

## Coon Rapids



In 2005, Coon Rapids - Whiterock was selected as one of Iowa's first three Great Places.



Located 70 miles NW of Des Moines on HWY 141 and 100 miles NE of Omaha.

## Things to do in Coon Rapids, Iowa:

- Bowling
- Golf Course
- Day Spa
- Paved Trail
- Restaurants
- Walking History Tour
- Sculpture Park
- Crafts & Antiques
- Disc Golf
- Aquatic Center
- Playgrounds & Parks
- RV Park
- Public Art
- Tennis Court

“Best Burger in Iowa” awarded to Coon Bowl in 2012

## Whiterock Conservancy



Whiterock Conservancy is a non-profit land trust formed in 2004 to protect and manage more than seven square miles of the Middle Raccoon River valley. Whiterock's goal is to steward this landscape and open it to the public for their recreation, enjoyment and education.

# Whiterock Conservancy

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| B&B Rooms         | Family Vacations  |
| Cottages          | Weekend Get Aways |
| Primitive Camping | Day Visitors      |
| River Floats      | Reunions          |
| Hiking & Biking   | Weddings          |
| Equestrian Trails | Corporate Picnics |
| Fishing           | Group Tours       |
| Star Gazing       | Field Trips       |
| Ag History        | Nature Tours      |

## Whiterock Conservancy

Whiterock Conservancy offers a family-friendly outdoor getaway in the scenic Middle Raccoon River Valley. Open to the public year-round, Whiterock's multi-purpose trail system and 8-mile water trail meander through a wild and working landscape. At Whiterock, it's easy to explore Iowa's natural and cultural history.



## History of the Land

“Whiterock” is named after the 100-million-year-old sandstone bluffs along the Middle Raccoon River. Natural and cultural history have combined to make Whiterock a diverse landscape containing a mosaic of oak forests, oak savannas, wetlands, croplands, pastures and tallgrass prairies.

Many cite Coon Rapids as a birthplace of modern agriculture. Roswell Garst, an innovative farmer, salesman, and citizen diplomat, promoted new agricultural techniques from the Garst Farm and hosted Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev's famed Iowa visit in 1959. His son Stephen, an avid outdoorsmen, and Roswell's grandchildren continued to piece together and conserve the land of Whiterock.

In 2004, the Garst family began donating more than 5,000 acres to Whiterock Conservancy, a non-profit land trust. The goal is to protect the land that inspired their family's conservation ethic and develop ways for the public to experience Whiterock's unique natural and working landscape, its history, and the outdoors.



1390 Highway 141  
Coon Rapids, IA 50058  
712-684-2964 ext. 112  
guestinfo@whiterockconservancy.org  
www.whiterockconservancy.org



# Accommodations

Whiterock is an informal and comfortable venue for family reunions, corporate retreats, weddings, parties, group tours, or just a quiet weekend getaway for two!



## Garst Farm

**Site of** the 1959 Khrushchev visit and former home of Roswell & Elizabeth Garst, this inviting 5 bedroom bed & breakfast is on the National Register of Historic Places. Stay includes continental breakfast. TV & DVD in all rooms. Wireless Internet.



## Hollyhock Cottage

**This cozy** garden cottage is just next to the Garst Farmhouse and can sleep up to 6. Décor reflects its history: first as a chicken coop, then hired hands' house, and later a garden shed. Has full kitchen, queen bed, full futon and twin bunk beds. TV & DVD.



## Woodland

**A comfortable** and spacious retreat next to the Middle Raccoon River in the heart of the Whiterock Valley. Sleeps up to 7 with 3 queen beds and 1 twin bed. Home of the eclectic Fluxus Indian Museum. Full kitchen, satellite TV & DVD.



## Oak Ridge

**Secluded country** house and private yard great for family reunions and large gatherings. Sleeps up to 13 with 5 bedrooms: 3 queens, 7 twins, 2 baths. Full kitchen serves up to 30 guests. Spacious living room. Grill and fire ring for cookouts. Steel horse pens available.



## River House Barn

**Host a** beautiful country wedding, an old-fashioned dance barn party, or corporate retreat at the River House! The barn, shelter and basement area can accommodate groups of up to 400. Catered meals can be arranged.



## 805 River Cabin

**Nestled between** a fishing pond and the river, this rustic cabin makes a nice stopover on a float or hike. Sleeps 6, plus has a large yard for tents. Horse pens, fire ring, firewood\*, picnic table and cold water shower available. No electricity or water.



## Turkey Ridge

**Remote camping** among majestic oaks. On three separate ridgelines, sites are equipped with picnic tables and fire rings. Firewood\* is for sale in main campground kiosk. No electric hookups or water.



## River Campground

**Located along** a scenic bend in the Middle Raccoon River, 6 campsites are accessible for tents, RVs, campers, & horse trailers. Picnic tables, fire rings, steel horse pens, horse ties, and cold water showers available. No electric or water hookups.



We look forward  
to seeing you  
out on the land!

# Activities



**Float the River!** Enjoy a half-day trip on the scenic 8-mile Middle Raccoon River water trail. Canoes, kayaks, & shuttle service available.

**Go Fishing** in one of ten ponds or along the river. Basic fishing equipment available for rent. Handicap accessible fishing pier at the Garst Farm. An Iowa fishing license is required.

**Bike, Hike, or Horseback** You bring the “ride,” we’ve got the trails! Enjoy 30 miles of multi-purpose trails that wind through savannas, wetlands, pastures, prairies and even into town!

**Star Gaze** in Whiterock’s Star Field! Marvel at the myriad of stars in one of Iowa’s darkest places. Don’t miss the annual Iowa Star Party, held at the end of summer.



**Bird Watch** in a variety of habitats: grasslands, savannas, ponds, wetlands, or woodlands along the river valley. Whiterock anchors the Raccoon River Savanna Bird Conservation Area and is home to an Osprey Re-introduction Project.

**Ride a John Deere Gator™** An excellent way to go fishing, explore the uplands along the river or find a private picnic spot.

**Take a Hay Ride** on an old-fashioned hay rack, pulled by a John Deere tractor. Head out on a riverside jaunt over rolling hills and through prairie and savanna restoration projects. Fun for all ages!

**Paid Hunting** opportunities include bow hunting for deer and shotgun wild pheasant and turkey hunting.

**Learn about** the area’s natural, cultural and geological history through eye-catching interpretative signs found along the trails. Tour the Garst Farm and check out the historical library, photos from Khrushchev’s 1959 visit and our local products gift shop.

**Guided Tours** offer entertainment and fun learning opportunities. **Khrushchev in Iowa** is a fascinating story about mid 20<sup>th</sup>-century agriculture and an unlikely friendship in the middle of the Cold War, often told by a Garst granddaughter. Other tour options include a **Guided Nature Hike, Agricultural Tours, Habitats of Whiterock,** and **Raptor Workshops** (Birds of Prey). Custom programs can be developed to suit your interests.

Event information can be found on our website.  
Sign up for our newsletter to receive regular updates.

Reservations required, except campgrounds.  
To make a reservation, visit [www.whiterockconservancy.org](http://www.whiterockconservancy.org)  
or call (712) 684-2964 ext 112.  
You can also email [guestinfo@whiterockconservancy.org](mailto:guestinfo@whiterockconservancy.org)

\*Due to Emerald Ash Borer threat, no carry-in firewood allowed.