

JOIN US FOR THE FIRST Iowa Outdoor Learning Environments Conference!

June 18-19, 2018 | Ames, IA | Gateway Hotel & Conference Center



Prairie Rivers of Iowa invites educators, conservationists, community leaders, landscapers, and others that value outdoor education to our inaugural Iowa Outdoor Learning Environments Conference!

Outdoor Learning Environments (OLEs) are deliberately designed outdoor spaces that are used and supported by many in the community to provide an intentional setting for exploration, inquiry, and learning to empower environmental literacy and education in any discipline. An OLE can be located at a community location like a library, park, protected natural area, or other places where the outdoor setting can enhance educational opportunities for community members.

The purpose of the conference is to promote OLE development and create a support network for the OLE community. The conference will be composed of three tracks to tackle every aspect of establishing, using, and maintaining an OLE:

A. Gaining Community Support

Learn how to gain support for and secure the longevity of your OLE. This track will include sessions on how to gain vital buy-in as well as tactics for seeking funding for your OLE.

B. Creating Educational Programs for OLEs

This track focuses on building curriculum and educational programs for your OLE. Some subjects included are connecting students to their outdoor surroundings, intentional and organic play in nature, and incorporating STEM and NGSS into your OLE.

C. OLE Design, Implementation, and Maintenance

This track emphasizes ways to design a natural and intentional OLE. Sessions will target architectural design of the space as well as planting design and establishing and maintaining native plant communities.



Learn more and register online: <https://goo.gl/5JHxfH>