

# PWLC Spring 2021 Environmental Education Info

## Our Approach to Re-Opening the PWLC

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the PWLC follows a 3-phased return to work plan provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Department of the Interior that is modeled on the White House Guidelines for Opening Up America Again.

## Our Current Status

The PWLC is in Phase 1 of re-opening, and some staff have returned to limited field and maintenance work while most are teleworking from home. The lands and waters of the Fergus Falls Wetland Management District are open for public enjoyment, including PWLC trails; however, offices and the visitor center remain closed to the public. We anticipate re-opening the visitor center during Phase 3, on a timeline that will depend on state and local conditions and may move forward or backward in phases to adapt to current conditions. Educational programming taking place outdoors only and led by PWLC education staff may resume under Phase 2.

## Spring Options for Teachers

The PWLC is offering virtual education programs and self-guided use of the trails for day-use school groups scheduled to visit the PWLC this spring, based on dates teachers booked in SignUp Genius last spring. Face-to-face PWLC staff-led programming will not be available at the PWLC or elsewhere. PWLC staff will contact each scheduled teacher to find out which option they would like to choose.

- **OPTION 1:** [Regular, seasonal programming](#) is adapted for use in live/synchronous PWLC staff-led, teacher-hosted, password-protected Zoom or Google Meet sessions. Each session includes an introduction, time to explore outside at school or home, use of resources provided electronically from the PWLC to the teacher, returning to the live session to share discoveries. Each session lasts approximately 45 minutes long but is adaptable based on teacher and PWLC staff discretion. Teachers may record these sessions for asynchronous learning opportunities, providing students with a link to the recording in their virtual classroom spaces for students to watch again later (or if absent).
- **OPTION 2:** Classes may visit the PWLC for self-guided, teacher-led field trips on their scheduled date/time. PWLC staff provide associated lesson plans, materials, maps and other guidance electronically in advance. Recommended activity areas, points of interest, and other relevant field markers are indicated with signs outside to assist teachers in leading lessons. Teachers visiting the PWLC need to bring their own equipment and materials including hand sanitizer and are encouraged to bring chaperons and follow their district's social distancing guidelines for the outdoors. One handicapped accessible porta-potty is provided by the PWLC for self-guided groups to use. Indoor bathrooms, field equipment, and other educational materials are not available on-site although some can be accessed electronically and printed at school or home. An on-site emergency contact and location will be provided.

- **OPTION 3:** Teachers also have the option to cancel their date booked in SignUp Genius. Cancellation due to the pandemic will not effect the scheduling priority for the 2021-2022 school year.