

The Hanson Nature Center is Available to Rent!

The Hanson Nature Center is a community resource that can be used for programs, meetings, receptions, and parties.

The auditorium officially seats 88 people and includes round and rectangular banquet tables. Use of the kitchenette is included in the rental price, as is the use of a screen and an LCD projector. The Center is also equipped with wi-fi.

The weekend rental rate is \$250.00/day, while the weekday rental rate is \$50.00/hour, with a 2-hour minimum. A refundable \$250.00 deposit is also required.

If you'd like to learn more about renting the Hanson Nature Center, or would like to see the rental form, you can visit our web site using the qr code on the back page. If you are interested in renting the center, contact our office to make arrangements!



Come Visit Us!

Hours:

Monday, Wednesday

10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Tuesday, Thursday

1:00-4:00 PM

Friday-Closed

First and Third Saturdays

1:00-4:00 PM

(The Center is closed on weekends during the winter.)



Hanson Nature Center

41600 Highway 69

Leland, Iowa 50453

641-567-3390

*Visit the
Hanson Nature Center
Web Site*



The Hanson Nature Center

Winnebago County
Conservation Board



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Our History

The initiative to build a nature center began in 2012 with the formation of the Friends of Winnebago County Conservation Foundation. The Foundation was formed with the goal of eventually assisting with the construction of a nature center in Winnebago County. In 2017, the first architectural drawings and cost estimates were developed and, in 2018, our Capital Campaign began to raise the estimated \$1.4 million cost.

By the end of 2020, that fundraising goal had been met, but the Covid pandemic caused the first bids to come in almost 40% higher than anticipated. So, all the bids were rejected and fundraising resumed. Finally, in June of 2022, a \$2.3 million dollar bid was accepted. And construction began in October of that year!

In December of 2023, construction was completed and move-in began soon thereafter. After a series of spring open houses, a Grand Opening was held on July 13th, 2024!

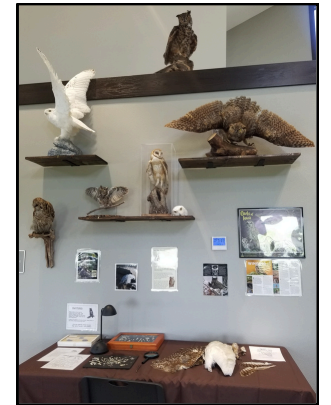
Moving forward, we are continuing to work to improve the facility and expand our displays. We invite you to come visit !

About the Hanson Nature Center

The Hanson Nature Center is an impressive 7,680-square foot building with 28'-high vaulted ceilings. It is ADA-compliant and is centrally-located within Winnebago County, only a 15-minute drive for most county residents. It sits on a picturesque hilltop overlooking 65 acres of prairies and wetlands. Across the highway is another 253 acres of public land.



When you first walk into the Center, you enter the Hagenson-Skogen Exhibit Hall, which contains educational displays about the flora and fauna of north Iowa and an interactive Kid's Corner. Adjacent to that room is an auditorium (complete with a kitchenette) that can seat over 85 people and is often used for educational programs. The building's main floor also contains the offices of the WCCB Director and Naturalist. In the basement, live critters such as turtles, frogs, toads, and salamanders greet you in the classroom, an area where kids and adults alike can learn about our area's natural resources through hands-on activities. Outside, you can take a stroll through the prairie or view it from the expansive deck surrounding the building.



While you're here, you will also be able to view an extensive collection of fossils, some of which date back hundreds of millions of years! And, you will learn about the Indigenous people who lived around here through artifacts that have been found in the area.



There is truly something for everyone at the Hanson Nature Center!

