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# Annual Report of the Louisa County Conservation Board Fiscal Year 2023 July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

**TO:** The Louisa County Board of Supervisors  
**REPORTED BY:** Katie Hammond, Executive Director

Following is the annual report of the Louisa County Conservation Board for the fiscal year (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023) as prescribed in Chapter 350.3 of the Code of Iowa (1993).

## FY23 at a Glance

- **Building Move** – The Louisa County Conservation Maintenance Shop gained three new buildings. The buildings were moved from the former Hank Farm about a quarter mile down the road. There are two lean-to shelters for parking equipment under and the bigger barn 54' x 36' (pictured right).
- **Toolesboro Museum Updates** – The State of Iowa added the Toolesboro Museum to their major maintenance budget this year and the building received some great improvements. The museum now has new siding, windows, and doors. In addition, a grant from the Community Foundation of Louisa County provided new interpretive signs.



- **Playground and Water Bottle Filling Station at Eden Park** – Thanks to grants from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust, Community Foundation of Louisa County, Delta Dental, and the Eden Park Trust, Eden Park has a new playground. This natural looking playground combines rocks and logs with rope to make a unique playset. The new water bottle filling station was installed near the playground for people to get a drink. A ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening is scheduled for August of FY24.



- **The Shoppa Family was awarded the 2022 Friend of Conservation award.** Former employees, and siblings, Jake and Gennifer Shoppa have continued to support Louisa County Conservation through volunteer work. In addition, they recruited lots of friends and family members to help with the various clean-up events and programs.



- **A mile-long section of the Hoover Nature Trail south of HWY 78 was sold.** The Board was approached by Mr. McDonald about selling the section. They felt that the segment was not going to go anywhere and decided to sell it and use the funds to improve other trails in Louisa County. The money was placed in a special “Trails” line item in the Reserve Account to be used for trail projects.

- **Timber was sold at Virginia Grove Recreation Area.** The Board entered an agreement with J. Kubbitz through Geode Forestry to sell selective timber at Virginia Grove. A total of 139 trees were selected and marked for harvest. Due to an unusually warm winter, the loggers were unable to get into the area to harvest the trees, and the contract was extended for another winter. Kubbitz paid for the trees in FY23 but is expected to cut in FY24.



## **Mission Statement**

*The mission of the Louisa County Conservation Board is to provide an appreciation of Louisa County's natural resources through environmental education and recreation; and to manage our parks and natural areas for present and future generations.*

## **Board Roster**

The five members of the Louisa County Conservation Board are a decision-making and policy-making body appointed by the Louisa County Board of Supervisors. The board's authority includes the acquisition and development of land, adoption of rules and regulations, comprehensive planning of an overall county conservation board program and specific site plans for individual areas. Other functions of the Board include hiring an executive director, developing a budget, and working with other governmental subdivisions to provide programs for the public.

The primary consideration of the board should be to provide a balanced conservation, recreation, and education program to the citizens of the county, through proper planning and identification of needs and demands. The County Conservation Board can be the primary county agency dealing with natural resource issues in its county. (Source: Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards)

The **Louisa County Conservation Board members** who served during this reporting period were:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Expiration Date</b>	<b>Meetings Attended</b>
Joellen Schantz	Secretary/Treasurer	Dec 31, 2023	19
	Vacant	Dec 31, 2024	0
Josh Hardin	Chair	Dec 31, 2025	20
Brad Quigley	Member	Dec 31, 2026	19
Elizabeth Kling	Vice Chair	Dec 31, 2027	18

Note: Sam Willson was removed from the Conservation Board after the June 2022 meeting. He made an appeal and is awaiting a judge's ruling before the Supervisors are able to appoint someone to the position. The position remained vacant for the entire Fiscal Year.

## **Meetings Held**

The board held 12 regular meetings and eight (8) special meetings during the fiscal year. Agendas and minutes from the meetings are on file at the Louisa County Conservation Office, 12653 County Road G56, Suite 101, Wapello, Iowa, 52653. The last 12-months' worth of meeting minutes can also be found online at: [LouisaCountyConservation.org](http://LouisaCountyConservation.org). To find meeting information on the website, click on "News" at the top, then "Board Meeting Information." This page will provide minutes for the past year and information about the next meeting and Board.



# Louisa County Conservation Staff

The Louisa County Conservation Board maintained six permanent staff positions and eight seasonal positions.

## LCC Permanent Employees for FY23

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates Started</b>
Katie Hammond	Executive Director	03/2000 (PFT)
Jeff Snyder	Operations Supervisor – Retired	10/2006 (PFT) – July 6, 2022
Lana Artz-McComb	Naturalist	3/2016 (PFT)
Dani Boysen	Office Manager	7/2016 (PFT – 75%)
Laura Semken	Naturalist - Resigned	8/2020 (PFT) – Feb 21, 2023
Noah Robb	Operations Supervisor	5/2021 (PFT)
Jacob Ewart	Natural Resource Technician	7/2022 (PFT)
Sarah Martinez	Naturalist	5/2023 (PFT)

## LCC Permanent Employees for FY23



Katie Hammond  
Executive Director



Dani Boysen  
Office Manager



Noah Robb  
Operations Supervisor



Sarah Martinez  
Naturalist



Lana Artz-McComb  
Naturalist



Jacob Ewart  
Natural Resource Technician

## LCC Seasonal, Temporary & On Call Employees for FY23

Name	Title	Dates Started
Luke Perkins	Seasonal Maintenance 6. Mo position	Summer 23 (SFT)
Aaron Harvey	Seasonal Maintenance	Summer 23 (SFT)
Andrew Brown	Seasonal Maintenance	Summer 23 (SFT)
Lynette Moore	Toolesboro Assistant	Summer/Fall 19- 23 (SPT)
Nonie Crumly	Toolesboro Assistant	Summer/Fall 20 -23 (SPT)
Griffin Schoonover	Naturalist Intern	Summer 23 (SPT)
Rylee Cole	Summer Rec	Summer 23 (SPT)
Sage Van Sickle	Summer Rec	Summer 23 (SFT)

### Definitions

PFT: Permanent Full Time (at least 32 hours/week, receives full benefits)

PPT: Permanent Part Time (20-31 hours/week, salaried, receives vacation, sick leave & holidays)

SFT: Seasonal Full Time (works full time seasonally, no benefits)

SPT: Seasonal Part Time (works part time, seasonally, no benefits)

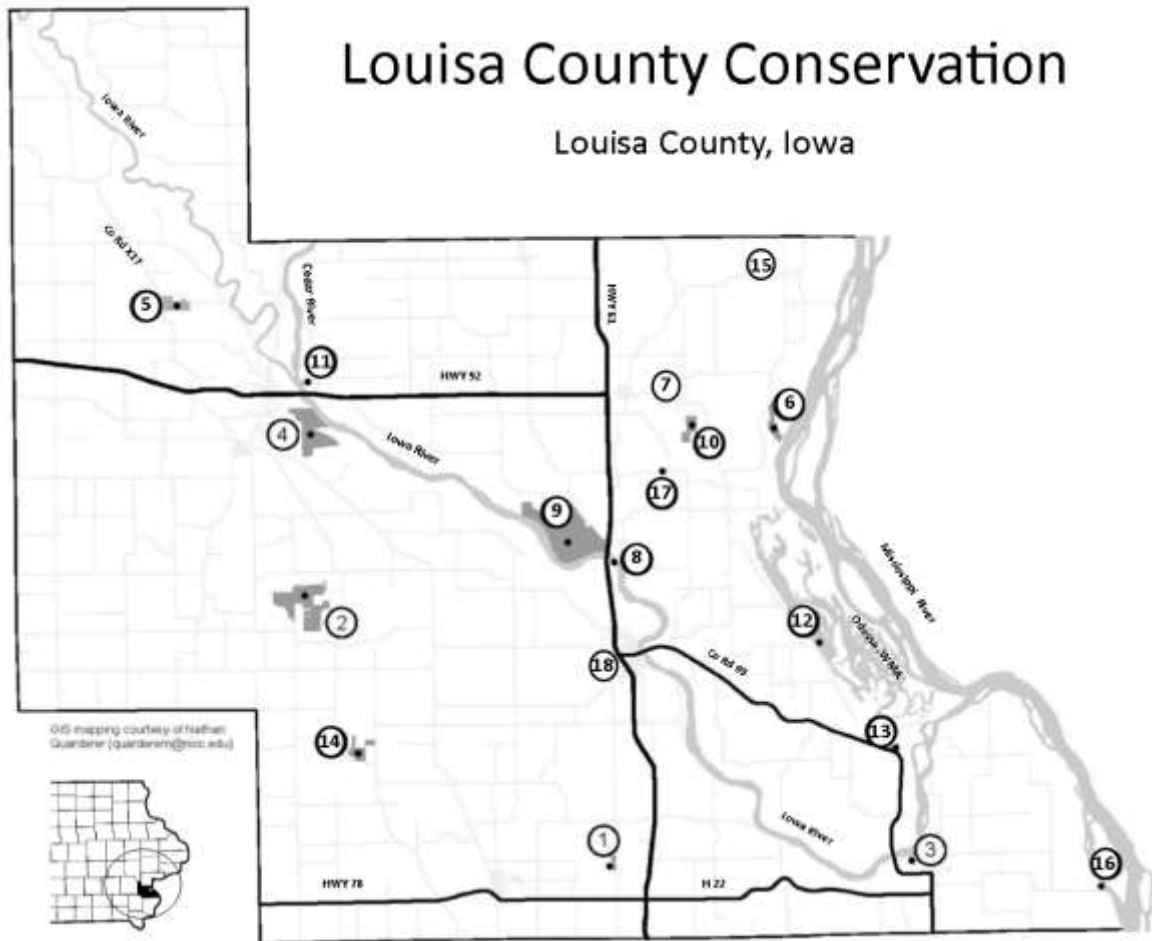
### Volunteers

In addition, the conservation board used the services of volunteers and community service workers including school groups, Boy Scouts, Louisa County Izaak Walton League and more. Pictured below are women from the Quad Cities Women’s Outdoor Club helping with a native prairie seed harvest at the Wetland Interpretive Trail.



## Area Inventory

Louisa County Conservation currently owns and/or manages 18 areas comprising a total of approximately 2,604-acres for conservation, recreation, open spaces, and wildlife benefit. There were no acquisitions in 2023, however the Board did sell a mile-long segment of the Hoover Nature Trail, South of HWY 78 near Morning Sun.



1. Baird Timber
2. Cairo Woods Wildlife Area
3. Cappy Russell Access
4. Chinkapin Bluffs Recreation Area
5. Eden Park
6. Flaming Prairie Park
7. Hickory Hollow Wildlife Area
8. Highway 61 Access
9. Indian Slough Wildlife Area
10. Langwood Education Center
11. River Forks Access
12. Snively Access
13. Toolesboro Mounds and Museum/Littleton Brothers Memorial
14. Virginia Grove Recreation Area
15. Wilson Prairie
16. Wykert's Landing
17. Louisa County Conservation Office (Complex)
18. LCC Maintenance Shop



## Louisa County Conservation Board Parks and Wildlife Areas

Map number	Area 911 Address	Acreage	# Camping sites	Electricity	Water	Toilets	Picnicking	Hiking Trails	Equestrian Trails	Fishing, R-River L=lake or pond	Boating - motor	Boating - electric or no motor	Boat Ramp	Hunting - Forest	Hunting - Upland	Hunting - Wetland
1	<b>Baird Timber</b> 2851 "K" Ave	18												●		
2	<b>Cairo Woods Wildlife Area</b> 9032 "S" Ave (Main Access)	525						●	*	P		●		●	●	
3	<b>Cappy Russell Access</b> 6444 West Cty Rd X-71	5					●			R	●	●	●			
4	<b>Chinkapin Bluffs Recreation Area</b> 14198 "R" Ave	400			●	●	●	●		R				●	●	●
5	<b>Eden Park</b> 17426 Co. Rd. X17, Columbus Jct.	146					●	●								
6	<b>Flaming Prairie Park</b> 14624 Cty Rd X-61, Muscatine, IA	71	20	●	●	●	●			R	●	●	●			
7	<b>Hickory Hollow</b> 12786 148th Street, Wapello	34						●						●		
8	<b>Highway 61 Access</b> 10726 Highway 61	1								R	●					
9	<b>Indian Slough Wildlife Area</b> 1225 "L" Avenue (Main Access)	1100						●	*	R, P		●		●	●	●
10	<b>Langwood Education Center</b> 14019 "H" Ave, Wapello	130	For group use by reservation only													
11	<b>River Forks Access</b> 1001 Main St, Fredonia	5					●			R	●	●	●			
12	<b>Snively Access</b> 9246 Cty Rd X-61, Wapello	6	34	●	●	●	●			L	●					
13	<b>Toolesboro Indian Mounds &amp; Museum</b> 6568 Toolesboro Ave.	5		●	●	●	●									
14	<b>Virginia Grove Recreation Area**</b> 20406 55th St	157	11	●	●	●	●	●		P		●		●	●	
15	<b>Wykert's Landing</b> 1714 20th St	0.5								R	●	●	●			
16	<b>LCC Office</b> - open M-F, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - 12635 County Rd G56, Wapello - 319-523-8381															
17	<b>LCC Maintenance Shop</b> - (call for appt.) - 8299 K Avenue, Wapello - 319-523-6493															
* Open May 21 to September 15                      ** Includes Baird Grove Unit																



## Parks and Recreation Areas

Parks and recreation areas are those that contain a variety of amenities for the public. These amenities include reservable shelters, restrooms, playground equipment, hiking trails, docks, and more. Some allow hunting and some do not. Many of the LCC areas fall under more than one category, for example, Virginia Grove Recreation Area is also a campground.

The following areas fall under the **parks and recreation** category:

- Langwood Education Center
- Chinkapin Bluffs Recreation Area
- Eden Park
- Virginia Grove Recreation Area
- Wetland Interpretive Trail



- Toolesboro Mounds and Museum, National Historic Landmark – Owned by the State Historical Society of Iowa, managed by Louisa County Conservation through a cooperative agreement.
- Littleton Brothers Civil War Memorial – Owned by Louisa County Supervisors, managed by Louisa County Conservation and the descendants of the Littleton Family.
- Convict Road Historic Site – this was a shared project between Louisa County Conservation, Secondary Roads, and the Rural Hometown Pride Committee.



## Louisa County Campgrounds

The Conservation Board manages three campgrounds including: Snively Access, Virginia Grove and Flaming Prairie. Each campground offers water, latrines, and 20-30-50-amp electric service. Each campground has at least one non-electric site as well.

In FY23 camping fees were raised to \$17/site/night for all sites in all Louisa County campgrounds.

This year we decided to try making all sites at Snively and Virginia Grove reservable online. The cost for booking a site online was \$17/site/night with an online fee of \$4/reservation for a total of \$21. Flaming Prairie is still self-pay at the kiosk upon arrival.



The Board does not have any full hook-up sites or dump stations in the campgrounds.

Water is provided via frostless hydrants and campers are allowed to use “Y” valves to run a hose to their campers if other campers have access to water as well. Trash cans are provided.

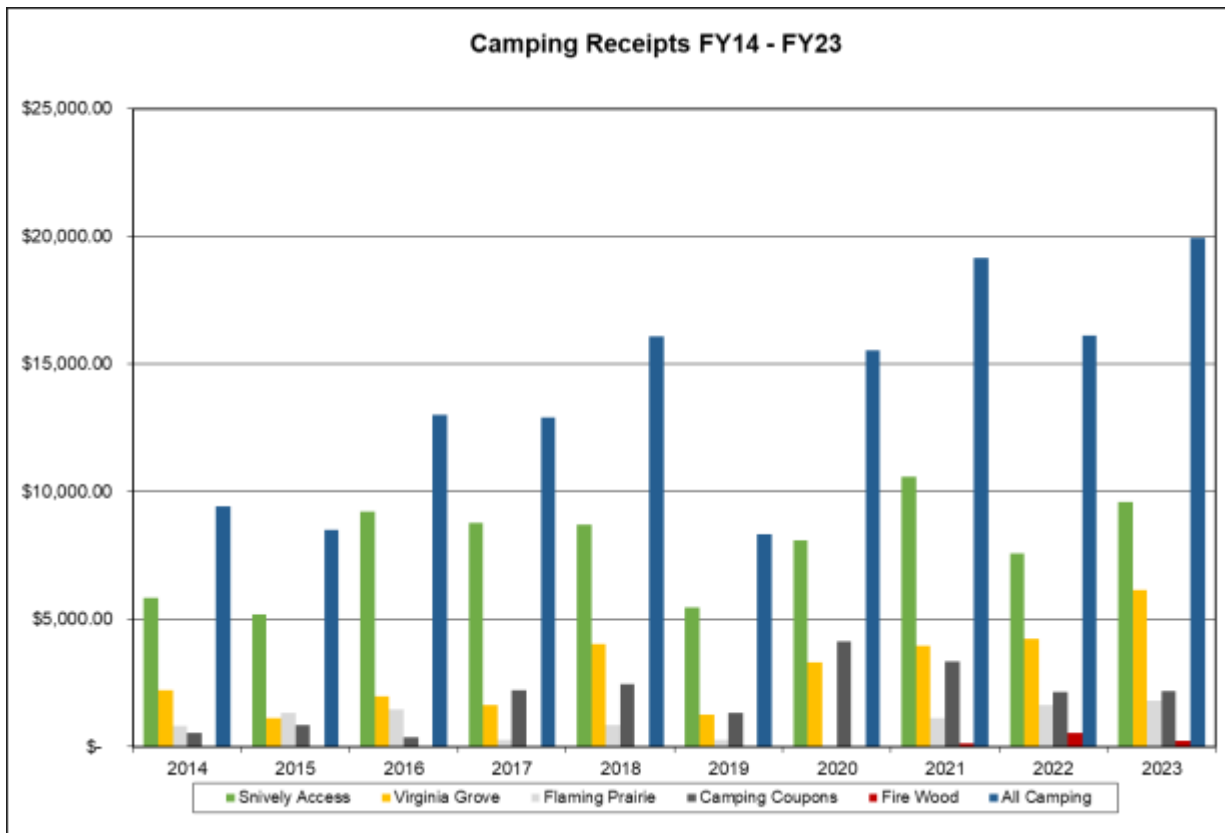
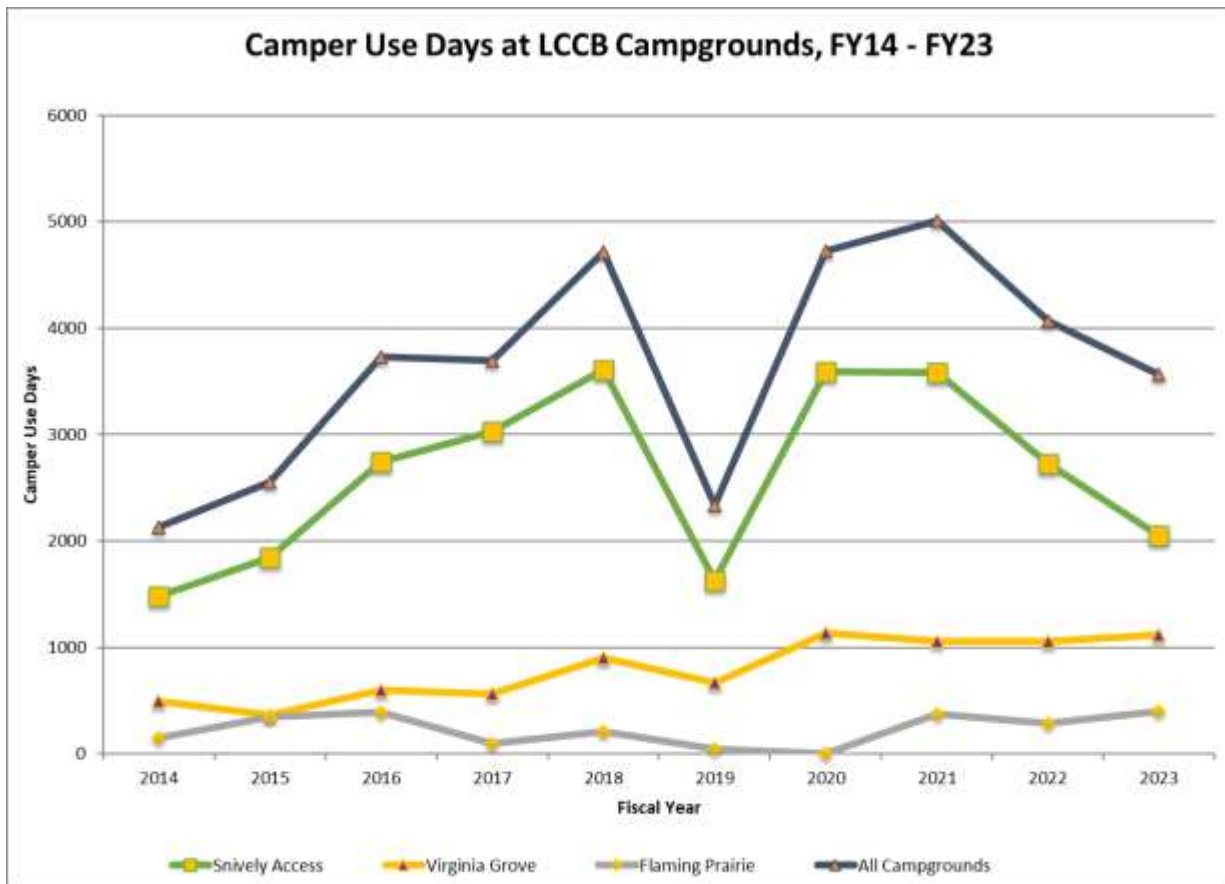
The two maintenance positions, along with 3 seasonal employees take turns running park patrol from Memorial Day through Labor Day weekends and beyond as needed.

The following areas fall under this category:

- **Snively Access and Campground** – This area is owned by the Iowa DNR and managed by LCC. It is mostly used as a campground but also provides canoe and kayak access to the Odessa Water Trail. Snively is, by far, our most popular campground. In FY23 camping revenue was \$9,592 with 2,054 camper use days.
- **Virginia Grove Recreation Area** – This is a multi-use area that is often used for picnics, playgrounds, fishing, hiking, and hunting but is also one of Louisa County’s premier campgrounds. Virginia Grove had 1,116 camper use days with a total revenue of \$6,140. Which is a record for Virginia Grove, going all the way back to 1988 and a 31% increase from FY22!
- **Flaming Prairie Campground and Boat Access** – This area is mostly used for boat access to the Mississippi River but also features a nice campground, when it is not closed due to high water. In FY23 there were 399 camper use days reported with a revenue of \$1,790. The revenue received from Flaming Prairie was the second highest since 1988!
- **Camping Coupons** – there were also \$2,175 in camping coupons sold in FY23. Camp Coupons were discontinued prior to the opening of camping season in February when the decision was made to go fully online reservable at Snively and Virginia Grove.

The charts on the next page show campground use data for the past 10 years.

# Louisa County Campground Usage



## Wildlife Areas

Louisa County Conservation maintains five areas that are designated as “wildlife areas.” These areas have very few, if any, amenities. Many of these areas were purchased or acquired in a way that contains some restrictions. Cairo Woods and Indian Slough were both purchased utilizing Wildlife Habitat Stamp Grants. These areas are required to remain open to public hunting and do not allow certain amenities that would restrict hunting in the area.



Wildlife areas feature some mowed trails that double as prescribed fire burn breaks. Most are open to public hunting, mushroom, and berry picking.

### Louisa County Conservation wildlife areas include:

- **Baird Timber**
- **Cairo Woods Wildlife Area**
- **Hickory Hollow Wildlife Area** – Indiana Bat Mitigation Site
- **Indian Slough Wildlife Area**
- **Wilson Prairie** – Believed to be native, virgin prairie! Hunting is NOT allowed due to the proximity of homes in all directions.

## Boat Accesses

Louisa County Conservation manages six boat accesses to assist the public in accessing the Cedar, Iowa and Mississippi Rivers as well as the Odessa Wildlife Management Area.

The following areas have boat accesses:

- **Cappy Russell Access** – is located on the Iowa River near Oakville, IA. This access is just a short way upriver from the confluence with the Mississippi River and is often used to access the Mississippi and Iowa.
- **Flaming Prairie Campground and Boat Access** – This area has a gravel access for boats to enter/exit the Mississippi River.
- **Highway 61 Access** – is located just off Highway 61, north of Wapello on the east side of the Iowa River bridge. There is not a launch for motorboats, however canoe and kayak access are possible during most water levels. The area is heavily used for fishing and eagle viewing.
- **River Forks Access** – is located just below the confluence of the Cedar and Iowa Rivers at Fredonia (near Columbus Junction) allowing easy access to both the Cedar and Iowa River.
- **Snively Access and Campground** – This area is owned by the DNR but managed by Louisa County Conservation. It is an access for canoes and kayaks only. Motorboats must access Odessa via one of the other Odessa Complex accesses including Schafer’s Access, Sand Run or Burris Ditch, all of which are owned by the US Army Corps of Engineers and managed by the Iowa DNR.
- **Wykert’s Landing** – is located on the Mississippi River in Pool 18, east of Oakville and features a gravel access.



# 1. Baird Timber – 18.5 acres

**Location:** Five miles south of Wapello, Iowa

**911 Address:** 2851 “K” Avenue, Wapello, IA

**Date Acquired:** July 6, 1983

**Management Restrictions:** None - although the Board applied three times for Wildlife Habitat Stamp funding, it was never received so there are no known restrictions on this area.

**Current management:** This wildlife area is all woodland, used mostly for wildlife habitat and hunting. Baird Timber is a beautiful place for spring and fall walks, viewing woodland wildflowers and hunting mushrooms.

**Existing facilities:** There is a small parking lot and about a quarter-mile trail loop.

**Updates in FY23:** Invasive species removal and general maintenance.

**Planned Improvements:** Continue to remove invasive species as needed and monitor tree and woodland health.



## 2. Cairo Woods Wildlife Area – 525 acres

**Location:** Five miles southeast of Columbus Junction, Iowa

**911 Address:** 9032 “S” Ave, Columbus Junction, IA (Main Access)

**Date Acquired:** 2 parcels acquired in 1984 totaling 135.74 acres and 4 parcels in 1987 totaling 390 acres.

**Management Restrictions:** Wildlife Habitat Stamp funds were used to purchase all but a .74-acre tract that is the access road. State Wildlife Habitat Stamp Funds restrict use of the area and does NOT allow amenities, permanent structures, or picnicking facilities to be built on the area. These amenities would restrict hunting access within 200 yards.

**Current management:** For wildlife habitat purposes and compatible recreational uses such as hunting, hiking, fishing, mushroom



hunting, black raspberry, mushroom & blackberry picking. This is a popular area for hunting rabbits, deer, turkey, pheasant, and quail. Cairo Woods also continues to be the best place in the county for picking black raspberries and blackberries.



**Existing trails:** 6 miles of mowed hiking trails, 5 miles of which are open to equestrian use from May 21 to September 15 each year.

**Existing facilities:** Three rocked parking lots. Accessible turkey hunting blind, located near the East Access.

**Improvements this fiscal year:** Food plots were planted; the skid steer was used to help keep the grassy areas open and maintain trails. A spring burn took place on Burn Unit 006.

**99 County Parks:** Cairo Woods has a selfie station, placed in FY19 as part of the Iowa Tourism’s 99 Counties, 99 Parks promotion. It was placed near the main access for people to snap selfies.

**Planned Improvements:** In FY24 staff hopes to conduct more prescribed burns at Cairo Woods. The DNR Forester is currently working on a forest management plan for this area, and it should be completed in FY24.

**Documented use for this area:** There were two documented programs held at Cairo Woods in FY23. The Hike-a-Park series featured 5 participants and Nature Tots had another 5 visitors. There were also several hunting parties and individuals who utilized Cairo Woods to hunt deer, turkey, rabbits, and pheasant.



### 3. Cappy Russell Access - 5 acres

**Location:** On the Iowa River approximately one-half mile west of Oakville, Iowa

**911 Address:** 6444 West Co. Rd X-71, Oakville, IA

**Date Acquired:** August 1, 1973

**Current management:** Maintained as a boat access on the Iowa River. Highly utilized access for the Iowa. Also used to reach the Mississippi River which is just a few miles downstream to the confluence.

**Management restrictions:** This area is restricted due to its location in the Iowa River Floodplain. It might be possible to receive assistance from the US Army Corps of Engineers for riprap in the future.

**Existing facilities:** Concrete boat ramp, graveled parking lot and access sign. We placed a porta pot at the access for the past four summers for boaters and anglers to utilize.



**Inundation:** When the Iowa River is at 20.2 feet, the parking lot at Cappy Russell is underwater. 2008 was the record with the parking lot under water for 86 days.

**Improvements this fiscal year:** LCC made a great effort to keep the trash can emptied and keep weeds/trees to a minimum along the shoreline. Low water levels and sand bar location made accessing the river from Cappy Russell difficult this summer.

**Planned Improvements:** This area requires constant maintenance after high water to remove sediment, replace or renew rock and clean up other flood debris.

**Documented use:** The River Paddlers Canoe Trek utilized this area for their Iowa River paddling adventure (17 kids), and a public paddle (10 adults).

(Photo below is from Schwob Access, heading to Cappy Russell.)



#### 4. Chinkapin Bluffs Recreation Area - 414 acres

**Location:** One mile southeast of Columbus Junction, Iowa

**911 Address:** 14198 “R” Ave, Columbus Junction, IA

**Dates Acquired:**

- Original Fuller Property (257.32 acres) acquired in March of 1992
- Wetland Addition (136.57 acres) acquired on September 12, 2002
- Hoover Nature Trail (20.47 acres) acquired in November of 2006



**Management**

**restrictions:** The original property was purchased using REAP funds. This restricts the Board from putting in organized sporting equipment or swimming pools, etc. The wetland addition was purchased using a mix of Wildlife Habitat Grant funds (75%), and local donations and funds from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. The wetland addition is also restricted from permanent structures or picnic areas.

**Current management:** multi-use recreation area – hunting, gathering, nature or bird hikes, picnicking, hiking, cross country running, field trips, summer rec and nature camps. There are two agriculture fields that are rented and food plots for wildlife.

**Existing facilities:** 2-sided shelter with a fireplace, several picnic tables, grills, city water, composting toilet, overlook deck, playground equipment, paw paw planting trial and five miles of hiking trails. There are three bridges on the Hoover Nature Trail which bisects the property and connects to the other park trails. In FY22 a sundial was added the park, located

near the shelter.

**Improvements this fiscal year:** Food plots were planted, and farm agreements continued with Clinton Ryan. Farm agreements were re-bid for FY24 planting season and there will be a new renter. Food plots were burned to make planting easier.

**Planned Improvements:** A handicapped accessible blind was built by the Louisa-Muscatine Shop Class (pictured below). It is expected to be placed in FY24. We will continue to improve the Hoover Nature Trail and trailhead.

**Documented use:** There were 8 shelter reservations at Chinkapin Bluffs for the year. There were four school field trips held at Chinkapin Bluffs with a total attendance of 140 students ranging from Pre-K to 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Winter Nature Camp was held at Chinkapin with 11 participants and 8 people attended the Chinkapin “Hike a Park.” Event.





## 5. Eden Park – 146 Acres

**Location:** Northeast of Columbus Junction, near Gladwin

**911 Address:** 17426 Co. Rd. X-17, Columbus Junction, IA

**Date Acquired:** Donated by Donna Eden in November of 2010 to be used as a “park.”

**Management Restrictions:** There are no management restrictions except for MidAmerican’s high voltage power lines that run most of the South border of the property then bisect the area to the East. They have an easement under the lines that restricts some uses.

Hunting is NOT allowed, although the area is open to the public for bird watching and nature enjoyment.

**Current management:** The rolling topography includes grasslands, wetlands, two creeks and forests. Quail strips were planted back when Ms. Eden owned the property.

**Existing facilities:** There is a cable parking lot, with a gravel base. We maintain a mowed hiking trail that does about a 3-mile figure-8 around the area. There is also a low water crossing that was installed in FY20 for access to the other side of the main creek.

**Improvements this fiscal year:** We received two grants to build a playground at Eden Park and it was completed at the end of FY23.

**Planned Improvements:** LCC is finishing up installation of a Water Bottle Filling Station from a Delta Dental Grant. A ribbon cutting celebration and grand opening of the playground is set for August in FY24. Trail signage with mileage and maybe maps at key locations. Prescribed fire in the prairie. A reservable picnic shelter, picnic tables, and more benches.



**Eden Park Trust:** A trust fund was set up by Donna Eden’s estate, to assist in funding projects and improvements to Eden Park. The Trust Fund provided funding to create the Master Plan in FY16, low water crossing (FY19), campground plan (FY20), and assisted with the playground (FY23).

**Documented use:** Seven people attended the Great Escape Nature Camp held at Eden Park that focused on Pollinators.

## 6. Flaming Prairie Park – 72.55 acres

**Location:** Approximately 15 miles south of Muscatine, Iowa off Co Rd X-61

**911 Address:** 14624 Co. Rd. X-61, Muscatine, IA

**Date Acquired:** In 1978 Grain Processing Company (GPC) from Muscatine, IA donated the 72.55 acres that is now the park.

A 25-year recreational lease with the US Army Corps of Engineers for .4 acres (boat landing and road leading to it) was signed into effect starting August 1, 1980. The lease was renewed beginning August 1, 2005, and will expire July 31, 2030.

**Restricted Use:** This area received a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant (LAWCON) to construct amenities, using the donated land price as the 50% match.

**Current management:** For wildlife habitat, camping, picnicking, Mississippi River boat access and other recreational uses. Hunting and trapping are prohibited.

**Existing facilities:** Two shelters, camping & picnicking facilities, 20-30-50-amp service for 17 campsites (note – There used to be 21 sites and due to high water for several years sites 1-5 no longer exist), two latrines and a Mississippi River boat access.

**Improvements this fiscal year:** A new map was made of the campground and new signage to reflect the \$17/site/night camping fees. Flaming Prairie had to be closed for a couple months in FY23 due to high water on the Mississippi. The area brought in more revenue in FY23 than it has in the past 10-years (for the second year in a row). It has been popular for camping (Since 2008, FY21 & FY22 were the only years that the area didn't have to be closed for a period due to high water.) The skid steer was used to help open the driveway from encroaching vegetation.

**Inundation:** When the Mississippi River gets above 12-foot, seep and aquifer water enter the area through the levee pushed up through the ground. The water exits much more slowly than it rises. The Mississippi River must be around 10-foot for the area to begin drying out.

**Planned Improvements:** We are interested in finding a way to lessen the effects of flooding in the area and increase usability. We are also working with the US Fish & Wildlife Service to create a high-water access at Big Timber. The parking lot for the access will be on the far NE corner of Flaming Prairie.

**Documented use for this area:** There were no shelter reservations this year. Seven youth attended a day of Great Escape Nature Camp at Flaming Prairie. There were 399 camper use days at Flaming Prairie and camp revenue of \$1,790. That is the highest revenue in the past 10 years.



## 7. Hickory Hollow Wildlife Area – 34.12 acres

**Location:** ½ mile east of Grandview, IA (behind the Cemetery)

**911 Address:** 12786 148<sup>th</sup> Street, Wapello, IA

**Date Acquired:** Donated on October 20, 2014, by River Products Company.

**Management Restrictions:** This area was donated with a 404 Permit for Indiana Bat mitigation on 28.8 acres of the property. The area cannot be developed or cleared except for soft trails for maintenance and foot bridges for access.

Habitat work (girdling cedars, invasive species removal) must be done prior to April 14 each year to avoid the Indiana Bat maternity season. The remaining 5.32 acres can be developed and is not subject to the 404 permits.



**Current Management:** The area can be used for hunting, gathering, hiking and bird watching.

**Existing facilities:** Gravel parking lot and old Morton building. There is a buried septic system that could be utilized someday, and city water has been run to the property (but not currently in use).

**Improvements this fiscal year:** Girdled several acres of cedar trees and cut and treated invasive honeysuckle.

**Planned Improvements:** Girdling cedars and invasive species removal will be an annual job. Overall timber stand improvement work will be done. Would like to get a forestry management plan in the future.



## 8. Highway 61 Fishing Access - 1 acre

**Location:** Approximately two miles north of Wapello on US Highway 61, East side of the Highway.

**911 Address:** 10726 Highway 61, Wapello, IA

**Date Acquired:** October 5, 1989

**Current management:** Maintained as an access to the Iowa River for fishing. No boat ramp is provided, but light boats can be carried from the parking lot during most water levels/conditions.

**Existing facilities:** Parking lot and access road

**Improvements this fiscal year:** HWY 61 Fishing Access received a new sign!

**Planned Improvements:** Improvements are needed to allow boat access. This area is used heavily by anglers and boaters/paddlers would like to use it if it was accessible. It has been a very popular fishing spot. No actual documentation of use, but there is a vehicle parked there most days with a fishing line or two out.



## 9. Indian Slough Wildlife Area - 1,100 acres

**Location:** Three miles northwest of Wapello, Iowa

**911 Address:** 1225 "L" Avenue, Wapello, IA (Main Access)

**Date Acquired:** From Nov. 25, 1985 to May 11, 1988

**Current management:** For wildlife habitat purposes and compatible recreational uses such as hunting, fishing, hiking, cross country skiing and trapping.

**Management Restrictions:** Wildlife Habitat Stamp funds were used to purchase Indian Slough. State Wildlife Habitat Stamp Funds restrict use of the area and does NOT allow amenities, permanent structures, or picnicking facilities to be built on the area. These amenities would restrict hunting access within 200 yards.

**Equestrian trails open:** May 21 – September 15 annually.

**Existing facilities:** Water control structures, access roads, four parking lots/access points (Rudisill, Main, Turkey Run, & Kuder Lake) and mowed trails.

**Improvements this fiscal year:** Trails were maintained, sunflowers were planted although deer ate them before they were able to grow, again. Corn and bean food plots were planted. A variety of Oak seedlings were planted to help create more of a savannah habitat. New wayfinding signs were placed on Highway 61 (see photo right above). MSIM (Multi-Species Inventory Monitoring) took place at Indian Slough in FY23. The group will report in FY24 on their findings.

### Planned Improvements:

- Continue to plant crops inside the berm area.
- Continue to work with the DOT as they monitor the Brandon Bark covered telephone poles for Indiana Bats.
- Continue to plant food plots and sunflower plots at Indian Slough (when water levels allow).



## 10. Langwood Education Center & Wetland Interpretive Trail - 130 acres

**Location:** Three miles southeast of Grandview, Iowa

**911 Address Langwood:** 14019 "H" Avenue, Wapello, IA

**911 Address - Wetland Interpretive Trail:** 14263 "H" Ave, Wapello Iowa (new in FY23)

**Date Acquired:** June 1, 2000, Langwood was acquired. The Wetland Interpretive Trail addition was acquired from Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation in FY11.

**Existing facilities:** Enclosed lodge with wood-burning stove, central heating and air conditioning unit, furnished with tables, chairs, fridge, stove, microwave, pots & pans and table service; unheated two-story A-frame dormitory with 21 cots, bathhouse with four showers and 4 flushing toilets; five electrical hookups for campers; high and low ropes challenge course; canoe shed; eight aluminum canoes on two wooden racks; 6 kayaks, 4 foot bridges and a bird viewing blind.

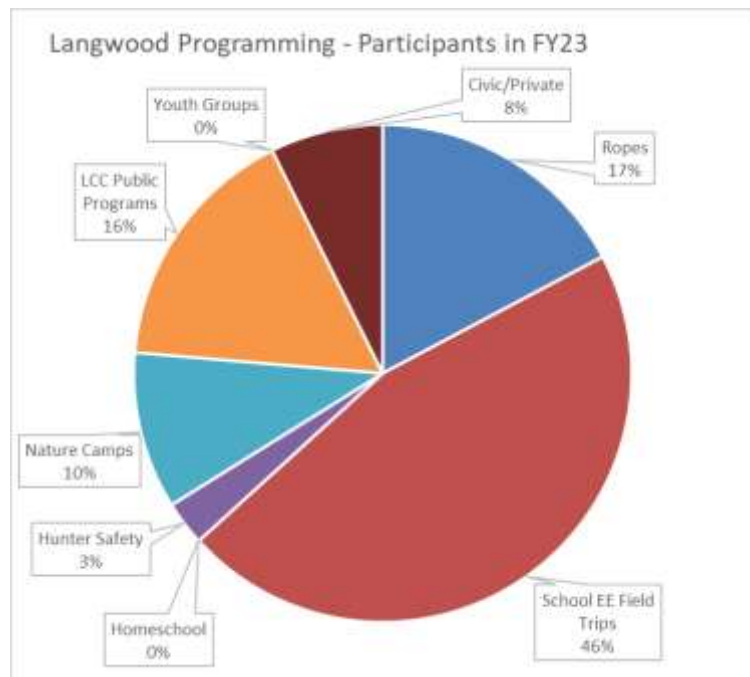


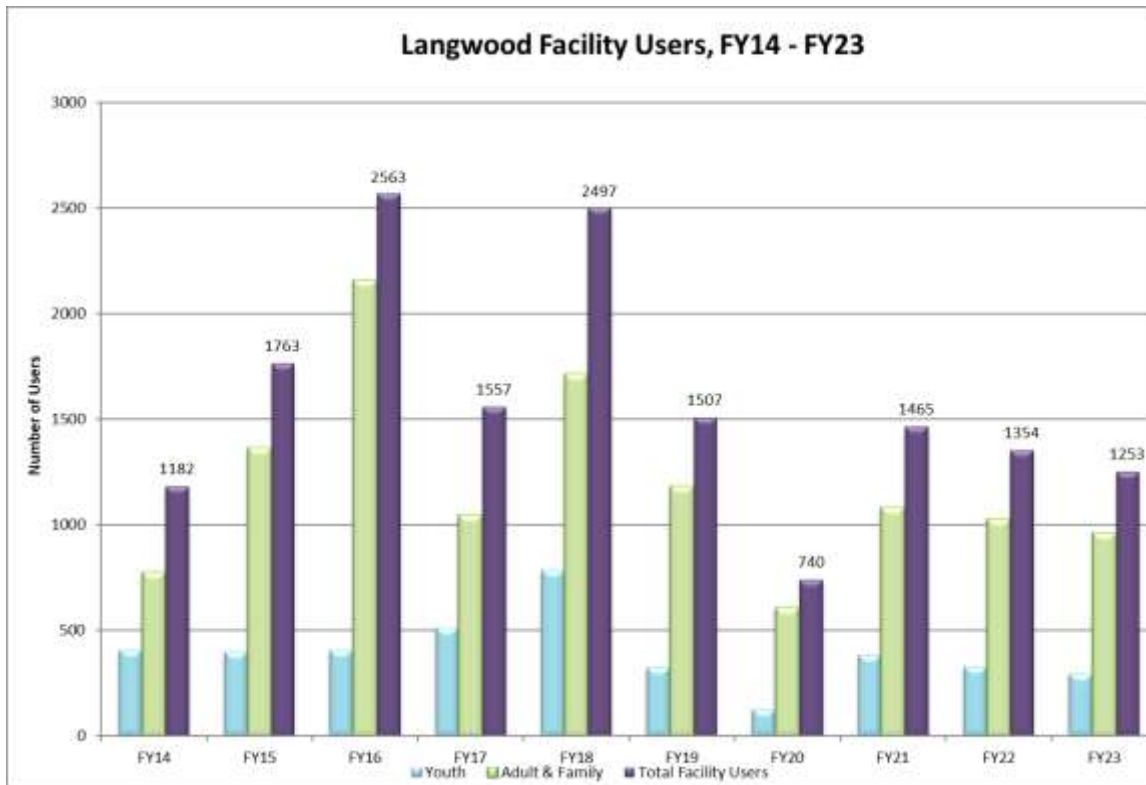
**Current management:** For environmental education, outdoor recreation, and challenge course programming. Youth groups are encouraged, particularly in conjunction with outdoor education programming to use the area. Many private groups also rent the facility for reunions, weddings, campouts and more. Youth environmental education is the #1 priority.

**Changes this fiscal year:** The Wetland Interpretive Trail received a 911 address to help people find the location for events or in case of emergency.

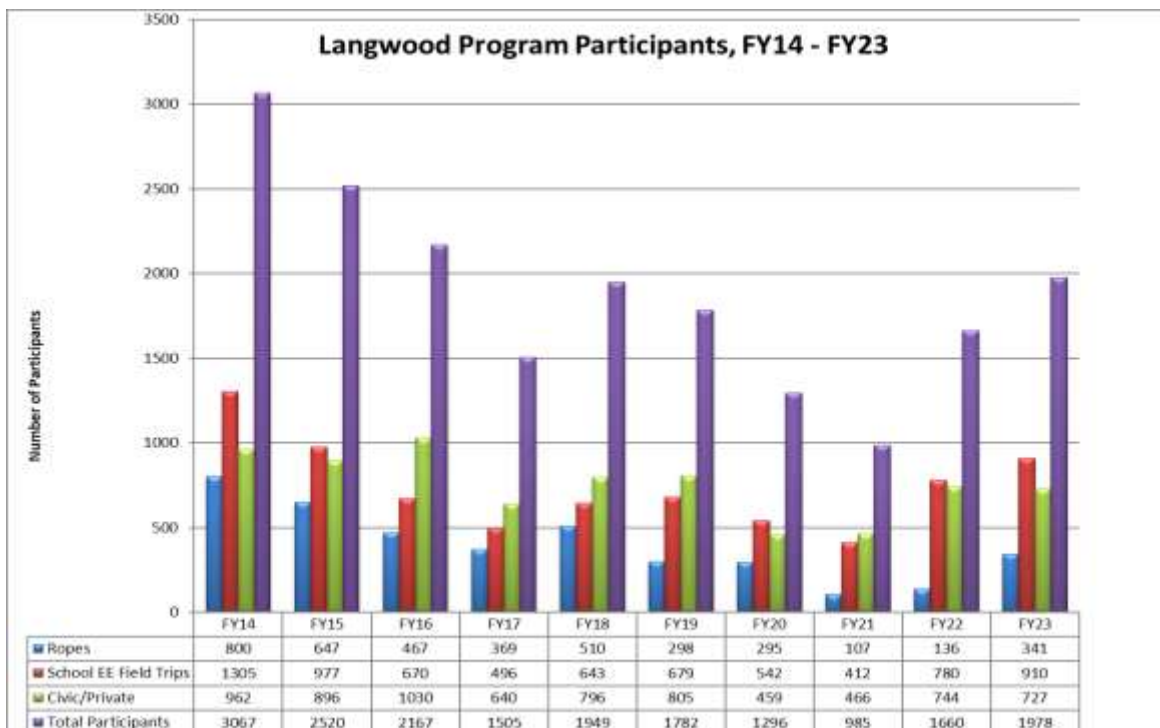
**Planned Improvements:** Continue looking into plans to attach restrooms to the lodge. A decision will need to be made about the Lodge and A-frame. Both buildings are showing signs of needing some major upgrades and there has been talk about fixing them up or maybe building one building that will be both a lodge and bunkhouse or two new buildings. Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation is interested in designing a gazebo and helping to fund it.

**Documented use:** There was a total of 1,978 Langwood participants in FY23 between ropes programs, school field trips and other EE programs. The Ropes Challenge Course was able to be open in FY23 with 10 groups and 341 participants. A grant was secured from the Community Foundation of Louisa County to pay for county students to participate on the course.





**Langwood Facility Users** are those who rent Langwood on the weekends or use it when we are not present. We documented 32 group rentals with 1,253 people in FY23. Most of the groups using Langwood facilities are family or adult groups (960 people) having reunions, weddings, or other outings. The remaining 293 are from youth groups. Groups came from the following counties in Iowa: Des Moines (45), Lee (10), Linn (110), Louisa (515), Scott (10), Muscatine (553) and Washington (10).



## The Langwood High & Low Ropes Challenge Course

**Usage:** There were a total of 10 groups who used the Langwood Challenge Course with 341 total participants. Groups came from the following counties: Louisa (194), Muscatine (131) and multiple counties (16). Group attending the ropes course included eight school groups and two corporate groups.

**Financial:** The ropes course at Langwood is around 22 years old. Many parts of the course are being replaced as a pro-active approach to keep the Course up to American Challenge Course Technology (ACCT) standards.

**Total ropes revenue in FY23:** \$6,013

**Total ropes expenses in FY23:** \$8,319.29

(\$4,200 of the revenue is from a CFLC Grant deposited into Donations from Private Source)

**Programming:** Staff continues to provide exceptionally high-quality programs for both the low and high ropes challenge course. Many groups also rent the facilities at Langwood when they participate on the Challenge Course, bringing in additional revenue.

**Improvements:** In FY23 the 2 zip tethers were replaced, 6 Verso Belay Devices, and the rope. In addition, the entire zipline cable was replaced and all of the Dead Ends (Strand Vices). The normal annual course inspection and recertification was conducted as well. Staff also rebuilt the zip line deck for removing participants from the zipline.

**Planned Improvements:** Improvements for FY24 include advertising as time allows to regain groups back to our normal of around 20 groups per year.





## The Wetland Interpretive Trail (40-acres) at Langwood

**Location:** Three miles southeast of Grandview, Iowa, adjacent to Langwood Education Center

**911 Address -** 14263 “H” Ave, Wapello Iowa (new in FY23)

**Date Acquired:** FY11 from Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation who purchased it from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and gifted it to Louisa County Conservation.

**Existing facilities** The Wetland Interpretive Trail was officially opened to the public in FY22. Visitors are allowed to fish the “upper” pond, hike the Wetland Interpretive Trail and the perimeter trail.

Langwood remains closed to the public and will remain open by reservation or program basis only.

**Improvements this fiscal year:** an entrance sign and directional signage was ordered from Prison Industries in FY22 and installed in FY23. (See photo above)

**Planned Improvements:** We hope to keep the crushed lime trail free of vegetation and accessible. We are also planning on burning the prairie again in FY24 and continuing to work to keep invasive species out of the prairie.

**Documented Use:** Most nature camps, several field trips, and various public programs utilized the area. The pond has been a very popular spot for fishing and visitors are often spotted walking the trail.



## 11. River Forks Access - 5 acres



**Location:** One mile east of Columbus Junction, Iowa

**911 Address:** 1001 Main Street, Fredonia, IA

**Date Acquired:** August 1, 1973

**Current management:** Maintained as a boat access, with primitive camping allowed as well as picnicking and fishing.

**Location:** River Forks sits just below the confluence of the Cedar and Iowa River allowing easy access to both rivers. The 1914 Built Convict Road leads to the landing.

**Inundation:** When the Iowa River is at 17.6 feet water crosses the access road to River Forks. Flood stage is 19 feet, which puts most of the parking lot and a considerable section of the entrance road under water.

**Existing facilities:** Concrete boat ramp, parking lot, access road and a bench sponsored by United Fund of Columbus Junction.

**Improvements this fiscal year:** LCC Staff worked to keep boat accesses in better shape this year. We kept the trash cans emptied, vegetation cleaned up and mowed around the landing area. A porta pot was also kept at the access through the boating season.

**Planned Improvements:** Continue to keep the area rocked. Addition of a landing for canoes/kayaks.

## 1914 Built Convict Road – at River Forks

**Location:** The Historic Convict Road stretches from the River Forks Boat Landing East through Fredonia then turns right (South) and heads toward HWY 92. Directional signs are on HWY 92 to help visitors find the site.

**Date Acquired:** Ribbon cutting was held on Friday, September 27, 2019.

**Current management:** Historic Site to view this 1914 built concrete road using convict labor from the Anamosa Men’s Reformatory. The interpretation of this site was a project of the Rural Louisa County Hometown Pride Committee which included Conservation Director, Katie Hammond and Secondary Roads Engineer, Larry Roehl. The area is maintained by a combination of Secondary Roads and Conservation in partnership with local historian, Tom Woodruff who spearheaded the project.

**Planned Improvements:** Secondary Roads does the mowing around the site. LCC received a historical marker grant in FY23. We expect to install the marker in early FY24.



## 12. Snively Access Campground - 6 acres

**Location:** On the west bank of the Odessa Wildlife Management Complex, four miles east of Wapello

**911 Address:** 9246 County Road X-61, Wapello, IA

**Date Acquired:** This area is owned by the Iowa DNR and managed by LCCB. The original 25-year management lease was signed with the State of Iowa on May 5, 1985. The lease was updated and extended for another 25 years in June 2007, currently in place until 2032.

**Current management:** For camping, picnicking and a canoe/kayak launch to the Odessa Water Trail.



**Existing facilities:** Thirty-three gravel campsites with electric 20-30-50-amp, picnic tables & grills, latrine and three frost free water hydrants. Removable dock with benches and handicap accessible ramp.

**Improvements this fiscal year:** The Mississippi River flooded this year, and we were able to test the removable camp pedestals. They worked great (see photo right)! Quite a bit of flood clean-up took place. A kayak launch (see photo below right) was added to the dock as part of a CFLC grant and a porta pot was kept at Snively through the main camping/boating season.



**Planned Improvements:** Potentially adding a primitive cabin on one of the sites, a shelter, running water to the North end campground and attempting to level out the campsites better.

**Documented use:** One program was held at Snively with 14 participants learning about campfire cooking and a full moon paddle and potluck was held with 13 participants.

There were 2,054 camper use days recorded in FY23 which is comparable to last year. Revenue from camping at Snively was \$9,592 with another \$2,175 spent on camping coupons that were mostly used at Snively and Virginia Grove. It is by far our most popular campground.



### 13. Toolesboro Mounds and Museum, National Historic Landmark- 6 acres

**Location:** Approximately 10 miles southeast of Wapello off County Road 99

**911 Address:** 6568 Toolesboro Avenue, Wapello, Iowa

**Date Acquired:** Management agreement with the State Historical Society of Iowa started on May 19, 1990, and re-negotiated annually. Louisa County Conservation maintains the facility and grounds and hires interpreters for the Museum and the SHSI reimburses expenses and handles larger projects.

**Current management:** Toolesboro is a National Historic Landmark to be used for the preservation and education of the unique cultural history found in Louisa County. The facilities are open to the public and often visited by travelers of the Great River Road/All American Road, historians, school field trips, the public and more.



**Existing facilities:** Two well-preserved burial mounds, a visitor center, and a small, restored prairie site.

**Improvements this fiscal year:** The State put Toolesboro on the major improvements list this year. Toolesboro received new siding, windows, and doors. In addition, the family of Rick Kerr donated a memorial bench for visitors to enjoy when they stop.

**Planned Improvements:** Work on the prairie renovation will continue. We will continue to offer at least one public program per year at Toolesboro and to work with the State Historical Society of Iowa to improve marketing of the area.

**Documented Use:** There was a total of 432 people who visited Toolesboro in FY23. Visitors came from 20 different states including as far away as California, Texas, Florida, Utah, Arizona, Washington, New York, and Colorado. We also had a visitor from France at the Museum. The Conservation Board held seven programs at Toolesboro including four field trips, one classic car tour (Anna Rae the Model A) and a Motts Group program.



## Littleton Brothers Civil War Memorial Site – at Toolesboro - 1 acre



**Location:** Located approximately 10 miles southeast of Wapello just off County Road 99, across the street from the Toolesboro Mounds and Museum, NHL

**911 Address:** 6951 Main St., Wapello, IA

**Acquired:** Dirt work began in 2015, with a dedication ceremony on Flag Day, June 14, 2016.

**Current management:** The area is owned by Louisa County (Supervisors), managed by the LCCB with help from descendants of the Littleton Family.

**Funding:** An Endowment Fund for the Historical Society has been set-up through the Community Foundation of Louisa County to help pay for maintenance and upkeep. The spendable portion of the Endowment approximately \$2,000, is paid to Louisa County Conservation for mowing and maintenance annually.

The memorial was made possible with the hard work of Tom Woodruff and Ed Bayne, local historians, along with a committee from the Louisa County Historical Society.

**About the Six Littleton Brothers Memorial:** This monument honors the ultimate and historic sacrifice of the six Littleton brothers: Thomas, William, George, John, Kendall and Noah, sons of James and Martha Littleton of Louisa County, Iowa who all fought in the Civil War and lost their lives as a result of the war. Their sisters, Permillia, Mary, Sarah, and Rebecca persisted.

**Existing facilities:** Nine-foot-tall black granite memorial sitting on a Barre grey base. There are benches, flags, lighting, a brochure rack, trash can, and a flowerbed. In addition, there are six oak trees with engraved stones: one for each brother.

**Improvements this fiscal year:** General maintenance includes mostly mowing and weed eating with some chemical and mechanical removal of weeds. Flowers were planted around the memorial also.

The Littleton Family descendents do the majority of the work in the flowerbeds and weeding.



## 14. Virginia Grove Recreation Area - 157 acres

**Location:** Approximately 10 miles southwest of Wapello

**911 Address:** 20406 55<sup>th</sup> Street, Morning Sun, IA

**Date Acquired:** Virginia Grove was Louisa County's first official park with the original tracts purchased on January 7, 1975. The 10-acre Heatherington tract was purchased in 1978, along with another 22-ac parcel from Mabeus. The Baird Grove tract was donated by the Baird Family in 1997. In FY22, another Mabeus addition was purchased. This 51.43-ac addition connected Virginia Grove to Baird Grove and the Heatherington Unit creating a continuous 157-acres.



**Current management:** For multi-use recreation, including hunting, fishing, camping, picnicking, hiking and education programs.

**Existing facilities:** Two shelters; 11 camp sites with 20-30-50-amp service plus two non-electric campsites near the windmill; latrine (no running water in restroom); modern playground equipment; pressurized water well with three frost-free hydrants; handicapped accessible fishing dock; one room country schoolhouse; four footbridges, and a five-acre pond.

**Improvements this fiscal year:** The skid steer and forestry mower were put to good use again at Virginia Grove. The Board signed an agreement with Geode Forestry for marking trees for a selective timber harvest in FY22. The trees were supposed to be removed the winter of 2022, in FY23, however due to very few days of frozen ground their contract was extended to the FY24 winter. The Mabeus addition was burned with the help of our partners, The Nature Conservancy and the Burr Oak Land Trust. Drone footage was taken during the burn. (See photo right.)



**Planned Improvements:** The school house needs a good cleaning and some major repair work. Timber stand improvement will continue with the use of the skid steer and forestry mower. Additional plans include building a shower house and improving camping at Virginia Grove.

**Documented use:** Complete attendance figures are not available because people visit the park quite a bit when we are not there. There were 1,116 camper-use days recorded. The campground generated \$6,140 in revenue (an increase of \$1,916 from FY22). There were three shelter reservations.



A total of 286 people attended 8 different educational programs at Virginia Grove. There were 3 school groups who held their field trips at Virginia Grove (62).

Three public programs were held at the park including the Halloween Hike (161 participants), Noon Year's Eve (17) and a Picnic in the Park.

The Boy Scouts (24) also went to Virginia Grove for an outing and one nature camp was held at the park (7).

## 15. Wilson Prairie – 37 acres



**Location:** Northeast corner of Louisa County, 1.5 miles south of the Muscatine County line and 2.5 miles west of the Mississippi River.

**911 Address:** 10400 County Road G44X, Muscatine, IA

**Date Acquired:** December 6, 2019. This area was purchased with the help of a County Conservation REAP Grant. Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation also made a generous contribution.

**Current management:** Native prairie, pollinator, and wildlife habitat.

**Existing facilities:** This area is believed to be a native remnant prairie. It is very rare for a parcel of land, such as this to be spared the disk and plow. The land came into the Wilson family in 1922 and they attest that it has not been farmed (row-cropped) during their ownership. Aerial photos go back to the 1930's and support this statement. We were not able to 100% verify that the area had NEVER been plowed or disked, however soil samples showed high levels of organic materials in the soil and no mixing

of the a-horizon. We do know that the area was grazed by cattle until 1999 and has been hayed ever since. The SE corner had a water source and was where the cows often stood. It has a small amount of disturbance, most likely from hooves and such. There is an area in the NE corner that we believe to be a buffalo wallow.

**Improvements this fiscal year:** Siberian elm trees, eastern red cedar, and thistle were removed from the prairie. Staff also worked to keep eastern red cedar out of the fence rows. The area was burned with a really hot, intense fire this year that did a fantastic job of setting back woody species.

**Planned Improvements:** Continue to maintain a mowed path around the area to be used for walking and as a burn break.

Work to reduce the amount of brome grass and hopefully replace it with more desirable natives. Our goal is to restore it back to a high-quality native prairie. We will accomplish this through selective cutting of invasive species, chemical application, prescribed fire and other means.



There is a large amount of trash that blows over to Wilson Prairie from the trailer park across the road. Future plans include continuing to remove blown-in trash and thinking of ways to stop/slow it down.

**Documented Use:** A total of 20 students were taken to Wilson Prairie. The Morning Sun 5<sup>th</sup> grade held their fall field trip at Wilson Prairie (13 students) and one day of Great Escapes Nature Camp was held at the prairie (7).

## 16. Wykert's Landing – less than 1 acre

**Location:** On the Mississippi River, west of Oakville, Iowa

**911 Address:** 1714 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Oakville, IA

**Date Acquired:** A ten-year Recreation Lease with the Army Corps of Engineers was renewed on March 2, 2012. The current lease expired in March of 2022.

**Current management:** Maintained as a boat access to the Mississippi River

**Existing facilities:** Gravel boat ramp, parking lot and access road

**Improvements this fiscal year:** No major improvements. The 10-year lease with the US Army Corps of Engineers expired in March of 2022. Staff and Corps members have been working on renewing the lease agreement, although at the end of FY23 it has not been completed. The Board did vote in FY23 to continue managing Wykert's Landing and paperwork is in progress. At the end of FY23 a new lease had not been signed yet.

**Planned Improvements:** Extending the parking area and potentially putting in a picnic table and solar light if funding allows. Maybe putting in a paved ramp at some point. The signs are all missing (directional and entrance). They will be replaced once the contract is signed in FY24.





## 17. Louisa County Conservation Office - at the Louisa County Complex

**Location:** 12635 County Road G56, Suite 101,  
Wapello, IA 52653

**Phone:** 319-523-8381

**Email:** [Conservation@louisacountyia.gov](mailto:Conservation@louisacountyia.gov)

**Website:** [LouisaCountyConservation.org](http://LouisaCountyConservation.org) and  
[mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com)

**Improvements this fiscal year:** None.

**Current offices held in the building:** Louisa County Conservation (North Wing), the Louisa County Sheriff and Jail (East wing of building with the cooks in the kitchen), and probation (in the Sheriff's wing). Public Health officially moved out to the west wing in FY23.

**Planned Improvements:** Louisa County Conservation is going to develop a management plan or policy for the Complex so we can better understand what duties are expected. The idea of building a storage shed that would be critter proof and climate controlled for storing program equipment has been discussed.

**Outbuildings:** The main garage is held by Emergency Management, the Sheriff mostly utilizes the big shed, Conservation has a small mower shed and the Sheriff manages the water pump house and control tower building. Secondary Roads has a small building behind the mower shed with a repeater for their radios.



## 18. Maintenance Shop - 1 acre

**Location:** Just outside the west city limits of Wapello, Iowa, behind the Farmers Elevator

**911 Address:** 8299 K Avenue, Wapello, IA 52653

**Phone:** 319-523-6493

**Date Acquired:** May 4, 1977

**Current management:** Used for storage of equipment, materials and as a work site for the maintenance and field crew.

**Existing facilities:** An equipment storage and work shed, a small storage shed, and an outside nursery cooler, indoor restroom and running water.

**Improvements this fiscal year:** We added three new outbuildings this year. A large red barn and two lean-to sheds were moved a quarter mile down the road from the former Hank Farm. The barn has power and lights. We were also able to purchase forks for the skid steer this year.

**Planned Improvements:** A new roof is badly needed with several small leaks starting on both the warm and cold side of the shop.



# Land and Water Based Trails

Louisa County has miles of trails available for hiking, biking, running, paddling, and exploring nature. In 2012, a Louisa County Trails Master Plan was created to assist the Board and the Louisa County Trails Council in promoting and providing trails.



Please refer to the area's section in this document to see what uses are allowed in the areas as far as hunting and other rules.

- Cairo Woods Wildlife Area – about 6-miles of mowed paths for hiking and the entire area is open to equestrian use from May 21-September 15.
- Chinkapin Bluffs Recreation Area – about 5-miles of trail for hiking, running, mountain biking, bicycling on the new crushed lime trail.
- Indian Slough Wildlife Area – about 3-miles of mowed paths for hiking and equestrian.
- Langwood Education Center – 3-miles of mowed and timbered paths for hiking (open by reservation only).
- Wetland Interpretive Trail at Langwood – Open to the public with a .5-mile loop and another mile of mowed paths that surround and wind through the 40-acre area in front of Langwood.
- Toolesboro Mounds, National Historic Landmark - .25-mile trail that goes past the mounds and through the small prairie.



- Virginia Grove Recreation Area – 2.5 miles of mowed and timbered paths for walking/hiking. Another 2-miles of trail circles the new Mabeus Addition.
- Hoover Nature Trail (HNT) – two developed sections in the County.
  - HNT at Chinkapin – 2-miles out and back (4-mile round trip) - recently resurfaced with crushed lime.
  - HNT at Morning Sun – On a combination of public and private land, the public is able to walk from HWY 78 North for about 3-miles to the gravel road.
- Iowa River Water Trail – The Louisa County portion stretches 54-miles from the Tri-County bridge to the Mississippi River.
- Odessa Water Trail – Several trails (24-miles worth) are mapped out in Odessa.
- Mississippi River Trail – The MRT is the same as the Great River Road, flowing through Louisa County on County Road X61 & County Road 99. There is a 6-foot paved shoulder on about 14 (of the 28 miles) in Louisa County.

## Hoover Nature Trail

There are six segments of undeveloped trail comprising a total of about 4.2 miles between Morning Sun and the Muscatine County line near Conesville. Total public ownership is 7.55 miles (sold 1.25-miles this fiscal year) of the 16.8-mile corridor.

### Hoover Nature Trail at Chinkapin Bluffs Recreation Area – 2 miles (one-way)

**Location:** The trail runs along the bottom of the bluff on the old railroad bed beginning across the street from the Columbus Junction water treatment plant and heading SE for approximately 2 miles. The best place to access the trail is at the new trailhead at 101 Fairground Road, Columbus Junction. It is inside the fairgrounds, all the way south, near the grandstands.

**Date Acquired:** January 2006 (20.47 acres)

**Current management:** Hiking and rough biking trail.

**Existing facilities:** The Chinkapin Bluffs section has a parking area across from the water treatment plant as well as the new trailhead at the Louisa County Fairgrounds. There are three bridges along this section.

**Improvements this fiscal year:** Regular mowing and maintenance along the trail including tree removal.

**Planned Improvements:** Addition of benches and other amenities along the trail including better connections to the Chinkapin Bluff's trails.

**Documented Use:** A public program called; "Hike a Park" was held in September with 8 participants.



## Hoover Nature Trail at Morning Sun – 3 miles

**Location:** Morning Sun (about 3 miles)

**Date Acquired:** December 2005, July 21, 2020

**Current management:** Hiking and biking trail.

**Existing facilities:**

Larry Lihs owns the 1-mile section of trail that extends from HWY 78 to Division Street in Morning Sun (green on the map). He allows the public to use this area as long as LCC continues to mow and maintain the trail and mow around the old Depot area.

LCC now owns and manages the section from Division Street north for a mile. Then the public land is interrupted by two short segments. LCC then owns another 1-mile segment.

*The yellow lines in the photo (right) show the parcels owned and managed by LCC.*

**Improvements this fiscal year:** This year the Board sold the 1-mile segment (12.96-acres), starting at the Louisa-Des Moines County Line and heading northwest to HWY 78 and the .25-mile section (1.8-acres) on the far north end. (The red lines in the photo show the sections that were sold in FY23.



Normal maintenance, mowing and trail trimming. Some work was completed with the skid loader and forestry mower as well.



**Planned Improvements:** Future plans could include writing grants for resurfacing the Morning Sun portions of the Hoover Nature Trail. We would also like to add additional signage, so people know when they are on public and/or private property. The Louisa County Trails Council is discussing mowing, cutting, or dozing, trees on other sections of the trail to make them accessible to the public.

## Iowa River Water Trail – 55 river miles in Louisa County (72 miles total)

**Location:** The Iowa River from the Tri-County Bridge to the Mississippi River is in Louisa County, however the full trail (broken into 2 segments stretches all the way to Sturgis Ferry Access in Iowa City.

**Current management:** Promote the water trail by holding events, distributing water trail maps, and keeping an inventory of signage.

**Improvements this fiscal year:** None – water levels on the Iowa River were quite low for most of the year making boating difficult.

**Planned Improvements:** Improvements include spending more time and effort at boat landings, providing porta pots at landings, and looking into areas for more landings.

**Documented Use:** There were two (2) events held on the IRWT this year with a total attendance of 27 people.



## Odessa Water Trail – about 20 miles of flatwater trail

**Location:** On the 6,400-acre Odessa Wildlife Management Area and Port Louisa NWR.

**Current management:** Lead at least one trip per year on the water trail to promote use.

**Existing facilities:** Electric campground, restrooms and drinking water at Snively. Signage on the water trail. A porta pot was in place all summer at Snively for campers and paddlers/boaters.

**Documented use:** Mother's Day on the Marsh was held on the Odessa Water Trail with a total of 8 participants.

**Improvements this fiscal year:** A CFLC Grant allowed us to purchase a kayak launch to be placed on the Snively dock (right).

**Planned Improvements:** Adding additional signage, updating brochures and websites. More litter removal! Signs need to be replaced, cleaned, and checked annually. Odessa was flooded in FY23, and reservations had to be cancelled at Snively due to flooding over the Memorial Day weekend.



# Publicity and Marketing

## Naturally Louisa County Newsletter

- The Environmental Education staff work cooperatively to edit, design, write, and distribute four issues of the “Naturally Louisa County” Newsletter each year.
- The newsletter is a cooperative effort between Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation and Louisa County Conservation.
- It includes information from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District, Louisa Regional Solid Waste Agency, Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge, Friends of Port Louisa Refuge, The Nature Conservancy, Louisa County Izaak Walton League, Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever and other local conservation organizations.
- The newsletter is offered online and via email. Approximately 1133 subscribers receive the newsletter in the mail while another 455+ receive it via email. The newsletter is available to view or download at [LouisaCountyConservation.org](http://LouisaCountyConservation.org).



## Naturally Louisa County E-Newsletter

- The E-Newsletter is sent out in between regular newsletters as needed to publicize events. It is sent to the email distribution list and not to those who receive paper copies.
- There are approximately 455+ people who receive E-newsletter blasts.

## Websites

**[LouisaCountyConservation.org](http://LouisaCountyConservation.org)** –is our main website. It was completely renovated in 2020 to be formatted for all types of devices: phone, iPad or tablet, laptop, and desktop. Although the look is very different, the website address remains the same and a similar structure.

Office staff have access to update and add information to the website. It is our priority to keep this website up-to-date and current with events and information.



The website includes information about all of our areas, activities, events and education, news including agendas and minutes for Board Meetings as well as job opportunities, bid packets, and volunteer announcements.



**[MyCountyParks.com](http://MyCountyParks.com)** – this website is managed by Iowa’s County Conservation Systems (ICCS) CEO, Tom Hazelton and represents all 99 County Conservation Boards in Iowa.

Louisa County Conservation has the ability to update our own page adding all sorts of information. We added



shelters, campgrounds and other information to this website in FY15 and continue to keep the website current with information about our parks and events.

In FY22, LCC became fully functional to accept ecommerce through the MyCountyParks.com website. We currently do all the reservations for Langwood and shelter reservations online through the website.

New this year we put all the campsites at Virginia Grove and Snively online. Flaming Prairie remains self-pay at the kiosk. Programs that cost money are advertised on MCP and people can register and pay online.

Job announcements are always posted on MCP because it is the premier posting location for all County Conservation jobs and where people go to find them.

**NaturallyLouisaCounty.com** – this website is no longer being used or advertised; however the logo and partnership remains.



### News Releases & Media

- News releases are distributed to local media as well as post-publicity photos and articles for most events. Local papers do a great job of running photos and articles we send to them.
- In addition, several LCC events and programs were covered as news stories by the local media.
- When requested, radio and television interviews are conducted.
- LCC continues to be a part of the Naturally Louisa County marketing campaign.
- Continued promotion of water trails at the Odessa Wildlife Complex and the Iowa River boat accesses. The trails are a cooperative effort between Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation, Iowa DNR, FWS, Johnson County Conservation and the cities of Iowa City, Columbus Junction, Fredonia, Oakville, and Wapello.



### Calendar of Events

We submit a monthly paid advertisement to both the Wapello Morning Sun (name change this FY) and Columbus Gazette titled, “Calendar of Events.” Due to this paid advertisement, we are allowed to submit as many news releases as we would like for events (including those that have an associated cost).

The Calendar of events features events for the upcoming month with the date, time and location.

### Louisa County Conservation Facebook Page

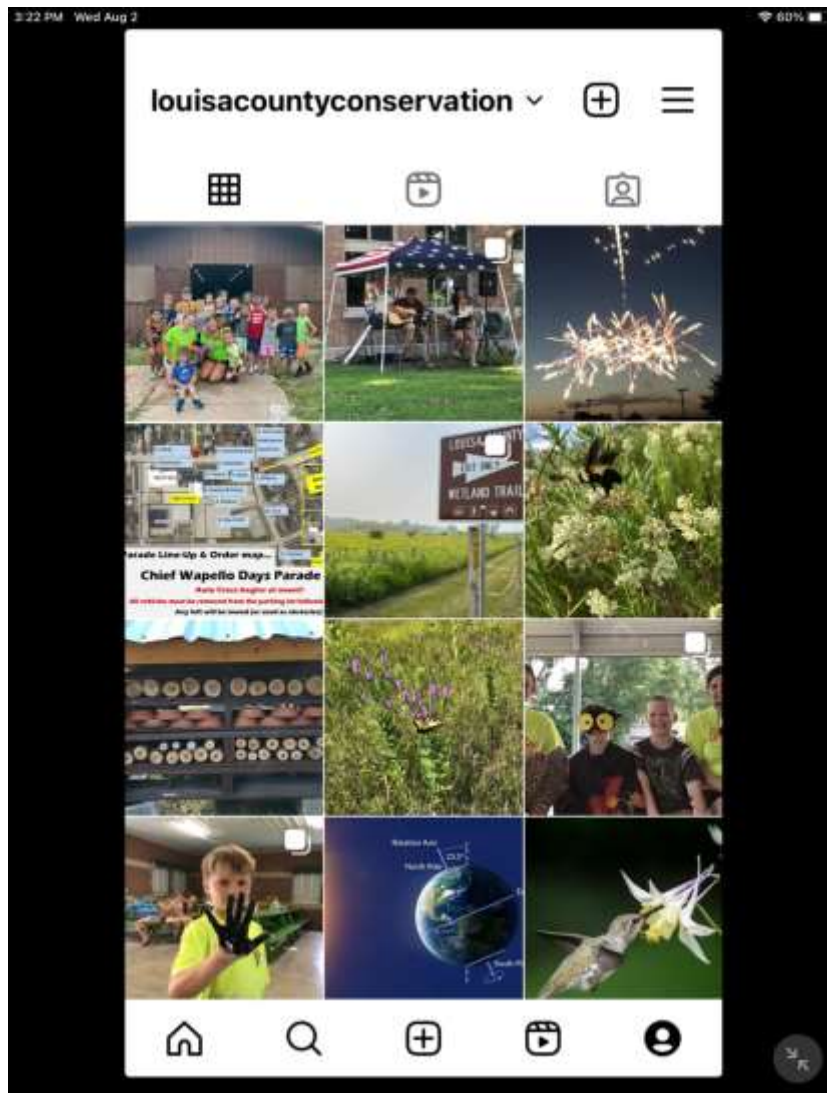
Louisa County Conservation maintains two Facebook pages titled, “Louisa County Conservation” and “Louisa County Conservation Environmental Education.” They are used to advertise programs and events, share photos, and communicate with the public. Facebook continues to be a good way to reach people and advertise programs, camps, clubs, and other events.

We currently have 2,732 people who “follow” our page. Of those, nearly 70% are women. and 2.4K who “like” our page. Throughout the fiscal year we had a reach of 87,812 people in total through Facebook.

The posts with the most reach in FY23 was a post on June 14, 2023 about the new playground at Eden Park which reached 32,803 people. The same post had the most reactions 1,097 and most comments, 211. The second highest ranking post was about the Big Sand Mound Field Day 29,052 people, followed by Nature Camp Registration and open positions.



The LouisaCountyConservation.org website links to Facebook for photos of past programs and events.



### Instagram

Louisa County Conservation opened an Instagram account in FY22 to help connect with people. The account has 525 followers and has posted 257 times. With a reach of 406 people. This account is used to post photos of plants, animals, programs, and other conservation related activities.

### Snapchat

Snapchat is also a new venue of social media for Louisa County Conservation. Search Louisa Co. Naturalists to follow posts from the Naturalists. With 72 followers this phone app is used to share photos and videos from nature as they are taken.



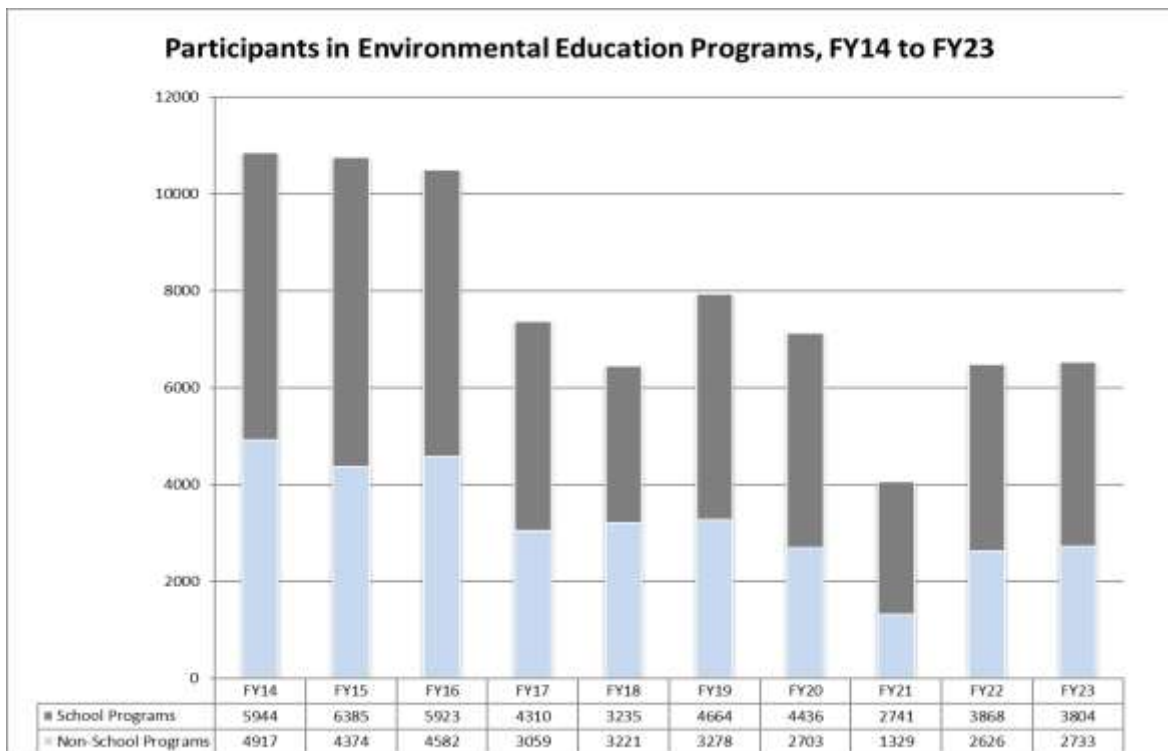
# Environmental Education

The goal of Louisa County Conservation's environmental education (EE) program *is to create environmentally knowledgeable and aware citizens who enjoy and wisely use our natural resources and contribute to a sustainable environment.*

We work toward this goal by promoting stewardship through various programs and events on conservation, recreation and education. Naturalists provide a diversity of programs to a variety of audiences ranging from school field trips and public programs to summer nature camps and civic groups.

The Board maintains two full-time, permanent Naturalists to provide high quality, award winning Environmental Education programs in the County. In a typical year we also hire a seasonal Intern Naturalist and two Summer Rec educators.





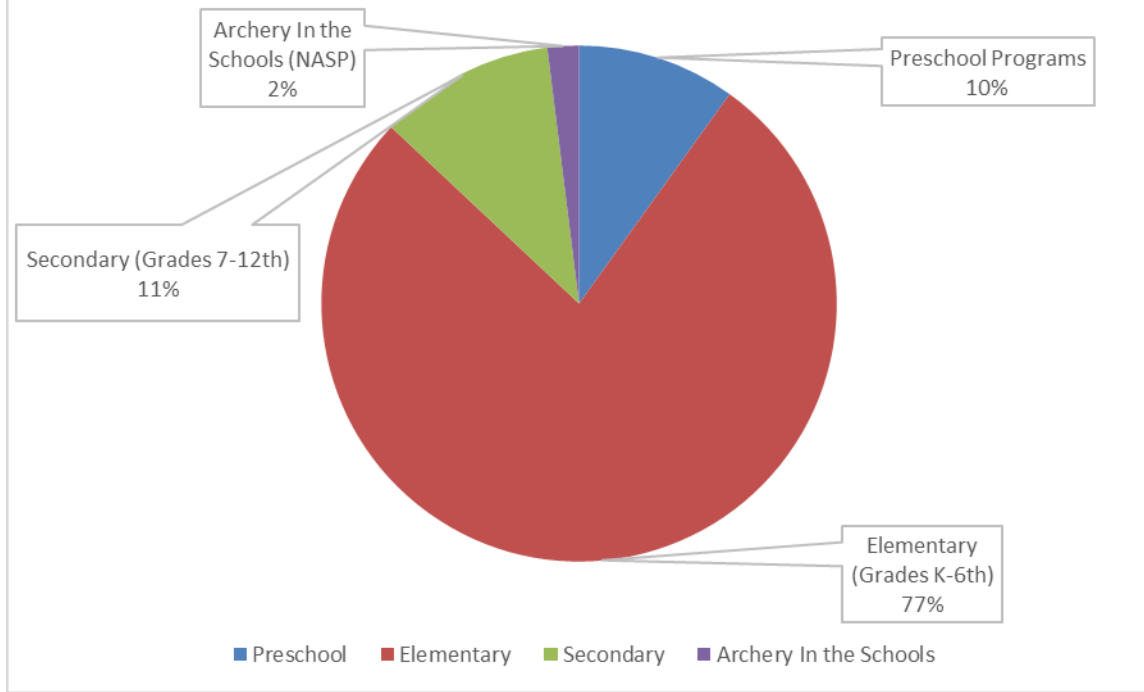
A total of 319 environmental education programs were held in FY23, with a total of 6,537 people in attendance. The graph below shows EE participation over the past 10 years.

**School Programming** – There were 177 school groups with a total of 3,804 students. School programs are considered to be any that are done with school groups. School programming includes field trips to our local parks, wildlife areas, Big Sand Mound and the Refuge as well as programs in the classrooms or at the schools’ outdoor classrooms.

- These programs are broken down further showing that 2,931 of the students were elementary aged and 112 of the programs were provided to this age group. There were 420 secondary students in 33 groups and 17 preschool groups with a total attendance of 378 students.
- The National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) had 15 school groups participate with a total of 75 students. These programs were conducted by local PE teachers using equipment owned and maintained by Louisa County Conservation.



### School Environmental Education Programs By Type of Program

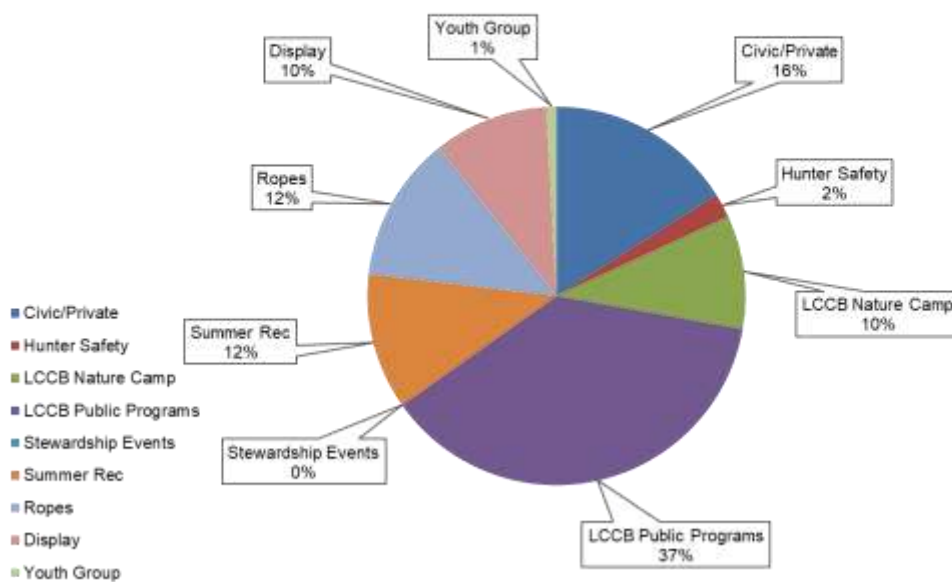


**Public Programming (non-school programs)** – There were a total of 142 groups who participated in public, non-school programs with a total of 2,733 participants. These numbers include high and low ropes programs, Summer Rec, and nature camps as well as all public programs and those conducted for civic or private groups.

- The LCC provided summer nature camp programs for youth ranging from entering Kindergarten to entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade. In FY23 there were 265 participants in the summer nature camp program. (Note – that is not unique kids, we count each child who attends each day, most camps are 5-days long)
- The LCC continued to provide a Summer Rec program for the cities of Morning Sun, Columbus Junction and Wapello, along with 3-days for Grandview, and two for Fredonia. There were 318 participants at Summer Rec. (Counting is similar to Nature Camps.)
- The LCC provided a program for 1 youth group with 24 participants.
- Displays were utilized 5 times with 268 people who visited them.
- We presented to 20 civic/private groups with 438 participants.



**FY23 Non-School Programs - Number of Participants (2,733 total)**



## Explanation of Types of Public Programs

- **Civic/Private** – Programs given to civic or private groups, not open to the general public. This year 438 participants attended such programs. (ex. Mott’s group, etc...)
- **Hunter Education** – Typically, two education safety classes are offered each year. A total of 57 people attended Hunter Education classes this fiscal year.



- **LCCB Nature Camps** – Summer & Winter nature camps are offered to youth. There were 265 youth who attended nature camps.



- **LCCB Public Programs** – 1,022 people attended 41 public programs that are open to the general public. The biggest were Halloween Hike at Virginia Grove (161), Langwood Adventure Day (145) and the Swinging Bridge Festival (100).

- **Summer Rec** – There were a total of 318 Summer Rec participants this year with two weeks held in Columbus Junction, Wapello and Morning Sun, 3-days in Grandview and 2-days in Fredonia.

- **Ropes Challenge Course** – This is any group who participates on the Langwood Ropes Challenge Course either high, low or both. There was a total of 10 groups who participated on the ropes course with 341 participants in FY23.
- **Display** – The Louisa County Fair is usually the biggest event where we have a display board set-up and facilitators visit with people who stop by. This year we had 5 days of programs with displays and a total of 268 people who attended. 50 people visited the booth at the LM Job Fair and the rest attended the Louisa County Fair.



## Grants Received in FY23

### **Community Foundation of Louisa County (CFLC)**

– Two grant requests were submitted in September of 2022. LCC received \$5,140.61 for a “Kayak Louisa County” grant, and \$4,200 to “Boost mental health on the Langwood Challenge Course.”



**TAP Grant Funding** – In FY13, LCC wrote a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant to resurface the Hoover Nature Trail at Chinkapin Bluffs and create a connection to the Louisa County Fairgrounds and trailhead. In FY14 (August 2014) we received word that we placed second in the scoring and would be awarded \$119,371. This money became available in FY17 and word was received that the TAP grant was actually \$126,000 but the project cost is now estimated to be \$456,000. The project was finally completed in FY22 with the last of the expenses paid \$11,302.56 and the final audit complete. The Louisa County Trails Council, through their fiscal agent, Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation paid \$31,000 to the LCC for all the grants and donations they had secured for the project. The final reimbursement was received in FY23 in the amount of \$35,556.29.

**State Rec Trails Grant** – In FY18, LCC was awarded a \$250,000 State Rec Trails Grant to be used as match for the Hoover Nature Trail project at Chinkapin Bluffs (along with the TAP Grant, above). In FY22, no money was received from this grant, the project is complete and final reimbursement was received in FY23 in the amount of \$11,225.62.

**Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust** – An \$80,000 grant was received in FY22 to be used to build a playground at Eden Park. The Eden Park Trust also committed money toward the project (up to \$40,000). Total estimated cost was around \$126,000. \$45,464 was spent in FY22 as a down payment on the playground equipment and surfacing and \$66,478.32 in FY23.



**Delta Dental (Convera)** – A \$20,000 grant was secured from Delta Dental to install a Water Bottle Filling Station at Eden Park. Although money was secured in FY23, funds will mostly be spent in FY24. \$5,702.14 was spent in FY23 on a concrete pad and supplies for the pumphouse. The grant will help us build a pumphouse near the well and run water lines up toward the playground for the water bottle filling station and drinking fountain. This grant also included a concrete pad to place the fountain on.



**Historical Marker Program** – A \$2,205 grant was secured from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs to place a historical marker at the Convict Road. The money was received and spent in FY23; the sign will be placed in FY24.

## Cooperative Programs and Agreements

- A. **Iowa Department of Natural Resources** – A 25-year agreement continues for management and development of Snively Access (good until June 2032). A fisheries management agreement was continued for Virginia Grove, Langwood and LIC ponds. LCC also continues to work with the DNR on Hunter Education programs, as well as on the Odessa and Iowa River Water Trails.
- B. **United States Army Corps of Engineers** - The recreational leases at Flaming Prairie Park (a 25-year lease good until 2030 – which covers only the boat landing and drive over the levee). In March 2022 the lease for Wykert’s Landing (10-year lease, good until March 2022) expired. The Board is working with the Corps to renew the lease. It is expected to be complete in FY24.
- C. **Summer Rec** – Louisa County Conservation continued partnerships with the cities of Columbus Junction, Morning Sun, and Wapello for 2-weeks of Summer Rec programming and the City of Grandview for 3-days and Fredonia for 2-days. Two Summer Rec interns were hired to provide the programming.
- D. **State Historical Society of Iowa** – The museum management and interpretation agreement for the Toolesboro Historic Site was continued in FY23 with a signed contract which includes administration, interpretation, maintenance, supplies and seasonal internet. Actual FY23 income was \$15,220.62, due to reimbursements landing in the next fiscal year.
- E. **Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District** - Continued an environmental education services agreement for presenting soil and water conservation programs in area schools. \$900 was paid in FY23 as reimbursement for FY22 expenses.
- F. **Louisa Regional Solid Waste Agency** – The LCC continued providing solid waste education through a contract with the LRSWA. LCC received \$1,138.50 in FY23.
- G. **Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation** – In November of 2018 a formal Memorandum of Understanding was signed between TRCF and LCC. LCC assists in tracking finances and provide fundraising assistance for events such as the RUSH Auction. Tri-Rivers pays \$3,000/year to LCC for the assistance. Tri-Rivers continues to pay for mailing the Naturally Louisa County Newsletter on a quarterly basis. LCC did receive \$3,000 from Tri-Rivers for the agreement in FY23. Tri-Rivers also received \$31,000 from the Louisa County Trails Council through Tri-Rivers for the Hoover Nature Trail Project.
- H. **Naturally Louisa County** – The LCC continued this effort to market Louisa County’s natural resources to state, local and regional visitors. Partners include Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge, Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation, the Louisa County Trails Council and Louisa Development Group. Not much work was done on this project in FY23.
- I. **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service** – The LCC continues to partner with Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge on a variety of events, educational programs and has a continued MOU to share prescribed fire resources, equipment, and personnel.
- J. **The Nature Conservancy** - Continued with MOU agreements to share prescribed fire resources, equipment, and personnel. Work together to provide habitat, prescribed fire workshops and more.
- K. **Iowa’s County Conservation Systems (ICCS)** – Louisa County Conservation continues to work with ICCS on a variety of projects including the MyCountyParks.com website, legislative priorities, trainings and more. In FY22 we opened an ecommerce site with MCP.com to allow for reservations and payments to be collected and this was continued in FY23.

## Projects Planned for FY24

**Virginia Grove Timber Stand Improvement** –LCC has contracted with Geode Forestry for a selective timber harvest. During FY22, trees were marked, the project was bid, and a contractor was awarded the bid. Trees were supposed to be harvested in FY23 but due to a mild winter, the contract has been extended to the winter of FY24.

**Eden Park** – The Board completed the Eden Park Playground and is nearly finished with the Water Bottle Filling Station at the end of FY23. Plans for FY24 include designing a picnic shelter, fundraising, and building a new shelter at Eden Park.

**Chinkapin Bluffs Recreation Area** – The Board would like to make significant improvements to the Chinkapin Bluffs shelter and restroom.

**Virginia Grove Campground** – Another priority for the LCC Board is to upgrade the campground at Virginia Grove. There is a great desire to install a septic system, build a shower house and add full hook-up campsites. Plans are also being discussed to add additional campsites to the area which currently has 11 electric sites and one group campsite.


**Maintenance Shop Improvements** – Discussions are underway to make improvements at the Louisa County Maintenance Shop that could include adding a concrete floor to the new barn along with concrete approaches and power garage doors. The old shop building also needs the roof repaired, new siding and doors.

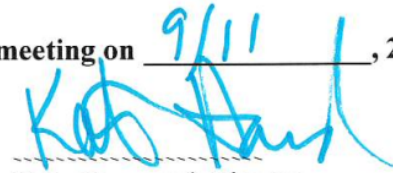
Top Priorities - Large Projects – taken from the 10-year strategic plan	
	Chinkapin Bluffs – Improvements to the shelter and restroom
	Chinkapin Bluffs – Add a water bottle filling station
	Virginia Grove - Campground improvements, shower house, full hook-up campsites, lane back to the new addition & create more camping
	Langwood Education Center - Lodge improvements
	Langwood Education Center – A-frame improvements
	Eden Park – Picnic shelter, restroom
	Eden Park – Campground & shower house
	Cabins – explore locations for cabins: Virginia Grove, Eden Park, Snively, Langwood, Chinkapin
	Shelters – Langwood, Eden Park, Hoover Nature Trail at Chinkapin Trailhead
	Ponds – Eden Park & Virginia Grove
	Timber Stand Improvement Projects - Cairo Woods & Langwood
	Virginia Grove – work on getting the gravel road hard-surfaced to Virginia Grove
	Hoover Nature Trail at Chinkapin – finish adding amenities to trailhead & trail

### Attachments

- A – General Basic Revenue
- B – Administrative and General Basic Expenses
- C – Conservation Reserve, REAP and Louisa Interpretive Center Financial Reports

Approved by the Louisa County Conservation Board at the meeting on 9/11, 2023.

  
 Josh Hardin, Vice-Chair

  
 Katie Hammond, Director



# Attachment A – FY23 Revenue Report

<b>Financial Report - - General Basic Fund - Revenue</b>	
<b>Donations from Private Sources</b>	
Tri-Rivers - Trails Council - HNT	\$ 31,000.00
Tri-Rivers - MOU	\$ 3,000.00
River Products Donation	\$ 100.00
Louisa County SWCD	\$ 50.00
Investment in Real Estate - AEA Ca	\$ 500.00
Bailey Yotter Donation - Fire Equip	\$ 60.00
Wiele Chevrolet & Kent Feeds	\$ 300.00
QCWOC - Events	\$ 100.00
Rick Kerr Memorial Bench	\$ 643.00
CFLC - Kayak Louisa County	\$ 5,140.61
CFLC - Boost Mental Health - Ropes	\$ 4,200.00
	<b>\$ 45,093.61</b>
<b>Camping Fees</b>	
Snively Campground	\$ 9,592.07
Flaming Prairie Campground	\$ 1,790.00
Virginia Grove Campground	\$ 6,140.09
Camping Coupons	\$ 2,175.00
Fire Wood	\$ 237.00
	<b>\$ 19,934.16</b>
<b>Shelter Fees</b>	
Chinkapin Bluffs	\$ 297.26
Flaming Prairie	\$ -
Virginia Grove	\$ 74.66
Special Use Permit	\$ 48.09
	<b>\$ 420.01</b>
<b>Toolesboro Contract</b>	<b>\$ 15,220.62</b>
<b>Land Rent</b>	
Indian Slough - Chad Hayes	\$ 7,050.00
Cairo & Chinkapin - Clinton Ryan	\$ 8,374.00
Kinder Morgan	\$ 89.10
	<b>\$ 15,513.10</b>
<b>Eden Park - Private Donations</b>	
Convera - Delta Dental Grant	\$ 20,000.00
Eden Trust - Playground	\$ 37,124.00
	<b>\$ 57,124.00</b>



<b>Equipment Rental - Truax Drill</b>	<b>\$ 80.00</b>
<b>Sales - Land, Bldgs, Equip., Etc.</b>	
HNT Land Sale	\$ 46,209.91
Timber Sales - Virginia Grove	\$ 13,395.75
	<b>\$ 59,605.66</b>
<b>Langwood Education Center</b>	
Langwood Rentals - Overnight	\$ 6,335.80
RV Hook-ups	\$ 210.00
Special Use Permit	\$ 75.00
Ropes Course	\$ 1,813.00
	<b>\$ 8,433.80</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Federal Grants</b>	
TAP - Hoover Nature Trail	\$ 35,556.29
	<b>\$ 35,556.29</b>
<b>Miscellaneous State Grants</b>	
State Rec Trails - HNT	\$ 11,225.62
State Historical Marker	\$ 2,205.00
	<b>\$ 13,430.62</b>
<b>Environmental Education</b>	
Day Camp	\$ 206.54
Newsletter Donation	\$ 200.00
Public Programs	\$ 7,049.23
Big Sand Mound	\$ 465.00
Fire Workshop	\$ 452.74
WOW	\$ 367.82
Summer Rec	\$ 7,355.94
SWCD Program	\$ 900.00
Solid Waste - Received in FY23	\$ 1,138.50
Toolesboro Donations	\$ 263.00
	<b>\$ 18,398.77</b>
<b>Miscellaneous - poll worker</b>	<b>\$ 191.50</b>
<b>Gas Tax</b>	<b>\$ 625.50</b>
<b>Hotel Motel Excise Tax</b>	<b>\$ 284.09</b>
<b>REAP Revenue (Also shown in REAP Budget)</b>	
Interest on Investment	\$ 2,948.89
Per Capita	\$ 2,411.00
CCB Allocation	\$ 7,168.00
	<b>\$ 12,527.89</b>
<b>General Basic Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 289,911.73</b>
<b>REAP Revenue Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,527.89</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 302,439.62</b>

# Attachment B – FY23 Expenditure Report

<b>General Basic Expenditures</b>	
<b>Administration</b>	
Katie Hammond (Director Salary)	\$ 67,181.87
FICA	\$ 4,822.88
IPERS	\$ 6,158.54
Health Insurance - Admin	\$ 18,322.99
Office Supplies	\$ 4,192.78
Public Ed Services	\$ 17,751.57
Official Publications	\$ 772.00
Postage	\$ 525.62
Mileage	\$ 619.63
Telephone	\$ 4,308.25
School of Instruction	\$ 4,302.77
Dues/Memberships	\$ 2,180.00
Licenses, Testing, Permits	\$ 527.50
Drainage & Property Taxes	\$ 2,377.46
	<b>\$ 134,043.86</b>
<b>General Basic</b>	
Lana Artz-McComb	\$ 49,570.79
Laura Semken	\$ 39,450.85
Noah Robb	\$ 65,905.09
Jacob Ewart	\$ 45,410.54
Seasonal EE Staff	\$ 4,586.41
Summer Rec Staff	\$ 5,966.00
Seasonal Maint. Staff	\$ 11,418.00
6 Mo. Seasonal Maint.	\$ 8,240.00
Dani Boysen (.7FTE)	\$ 33,849.98
Toolesboro Staff	\$ 4,113.97
Weekend Ropes	\$ -
FICA - All Staff	\$ 19,607.31
IPERS - All Staff	\$ 19,496.66
Health - All Staff	\$ 48,270.08
	<b>\$ 355,885.68</b>
<b>Operations</b>	
Fuel	\$ 13,759.95
Minor Equip/Hand Tools	\$ 375.58
Uniforms	\$ 1,351.65
Utilities / Electric (campground & shop)	\$ 13,237.01
Motor Veh Equip / Repair	\$ 3,689.76
Operating Equip Repair	\$ 3,177.25
Equipment Insurance	\$ 14,916.32
Worker's Comp	\$ 3,440.01
Park Service (all but LW, TB, & EP)	\$ 53,001.12
Park Service Toolesboro	\$ 283.82
Park Service Langwood	\$ 14,630.11
Park Service Eden Park	\$ 67,073.42
Wildlife Habitat	\$ 169.16
	<b>\$ 189,105.16</b>
<b>Total Expenditures General Basic:</b>	<b>\$ 679,034.70</b>



## Attachment C – FY23 – Additional Accounts

<b>Conservation Reserve (Land Acquisition )*</b>		
Starting Balance on 7/1/2022	\$	138,523.59
<b>Revenue</b>		
Transfer from GB to Reserve Trails	\$	46,210.00
Transfer from GB to Reserve Woodlands	\$	16,075.00
Transfer from GB to Reserve	\$	58,586.00
Total Revenue	\$	120,871.00
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Star Equipment - Skid Steer Repair	\$	9,486.25
Burger Brothers - Playground	\$	16,420.00
Schrocks - Handicap Blind Materials	\$	896.89
Forks for Skid Steer - Machinery	\$	3,090.00
Total Expenditures	\$	29,893.14
Ending Balance on 6/30/23	\$	229,501.45

<b>Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)</b>		
Starting Balance on 7/1/2022	\$	157,209.40
<b>Revenue</b>		
REAP FY23 CCB Allocation	\$	7,168.00
REAP Per Capita Allocation	\$	2,411.00
Interest on Income	\$	2,948.89
Total Income	\$	12,527.89
<b>Expenditures</b>		
EE Intern Salary	\$	1,528.79
FICA	\$	116.93
Total Expenses	\$	1,645.72
Balance as of 6/30/2023	\$	168,091.57



*\*Iowa Code 350.6 states that “Upon request of the county conservation board, the board of supervisors shall establish a reserve for county conservation land acquisition and capital improvement projects. Money credited to the reserve shall remain in the reserve until expended for the projects upon warrants requisitioned by the county conservation board.” This Conservation Reserve Account, also called “Land Acquisition” allows a portion of revenue from gifts, contributions, and bequests of money, rent, licenses, fees, charges, and other revenues received by the county conservation board to be placed in this account to be carried over and used for land acquisition and capital improvements.*

*Note: FY22 expenditures were reimbursed in FY23 and some FY23 expenditures will be reimbursed in FY24.*