

Buchanan County Conservation Board

Annual Report

(July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022)

*“Improving quality of life through programs
of conservation and education.”*

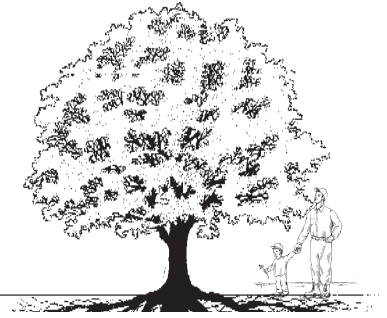


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Your Conservation Board, FY22: *Conservation Board members are county residents who have an expressed interest in conservation. They are appointed by the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors to staggered five-year terms. For more information about the roles of a Conservation Board member, contact the Executive Director (see below).*



*Loren Hamilton, Chair
Independence, IA*



*Ronnie Wolfe, Vice-Chair
Quasqueton, IA*



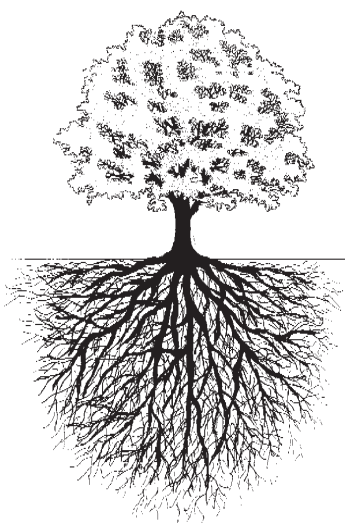
*Andy Crump
Independence, IA*



*Mary Jean Blaisdell
Independence, IA*



*Maud Bentley
Independence, IA*



*Dan Cohen, Executive Director
Fontana Park, Hazleton, IA*

For more information about programs and activities of the Conservation Board, contact the Executive Director, Dan Cohen.

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*Visit Buchanan County Conservation Board at
www.buchanancountyparks.com!*

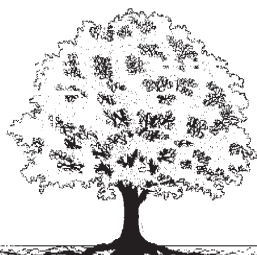
Like “Fontana Park” on Facebook!

Buchanan County Conservation Board

FY22 Annual Report

“Increasing quality of life through programs of conservation and education.”

Executive Summary



Buchanan County Conservation Board Members

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Loren Hamilton, Chair
Independence, IA

Ronnie Wolfe, Vice Chair
Quasqueton, IA

**Mary Jean Blaisdell,
Secretary**
Independence, IA

Maud Bentley
Independence, IA (beginning 1/22)

Buchanan County Conservation Board

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The Conservation Board and Department had a busy year planning and implementing expansion and enhancement of amenities in its most popular park. The recently completed Fontana Park Master Plan calls for many infrastructure projects, and work started on the first two phases - the Bison and Prairie Learning Area and Lakeside-Prairie Campground. Much of the work on these phases is detailed in this report. As with all large undertakings, these priorities are moving forward with help from our friends. Special thanks are owed to Buchanan County Secondary Roads for providing engineering and park road construction, and to the County Board of Supervisors for their support of these projects. Project funding was garnered from partners, grant programs, and donors, and fundraising continues.

In August, a windstorm struck Fontana Park, closing all park roads, damaging some structures and a camper, and leaving many downed and damaged trees. It took a full staff effort and help from volunteers to clear debris, make repairs, and plant new trees. Although things appeared dismal at the time, park grounds quickly were opened back up for public use.

Popularity of parks and natural areas was again evident this year, with park facilities being used at near-record levels (second only to after the Pandemic the previous year). Education programs rebounded from the previous year's Pandemic restrictions and general aversion to gatherings. Naturalists were busy, and the Conservation Board's Education Program was recognized with a statewide award.

The benefits of conservation and outdoor recreation are many, and the Conservation Board and Staff understand how their work impacts people. Projects and programs held throughout the year, or ongoing, have positive economic and public health impacts; improve water quality and other environmental services; draw tourism, and make Buchanan County a community where people want to live, work, play, and stay.

Conservation Staff work hard every day to provide educational programs, maintain parks and facilities, and manage public places for outdoor recreation. They look forward to seeing the wide variety of people at programs and enjoying their public spaces!

Dan Cohen, Executive Director
Buchanan County Conservation Board

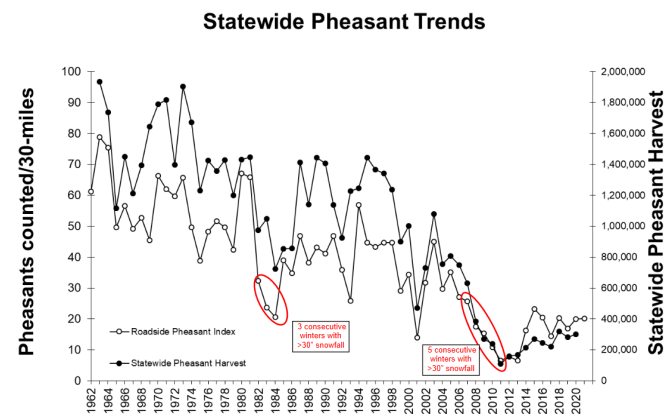
The Annual Report and Long Term Planning

This Annual Report serves two roles. The report is an explanation of the projects and services provided during the Fiscal Year running from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Such a report is called for in the 1955 legislation which established the County Conservation Board system (Chapter 350 of the Code of Iowa). This report goes a step further, and indicates future objectives of the Conservation Board and its staff. It serves as an annual update of the Outdoor Recreation, Conservation, and Open Spaces Plan. These plans can be viewed online by visiting www.buchanancountyparks.com.

Conservation and Natural Resources

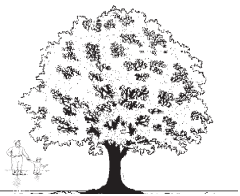
From 1990 to 2013, retired CRP and other factors resulted in nearly 3,000 square miles of habitat loss for pheasants and other upland

wildlife. That equates to more than an eight mile wide strip of land stretching from Council Bluffs to Davenport! Land planted to oats, hay, and wheat also have dramatically been replaced by row crops. These changes took a large toll on a variety of wildlife species - especially upland birds, as indicated by the graph to the left. Related to this trend, many of Iowa's rivers and lakes are considered impaired by pollutants. Lack of perennial ground cover, loss of historic wetlands and other landscape features that hold water, along with a changing climate, have resulted in an increased number and severity of floods and other issues.



Above: Loss of habitat, changes in agriculture, climate, and other factors impact populations of pheasants and other upland birds.

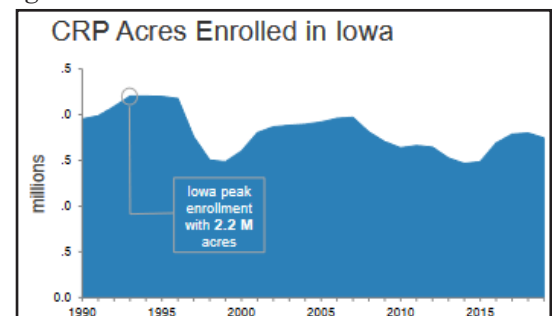
Bottom right: Although acres planted to Conservation Reserve and other farm programs that provide habitat and ground cover decreased nationally, Iowa saw a modest bump in acres enrolled from 2017-2020, which likely has some correlation to the rise in pheasant population during those years.



“Improving quality of life through programs of conservation and education.”

Iowa routinely ranks among the lowest in per capita state spending on conservation, environmental protection, and public lands available to its citizens. In 2010, Iowans voted overwhelmingly to change this situation by amending the Iowa Constitution to create a Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund, and to designate 3/8-cent of the next sales tax increase to fund the Trust. Although there is great public support to fund this program (routinely, about 70% of Iowans polled want this to happen), the Trust Fund sits empty due to legislative inaction. The Conservation Board, along with many groups, work to educate the public and legislators about the need for this investment.

To address the needs of Buchanan County residents and others, the Conservation Board has developed programs geared toward conservation practices on private and public lands, outdoor recreation, and education and outreach.



Private Lands Conservation - Landowner Assistance

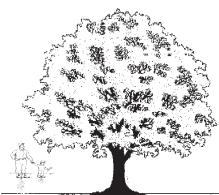
Although the Conservation Board manages 41 properties, these public lands account for **less than one percent of the landscape**. To a large degree, the fate of waters, wildlife, land, air, and wise use of natural resources is in the hands of private landowners, land managers, and other citizens. In Iowa, nearly all landowner/farm programs are voluntary. Therefore, conservation success relies heavily on educated and engaged citizens. The Conservation Board promotes a knowledgeable and conservation-minded citizenry through its education programs (see pages 10-13), and provides planting equipment and services for implementing conservation practices on private land.

During the year, Conservation Board staff and equipment were used to **plant more than 900 acres of prairie grasses and flowers for 38 private landowners**. The Conservation Board's tree planter was used to plant 3,100 trees. Conservation Staff continues to implement the Prairies to Schools/Prairies to Businesses Program, and advising schools, cities, and volunteer groups on ways to incorporate conservation plantings and energy considerations.

The Conservation Board understands the need to work at the **watershed level**, and the Director attended meetings and consulted with the Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed Management Authority (WMA). The WMAs are cooperative ventures among counties, cities, soil and water conservation districts, and other interested groups created to address flood risk and water quality. The Conservation Board Director also has worked on past watershed projects for the North and South Forks of the Maquoketa River, Cedar River, and Buffalo Creek. The Buffalo Creek Watershed project was found to keep the equivalent of **316 dump truck loads of eroded farm soil** out of the river, and Buffalo Creek was removed from the State's Impaired Waters List. Efforts in Lime Creek similarly have been successful, and Bear Creek is being monitored as an outstanding waterway.



Conservation Technician Chris Hansen uses a prairie seed drill on private land.



“Improving quality of life through programs of conservation and education.”

Public Lands Conservation - Natural Areas

Natural areas constitute most of the public land managed by the Conservation Board. On these areas, management practices are implemented to enhance wildlife habitat, maintain unique natural features, including healthy forests, prairies, wetlands, and waterways, and improve water quality. Many of these areas have maintained, mowed trails and burn breaks to facilitate hikers, hunters, anglers, and others pursuing enjoyment of natural landscapes. The recent COVID-19 Pandemic emphasized the public need for these places, as people flocked to natural areas for mental, physical, and recreational benefits. For more information about management of individual Conservation Board areas, see pages 17-26.

Staff visits all natural areas during the year for general maintenance needs and patrolling. Areas popular for deer hunting were posted with tree stand rules, and stands found remaining after the deadline for removal were confiscated. Boundary lines are checked and signed as needed. The Conservation Department strives to work well

with its neighbors, while at the same time keeping its commitment to managing natural areas for the purposes they were acquired, and for the benefit of all citizens.

The Wapsipinicon River Corridor is recognized statewide as one of Iowa's most important areas for wildlife habitat and public recreation, and is a Conservation Board priority for protection and enhancement.

Recent improvement to the water control structures at the Koutny Pond wetland allow staff to accomplish better management by manipulating the wetland's water levels, and a newly created adjacent Benton County wetland further benefits water quality and wildlife at Koutny Pond/Hoffman Woods.

About 500 trees, ranging from seedlings to 8-foot trees, were planted in parks by Conservation Staff and volunteers. These included plantings for past areas of timber stand improvement at Jakway Forest and Fontana Park, buffer plantings for the Bison and Prairie Learning Area, and replacements for trees lost in the Fontana Park windstorm, and to emerald ash borer at Fontana, Jakway, Boies Bend, and Buffalo Creek parks.

It was not a good year for prescribed burns in the many prairie areas managed by the Conservation Board. A cold, wet April, along with staff restraints and competing work, snuffed out the spring burn season. Staff used mechanical means and limited herbicide application to remove invading woody vegetation from some prairie areas, and accomplished a lot of shrub removal at Crumbacher Wildlife Area with the loan of a forestry mower.

Invasive species are of special concern throughout Iowa, as they supplant native species and greatly reduce habitat diversity. Some of

Female bluebird perches near a nest box at Ham Marsh. Staff and volunteers maintain and monitor more than a hundred bluebird and wood duck nest boxes on public lands. (photo by Dan Cohen)



"Improving quality of life through programs of conservation and education."

the more prevalent species in Buchanan County public lands include Reed's canary grass, garlic mustard, crown vetch, multiflora rose, Canada thistle, buckthorn, and woody plants in prairies. The Conservation Department works to eradicate or reduce these species, and to nurture establishment of native plants and wildlife. Pulling, spraying, burning, and mowing were regularly used in problem areas. Still, the invasive species problem is prevalent in almost all places, and the Conservation Department resorts to prioritizing the areas that can be addressed with limited staff and time. Some of the bigger invasive species problems are identified for individual Conservation Board areas on pages 17-26.

To address needs of nesting bluebirds, wood ducks, and bats, more than 100 nest boxes are maintained and monitored throughout conservation areas. Volunteers conduct most of the bluebird nest monitoring and maintenance.

Future Objectives – Private and Public Lands

- Continue timber stand improvement, with priorities at Jakway and Fontana Parks. Foster regrowth in the 2019 clearcut at Jakway Forest and establishment of the Roberts Wildlife Area 2020 savannah planting.
- Remove dead ash trees and replace as needed with new young trees.
- Acquire properties as per stated Conservation Board priority.
- Monitor fish populations at Koutny Pond, Fontana Park, and Grover Pond.
- Use the new water control structures at Koutny Pond to better manage marsh vegetation.
- Conduct prairie and timber burns as per a burn schedule. Use mechanical removal to rid prairie areas of woody plants.
- Continue to offer the Prairies to Schools/Prairies to Businesses Program.
- Facilitate nest box, monarch, frog and toad, bald eagle nesting, osprey, and other wildlife monitoring as part of education and volunteer programs.
- Continue to address invasive species problems, especially the following:
 - Crown vetch at the Hodges and North Wildlife Area;
 - Thistles and woody plants at the Crumbacher Area;
 - Garlic mustard at Jakway Forest, Putty Root, and Fontana Park;
 - Honeysuckle at Fontana Park and Wehner Woods;
 - Buckthorn at Jakway Forest and Newton Township Area.
 - Water milfoil and brittle naiad at Koutny Pond.
- Maintain a wildlife food plot at Crumbacher Wildlife Area.
- Maintain and monitor wood duck and bluebird nest boxes.
- Promote and conduct conservation plantings on private lands through equipment and staff planting services.
- Provide technical assistance to Watershed Management Authorities for the Wapsipinicon and Cedar Rivers.
- Offer periodic public programs on topics of private lands conservation.
- Work with Benton County Conservation Staff to manage additional wetlands and public access adjacent to Koutny Pond.
- Clean silt from the river connection at Cortright Wildlife Area.
- Maintain/replace wayfinding water trail, and park signs as needed.



A plume of smoke rises from a prairie management burn at Crumbacher Wildlife Area.



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Parks and Recreation

Of the Conservation Board's 41 managed areas, some are considered parks where a significant portion of the area contains picnic areas and shelters, campgrounds and cabins, nature center, displays, and other amenities.

The fact that parks and natural areas provide an essential public service was especially apparent this year, with a continued trend of record use since the Pandemic. Campgrounds, cabins, picnic areas, trails, and the nature center saw high numbers of people clamoring for outdoor recreation, dipping a bit from the peak of FY21, but still higher than in any other previous year.

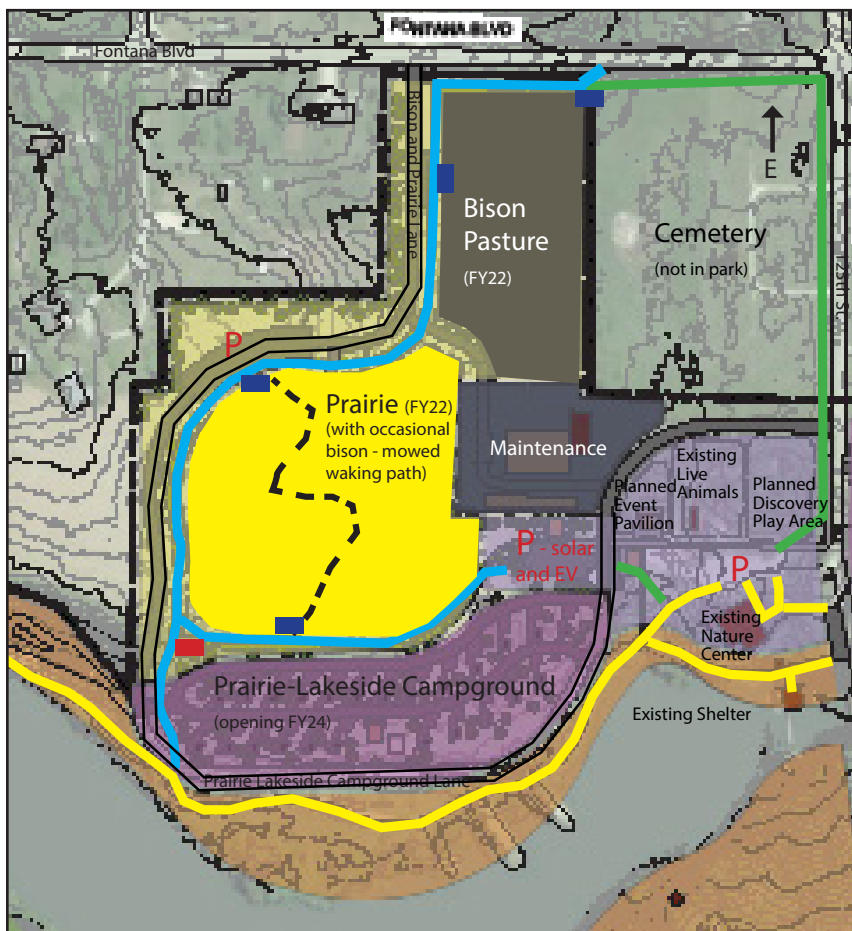
Fontana Park is the most visited county area. About 70 percent of county residents, and many non-county residents, visit the park each year. The Fontana Park Master Plan was a topic during every Conservation Board meeting as work was underway throughout the year on the Bison and Prairie Learning Area, trails, and access road. The Board also reviewed plans and fundraising efforts for the next phase in the Master Plan - development of a new Lakeside-Prairie Campground and paving of the new Bison and Prairie Learning Trail.

A lot of work on the aforementioned projects was accomplished (or nearly accomplished) during the year, including: Grading and constructing roads and trails, installing stormwater pipes and a

depression for a rain garden; installing a water line along the new road to serve the future campground, selecting contractors and sourcing materials (difficult with ongoing supply chain and contractor demand issues); constructing perimeter prairie and pasture fences and gates; installing a new corral system with loading and squeeze chutes; installing new waterers; installing materials and planting vegetation for erosion control; and designing and developing interpretive panels for four kiosks. Final work on these projects, as well as a new bison shade shelter and electric fencing are planned for completion early in the next fiscal year.

Master Plan work also included a lot of grant writing, fundraising, and partnerships. Chief among partners was the County Board of Supervisors,

Substantial Master Plan work was completed this year on the Bison and Prairie Learning Area (brown and yellow), trails (blue), and planning for a new Lakeside-Prairie Campground (purple).



Engineers, and Secondary Roads Department, which provided engineering, and road and trail work. Board of Supervisors participated on a Master Plan Committee. Although no tax asking was committed to projects, the Board of Supervisors designated a

significant portion of federal American Rescue Plan dollars toward the future Lakeside-Prairie Campground project. Funding for the Bison and Prairie Learning Area was provided by a special appropriation from the state's Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund made possible through work with Senator Craig Johnson, a Buchanan County Community Foundation grant; funding from the Orlan Snyder Trust; donations; and Conservation Reserve funds.

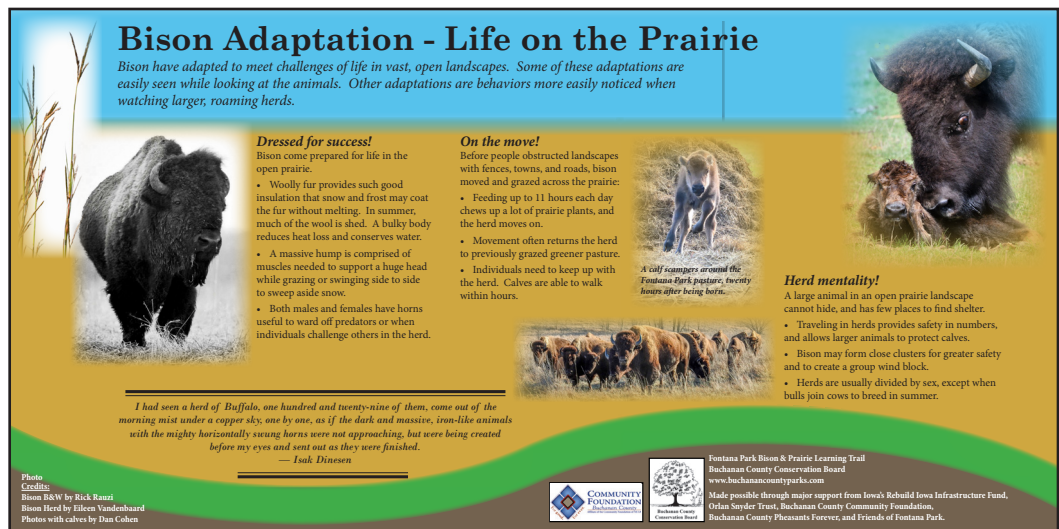
Also at Fontana Park, discussions were held about potential future lake restoration plans, with the possibility of a new funding source for lake impoundments.

Buchanan County Secondary Roads began its plan to rehabilitate the historic Taylor's Ford Bridge adjacent to the Conservation Board's Iron Bridge Access. Buchanan County Engineer Brian Keierleber, with support from the Board of Supervisors, secured grant funding from the Transportation Alternatives Program of the Iowa DOT. The Conservation Board Director worked with Keierleber on additional grant funding from the REAP Historic Resources Development Program and Water Trails Development program, and will be developing interpretive kiosks.

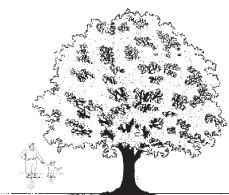
The Richardson-Jakway Historic Site received new kiosk panels for its interpretive trail loop. The barn roof was replaced with steel shingles. Both these projects were funded with assistance from the nonprofit group Friends of Fontana Park. Electric service and pedestals also were updated in the Jakway Forest Campground.

Future Park Development Objectives

- Transform the unfinished building at the Fontana Park East Entrance into a rental cabin.
- Continue fundraising for the Lakeside-Prairie Campground
- Work with Assistant County Engineer, staff and a Master Plan Committee to get preliminary plans and engineering for other aspects of the Master Plan, including nature discovery playground, observation deck, wetland trail, expanded shop, cabins, and more.



One of four educational panels designed for kiosks along the Bison & Prairie Learning Trail



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- Complete plans, solicit bids, and begin work to pave the Bison and Prairie Learning Trail and develop the Lakeside-Prairie Campground, to include full hookups, shower house, firewood crib, and playground.
- Provide new nature center displays, as per an updated exhibit plan.
- Consider possibility of a lake restoration project for the Fontana impoundment.
- Continue grooming ski trails at Fontana and Jakway Forest using volunteers.
- Continue to partner with Black Hawk County Conservation Board to provide improvements to the Cedar Valley Nature Trail segment in Buchanan County.
- Consider a trail to link the west side of Fontana Park to Hazleton.
- Evaluate use and potential for more cabins (Fontana Master Plan).
- Work to expand Fontana Park's boundaries to allow for additional facilities.
- Replace the roof on the Nature Center at Fontana Park.
- Work to expand and secure maintenance storage in the recently enlarged maintenance shop yard. Move the fueling station to shop yard.
- Consider water supply at Lime Creek should rural water service be offered.
- Remove the old hand pump at Lime Creek Area.
- Upgrade Lime Creek to 50-amp service.
- Add reservable campsites and shelter at Jakway Forest Campground.
- Bring better internet service to Fontana Park, and perhaps public wifi to campgrounds.
- Inspect and consider repairs and updates to existing playgrounds at Fontana, Jakway, and Lime Creek parks



www.buchanancountyparks.com is the Conservation Board's web site. Visitors to the site can access park information, upcoming programs and activities, volunteer and job opportunities, Conservation Board background information, a variety of downloadable publications and handouts, and more. People can also be involved by joining Fontana Park on Facebook!

www.mycountyparks.com contains information about Buchanan County's parks and programs, and also contains information about other county conservation programs throughout Iowa!



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Environmental Education

Environmental education (EE) provides information and experiences that allow people to make more informed personal choices regarding conservation practices, natural resources protection, and environmental health, and to gain appreciation for the natural world. Programs are offered and tracked to meet the following topic objectives:

- sensitivity and awareness;
- local flora, fauna, and physical features;
- ecological concepts;
- problem solving skills; and
- ethics/human effects.

The program goal is that no objective falls below 25 percent in total programs offered. During the year, this goal was met. There also is an objective to assure most programs are conducted largely outdoors. During the year, nearly sixty percent of programming was conducted outdoors.

Conservation Director Dan Cohen assists a young ice angler. Getting youth outdoors throughout the year is an important objective of the EE program.



Educational Programming

Programming numbers were up from the lows of the previous year, but still down from their historic highs of more than 20,000 participants several years ago. Still, 881 programs had a total attendance of nearly 17,263 people. See page 35 for statistics breakdown.

In addition to in-person presentations, many displays and other media were used to teach about nature and the environment. The Conservation Board maintained a strong presence via internet through www.buchanancountyparks.com, www.MyCountyParks.com, and tourism websites. A “Fontana Park” Facebook page, and an email listserve also were maintained. Staff are engaged with local, regional, and state tourism groups to help spread the word within and outside of county borders. New nature center displays were installed, storybook trails were maintained near a Nature Play Area and interpretive trails maintained. An Iowa DNR grant application was submitted by the Conservation Director on behalf of Buchanan County Secondary Roads to provide creek and watershed names on signs along select roads.

School Programs

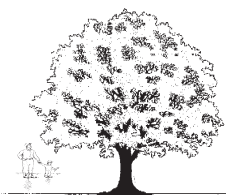
Conservation Board staff provided or facilitated more school programs compared to the previous Pandemic-affected year. This included 666 presentations to students from area schools throughout the year (pre-school through college), with 13,352 students in attendance. Both outdoor field trips and in-class programs were offered. Emphasis was placed on getting youth outdoors, and the majority of programs featured an outside component. Most field trips were to Fontana Park, although students also visited other county parks (indicated in park listings on pages 17-26). Naturalists communicated with teachers to make sure presentations met curriculum and Conservation Board objectives. Naturalists implemented a new School of the Wild Program, providing an intense series of field days, with students immersed in a different topic each day through out an entire week.

Youth and Camp Programs

One hundred and six presentations were made to youth groups, including scout, 4-H, library, and church groups, as well as youth enrolled in Conservation Board camps, with an attendance of 1,606 participants. Pandemic restrictions began to subside at the time camp programs picked up. Youth progressed from preschool participants in the Wee Nature Tales (ages 3-5), to the Nature Explorers (ages 6-8), and on to Young Naturalists (ages 9-12). The annual River Raiders overnight canoe trip was held (although cut short by severe thunderstorms). Plans were made to provide a Buchanan/Benton County youth trip to the Boundary Waters wilderness as a capstone adventure, but was cancelled due to lack of participants.



Students from Starmont Elementary are immersed in tree studies - one of the five topic days in the School of the Wild Program held in the fall.



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Participants rest on a sandbar and enjoy the river during the summer Wapsi Through the Seasons series.

Public Programs and Adult Education

Environmental education does not stop with youth. There were 109 programs offered during the year for families and adults. Of these, 45 programs were requested by civic groups, senior centers, and nursing homes once indoor restrictions were lifted. Topics for the 64 programs advertised to the general public are listed in the appendices. A series of “Animal Encounters” continued to be popular in the Fontana Wildlife Display. Other program series included Nature Kids (3-5 year-olds and their parents), an adult education series - Older, Wiser, Livelier Souls (OWLS), Yaks and Brews (kayaking followed by a social at a local brewery), and Wapsi through the Seasons (seasonal trips down the Wapsipinicon River). Public programs were advertised through newspapers, radios stations, postings, and through the Conservation Board’s Facebook, website, listserves, and links from other websites. Naturalists also worked to target market programs based on peoples’ known interests. The Conservation Board promoted and provided space for the Fontana Herb Society.

Interpretive Resources

In addition to in-person programs, educational efforts include publications, self-guided trails, displays, web sites, and other media. Since its

inception, the Nature Center has drawn visitors from all 50 states and more than 80 foreign countries, and along with the wildlife display, continue to be very popular. These displays require a lot of upkeep and enhancement, and receive financial support from the nonprofit group Friends of Fontana Park. Since the Pandemic, nature center visitors have been counted as they entered the nature center, compared to previous years when counts only came from signatures in a guest book. The combination of better counting and increased use indicated a record high visitor count of 12,744 for the year.

Interpretive signs exist on self-guided trails in Jakway Forest and Fontana Park woodlands, and a few outlying areas. An outdoor kiosk display was changed with the seasons at Fontana Park. Display panel topics include a pioneer homestead messages (Jakway), sustainable cabins (Fontana), fens (Rowley Fen and Fairbank Fen), Wapsipinicon River Corridor (Grover Timber), and Wapsipinicon River Water Trail (Quasqueton and Independence). New kiosks are ready to be installed along the Bison & Prairie Learning Trail, and plant identification signs are planned along the interior prairie trail. Other interpretive resources included four issues of the Otter Creek Quarterly, web sites (buchanancountyparks.com, mycountyparks.com, Iowa tourism, and www.tripadvisor.com), and a Facebook page and conservation listserve. Facebook Live were used to provide additional outreach for some programs.



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Future Objectives for Environmental Education (EE)

- Disseminate program information and provide annual teacher in-service.
- Increase participation in outdoor recreation and service learning for older youth.
- Continue meeting program objectives for content and outdoor exposure.
- Increase engagement with youth and adult groups in special projects such as cleanups, water testing, invasive species removal, etc.
- Increase environmental issues instruction, with an objective of one grade 6-12 level participating at each county school annually and adult programming on water quality, watersheds, and other issues.
- Coordinate and promote field trips to the Richardson-Jakway Historic Site, with the objective of participation of at least one 4-8 grade level from each school district.
- Promote “nature play” areas, and model their use during field trips.
- Host at least one educator training annually.
- Make reference materials and activity guides available to teachers, and advertise this availability.
- Conduct at least one conservation practices program annually targeting an audience of private landowners and land managers.
- Offer at least 40 programs per year for general public participants.
- Offer summer educational/recreational programs for pre-school and school age children.
- Market and present programs to local civic groups.
- Conduct Outdoor Adventures-type programming for 7-12 graders.
- Offer a minimum of six public programs annually that bring people of all ages to outlying county natural areas - with an objective of more than ten participants.
- Participate in the Extern Program or other volunteer programs to enhance EE programming capacity.
- Better promote/market Conservation Board sponsored programs through media, postings, and contact with various groups.
- Offer series of adult-oriented programs on conservation topics, such as those presented as Master Conservationist and Master River Stewards Program, at least biannually.
- Publish the Otter Creek Quarterly
- Make substantial changes in nature center displays at least annually, as per the Exhibit Plan (new displays, traveling displays, on-loan exhibits).
- Develop displays/information/programming at Fontana Park to interpret the Otter Creek Watershed.
- Complete kiosks for the bison and prairie learning area, and a kiosk on the topic of “serving community” in the campground.
- Develop plant species signs to be placed in the new prairie trail.
- Use the intern program to, at a minimum, produce a quality, written, original educational activity for inclusion as a BCCB resource, and a substantial, new educational exhibit.
- Make quarterly updates to the outdoor kiosk near the playground at Fontana Park. Consider placement of a second kiosk.
- Educate people about Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program and the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund.
- Maintain strong Conservation Board web site and social media presence. Use this media to interact with school groups, the public, and other users.
- Continue developing databases to target-market programs and events.
- Maintain self-guided trail signs at Fontana and Jakway.



Conservation Volunteers

(Volunteers are listed in Appendix D)

Volunteers are an important part of Conservation Board programs and activities, providing both physical assistance and visible public support. Since its opening in 1994, volunteers have been instrumental to nature center operations, providing 14,281 hours of service. At the current minimum hourly wage of \$7.25, the total dollar value of this service is \$103,537. This year, 14 nature center receptionists contributed 714 hours!

Numbers of volunteers have not fully rebounded since the Pandemic, and it seems that the trend is generally downward.

Research indicates that providing recognition events is a key

strategy for volunteer retention. The County, due to input from its audit firm and direction from the State Auditor's Office, now restricts/narrows spending for these efforts, further affecting the Volunteer Program. The County now requires full fingerprint background checks for any new campground host, education program volunteer, or nature center receptionist.

There are 18 areas in which people may volunteer. During the year, these people monitored nest boxes, developed and maintained herb and landscape plantings, conducted cleanups, served as campground hosts, helped with educational programs, fundraised with Friends of Fontana Park, picked up litter, and more. The August windstorm provided more opportunities for volunteers, who helped clean up storm debris and plant replacement trees.



Volunteers from Prairie Lakes Church spent a day clearing storm damage debris after the August 22 windstorm.

Future Volunteer Program Objectives

- Better distribute the Volunteers brochure.
- Host a Volunteer Recognition event.
- Recruit more nature center receptionists and campground hosts.
- Better communicate the volunteer program in media.
- Partner with volunteer recruitment groups.
- Continue using volunteers as much as possible in the 18 areas of need.

Board and Staff Development

Conservation Board Background

County conservation boards are agencies of county government created by statute (Chapter 350.1 of the Code of Iowa). They have broad policy-making responsibilities in the area of local conservation, education, and recreation programs. Conservation boards are relatively autonomous, and control all properties and set the direction for conservation programs. Conservation boards address diverse matters for parks, preserves, museums, recreation, wildlife management, and education. The Conservation Board consists of five county residents, appointed to staggered five-year terms by the Board of Supervisors. Conservation Board members are appointed on the basis of their demonstrated interest in conservation matters and serve without pay.



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The Conservation Board functions as a corporate body, making group policy decisions that then are implemented by the Executive Director, who is responsible to the Board. Other staff are hired by the Executive Director with Board budget approval, and are directly responsible to the Executive Director. Conservation Board members, with the expiration dates of their terms, are listed to the right.

The Conservation Board began the year with meetings available for attendance by Board Members and the public via ZOOM, but as the Pandemic subsided, all meetings were held in-person. The Board spent a lot of time receiving updates and approving plans for ongoing and future elements of the Fontana Park Master Plan.



Conservation Board Term Expirations

- Loren Hamilton, 12/31/22
- Andy Crump, 12/31/23
- Ronnie Wolfe, 12/31/24
- Mary Jean Blaisdell, 12/31/25
- Maud Bentley, 12/31/26

Conservation Board members are strongly encouraged to further their education by attending the annual Iowa County Conservation System Conference.

From left: Board members Loren Hamilton, Mary Jean Blaisdell, and Andy Crump, with Director Dan Cohen view Story County Conservation areas in September.

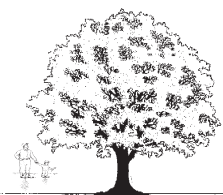
Staff Development

Conservation Department staff are encouraged to further their professional development. Park rangers and technicians kept current on pesticide applicator licenses, and park rangers attended law enforcement trainings. Field staff also attended an annual training with Mine Safety Health Administration (MSHA) and other topics. Most staff attended the Iowa Association of County Conservation Board Employees annual training. Naturalists attended workshops and training provided by the Iowa Association of Naturalists (IAN), and naturalist Michael Maas served on the IAN Executive Committee. The Director attended meetings and training provided by the Iowa County Conservation System (ICCS), Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC), and County Conservation Directors Association (CCDA). He also serves on the Buchanan County Safety, Department Heads, and Tourism committees. The Director represented the CCDA on the ISAC Legislative and Awards Committees, and Bird Friendly Iowa. Other County-mandated and topic-specific trainings were held throughout the year.

Regular staff remained constant throughout the year, with the exception of the part-time office manager position, which was unfilled for several months, and a lack of some internships. These absences, along with continuing record demand in campgrounds, nature center, and other park areas, presented challenges during year.



*Some staff pose for a photo on one of the Fontana Park fishing jetties. See next page for staff names and positions.
(photo by Danyce Zegarac-Jasper)*



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Dan Cohen, Executive Director



Mike Van Raden, Park Ranger



Jeremy Whittle, Park Ranger



Sondra Cabell, Interpretive Naturalist



Michael Maas, Interpretive Naturalist



Chris Hansen, Conservation Tech.



James Mount, Conservation Tech.



Diane Johnson, Secretary

Staff Roster

Full time Staff

Dan Cohen, Director.....	1/13/86
Mike Van Raden, Park Ranger.....	7/1/90
Jeremy Whittle, Park Ranger.....	8/14/06
Chris Hansen, Conservation Technician.....	5/15/00
James Mount, Conservation Tech.....	9/16/19
Michael Maas, Conservation Technician (11/9/15); Naturalist.....	8/7/17
Sondra Cabell, Naturalist.....	5/30/01

Part time and Seasonal Staff

Dana Starr, Office Manager.....	1/18/21 - 12/25/21
Dawn Vogel, Office Manager.....	2/28/22
Diane Johnson, Secretary/Volunteer Coordinator.....	10/10/12
Jacob Schwarting, Seasonal Conservation Tech 4/16/18 - 8/11/18; 4/15/19 - 8/24/19; 5/4/20 - 9/26/20; 4/1/21 - 12/4/21; 3/31/22	
Gus Joyce, Seasonal Conservation Tech.....	5/16/22
HannaRose Iliff, Seasonal Naturalist Intern.....	6/13/22
* Volunteer Externship volunteers assisted naturalists in 2021 and 2022.	



Dana Starr, Office Manager
(through December)



Dawn Vogel, Office Manager

Future objectives

- Plan for phased implementation of the Fontana Park Master Plan.
- Conduct an annual Board Field Day with all Board Members.
- A majority of Board Members attend the annual ICCS Conference
- Conduct an update of the Conservation Board Long-term Plan.
- Assist in planning statewide and regional training workshops.
- Maintain a minimum of 24 hours of professional development for full-time staff, and 20 hours for board members.
- Hire a Deputy Director, and work to retain quality and dedicated board and staff.
- Work with Board of Supervisors to make expenditures and revenues more sustainable.

Areas and Facilities

The following are descriptions of Conservation Board areas and facilities, and highlighted activities during the past year. Not described are routine maintenance activities such as mowing, maintaining roads and fences, janitorial, patrolling, administration, and public relations.

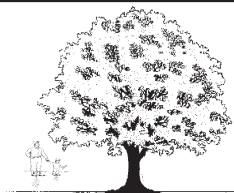
Conservation Board Areas (key)

A – Location; C – Current management
B – Acquisition D – Activities during the year

1. Fontana Park - 144 acres

- A. Fontana Park is located one mile south of Hazleton, off Highway 150.
- B. The original 128 acres were acquired in 1959, and since that time Fontana has been the base of operations and location of administrative offices for the Conservation Board. Six acres were added in 1998 with the donation of the Jarrett-Slater addition. Four acres were added at the East Entrance in 2016, purchased from Rick See using reserve and donor dollars. In 2020, 16 acres were added to the northeast corner of the park, purchased from the Lohman Estate using donor dollars.
- C. Fontana Park offers modern and primitive camping, two cabins, a shower house, a live animal display, 40-acre lake (reservoir) and Otter Creek, woodland, prairie plots, three picnic shelters, chapel area, interpretive and ski trails, hard surface and soft trails, stream and lake fishing, educational plantings, and a nature center. Management practices relate to visitor use, park and recreation area development, live wildlife and other outdoor exhibits, educational and recreational programming, and natural areas management. A bison and prairie learning area with new fences and corral were installed in 2022. Conservation Board offices and most maintenance and equipment storage are at Fontana Park. Fontana Park is the most visited of Conservation Board-managed properties, and the place that introduces citizens to Conservation Board facilities and programs. It is the main destination for educational field trips and public programs.
- D. A new Iponics display (converting fish waste to plant nutrients) was installed in the nature center, and work is underway on an Endangered and Extirpated Species display and methods to interpret the Otter Creek Watershed. The Board delayed renovation of a new cabin after bids came back too high. A new Bison and Prairie Learning Area was largely completed, with a new entrance road off Fontana Blvd., granular-surfaced trail, prairie planting, and bison pasture and corral. Fencing, signs, and interpretive kiosks installation work are ongoing. A water line was installed along the new road to serve a new campground planned for the near future. The pedestrian bridge in the woodland was removed, with plans to replace it with a rock berm trail. A severe windstorm leveled many trees and damaged some structures in August. Tree debris and hanging branches were removed, requiring many staff, equipment, and volunteer hours. In addition to windstorm debris, lots of ash trees were removed due to emerald ash borer infestation. Replacement trees were planted in spring. The park ranger residence roof was replaced and repairs were made to some of the wildlife enclosures. The Conservation Board worked with

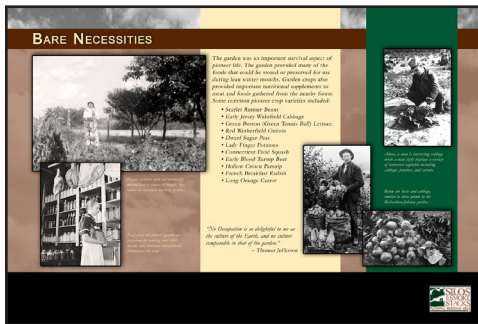
A trail was developed along new bison and pasture enclosures, with educational kiosks soon to be installed.



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Conservation Technician Chris Hansen and Park Ranger Jeremy Whittle work on debris removal following a devastating August windstorm.



Six interpretive kiosks at the Richardson-Jakway Historic Site guide visitors to a better understanding of pioneer settlement and 1880s American western movement. The nearly 20 year-old signs were replaced this year.



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the County Attorney to compel a roofing materials manufacturer to replace shingles on the nature center roof. The 80-foot-span wooden trail bridge was taken down and replaced with a berm surfaced for pedestrian use. Areas were selected for a Multi-Species Inventory and Monitoring project, surveying a variety of wildlife species throughout the 2022 spring and summer months.

2. Jakway Forest - 315 acres

- A. Located 1 1/2 miles south of Aurora off W45.
- B. Acquired in 1968, 1970, 1971, and 1973 with Land and Water Conservation Act Grant Funds.
- C. Managed for modern and primitive camping, picnicking, public hunting, interpretive trails, equestrian riding, hiking, ski trails, disc golf, and a historic site. Ongoing Timber Stand Improvement (TSI): 100-year rotation on approximately 200 acres of timber. Contains a shower house with modern restrooms, a storm shelter, dump station, disc golf course, two pit toilets, wildlife observation blind, picnic shelter, staff residence, heritage plantings, and the Richardson-Jakway Historic Site.
- D. Electrical service, outlets and pedestals were upgraded in the campground. All interpretive panels were replaced in the historic site, with funds provided by Friends of Fontana Park. Ash trees infected by emerald ash borers were removed and new trees were planted. Buckthorn, garlic mustard, and multiflora rose remain the main invasive species concern in the timber, and efforts were made to control these species. Environmental education programs were held. Nest boxes were maintained.

3. Buffalo Creek Area - 85 acres

- A. Located one mile East of Winthrop off HWY D22.
- B. Acquired in 1961. In 1998, 1.5 acres on the east side were donated by Dr. A.J. Murphy.
- C. Managed for picnicking, hiking, and public hunting. Natural areas include a bottomland woodland, ponds, and constructed prairie. Contains a pit toilet and shelter house. A walking trail is maintained around the park area and to a pond.
- D. Emerald ash borer struck the area hard, and some dying and dead trees were removed. Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) is conducting research in ash borer control with release of live parasitoids in the park. Environmental education programs were held. A fee for camping was initiated. Nest boxes were monitored.

4. Lime Creek Area - 45 acres

- A. Located 1.5 miles northeast of Brandon.
- B. 39 acres were acquired in 1964. A six-acre addition was donated by Lime Creek Fish & Game Club in 1985.
- C. Managed for modern and primitive camping, and for public hunting during fall and winter. Natural area is managed as a riverine woodland. Contains two pit toilets, a playground, swing-set, and two shelter houses.
- D. A campground electric pedestal was replaced and upgraded to 50-amp service. Mussel sampling continues in the creek, conducted by students from Iowa State University. Normal maintenance and patrolling. Nest boxes were maintained.

5. Boies Bend Area - 26 acres

- A. Located 1.5 miles west of Quasqueton.
- B. Acquired in 1967.
- C. Managed for primitive camping, picnicking, river fishing with stairway access, restored prairie, woodland, and public hunting. Contains a pit toilet.
- D. A fee for camping was initiated. Environmental education programs were held.

Park and Recreation Area**Buchanan County Conservation Board Rules and Regulations**

Below are some key rules and regulations pertaining to use of this Conservation Board-managed property
 A more complete listing of Conservation Board rules is available for download at www.buchanancountyparks.com

I. SCOPE: By the authority granted to the Buchanan County Conservation Board (Board) by Iowa Code Section 350.5, the following rules and regulations are deemed to be necessary for the protection, regulation and control of areas under the jurisdiction or management of the BCCB. In addition to the rules and regulations adopted by the Board, all state laws apply to conduct in county areas. Iowa Code Chapters 321G, 321I, 455A, 456A, 461A, 462A, 481A, and 483A as well as Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 571 apply to all lands and waters under the control of the BCCB, in the same manner as if the lands and waters were state parks, lands, or waters. As used in these chapters and sections, "natural resource commission" includes the county conservation board, and "director" includes the county conservation board or its director, with respect to lands or waters under the control of the county conservation board. However, these chapters and sections may be modified or superseded by rules adopted as provided in Iowa Code Section 350.10 and other applicable statutes. More specifically, Iowa Code Sections 461A.35 through 461A.57, 455A.14, 481A.6 as well as Iowa Administrative Code Chapter's 571-51 and 571-61 apply to all lands, waters, parks and recreation areas under the control of the Board unless modified or superseded by the Board. Other chapters of the Code of Iowa concerning alcoholic beverages and destruction of public property also apply to all lands, waters, parks and recreation areas under the control of the Board. The following are some especially common rules and regulations for Park and Recreation Areas. For questions regarding a rule or regulation, contact the Conservation Board Office at 1883 125th St., Hazleton, IA 50644; 319-636-2617.

A summary of rules and regulations are posted at each Conservation Board area. Complete rules and regulation ordinances are available for download at www.buchanancountyparks.com. Shown above is the heading for Park and Recreation Areas posters.

6. Otter Creek Roadside Park – 13 acres

- A. One mile south of Oelwein at the intersection of Highways 150 and 281.
- B. Acquired as former FEMA buyout property in 2002 from the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors.
- C. Managed as a roadside park with walking and ski trails, picnicking, fishing, canoe access, and a savanna planting.
- D. Plugging of the overflow tube for the pond by beaver or general debris is a continuing maintenance issue. Otherwise, the area received normal maintenance and patrolling.

7. Cutshall Area - 67 acres

- A. Located 4.5 miles north of Jesup off V62.
- B. Acquired in 1959.
- C. Managed for picnicking, public hunting and fishing, and Water Trail access. Natural area is managed as riverine wetland and timber. Trail is maintained for a Water Trail put-in, and along the river.
- D. Normal maintenance and patrolling. Nest boxes were monitored.

8. Patton Prairie - 45 acres

- A. Located southwest of Aurora off Quonset Ave.
- B. Acquired in 1998 with REAP Grant Funds
- C. Managed as a native prairie and wetland with public hunting.
- D. An entomologist surveyed the area for insects.

9. Otter Creek Wildlife Area - 99 acres

- A. Located on west edge of Hazleton, adjacent to Fontana Park.
- B. Acquired 1965, 1969, 1973, and 1983 with some parcels receiving Land and Water Conservation Fund Funding (LWCF) and one parcel donated. In 2014, 0.137 acres were impacted during construction of a new bridge. In return, 0.161 acres was purchased by Secondary Roads to become part of the Otter Creek Wildlife Area.
- C. Managed as a nature preserve and wetland habitat with public fishing at the pier.
- D. Normal maintenance and patrolling. Areas were selected for a 2022 Multi-Species Inventory and Monitoring project, surveying a variety of wildlife. Nest boxes were maintained

10. Nibeck Nature Preserve - 33 acres

- A. Located adjacent to the north city limits of Hazleton.
- B. Twenty acres were acquired in 1981, bequeathed by Leora Nibeck. An additional 7.5 acres were purchased from Chad Dettbarn in 2013.
- C. Managed as a nature preserve.
- D. Normal maintenance and patrolling. An education programs was held.



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11. Van Laningham Wildlife Area - 3 acres

- A. Located 4.5 miles east and 4.5 miles north of Independence.
- B. Acquired by gift from Thurman and Veva Van Laningham in 1967.
- C. Managed for wildlife habitat.
- D. Normal maintenance and patrolling.

12. Sand Creek Area - 80 acres

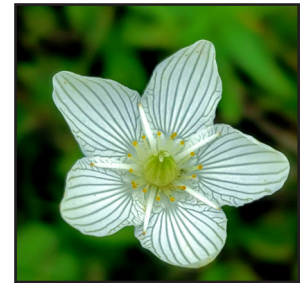
- A. Located three miles east and three miles south of Quasqueton.
- B. Acquired in 1971.
- C. Managed for public hunting and fishing on the Wapsipinicon River. A trail is maintained from the parking area to the river.
- D. Normal maintenance and patrolling. Nest boxes were maintained.

13. Pine Creek Area - 40 acres

- A. Located five miles southeast of Independence.
- B. Acquired in 1971.
- C. Managed for public hunting, fishing, and native hard maple woodland.
- D. Normal maintenance and patrolling. Nest boxes were maintained.

14. Rowley Fen - 43 acres

- A. Located 0.5 mile northwest of Rowley.
- B. Acquired in 1984.
- C. Managed for unique fen habitat, restored prairie, and public hunting. The area was designated an Iowa Registered Natural Area in 1986.
- D. Nest boxes were monitored. Environmental education programs were held.



Grass-of-Parnassus is one of the rare fen indicator plants found at Rowley Fen.

15. Koutny Pond-Hoffman Woods - 106 acres

- A. Located one mile east of Brandon.
- B. Acquired in 1985.
- C. Managed for wildlife habitat, public hunting, and fishing. Includes a 12-acre lake with two fishing jetties, 23-acre wetland, toilet, boat access, and prairie plantings. In 2017, US Fish & Wildlife Service helped fund replacement of water control structures for the lake and wetland to the east. An adjoining wetland owned by Benton County was constructed in 2020.
- D. The entrances were re-signed to inform the public of the new wetlands, as well as existing amenities. Nest boxes were monitored. Environmental education programs were held.



16. Mickey Fox Area - 118 acres

- A. Located five miles north of Jesup off V62.
- B. Sixty acres acquired in 1960. In 2003, an additional 37.10 acres were acquired from the Melvin and Lila Anderson Estate with funding from REAP. In January, 2013, an additional 21 acres was purchased from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation which had previously purchased the land from the Johnson Estate to hold while grants were being written. Funding came largely from REAP, Buchanan County Pheasants Forever, and Buchanan County Wildlife Association.
- C. Managed for public hunting, fishing, and wildlife habitat.
- D. Normal maintenance and patrolling. Nest boxes were maintained.



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17. Putty Root Preserve - 17 acres

- A. Located three miles northwest of Quasqueton.
- B. Original five acres acquired in 1962. Ten acres acquired 1992 from Delbert Crow and two acres acquired from Betty Payne in 1996.
- C. Managed as an old growth oak-hickory woodland preserve. The putty root orchid, for which the parcel is named, grows here.
- D. Efforts were made to control garlic mustard. Normal maintenance and patrolling.

18. Crumbacher Wildlife Area - 368 acres

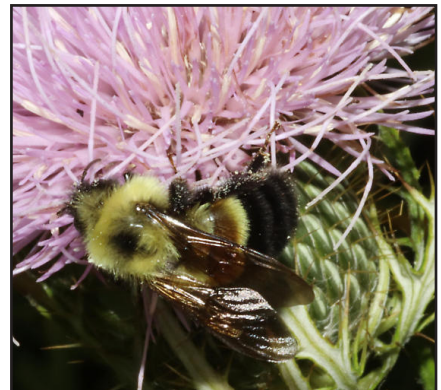
- A. Located 3.5 miles southwest of Independence.
- B. Acquired in 1989. The first 320 acres were acquired with Habitat Stamp Grant funds. Fifty-one acres were acquired with funds from Buchanan County Pheasants Forever, German Shorthair Club, and Buchanan County Wildlife Association.
- C. Managed for forest, prairie, and wetland habitat, and public hunting.
- D. Brush and invasive species control are ongoing, labor-intensive tasks in native and reconstructed prairies. Mechanical shrub removal was assisted with use of a forestry mower provided by Hawkeye Community College. Beaver dams along Lime Creek were removed, and a trapper attempted to remove the beavers, in efforts to reduce water backed up on neighboring land. A Multi-Species Inventory and Monitoring project was completed through a joint project of Iowa State University and Iowa DNR. Environmental education programs were held. Nest boxes were monitored.

19. Bearbower Sand Prairie - 40 acres

- A. Located two miles west of Highway 150, off Buchanan-Benton Road.
- B. Acquired in 1988 with public/private cost share grant funds by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (many donors were involved) and then transferred to the Iowa DNR. The Conservation Board assumed a management agreement with Iowa DNR in 1995.
- C. Managed for preservation and enhancement of the unique sand prairie, public hunting, and nature appreciation. Fragile prickly pear and ornate box turtles are among the species drawing attention from researchers.
- D. Nest boxes were monitored. Local herpetologists have been monitoring the box turtle population.

20. Blazing Star Prairie - 7.5 acres

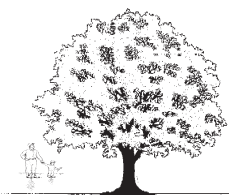
- A. Located two miles east and 1 1/4 miles south of Rowley.
- B. Acquired in 1987 by cooperative efforts of the Conservation Board, Buchanan County Chapter of Pheasants Forever, Buchanan County Wildlife Association, and the Cedar-Wapsi Chapter of the Lutheran Brotherhood.
- C. Managed as native prairie habitat with public hunting.
- D. Normal maintenance and patrolling.



A federally endangered rusty-patched bumblebee was photographed at Blazing-star Prairie (MJ Hatfield).

21. Swartz Preserve - 4 acres

- A. Located 5.5 miles east of Hazleton at the junction of C57 and W33.
- B. Acquired in 1991 by conservation easement from Mr. & Mrs. Ormel Swartz.
- C. Managed for wetland habitat and as a wildlife preserve.
- D. Normal maintenance and patrolling.



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22. Bryantsburg Prairie Preserve - 1.5 acres

- A. Located two miles south of Hazleton on Highway 150.
- B. Acquired in 1988 by conservation easement from Mr. & Mrs. Henry Brandt.
- C. Managed as a native prairie preserve.
- D. Woody plant encroachment is an ongoing threat to the wetland prairie plants. The area was used for monarch tagging and releases, and for several school field trips and public programs.



Cream gentians bloom in the native prairie-wetland at Bryantsburg Prairie.

23. Schneider-Heinick-Rowe Wildlife Area - 20 acres

- A. Located three miles east and 3.5 miles south of Quasqueton.
- B. Acquired in 1996 by Buchanan County Pheasants Forever, Tri-Rivers Chapter of Whitetails Unlimited, Lime Creek Fish & Game Club, Littleton Hookanliners Club, and the Buchanan County Wildlife Association.
- C. Managed for woodland and wetland wildlife habitat. Some rare plants are found on the site.
- D. The area was monitored for garlic mustard removal. Normal maintenance and patrolling. Nest boxes were monitored.

24. Three Elms Area - 75 acres

- A. Located one mile southeast of Independence.
- B. Acquired in 1964.
- C. Managed for wildlife habitat, river access, fishing, hiking, and mountain biking. Contains a boat ramp built with Marine Boat Fuel Tax Grant funds, handicap fishing, picnic shelter, prairie plot, and toilet.
- D. Lots of dying or dead ash and elm trees were removed. The area receives high use, and regular litter pick up is necessary. The archery and trails clubs discontinued volunteer maintenance of the trails and area around shelter, requiring increase maintenance by staff. Environmental education programs were held. Nest boxes were monitored.

25. Frogville Access - 135 acres

- A. Located three miles northwest of Troy Mills.
- B. Original 96 acres acquired in 1978 with LWCF Funds. An additional 20 acres were acquired with Wildlife Habitat Stamp Grant funds in 1997.
- C. Managed for public hunting and fishing.
- D. Normal maintenance and patrolling.

26. Troy Mills Access - 63 acres

- A. Located three miles east and 4.5 miles south of Quasqueton.
- B. 23 acres acquired in 1969. 40 acres acquired in 1981 with Wildlife Habitat Stamp Grant funds.
- C. Managed for forest, fishing, hunting, and Wapsipinicon River access. The Iowa DNR owns 11.5 acres under a long term management agreement with the Conservation Board. Camping is allowed. Contains a boat ramp.
- D. Nest boxes were monitored. Normal maintenance and patrolling.



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27. Wapsi River Access - 51 acres

- A. Located 0.5 miles northwest of Independence.
- B. Acquired in 1963 and 1964.
- C. Managed for picnicking, fishing, river access, and hunting. Contains a pit toilet and picnic shelter.
- D. Snowmobilers used the area in winter to access the Wapsi. Ruts from off-road drivers were fixed. Nest boxes were monitored. Educational paddling programs were held.

28. Iron Bridge Woodland and River Access - 34 acres

- A. Located 4.5 miles northwest of Quasqueton.
- B. Access acquired in 1996 from Buchanan County Secondary Roads, which manages the bridge. An additional 33 acres were acquired in 2012 from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation which had previously purchased the land from the Laverne Kress Estate. Major funding came from grants from the Wildlife Habitat Stamp Program, Buchanan County Pheasants Forever, Buchanan County Wildlife Association, Buchanan County Tri-Rivers Waterfowlers, National Wild Turkey Federation, and Iowa Whitetails Unlimited.
- C. Managed for nature appreciation with public hunting, fishing, and river access, and as a historic site. Contains a boat launch originally constructed with a Waters Access Grant and a circa 1872 Bowstring Arch Bridge. Major improvements were made last year (FY20), including paved trails and parking, new ramps, street lighting, and restroom.
- D. Normal maintenance and patrolling. The area receives a lot of use. The area was a put-in and take-out access for river paddling trips held as part of the Conservation Board Education Program.

29. Newton Township Natural Area - 158 acres

- A. Located nine miles southeast of Quasqueton.
- B. Acquired with REAP Grant Funds in 1998.
- C. Managed as a riverine woodland with public hunting, fishing, and canoe access to Buffalo Creek.
- D. Normal maintenance and patrol.

30. Hodges and North Wildlife Area – 67 acres

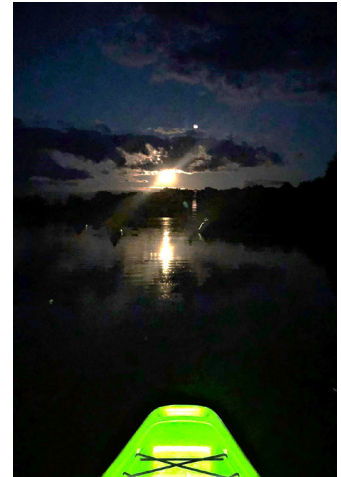
- A. Located one mile south of the Jesup Highway Interchange, off V65.
- B. Acquired in 2001 by a donation of Basic Materials Co. Inc., Waterloo.
- C. Managed as restored prairie and wetland, with public hunting and fishing.
- D. Trees and brush were cleared and fence maintained along west property line. Nest boxes were monitored. Normal maintenance and patrol.

31. Buffalo Creek Wildlife Area - 54 acres

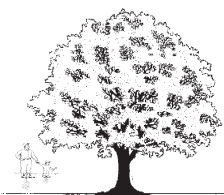
- A. Located six miles south of Winthrop off W45.
- B. Acquired in 1969.
- C. Managed for riverine woodland habitat, public hunting, and stream fishing. The road to the Wildlife Area is managed by Secondary Roads with limited maintenance.
- D. Normal maintenance and patrol.

32. Hoover Area - 20 acres

- A. Located three miles east and 3.5 miles south of Quasqueton.
- B. Acquired in 1962.
- C. Managed for wildlife habitat and public hunting.
- D. Normal maintenance and patrol.



Public Moonlight Paddling programs were held at the Wapsi River Access.



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33. Fairbank Fen – 40 acres

- A. Located two miles east of Fairbank, a half-mile off Highway 281.
- B. Acquired by the Conservation Board in August, 2002, with funding from Buchanan County and State Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, Fairbank Gun Club, Buchanan County Wildlife Association, INHF and Kirkwood Wetland Students, and Hookanliners Club.
- C. Managed as a prairie and wetland fen, with picnicking and public hunting.
- D. Litter is an ongoing problem, especially spent shells from target shooting. Normal maintenance and patrol. Environmental education programs were held. Management burns were conducted.

34. Anderson Addition to Cutshall Park – 24 acres

- A. Located four miles north of Jesup, off Highway V62.
- B. Purchased along with the Addition to the Mickey Fox Area on November 21, 2003 from the Lila Anderson Estate, with a REAP Grant. A donation from Buchanan County Pheasants Forever paid for a 6.5-acre prairie reconstruction.
- C. Managed as river bottom timber, riverine wetlands, and restored prairie upland, with public hunting.
- D. Nest boxes were maintained and monitored.

35. Ham Marsh – 54 acres

- A. Located four miles northwest of Independence, off Indiana Avenue.
- B. Purchased in 2006 from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation which had served as an intermediary in a bargain sale from the John and Maxine Ham Family. Ten acres had been protected in 1985 with a life estate agreement. These ten acres were donated to the Conservation Board, and 45 acres purchased, to secure the property.
- C. Managed as a glacial wetland marsh, sedge meadow, and restored prairie, with public hunting. A small area of hay ground is maintained for wildlife habitat and hay production for Conservation Board use.
- D. Hay ground was mowed and baled for feeding bison at Fontana Park. Nest boxes were maintained and monitored. Environmental education programs were held.



A sandhill crane struts at Ham Marsh. (photo by Dan Cohen)

36. Cortright Wildlife Area - 190 Acres

- A. Located one mile southeast of Littleton, off River Road.
- B. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) purchased 152 acres from Kevan Cortright, which the Conservation Board repurchased from INHF in 2008, with grants from the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA), REAP, Wildlife Habitat Stamp Fund, Iowa Pheasants Forever Build A Wildlife Area (BAWA) program, Iowa Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Buchanan County Wildlife Association, Buchanan County Pheasants Forever, and the Kirkwood Wetland Students. The 34-acre Hookanliner Addition was acquired from the Hookanliner Sportsmen in 2010. A REAP grant, and Buchanan County Pheasants Forever and Buchanan County Wildlife Association, funded the acquisition. Four acres adjacent to the southeast corner were purchase from James and Kathy Brown in 2010. Fish Habitat Grant funds paid for a river reconnection project, completed at the southeast ponds in 2010.
- C. Managed as forest and forested wetlands, with a mile of Wapsipinicon Riverfront; restored timber and prairie areas; ponds; and for public hunting, fishing, picnicking, hiking, and nature appreciation.
- D. Environmental education programs were held. Nest boxes were monitored.



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37. Robert “Chic” McGlaughlin Easement Area – 6 acres

- A. Located at the Littleton Dam, off Highway D16.
- B. The Iowa DNR purchased a public use easement from the Robert and Betty McGlaughlin Family. The land was sold to the Coventry family, with the easement attached. The easement covers a stretch of land along the Wapsipinicon River and the east half of the Littleton Dam. The Conservation Board signed a Management Agreement with the DNR in February, 2009 to manage and maintain the land, not including the dam. The DNR controls management of the former dam site, and in 2019 transformed the old dam into a series of arch rapids.
- C. Managed for public river access, fishing, and portage around the dam.
- D. The area receives a lot of use. Staff responded to law enforcement issues.

38. Wehner Woods – 30 acres

- A. Located at the northeast corner of Lamont.
- B. The Conservation Board entered into a 15-year contract to purchase the property from Nels and JoAnne Wehner on August 18, 2009.
- C. Managed as river bottom and upland timber, riverine wetlands, and nature appreciation, with public hunting and a nature trail. A Lamont resident is contracted to keep the lot and trails mowed.
- D. Nest boxes were monitored. Normal maintenance and patrolling. Environmental education programs were held.

39. Guy Grover Timber and Tree Plantings – 204 acres

- A. Located three miles east of Quasqueton. The area is divided into east and west parcels, connected by a path that goes through private land.
- B. Guy and Shirley Grover donated 186 acres to the Conservation Board in December, 2011. The property includes a conservation easement granted to Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation in 2007. The easement is perpetual and tied to the land. In 2015, 15 acres were purchased from Justin Kuhn, connecting the east side to the river.
- C. Managed for river bottom and upland timber, riverine wetlands, prairie savanna, a fishing pond, nature trails, and public hunting and fishing. The pond contains two fishing jetties.
- D. The easement area was checked by INHF staff. Nest boxes were monitored. Environmental education programs were held.

40. Quigley-Slatery Heritage Prairie – 33 acres

- A. Located four miles northeast of Winthrop. The area is a high quality, native mesic prairie and wetland.
- B. The area was long owned by the Quigley family, and had been protected in grassland reserve. In 2011, the property and surrounding farm land was sold to Jerry Slatery, who attempted to convert parts of the prairie-wetland to row crop agriculture, but ended up selling 33 acres to the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation in 2012. The Conservation Board and INHF submitted successful grant requests and donor requests to recoup the cost. Major funding was secured from: REAP, the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant program; Iowa Pheasants Forever State Council; Buchanan, Linn, Clayton, and Black Hawk County Chapters of Pheasants Forever; Iowa's Living Roadway Trust Fund; Buchanan County Wildlife Association; and Iowa Prairie Network. In March, 2015, the Conservation Board took possession of the property.
- C. Managed to enhance the prairie and wetland qualities for public education, hunting, and nature appreciation.
- D. Nest boxes were monitored. Normal maintenance and patrolling.

New England aster blooms bright in the native prairie on a September day at Quigley-Slatery Heritage Prairie.



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Potential Acquisition Criteria

The Conservation Board places a high priority on land protection in Buchanan County. Acquisition is one method, and is appropriate in certain circumstances. The Conservation Board often uses the following criteria when evaluating land for possible acquisition:

- Presence of unique ecosystems or endangered species
- Degree of vulnerability to destruction or loss
- Whether the property enhances an existing area of habitat (greenbelts and additions)
- Size and value to wildlife
- Costs involved



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41. Roberts Wildlife Area – 109 acres

- A. Located six miles northeast of Jesup. The area connects two other properties in the Wapsipinicon River Corridor, including the County’s Cutshall Area and Black Hawk County’s Wilson Woods, resulting in 512 contiguous acres of public wildlife area. It contains a variety of wetlands, river bottom forest, upland pasture and tree plantings, and Wapsipinicon River shoreline.
- B. The area was part of the Harris Estate, and a right of first refusal was provided to the Conservation Board by Marynette Harris as per wishes of surviving children of Lee Ivy and Willie Roberts. Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation acquired the property, and held it while the Conservation Board sought grants and donations. Major funding was secured from: REAP, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Iowa Pheasants Forever State Council; Buchanan, Linn, Clayton, Delaware, and Black Hawk County Chapters of Pheasants Forever; Wild Turkey Federation, Whitetails Unlimited, Tri-Rivers Waterfowlers, and Buchanan County Wildlife Association. The Conservation Board purchased the property from INHF on March 22, 2018.
- C. Managed to protect and enhance forest, savannah, river, and wetland habitats, and for public hunting, fishing, and nature appreciation.
- D. Trees were planted as a buffer to a nearby hog confinement and the 6-acre area savannah planting was maintained. Nest boxes were monitored. Environmental education programs were held.

Buchanan County Conservation at a Glance

Facilities

Total number of areas managed.....	41
Total acres managed.....	3,066
River accesses (with designated ramps).....	5
Lakes/ponds/reservoirs with fish.....	5
River/stream fishing.....	23
Areas open to hunting.....	31
Modern campgrounds.....	3
Primitive campgrounds.....	3
Number of picnic shelters.....	9
Shower houses.....	2
Group campgrounds.....	1
Hard surface trail.....	1
Interpretive trails (signed).....	3
Hiking/walking trails.....	15
Ski trails.....	2
Nature center.....	1
Live wildlife displays.....	1
Historical interpretive sites.....	3
Nature center visitor count.....	12,744

Board Meeting Highlights

Conservation Board meetings were hosted in the Board Meeting Room of the Fontana Interpretive Nature Center. Throughout the year, all or some Board Members attended virtually via ZOOM due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Board meetings were tentatively scheduled for 6 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month, unless a conflict occurred that required a change in meeting date. All meetings were posted and open to the public.

The following are brief meeting highlights/motions from the Conservation Board's 12 regular meetings and one special meeting. Each meeting included updates on progress of Fontana Park Master Plan work, including the Bison and Prairie Learning Area, trails, and future campground.

July 20, 2021

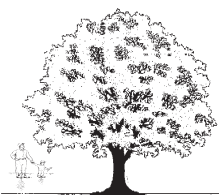
The Board agreed to work with Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to make an offer on wildlife ground, with some conditions (ultimately, the offer was denied). The Board discussed funding sources for elements of the Fontana Park Master Plan, including entering into a Memorandum of Understanding for the use of Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF) funds that have been designated by the Iowa Legislature for use on some projects, and the potential for using newly identified American Rescue Plan Administration funds.

August 17, 2021

The Board opened sealed bids for remodeling the East Cabin at Fontana Park. Two bids were received, both well above the engineer's cost opinion, and were rejected by the Board. The Director updated the Board on various work obtaining quotes and bids on work related to developing the Bison & Prairie Learning Area. The Board accepted a quote to begin work updating electrical service at Jakway Forest Campground. Cohen updated the Board on leaks on the nature center roof, likely due to defects in shingles. The manufacturer rejected a warranty claim, and the matter was referred to the County Attorney's Office. A grant application to the Iowa Water Trails Program to develop educational kiosks for the historic Taylor's Ford Bridge was successful, and the Board approved signing the grant agreement.

September 21, 2021

The Board approved that the Director authorize any changes on road development engineering plans, with work by Secondary Roads to begin soon. The Board approved submitting a letter drafted by the Director in response to a FEMA Request for Information regarding any potential permitting issues from a past disaster. The Board approved funding for a fall seasonal conservation technician up to 8 weeks. Sealed bids were opened, as sales awarded, for an antique gas pump and yearling bull bison at Fontana Park. The Director updated the Board on damage from a severe storm that struck the park in August.



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October 19, 2021

The Board authorized entering into the Memorandum of Understanding Agreement with Iowa DNR regarding receipt and administration of the \$150,000 state appropriation from Iowa's Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Program. Quotes were received for fence construction and corral system purchase for the Bison and Prairie Learning Area. The Board awarded fence construction to Novak Fencing and corral purchase from J&L Fencing. The Board also awarded a bid for roof replacement on the Fontana Park ranger residence that had been damaged during the August wind storm to John Raber Construction. The Director provided a list of potential projects for a request for ARPA funds from the Board of Supervisors, and asked Board members to provide any additional thoughts. A strategic planning session was held with topics related to staff needs. The Board conducted its annual Director evaluation, with no areas of concern noted. The Board approved its FY21 Annual Report.

November 16, 2021

The Board discussed options for use of material being stockpiled during road building for Master Plan projects at Fontana Park. The Board affirmed its policy on staff wages, with the objective of meeting statewide average based on position and years of service. It was announced that the Board of Supervisors selected Maud Bentley to fill the open Board Member position effective January 1, 2022.

December 15, 2021 - Annual Organization/Budget Meeting

The Board approved its FY22 Budget and wages. The 2021 official Conservation Board meeting dates, slate of officers, and committee assignments were approved.

December 15, 2021 - Regular Meeting

The Board reviewed progress on the Bison and Prairie Learning Area, and the next phase of the Master Plan - the Lakeside-Prairie Campground. It was reported that major funding from Iowa's Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Program was received, and will provide the bulk of funds needed for the Learning Area and access roads and trails. The Director also reported that the Board of Supervisors approved American Rescue Plan Act funds to pay for the bulk of funds needed for the Lakeside-Prairie Campground. The Board reviewed its facilities and services fees, and approved fee increases for camping.

January 13, 2022

The Board approved an agreement with Iowa Rural Utilities Association for providing installation of a water line to serve the future Lakeside-Prairie Campground. The Board took action compel DECRA roofing to make a timely inspection of the nature center roof in order to proceed with a warranty claim.



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February 22, 2022

The Board approved a resolution for a grant application to the Iowa DOT Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) to help fund completion of the Bison and Prairie Learning Trail at Fontana Park. The Board also approved soliciting quotes and hiring an archaeologist to survey the future sites of the new campground and trail. Funds were approved for spending on tree planting to replace trees damaged by the August windstorm.

March 15, 2022

The Board approved requesting the Board of Supervisors schedule a public hearing for granting a water line easement for work at Fontana Park. Information regarding legislative proposals that could impact the ability of the Conservation Board to provide public spaces was discussed.

April 18, 2022

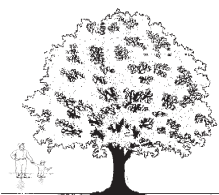
A representative from Blue Sky Solar provided estimates and return-on-investment for incorporating on-site solar energy production to largely offset utility costs at Fontana Park. The Board approved a bid from a sign fabricator for interpretive panels that will be developed for the Bison and Prairie Learning Area. The Board approved a fee for culti-packing, as it may be needed for some private lands plantings. The Board approved a settlement agreement with DECRA Roofing Systems regarding issues with the nature center roof. FY22 Budget amendments were approved.

May 16, 2022

Information about a potential donation to the Conservation Board of 145 acres of forest, river corridor and conservation plantings was discussed. County Assistant Engineer Alex Davis presented preliminary plans for future campground layout. A resolution was passed to allow the Director to apply for a Destination Iowa grant that would help fund the new campground, renovated cabin, and connecting trail system. A Prairies to Businesses agreement was approved to allow Conservation Board staff to plant a prairie area in the Hazleton Cemetery.

June 21, 2022

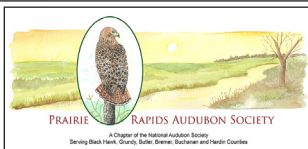
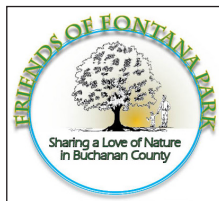
The Board approved a resolution for the Director to apply for grant funding from the Black Hawk Gaming Association for a future Lakeside-Prairie Campground. The Board approved a bid for replacing the roof of the nature center at Fontana Park, with materials being provided by DECRA as part of a settlement agreement. The Board approved the job description and salary range for the budgeted hiring of a Deputy Director.



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Cooperative Programs and Agreements

The following represents some important partnerships during the year.



- Worked with Pheasants Forever (PF) to encourage the planting of native grasses, trees, and shrubs on private land.
- Participated in local committees related to conservation and recreation, including Sustainable Independence, Friends of Fontana Park, REAP, Bird Friendly Iowa, and Buchanan County and regional tourism groups.
- Communicated closely with the County Board of Supervisors.
- Worked with the Friends of Fontana Park as a partner group for funding Conservation Board projects.
- Worked with Senator Craig Johnson and state department on acquiring funds from Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Program for Master Plan work.
- Shared expert advice with Iowa DNR, Watershed Management Authorities, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Iowa State University, and others in development of wildlife habitat, environmental protection, conservation practices, research, and specific projects.
- Partnered with Buchanan County ISU Extension for administering environmental education programs.
- Worked with the Four Seasons Trail Association and Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments (INRCOG) to plan future trails.
- Supported efforts of Black Hawk County Conservation Board to work on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail, which traverses southwest Buchanan County.
- Supported efforts of the City of Independence to provide more recreational trails.
- Worked with groups and associations to improve support for REAP and the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund.
- Received substantial grant awards/funding from the following groups and programs: State of Iowa Infrastructure Fund (administered through DNR), Prairie Rapids Audubon Society, Buchanan County Community Foundation, Friends of Fontana Park (and its many donors), Buchanan County Pheasants Forever, and Orlan Snyder Trust.
- Provided meeting space and advertised programs for the Fontana Herb Society.
- Partnered with groups to promote monarch tagging and larvae monitoring, bluebird nest box, and other wildlife surveys.
- The Director served on statewide ISAC Legislative and Awards Committees, Bird Friendly Iowa Steering and County Committees; and on County committees of Buchanan County Four Seasons Trails Association, Pheasants Forever, and Safety Committee.
- The Director served as a presenter at the Iowa Association of County Conservation Board Employees' (IACCBE) Conference.
- Partnered with Iowa County Conservation System (ICCS) on website items.
- The Director partnered with Iowa's Water and Land Legacy, Fund the Trust, ICCS, and ISAC to provide education to lawmakers, county officials, and the public regarding the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund.
- The Conservation Board worked with, shared resources with, assisted, or received assistance from many of the other County departments, especially including Secondary Roads, County Attorney, Board of Supervisors, Sheriff, Public Health, IT, and GIS.
- Kept in contact with local legislators - Senator Craig Johnson and Representative Chad Ingels.
- Received input from various partners sitting on a Fontana Park master Plan Committee, including: County Supervisors and Engineers, and Sanitarian; Tourism Board and Economic Development; Orlan Snyder Trust; Friends of Fontana Park; Hazleton mayor, and others.

Appendix A: Status of Funds

A.1 FY22 Revenue, Reserves, and Grants

0001-1-22-6110-520000	Camping: Fontana \$29,056.69	\$42,009.69
	Jakway \$10,328.00 ; Lime Creek \$2,600.25	
0001-1-22-6110-523000	Shelter Reservations	\$3,266.36
0001-1-22-6110-622000	Firewood Sales	\$2,139
0001-1-22-6110-843000	Insurance Reimbursement	\$48,347.51
0001-4-22-6110-612000	Rent of Equipment & Machinery	\$13,427.51
0001-4-22-6110-846000	Fuel Tax Refund	\$925.80
0001-4-22-6110-847000	Misc Reimb.	\$125.00
0001-4-22-6100-847000	Misc Reimb.	\$169.57
0001-1-22-6110-831000	Livestock Sale	\$750.00
0001-2-22-6110-289002	Community Found. Grant	\$20,000.00
0001-2-22-6110-271500	State Grant (RIIF)	\$150,000.00
0023-3-10-6110-242100	REAP	\$11,658.00
0023-4-10-6110-600000	Interest on REAP	\$678.69
0027-3-22-6110-242200	FEMA Federal Grant	14,240.95
0027-4-22-0210-810000	Donations	\$250.00
0027-4-22-6110-523100	Reimb. Private Source - Cabins	\$18,959.85
0027-4-22-6110-600000	Interest on Conservation Reserve	\$2,150.51
0027-4-22-6110-848000	Conservation Reserve-Donations & Refunds	\$177.60
0027-4-22-6110-920000	Conservation Reserve-Sale of assets	<u>\$4,599.45</u>
	Total	\$333,875.59

Reserve Accounts	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Balance</u>
REAP	\$106,186.71	\$12,336.79	\$4,000	\$0	\$114,523.50
Cons. Reserve	\$328,494.85	\$40,378.36	\$3,354.21	\$15,000.00	\$380,519.00

A.2 Camping Revenue FY22 **Total Camping Revenue: \$42,009.69** (50,174 FY21)*

Fontana Camping Receipts

Total # of People	NA (2,025 FY21)
Total Camping Units	NA (654 FY21)
Total Electrical Received	NA (\$32,827 FY21)
Total Primitive Received	NA (\$1,419 FY21)
Total Camping Revenue	\$29,056.69 (34,246 FY21)

Lime Creek and Outlying Area Camping Receipts

Total # of People	NA (300 FY21)
Total Camping Units	NA (102 FY21)
Total Electrical Received	NA (\$3,132 FY21)
Total Primitive Received	NA (\$468 FY21)
Total Camping Revenue	\$2,625 (3,600 FY21)

Jakway Camping Receipts

Total # of People	NA (784 FY21)
Total Camping Units	NA (259 FY21)
Total Electrical Received	NA (\$11,659 FY21)
Total Primitive Received	NA (\$634 FY21)
Total Camping Revenue	\$10,328.00 (12,329 FY21)

***Note:** FY21 was a record year following COVID Pandemic shutdowns. FY22 reflects the second highest camping revenues in the Board's history. Unfortunately, mistakes were found in recorded breakdown data for units, people, and electric vs primitive. However, the trends from last year likely follow into this year.

A.3 Expenditures and Balances - FY22**Land Acquisition and Development**

0001-22-0210-000-60000	Land	\$5,000.00
Total budgeted		<u>\$1,886.92</u>
Remaining Balance		\$3,113.08

Administrative

0001-22-6100-000-10004	Salary-Director	\$67,684.06
0002-22-6100-000-11000	FICA-Director	\$4,920.67
0002-22-6100-000-11100	IPERS-Director	\$6,392.17
0002-22-6100-000-11300	Health Insurance-Director	\$11,993.14
0002-22-6100-000-11301	Life Insurance-Director	\$61.87
0002-22-6100-000-11302	Dental Insurance-Director	\$240.14
0002-22-6100-000-11303	Flex Fee-Director	\$54.00
0001-22-6100-000-26000	Office Supplies	\$484.97
0001-22-6100-000-26700	Educational Supplies	\$1,251.85
0001-22-6100-000-26702	BCCF Grant	\$11,185.24
0001-22-6100-000-29400	Uniforms	\$1,118.64
0001-22-6100-000-40200	Printing & Advertising Services	\$667.31
0001-22-6100-000-41200	Postage & Mailing	\$25.00
0001-22-6100-000-41320	Mileage & Sub-Director	\$615.64
0001-22-6100-000-41321	Mileage & Sub-Board	\$1,304.88
0001-22-6100-000-41400	Telephone	\$4,178.87
0001-22-6100-000-41800	Internet Service	\$1,776.01
0001-22-6100-000-42220	School of Instruction-Director	\$910.15
0001-22-6100-000-42221	School of Instruction-Board	\$661.00
0001-22-6100-000-42500	Legal & Court Related	\$2,024.09
0001-22-6100-000-44400	Service Contract	\$300.76
0001-22-6100-000-45300	Leased Office Equipment	\$1,222.82
0002-22-6100-000-46200	Real Property Insurance	\$8,921.00
0001-22-6100-000-46300	Vehicles & Equipment Insurance	\$2,427.18
0001-22-6100-000-46400	Workmen's Compensation Ins	\$9,155.00
0001-22-6100-000-48000	Dues & Membership	\$2,385.00
0001-22-6100-000-63600	Office Equipment & Furniture	<u>\$1,786.14</u>
Total County Conservation - Administrative		\$143,747.60
Total Budgeted		\$163,026.00
Remaining Balance		\$19,278.40

Maintenance and Operations

0001-22-6110-000-10000	Salaries-Full Time	\$270,095.90
0001-22-6110-101-10101	Salaries-Part time	\$38,123.94
0002-22-6110-000-11000	FICA	\$22,222.72
0002-22-6110-000-11100	IPERS	\$26,920.85
0002-22-6110-000-11300	Health Insurance	\$125,154.86
0002-22-6110-000-11301	Life Insurance	\$370.73
0002-22-6110-000-11302	Dental Insurance	\$1,439.86
0002-22-6110-000-11303	Flex Fee	\$243.00
0001-22-6110-000-20101	Animal Display	\$1,690.54
0001-22-6110-000-20200	Chemicals - Herbicides	\$0
0001-22-6110-000-20700	Plantings	\$3,935.54
0001-22-6110-000-21201	Road Rock - Fontana	\$375.94
0001-22-6110-000-21202	Road Rock - Jakway	\$0
0001-22-6110-000-21203	Road Rock - other parks	\$1,767.42
0001-22-6110-000-21400	Signs	\$369.46
0001-22-6110-000-21901	Construction/maintenance - Fontana	\$8,207.85
0001-22-6110-000-21902	Construction/maintenance - Jakway	\$10,754.25
0001-22-6110-000-21903	Construction/maintenance - other parks	\$2,259.63
0001-22-6110-000-21903	Construction/maintenance - Special Project	\$100,739.56
0001-22-6110-000-23200	Janitorial Supplies	\$2,955.92
0001-22-6110-000-23300	Propane & Fuel Oil - Fontana	\$3,609.80
0001-22-6110-000-25000	Fuel	\$16,795.04
0001-22-6110-000-25200	Safety Items	\$1,061.01
0001-22-6110-000-29000	Minor Equipment & Hand Tools	\$416.96
0001-22-6110-000-40000	Official Publications/Legal	\$517.00
0001-22-6110-000-41101	Bldg Repair/maintenance - Ranger House - Fontana	\$140.12
0001-22-6110-000-41102	Bldg Repair/maintenance - Ranger House - Jakway	\$323.19
0001-22-6110-000-41300	Mileage & Subsistence - Employees	\$145.60
0001-22-6110-000-42200	School of Instruction - Employees	\$1,119.20
0001-22-6110-000-42801	Employee Hearing Tests	\$103.60
0001-22-6110-000-43101	Electricity - Fontana	\$13,186.82
0001-22-6110-000-43102	Electricity - Jakway	\$3,254.95
0001-22-6110-000-43103	Electricity - other parks	\$1,533.11
0001-22-6110-000-43201	Rural Water - Fontana	\$2,511.58
0001-22-6110-000-43202	Rural Water - Jakway	\$1,154.88
0001-22-6110-000-43300	Garbage	\$1,373.53
0001-22-6110-000-44000	Motor Vehicle Equip Maint	\$4,343.63
0001-22-6110-000-44101	Janitorial and Building maintenance - Fontana	\$2,404.43
0001-22-6110-000-44102	Janitorial and Building maintenance - Jakway	\$29.01
0001-22-6110-000-44103	Janitorial and Building maintenance - All Parks	\$0
0001-22-6110-000-44300	Equipment Repair and Maintenance	\$5,928.43
0001-22-6110-000-44501	Plumbing Repair - Fontana	\$155.12
0001-22-6110-000-44502	Plumbing Repair - Jakway	\$56.39
0001-22-6110-000-48400	Refund	\$140.00
0001-22-6110-000-63500	Motor Vehicles	\$24,574.80
0001-22-6110-000-63900	Equipment - Asset	\$8,400.00
0001-22-6110-000-12400	Volunteer Program	<u>\$224.95</u>
	Total Maintenance and Operations	\$711,131.12
	Total Budgeted	<u>\$716,241.00</u>
	Remaining Balance	\$5,109.88
Total Budget Remaining		
	Land	\$3,113.08
	County Conservation-Administrative	\$19,278.49
	Maintenance and Operations	<u>\$5,109.88</u>
	Year End Balance	\$27,501.45

Appendix B: FY22 Donations (Conservation Board and/or Friends of Fontana Park)

General Donations

Allison Leanne Brown
Anthony Taffola
Bank Iowa
Bill & Peg Knowles
Bruce & Janice Jefferson
Buchanan County wildlife
Charles & Rosemary Krebs
Charlotte DeHaven
Dale Rueber
David & Anabeth Voigts
David Minton Diane Alexander
Dean & Linda Heins
Dean & Lola Baragary
Deb Downs
Diane Dave
Don & Barb Ehlers
Don Dunlap
East Buchanan Telephone
Elaine Hughes
Fidelity Bank
Fontana Herb Society Jaggard
Francis Moore
Frankie King
Gary & Merri Cook
Gary Humes
Helen Sdaler
Independence Heating & Plumbing
Jasper's RV
Jeff Denny
Jerry Franz
Joellen Yeager
John & Barbara Kerns
John Klotzbach
Jon Lappe
Joyce Jones
Katherine Gibson
Ken & Barb Roberson
Kenneth & Audrey Garetson
Lavern & Phyllis Lentz
LeRoy Greenley
Les Grundmeyer
Lesona Walker
Linda & James Ridihalgh
Linda Fiester
Linda Jensen
Lois Schlatter
Marcella West
Marty Fitzpatrick
Mary Baragary
Mary Lou Wulfekuhle
Marybeth Jaggard
Max & Charlotte Grover

Maxine Oldridge
Maynard Savings bank
Meadows
Michael Winkers
Millie Jessen
Nancy Vetesy
Norm & Debbie Mills
Owen & Ann Twedt
Pat Mahoney
Patricia Hare
Paul & Dorothy Gray
Paul Graff
Rick & Julie Whittle
Ron & Kathy Lentz
Ron Hearn
Ruth Graf
Sally Bond
ST Athanasius
Steve Miller
Susan Doan
Susan Knott
Susie Stafford
Terry & Susan Toale
Thomas & Marlene Doyle
Tom & Bonnie Haes
Tom & Deb Paris
Tony & Nellie Grasso
Trott Trophies
Tyler & Megan Rasmussen
Verna Kerns
Wilbur Nielsen

Memorials

Orlan Snyder Trust
George & Eleanor Corcoran
William Gerstenberger
Burton Robert "Bob" Cashner
Mildred Sefert
Jim Rozendaal
Ronnie Graf
Kevin Oldridge

Animal Sponsorships

Alexander Korn
Allison Leanne Brown
Amanda Rohrig
Ava Brady
Ben Korn
Brenya Brady
Calvin & Ruby Whitaker
Cat Wise
Dave Minton & Diane Alexander

Dean & Linda Heins
Don & Lorelei Williams
Elaine Hughes & Jim Elliott
Hayden, JD & Jacob Schmitz
Henry Robinson
In memory of 'J.R.' Peck
In Memory of Jack Rusthoven
Independence Federated Garden Club
Jace Gilson
Janet & John Hofmeyer
Jasper's RV
Jeff Hingtgen Family
Keegan Slick
Keith & Becky Mulder
Kim Dakovich
Lance & Cindy Hemel
Leah Brady
Luke & Anna Stephens
Margie Torgerson
Mary Klotzbach
Maxine Losen
Moser Preschool & Daycare
Owen Kress in memory of Luke Kress
Pamela Wolter
Parker Kress in memory of Luke Kress
Penny Noah
Prairie Rapids Audubon
St Athanasius School
Suzanne Sharp Johnson
Tom & Val Maximovich
Warren Campbell

Donated Items & Services

Jerry Franz - Canoes and trailer use
Corkery Welding - welding services
City Laundry - Monthly Towel Service
Loren Hamilton - Bench fundraiser
Cody Kleitsch - mowing and bailing hay



*Thanks to anonymous donors who gave feed
for display animals and reusable items for
environmental education classes!*

Appendix C: Environmental Education

Appendix C.1: Environmental Education Attendance Figures FY22

The following is a summary of the groups served through the EE program. The EE program is designed to meet a set of specific goals and objectives, described in the Buchanan County Conservation Board's Long-term Plan. Figures for FY21 and FY20 are shown in parenthesis.

School Student Programs (K-college)

Number of presentations:	666	(444)	(601)
Total attendance:	13,352	(7,796)	(10,419)
Average group size:	20.0	(17.5)	(17.3)

Youth Programs (other than school groups)

Number of presentations:	106	(63)	(51)
Total attendance:	1,602	(732)	(904)
Average group size:	15.1	(11.6)	(17.7)

Teacher and Youth Leader Programs

Number offered:	10	(5)	(12)
Total attendance:	97	(33)	(143)
Average group size:	9.7	(6.6)	(11.9)

Public Programs (advertised to public)

Number of presentations:	64	(91)	(61)
Total attendance:	1,032	(1,166)	(1,153)
Average group size:	16.1	(12.8)	(18.9)

Civic and Senior Programs

Number of presentations:	45	(30)	(39)
Total attendance:	1,272	(699)	(1,223)
Average group size:	28.3	(23.3)	(31.4)

Total Attendance

Presentations:	891	(641)	(764)
Total:	17,355	(10,497)	(13,842)
Avg. Group Size:	19.5	(16.4)	(18.1)

Outdoor programming: 59.7% of programs were primarily conducted outdoors.

Appendix C.2: Programming Support - FY22

Vic Collins, Beekeeper
Kara Vance, ISU Extension
David Voigts, Astronomer
Darrin Siefken, Crawdaddy Outdoors
Fontana Herb Society
Katie Hund, Iowa DNR
Barb Peterson, Iowa DNR
Katie Klus, Black Hawk CCB*
Katy Cantin, Black Hawk CCB*
Faith, Benton CCB*
Aaron Askelson, Benton CCB*
Heather Gamm, Bremer CCB*
Wanda Havercamp
Jim Bond
Sally Bond
Ruby Bodecker

Teacher Externship Program

Bailey Bergman
Margaret Hogan
Bethany Hadley
Nikki Shannon



* County conservation board

Appendix C.3: Public Programs Offered - FY22 (multiple programs on different dates)

Animal Encounters (13) - A different
Wildlife Display animal featured
Boundary Waters Trip
Earth Day Hike (cancelled)
Fishing the Wapsi
Fossil Fun Day
Geocaching Egg Hunt
Independence Public Library
Light up the night
Monarch Tagging (2)
Moonlight Paddle
Moonlight snowshoe

Nature Kids (3) - featured wildlife
New Years hike (cancelled due to weather)
OWLS (6) - field trip topic for each program
Park Passport walks in county parks (6)
Photo Contest Judging
Pumpkin Plunge & Paddle
Rhubarb Leaf Birdbath
River Raiders
Spring Foraging
Tour by Trails: trail walks in county parks (9)
Trick or treat with the animals
Wapsi Through the Seasons (4)

Whitewater Kayaking
Yaks and brews - kayaking and then
social time at brewery

In addition to the 64 program topics listed above, 61 presentations were also advertised to the public, and are included in youth numbers shown above.

Appendix D: FY22 Volunteers

Volunteers were greatly impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Campground hosts, nature center receptionists, newsletter folding, and other jobs entail close contact or indoor settings, which led many volunteers to stay home.

Campground Hosts

Jim Kuper
Tyler Thorton
Robert Armstrong
Ken & Judy Estling

Edith Biddinger
Margaret Damage
Marybeth Jaggard
Edith Biddinger
Elaine Johnson
Jane Walter

Dale Hendrickson*
Vicki Bark*
Meghan Smith*
Denisa Goyen*
Dave Ebling*
Michael Goyen*

Friends of Fontana Park

Lisa Ross-Thedens
Linda Ridihalgh
Wendy Van DeWalle
David Voigts
Mary Davis
Diane Johnson
Sondra Cabell
Michael Maas
Dan Cohen
Loren Hamilton
Mary Jean Blaisdell

Laura Schlitter
Bev Sage
Jane Walters
Jo Porter
Sue Kuennen
Laura Schlitter
Paula Bush
Claudia Schweer
Kathy Kitner
Barb Robenson
Barb Mulford
POET (Fairbank ethanol plant)
Bryon Wilson

Carliegh Konrade*
Christina Harper*
Mars McDonald*
Hillary Corneius*
Daniel Taylor*
Matt Rittjen*
Karen Sebeg*
Exceptional Persons**
Bryon Wilson**
Nicole Kastli**
Heidi Tomlinson**
Ben Brown**
Troy Goehl**

Wildlife Monitoring

David Voigts
Lon Janecek
John Thedens
Faith Rulapaugh
Elaine Hughes
Janette Beyer

Nicole Kastli
Andrew Willard
Alex Neswold
Debby Dresen
Micheal Stimson
Scott Hall
Eddie Biretz

Matt Biemann**
Alex Neswold**
Tyler Voshell**
Mitch Reiersen**
Eddie Biretz**
Scott Hall**

Gardens and Tree Planting

Mary and Harvey Davis
Ginny Schmitz
Ruby Bodecker
Mary Kalb
Laura Ridihalgh

Cody Schoeneck
Matt Biemann
Jordan Staffenhagen
Joe Grimley
Mark Krieger
Lyle Buehler
David & Anabeth Voigts
Jerry Franz

Nature Center Receptionists (hours)

James Bond (45)
Sally Bond (45)
Joye Bowers (16)
Margaret Damage (11)
Ellen Gaffney (37)
Elaine Hughes (60)
Cheryl Hanson (9)
Karla Kula (4)
Duane Olsen (71)
Faith Rulapaugh (45)
Lorene Shonka (10)
Pam Schurtz (150)
David Voigts (41)
Jane Watson (176)



“Improving quality of
life through programs
of conservation and
education.”

Park Maintenance

Loren Hamilton
Dave & Sue Hansen
Rick Whittle
Prairie Lakes Church members*
Earl Robinson*

Appendix E: Conservation Board and Board of Supervisors

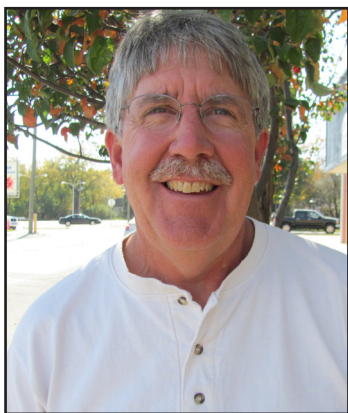
E.1 Board Members and terms from founding to present (*Denotes charter board member)

Ralph L. Kimball*, Independence	1956-58	Bob Booher, Independence	1983-91
C. L. (Mickey) Fox*, Jesup	1956-67	Nyle McMartin, Jesup	1992-01
L.O. Weston*, Lamont	1956-58	Phil Thyer, Independence	1993-00
“ “ “	1962-65	Diane Slaughter, Independence	1994-03
A.J. Murphy, Winthrop	1957-62	Loren Hamilton, Independence	1995-04
R.C. Stewart*, Lamont	1956-62	“ “	2013-
H.G. Lincoln*, Rowley	1956-57	Robert Bainbridge, Independence	1996-99
Jack Gates, Independence	1958-62	Dr. Kenneth McDonough, Oelwein	2000-06
Robert Buckman, Aurora	1959-62	Roger Johnson, Independence	2001-12
“ “ “	1965-92	Richard Vogel, Jesup	2002-05
Lacey Gee, Brandon	1962-63	Gary Buresh, Independence	2004-12
Warren Pratt, Rowley	1962-63	Jim Klever, Independence	2005-14
Don Anderson, Independence	1962-81	Ranor Hoffman	2006-10
Kessler Clark, Brandon	1963-65	Patricia Fencil	2006-15
Miller McMillen, Quasqueton	1964-66	Karen Stephenson	2011-19
Raymond Finley, Brandon	1966-80	Don Shonka	2012-15
Max Grover, Rowley	1967-93	Ronnie Wolfe	2015-
J.M. Tounshendeaux, Jesup	1968-79	Andy Crump	2015-
John Miller, Jesup	1980-94	Anita Miller	2016-21
Carroll Conklin, Independence	1981-95	Mary Jean Blaisdell	2020-
Harry Brooks, Independence	1982-83	Maud Bentley	2021-

E.2 Board of Supervisors

The Conservation Board thrives on the support of the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors, and their understanding of the importance of local conservation programs. Members of the FY21 Board of Supervisors are shown below.

Buchanan County Board of Supervisors, FY22



Gary Gissel



Don Shonka



Clayton Ohrt

Appendix F: Map of Buchanan County Areas

1. Anderson Addition to Cutshall
2. Bearbower Sand Prairie
3. Blazingstar Prairie
4. Boies Bend
5. Bryantsburg Prairie
6. Buffalo Creek Area
7. Buffalo Creek Wildlife Area
8. Cortright Wildlife Area
9. Crumbacher Wildlife Area
10. Cutshall Area
11. Fairbank Fen
12. Fontana Park
13. Frogville Area
14. Guy Grover Timber and Tree Pl.
15. Ham Marsh
16. Hodges and North Wildlife Area
17. Hoover Area
18. Iron Bridge Woodland and Access
19. Jakway Forest
20. Koutny Pond/Hoffman Woods
21. Lime Creek Area
22. Mickey Fox Area
23. Newton Township Wildlife Area
24. Nibeck Preserve
25. Otter Creek Wildlife Area
26. Otter Creek Roadside Park
27. Patton Prairie
28. Pine Creek Area
29. Putty Root Preserve
30. Quigley-Slaterry Heritage Prairie
31. Robert "Chic" McGlaughlin Easement
32. Roberts Wildlife Area
33. Rowley Fen
34. Sand Creek Area
35. Schneider-Heinick-Rowe Area
36. Swartz Preserve
37. Three Elms Area
38. Troy Mills Access
39. Van Lanningham Area
40. Wapsi River Access
41. Wehner Woods

