

ANNUAL REPORT
TAMA COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
JULY 1, 2015- JUNE 30, 2016



TO THE TAMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Gentlemen:

Following is the report for the fiscal year 2016, of the Tama County Conservation Board as mandated by Chapter 350.3 of the Code of Iowa.

BOARD ROSTER

The five board members serving during FY '16 were:

NAME	Term Expires	Meetings attended
Ellen Graff	Dec. '18	11
John Keenan	Dec. '19	11
Nathan Wrage	Dec. '20	13
Carolyn Adolphs	Dec. '16	12
Allan Atchison	Dec. '17	13

MEETINGS HELD

The Conservation Board met in twelve (12) regular sessions and one special session this past fiscal year. Minutes from all meetings are available for public review in the Director's Office, Tama County Nature Center, Otter Creek Lake and Park.



From l to r: Adolphs, Graff, Etzel, Keenan, Wrage, Atchison

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

July 1, 2015. Motion passed to purchase a 2015 Land Pride RCF3684 rotary cut mower./Discussed possibility of annual special event similar to what was hosted the fall of 2014 for the 55th Anniversary/Concerns shared regarding violation of no wake rule for the lake.

August 5, 2015. Board enters into closed session to discuss possible land acquisition./Motion passed to request Supervisors place a check received as compensation for a pollinator planting that was accidentally sprayed./Progress report on covered shooting station for the short range, Izaak Walton Shooting Facility.

September 2, 2015. Copy machine has broken down./Land acquisition- Board updated./ Izaak Walton Shooting Facility- reported that the covered shooting station for the short range is complete.

October 14, 2015. Enter into closed session to discuss strategy with counsel in a matter presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent./ Nature Center Design Contract- Board debates and accepts the contract to design Phase 2- displays for the Nature Center./ Electric Upgrade- North Loop Camp Area. Motion passed to prepare documents and go to bid on the project./Roof repairs- quotes for roof repairs accepted by Board.

October 26, 2015 The Board met in special session to discuss two topics of importance. Board entered into closed session to discuss strategy with counsel in a matter presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent. Motion passed to give direction to counsel to proceed to resolve the issue./ Board enters into closed session to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered.



November 4, 2015. Board entered into closed session to discuss strategy with counsel in a matter presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent./ Board enters into closed session to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered./ Land Acquisition report on property that may be available in the future due to the Iowa DOT considering developing a tract as a wetland mitigation site./ Discussion of walleye stocking in Otter Creek Lake.

December 2, 2015. Board entered into closed session to discuss strategy with counsel in a matter presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent./ Board enters into closed session to evaluate the professional competency of an

individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered./ Funding the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. Resolution, motion passed to request the legislature find a way to fund the initiative passed in the 2010 General Election with 63% supporting./Election of Conservation Board officers for 2016.

January 6, 2016. Wolf Creek Trail- adjoining landowner encouraged Board to adopt a “no hunting” policy for the right-of-way for the trail. Board discussed and tabled the issue./Budget Presentation FY '17 Board reviews the budget as presented and tentatively approves the budget with the understanding the budget will change accordingly with the Supervisor’s decision of what the cost of living increase will be./ Dolash Retirement- Reported that Ron Dolash, eighteen year employee for the Board, retired effective December 31, 2015./ Open Position- Board discusses a proposed schedule to fill the position vacated by Dolash’s retirement.

February 10, 2016. Board discusses the possibility of the Young Guns 4-H Shooting Club using the Izaak Walton Shooting Facility for their weekly practice shoots. Motion passed to allow use of the range on a trial basis for the month of April with an evaluation in early May to decide if the arrangement will continue./Board discusses the open staff position and sets a wage range for the position./ Wolf Creek Trail. Motion passed that no hunting will be allowed on the right-of-way for Wolf Creek Trail.

March 2, 2016. Izaak Walton Shooting Facility. Board considers a range use agreement relative to the Young Guns 4-H Shooting Club using the range./ Wolf Creek Trail Repair. Mike Bearden, Clapsaddle-Garber, updated the Board on progress in getting ready to repair the trail. Board considers and accepts an amendment to the contract for engineering fees./ A new sign along Hwy 63, North of Traer is needed to direct south bound traffic to T.F. Clark Park.

April 6, 2016. Wolf Creek Trail. Board receives report on estimated budget for the trail repair and a timeline for going to bid on the project./Board sets wage for the person hired to fill the Conservation Technician/Park Ranger position./Columbia Wildlife Area. Board discusses complaint from adjoining land owner relative to no food plots being planted./North Loop Camp Area- Electric Upgrade. Board discusses timeline for the project to go to bid and be completed.

May 4, 2016. Wolf Creek Trail Repair. Public hearing held on the proposed repairs. Motion passed to accept the plans for the renovation. Bids considered for the project with Lodge Construction chosen as the contractor for \$137,609./ Izaak Walton Shooting Facility. Motion passed to allow the Young Guns 4-H Shooting Club to use the facility for the remainder of the season./Phase 2 Displays- Nature Center. Motion passed to accept the contract for fabrication of Phase 2. Board

discusses how to give the public access to the displays./Capital Projects 2016. Board discusses the North Loop Upgrade project and ADA access to the Izaak Walton Shooting Facility./ Displays- Board given tour of the Phase 2 displays currently under construction.

June 1, 2016. Nature Center- Phase 2 Displays. Report on work progress. Board discussed a grand opening in the fall for the finished display component. Board discusses content for the credit panel in the display room.

INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS/UPGRADES- A growing challenge

The Conservation Board has been discussing the growing challenge to fund sorely needed infrastructure repairs and upgrades. Funding levels are inadequate to address the larger project needs to be addressed over the next several years.

The Board has begun assessing the needs and assembling a “projects of need” list. The following list includes projects of immediate need and highest priority projects are shaded in green (in no particular order).

	Estimated Cost
OCP- Repair hard surface road- preventative maintenance- will require removing and replacing four 15' x 30' areas to full depth, crack repair and either chip seal or 2" lift of new asphalt over all surfaces	250,000.00
Electrical Updates- RV Camp section- OCP \$40,000 Per yr x 3 yrs	120,000.00
Camper's Hill restroom- repair or replace	30,000.00
OCP- replace picnic pads (beach area), handicap walkways to all	7,500.00
Picnic Point Handicap parking, access to 1st picnic pad, new retaining wall for picnic pad	10,000.00
Ike's Tract- parking lot	2,000.00
Otter Creek Lake and Park- Hansen Addition- wetlands (NW drainage)	80,000.00
Otter Creek Lake and Park- Hansen Addition- forest plantings	5,000.00
Lake Restoration- Otter Creek Lake	\$1.5 million
OCP- Playground renovation	30,000.00
Engineering- group camp/ cabin area- OCP	15,000.00
Reinig Tract- restore wetland	30,000.00
TFCP- Shelter restoration	10,000.00
Otter Creek Lake and Park- invasives work Per yr amount x 5 yrs	7,500.00
Otter Creek Lake and Park- Forest Mgmt- post 2011 storm Per yr amount x 8	7,500.00
Columbia Wildlife Area- invasives work	10,000.00

The biggest challenge will be to secure an increased Capital Projects budget for the next five to seven fiscal years. It is hoped that the Supervisors will agree to a capital projects budget of \$100,000 per year during that period of time. This would require a \$50,000 increase over the current \$50,000 per year funding level.

LAND ACQUISITION

Acquisition goals were discussed during the year. The Board periodically reviews tracts as they become available; especially those located in sections of the county considered high priority, property adjoining existing county areas, and/or those with unique habitats or features.

The Board will continue to seek tracts for their habitat and outdoor recreational values. These tracts will emphasize very little development and low maintenance costs. Hiking, hunting, fishing, berry picking, nature observation and environmental education will be a few of the activities supported by these areas.

PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

Staffing Needs

On June 29, 2015, Chris Anderson reported for work as the Naturalist/Park Ranger for the Conservation Board. Anderson was filling a newly created position for the Board.

The position was pursued for nearly two decades as the need to add a staff person became ever more apparent.

The addition of the Naturalist/Park Ranger was an exciting development as it will allow an experienced Naturalist to develop a coordinated environmental education program in the county. Anderson will work to provide outreach programs for youth, families and adults.



Part of his duties will be directed at performing maintenance and natural resource management tasks. It is anticipated that his presence will aid in performing duties such as controlled burns, remove & control invasive plant species, planting of native species, perform storm damage repair to timber resources, repair and replace structures, and to perform increasing general maintenance tasks.

Thirdly, a small percentage of this position's time will be spent performing Park Ranger duties which will include patrol of park facilities to help keep facilities safe for the general public.

The Board acknowledges that the need would truly call for more than one staff position but are hopeful that the addition of this person will help address some of the overwhelming demands.

TAMA COUNTY NATURE CENTER

The Nature Center has become a popular site for many different activities. Over 2,500 visitors attended events and programs during FY '16. This does not include casual visitors or use by county departments of the facility.

The construction of the Nature Center has been made possible through NON-property tax sources including gifts, donations, and fund-raisers. When the initial fund drive began in 1989 Tama Intermediate, STC Middle School, Dysart-Geneseo, Montour Elementary, Chelsea Elementary, Gladbrook Elementary, and North Tama Schools held fund-raisers to benefit their Nature Center.



A commissioned art print of river otters became available to donors of \$65- \$1,000 during November, 1990. Of the 97 prints anonymously donated by a Tama County resident several remain “unadopted”, yet over \$10,000 was netted by this effort.

Annual fund-raisers have been held each spring beginning in 1990 (with the exception of 1997) and have raised over \$113,000. The event has been tabbed “Fun Night” and netted over \$7,800 at this year’s event.

NATURE CENTER FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Involved with the Nature Center fund drive are dedicated residents who have taken an active role through their participation as members of the Nature Center Fundraising Committee.

These persons have been crucial in planning strategies and doing the hands-on work of fund-raisers such as the annual “Fun Night” event.



Members serving during FY '16 were:

Dysart	Garwin
Cathy Wieck	Kory Staff
	Tama-Toledo
Chelsea	George Corum
Craig Wise	Bob Etzel
	Karen Etzel
Gladbrook	Traer
Kay Lowry	Gayle Kucera

NATURE CENTER EXHIBIT TEAM

In 2007 an Exhibit Team comprised of eleven interested volunteers from around the county worked diligently with Museum Professionals, Loretto, MN, to develop conceptual designs for the exhibits of their Nature Center. Fundraising to construct a riparian diorama (Phase 1) was successful enough that fabrication started on the diorama in December, 2012, reaching completion the fall of 2013.



Fundraising continued to design and fabricate the remainder of the exhibits (Phase 2). The Exhibit Team continued working on Phase II design in early 2016 with fabrication starting late in the spring of 2016. Phase II reached completion by June 30, 2016.

It is an exciting time to reach completion of the formal display component as the final product will be a tool to educate and motivate children, families and adults to be better stewards of our natural resources.

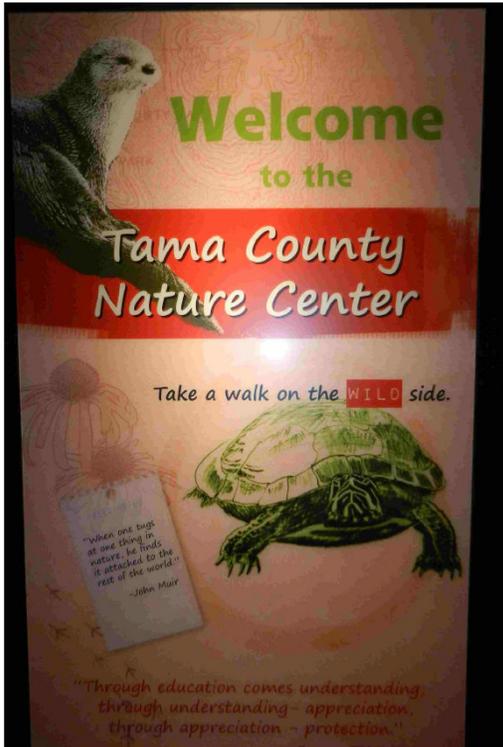
Exhibit Team Members serving since 2007 have been:

Dysart	Tama-Toledo
Cathy Wieck	George Corum
David Hill	Ginny Elliott
	Bob Etzel
Chelsea	Jim Little
Josh Van Hamme	Dennis Appelgate
	Denise Fletcher
Gladbrook	
Geri Eilers	Traer
	Yvette Berner
Montour	Judy Krebsbach
Melody Bro	



From l to r: Etzel, Bro, Krebsbach, Wieck, Van Hamme, Fletcher, Eilers, Corum

Tama County Nature Center- Phase 1 Displays



Everyone is welcome at their Nature Center



We Otter Have a Nature Center in Tama County



C'mon! Get down on your knees and see what you can see!



Tama County Nature Center- Phase 2 Displays



Intrigue draws visitors into the display area



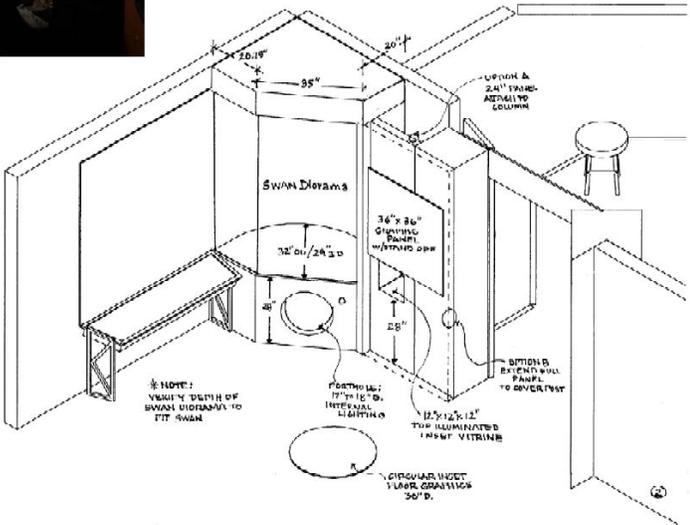
A Trumpeter Swan lies in wait around the corner



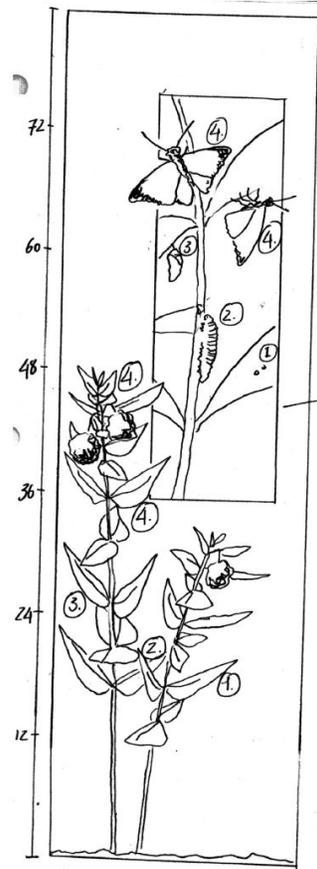
A beautiful mural depicts how the land has changed from wetlands and prairies to our current agricultural landscape



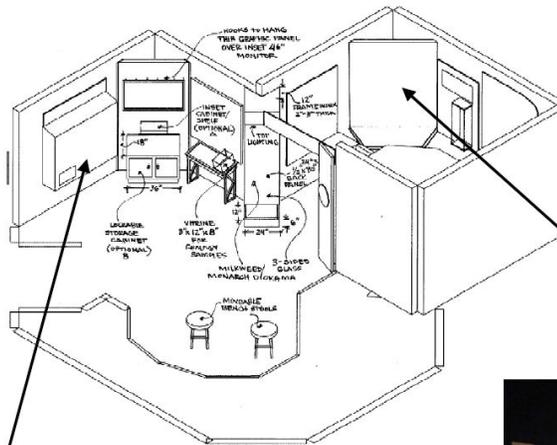
The design layout for the Trumpeter Swan portion of Phase 2



Tama County Nature Center- Phase 2



Sketch Monarch Display



Kids Interactive Discovery Wall



**L to R:
Pollinator Panel
Water Cycle Painting
Water Quality Panel**

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (Chris Anderson, Naturalist/ParkRanger)

As the first Naturalist for the Tama County Conservation Board I have placed my focus this year on strengthening existing partnerships and forging new ones.

The long established partnerships with Tama County Extension for the Youth Fishing Seminar and the Natural Resource Conservation Service 5th Grade Field Day have led to additional programming and planned expansion of what already exists.

I have been able to create a strong connection between the EE program at Otter Creek Lake & Park and North Tama by assisting with the planning of a 1st grade STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) class room. As this partnership grows I will be developing curriculum to use with North Tama specifically that can then be disseminated to other groups of similar age ranges.



4H Team Building-Signaling



Annual Youth Fishing Seminar



Prairie Exploration with North Tama



Toledo Library- Brown Bag Crafts

As well as continuing old and fostering new partnerships I have tried to offer a variety of programs to the general public to increase the awareness of Otter Creek Lake & Park and the Tama County Conservation Board. From hands on programs like building board longbows and blacksmithing, to “open house” events about bird-

watching and severe weather with Tama County Emergency Management and a free concert by Iowa musician Will Borg Schmitt I am working on making visiting Tama County, or remaining here in the case of younger generations, a prospect that many more people will consider.

HANSEN ADDITION TO OTTER CREEK LAKE & PARK

The protection of the **Otter Creek Lake** watershed remains extremely high on the Board's priority list. Siltation of the northern one-third of the lake has reached a point to negatively impact use of that portion of the lake. Cat-tail beds have encroached on the electric camp section blocking views of the lake. Portions of the north end of the lake which were 3' deep in 1979 are now less than 6" and boats have a very difficult time reaching the camp section to be docked.

An investment in acquisition of ground surrounding the park will help extend the life of the lake, significantly postponing large expenditures for major lake renovation,



provide additional recreational value, and add sorely needed space for park expansion and wildlife habitat.

The Hansen Addition to Otter Creek Lake & Park, initiated in December, 2007, added a total of 252.32 acres to the original 270 acre park property. The newly acquired parcels will allow native vegetation to be planted to protect the water quality of Otter Creek Lake. When development is complete the property will include a variety of savanna, prairie, mixed woodland, wetlands and ponds.



Improvements to date have included a series of small wetland cells, 50 plus acres planted to native prairie species, and a ten acre direct woodland seeding.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN- OTTER CREEK LAKE

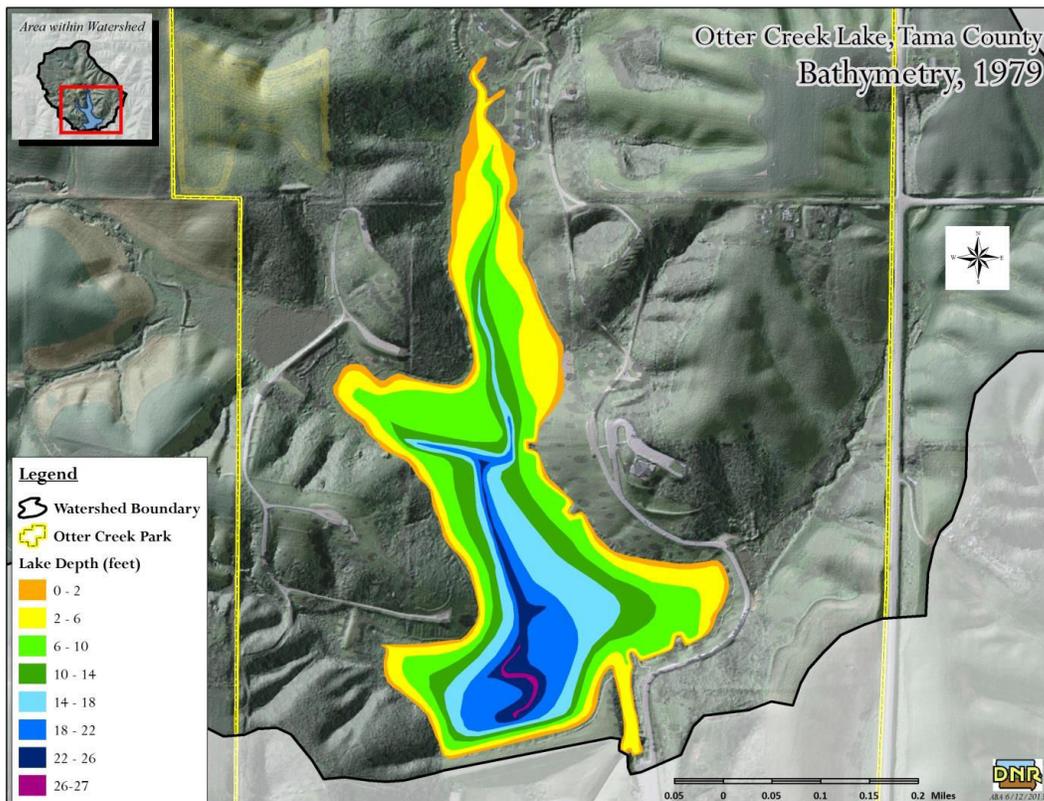
On December 9, 2015, a Kick-off Meeting was held for the Watershed Management Plan for Otter Creek Lake. The plan was the culmination of several years of committee work to generate a useful plan to direct future efforts to protect and improve water quality in the lake.

An advisory committee worked to develop the plan. Committee members were as follows:

Name	Affiliation	Role
Bob Etzel	Tama CCB	Director
Larry Jones	Iowa NRCS	District Conservationist
Melody Bro	Tama SWCD	District Coordinator / Planner
Mindy Buyck	Iowa DNR	TMDL modeler
Michelle Balmer	Iowa DNR	Water Monitoring
Jeff Tisl	IDALS-DSC	Regional Basin Coordinator
Mary Beth Stevenson	Iowa DNR	Iowa-Cedar Basin Coordinator

It is expected the plan will be implemented over a ten year period with a goal to restore the Otter Creek Lake basin.

Bathymetric Map of Otter Creek Lake showing the current depths in the lake.



AREA INVENTORY

The Tama County Conservation Board manages fourteen (14) areas totaling over 1,042 acres. These are managed for outdoor recreation, education, and wildlife benefits. A brief description of your Tama County Conservation Board areas are as follows:

COLUMBIA WILDLIFE AREA

This 160-acre tract, purchased in April, 1986, is located 3-1/2 miles southeast of Tama and is described as the SE1/4, Sec. 13, Columbia Township. The tract is managed first for wildlife and second for human recreational activities. The tract supports activities such as hunting, trapping, pond fishing, berry, nut and mushroom harvest, hiking, nature observation, to name a few.

The tract is relatively undeveloped and is planned to remain that way. The area was purchased with funding assistance from the Wildlife Habitat Stamp Fund. This fund receives moneys collected from the wildlife habitat fee. By law, each hunter is required to pay this fee when purchasing a hunting license. Fifty percent of these funds are used for county wildlife habitat projects.

Work needed on the area includes new creek crossings in the northwest and northeast sectors of the tract, compilation of a multi-flora rose inventory and control plan, repair to the dam of the main pond, and removal of interior fence-lines.

DUFFUS' LANDING

This small one acre boat landing is located 1-1/2 miles west of Chelsea in the NW1/4, Sec. 13, Richland Township. The property was originally leased in 1961.

The land, previously held under a twenty year lease which expired in 2001, is currently owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A new lease is currently being worked on concerning the area. For the time being the County Conservation Board still manages and maintains the landing.



The tract is managed for boating access to the Iowa River and also provides limited shoreline fishing. A concrete boat landing and small parking lot is present.

This boat landing is a popular access point and receives a good amount of use.

MARIA HLADIK ROADSIDE PARK

This roadside park is located 7-1/2 miles north of Toledo on Highway 63. The tract, managed as a roadside rest stop, also receives limited use for small picnics.

The original property was donated to the Conservation Board in 1968 and was located at the intersection of Highway 63 and E-29 (Garwin Blacktop). In 1974 the existing location was given to the county in exchange for the original property as the Iowa DOT needed that location as part of the Hwy 63 renovation project.

The tract includes a restroom and graveled drive and parking lot. During FY '96 the shelter was leveled by what appeared to be a semi-truck. There are no plans to replace the shelter at this time. The shelter had been hit at least on two other occasions by trucks and was seldom used.

Vandalism, a common problem with roadside parks, has slowed considerably in recent years.

IOWA RIVER NATURAL AREA

Lying one mile west of Chelsea this 100 acre bottomland timber encompasses nearly 3/4 mile of the Iowa River. Sixty acres of the tract was purchased in 1981 with the balance acquired in 1982. The tract lies in the NE1/4, Sec. 13, Richland Township.

The area is managed as a natural area with very little development planned. It provides opportunities for fishing, hunting, hiking and nature observation.

WOLF CREEK TRAIL

Wolf Creek Trail was established in 2007. It begins at the north end of Gladbrook and extends 2.75 miles northwest along an abandoned railroad right-of-way. The Wolf Creek Trail Committee, consisting of volunteers from the Gladbrook area, was the driving force behind successful completion of the recreational trail. The committee members and other volunteers provided many hours of volunteer work on the trail as well as negotiation of land acquisition and easements and writing of grants. The trail links to the existing Comet Trail managed by the Grundy County Conservation Board. The combined trails run over nine miles in length and connect the cities of Gladbrook, Beaman and Conrad, Iowa, as well as the Wolf

Creek Recreation Area. Mike Bearden, Clapsaddle-Garber Associates served as engineer for both phases of the project.

The trail is popular for hiking and biking as well as nature observation.

An agreement was finally reached during FY '16 with FEMA officials to repair damage inflicted by flooding on the trail in 2013. A contractor was selected and will begin and complete work on the trail in early FY '17.



Some of the damage to the Wolf Creek Nature Trail during 2013.

Repetitive flood damage is of major concern to the Conservation Board financially jeopardizing long term management of the trail.

MANATT'S LANDING

The original Manatt's Landing consisted of a two acre parcel leased from Manatt's Sand & Gravel and 3.34 acres leased from the State Highway Commission (currently the Iowa DOT). The leases were signed in 1963.

In 1979 an additional 2.25 acres were leased from the Iowa DOT when the new Iowa River bridge on Hwy 63 was built. The old road bed provided vehicular access to the river on the east side of Hwy 63. Total acreage of the area stood at 7.59 acres including the Addition.

A proposal in March, 1987, by the Iowa DOT to construct a drainage structure through the Addition to alleviate a long standing problem lying east of the highway and south of the Addition resulted in lengthy discussion.

The proposed structure would eliminate the usefulness of the Addition as an access by crossing the road. Also the county had no desire to assume maintenance liability on the structure.

Title was transferred back to the DOT during October, 1988. Acreage of the current area now stands as the original 5.34 acres. All property lies west of Hwy. 63. [Of the 5.34 acre tract the DOT ground was quit claim deeded to Tama County in March, 1987. In 2013 the Board entered into another twenty-five year lease with Manatt's Sand & Gravel for the property. The current lease has an expiration date of September 1, 2038.

The landing is managed as a river access site for boating and limited shoreline fishing. A concrete boat ramp and graveled parking lot is present.

HERITAGE WETLANDS WILDLIFE AREA

This 76.91 acre tract, purchased in December, 2014, houses 35.5 acres of emergent wetland, 16.0 acres of forested wetland, 1.5 acres mature woodland, 3.0 ac of native grass buffer, and 20.9 acres of upland (which is currently 16.5 acres row crop and 4.4 acres hay). The property is located immediately west of Salt Creek in eastern Tama County and is located in Section 26, York Township (T83N, R13W). The property lies 12 miles east of Tama, 2.2 mi south of Elberon, 5.0 miles NE of Chelsea, and 5.3 miles NW of Belle Plaine.

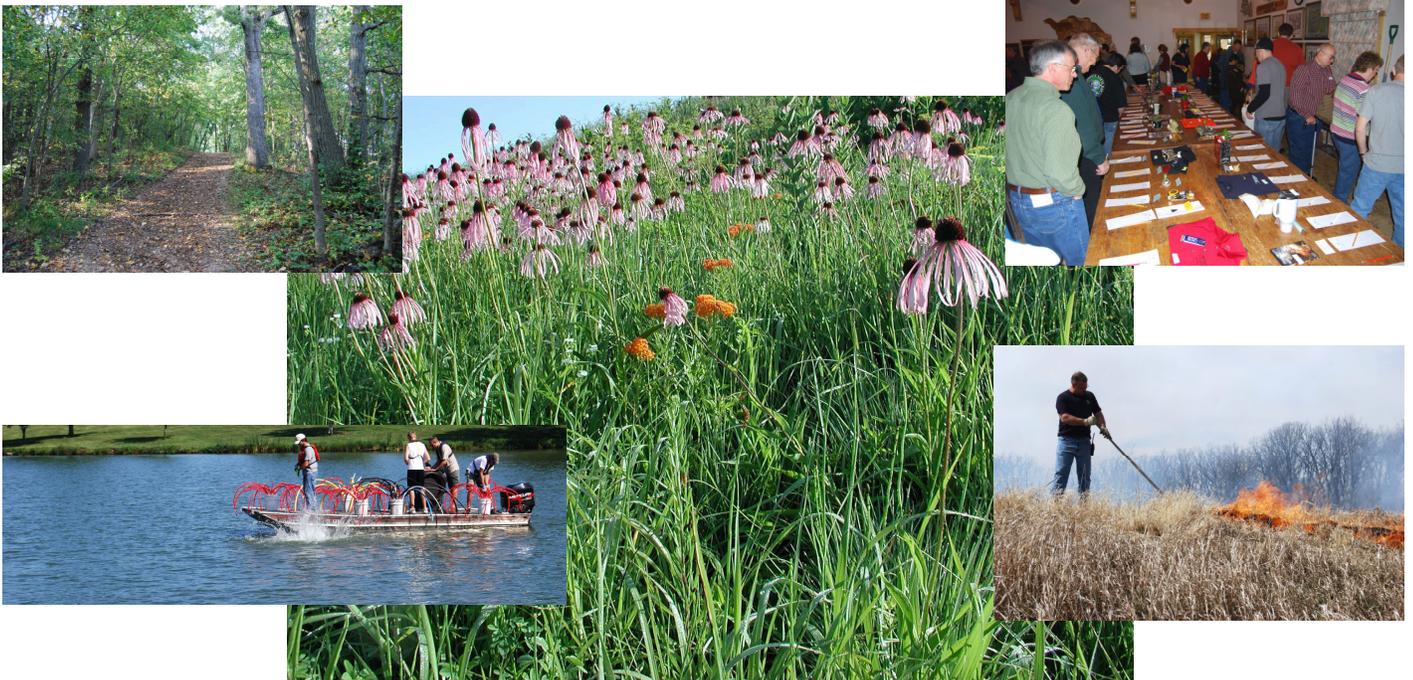


The tract was previously owned by Salt Creek Mitigation LLC and was developed as a wetland mitigation bank.

The area is managed first for wildlife and second for human recreational activities. The tract supports activities such as hunting, trapping, hiking, and nature observation, to name a few.

It is relatively undeveloped and is planned to remain that way. The area was purchased with funding assistance from the Wildlife Habitat Stamp Fund. This fund receives moneys collected from the wildlife habitat fee. By law, each hunter is required to pay this fee when purchasing a hunting license. Fifty percent of these funds are used for county wildlife habitat projects.

Planned work on the property includes ongoing invasive management control, and conversion of the crop field to prairie forbs and grasses.



LONG POINT LANDING

This boat landing site is located in Section 4, Richland Township. The 1.079 acre tract was acquired from Arnold Chantland of Toledo and is under fifty year lease expiring in January 1, 2046.

Construction was completed during FY '99 with inclusion of a concrete ramp, graveled parking and approaches. Rip-rap was placed on the upstream side of the ramp to protect it from erosion.

The project received funding through the State's Water Recreation Access Cost-share Program. The total project cost came to \$23,317 (State share: \$17,488; County share: \$5,829). Contractor on the project was: Morris Enterprises of Clutier.

IZAACK WALTON TRACT

In January, 1983, the Conservation Board acquired 17 acres in Sec. 17, Toledo Township. This property was leased to the Conservation Board after the local chapter of the Izaak Walton League disbanded.

The tract is managed as a public shooting facility providing an area for sighting in firearms, target practice, and shooting clay pigeons. The area also has a small pond for fishing. The associated grassland and timber provides wildlife habitat.

Due to continuing problems at the tract in the form of vandalism, unsafe shooting, shooting past posted hours, etc. the facility was closed from April to August, 2012. With the help of an Ike's Tract Planning Committee new rules were implemented governing use by the public.

The facility is managed as a restricted access facility requiring interested persons to attend a facility specific training session, sign a range use agreement and pay a user fee to become authorized to shoot at the facility.



Volunteers have made several nice improvements to the facility since it reopened in August, 2012.



LOHBERGER MEMORIAL PARK

A five acre wildlife area located in the NE1/4, Sec. 6, Toledo Township was gifted to the county in 1971. The tract is located 4 miles northwest of Toledo and provides good wildlife habitat and opportunities for mushroom and berry picking, nature observation, etc.

The area is managed as a wildlife refuge and no hunting or trapping is permitted on site.

McCOY LANDING

The tract came under the control of the Conservation Board in 1978. However, the property was formally gifted to the county in 1982 by Darwin "Bud" McCoy of Garwin. The 2.79 acre tract is located north of Highway 30 on the Wendling Quarry Road (C Ave.) in the SW1/4, Sec. 9, Indian Village Township.

The tract is managed as a river access point with limited shoreline fishing to the Iowa River. A concrete boat ramp, graveled parking and drive are provided.

REINIG WILDLIFE REFUGE AND NATURE STUDY AREA

On January 14, 2002, 46.29 acres were deeded to Tama County via Court Officer Deed. The property was gifted to the Conservation Board through the will of Leona Reinig of Toledo.

The property is managed as a wildlife refuge allowing no hunting or trapping. Development on the site will be limited in scale and intended to encourage residents to learn more about the natural environment. Tentative plans include a parking area, circular trail system, and wetland. Signage and fence replacement/repairs are also some anticipated costs for the tract. For the time being 16.3 acres of the site will remain in crop rotation to generate revenues needed for improvement projects and required maintenance.

T.F. CLARK PARK AND ADDITION



The park and addition are located in the SE1/4, Sec. 25, Buckingham Township, 3-1/2 miles northeast of Traer. The original park (24 acres) was acquired from the State of Iowa in 1960. Prior to that time the park was managed as a very small state park. In 1978 the 55 acre addition was purchased. The Addition was purchased with assistance of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The park is managed as a multi-use facility hosting picnics, camping, play activities, hiking and nature observation.

The Addition, an undeveloped bottomland timber, is managed as a wildlife refuge supporting mushrooming, fishing, hiking and nature observation. No hunting or trapping is allowed on the addition.

T.F. Clark Park because of its remoteness is a tough area to maintain and regulate. The park has a varying history of vandalism with FY '16 seeing no major acts of vandalism. The main electrical panel has been vandalized on several different occasions. Picnic tables and fire rings are a common target.

Facilities on site include:

1. Open air shelter, capacity approx. 100, built by Civilian Conservation Corps during the Depression.
2. One vault latrine
3. One small ball diamond/ play field
4. Play area including swings, merry-go-round, and spring animals
5. Electric camp section with hookups for ten units plus tent camping
6. Picnic tables for day use

OTTER CREEK LAKE & PARK

This park, located 6 miles northeast of Toledo in Secs. 30 & 31, Carroll Township, is the largest and most heavily used facility managed by the Conservation Board. Originally 277 acres in size the park has expanded to 522 acres with the acquisitions of the four parcels of the Hansen Addition to Otter Creek Lake & Park. The Hansen Addition acquisition project spanned from 2007 to 2010.



A wide variety of events are hosted at Otter Creek Park.

The Hansen Addition project will provide a buffer to the park while protecting the lake by establishing prairie, woodland, wetlands, and savanna on the acquired acres. It will also provide some acres to house a group camp area and cabins sometime in the future.

The original property, purchased during the late 1960's, currently houses a multi-use recreation facility accommodating camping, fishing, picnicking, hiking, playground activities, swimming, boating, and nature observation.



The park also serves as the headquarters for the office and maintenance operations of the Conservation Board and the home of the Tama County Nature Center. The facility serves as host site for many activities such as the N.R.C.S. Conservation Field Day, scouting day camps, school field trips, and youth fishing seminars. It will be the host site for ongoing environmental education activities as construction is completed on the Nature Center and on-site environmental education curriculum is developed.



Existing facilities include:

1. Seventy (70) acre lake hosting quality fishing, boating, and swimming.
2. Two open air shelters with approx. capacity of 72 persons each.
3. Electric camp section 46 unit capacity.
4. Tent section with 18 sites, 45 tent capacity
5. Swimming beach offered at no charge
6. Picnicking (Tables to entertain up to 400 persons)
7. Concrete boat ramp providing safe and convenient access to lake
8. Fish cleaning station located next to boat ramp
9. Sanitary dump station for trailer units using campground
10. Modern showerhouse (for campers)
11. Six vault latrines scattered throughout park
12. Two acre native prairie (never tilled by man)
13. Headquarters for maintenance operations including four shop buildings
14. Two residences, a 58' x 24' main residence (Director) and a 14' x 70' trailer residence (Park Rangers during summer duty shifts)
15. Two play areas with assorted play equipment including swings, jungle gyms, spring toys, slides, etc.
16. 2.5 mile loop scenic hiking trail around lake
17. Spillway footbridge located near boat ramp



- 18. Handicap access ramp constructed provides safe and easy access to beach play area.
- 19. Nature Center, is nearing completion and houses the main office. The building is 5,600 sq. ft. on the main floor, 2,600 sq. ft. in basement, and is a handicap accessible building. Phase 1- Nature Center Exhibits reached completion the fall of 2013. Phase 2 was finished on June 30, 2016.
- 20. Well house (East well), 16' x 24' structure to serve as distribution hub for the east side of the park.
- 21. A 16' x 24' Visitors Kiosk located directly south of the concrete boat landing.
- 22. Handicap access improvement projects including parking and access via concrete walkway to a fishing jetty, two restrooms and the showerhouse/restroom in the electric camp section.



Staff (Summer of 2016): From l to r:
Rieger, Hendricks, Reimenschneider, Koth,
Wise and Anderson. (Missing: Bergmann,
Etzel)

Expenditures- FY '16

CAPITAL PROJECTS	Expended
Description	FY '16
Buildings-Permanent Improvement	
0001-22-0210-000-61094	4,770.00
Land Acquisition	
0001-22-0210-000-62494	0.00
Activity Totals	4,770.00
ADMINISTRATION	
Salary- Director	
0001-22-6100-000-10000	50,428.28
Stationery & Forms	
0001-22-6100-000-26000	1287.21
Magazines/Books	
0001-22-6100-000-26100	105.00
Wearing Apparel	
0001-22-6100-000-29400	140.00
Off Pub, Legal Not	
0001-22-6100-000-40000	1,373.45
Postage	
0001-22-6100-000-41200	457.35
Employee Mile/Subsist	
0001-22-6100-000-41300	820.80
Telephone	
0001-22-6100-000-41400	2,826.58
School of Instruction	
0001-22-6100-000-42200	1,000.00
Dues & Memberships	
0001-22-6100-000-48000	1,590.00
Office Equip & Furniture	
0001-22-6100-000-63600	7,387.82
Activity Totals	67,416.49
PARK MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS	
Main Supv/Ranger	
0001-6110-101-22-223	

Conservation Tech	
0001-6110-101-22-226	
Seasonal Workers	
0001-6110-101-22-224	
	TOTAL SALARIES
	207,105.60
Fuels	
0001-22-6110-000-25050	3,732.84
Tires & Tubes	
0001-22-6110-000-25350	1,294.04
Minor Motor Vehicle Parts	
0001-22-6110-000-25450	6,062.30
Minor Equip & Hand Tools	
0001-22-6110-000-29050	308.91
Recreational Supplies	
0001-22-6110-000-29252	58,861.68
Wearing Apparel	
0001-22-6110-000-29400	816.57
Natural & LP Gas	
0001-22-6110-000-43000	3,514.54
Electric Light & Power	
0001-22-6110-000-43100	15,209.75
Agricultural & Horticultural	
0001-22-6110-000-63000	5,300.00
Motor Vehicle	
0001-22-6110-000-63597	0.00
Shop Equipment	
0001-22-6110-000-63700	743.86
	Activity Totals
	302,950.09
GENERAL SUPPLEMENTAL FUND	
Administration	
Health Ins.- Co. Share	
0002-22-6100-000-11300	17,324.40
FICA	
0002-22-6100-000-11000	3,802.67
IPERS	
0002-22-6100-000-11100	4,903.69
	TOTAL ADMINISTRATION
	26,030.76

Park Maintenance	
Health Ins.- Co. Share	
0002-22-6110-000-11300	23,109.40
FICA	
0002-22-6110-000-11000	15,769.97
IPERS	
0002-22-6110-000-11100	12,464.23
TOTAL MAIN & OPER	51,343.60
Activity Totals	77,374.36
General Basic- Department Totals	452,510.94

Dispensed from accounts	
REAP	
0023	14,199.00
LAD	
0027	41,229.52
Nature Center Trust	
0031	159,324.11
Machinery & Equipment	
2000	0.00
Total Expended From Accounts	214,752.63
Total Expenditures FY '16	667,263.57

This report is respectfully submitted,

CHAIR

VICE-CHAIR