Aug. 30, 2017, Press Release:

**2017 Loess Hills & Heritage Week: An Invitation**

Western Iowa’s Loess Hills & Heritage Planning Committee is pleased to announce that on August 24, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds proclaimed September 23 through October 1, 2017, Loess Hills and Heritage Week. The Committee, which represents public and private parks, conservation boards, and historical societies throughout Pottawattamie, Mills, Fremont, Harrison, Woodbury, Monona and Plymouth Counties, along with the Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) organization and Western Iowa Tourism, has been working with grassroots organizations in recent months to compile a long list of special activities and sites for visitors to experience the rare fall beauty and historic and cultural richness of the Hills. More information about Loess Hills Week and the Loess Hills themselves can be found at <http://www.visitloesshills.org/loess-hills--heritage-week.html>, or by simply Googling “Loess Hills and Heritage Week.” That website also provides information on the special Loess Hills Poster Contest that is being offered for youth K-12.

The Loess Hills region includes some of Iowa’s most precious cultural, historic and natural resources. This unique geological formation spans seven counties along Iowa’s western edge and into counties of northern Missouri, and is found in similar form in only one other place in the world: the Yellow River Region in China. The distinctive geological and topographic features of the hills, the extensive natural grasslands and forests and the many archaeological sites there create a treasure for the region. Loess Hills Week will be an opportunity to experience and enjoy these hills, and to learn more about them and their special plants, animals, geology and pioneer and Native American history. We invite communities, organizations and individuals to join us in this landmark celebration.

The Loess Hills & Heritage Week Planning Team includes the following people:

* Nick Beeck --Plymouth County Conservation Board, LHHW Education Team chair
* Bob Benton and Terry Lewis—Fremont County Conservation Board and Loess Hills Alliance
* Bill Blackburn--Blackburn’s Green Hollow Center (Thurman, IA), LHHW Planning Team chair
* Michelle Wodtke Franks-- Golden Hills RC&D (Oakland, IA), the Loess Hills Alliance, LHHW Planning Team vice chair, North-South County Liaison
* Jerad Getter –-Pony Creek (Glenwood, IA) and other Mills County Parks
* Mary Howery—Fremont County Historical Society, LHHW Historical Team co-chair
* Terry Latey—Historical Pioneer Research Group (Omaha), LHHW Historical Team co-chair
* Scott Nelson-- Harrison County Conservation Board
* Shirley Phillips --Western Iowa Tourism Region
* Glenn Pollock--Vincent Bluff Prairie State Preserve and other Council Bluffs parks (Council Bluffs, IA) and the Loess Hills Alliance
* Rich Pope--Loess Hills Alliance, LHHW Planning Team vice chair, Northern County Leader
* Andrea Porter--Monona County Conservation Board
* Mark Shoemaker-- Hitchcock Nature Center (Honey Creek, IA) and other Pottawattamie County parks
* Dawn Snyder—Woodbury County Conservation Board