

Goose Pond Sanctuary

Numbers are keyed to map, inside.

1. Information center – On Prairie Lane, west from Goose Pond Road. Park along the lane, pick up information at the kiosk, view the waterfowl on the pond, hike the 900-foot-long trail through the Bicentennial Prairie.

Scope Days at Goose Pond

IMPORTANT NOTE:

When enjoying your visit, please stay in the areas along Prairie Lane and the Bicentennial Prairie only. Please do not walk down to the pond or frighten wildlife by walking the railroad tracks or on the prairies surrounding the pond.

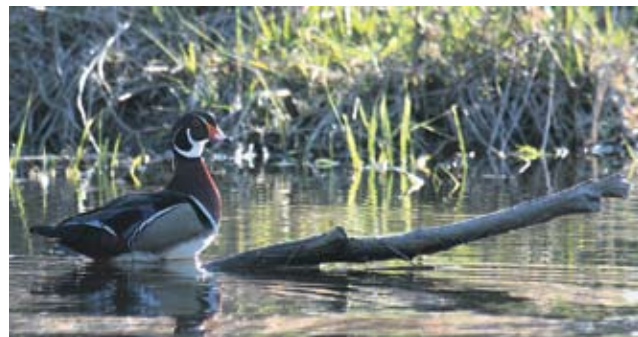


Great Spangled Fritillary

4. Ankenbrandt Prairie –Visitors can walk north on the mowed old farm lane from Kampen Road to Highways 51 and 60. This large, productive restoration features over 50 plant species on 80 acres. Park in mowed area at southwest corner of the prairie.

5. Kampen Prairie – A 40-acre tall grass prairie restoration with 1.5 miles of mowed hiking trails. Off-road parking area is east of Goose Pond, off Hopkins Road. Park here also for walk-in access to Sue Ames Prairie to the west.

6. Sue Ames Prairie – Hike from Kampen Prairie parking area down the quarter-mile access lane to the trailhead. Two miles of mowed trail inside and around the edge extend through tall grass prairie on rolling terrain that provides good views to the west.



Wood duck at Otsego Marsh

Erstad Prairie

A 60-acre sanctuary with hiking trail to overview of a small wetland frequented by migrating waterfowl and marsh birds. Hike north to see the expansive 700 acres of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Waterfowl Production Area. Erstad Prairie includes 18 acres of wetlands and 42 acres of uplands.



Sandhill Crane



Otsego Marsh-early Spring

Otsego Marsh

Habitat provided by a wooded area bordering a wetland pond nourishes a variety of flora and fauna at this 80-acre sanctuary which includes a 32-acre wetland. A circular one-mile hiking trail begins at the off-road parking area and leads through varying wooded habitat with a variety of wildflowers and ferns.

Please stay on established trails, and remember that wildlife sanctuaries are places where wildlife needs to feel safe. Dogs are not permitted.



Opossum on warm winter day

Brochure design and photos by Pat Ready



GUIDE TO SANCTUARY SITES IN COLUMBIA COUNTY

Goose Pond • Erstad Prairie • Otsego Marsh



Features include: off-road parking, hiking trails, benches, scenic views, and blooming prairies from May through September. See maps and driving directions inside.

These sanctuaries are owned and operated by Madison Audubon Society, a local chapter of the National Audubon Society, serving Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Iowa, Jefferson, Richland, and Sauk counties.

The sanctuaries are maintained for wildlife and humans, for the benefit of both.

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Prairie in mid-summer bloom