



# Recreational Experiences Close to Home!

## Prime CGCCB Areas for Insect Watching/Collecting

**Mike Zack WL Area**-This area includes two small lakes (Fin & Feather and Clark), native prairie remnants, and tree plantings—prime habitat for a variety of insects.

**Lime Creek Conservation Area**-A nine-mile network of trails dissects this scenic 440-acre area of upland timber, open fields, restored prairie, flood-plain forest, and wetlands. Insects can be found throughout the varied habitats of this diverse area.

**White Wildlife Area**-This 34-acre natural area on the Shellrock River includes a 3/4 mile boardwalk trail over an open marsh that provides excellent access for aquatic insect collecting. Other habitats include a wooded swamp, restored prairie and streamside timber.

**Wilkinson Pioneer Park**-This scenic 80-acre corridor along the Shellrock River includes river & stream habitats for aquatic insects, and a rare native prairie with flowering plants for nectaring insects.

**Shellrock River Greenbelt and Preserve**-A 6.5 mile roadway trail traverses through 590 acres of woods, meadows, and ponds along the limestone bluffs of the Shellrock River where a wide variety of insects can be found.

**Blair Meadows/Willow Creek Preserve**-This 25-acre site is comprised of mature trees and shrubs, a stream and pond, and small grassland; all of which provide excellent habitat for insects.

**Mallard Marsh**-This 227-acre area consists of wetlands, wooded hills, and upland habitat. The marshes provide outstanding aquatic insect collecting.

**Zirbel Slough**-A 330-acre prairie marsh/upland complex is a prime habitat for both aquatic and land insects.

**Walch Wildlife Area**-This large 303-acre tract features numerous prairie pothole marshes, grasslands, and a scenic stream. A wide variety of land and aquatic insects can be found here.

**Winnebago Oxbow**-This 80-acre area along the Winnebago River includes an oxbow lake, riparian woodland, seasonal wetland basins, and a restored prairie for both aquatic and land insects.

**Prairie Pothole Wildlife Area**-This 70-acre tract includes 13.5 acres of restored wetlands and 56.5 acres of native prairie restoration and oak/hardwood timber where both aquatic and land insects can be found.

**Blazingstar Prairie**-This rare 10.5-acre remnant of native prairie has many species of unique flowering plants, providing an important food source for nectaring insects.

### Insect Hunting Tips:

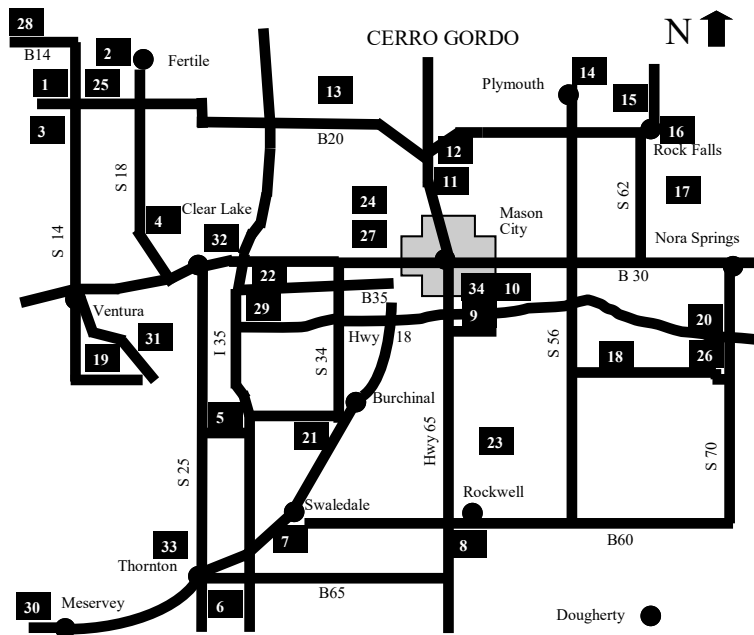
- The Cerro Gordo County Conservation Board manages a variety of areas that provide excellent habitats for both aquatic and land insects. These are briefly highlighted on this flier.
- Some insects are very sedentary and are easy to catch with a pair of tweezers. Others, like dragonflies, can fly and are quite fast! Catching insects takes some practice. It is best not to catch dangerous insects such as bees & wasps at first.
- Collectors may want to keep an observation notebook & make labels for insects that include collection date, location and habitat, as well as the collector's name.
- Some common insect collecting tools include: tweezers to pick up insects; 35mm film canisters to hold small insects; killing jars with nail polish remover or alcohol on an absorbent material; colanders for aquatic insects; and long-handled nets.
- There is a wealth of information about collecting insects both at the local library and on the internet.



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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Haugen Wildlife Area-22151 Apple Ave</li> <li>2. Mallard Marsh-2500 - 325th St</li> <li>3. Kuhn Wildlife Area-1873 - 310th St</li> <li>4. Winter Garden Park-1220 N 16th St NW</li> <li>5. Zirbel Slough-8447 - 200th St</li> <li>6. Ingebretson Park-203 Ash St E</li> <li>7. Stille Wildlife Area-4821 Jonquil Ave</li> <li>8. Linn Grove Park-518 Madison St W</li> <li>9. Mike Zack Wildlife Area-16638 - 230th St</li> <li>10. Averydale Access-South of US Hwy 18 on Birch Drive</li> <li>11. Lime Creek Conservation Area and Nature Center-3501 Lime Creek Rd</li> <li>12. Spring Creek Preserve-15829 - 300th St</li> <li>13. King Fisher Hollow-10250 Wheelerwood Dr</li> <li>14. Strand Park-20057 - 340th St</li> <li>15. White Wildlife Area-22038 Vine Ave</li> <li>16. Wilkinson Pioneer Park-21425 Vine Ave</li> <li>17. Shellrock River Greenbelt &amp; Preserve</li> <li>18. Claybanks Forest-22924 - 225th St</li> <li>19. Blue Wing Marsh-3748 - 220th St</li> <li>20. Grover's Meadow-15580 Zinnia Ave</li> <li>21. Walch Wildlife Area-10811 - 190th St</li> <li>22. Trolley Trail-B-35 from Mason City to Clear Lake</li> <li>23. Blazing Star Prairie-16747 - 180th St</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24. Blair Meadows Preserve-1/4 mile west of intersection of Eisenhower Ave &amp; 12th St NW (north side of road)</li> <li>25. Winnebago Oxbow-3100 - 320th St</li> <li>26. Limestone Prairie Preserve-24928 - 225th St</li> <li>27. Willow Creek Preserve-1/4 mile west of intersection of Eisenhower Ave &amp; 12th St NW (south side of road)</li> <li>28. Prairie Pothole Wildlife Area-24493 Apple Ave</li> <li>29. Bluebill Wildlife Area-14369 Indigo Ave</li> <li>30. Prairie Land Trail-13773 240th St (trailhead)</li> <li>31. Sister's Prairie Trail-2854 235th St (trailhead)</li> <li>32. Donna Walker Nature Area-8103 - 315th St</li> <li>33. Ring-Neck Wildlife Area-5891 - 125th St</li> <li>34. Goranson Access-3139 Birch Dr</li> </ol> |
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