Iowa	DNR	Winneshiiek
Savage Memorial Woods	Natural	12	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Henry
Searryl's Cave	Natural, Geological	43	State of Iowa	DNR	Jones
Sheeder Prairie	Natural	25	State of Iowa	DNR	Guthrie
Silver Lake Fen	Natural, Geological	10	State of Iowa	DNR	Dickinson
Silvers-Smith Woods	Natural	20	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Dallas
Slinde Mounds	Archaeological, Natural	32	State of Iowa	DNR	Allamakee
Starr's Cave	Natural, Geological	189	State of Iowa	Des Moines CCB	Des Moines
Steele Prairie	Natural	200	State of Iowa	Cherokee CCB	Cherokee
Stinson Prairie	Natural	32	Kossuth County	Kossuth CCB	Kossuth
Strasser Woods	Natural	40	State of Iowa	Polk CCB	Polk
Sylvan Runkel	Natural	330	State of Iowa	DNR	Monona
Toolesboro	Archaeological	3	State of Iowa (DCA)	Louisa CCB	Louisa
Turin Loess Hills	Natural, Geological	200	State of Iowa	DNR	Monona

PRESERVE NAME	PRESERVE TYPE	ACRES	OWNER	MANAGER	COUNTY
Turkey River Mounds	Archaeological, Natural	62	State of Iowa	DNR	Clayton
Vincent Bluff	Scenic	36	City of Council Bluffs	City of Council Bluffs	Pottawattamie
White Pine Hollow	Natural, Geological	712	State of Iowa	DNR	Dubuque
Williams Prairie	Natural	30	Johnson County	Johnson CCB	Johnson
Wittrock Indian Village	Archaeological	6	State of Iowa	DNR	O'Brien
Woodland Mounds	Natural, Archaeological	195	Warren County	Warren CCB	Warren
Woodman Hollow	Natural, Archaeological	63	State of Iowa	DNR	Webster
Woodthrush Woods	Natural	25	City of Fairfield	City of Fairfield	Jefferson

DNR = Department of Natural Resources

DCA = Department of Cultural Affairs

CCB = County Conservation Board

INHF = Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

TNC = The Nature Conservancy

UNI = University of Northern Iowa

USFWS = United States Fish & Wildlife Service

Federal regulations prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disability. State law also prohibits discrimination on the basis of creed, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, pregnancy or public accommodation. If you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or for more information, write: Director, DNR, 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50319-0034 or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Washington, D. C. 20240