



Sam Howard

STEM Educator at Northeast CSD

2021 Extern at Jackson County Conservation

Hurstville Interpretive Center

## Part I: Overview of Workplace

The Hurstville Interpretive Center, Jackson County Conservation. The building and property were constructed in 2004 due to environmental mitigations as a result of the 4 lane expansion of Highway 61. It is located in Maquoketa, IA on an 74 acre wetland and restored prairie that has trails and viewing of wildlife. The Center provides outdoor and environmental education and programs to the public.

## Part II: Workplace Focus

- Conducting prairie plant surveys of remnant hill prairie located on Ozark Conservation Area in Jackson County.
- Assisting staff with environmental education programs.
- Assisting staff with the managing and maintenance of Jackson County Conservation properties.

## Part III: Introduce the Project or Problem

Conduct plant surveys of a newly constructed prairie. Instruct students how to harvest prairie seed and extricate invasive plants properly.

## Part IV: Standards, Driving and Essential Questions

- Matter and Energy in Ecosystems
- Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems
- Natural Selection and Adaptations
- Engineering Design

Can success of a restored prairie be measured?

How can prairies be managed successfully?

How can a person be involved in citizen science?

## Part V: Extern Host Role

I worked with Tony Vorwald, Jackson County Conservation Naturalist, in carrying out plant surveys of Ozark Hill Prairie and documenting present species there.

## Part VI: Design Elements Checklist

- Questions above in Part IV
- This is a long term project with the potential for multiple year inquiries and data collection.
- This is an authentic project that can be connected with any county conservation property or others.
- Students are allowed to make choices and drive the project using their own understanding.
- The project would require student reflection to make certain it keeps the right direction.
- The project would allow students to self-assess their own understanding and efforts made to move the project forward.
- Students would be asked to produce a report of the project to be shared with the Clinton County Conservation Board.