

A Brief History

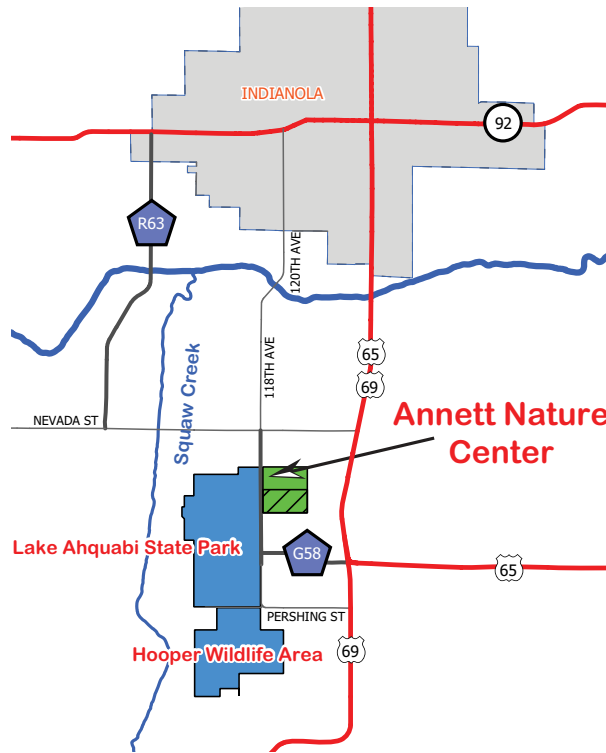
The Annett Nature Center opened on Earth Day in 1997. The result of years of planning and work by the Warren County Conservation Board, and the foresight and benevolence of Warren County Citizens such as Ellis Annett, the ANC is an approximately 9,500 square foot building in three levels on 160 acres.

The ANC sits on a hillside above a six-acre pond and a ten-acre wetland adjacent to Lake Ahquabi State Park. The ANC was built with proceeds from the sale of the Warren County Farm and with REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection) funds.

A Resource for All

The ANC serves as the hub for WCCB activities. Maintenance operations are located a short distance away on the same grounds. The Center serves as the focal point for many school field trips and the WCCB Day Camps.

The Annett Nature Center features miles of trails, fishing, prairie plantings, a butterfly garden, the Lester Davison Memorial Pavilion, a full kitchen, a classroom, large deck and displays on two levels, as well as housing the education and administrative offices of the Warren County Conservation Board and an Iowa Department of Natural Resources deprecation biologist.



Warren County Conservation Board
15565 118th Ave
Indianola, IA 50125
515/961-6169
warrencb.org
wccb@warrencb.org

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Lester Davison Memorial Pavilion

Built in 2013, the Davison Pavilion brings a variety of opportunities for outdoor events to the Annett Nature Center & Park. Featuring a fireplace, a patio with a fire pit, modern restrooms, and a great view of the ANC park.

Butterfly Garden

The Butterfly Garden at the Annett Nature Center is dedicated to the memory of longtime Warren County Conservation Board employee Ken Ball's late wife, Dorothy, and in recognition of Ken's long and heartfelt service to the board. The garden, situated in the center of the circle drive at the ANC, serves as a centerpiece for the entrance to the Annett Nature Center.



It consists of numerous raised flower beds, built from native Iowa field stone with crushed brick walkways. The center bed also houses a pair of small ponds and a cascading waterfall surrounded by a brick patio and benches. The outside of the circle drive is set off with large Iowa stones with small flower beds between them.

The flower beds, planted in 1999, hold a large number of native prairie plants that bloom spring, summer and fall. White, purple, orange, yellow and blue are just a few of the colors to be seen. Adding even more interest are the retaining wall terraces on the west side of the building, also planted to flowering native plants, and the prairie restoration area surrounding the ANC, consisting not only of flowering plants, but a variety of native prairie grasses as well.

Programs

WCCB naturalists are available to give group tours and programs at the ANC. To schedule a program call the WCCB office.

Open Hours

The ANC is open 8:00 A.M.–4:30 P.M. Monday through Friday and NOON–4:00 P.M. Sunday. Weekday schedules sometimes require that all staff be away from the center, so it is always best to call ahead during the week.



Rental

The Annett Nature Center and Lester Davison Memorial Pavilion are available for private use as the Warren County Conservation Board's schedule allows. For information on fees and rules, or to see some of the available facilities, you can call the board office at (515) 961-6169, come out and see the building, or visit the WCCB on the web at warrencb.org.

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