

ANNUAL REPORT
TAMA COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
JULY 1, 2017- JUNE 30, 2018



TO THE TAMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Gentlemen:

Following is the report for the fiscal year 2018, 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 '18 were:

NAME	Term Expires	Meetings attended
Ellen Graff	Dec. '18	7
John Keenan	Dec. '19	10
Nathan Wrage	Dec. '20	12
Carolyn Adolphs	Dec. '21	12
Allan Atchison	Dec. '22	12

MEETINGS HELD

The Conservation Board met in twelve (12) regular sessions 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 5, 2017. Motion passed to accept a memorial donation of a flag pole to be placed near the boat landing at Otter Creek Lake and Park./Discuss the need to develop a job description for the position of Director./Motion passed to accept bids to do chip seal repair at Otter Creek Lake & Park./ Board discussed the disappointing cuts to the DNR's Forestry Bureau.

August 2, 2017. Motion passed to accept a bid of \$1,600 to sell the 1963 Galion Road Grader./Board decides to solicit quotes for substantial stump removal at Otter Creek Lake & Park/ Motion passed to distribute remaining ARC-CO funds equally among participating school districts.

September 6, 2017. Motion passed to grant an easement for a pond outlet on the west side of Otter Creek Lake & Park./Motion passed to allow the use of steel targets at the Izaak Walton Shooting Facility for law enforcement qualifications./Board enters into closed session to discuss possible land acquisition./Board decides to order 600, 6"- 8" walleye for stocking at Otter Creek Lake later this fall./Motion passed to request the Board of Supervisors place a check for \$161,293.18 into the LAD Account. The check was for partial reimbursement through FEMA for work completed on Wolf Creek Trail./ Board discusses upcoming Fall Festival slated for October 8, 2017./Board discusses current tent camping policy at Otter Creek Lake & Park.

October 4, 2017. Board passes motion to accept a resolution to not allow law enforcement qualifications at Izaak Walton Shooting Facility./Board discusses the need to make decisions with the likely retirement of the current Director in April or May, 2019. Discussions will be held throughout the next 18 months regarding this "transition to the future".

November 1, 2017. Annual Report for FY '17 presented and accepted by the Board./ A substantial water leak in North Loop camp area (Otter Creek Lake & Park) was discussed and motion passed to have Scharnweber Inc. fix the leak./Job Description- Director The Board considered a first draft of a possible job description./Motion passed to purchase up to four trail cams for use to monitor various facilities due to dumping of trash./Motion passed to apply for Fish Habitat Stamp Grant assistance to remove silt from silt pond #5 (Otter Creek Lake & Park). /Motion passed to allow Etzel to serve as agent for the board in signing documents for a land acquisition./Board discusses the possibility of renovation work for Otter Creek Lake.

December 13, 2017. Board discusses an increase in vandalism on facilities./Report that the property donated to the Board by OMG/Cessford has been closed on.

January 10, 2018. John Keenan was elected chair and Nathan Wrage elected vice-chair for 2018./ Possible ROW corridors for the newly acquired OMG/Cessford property were discussed./Motion passed setting FY '19 salaries for

staff./FY '19 Budget- Presentation of the proposed FY '19 budget was made to the Board. Motion passed to accept the budget as presented.

February 27, 2018. Environmental Education- Logan Roberts, Naturalist discussed programming for the future in Tama County./Land Acquisition- Board enters into closed session to discuss possible land acquisition. After returning to open session board members agree there is no interest in the property at this time.

March 7, 2018. South Loop Campground Renovation- Board discusses the project for completion in FY '19./Update presented to the Board regarding habitat project work./ Motion passes to allow use of the Izaak Walton Shooting Facility by the Young Guns 4-H Shooting Club from April 1- September 30, 2018

April 4, 2018. Tama County Community Foundation Grant- Motion passed by Board to allow staff to acquire equipment partially funded by the grant for use in the environmental education programming of the board./OMG/Cessford Property-ROW Easements- It was reported that Etzel had met with adjoining landowners Bob McCoy and Terry Hinegardner regarding possible ROW agreements for the property./ Otter Creek Lake & Park- park rules update and tent camping policy- motion passed to accept park rules as presented./ Columbia Wildlife Area- motion passed to enter into three year crop lease with Calvin Richardson for 4.5 acres.

May 2, 2018. Fish Habitat Grant- motion passed to enter into an agreement with the Iowa DNR for Fish Habitat Stamp Grant #18-05F./Report received that a grant to plant 17.4 acres on the Heritage Wetlands Wildlife Area has been awarded. The grant will pay for seed estimated at a \$7,000 value./Motion passed to purchase a new Hotsy power washer for the shop.

June 6, 2018. Motion passed to acquire 600, 6" -8" walleye from Harrison Fish Hatchery for late fall stocking./ Motion passed to purchase a H&H 24', gooseneck trailer.

INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS/UPGRADES- The challenge continues

The Conservation Board continues to discuss the growing challenge to fund sorely needed infrastructure repairs and upgrades. Even though funding for capital projects was increased from \$50,000 in FY '17 to \$72,500 for FY '18 and \$87,935 for FY '19 it is important to reach or exceed \$100,000 for capital improvement projects for FY '20 and beyond.

Funding levels are inadequate to address upcoming larger project needs. 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).

The biggest challenge will be to secure an increased Capital Projects budget for the next ten fiscal years. It is hoped that the Supervisors will agree to a capital projects budget of \$100,000 or more per year during that period of time.

	Estimated Cost
Electrical Updates- RV Camp section- OCP \$90,000- \$100,000 for south loop upgrades (FY '19), \$40,000 for each Camper's Hill and Beach pads in near future	180,000.00
OCP- replace picnic pads (beach area), handicap ramp and walkways to all pads	12,000.00
Picnic Point Handicap parking, access to 1st picnic pad, new retaining wall for picnic pad	10,000.00
OCP- Warehouse addition	50,000.00
Otter Creek Lake and Park- Hansen Addition- wetlands (NW drainage)	100,000.00
Otter Creek Lake and Park- Hansen Addition- forest/shrub plantings- Parcel D	5,000.00
Lake Restoration- Otter Creek Lake tentatively slated for FY '20 or FY '21	\$2.0 million
OCP- Playground renovation	40,000.00
Camper's Hill/Beach restroom- relocate, repair or replace	30,000.00
Engineering- group camp/ cabin area- OCP	15,000.00
OCP- group camp area/cabin development	300,000.00
Reinig Tract- construct wetland	30,000.00
TFCP- Shelter restoration	10,000.00
TFCP- new restroom	30,000.00
TFCP- play equipment	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

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.

On October 31, 2017, OMG Midwest, Inc. successor by merger with Cessford Construction Company donated approximately sixty acres of land to Tama County in Section 15, Indian Village Township. The property, which will be managed as a wildlife area, includes a scenic bluff, small wetland and some oxbows. Negative

impacts on the property due to long term grazing will require renovation of the oxbows and planting of native vegetation over the next several fiscal years.

The property will not be open for public use until sometime in late FY '19 pending completion of a parking lot, perimeter fencing and signage.



PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

Staffing Needs

The creation of the Naturalist/Park Ranger position starting in FY '16 addressed the long term need to adequately provide an ongoing and dedicated staff person to generate environmental education opportunities for residents and guests.

The position had been pursued for nearly two decades as the need to add a staff person became ever more apparent. This position will have long lasting positive impacts in the county.

It is exciting to see the young environmental effort grow in leaps and bounds.

With the expected retirement of the Director slated for the spring of 2019 the Board has been looking



at future staffing needs of the department. It is apparent that one full time staff person should be added to help meet maintenance and patrol needs of the system. The program has grown and issues such as water quality, forestry/habitat issues and control of invasive species have been added to the work load already handled by staff for the past forty-eight years.

The Conservation Board will be discussing these needs with the Supervisors to assure a quality conservation program is available into the future.

TAMA COUNTY NATURE CENTER

The Nature Center has become a popular site for many different activities. Over 3,900 visitors attended private events and programs during FY '18. This does not include casual visitors, environmental education, special events of the board, 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 \$122,000. The event has been tabbed "Fun Night" and netted \$4,700 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 '18 were:

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

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 allowing design and eventual fabrication of 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.

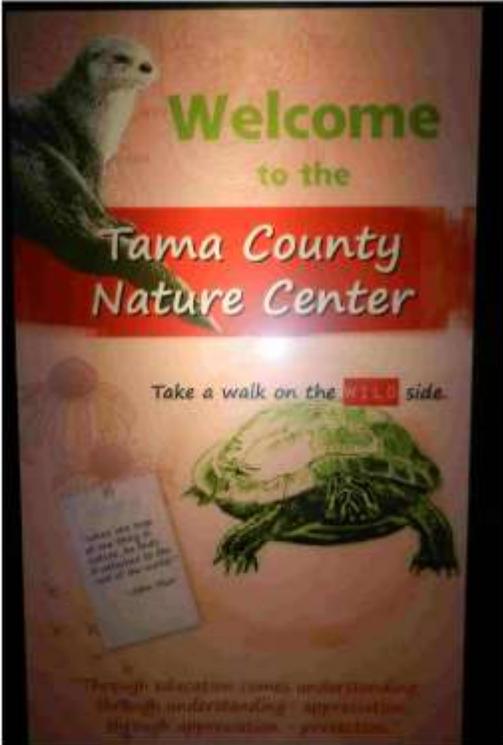
The volunteers that formed dreams into reality have made a valuable contribution to their community by providing a top-flight educational and motivational tool that will inspire adults and children for years to come.

Exhibit team members serving since 2007 have been: Dysart: Cathy Wieck, David Hill, Chelsea: Josh Van Hamme, Gladbrook: Geri Eilers, Montour: Melody Bro, Traer: Yvette Berner, Judy Krebsbach; Tama/Toledo: Dennis Appelgate, George Corum, Ginny Elliott, Bob Etzel, Denise Fletcher, and Jim Little.



Exhibit team members (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



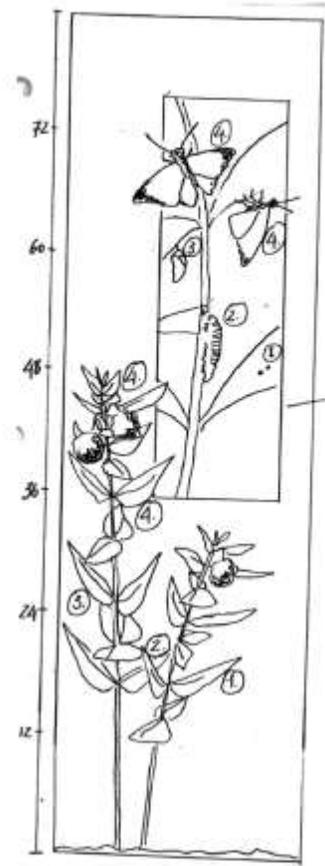
We Otter Have a Nature Center in Tama County



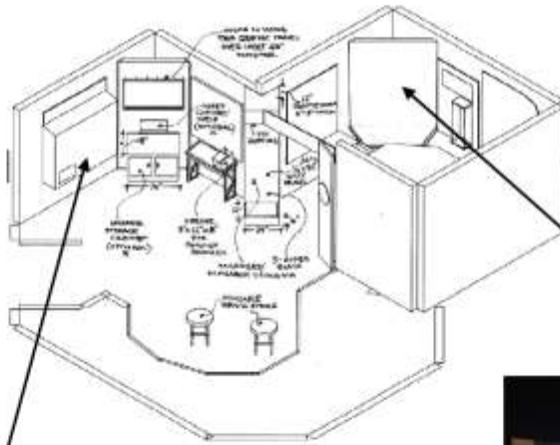
C'mon! Get down on your knees and see what you can see!



Tama County Nature Center- Phase 2



Sketch Monarch Display



Kids Interactive Discovery Wall



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

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Logan Roberts joined the county conservation team on July 24, 2017, filling the position of Naturalist/Park Ranger. Logan brought four years of experience as Naturalist to our young environmental education program. Her knowledge, talent, passion and personable nature hint to a continued growth in providing quality programming for our youth, families and adults.

In addition to quality programming Logan's first year included developing deeper and lasting relationships with teachers, civic organizations and other folks interested in environmental education in Tama County.



Second graders from South Tama are shown with insects caught in the prairie at Otter Creek Lake & Park as part of their exciting fall field trip.

This young lad is excited to catch his first fish at a family fishing event at Otter Creek Lake on June 1. The event was funded through a Vamos a pescar grant which provides fishing and water recreation instruction to encourage our Hispanic residents to enjoy the out-of-doors.



Tama County Community Foundation Grant

A \$4,000 grant was awarded to the Conservation Board's Environmental Education effort by the Tama County Community Foundation. The funds will be coupled with Nature Center Trust funds to purchase eight canoes, canoe trailer, life jackets, and paddles. It is anticipated the canoes will be delivered in early FY '19. Total anticipated cost of the project will be approximately \$10,500.



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
Tama County
Affiliate of the Community Foundation of NE IA

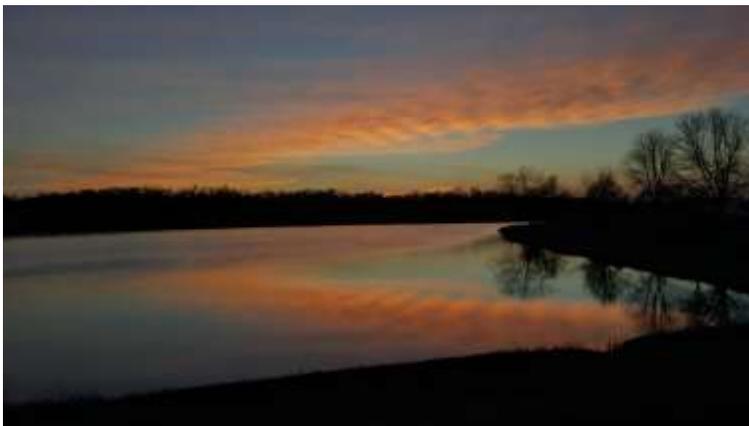
Pollinator Planting A "Seed a Legacy" grant received from the Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund provided native grass and forb seed valued at approximately \$7,000. The seed allowed 17.4 acres of a bean stubble field to be planted the spring of 2018 at the Heritage Wetlands Wildlife Area. The species planted will have a direct benefit to bees, butterflies and other pollinators as well as other insects and wildlife species.



The Bee & Butterfly
Habitat Fund

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 have allowed 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 twenty acres of woodland direct seeding and planting.

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.



AREA INVENTORY

The Tama County Conservation Board manages fifteen (15) areas totaling nearly 1,100 acres. These are managed for outdoor recreation, education, water quality 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.

The 4.5 acre food plot is currently in a three year crop lease which will end after the 2020 crop year.

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, and currently owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service saw completion of a Memorandum of Understanding between the USFWS and the Tama County Conservation Board in December, 2016. The MOU will allow the County Conservation Board to continue managing and maintaining the landing through December 31, 2026.

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 three acre roadside park is located 7-1/2 miles north of Toledo on Highway 63. The tract is managed primarily as a roadside rest stop. It also provides a small amount of wildlife habitat.

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. 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 no 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



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

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.

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. 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. A crop lease on approximately 21.0 acres expired the spring of 2018. With the assistance of a grant from the Seed A Legacy grant program 17.4 acres of the retired crop field was planted to bee and butterfly habitat of various native grasses and forbs. The remaining 3.6 acres was planted to form a firebreak.

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.

IZAAK WALTON SHOOTING FACILITY

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. On March 18, 2014, the Izaak Walton League of America, Inc. deeded the property to Tama County, IA.



Volunteers constructed nearly 1,900 sq. ft. of ADA accessible concrete parking spots, pads, and sidewalk at the Izaak Walton Shooting Facility during FY '18.

The tract is managed as a public shooting facility providing an area for sighting in firearms, target practice, and shooting clay pigeons. A small pond is on site. 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.

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, a small pond, 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 driveway 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 tract is located in Section 16, Toledo Township, approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile west 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. The tract has a small parking area. Tentative future plans include a circular trail system, and wetland. Signage and fence replacement/repairs are also some anticipated costs for the tract. Since acquisition 16.3 acres of the site has remained in crop rotation to generate revenues needed for improvement projects and required maintenance. It is anticipated that in FY '19 the crop field will be retired into some type of native vegetation.

OMG Midwest/Cessford Tract

On October 31, 2017, OMG Midwest, Inc., successor by merger with Cessford Construction Company, gifted approximately 56 acres of land located in Section 15, Indian Village Township, to Tama County.

The property, which consists of oxbows, small wetland and scenic river bluff will be managed as a wildlife area providing habitat and recreational opportunities for nature observation and public hunting.

The property suffers from decades of mismanagement and will require restoration efforts anticipated to take several years. Once restoration is complete the area should be a quality natural resource facility in the Iowa River valley.



At this time the property is not open for public use. It is anticipated the property will be available to the public sometime in late FY 2019 following construction of a parking lot, fencing, and installation of perimeter signage. The official name of the facility was not established by the end of FY '18.

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 from 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. 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.
2. One vault latrine
3. One small play field
4. Play area including 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 acquisition of the four parcels of the Hansen Addition to Otter Creek Lake & Park. The Hansen Addition acquisition project spanned from 2007 to 2010.

The Hansen Addition parcels provide a buffer to the park while protecting the lake through established prairie, woodland, wetlands, and savanna on the acquired acres. Tentative future plans include some of the acres in Parcel A to house a group camp area and cabins.

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

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. Since 2015 the park has experienced a growing role as host site for ongoing environmental education activities as construction was completed on the Nature Center display components and on-site environmental education curriculum is developed by our professional Naturalist.

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. Primitive camp 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. 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
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 providing safe and easy access to beach play area.
19. Tama County Nature Center. 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. Facility houses ongoing environmental education programming.
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.





Expenditures- FY '18

CAPITAL PROJECTS	Expended
Description	FY '18
Buildings-Permanent Improvement	
0001-22-0210-000-61094	53,173.68
Land Acquisition	
0001-22-0210-000-62494	0.00
Activity Totals	53,173.68
ADMINISTRATION	
Salary- Director	
0001-22-6100-000-10000	53,891.74
Stationery & Forms	
0001-22-6100-000-26000	748.24
Magazines/Books	
0001-22-6100-000-26100	105.00
Wearing Apparel	
0001-22-6100-000-29400	0.00
Off Pub, Legal Not	
0001-22-6100-000-40000	1,191.73
Postage	
0001-22-6100-000-41200	303.72
Employee Mile/Subsist	
0001-22-6100-000-41300	758.70
Telephone	
0001-22-6100-000-41400	1,839.68
School of Instruction	
0001-22-6100-000-42200	891.66
Dues & Memberships	
0001-22-6100-000-48000	2,070.00
Office Equip & Furniture	
0001-22-6100-000-63600	0.00
Activity Totals	61,800.47
PARK MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS	
Main Supv/Ranger	49,059.46
Naturalist/Park Ranger	35,677.62

Conservation Tech/Park Ranger	40,312.46
Seasonal Workers	25,175.34
TOTAL SALARIES	150,224.88
Fuels	
0001-22-6110-000-25050	8,139.10
Tires & Tubes	
0001-22-6110-000-25350	2,090.83
Minor Motor Vehicle Parts	
0001-22-6110-000-25450	6,277.44
Minor Equip & Hand Tools	
0001-22-6110-000-29050	511.77
Recreational Supplies	
0001-22-6110-000-29252	74,345.34
Wearing Apparel	
0001-22-6110-000-29400	1,032.29
Natural & LP Gas	
0001-22-6110-000-43000	5,118.60
Electric Light & Power	
0001-22-6110-000-43100	18,368.11
Agricultural & Horticultural	
0001-22-6110-000-63000	13,417.70
Motor Vehicle	
0001-22-6110-000-63597	0.00
Shop Equipment	
0001-22-6110-000-63700	4,034.80
Activity Totals	283,560.86
GENERAL SUPPLEMENTAL FUND	
Administration	
Health Ins.- Co. Share	
0002-22-6100-000-11300	17,324.40
FICA	
0002-22-6100-000-11000	3,960.44
IPERS	
0002-22-6100-000-11100	5,242.40
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	26,527.24
Park Maintenance	
Health Ins.- Co. Share	
0002-22-6110-000-11300	14,645.04

FICA	
0002-22-6110-000-11000	11,426.56
IPERS	
0002-22-6110-000-11100	11,472.57
TOTAL MAIN & OPER	37,544.17
Activity Totals	64,071.41
General Basic- Department Totals	462,606.42

Dispensed from accounts	
REAP	
0023	14,378.00
LAD	
0027	8,659.94
Nature Center Trust	
0031	28,894.94
Machinery & Equipment	
2000	0.00
Total Expended From Accounts	51,932.88
Total Expenditures FY '18	514,539.30

This report is respectfully submitted,

CHAIR

VICE-CHAIR