

Who are Friends of Pine Creek Grist Mill?

The Mill was constructed in 1848 and closed in 1927 when it became part of Wildcat Den State Park. Few visitors had been inside the Mill since the 1920's. Pine Creek Mill today is a living and working mill where visitors can see their pioneer heritage. The Mill is thought to be the oldest working grist mill, on its original site, between the Mississippi and the Rockies.

"Friends" is a volunteer non-profit organization formed in 1996. We work with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to restore the mill to working condition, to be an educational tool to interpret our area's heritage, and to be a tourist attraction. The DNR takes responsibility for the outside - mill structure, dam and surrounding area. Friends restore and maintain the machinery as well as interpret the mill. The State of Iowa has invested over \$600,000 in restoration and protection. More than 40,000 volunteer hours have done much to restore and interpret the mill.



About 1930



Today

The mission of the Friends of Pine Creek Grist Mill is to restore, operate and maintain the Mill and to share the historical significance of the site through educational programs, public tours and events.

What Have Friends and the DNR Done Together?

Rescued the mill building from a slow death

- 70 years of dirt and mud removed
- Windows repaired and painted
- Foundation stabilized and dam repaired
- Wood beams and posts repaired
- Roof and smokestack replaced
- Siding repaired and re-stained
- Rotted basement floor replaced.

Brought the silent mill back to life

- Researched the lost skills of milling in the 1800's
- Water power turbine working
- Millstones grinding again
- Related machinery working again



Created an interpretation program

Host thousands of visitors each year

Host hundreds of school children for a day of educational activities

Demonstrate the mill equipment on weekends and for

Created interpretive display

Moved, rebuilt and furnished an 1850's log cabin that is part of school field trips.

Group tours are possible.



What else has the DNR done?

Built a handicap compliant sidewalk

Installed modern rest rooms

Enlarged the parking lot to accommodate motor coaches

Installed a fire suppression system and intrusion alarm