

WILD TURKEY

- Eliminated from Iowa in the early 1900's and were reintroduced from 1960's to 1970's
- Live in open woodlands and forests with lots of clearings and meadows
- Have good eyesight and hearing, and are very fast runners.

BOBCAT

- Nocturnal, solitary animals
- Suffered heavy habitat loss, but population in Iowa is growing
- Named for its short "bobbed" tail, and bobbing gait as it runs due to short front legs and long back legs

COUGAR

- Also called mountain lion, puma, and panther
- Once lived in the wooded areas of northeast Iowa
- Are very secretive and primarily nocturnal
- Mountain lions can bound 40 feet while running, leap 15 feet up into a tree, climb a 12 foot fence, and sprint up to 50 mph

RACCOON

- Tend to be most active at night, healthy raccoons will also forage during the day.
- Are opportunistic omnivores (both meat-eater and plant-eater, as well as garbage can raider)
- Raccoons have highly sensitive "hands," and love to roll and feel their food, leading to the myth of "washing" their food

RED FOX

- Sly animal known for its resourcefulness and cunning ability to outwit humans
- Uses "bushy" tail as a blanket in winter, and to help with balance
- Reside in forested regions, mountain, desert, and grasslands areas

BLACK BEAR

- Live in forested areas and are excellent tree climbers, but can also be found in mountainous and swamp areas
- Are an extirpated species, which means rarely found in Iowa
- Eats meat and plants including: berries, grasses, insects, fish, and possibly carrion (decomposing flesh)

BIRDS OF PREY

- Include hawks, falcons, eagles, vultures, owls and osprey
- Raptors (birds of prey) have a hooked beak, excellent eyesight, sharp talons, and strong legs and feet
- Have eye muscles designed for rapid focus with vision up to 8 times sharper than the best human sight

WOLF

- Largest member of the canine family
- Feeds on animals such as caribou, elk, moose, deer, rabbits, beaver, and carrion
- Wolves are not exceptionally fast, but have incredible endurance and will track prey all day and night if necessary
- An ancestor to domesticated dogs like the German Shepard

COYOTE

- Highly successful animals, have even begun to colonize major cities like L.A. and Chicago.
- Are born blind, depending on their mother for the first weeks/months of their lives.
- Have been known to mate with both dogs and wolves
- Usually solitary, may form packs in winter

NATURE CENTER AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

- Western Hognose Snake
- Eastern Milk Snake
- Garter Snake
- Timber Rattle Snakes
- Red Eared Slider Turtle
- Painted Turtle
- Eastern Box Turtle
- Salamanders
- Toads



Scan code to make a donation.

Clayton County Conservation
29862 Osborne Road
Elkader, Iowa 52043

OSBORNE NATURE CENTER

Clayton County Conservation

Native Wildlife Exhibit Pocket Guide



Exhibit Hours

9 a.m.– to dusk

Winter: 9 a.m.– 4 p.m.

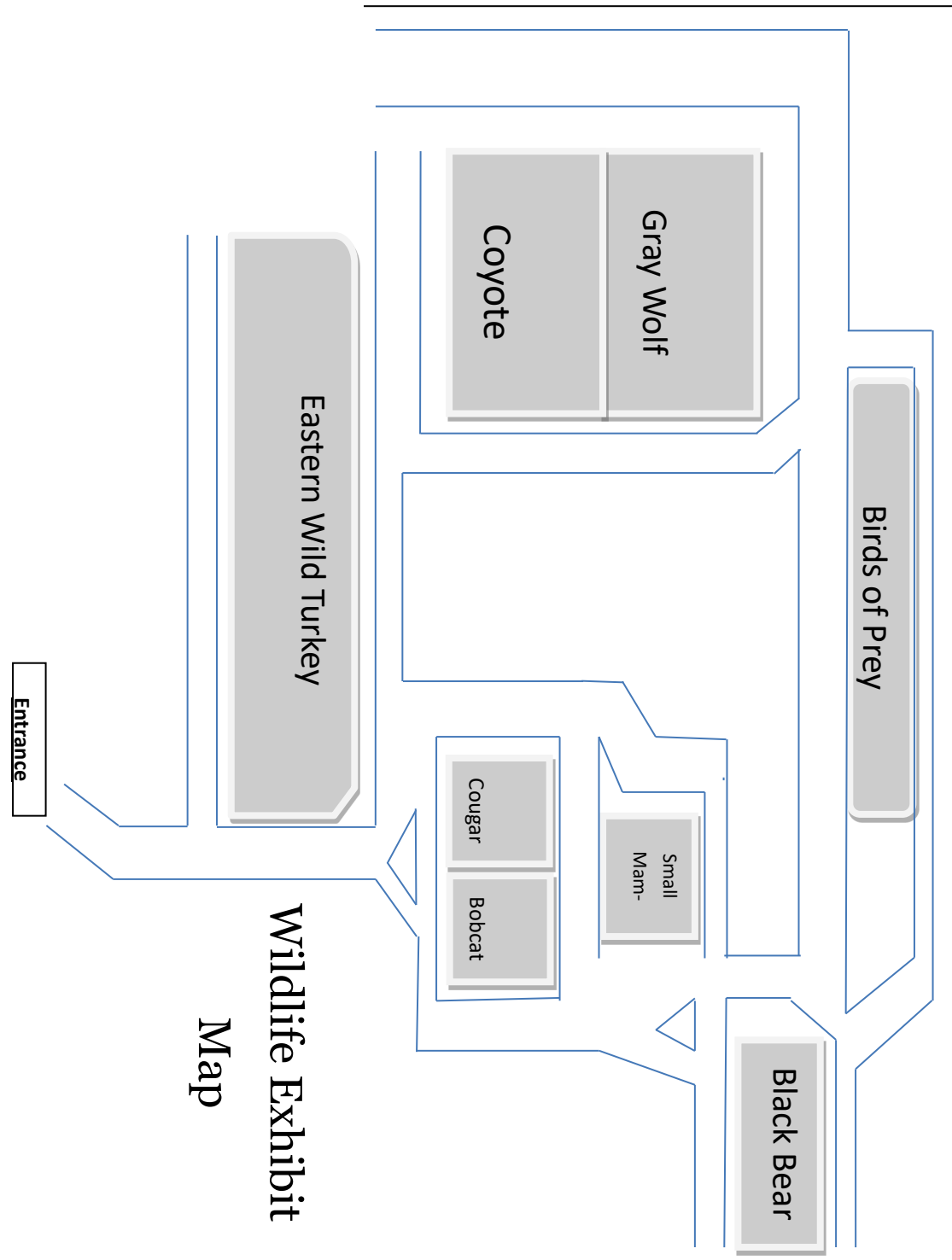
Since the early 1970's the Clayton County Conservation Board has had a live animal exhibit housed at Osborne Park. The exhibit continues to be the park's largest draw of visitor locally, nationally, and internationally. The construction of the new animal exhibit started in 1997.

Why They're Here

There are several reasons why we keep animals here:

1. Some animals have been permanently injured. The injured are usually a result of human activity: being hit by vehicles, gunshot wounds, etc. The animals are therefore not able to survive in the wild.
2. Other animals have been kept as pets and have lost their natural survival instincts. In most cases, the animals were kept illegally and were then confiscated.
3. A few of the animals were born in other animal exhibits and have been in captivity their whole lives. They are used to humans and may think of them as their parents and look to humans for food and companionship instead of their own species.

No matter what the reason, these animals would not survive in the wild. If the animals weren't kept in a wildlife exhibit, they would be euthanized (killed). Here we provide an opportunity for the public to view and learn about wild creatures, in a safe setting for human and animal alike.



ADOPT-AN-ANIMAL

The Adopt-An-Animal program benefits the animals directly with proceeds going toward the care of the native Iowa animals at the Osborne Nature Center. You can help by supporting an animal for one year through the Adopt-an-Animal program. A plaque with your name will be placed as recognition for your support. The animal you choose will remain at the Nature Center, receiving proper care and enjoying the many visitors!

DONATIONS

The majority of the funding for the exhibit comes from donations and grants. Individuals may make larger donations at the office located on the main level of the welcome center. Smaller donations may be in the donation box located just inside the exhibit area. Thank you for your continued and generous support to the Osborne Nature Center.