

## Voas Nature Area and Museum

The Voas Nature Area is a 372-acre park located west of Minburn, approximately ½ mile east of the North Raccoon River. The initial 265 acres were donated to the Dallas County Conservation Board by brother & sister, Lyle and Mae Voas. They had a desire to see their family farmland restored to a native prairie and become a wildlife refuge and educational center.

**Learn.** Lyle and Mae formed an impressive collection of rocks, fossils and minerals found across the United States and around



*Museum & Observation Deck*

the world. They built a museum displaying the many artifacts. Rare native elements, dynamic quartz specimens and fossils are on exhibit.

The diversity of habitat, including woodland, wetland and prairie, serves as an excellent stage for learning about our natural world. Interpretive programs include tours of the museum, bird-watching hikes, prairie programs, geology presentations and many other environmental education programs.

**Explore.** Enjoy the stone amphitheater, restored wetland areas and re-established prairie nursery. The observation deck overlooks the oak and hickory forest and woodland wildflowers. Spend an hour, spend a day.

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**Hike.** Over 90% of Iowa's prairies and wetlands have been plowed and drained for farmland. To restore the wetlands, field tiles were broken, plugged, and in some cases, wetland basins were deepened. As water accumulated in these prairie pothole marshes, aquatic vegetation grew back. Some aquatic vegetation seed remains dormant in the soil for as much as 70 years.



*Voas Prairie Flowers*

### Park Hours: 8 am - 10 pm

Nature Area Entrance:	May 1 - October 31	
Foot Traffic Welcome:	Year Round	
Museum & Facilities:	June - August	
	Sundays only 1 - 4 pm	
	Subject to staff availability	



The Voas Nature Area is located 1½ miles west of Minburn off HWY 169. In Minburn, follow signs. Turn west on County Rd F31. Proceed 1½ miles to the junction with Lexington Road, which is immediately before you cross the bridge over the North Raccoon River. Turn right on Lexington Rd. Drive 1 mile to the park entrance, which is on the right side.



Dallas County Conservation Board

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