

Hartman Reserve Nature Center



Artwork by Dan Damjanovic



Black Hawk County
Conservation Board

1/2003

See us on the web!

www.co.black-hawk.ia.us/depts/conservation

Purpose

Hartman Reserve Nature Center is dedicated to the management and protection of a unique natural area and the promotion of a better understanding of our environment through education, recreation, and community involvement.



"The closer the young are kept to nature, the better and happier men and women they will become."

John C. Hartman
June 27, 1938

History

In 1938, John C. Hartman of the Waterloo Daily Courier helped the local YMCA purchase 56 acres of forested land. Camp Hartman Reserve was used for residential camping and other programs until the early 1970s. In 1976, the Black Hawk County Conservation Board purchased the land in order to establish an environmental education center.

A Wooded Isle

Hartman Reserve Nature Center is a wooded isle located in the heart of metropolitan Black Hawk County. This 288.5 acre natural area extends from an upland bluff, overlooking the Cedar River Valley, down to the banks of the river. Within the forest are a series of ponds, vernal depressions, a small remnant prairie, an open meadow, and the largest tract of upland forest in the county. This unusually high quality woodland shelters a wide diversity of unique plants and animals.



Hartman Reserve Nature Center is one of 77 sites in Iowa designated as a watchable wildlife site. Deer, turkeys, pileated woodpeckers, red shouldered hawks, fox, vultures, and bald eagles are some of the wildlife you might see from the Joe Cropper Deck or the Mary Kay Eakin Bridge. In 1998, otters and osprey were released in the North Unit.

Interpretive Center

The Hartman Interpretive Center is perched on a bluff above the Cedar River. It houses displays and exhibits to help explain the local environment. The interpretive center is connected to the forest by 5 miles of trails.



Cedar Valley Lakes

The South Riverside Trail can be accessed from the North Hackett Road parking lot and from Hartman Station. This asphalt trail links Hartman Reserve Nature Center to George Wyth State Park and the extensive trail network of the Cedar Valley Lakes Recreation Area.

Friends

Hartman Reserve Nature Center is supported by the **Friends of Hartman Reserve** who serve as a link to the community, provide volunteers, and help with fundraising. Your contribution to the Friends through membership fees or by patronizing the **Acorn Gift Shop** helps to support and fund many of the programs offered by the nature center.

Visit us on the world wide web at:

www.co.black-hawk.ia.us/hartman/index.html

Send us e-mail at:

hartmanreserve@co.black-hawk.ia.us

Programs

A complete schedule of all activities is published in *The Oak*, the quarterly newsletter of the Black Hawk County Conservation Board.

Public Programs

A varied program of activities for adults, children and families is offered throughout the year.

Schools

Our professional staff works closely with teachers to plan and organize field trips for pre-schoolers through college students.

Meeting Rooms

The Hartman Interpretive Center and the Gene and Betty Buckles program center can be rented for meetings, retreats, weddings, and banquets. Accommodating up to 100 people.



*Hartman Interpretive Center
West Wing*

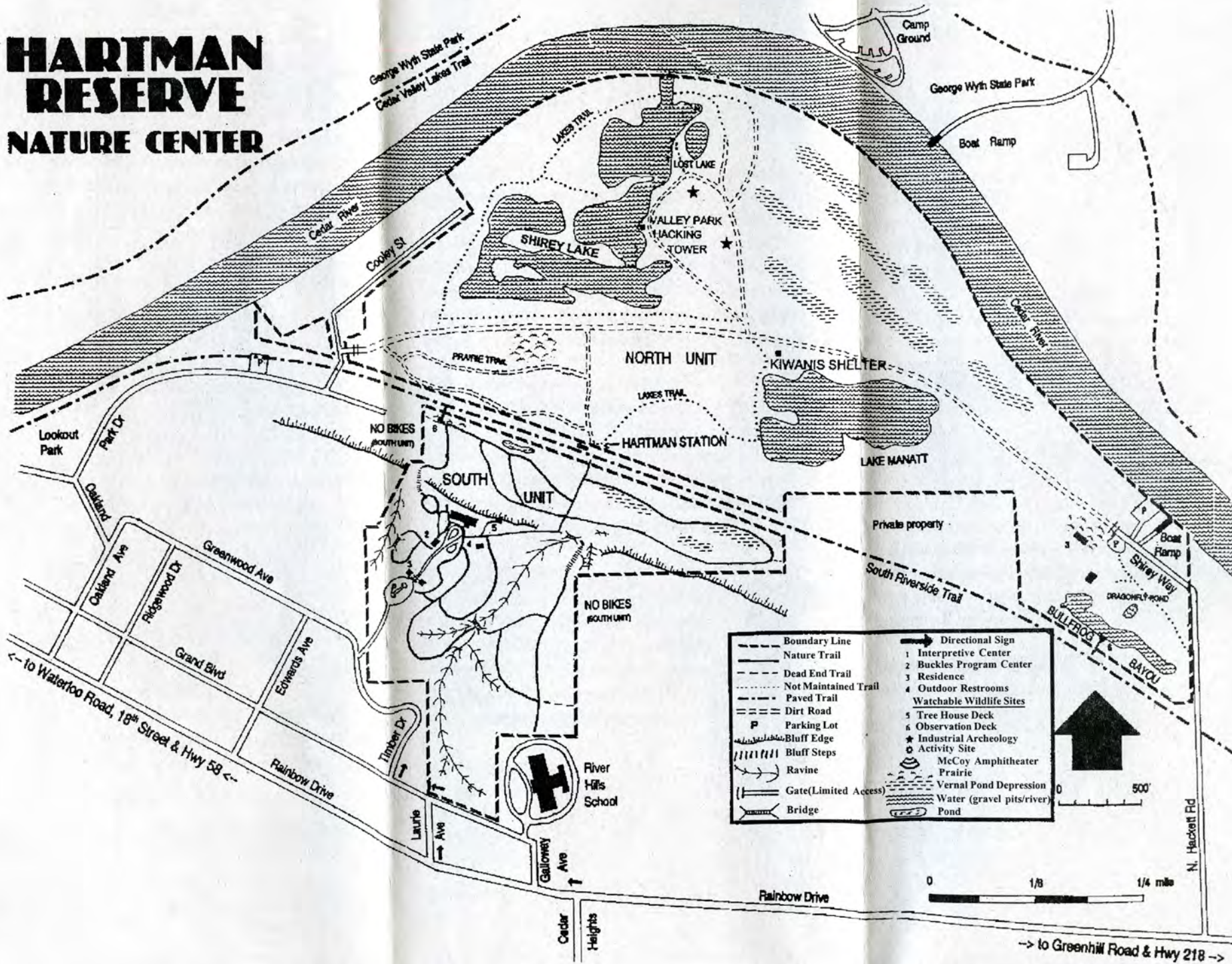
Trail Tram

Using a 1938 Clark Airplane Tug to pull open air trailers, the Trail Tram can transport 16 to 24 people down the trails of the Cedar Valley Lakes Recreation Area. Guided tours will interpret the natural and cultural history of the Cedar River Valley.

Fees

Fees are charged for specific programs and building rentals. There is **no fee** to walk the trails or to visit the Hartman Interpretive Center.

HARTMAN RESERVE NATURE CENTER

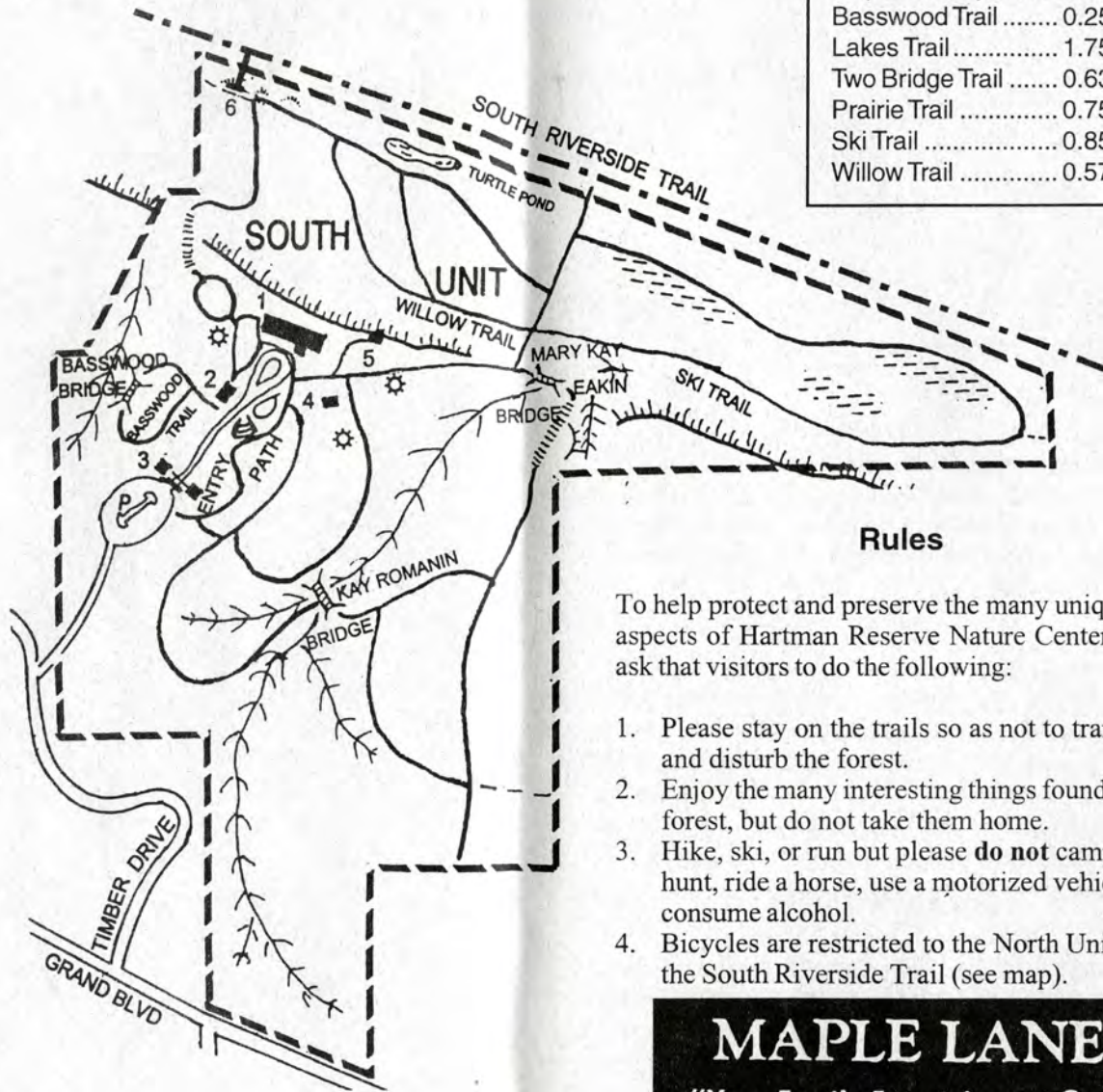


--- Boundary Line	→ Directional Sign
- - - Nature Trail	1 Interpretive Center
--- Dead End Trail	2 Buckles Program Center
--- Not Maintained Trail	3 Residence
--- Paved Trail	4 Outdoor Restrooms
--- Dirt Road	<u>Watchable Wildlife Sites</u>
--- Gate (Limited Access)	5 Tree House Deck
--- Bridge	6 Observation Deck
--- Ravine	★ Industrial Archeology
--- Bluff Edge	○ Activity Site
--- Bluff Steps	☺ McCoy Amphitheater
--- Gate (Limited Access)	☺ Prairie
--- Bridge	☺ Vernal Pond Depression
	☺ Water (gravel pits/river)
	☺ Pond



→ to Greenhill Road & Hwy 218 →

Note: for legend of South Unit map, please see large map.



Trail Loop Distances

(from Interpretive Center)

- Basswood Trail 0.25 mile
- Lakes Trail 1.75 mile
- Two Bridge Trail 0.63 mile
- Prairie Trail 0.75 mile
- Ski Trail 0.85 mile
- Willow Trail 0.57 mile

Rules

To help protect and preserve the many unique aspects of Hartman Reserve Nature Center, we ask that visitors to do the following:

1. Please stay on the trails so as not to trample and disturb the forest.
2. Enjoy the many interesting things found in the forest, but do not take them home.
3. Hike, ski, or run but please **do not** camp, hunt, ride a horse, use a motorized vehicle or consume alcohol.
4. Bicycles are restricted to the North Unit and the South Riverside Trail (see map).

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*For detailed location,
please see map inside!*



Directions

Hartman Reserve Nature Center is located in Cedar Falls, three blocks north of the intersection of Rainbow Drive and Laurie Avenue. From Highway 218, take the Greenhill Road exit and follow the signs.

Hours

Hartman Interpretive Center and the Acorn Gift Shop are open Monday-Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. From Labor Day to Memorial Day they are also open on Sundays from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. The Hartman Interpretive Center is closed on major holidays. The trail system is open every day from sunrise to sunset.

For More Information

Hartman Reserve Nature Center
657 Reserve Drive, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613
Phone 319/277-2187 • Fax 319/277-4420
www.co.black-hawk.ia.us/hartman/index.html
email • hartmanreserve@co.black-hawk.ia.us

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