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Annual Report of the Louisa County Conservation Board Fiscal Year 2021 July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

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, 2020 to June 30, 2021) as prescribed in Chapter 350.3 of the Code of Iowa (1993).

FY21 at a Glance

- The **Hoover Nature Trail** project at Chinkapin Bluffs was completed and a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Celebration was held.
- The **Wetland Interpretive Trail** at the future site of the Louisa Interpretive Center was completed and a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Celebration was held.
- The **Snively mitigation** project was completed that retrofitted the electric pedestals to be removable during high water events.



- **Olivia Brown received the 2020 Outstanding Volunteer award from IAN and ICEC** for the volunteer work she does with Louisa County Conservation. Olivia comes to the Complex, once a week, when she is able, to help feed the educational animals (snakes, toad, turtles and tree frog) and provide enrichment for them. She often takes the turtles outside for walks on nice sunny days!



- **COVID continued to impact** the way we conduct business in FY21. Parks, trails and restrooms were open, schools were back in session, however summer nature camps, Summer Rec and other group EE activities didn't happen in the summer of 2020 (which includes July & August for FY21). Environmental Education naturalists weren't hired that same summer, although the maintenance interns worked and stayed busy mowing. Schools were in session, but two schools were not bussing kids to field trips, so the field trips went to these schools. The other two schools attended limited field trips. Overall EE numbers are down due to restricting public programs, lack of summer staff in the summer of 2000 and reduced school programs and field trips.

- Louisa-Muscatine 5th Grade Teacher, **Michelle Helscher won the 2019 Bohumil Shimek Environmental Educator Award.** Michelle has been partnering with LCC to take her students on innovative field trips and always goes above and beyond to provide great conservation learning experiences for her students. She is particularly passionate about monarch butterflies, their native habitat and the great migration.



- In FY21 staff were able to work with the Louisa County Auditor and Treasurer to find a way to collect **online payments** with an additional bank account at the State Bank of Wapello. Payments are being accepted via Square, but plans are underway to enter into an e-commerce agreement with MyCountyParks.com in FY22 for online reservations and acceptance of fees for programs and such.

- The **Indian Slough Wetland Berm Project** was mostly completed in FY21. This bermed wetland area was planted to corn. Electricity was run and a well and pump were installed that will allow us to flood the corn in the fall for waterfowl and hunters beginning in FY22. The only work remaining is to lay fabric and rock at the point where the hose will discharge into the area.

- **Nancy Hayes was awarded the 2020 Friend of Conservation.** Nancy and John Hayes are neighbors to the Toolesboro Museum and helped extensively with the Toolesboro Touchstones series of programs. They are also allowing us to build a walking trail through the timber, so visitors are able to see the rest of the mounds.



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:

Name	Title	Expiration Date	Meetings Attended
Scott Heater	Member	Dec 31, 2020	10
Randy Griffin	Member	Dec 31, 2021 (Stepped down)	15
Chris Ball	Member	Dec 31, 2021 (replaced Randy)	6
Elizabeth Kling	Chair	Dec 31, 2022	16
Roxy Yakle	Secretary/Treasurer	Dec 31, 2023	20
Sam Willson	Vice Chair	Dec 31, 2024	23
Josh Hardin	Member	Dec 31, 2025	12

Meetings Held

The board held 13 regular meetings and three (10) 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. They can also be found online at:

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 FY21

Name	Title	Dates Started
Katie Hammond	Executive Director	03/2000 (PFT)
Jeff Snyder	Operations Supervisor	10/2006 (PFT)
Lana Artz-McComb	Naturalist	3/2016 (PFT)
Dani Boysen	Office Manager	7/2016(PFT – 75%)
Bobbi Donovan	Naturalist	11/2016 – 8/2020
Tanner Donovan	Ranger/Technician	09/2017 – 4/2021
Laura Semken	Naturalist	8/2020 (PFT)
Noah Robb	Natural Resource Technician	5/2021 (PFT)

LCC Permanent Employees for FY21



Katie Hammond
Executive Director



Dani Boysen
Office Manager



Jeff Snyder
Operations Supervisor



Laura Semken
Naturalist



Lana Artz-McComb
Naturalist



Noah Robb
Natural Resource Technician

LCC Seasonal, Temporary & On Call Employees for FY21

Name	Title	Dates Started
Francesca Rappenecker	Seasonal Maintenance	Summer 21 (SFT)
Jacob Ewart	Seasonal Maintenance	Summer 20, 21 (SFT)
Shawn Hawks	Seasonal Maintenance	Fall 20, 21(SFT)
Lynette Moore	Toolesboro Assistant	Summer/Fall 19, 20, 21 (SPT)
Olivia Brown	Toolesboro Assistant	Summer/Fall 20, 21 (SPT)
Nonie Crumly	Toolesboro Assistant	Summer/Fall 20, 21 (SPT)
Claire Hoeg	Summer Rec	Summer 21 (SPT)
Sarah Martinez	Summer Rec	Summer 21 (SPT)
Bria Holthe	Naturalist Intern	Summer 21 (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)

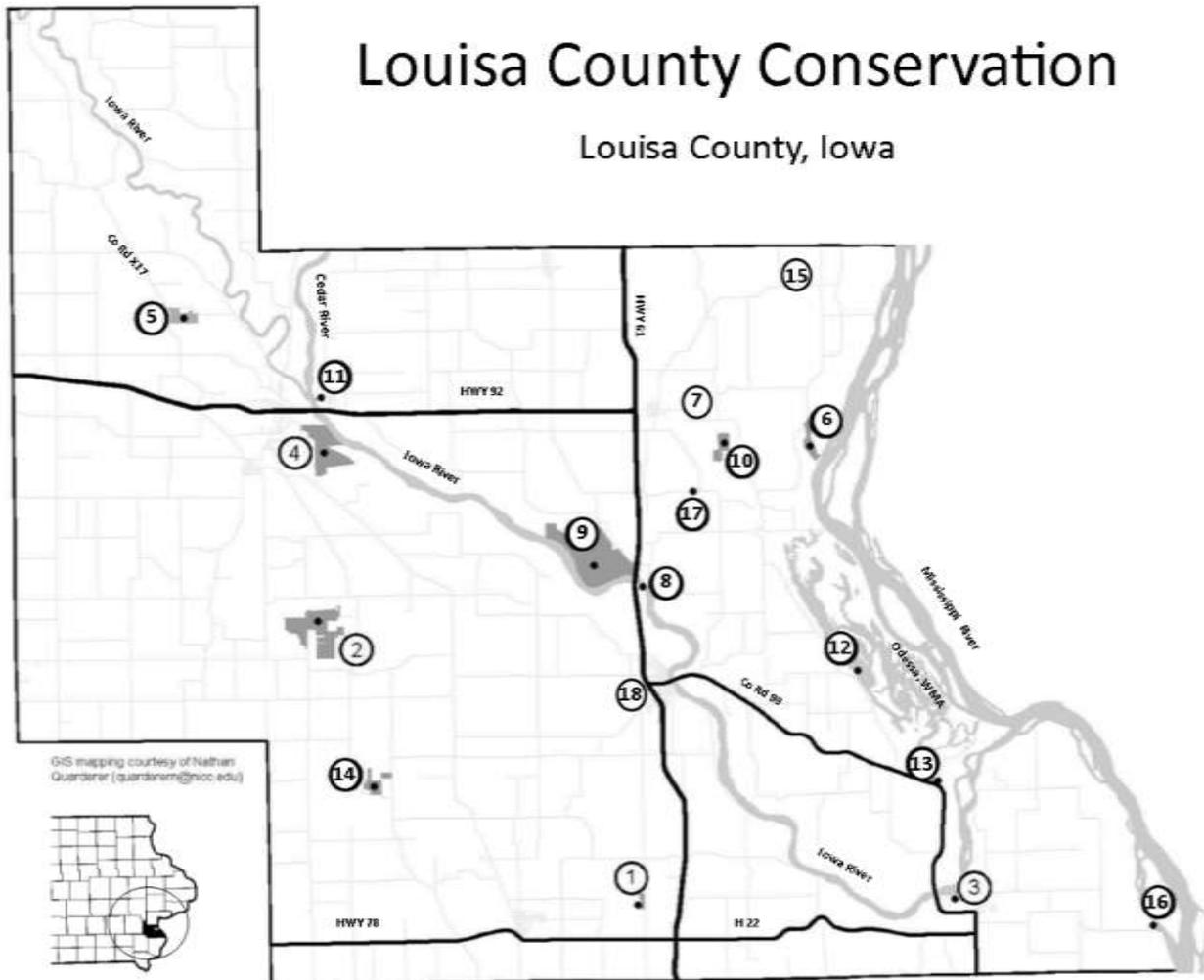
SPT: Seasonal Part Time (works part time, seasonally, no benefits)

In addition, the conservation board used the services of volunteers and community service workers including school groups, Girl Scouts, Louisa County Izaak Walton League and more.



Area Inventory

Louisa County Conservation currently owns and/or manages 18 areas comprising a total of 2,589 acres for conservation, recreation, open spaces and wildlife benefit. No new areas were acquired during FY21.



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 Complex (Conservation Office)
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	Baird Timber 2851 "K" Ave	18												●		
2	Cairo Woods Wildlife Area 9032 "S" Ave (Main Access)	525						●	*	P		●		●	●	
3	Cappy Russell Access 6444 West Cty Rd X-71	5					●			R	●	●	●	No Hunting		
4	Chinkapin Bluffs Recreation Area 14198 "R" Ave	400			●	●	●	●		R				●	●	●
5	Eden Park 17426 Co. Rd. X17, Columbus Jct.	146					●	●						No Hunting		
6	Flaming Prairie Park 14624 Cty Rd X-61, Muscatine, IA	71	20	●	●	●	●			R	●	●	●	No Hunting		
7	Hickory Hollow 12786 148th Street, Wapello	34						●						●		
8	Highway 61 Access 10726 Highway 61	1								R	●			No Hunting		
9	Indian Slough Wildlife Area 1225 "L" Avenue (Main Access)	1100						●	*	R, P		●		●	●	●
10	Langwood Education Center 14019 "H" Ave, Wapello	130	For group use by reservation only - No Hunting													
11	River Forks Access 1001 Main St, Fredonia	5					●			R	●	●	●	No Hunting		
12	Snively Access 9246 Cty Rd X-61, Wapello	6	34	●	●	●	●			L	●			No Hunting		
13	Toolesboro Mounds & Museum 6568 Toolesboro Ave.	5		●	●	●	●							No Hunting		
14	Virginia Grove Recreation Area** 20406 55th St	106	11	●	●	●	●	●		P		●		●	●	
15	Wilson Prairie 10400 Co Rd G44X, Muscatine	37						●						No Hunting		
16	Wykert's Landing 1714 20th St	0.5								R	●	●	●	No Hunting		
17	Louisa County Complex (Office) - 12635 County Rd G56, Wapello - 319-523-8381 - M-F; 9am-3pm															
18	LCC Maintenance Shop - (call for appt.) - 8299 K Avenue, Wapello - 319-523-6493															
* Open May 21 to September 15 ** Includes Baird Grove Unit																

Parks and Recreation Areas

Louisa County Conservation offers a wide variety of natural areas for the public to enjoy. Parks and recreation areas are those that contain amenities for the public. These amenities can include shelters, restrooms, playgrounds, trails and more.

The following areas fall under the parks and recreation category:



- Langwood Education Center
- Chinkapin Bluffs Recreation Area
- Eden Park
- 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, which included Tom Woodruff.

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 FY21 camping was \$12/site/night for all sites in all campgrounds. Camping coupon booklets were sold at the office for \$60 and include 6-nights of camping, giving the buyer one free night.

Prices raised to \$15/site/night starting July 1, 2021, FY22. This led to a boom in the selling of coupon books prior to the raise in prices.

Sites are available on a first-come, first served basis. We do not allow reservations except under unusual circumstances at the discretion of the Executive Director. Campers are limited to staying 14 days in any one campsite.



The Board does not have any full hook-up sites or dump stations in the campgrounds, currently. 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 2 seasonal positions take turns running park patrol from Memorial Day through Labor Day weekends and beyond as needed.

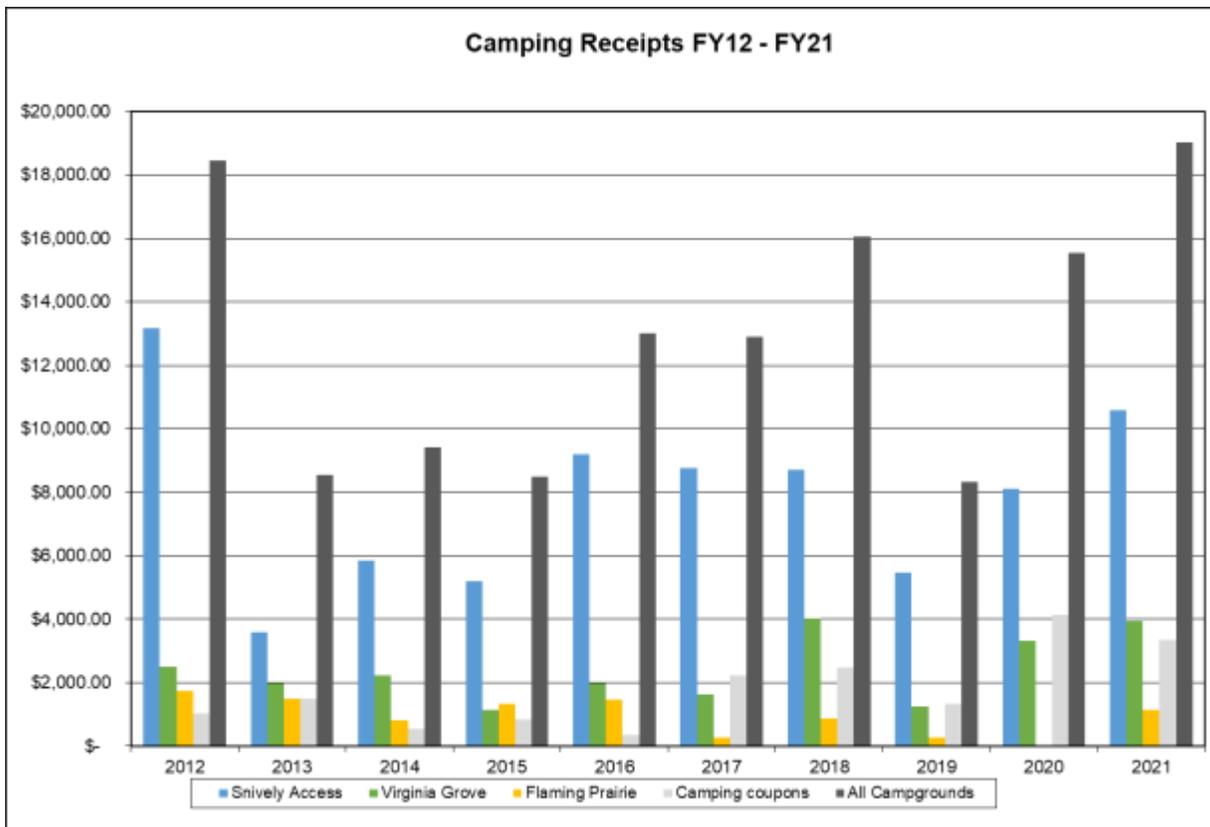
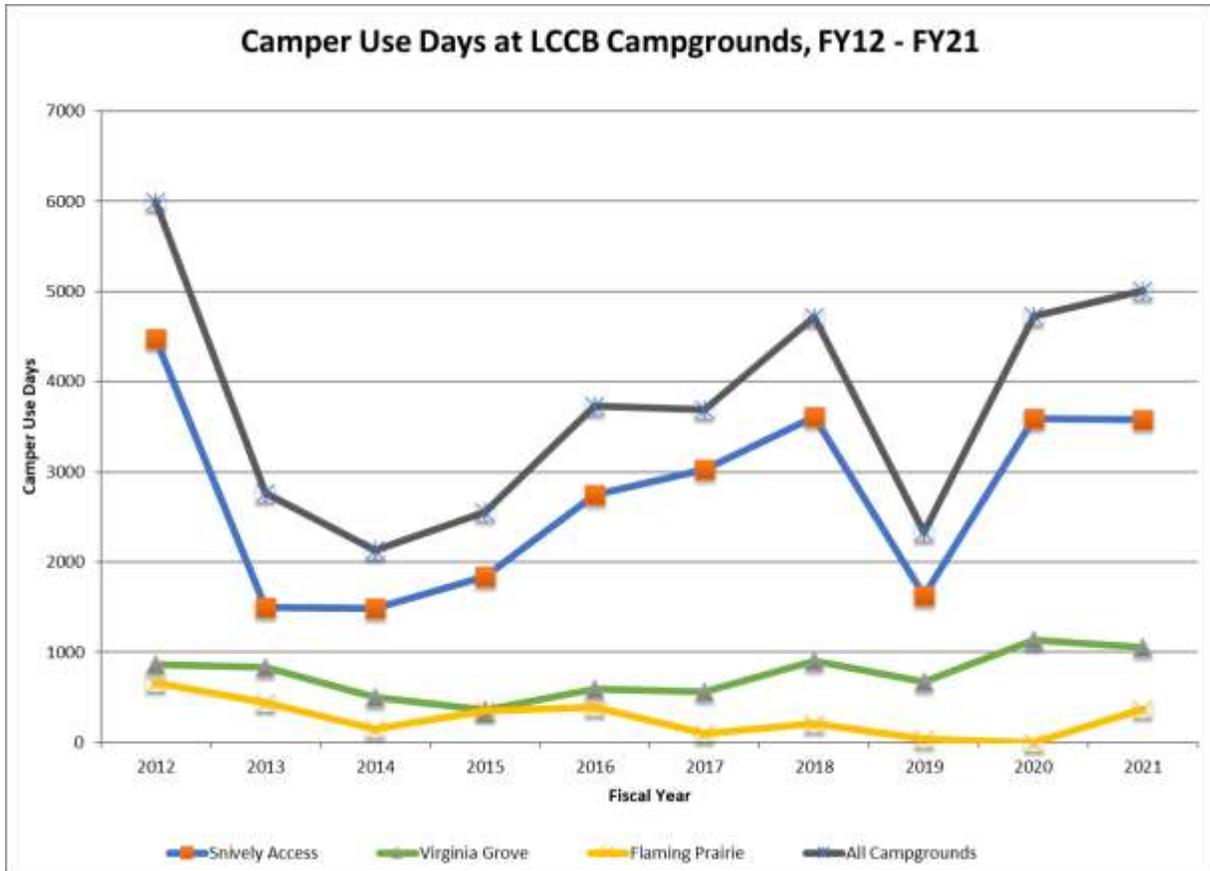
****This was the first year since 2008 that Flaming Prairie was open during the entire camping season!****

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 FY21 camping revenue was \$10,590 with 3,582 camper use days. Another \$3,340 was spent on Camping Coupons, of which the majority was spent at Snively.
- **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 1,055 camper use days with a total revenue of \$3,952.
- **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 FY20 Flaming Prairie was closed all season and no income was received for camping. In FY21 the area never had to be closed, the first time since 2008, and 371 camper use days were reported with a revenue of \$1,135.

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.” Many of these areas were purchased or acquired in a way that contains some restrictions. Cairo Woods and Indian Slough were both purchased with 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. (For example, a picnic shelter or restroom would restrict people from hunting within 200 yards of the “occupied” building and, therefore, are not allowed.)

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 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. Launching a canoe or kayak is possible during most water levels, however this area is mostly 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 and managed by the Iowa DNR.
- **Wykert’s Landing** – is located on the Mississippi River in Pool 18, east of Oakville.



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

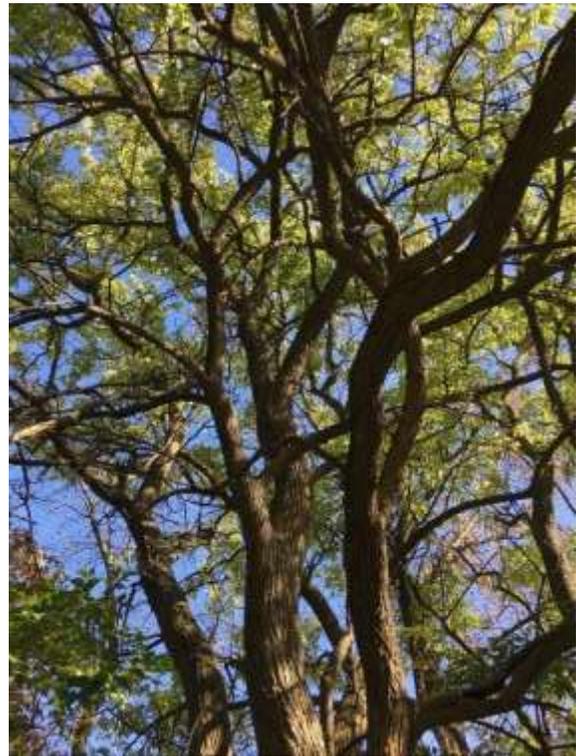
Management Restrictions: None - although the Board applied three times for Wildlife Habitat Stamp funding, it was never received so there are no known restrictions on this area.

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

Existing facilities: small parking lot and very short loop trail

Improvements this fiscal year: No major improvements.

Planned Improvements: We walked this area with a couple foresters and found that the timber was in good shape. Not too many dead or dying trees and very little for invasive species. We will continue to monitor it and remove invasives as we find them. This area has been noted as a great place for a handicapped hunting blind.



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, equestrian, 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 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 and trails, including trails marked for equestrian use. Handicapped turkey hunting blind.

Improvements this fiscal year: The skid steer with forestry mower was used to remove invasive species, improve timber stands and enhance the trails. Better access was provided for food plots and the public to access areas. Food plots were planted to help enhance the area and provide additional hunting opportunities.

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 FY22 staff hopes to conduct more prescribed burns at Cairo Woods. We also plan to continue with timber stand improvement projects and removal of invasive species. The DNR Forester is currently working on a forest management plan for this area and it should be completed in FY22. One of our goals is to add another handicapped blind to the property.

Documented use for this area: Although there were not any programs held at Cairo Woods, staff members reported higher use than typical years with multiple cars in the parking lots each day. 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. Many people utilize this access to get to 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.



Existing facilities: Concrete boat ramp, graveled parking lot and access sign. We placed a porta pot at the access for the past two 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: None, the sandbar was super close to the shore making it impossible to put a motorboat in during the 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 Raiders Canoe Trek utilized this area for their Iowa River paddling adventure (11 kids). The landing was also used for an Iowa River Water Trail Pick-n-Paddle (5 people), where trash was removed from the river.



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%), local donations and funds from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. The wetland addition is restricted from permanent structures or picnic areas.



Current management: Multi-use recreation area – hunting, gathering, nature or bird hikes, picnicking, hiking, cross country race/running, field trips, summer rec and nature camps. There are two agriculture fields 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.

Improvements this fiscal year: Lodge Construction out of Clarksville completed a (nearly) \$456,000 trail resurfacing project on the Hoover Nature Trail. They also built the new trailhead at the Louisa County Fairgrounds, and we held the Grand Opening for the newly re-surfaced trail. Food plots were planted, and farm agreements continued with Clinton Ryan.

Planned Improvements: We received a Community Foundation of Louisa County grant to add some stone benches and signs to the Hoover Nature Trail. They have been ordered, but will be installed in FY22. We also received funding from Mary Hill to place a sundial at Chinkapin. The sundial and brass plaques have been ordered; however we are waiting on concrete to be installed and the pedestal to be built.

Documented use: There were 19 shelter reservations at Chinkapin for the year. This shelter is our most popular for reservations and the number of rentals more than doubled from last year with covid closures. There were two school field trips held at Chinkapin Bluffs, a Mott's Group nature hike, a Nature Tots program focusing on spring sensations, a geocaching public program, Hunter Education and two summer school programs. Overall, there were 9 groups with a total of 162 participants for Environmental Education programs at Chinkapin Bluffs.



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 burned the entire prairie on the East side of the creek with the help of TNC and FWS. We got a great burn, and the native grasses made a nice come-back. We were also able to kill some of the smaller trees encroaching.



Planned Improvements: LCC received a \$2.3 Million cost opinion from Shive-Hattery for a 33-site, full hook-up campground with paved camp pads, gravel road to the sites and full shower house. The Board was shocked by the cost and has decided to turn the camping focus to Virginia Grove for now. Strategic planning suggests that we should add restrooms, a playground and a reservable shelter near the main parking area.

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) and campground plan (FY20) to date.

Documented use: One of the goals for Louisa County Conservation is to get people out to all of our parks. Staff took a cross-country skiing retreat to Eden Park one Friday afternoon. This gave staff a chance to see the area up-close and discuss plans and projects for the future. Public programs at Eden included a geocaching event, Archaeology Blitz, Lunch Hike, Owl Prowl and a private hike for the SE Iowa Women Hikers. In total there were 5 events with 32 people in attendance.



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 end 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 is prohibited.

Existing facilities: Two shelters, camping & picnicking facilities, 20-30-50-amp service for 21 campsites, two latrines and a Mississippi River boat access.



Improvements this fiscal year: This area did not have to be closed due to high water in FY21, for the first time since 2008! The area has been popular for camping and maintenance staff have been able to get it mowed regularly and it has looked great all year.

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 has to 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. There is also a soft spot on the levee that needs some large rock in order for people to be able to get to the boat landing without driving around it.

Documented use for this area: There were no shelter reservations this year –due to being closed during most of the picnic season. There were 371 camper use days at Flaming Prairie and camp revenue of \$1,135.



7. Hickory Hollow Wildlife Area – 34.12 acres

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

911 Address: 12786 148th 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. This 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: Foot bridges are needed to allow access across the creek for maintenance and trails need to be designed and built. Girdling cedars and invasive species removal will be an annual job.



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: Pushed a lot of sand to the side from flooding.

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.



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, Kuder Lake) and mowed trails.

Improvements this fiscal year: Both Kuder Lake prairie and the Main Access prairie were burned during FY21. Trails were maintained, sunflowers planted and other food plots. The Well and Pump for the bermed area were installed and corn planted. We are hoping to flood it this fall for waterfowl hunting. Secondary Roads finished construction of the Main access road and added large culverts to allow water to flow through and people to get to the parking lot.

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).
- We want to add steps and a primitive campsite along the Iowa River for overnight paddlers.



10. Langwood Education Center - 130 acres
Includes the future site of the Louisa Interpretive Center (LIC)

Location: Three miles southeast of Grandview, Iowa

911 Address: 14019 “H” Avenue, Wapello, IA (911 address updated in FY13)

Date Acquired: June 1, 2000 Langwood was acquired, the future site of the Louisa Interpretive Center 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; 5 foot bridges and a bird viewing blind.

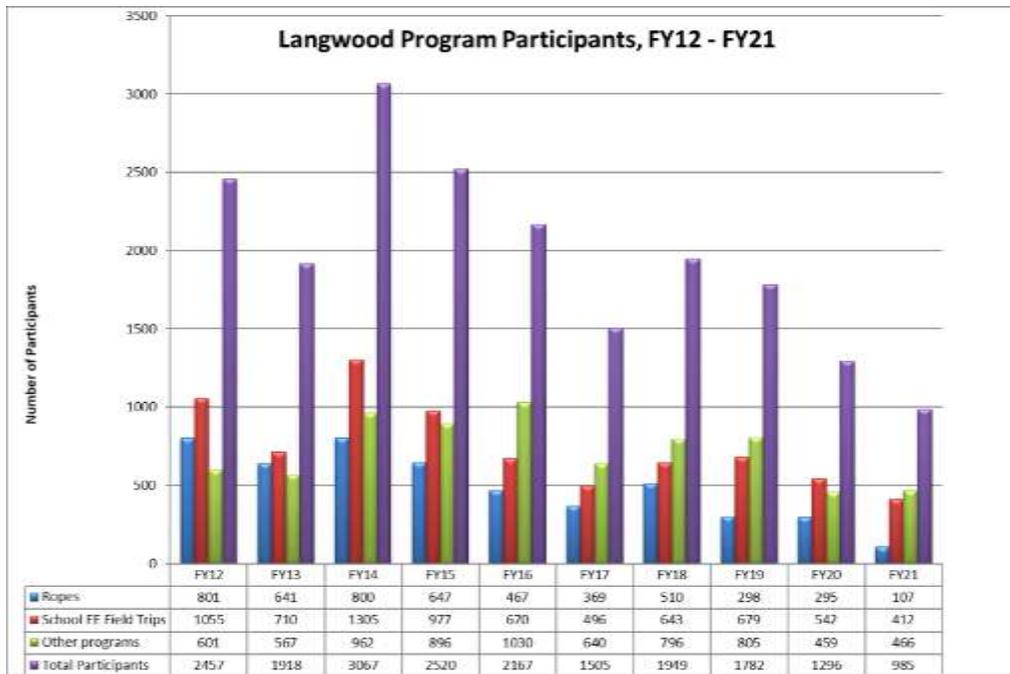
Current management: For environmental education, outdoor recreation, and challenge course programming. Youth groups are encouraged, particularly in conjunction with outdoor education programming to use the area. Many private groups also rent the facility for reunions, weddings, campouts and more.

Improvements this fiscal year: The Wetland Interpretive Trail at the future site of the Louisa Interpretive Center at Langwood was built and completed. In addition, a new central heating and cooling unit was installed in the Lodge at Langwood allowing for better climate control in the building.

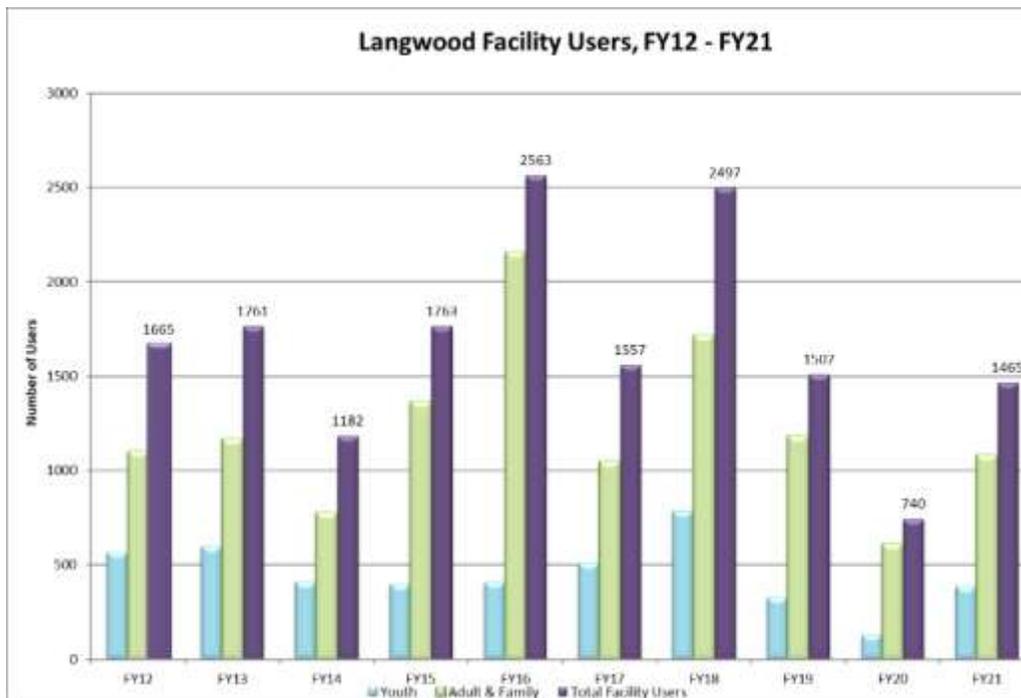


Planned Improvements: Continue looking into plans to attach restrooms to the lodge. A decision will need to be made about the Lodge and A-frame. Both buildings are showing signs of needing some major upgrades and there has been talk about fixing them up or maybe building one building that will be both a lodge and bunkhouse or two new buildings.

Documented use: There was a total of 985 participants in FY21 between ropes programs, school field trips and other EE programs. This number is lower than normal for two main reasons. One is, of course, COVID related. Columbus Junction and Louisa-Muscatine were not able to bus kids places for field trips. Their field trips were adjusted to be done at the school to lessen the risk of spreading anything. Also, the Ropes Course wasn't able to be utilized until after the zip-line pole and cable could be replaced.



Facility users are those who rent Langwood on the weekends or use it when we are not present. We documented 1465 people in FY21. Most of the groups using Langwood facilities are family or adult groups (1081 people) having reunions, weddings or other outings. The remaining 384 are youth groups. These numbers are about double the previous year.



Note: we do not always have an accurate count for facility use since staff is not there. We rely on numbers provided to us prior to the event.

Langwood was rented by a total of 46 groups with 1465 people in attendance. Groups came from the following Iowa counties: Des Moines (164), Lee (15), Linn (90), Louisa (712), and Muscatine (484). This year we didn't have any out-of-state rentals.

The Langwood High & Low Ropes Challenge Course

Usage: There were a total of 4 groups who used the Langwood Challenge Course with 107 total participants. Groups came from the following counties: Muscatine (16), Louisa (69) and multiple counties (22). Two group even came from Illinois (27). There were 2 youth groups, 1 public program and 1 corporate group.

Financial: The Langwood RCC was not operational for part of the year due to the need to replace the zip-line pole and cable. Once that was completed, we were able to begin scheduling groups again.

Total ropes revenue in FY21: \$863.00

Total ropes expenses in FY21: \$8,091.81

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 FY21 the pole at the end of the zip-line was replaced with the help of REC. ABEE, Inc. then was able to come and replace the zip-line cable and complete the ropes inspection. New helmets were purchased. Staff also replaced the doors on the ropes shed, mulched the course and continued with regular maintenance.

Planned Improvements: Improvements for FY22 include a total rebuild on the zip-line platform because the boards are starting to show wear. We are also hoping to get back to normal with around 20 groups.

The Future Site of the Louisa Interpretive Center (LIC)

When completed, the Louisa Interpretive Center will be a state-of-the-art visitor and interpretive center serving Louisa County residents, Great River Road Scenic Byways travelers and tourists. The facility will include a state-of-the-art LEED certified building, extensive outdoor exhibits, trails, pond, wetlands, and a native prairie restoration.

Accomplishments on the project during FY21:

1. The Wetland Interpretive Trail was constructed by Miller Trucking & Excavating out of the Quad Cities, with the help of the National Scenic Byways grant from 2011.
2. Grand opening was held for the new Wetland Interpretive Trail!
3. The LIC grounds were officially open to the public, allowing the public to walk the trails, fish the LIC pond and explore the 45-acre LIC property.



Accomplishments on the project during FY20:

1. The project was let in October 2019.
2. Miller Trucking and Excavating out of the Quad Cities was awarded the project with the low bid of \$132,955.50. They were given a late start date of September 14, 2020, and 30 working days to complete the project.
3. The Pre-Construction meeting was held February 4, 2020.
4. The Novel Coronavirus has slowed the process due to shortages of some supplies and people not working (or only teleworking).



Accomplishments on the project during FY19:

1. The last step in the Section 106 process, berm removal, was completed. Rivers Construction was awarded the project and completed it. The berms were removed, and the dirt was used to fix three terraces on the property.
2. Staff and partners wrote the verbiage for the Wetland Interpretive Trail panels and collected photographs to use on the displays.
3. The project was moved forward with preliminary check plans being submitted to the IDOT. Final Plans are set for August 2019 with a let date of October 2019.

Accomplishments on the project during FY18:

1. The Memorandum of Agreement between the IDOT, LCC, FHW and SHPO was signed and approved.
2. A Site Management plan for site 13LA683 was written by Bryan Kendall of the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) and the Board signed a Conservation Easement (into perpetuity) with OSA for the site.
3. An environmental education and outreach plan was developed and presented at various programs.
4. With the help of Cherie Haury-Artz from OSA, interpretive materials were developed that will be used at the future LIC. It included updating brochures and six displays to be built at a later date.
5. LCC staff, Katie Hammond and Lana Artz-McComb, attended Section 106 training in 2017.
6. Permission to draft a Supplemental Agreement for the project with Shive-Hattery was granted and completed. This officially allowed the project to begin moving forward again.

Accomplishments on the project during FY16-17:

1. Project remained on hold during FY16 & 17 although several meetings were held to discuss the potential for moving forward on the project.
2. At the end of FY17 a Memorandum of Agreement between the IDOT, LCC, FHWA and SHPO had been drafted and sent out to all parties for review. This document outlines steps for Section 106 compliance for inadvertent disturbance to a cultural site.

Accomplishments on the project during FY 15:

1. Project has been on hold with the DOT during FY15. However, several meetings have been held and it is believed that progress will be made in FY16.
2. This area is being used heavily for fishing programs and wetland wading.
3. Two acres of Monarch Habitat were planted as part of an initiative to protect monarchs and educate people about the benefits of pollinators.



Accomplishments on the project during FY14:

1. The Advisory Committee has been moving forward slowly.
2. Project has been on hold with the DOT, hope to move forward in FY15.
3. Entire site was burned in the spring to help establish natives and reduce woody growth.
4. This area started being used heavily for fishing and other educational programs

Accomplishments on the project during FY13:

1. An Advisory Committee was created to assist in creating an interpretive message and signage for the wetlands. The group met 3 times at Langwood.
2. The LIC pond was stocked with bluegill and bass
3. The Louisa County Ikes built 3 fish structures that were sunk at the pond
4. Nature Campers explored the wetlands finding all types of insects, birds, reptiles and amphibians



Accomplishments on the project during FY12:

1. Grading and construction of roads, parking lot, wetland and pond, as well as landforms.
2. Paving applied to newly constructed roads.
3. “Low mow” mix on landforms, wetland plantings and native grass planting on 12 acres.
4. Final draft of the Building Schematic.
5. Update the Master Plan to reflect new fundraising goals and timeline.
6. In addition, a third National Scenic Byways grant, NSB 2011, allowing the LCC to begin work on the interpretive message, installation of the wetland interpretive exhibit and construction of a trail and two footbridges in the wetland area.

Accomplishments on the project during FY11 & before:

1. Donation of project land from Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation to LCC.

A Federal Highway Administration Scenic Byways grant was secured in FY07 to fund a Master Plan. A second grant was awarded in FY09 which has funded design work, preliminary engineering, grading and surface restoration. A third was received in FY11 to create a trail from the parking lot to the wetlands and provide interpretive signage for the wetland areas.

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.

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: Removal of several large trees that were dying and located in the middle of the parking lot. We also moved a bunch of sand and debris to the downstream side of the area. A porta pot was 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 through Fredonia then turns right (North) and heads toward HWY 91. 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.



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.

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: A FEMA mitigation project was completed at Snively that made it possible to remove camp pedestals when Odessa is expected to flood. This will protect the GFCI's and electrical boxes in the future. 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: A geocaching event was held at Snively with 14 in attendance. In addition, there was a canoe loan program based out of Snively with 14 people who took advantage of the canoes & kayaks.

There were 3,582 camper use days recorded in FY21 which is comparable to last year. Revenue from camping at Snively was \$10,590 with another \$3,340 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.

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, historians, school field trips, the general public and more.

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



Improvements this fiscal year: We worked with John & Nancy Hayes, adjacent landowners, to build a trail that crosses onto the Hayes property and allows visitors to view the other mounds that are located in the woods. A grant from the Community Foundation of Louisa County is paying for new signs (that are expected to arrive in FY22) and build the walking trail. We attempted to gain bids for some work at Toolesboro but didn't receive any. Staff ended up patching the roof around the vents, replacing ceiling tile and caulking windows. Due to toilet problems, we found that roots had grown into the septic line. That line was augured out, bushes were removed and in FY22 the tank will be pumped and capped.

Planned Improvements: Work on the prairie renovation will continue. The Board plans to continue offering 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. There is still some septic work to be completed and some siding that will need to be replaced. We also have grant money to plant the mounds to buffalo grass.

Documented Use: There was a total of 567 people who visited Toolesboro in FY21. Visitors came from 19 different states including as far away as California, Florida, Maryland, New Hampshire, Texas and Utah. The Conservation Board held seven (7) programs at Toolesboro including three programs in the Toolesboro Touchstones series, two field trips, a Nature Tots program, and a private group.



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 \$2000, is paid to Louisa County Conservation for mowing and maintenance.

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, Permilia, 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 descendants do the majority of the work in the flowerbeds and weeding.



14. Virginia Grove Recreation Area - 106 acres

Location: Approximately 10 miles southwest of Wapello

911 Address: 20406 55th Street, Morning Sun, IA

Date Acquired: January 7, 1975 (main tract only)

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 foot-bridges and a five-acre pond.

Improvements this fiscal year: The skid steer and forestry mower were put to good use at Virginia Grove. Honeysuckle was mowed and sprayed. Some new trails were established in the far south fence line of the property. The prescribed fire burn crew was happy to have the first successful timber burn at Virginia Grove this year. Staff were able to add bins to sell firewood to the public in hopes of limiting the firewood brought into the park.



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. An aggressive strategy will continue to be necessary to control the honeysuckle.

Negotiations began in FY21 to purchase the 50-acre Mabeus Addition to Virginia Grove. A purchase agreement will be signed in FY22 with the sale taking place on September 13, 2021. The Board and Staff have been working on big plans for adding a campground with full-hook-up sites, a central bathhouse and more to the area. Making Virginia Grove a premier location in Louisa County is a priority for the upcoming years.

Documented use: Complete attendance figures are not available; however, 1,055 camper-use days were recorded. The campground generated \$3,952.

There were two shelter reservations.

A total of 178 people attended 8 different educational programs at Virginia Grove. Naturalists held Winter Nature Camp and a couple days of Caterpillar Camp at the park. A public wildflower walk was held (side note – the group got to see showy orchids that popped up after the woodland burn!). There were three school field trips held at the park by Morning Sun students. Both Columbus and LM were not taking students to other locations. The WAMACO 4-H group also held their fall bonfire and hike at the park.

The annual Halloween Hike wasn't held, due to rising Covid numbers.



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 contributed.

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.

Improvements this fiscal year: Cedar trees were removed from the fence line and non-native thistles were sprayed in the prairie along with any cedar trees that survived the 2020 burn.

Planned Improvements: Maintain a mowed path around the area to be used for walking and as burn breaks. 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.

Documented Use: Two public programs were held at Wilson Prairie including a geocaching event (13 participants) and a monarch mania event (18 people).



16. Wykert's Landing – less than 1 acre

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

911 Address: 1714 20th Street, Oakville, IA

Date Acquired: A ten-year Recreation Lease with the Army Corps of Engineers was renewed on March 2, 2012. (Current lease will be up for review in March of 2022, FY22.)

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, a tree on the landing had to be removed and some leveling of the parking lot area plus gravel.

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 need to be ordered and replaced in FY22.



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

Website: LouisaCountyConservation.org

Improvements this fiscal year: None.

Current offices held in the building: Louisa County Conservation (North Wing), Department of Human Services (team meetings only in the conference room), the Louisa County Sheriff and Jail (East wing of building with the cooks in the kitchen), and probation (off the dining room). Public Health is expected to move into the West wing once the public health crisis slows down some.

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 pumphouse 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: General upkeep and organizing. This year the Shop received wireless internet, a desktop computer and printer so they are able to look-up parts, log work and print off reports.

Planned Improvements: Additional shed is needed, and the staff would enjoy an enclosed office space and more room for storing equipment.



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).
- (Future) Louisa Interpretive Center at Langwood – Open to the public with a .5-mile Wetland Interpretive Trail Loop and another mile of mowed paths that surround and wind through the 45-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.
- 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 on 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 8.8 miles 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.

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.

Background story for the current project: The Trails Council was awarded a Trees Forever Visioning Grant in FY14 to provide concept designs and logo for the trail. The concept plan was finished in FY15. No work was completed in FY16 - FY18. The remaining funding was secured in FY18 with a State Rec Trails Grant. The board applied for a TAP grant from Southeast Iowa Regional Planning in FY13 to make improvements to the HNT at Chinkapin Bluffs. The TAP grant will provide a trailhead at the Fairgrounds, signage, improved surfacing and the link to the fairgrounds and trails at Chinkapin. It will also address drainage issues along the trail. Money became available in October of FY17, and match money was secured in FY18.



Improvements this fiscal year: The 2-mile-long segment of the HNT was resurfaced, drainage issues were addressed, and the new trailhead was built at the Louisa County Fairgrounds. The trail project was featured on Channel 4's Living Local television program. A big grand opening/ ribbon cutting ceremony was held and the trail is open to the public!

Planned Improvements: A Community Foundation grant was secured in FY21 to purchase some informational signs for the trail including distance, mileage, and connections to the Chinkapin Bluffs trails. Limestone benches are also included. Due to Covid and other issues, we are now expecting this project to be completed in FY22 with signs currently being printed and shipped.

Documented Use:
The Quad Cities Women's Outdoor Club attended a hike on the Hoover Nature Trail at Chinkapin Bluffs with 11 participants and 65 attended the Grand Opening and Ribbon cutting celebration for a total documented use of 76 people.



Hoover Nature Trail at Morning Sun – 3 miles

Location: Morning Sun (3 miles)

Date Acquired: December 2005, July 21, 2020

Current management: Hiking and biking trail.

Existing facilities:

Starting at the Louisa-Des Moines County Line, LCC owns a 1-mile segment that diagonals across to HWY 78. This area is currently not being managed by LCC although the Board is hoping to change that in the near future.

Larry Lihs owns the 1-mile section of trail that extends from HWY78 to Division Street in Morning Sun. 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: 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 Board is also currently discussing the idea of reducing the number of segments we own or making more connections.

Documented use: an on-your-own scavenger hunt was held on the HNT at Morning Sun during the summer of 2020.



Iowa River Water Trail – 72 river miles

Location: The Iowa River from Iowa City (Sturgis Ferry Access) to the Mississippi River

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

Improvements this fiscal year: In 2020 the new Master Plan was completed and in FY21 we received new brochures and the trail is interactive and online at the Iowa DNR website.

Planned Improvements: Update signage and continue to provide programs on the Water Trail. Other improvements include spending more time and effort at boat landings, providing porta pots at landings and looking into areas for more landings. More litter removal!

Documented Use: There were two paddling events held on the IRWT this year with a total attendance of 31 people. One was a Pick-n-Paddle and the other was a normal public paddling event.



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.

Documented use: Two programs were held on the Odessa Water Trail with a total of 19 participants. One was the Mother's Day on the Marsh Pick-n-Paddle and the other was a canoe loan program at Snively.

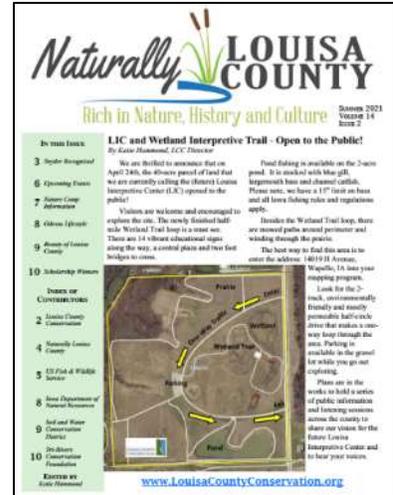
Planned Improvements: Adding additional signage, updating brochures and websites. More litter removal!



Publicity and Marketing

Naturally Louisa County Newsletter

- The Environmental Education staff worked cooperatively to edit, design, write and distribute four issues of the “Naturally Louisa County” Newsletter.
- The newsletter is a cooperative effort between Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation and Louisa County Conservation.
- It also 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 and other local conservation organizations.
- The newsletter was offered online and via email. Approximately 1142 subscribers receive the newsletter in the mail while another 450+ receive it via email. The newsletter is available to view or download at 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 of the newsletter.
- There are approximately 453+ people who receive E-newsletter blasts.

Websites

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.



All office staff have access to update and add information to the website. It is our first 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 and volunteer announcements.

NaturallyLouisaCounty.com – this website/marketing campaign received a total makeover in FY18 with the help of the Louisa Development Group.

The website has been transitioned to a new design/look/feel and was updated with content.

This marketing campaign is a joint effort to increase tourism in Louisa County and to highlight places to go, things to do and places to stay in Louisa County.



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, but events will remain on our own website and link back to LouisaCountyConservation.org.

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

In FY22 Louisa County Conservation will have an even bigger presence on this website. We are going to join the ecommerce portion of the website so we are able to take credit card payments, shelter and lodge reservations and camping reservations.

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 interviews are also 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, Oakville and Wapello.



Calendar of Events

We submit a monthly paid advertisement to both the Wapello Republican 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 2,169 people who “follow” our page and 2,022 who “like” our page.

The posts with the most reach in FY21 were a post about Camping Fees increasing at Louisa County Campgrounds starting in FY22 with 4.3K people reached. There were 66 likes or reactions, 12 comments, 35 shares and 425 link clicks associated with this post. The next two highest posts were bid requests for work at Toolesboro (3.2K) and another for Snively (3.1K)

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

Louisa County Conservation on Instagram

Louisa County Conservation opened an Instagram account this year to help connect with people. The account is up to 475 followers. This account is used to post photos of plants, animals, programs and other conservation related activities.

The highest reaching post on Instagram (189) was a pop quiz with mole bones.

Louisa County Conservation on 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 (we did not have summer staff in the summer of 2020 but were able to do so in 2021).



The novel coronavirus has changed some of the ways that we do business through environmental education multiple times. EE staff did an outstanding job of working through the challenges and making the best of every situation. They went above and beyond to provide Louisa County students with high quality programs and great learning opportunities.

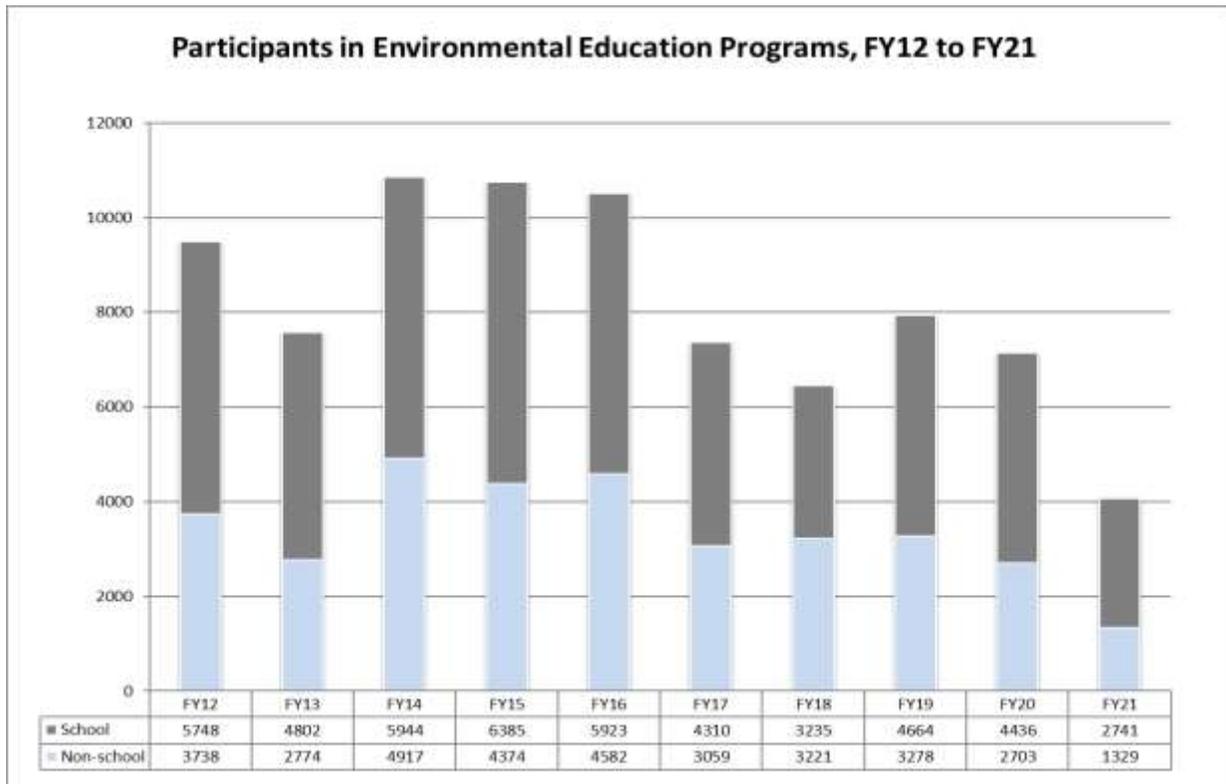
Although school was in person, contract tracing was happening and there were large numbers of students out at any given time to quarantine. Two of our four schools were not allowed to take students to parks for field trips, so field trips were taken to the schools’ outdoor classrooms.

The below photo shows Lana teaching the Louisa-Muscatine kids virtually (masks on the kids at school and Lana on the computer screen). The photo in the top right is of Columbus 3rd graders doing a night tracking activity in the locker room at school since they were unable to travel to Langwood for the Day into Night field trip.



A total of 220 environmental education programs were held in FY21, with a total of 4,070 people in attendance.

The graph below shows EE participation over the past 10 years.

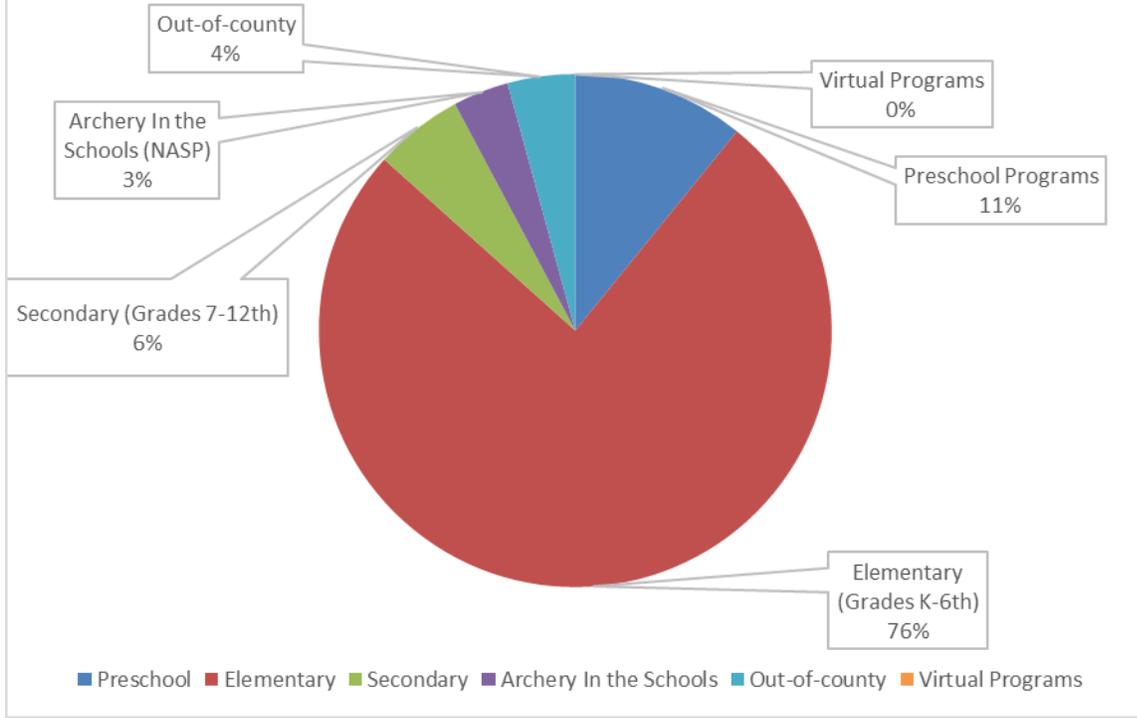


School Programming – There were 142 school groups with a total of 2,741 students.

- These programs are broken down further showing that 2,045 of the students were elementary aged and 91 of the programs were offered to this age group. There were 151 secondary students in 12 groups. There were 19 preschool groups with a total attendance of 293 students.
- The National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) had 17 school groups participate with a total of 95 students. These programs were conducted by local PE teachers using equipment owned and maintained by Louisa County Conservation.
- Two out-of-county groups attended field trips with 115 participants.
- We did not do a significant number of virtual programs in FY21. We turned our efforts toward retrofitting programs to be completed at school (indoors or out).
- We did have one homeschool group with 42 students.
- 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.



School Environmental Education Programs By Type of Program

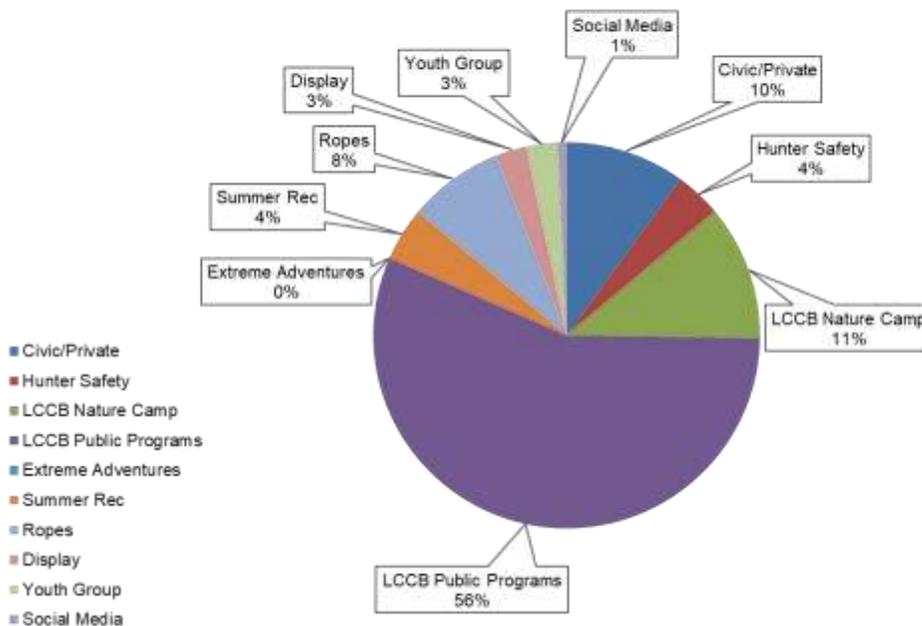


Public Programming (non-school programs) – There were a total of 78 groups who participated in public, non-school programs with a total of 1,329 participants. These numbers include high and low ropes programs, Summer Rec, and nature camps as well as all public programs and those conducted for civic or private groups.

- The LCC provided summer nature camp programs for youth ranging from entering Kindergarten to entering 9th grade. The fiscal year stretches from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021. In the summer of 2020, we did not hire summer staff and did not hold summer camps. So, the data being reported is only for one month, June in the summer of 2021. With that being said, there were 12 days of Nature camp with a count of 152 children in attendance.
- The LCC continued to provide a Summer Rec program for the cities of Morning Sun, Columbus Junction and Wapello and 2-days for Grandview. Same as for Nature Camps, this year’s reporting is just for the month of June with 5 days of Summer Rec and a total of 60 kids.
- The LCC provided 1 Social Media program, a virtual outdoor challenge through the Louisa County Conservation Environmental Education Facebook group. There were 10 people who participated.



FY21 Non-School Programs - Number of Participants (1,329 total)



Explanation of Types of Public Programs

- **Civic/Private** – Programs given to civic or private groups, not open to the general public. This year 134 participants attended such programs. (ex. Library programs, Mott’s group, etc...)
- **Hunter Education** – Typically, two education safety classes are offered each year. A total of 52 people attended Hunter Education classes this fiscal year.
- **LCCB Nature Camps** – Summer & Winter nature camps are offered to youth. There were 152 youth who attended nature camps.



- **LCCB Public Programs** – 754 people attended public programs that are open to the general public. The biggest were: Langwood Adventure Day (172) followed by the Hoover Nature Trail Grand Opening (65). The annual Halloween Hike was cancelled due to COVID.
- **Summer Rec** – There were a total of 60 Summer Rec participants this year. The number is low because Summer Rec was cancelled the summer of 2020, which leaves only one month, June 2021.

- **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 4 groups who participated on the ropes course with 107 participants in FY21.
- **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. Spectators were not allowed the summer of 2020. However, we did participate in a career fair at LM School with 35 participants.



Grants Received in FY21

Community Foundation of Louisa County (CFLC) – Two grant requests were submitted in November of 2020 and partial funding was awarded. LCC received \$4,000 to add benches, signs, and gravel to the Hoover Nature Trail at Chinkapin Bluffs; \$977 for new signage at Toolesboro and a trail through the timber to the other mounds.



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 will actually be \$126,000 but the project cost is now estimated to be \$456,000 and additional local match is required. LCCB has secured the matching funds needed for this grant. A total of \$73,036.51 was received in FY21. The project is complete, and it is working through the audit stage at the end of FY21. There is still one more bill to be paid and one more reimbursement to be made from the Grant and another from the Trails Council.



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 addition, the Louisa County Trails Council through Tri-Rivers has secured a Wellmark Grant for \$25,000; as well as a variety of smaller grants and donations to help match the State and Federal grants. In FY21, a total of \$193,356.39 was received from this grant.

FY21 Expenses for the combined TAP and SRT Grants was \$263,774.09. This project began in May of 2020 and was completed by the end of the FY21. There will still be one more reimbursement from each grant coming in FY22.



National Scenic Byways (NSB) – LCC finally finished construction for the NSB 2011 Grant. The project began in FY14 with \$160,000 in Federal Funding available with a match of \$40,000 (pledged by Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation). This project, focused at the future Louisa Interpretive Center at Langwood, included plans and construction of a .5-mile foot path loop from the parking lot, through the wetlands. It includes a plaza, 2-foot bridges and 14 environmental education interpretive panels along the way. In FY21, a total of \$135,676.42 was spent on the Wetland Interpretive Trail and \$67,454.43 was reimbursed. We are still expecting the \$40,000 match pledged by Tri-Rivers in FY22.



North American Waterfowl Conservation Act (NAWCA) – Louisa County Conservation’s wetland berm project at Indian Slough was included in this \$1 million grant that includes Ducks Unlimited, Iowa DNR, The Nature Conservancy, Muscatine, Linn, Louisa, and Clinton County Conservation Boards. The grant award was announced in FY19. Flooding made work in FY20 very difficult. Work on this project was completed in FY21 and reimbursement of \$25,847 is coming in FY22.



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) and Wykert’s Landing (10-year lease, good until March 2022) are still in good standing.
- C. **Summer Rec** – Due to the novel coronavirus, LCC and the Cities decided to postpone Summer Rec during the Summer of 2020 but did hold the program in summer of 2021 in Grandview, Morning Sun, Wapello and Columbus Junction.
- D. **State Historical Society of Iowa** – The museum management and interpretation agreement for the Toolesboro Historic Site was continued in FY21 with a signed contract which includes administration, interpretation, maintenance, supplies and seasonal internet. Actual FY21 income was \$12,487.85, due to reimbursements landing in the next fiscal year and the Museum closed during part of the FY.
- E. **Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District** - Continued an environmental education services agreement for presenting soil and water conservation programs in area schools. \$840 was paid in FY21 as reimbursement for FY20 expenses.
- F. **Louisa Regional Solid Waste Agency** – The LCC continued providing solid waste education through a contract with the LRSWA. LCC received FY19 & FY20 payments in FY20 and the FY21 payment is being made in FY22 for \$1,207.41.
- G. **Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation** – In November of 2018 a formal Memorandum of Understanding was signed between TRCF and LCC. LCC will assist in tracking finances and provide fundraising assistance for events such as the RUSH Auction. Tri-Rivers will pay \$3,000/year to LCC for their assistance. Tri-Rivers has also committed to matching the NSB grant in the amount of (up to) \$40,000 (will be paid in FY22). 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 FY21.
- 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 FY21.
- 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 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 plan to open an ecommerce site with MCP.com to allow for reservations and payments to be collected.

Projects Planned for FY22

- 1st Priority:** Campgrounds, in general with Virginia Grove as the first location and Eden Park as the second followed by primitive sites at Indian Slough and Chinkapin. Providing a shower house at the campgrounds and full hook-up sites and/or a dump station also rated very high.
- 2nd Priority:** Cabins – Virginia Grove, Eden Park, Snively, Langwood, and Chinkapin (respectively) were all discussed as places where cabins would be beneficial.
- 3rd Priority:** Langwood Improvements. This includes either fixing up the current lodge with attached restrooms, better kitchenette and space or replacing the building all together. The A-frame was also set at a high priority with the same ideas – fix it up so it doesn't leak and is easier/safer to use, build a new bunkhouse or maybe build a new building that would contain both the bunkhouse and lodge.

Top Priorities - Large Projects	
	Virginia Grove - Campground improvements, shower house, full hook-up campsites, lane back to the new addition & create more camping
	Virginia Grove - Land acquisition 50-acre Mabeus Addition to connect the three parcels of Virginia Grove, purchase agreement signed for September 2021.
	Langwood Education Center - Lodge improvements
	Langwood Education Center – A-frame improvements
	Eden Park – Playground, 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 - Virginia Grove (timber sale), Cairo Woods & Langwood
	Virginia Grove one-room schoolhouse
	Virginia Grove – work on getting the gravel road hard-surfaced to Virginia Grove
	Hoover Nature Trail at Chinkapin – finish adding amenities to trailhead & trail
	Evaluate the Hoover Nature Trail (county-wide) and make a plan
	New Maintenance Shed
	New Storage Building at the Complex
	Louisa Interpretive Center – Fundraising, progress, and completion of the building

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 _____, 2021.

Sam Willson, Chair

Katie Hammond, Director

Attachment A – FY21 Revenue Report

Financial Report - - General Basic Fund - Revenue

Donations from Private Sources

Louisa County Ag Extension	\$ 50.00
Tri-Rivers - MOU	\$ 3,000.00
CFLC - Hoover Nature Trail	\$ 4,000.00
CFLC - Toolesboro Signs	\$ 977.00
Lodge Construction (Memorial)	\$ 561.00
Mary Hill (Sundial Memorial)	\$ 2,000.00
Tri-Rivers	\$ 129.54
Todd Hunter	\$ 50.00
QCQOC	\$ 295.00
SWCD Donation to LAD	\$ 100.00
	\$ 11,162.54

Camping Fees

Snively Campground	\$ 10,590.35
Flaming Prairie Campground	\$ 1,135.00
Virginia Grove Campground	\$ 3,952.00
Camping Coupons	\$ 3,340.00
Fire Wood	\$ 123.00
	\$ 19,140.35

Shelter Fees

Chinkapin Bluffs	\$ 475.00
Flaming Prairie	\$ -
Virginia Grove	\$ 25.00
Special Use Permit	\$ -
	\$ 500.00

Toolesboro Contract

	\$ 12,487.85
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Misc. Federal Grants

TAP Grant - Hoover Nature Trail	\$ 73,036.51
Scenic Byways 2011 Grant	\$ 67,454.43
	\$ 140,490.94

Misc. State Grants

State Rec Trails (HNT)	\$ 193,356.39
	\$ 193,356.39

Land Rent

Indian Slough - Chad Hayes	\$ 7,050.00
Cairo & Chinkapin - Clinton Ryan	\$ 8,374.00
Kinder Morgan	\$ 89.10
	\$ 15,513.10



Eden Park - Private Donations	\$ 1,716.23
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Equipment Rental - Truax Drill	\$ 55.00
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Langwood Education Center

Langwood Rentals - Overnight	\$ 6,269.45
Langwood - Day use	\$ 921.80
Late Checkout	\$ 50.00
RV Hook-ups	\$ 330.00
Special Use Permit	\$ 175.00
Ropes Course	\$ 863.00
	\$ 8,609.25

Environmental Education

Day Camp	\$ 3,680.00
Newsletter Donation	\$ 300.00
Public Programs	\$ 571.00
Archery in the Schools	\$ 25.00
Summer Rec	\$ 100.00
SWCD Program	\$ 855.98
Solid Waste - Received in FY22	\$ -
Toolesboro Donations	\$ 72.00
	\$ 5,603.98

Miscellaneous

Metal Detecting Permit	\$ 5.00
ICAP Insurance Payment	\$ 102.97
	\$ 107.97

Gas Tax	\$ 879.57
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Hotel Motel Excise Tax	\$ 312.15
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FEMA	\$ -
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REAP Revenue (Also shown in REAP Budget)

Interest on Investment	\$ 215.45
Per Capita	\$ 2,690.00
CCB Allocation	\$ 7,291.00
	\$ 10,196.45

General Basic Revenue	\$ 409,935.32
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REAP Revenue Total	\$ 10,196.45
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Total Revenue	\$ 420,131.77
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Attachment B – FY21 Expenditure Report

General Basic Expenditures		
Administration		
Katie Hammond (Director Salary)	\$	57,459.50
FICA	\$	4,344.79
IPERS	\$	5,424.07
Health Insurance - Admin	\$	1,507.78
Office Supplies	\$	5,808.61
Public Ed Services	\$	5,174.25
Official Publications	\$	313.35
Postage	\$	462.60
Mileage	\$	557.00
Telephone	\$	3,291.12
School of Instruction	\$	1,650.20
Dues/Memberships	\$	415.00
Licenses, Testing, Permits	\$	433.50
Drainage & Property Taxes	\$	2,030.00
	\$	88,871.77
General Basic		
Lana Artz-McComb	\$	40,431.54
Bobbi Provost/Laura Semken	\$	42,875.81
Jeff Snyder	\$	45,612.94
Tanner Donovan	\$	40,544.42
Seasonal EE Staff	\$	1,222.50
Summer Rec Staff	\$	436.00
Seasonal Maint. Staff	\$	15,902.51
Dani Boysen (.7FTE)	\$	28,055.73
Toolesboro Staff	\$	2,990.39
Weekend Ropes	\$	117.67
FICA - All Staff	\$	15,914.57
IPERS - All Staff	\$	18,128.14
Health - All Staff	\$	34,945.32
	\$	287,177.54
Operations		
Fuel	\$	8,798.06
Minor Equip/Hand Tools	\$	167.97
Uniforms	\$	744.41
Utilities / Electric (campground & shop)	\$	10,176.06
Motor Veh Equip / Repair	\$	3,342.06
Operating Equip Repair	\$	7,688.96
Equipment Insurance	\$	10,267.31
Worker's Comp	\$	2,707.81
Park Service (all but LW, TB)	\$	318,823.25
Park Service Toolesboro	\$	596.39
Park Service Langwood	\$	18,954.49
Park Service Eden Park	\$	1,716.23
Wildlife Habitat	\$	128.46
	\$	384,111.46
Total Expenditures General Basic:	\$	760,160.77



Attachment C – FY21 – Additional Accounts

Land Acquisition (Conservation Reserve)*	
Starting Balance on 7/1/2020	\$ 113,293.77
Revenue	
Transfer from GB	\$ 41,000.00
Expenditures	
Indian Slough Road	\$ 23,844.21
Salt Spreader	\$ 699.99
Hazardous Materials Cabinet	\$ 810.67
Furnace for Langwood Lodge	\$ 5,885.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 31,239.87
Ending Balance on 6/30/21	\$ 123,053.90



Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)	
Starting Balance on 7/1/2020	\$ 138,747.87
Revenue	
REAP FY21 CCB Allocation	\$ 7,291.00
REAP Per Capita Allocation	\$ 2,690.00
Interest on Income	\$ 215.45
Total Income	\$ 10,196.45
Expenditures	
EE Intern Salary	\$ 352.50
FICA	\$ 26.96
Total Expenses	\$ 379.46
Balance as of 6/30/2021	\$ 148,564.86



Louisa Interpretive Center Project	
Approved FY21 Expenditures (from 2011 SB Grant)	\$ 143,527.00
Expenditures	
Miller Trucking & Excavating	\$ 134,881.24
NPDES permit	\$ 180.00
Shivey-Hattery - Engineering	\$ 615.18
Total Expenditures	\$ 135,676.42
Reimbursements	
National Scenic Byways Grant (Fed Grants)	\$ 67,454.43
Total Reimbursments	\$ 67,454.43

**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: FY20 expenditures were reimbursed in FY21 and some FY21 expenditures will be reimbursed in FY22.