



PRAIRIE HORIZONS

STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION | NATURE PROGRAMS AND NEWS

February - April 2024



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Photo By Justin L.

-THE LATEST-



THANK YOU - SCC would like to extend tremendous thanks to outgoing board member, Ted Tedesco, for 15 years of service on the SCC Board. He was instrumental in numerous projects over the years, including his namesake park, Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor.

Partners Update

As of December 21, *Partners* has raised \$24,468 towards its fiscal year pledge of \$45,000 to assist with the purchase of the Deppe Property. Our goal is \$45,000 by June 30, 2024.

When you renew or join with [Partners](#), you get access to 10% off program registrations and services like building or campsite reservations. See **Page 11** for *Partners* form. Visit our website to find out how your contributions can make a lasting impact.

In the Parks ...

Carroll Prairie

- State Hygienic Lab conducted a bioassessment of West Indian Creek (stay tuned for future results!)

Christiansen Forest Preserve

- Forestry mowed undesired brush
- Army of about 150 Ballard 5th graders cut honeysuckle. Thank you Ballard Elementary!
- Terminated two acres of invasive grasses to start a prairie reconstruction project
- Conservation Corps of Iowa crew conducted timber stand improvement

Doolittle Prairie

- Sprayed reed canary grass on select potholes to benefit native seedbank

Hickory Grove Park

- Goats on the Go grazed north lakeshore to set back undesired woody vegetation
- Timber stand improvement between Oriole Ridge Lodge and scenic overlook

Leopold Woods

- Goats on the Go grazed goats on property to setback invasive brush

McFarland Park

- Timber stand improvement around lake shore
- Lake restoration completed
- Touch-A-Life Trail re-opened

Praeri Rail Trail

- Conservation Corps of Iowa crew removed undesired brush

Soper's Mill

- Access improvements completed

Tedesco Environ. Learning Corridor - Connector Trail

- Little bluestem and side oat seed sown along trail

Various Locations

- Fall controlled burns at various parks
- Timber stand improvement and forestry mowing throughout various locations

Roadmap for New County Park

By Brandon Clough, Natural Resource Specialist

In partnership with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF), SCC has initiated a large-scale habitat improvement project at the Deppe Family Conservation Area. SCC has a vision of a diverse prairie reconstruction, with roughly 100 species, to provide both environmental education and recreational opportunities while providing habitat for wildlife to thrive.

INVASIVE ISSUES - Currently, we are dealing with invasive species issues. The grassland community is dominated by two non-native, invasive plants – smooth brome and reed canary grass. Both of these species are cool- season grasses, which give them a competitive advantage over most of our native plants. They green up faster in the spring and stay greener longer in the fall. Both species grow in a dense monoculture and provide little habitat value. It is vital for the long-term success of this new prairie seeding to eliminate these invasive species.

WHAT WILL THIS PROCESS LOOK LIKE? The standard practice in the conservation field in a situation like this is to hit the “reset button.” The best method available to do this is conventional row cropping – corn and soybeans. We see this as taking a small step backward in order to take leaps and bounds forward.

INHF initiated a lease with a local farmer to accomplish our goals. In the fall of 2023, the tillable acres were hayed and then sprayed in order to top kill the grasses and to give the tenant the best seed bed possible. Depending



Located directly south of McFarland Park, the 124-acre “Deppe Property,” soon to become the Deppe Family Conservation Area, has much to offer Story County residents.

on the weed pressure, the crop will rotate between soybeans and corn for two to three years. Conservation farming will be practiced to minimize negative impacts. This includes strip tilling, cover crops, leaving the terraces in place, and avoiding certain pesticides. It is important to our organization to maintain the conservation legacy of the Deppe Family.



Brandon Clough,
Natural Resource
Specialist

mowings for approximately two years. This will keep annual weeds at bay and will give the native perennial plants a chance to grow with reduced competition.

Though this process will not be rapid, we look forward to the vision of a thriving habitat for our plants and animals, and a wonderful area for people to recreate and enjoy nature.



Scan QR code for more info on future plans for the Deppe Family Conservation Area. Or, visit the park's webpage at www.storycountyconservation.org.

-PROGRAMS AND EVENTS-



FOR REGISTRATION, VISIT:
www.Storycountyconservation.org

Beat the Blues Winter Activity Marathon

January 1 - March 1

Various Parks & Trails

Challenge yourself to complete a full marathon—26 miles!—between January 1 and March 1. Walk, run, ski, snowshoe, or bike 26 mi. outdoors at your own pace, when it works for your family. Or play outside for 30 min. to equal one mi. Record your mileage on the Mileage Log, available for pick up at Conservation Center or download by scanning QR code. Turn in your completed log to win discounts on SCC online registrations, camping, and rentals.



Cocoa Picasso

Saturday, Feb. 10, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Conservation Center at McFarland Park

Join us for a unique learning experience and prepare to unleash your inner Picasso! Naturalist Amber Piatt will provide step-by-step painting instructions and hot cocoa. Family-friendly for ages 8 and up! Pre-register online by February 8.

Great Backyard Bird Count

Friday, Feb. 16, 2024, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Conservation Center at McFarland Park

Calling beginner birders AND bird nerds alike - we need your help! Learn about Iowa birds and help collect data for the Great Backyard Bird Count, a citizen science project. We'll start by learning about this global volunteer project and birding basics. Then, friends can choose between a self-led hike to search for birds, or cozy up inside by our bird viewing window to count birds. A light breakfast of bagels, donuts, coffee, and juice will be provided. Pre-register online by February 12.

Backyard Bird ID & Craft

Saturday, Feb. 17, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Conservation Center at McFarland Park

Join Naturalist Amber Piatt for an important citizen science project: Great Backyard Bird Count! We'll learn about common birds and make bird crafts. Light breakfast items will be provided! Then cozy up indoors by our bird viewing window to practice ID skills. Pre-register by February 13.

Environmental Literature Club

Tuesday, Feb. 20 & Tuesday, March 19

Ames Public Library, Danfoss Room

Explore nature cozied up with a good book at Environmental

Literature Club. Join a discussion with Naturalist Bekah Beall at 7:00 p.m. on February 20 and March 19 at Ames Public Library. In each session, we will discuss a different book focused on human relationship with the environment: Tending Iowa's Land ed. by Cornelia Mutel and Brave the Wild River by Melissa Sevigny. Pre-register by February 5.

Wild Tots: Wacky Weather

Saturday, March 9, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Conservation Center at McFarland Park

What will the weather be like in March? Who knows, but it's sure to be a little wacky! Bring your tot to learn about Iowa's interesting and sometimes crazy weather with Naturalist Bobbi Donovan. Program includes story, hands-on activities, crafts, and a short hike. Pre-register online by March 5.

*Intended for tots ages 18 months to four years.

Super Spiders

Thursday, March 14, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Conservation Center at McFarland Park

Fascinated or fearful? Discover spiders and other eight-legged critters in Iowa. Separate fact from fiction and explore spider superpowers. If conditions allow, we'll go for a brief outing to search for spiders. No registration required.

Campfire Pi Making

Thursday, March 14, 11:30 - 1:00 p.m.

Conservation Center at McFarland Park

Happy Pi Day! Bring your hungry belly and join Naturalist Bobbi Donovan to make delicious pie iron creations over a campfire. Participants will be able to make one pie iron pizza and one dessert. Pre-register online by March 11.

Animal Encounters

Thursday, March 14, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Conservation Center at McFarland Park

Meet and greet our education animals with Naturalist Bekah Beall! Get a brief intro to Iowa's reptiles and amphibians, followed by casual Q&A opportunity with the animals. Possible encounters include turtle, salamander, and/or snake. No registration required.



Rain Barrel Workshop

Saturday, March 30, 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Center at McFarland Park

Become a water conservationist! ISU Extension & Outreach Natural Resources Field Specialist Kaycie Waters-Brocka will discuss the importance of rain barrels, then create a barrel of

your own so you can reduce water usage and protect local drainage systems/waterways at home! Pre-register online by March 8.

Lichen Hikin' with Jim Colbert

Tuesday, March 26, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

McFarland Park

If you're outside, you're never far from lichens. But—they are very easily overlooked. Come along for a leisurely lichen hikin' field trip and see a small, but beautiful, part of Iowa's biodiversity that you've probably been missing. Pre-register online by March 22.



Dutch Oven Dinner & Dessert

Friday, March 29, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

McFarland Park

Join Naturalist Amber Piatt for a fireside evening learning about Dutch oven cooking! We will work together to make a delicious pasta bake and cobbler dessert. Come with a hungry tummy and a mind thirsting for knowledge of the outdoor cooking world. Pre-register online by March 27.

Solar Eclipse Viewing Party

Monday, April 8, 12:45 - 3:00 p.m.

Conservation Center at McFarland Park

Co-Sponsored by Ames Area Amateur Astronomers
 Join Naturalist Amber Piatt for an exciting mid-day viewing party for the solar eclipse! There will be hands-on activities and solar eclipse viewing glasses provided. The partial eclipse in our area begins at 12:45 p.m. and peaks at 2:00 p.m. Come and go as you please. You won't want to miss out on this rare sight! No registration required.

Terrarium Workshop

Saturday, April 13, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Conservation Center at McFarland Park

Curious how plants can live inside closed jars? Join Naturalist Clair Pfantz to find out with this quart jar terrarium workshop. This hands-on activity will show you just how important Earth's atmosphere is. Best part, you get to take your terrarium home and bring a little nature indoors. Pre-register online by March 29.

Wildflower Walk

Saturday, April 27, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Robison Wildlife Acres

Spring is wildflower season in the woods! Join Naturalist Bekah Beall on a leisurely, guided walk to enjoy the blooms and other signs of spring's arrival. Pre-register online by April 25.

To find accessibility information for each program, please visit www.Storycountyconservation.org and view the Events Calendar.



O.W.L.S. programs are designed for "boomers" or older, but anyone can attend.

Location: McFarland Park, Conservation Center
 Doors open at 10:00 a.m. for coffee/tea & chatting.

Padding While Impaired

Thursday, Feb. 1, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Water Quality Specialist Dan Haug with Prairie Rivers of Iowa will provide some context for the state's 2024 Impaired Waters List. What does "impaired" really mean for people who want to recreate on Iowa's lakes and rivers, what protections does the Clean Water Act provide, and how can we get waters off the list?

Iowa's Lost Lichens

Thursday, March 7, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

What are "lichens"? How many different kinds of lichens are there in Iowa? Have we lost any lichens that were previously present in Iowa? Join guest presenter Jim Colbert, Emeritus Associate Professor at ISU, to learn about the small, but amazing, world of lichens.



It's more than just Land

Thursday, April 4, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Story County is blessed with wonderful people who care about nature. We'll explore some of those personal stories and how those connections live on - fostering new personal stories. What is yours? Led by Story County Conservation Director Mike Cox.

OASCO Winter Hike Series

Hosted by Outdoor Alliance of Story County

Thursday, Jan. 18 - Heart of Iowa Nature Trail, Cambridge - Hike begins at 1:30 p.m., where Main Avenue and Heart of Iowa Nature Trail cross near the grain bins. Park on east side of road only.

Thursday, Jan. 25 - Peterson Part West - Hike begins at 1:30 p.m. from east edge of parking lot near lake.

*Email OASCO at info@oasco.org for more details.

****Programs & Events continued on Page 7**

BLUEGILLS THROUGH THE ICE

By Jerry Keys, Environmental Education Coordinator

The actual process of ice fishing is simple; suspend the right bait at the right depth in the right place at the right time and wait until a fish bites. The hard part comes in determining the right bait to use at which depth and where and when the fish will bite. So, what do you need to get started in ice fishing?

Clothing may be more important than all of your other gear. Winter weather can change quickly so dress in layers. The outermost layer should be windproof, with moisture-wicking materials next to the skin. Wool is a unique material that retains its insulating ability even when wet, making it a material of choice for ice fishing socks. Hats and gloves are essential. Ice fishing involves close contact between feet and the ice—wear warm socks and waterproof insulated boots.

Ice fishing requires very little equipment, which can be obtained relatively inexpensively. A five-gallon bucket works nicely to carry gear, turned upside-down it makes a seat, and it will work to haul the catch. A sled can

be used to transport gear, especially if a long walk is needed to get to the best spot. An ice auger is used to drill a hole in the ice. It can be hand, gas, or battery powered. An ice skimmer (strainer-type instrument) is used to clear the hole of ice chips. A Schooley Spring Bobber Ice Rod is perfect for bluegills. The line should be two- to four-pound test transparent monofilament.

“Ice fishing requires very little equipment, which can be obtained rather inexpensively.”

Lures used for bluegill are called teardrops—usually brightly colored to attract the fish’s attention, even in low light conditions. For bait I prefer waxworms or mealworms. Needle-nose pliers for removing hooks, a nail clipper for cutting line, and a first aid kit are also important.

Fishing is best just after lakes and ponds freeze over and safe ice forms (early winter) and just before thaw (late winter). Take time to check (and

double check) the ice and take all safety precautions. Drill a hole in it from a dock or shore to gauge thickness and quality. Four inches of clear blue ice or eight inches of black, honeycombed ice will safely hold an adult-sized person. Five to six inches of clear blue ice is needed for groups of three or more people. Avoid ice that appears dark or black. This is “rotten ice” and can be unstable.



Bluegill are a very common catch among ice anglers. Make sure to purchase a permit and read up on current fishing regulations before dropping a line.

As with most water activities, use the “buddy” system. Take someone along or be sure to tell someone where you will be and when you expect to arrive back.



Anglers pack the ice in Zearing for a previous years’ ice fishing derby at Dakins Lake.

Photo by Jason Carter

A floatation device should be included with your gear as well.

Generally, the two most active periods of a fish’s day are from dawn until mid-morning and late afternoon until sundown. Bluegills usually haunt deeper waters in winter than in summer, the weedy areas at inlets and outlets, or where there is underwater structure (logs, brush piles, etc.). Determine depth by sending a heavy sinker to the bottom and insert the depth pin in the reel. Start with your bait at or near the bottom and move up in one- or two-foot increments until you find fish. Jig the line (raise the rod up with your wrist every minute or so; then every few minutes raise the rod to shoulder level and let the bait or lure settle).

If fish don’t bite in 30 minutes, drill another hole in a different location and try again. A good combination to attract bluegill would include a small (1/64 oz. with a #10 or #12 hook) ice jig or teardrop with a waxworm or two attached. Leave the area you fish cleaner than when you started fishing.

When planning to go ice fishing, check with local anglers and resource personnel to locate the best spots to fish. Download the Iowa DNR GoOutdoorsIA app on your phone to have regulations handy, find fishing locations and get weekly fishing reports.

-PROGRAMS AND EVENTS, CONT.-

“Walk the Trails!” Hike Series Tuesdays in Spring, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

- Apr. 9 -** Hickory Grove Park - 3 mi. Meet at beach parking area
- Apr. 16 -** Jim Ketelsen Greenwing Marsh - 1.7 mi.
- Apr. 23 -** East Peterson Park - 1.5 mi.
- Apr. 30 -** Osheim Prairie & Slough Preserve - 1.5 mi.
- May 7 -** McFarland Park - 3 mi.
- May 14 -** Christiansen Forest Preserve - 1 mi.
- May 21 -** Robison Wildlife Acres - 2 to 2.25 mi.

Join Environmental Education Coordinator Jerry Keys as we walk the trails in your county parks. This is a great opportunity to explore new places, meet new hiking pals, and have the opportunity to ask nature- or park-related questions.

These hikes are for ages 16 and up. No registration required.

Dress for the weather. We will only cancel due to severe weather - watch for cancellation notice on Story County Conservation Facebook page.



Jerry Keys, Environmental Education Coordinator, helps an excited fifth grader reel in a bluegill during a previous years’ school outdoor experience.

Dakins Lake Ice Fishing Derby Saturday, Feb. 10, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Dakins Lake in Zearing
Hosted by Zearing Fire & EMS

Learn about ice fishing from experienced anglers! Participate in this catch and release event, perfect for the ice fishing rookie. Bait, poles, and holes available, plus advice from experienced anglers. Prizes awarded for tagged fish and largest catches. Divided into youth and adult divisions.

Visit www.Zearingiowa.com for more info.

“Being In Nature” Series Various Saturdays, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Christiansen Forest Preserve Co-Sponsor Brooks Witter, MS, LMHC

March 30 **April 27**
April 13 **May 11**



Leave the busyness of the modern world (and your phone) at the trailhead. Create a more direct and personal relationship with the natural world; rekindle a sense of joy, wonder, and curiosity.

Each session will explore various practices serving to quiet the mind, develop inner peace, strengthen natural intuition, and create deeper sense of belonging in this marvelous world. Each session is unique, so register for one or all.

Program guide Brooks Witter, MS, LMHC, is a psychotherapist by trade. He teaches mindfulness and practices primitive skills, hunting, and foraging as ways of cultivating respect, care, and appreciation for the wonders this world offers.

Pre-register online by the Sunday prior to each session.

Taking a Look Inside McFarland Lake

By Ryan Wiemold, Parks Superintendent

As many SCC park users are excited to see, the McFarland Lake Restoration Project wrapped up in December. This intensive lake project took only one calendar year, which at the hands of mother nature, is the best-case scenario for a project of this scope. We now wait for this restored lake to refill. Park users can now visit and enjoy the one-mile paved Touch-A-Life Trail surrounding the seven-acre lake and see all the key features listed below.

WATERSHED & LAKE REFILLING – McFarland Lake is now seven acres of surface area, reaching up to 26 feet deep—doubling its before-restoration maximum depth! As water enters the 330-acre watershed, it will collect on the surrounding landscape and run into two sediment retention ponds before entering McFarland Lake. With luck, we'll have a full winter's snow and a wet spring and the lake could refill by this spring or summer. When the lake reaches full pool, water will run out of the lake, through a new outlet structure and through a small creek before entering the South Skunk River.

SPOIL SITE & PRAIRIE RESTORATION PROCESS – Sediment buildup from the lake bottom was hauled just outside the watershed to the northeast side of McFarland Lake. This area was previously a lower-quality prairie, ready for improvement. The spoils—or sediment from lake bottom—settled and dried, and were then conditioned and graded back in. Grass seed was temporarily sown on this nutrient-rich soil to prevent erosion. SCC plans to conduct intensive weed control on this nine-acre area for two seasons. This process will give the new, native seeding of diverse grasses, flowering plants and forbs the best chance for survival, later creating great habitat for grassland birds, insects and mammals.



This view facing south from the dam shows how much water has entered the lake already, even without significant precipitation.

Photo by Rick Dietz

ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES – The improvement and addition of accessibility features around the lake was a key theme that SCC gave great focus during this project. A lower, paved ADA compliant trail now brings park users right to the water's edge. Paddlers can now access the lake from a shallow-grade access launch, allowing them to enter the water with stability. This launch consists of a rock base, pea gravel and webbed matting to hold the rock in place, providing a soft base for stable footing. SCC naturalists will also use this space to more easily allow access for participants in educational programs to explore the water. Additionally, a large jetty off this lower trail will allow users to get out over the lake and view water from three sides up close—it's also a great place to soak a line! Shoreline armoring was done throughout the lake. This will prevent soil loss along the shores and provide increased accessibility to the shore in many locations.

FISHING NODES – These nodes will make anglers of all ages happy, as they protrude into the water and allow for stability and access to the water's edge. The nodes are surrounded by fish structure to ensure anglers the opportunity of reeling in a keeper.

FISH HABITAT – The reintroduction of healthy fishing populations and species to the lake is one positive to restarting the lake. Creating quality fish habitat was high-priority in this project, including features like numerous spawning benches (what appear to be “mini islands” while the lake is empty), catfish hotels, rock piles, vertical and horizontal plastic structure, as well as recycled cedar trees removed from the lake shores.

Once the lake is full, SCC will work partner with the IDNR to create a stocking plan including largemouth bass, bluegill and catfish. After these populations are established and balanced, the IDNR will then consider adding crappie to the fishery. This lake is absolutely packed with structure and will ensure dynamic age classes and species of fish long into the future.

This photo was taken in October. These beams are now underwater. The lake is filling quickly!



Spawning benches



Catfish hide

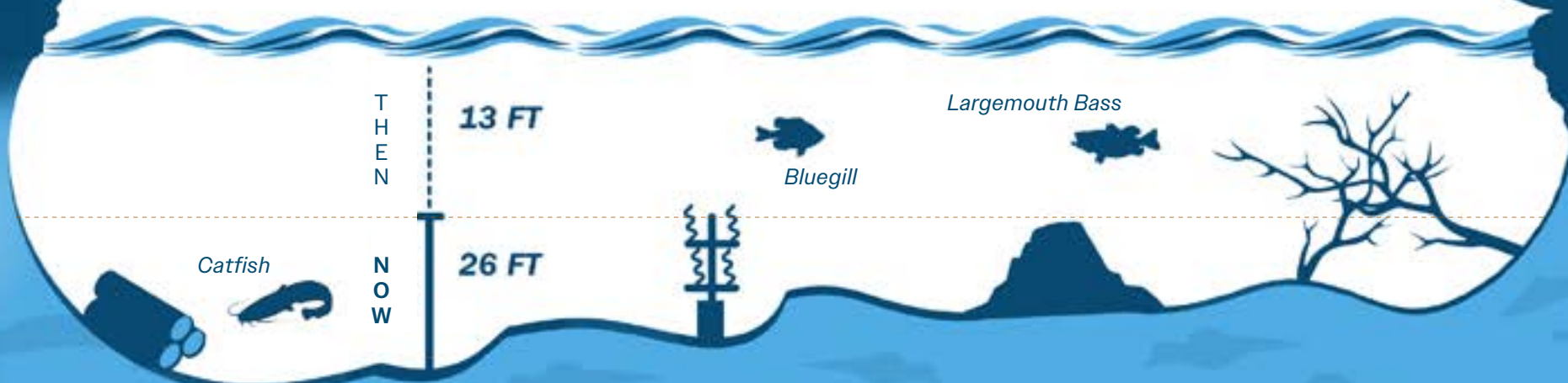


Plastic fish structures



Repurposed construction material

0.5
Acre surface
area increase



Crews removed roughly
58,670
cubic yards of sediment
from the lake's bottom!



Scan QR code for more info and future updates on this project.

HOPE & RESILIENCY:

By Bekah Beall, Naturalist

Dos and Don'ts for Productive Climate Change Conversations

I sat in a room buzzing with conversation among 400 attendees of the **Midwest Climate Resiliency Conference**. This October conference brought together community planners, engineers, scientists, natural resource managers, communication & outreach professionals, public health specialists, emergency managers, educators, non-profits, community development specialists, volunteers, and more. And the key words in so many conversations? Solutions, action, equity, opportunity, collaboration, vision, hope, and of course, resiliency.

We feel change where we live. Wildfire smoke. Heat waves. Extremes of precipitation—too much all at once and then too little. Warmer winter nights. The question of the conference was how does the Midwest prepare, adapt, and bounce back? And what can we do to better communicate the solutions that can build resiliency? One place to start—talk about it!



Rebekah Beall

VOCAL

Conversation is one of the first steps to engage others in collaboration on solutions. Many of us self-censor because of a perception that others don't share our concern about climate change. In reality, an estimated 77% of people in Story County believe climate change is happening, and support is high for a variety of climate change solutions (See Yale Climate Opinion Maps 2021).

DO: Talk about climate change with friends, neighbors, and within your social circles! We trust our friends and family, so talking about it matters!

DO: Start a conversation based on common values. What do you love and care about here and now that is affected by climate change? Do you love gardening and see impacts from changing precipitation patterns or temperature? Do you connect through ice fishing or skiing and see impacts to your favorite pastime? Telling your story is incredibly important to make climate change tangible in our community.

DON'T: Focus conversations on creating fear and sadness (or debate with statistics). Rather than motivating, fear often causes people to shut down and feel defeated. Instead, focus on the huge range of positive solutions we can already access. (Check out Katherine Hayhoe, a climate scientist focused on effective communication.)

LOCAL

Focus conversations on your local community. Because of the way our brains are wired, it's easy to push climate change impacts far into the future and to the other side of the world. Our community is one of the most effective places to collaborate on building solutions and hope. (For more on climate change impacts in the Midwest—and solutions—look at the Midwest chapter of the Fifth National Climate Assessment.)

DO: Talk about Story County and Iowa. The people and places we love. The communities we care for. The animals and plants we can see in our front yards and parks.

DON'T: Talk about polar bears (for example). Many people feel that climate change is remote and distant from their lives, so try to focus on the here and now.

HOPEFUL

This is the best part! What is your vision for your community in 2050? What positive solutions are you excited about that could help get there? New biking and walking routes connecting your neighborhood? Solar panels as sun and rain shelters in parking lots? Increased access to natural areas for recreation that also help reduce flooding impacts? Increasing energy efficiency in your house for a more comfortable home? Starting an initiative to reduce waste at work?

DO: Highlight things that are already happening too!

DO: Remember, many people—even if not primarily motivated by climate change—support initiatives like these because they create communities that are healthier, more connected, and more livable.



Infographic by Paige Higby

Board & Staff

Conservation Board

Christine Laumer, Chair
 Dr. Nancy Franz, Vice Chair
 Dr. Jim Pease, Secretary
 Craig Meyers, Member
 Erica Place, Member
 Linda Murken, Ex Officio Member

The Story County Conservation Board typically meets the second Monday of each month at the Story County Conservation Center at McFarland Park (56461 180th St.). Meetings are open to the public.

Conservation Center Staff, Ames

Michael Cox, Director
 Ryan Wiemold, Parks Superintendent
 Pat Shehan, Special Projects Ranger
 Marianne Harrelson, Financial Data Manager
 Jessica Paulin, Administrative Assistant
 Jerry Keys, Environmental Education Coordinator
 Rebekah Beall, Naturalist
 Bobbi Donovan, Naturalist
 Amber Piatt, Naturalist
 Clair Pfantz, Naturalist
 Madison Nolte, Outreach/Community Engagement Coordinator

McFarland Park Shop, Ames

Russ DeWall, Operations Supervisor
 Logan Heissel, Park Ranger
 Dillon Schmidt, Conservation Technician II
 Kallie Judson, Conservation Technician I
 Derek Seward, Trails/Natural Resources Technician

Hickory Grove Park Shop, Colo

Jake Smith, Operations Supervisor
 Olivia VanderHart, Park Ranger
 Hunter Simmons, Conservation Technician II
 Maxwell McCarty, Conservation Technician I
 Brandon Clough, Natural Resource Specialist

IRVM Office & Shop, Nevada

Joe Kooiker, Vegetation Management Biologist
 Tyler Kelley, Vegetation Management Specialist

Administration Bldg., Nevada

Sara Carmichael, Watershed Coordinator

HELP PURCHASE A NEW PROPERTY!

Help us reach our pledge of \$45,000

Your Story County Conservation [Partners membership](#) will help purchase the Deppe Property. You will receive a nature-themed magnet and a 10% discount on all programs, facility rentals, and merchandise. The Red Fox membership level and above will be recognized in the conservation center for their support.

Eagle Business Level - \$1,000 or more **Monarch Business Level - \$250 to \$999**

Red-tailed Hawk - \$1,000 or more **Goldfinch - \$70 to \$124**
Great Blue Heron - \$275 to \$999 **Otter (Family) - \$35 to \$69**
Red Fox - \$125 to \$274 **Great Horned Owl (Individual) - \$30**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

My membership level is _____

**Make checks payable to: Story County Conservation *Partners*
 56461 180th Street, Ames, IA 50010-9451; Phone (515) 232-2516**

Or join online!

www.mycountyparks.com/County/Story.aspx

Thank You!

We are grateful to all those who support Story County Conservation with donations of time, funding, and materials.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR GENEROSITY:

- All *Partners* members & volunteers
- Contributors in memory of Kenneth Shaw & Alice Thompson
- Jax Outdoor Gear
- Outdoor Alliance of Story County (OASCO)
- Josh Kooistra
- Myrna Johnson
- Marcia Minear
- Weiss Amaroq
- Aaron Eischeid
- Jody Ohmacht
- Roxanne & Dale Thompson
- Calista & Chris Sievers
- Daniel Batha
- Dale Lenz
- Larry Koehrsen
- Kenneth Bauge



STORY COUNTY
CONSERVATION
56461 180th Street
Ames, Iowa 50010-9451

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
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Permit 301

Interested in hunting, but don't have friends or family to teach you?

THIS PROGRAM IS FOR YOU!

- Learn skills needed to hunt with a bow, field dress, and cook white-tailed deer meat
- Six-month workshop throughout summer & fall
- Program includes gear overviews, shooting lessons, mentorship, hunter-education coursework, and more!
- No hunting experience needed
- For more info, scan QR code or visit bit.ly/Fieldtoforkstory24

Hosted by Iowa DNR and SCC



Contact Jerry Keys with Questions:
515.598.4765
jkeys@storycountyiowa.gov

