

Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge



Special Events



Concert on the Prairie An Evening with the Friends of Neal Smith NWR

Friday, June 5, 2015 from 4:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.



Experience a summer evening on the prairie and learn more about how the Friends of support the refuge at this annual evening of entertainment. This year will feature music by Big Blue Sky. The event also includes an exhibit of Iowa artists' and authors' work, wine tasting at the Oak Savanna, tours of the Savanna Trail, and hors d'oeuvres.

First Annual PollinatorFest!

Saturday, June 20 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Join us for a family-friendly and fun-filled day of celebrating Iowa's pollinators! Keep the kids busy this summer with crafts, activities, bug hunts, hikes, and children's story time! Visitors can also view pollinator specimens & native plants, enjoy guided butterfly walks, and listen in on informative talks from local garden and pollinator experts. Participants may also take home starter packs of native seeds!



Annual Butterfly Count

Sunday, July 12 from 1:00 pm—3:00 pm

Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge needs your help with its Annual Butterfly Count! The types and amount of butterflies identified will be recorded and used to help track butterfly populations on the Refuge. Volunteers of all ages and skill levels are welcomed to participate.

Pre-registration required, call 515-994-3400 or email Brianna at brianna_patrick@fws.gov



Bison Day

Saturday, August 1 from 10:00 a.m.. - 3:00 p.m.

Join us for a celebration of bison and the prairie! Music, weaving demonstrations, rope-making demonstrations, games and crafts will be available for all ages! Bison chip throwing contest toward the end of the day! Lunch is also available for purchase.



All programs are FREE and open to the public!



For more information: (515) 994-3400 - http://www.fws.gov/refuge/neal_smith/



Naturalist Programs



Nature Tots

Children ages 3-5 are invited to bring their favorite adult and join us as we read stories, go outside, make nature crafts, and much more! **Pre-registration is required, call 515-994-3400 or email megan_wandag@fws.gov**

Date	Time	Age	Topic
June 6	10:30 am—11:30 am	3Y to 5Y	Pollinator Party
July 11	10:30 am—11:30 am	3Y to 5Y	Ladybug's Lunchbox
August 1	10:00 am—3:00 pm	3Y to 5Y	Bison Day Event!



Family Fun Hikes!

A ranger leads visitors **of all ages** on a nature hike to discover the many wonders of the prairie. **Pre-register with Brianna at brianna_patrick@fws.gov**

Date	Time	Age	Topic
June 14	2:00 pm—3:00 pm	All	Prairie Pollinators
July 19	2:00 pm—3:00 pm	All	Walking with Wildflowers
August 16	2:00 pm—3:00 pm	All	All About Bison

Butterfly Discovery Hike

Butterfly experts lead adult visitors on a hike to discover the wide variety of native butterflies on the prairie **Pre-register with Megan at Megan_wandag@fws.gov or 515-994-3400.**

Date	Time	Age	Topic
June 13	9:30 am—11:30 am	15 and up	Prairie Butterflies

Summer Photo Hike Saturday, July 18

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Photographers of all ages and skill levels are invited to join a Ranger who will lead a walk to several new photo locations. Bring your own camera. **Please pre-register with Megan at Megan_Wandag@fws.gov**



Volunteer Opportunities



Second Saturday Stewardship

Interested in giving back to the environment and your community? Stewardship volunteer programs occur on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Refuge. To register, contact **Megan** at Megan_Wandag@fws.gov or (515) 994-3400.

Date	Time	Age
June 13	9:00 am—12:00 pm	All
July 11	9:00 am—12:00 pm	All
August 8	9:00 am—12:00 pm	All



DON'T FORGET!

Bring a reusable water bottle!



Self-Guided Activities



Return to Wildness Movie

15 minutes

Film presentation about Neal Smith NWR is shown every hour on the half hour, or upon request. No group is too small!

The Visitor

COME VISIT!

Center is open every day this summer, including Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day. Visitor Center hours are 9am—4pm, Monday—Saturday, and 12pm—5pm on Sundays. Trails and Auto Tour are open from dawn to dusk.

Outdoor Scavenger Hunts

How many birds do you see? Can you identify flowers?

Borrow a copy of a seasonal scavenger hunt and I.D. sheets at the information desk of the Visitor Center to use while you hike.

Hiking Trails

Take a hike through the beautiful tallgrass prairie or oak savanna. Try to find blooming flowers, birds, or butterflies! Brochures and maps available at the Visitor Center.

Trail	Length	Surface	Habitat
Overlook Trail	1/2 mile	Paved—Accessible	Tallgrass Prairie
Tallgrass Trail	2 miles	Paved	Tallgrass Prairie
Oak Savanna Trail	1/2 mile	Gravel	Oak Savanna
Basswood Trail	1/2 mile	Grass	Woodland
AVA Trail	10 Kilometers	Grass, Paved, Gravel	Prairie , Oak Savanna

Prairie Learning Center Exhibits

Come explore the interactive exhibits at the Visitor Center! Exhibits include an underground maze, videos, drawing table, scavenger hunts, puppet theatre, and exploratory bison room.



LET'S CRUISE

Enjoy the Refuge from the comfort of your vehicle on the 4 mile Auto Tour. This is the best way to see bison or elk. Check out a narrated interpretive CD of the route for FREE at the Visitor Center.



All programs are FREE & open to the public!

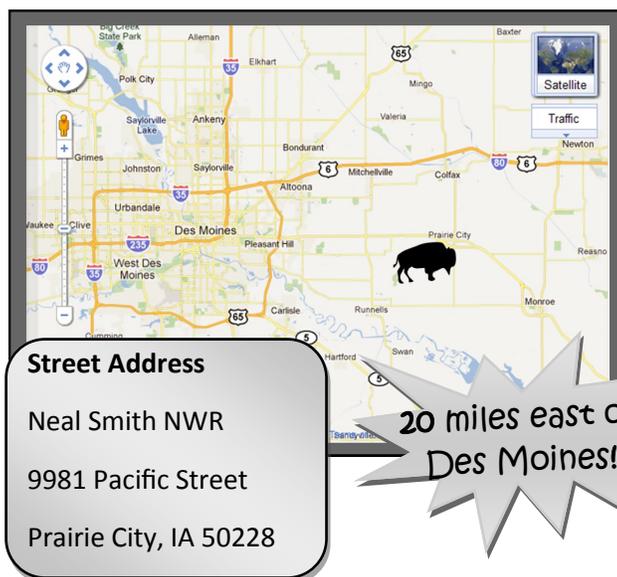
Summer Exploration Ideas

Here are some summer activities that you can do by yourself or with friends and family:

1. Celebrate Prairie Birthdays: Aldo Leopold, a famous naturalist, claimed that nearly every day a new flower unfolds on the prairie in the summer. He called these new blooms "prairie birthdays". Can you find any prairie birthdays today? If you do, then how will you celebrate them?

2. Watch the clouds go by: Lay down on your back in the tall, tall grasses and look up at the clouds. Describe their shapes and watch their shadows move across the prairie. Relax and enjoy the peace. (You can thank us later for this blissful idea).

3. Invertebrate search: Bend down and look at the prairie soil. Can you find wiggly worms, black beetles, or daddy long legs? Search through the tops of the grasses. Are there bees, butterflies, or grasshoppers? Look carefully because these critters are masters of camouflage.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

The best way to stay updated with refuge happenings is by "liking" us on Facebook. To find us, simply search "**Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge**". We would love to be your friend!



Did you know....



... Katydids, which are a type of insect, have their tympana (hearing organs) on their front legs? Katydids get their name from how their song sounds: "Katy did, Katy didn't."

DIRECTIONS TO THE REFUGE

Coming from the EAST on Interstate 80, take the Colfax exit and go south on Iowa HWY 117, about 7 miles to Prairie City. The paved entry road is located at the southwest corner of Prairie City at the Highway 163-Prairie City Interchange.

Coming from the WEST take University Avenue/ HWY 163 east for about 20 miles to the Prairie City exit. The paved entry road is located at the southwest corner of Prairie City at the Highway 163-Prairie City Interchange.

