



# Muscatine County Conservation FY25

Annual Report  
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025



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# Annual Report of the Muscatine County Conservation Board Fiscal Year 2025 July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

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

Following is the annual report of the Muscatine County Conservation Board for the fiscal year (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025) as prescribed in Chapter 350.3 of the Code of Iowa (1993).

## FY25 at a Glance

**Deep Lakes Park Campground** – The main project for FY 25 was planning, designing, letting, and beginning construction on a new 22-site full-hook-up campground at Deep Lakes Park. This project was a few years in the works and originally had ARPA funding to cover most of the project. The original project was to run city sewer and water to the park for a future campground. That project was going to cost more than the \$1.6 million available and the County wouldn't have much to show for it. Through much discussion, it was decided to install a well and septic tank and build the campground with the available funds. Due to timing, the ARPA funds were re-routed to the Courthouse project and the Campground funds were backfilled with money that was going to be used on Courthouse renovations. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on March 25, 2025, shortly after clearing and grubbing began. At the end of June 2025, the campground was approximately 50% complete. It is expected to be finished by the end of September 2025.



**Deep Lakes Park, potential maintenance building** – Throughout the year, Conservation Board and staff worked with Horizon Architecture on plans to renovate one of the two buildings located at 2570 Pettibone to be used as a maintenance shop. At the end of FY25 the group is narrowing down on design and cost estimates although a decision has not been made as to which building will be chosen. Construction of the DLP Maintenance Shop will be one of the top priorities for FY26.

**Discovery Park Updates** – With thanks to Dash Wiseman’s Eagle Scout project, the entrance rock at Discovery Park was landscaped with pavers and new plants. This project really made the entrance to the park look great. In addition, Conservation staff worked throughout the summer to make the park look its best in anticipation of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration for the Environmental Learning Center that was scheduled for July.

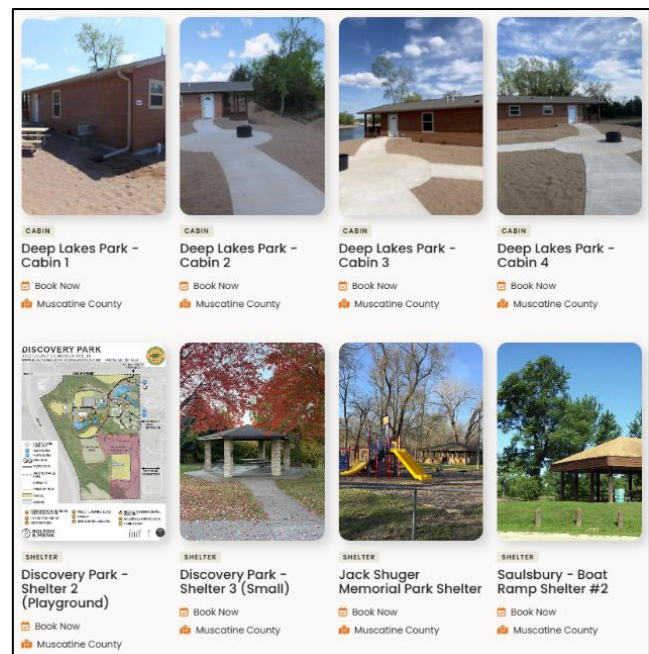


**Environmental Learning Center** – In anticipation of the ELC’s 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in July 2025 staff worked hard to get the ELC in its best shape. Starting in July 2024 and continued in the summer of 2025, the outside of the ELC and deck railings were re-stained. Quite a bit of weeding was completed around the building, and the inside was deep cleaned.



**Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust Grant** – A grant was received from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust to replace the life support system for the two 1,200-gallon aquariums and turtle tanks. The grant also purchased new habitats for reptiles and amphibians and included funding to rebuild the Raptor Mew outside. At the completion of FY25 everything is complete except for the Raptor Mew which is scheduled to be built in early fall.

**MyCountyParks.com – Online Reservation System** – On April 2, 2025, the online reservation system went live for Muscatine County Conservation. People gained the ability to make reservations for the Saulsbury Lodge, Cabins at Deep Lakes Park, picnic shelters at Discovery Park, Saulsbury, and Jack Shuger, and the main campground at Saulsbury. This system allows people to see when facilities are available and reserve it on when it is convenient for them. In just 3 months, the new system brought in \$20,729.76 in revenue and saved staff time for fielding all the calls and paperwork.



## **Mission Statement**

*The mission of the Muscatine County Conservation Board is to preserve and enhance natural areas and resources in Muscatine County for the use and benefit of the community; to preserve sufficient natural habitats in Muscatine County; to ensure the survival of native plants and animals; to acquire, develop and manage land for public hunting, fishing, camping and recreation; and to promote public appreciation and responsibility for the environment through education.*

## **Board Roster**

The five members of the Muscatine County Conservation Board are a decision-making and policy-making body appointed by the Muscatine 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 is 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 **Muscatine County Conservation Board members** who served during this reporting period were:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Started</b>	<b>Expiration Date</b>
Mark Petersen	Member	January 2015	December 2024
Mike Schulte	Member	February 2016	December 2025
Karen Hartman	Chair Person	August 2021	December 2026
Sherry Seright	Vice Chair	January 2023	December 2027
Julie Jindrich	Member	January 2023	December 2028
Dakoatah Jacobs	Member	January 2025	June 2025 (resigned)

Note: Deb Elliott and Sue O'Donnell both retired from the Board in December 2022. Sherry and Julie can be switched, they are not sure which one was replacing Sue O'Donnell who retired a year early from the Board. Dakoatah Jacobs resigned after 6 months of service due to medical reasons. The Supervisors will appoint a new Board Member in July 2025 to finish this term.

## **Meetings Held**

Meetings are typically held on the third Monday of each month at 6:00 pm at the Environmental Learning Center.

The board held 12 regular meetings and two (2) special meetings during the fiscal year.

Agendas and minutes from the meetings are on file at the Muscatine County Conservation Office, 3300 Cedar Street, PO Box 109, Muscatine, Iowa, 52761.

They are also posted to the MuscatineCountyConservation.com website on the main page under Agendas and Minutes.



## Muscatine County Conservation Staff

The Muscatine County Conservation Board maintained eight permanent full-time staff positions, one permanent part-time, and four seasonal positions. There were no changes to permanent staff positions.

Three seasonal maintenance staff helped to take care of parks in the summer of 2024: Trinidad Martinez took care of Discovery Park, Kyle Bently was at Saulsbury, and Isabelle Hartman at Deep Lakes Park. Two summer externs helped with Environmental Education the summer of 2024: Kathi Eichelberger & Laura McDonald.

### Permanent Muscatine County Conservation Employees

Name	Title	Dates Started
Katie Hammond	Director	10/2023
Lori Dietrich	Office Manager	05/2023
Luke Hart	Naturalist I	05/2023
Michelle Berns	Naturalist II	12/2007
Kent Kaufman	Operations Supervisor	02/1986
Ryne Brimeyer	Ranger – Deep Lakes Park	10/2014
Kristin Neeld	Ranger - Floating	06/2022
Trevor Ebeling	Ranger – Saulsbury Bridge Rec. Area	02/2023
Dave Schuler	Animal Care & Aquariums	2017-Present (Permanent Part Time)



## MCC Permanent Employees for FY25



Katie Hammond  
Executive Director



Lori Dietrich  
Office Manager



Kent Kaufman  
Operations Supervisor



Luke Hart  
Naturalist



Michelle Berns  
Naturalist II



Ryne Brimeyer  
Ranger/Maintenance



Kristin Neeld  
Ranger/Maintenance



Trevor Ebeling  
Ranger/Maintenance



Dave Schuler  
Animal Care

### MCC Seasonal, Temporary & On Call Employees for FY25

Name	Title	Dates Started
Kathi Eichelberger	EE Extern	June 2023 & 2024
Laura McDonald	EE Extern	June 2024 & 2025
Michelle Haller	EE Extern	June 2025
Trinidad Martinez	Mowing/Maintenance at Discovery Park	April 2023; 2024; 2025
Kristie Miller	Cabin Custodian	September 2024
Alyssa Skirloff	Maintenance Intern – Saulsbury	May 2024
Braedyn Van Auken	Maintenance Intern – Deep Lakes Park	May 2024

The cabin custodian position is responsible for cleaning the cabins at Deep Lakes Park, it is a part-time, on-call position without regular hours.

### Volunteers

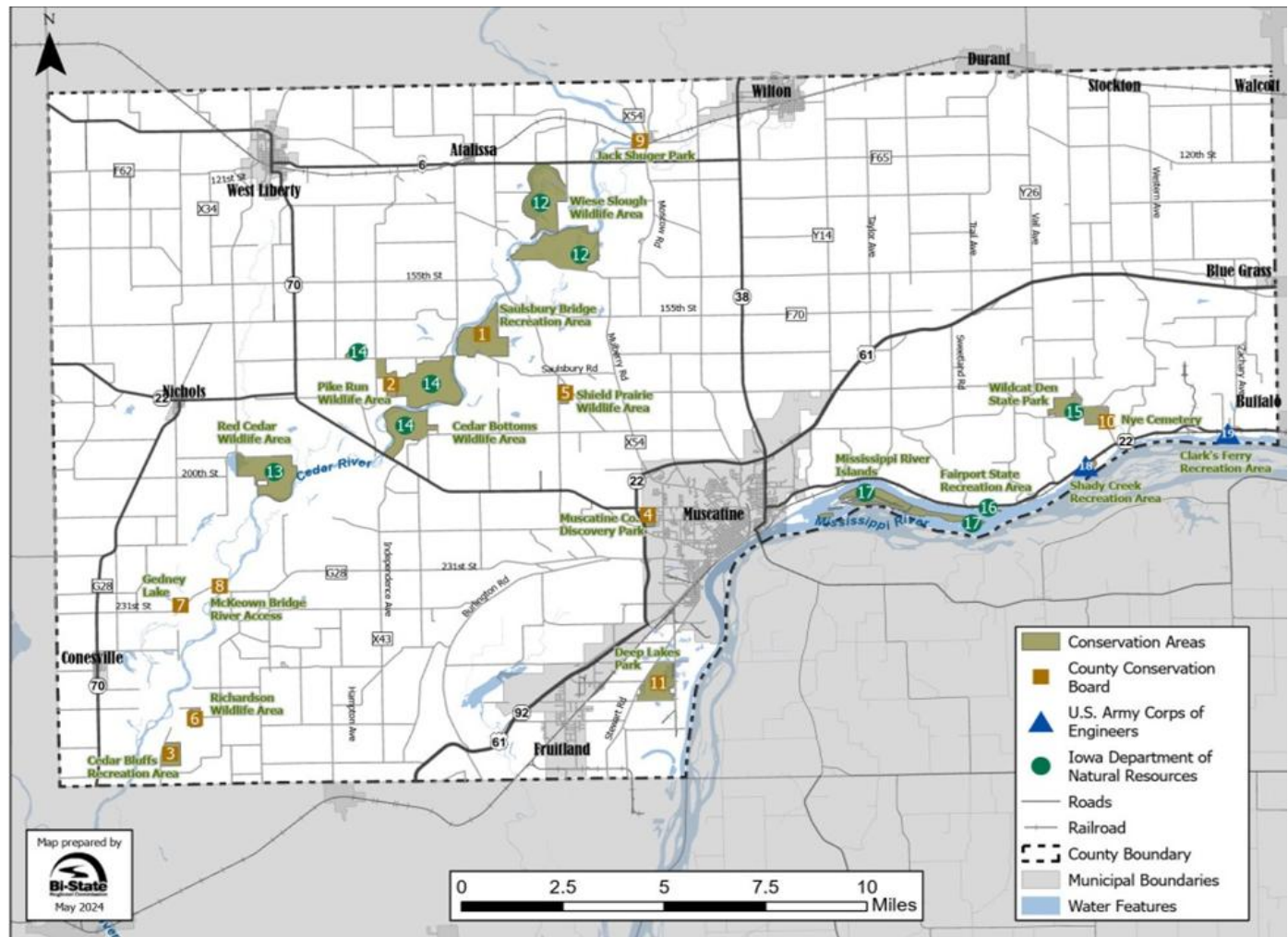
The Conservation Board used the services of volunteers, mostly coordinated by the United Way of Muscatine. These groups included school groups, Boy Scouts, HNI employees, and more.

Pictured below are a group from HNI employees helping with weeding the flower beds around the Environmental Learning Center, and a school group who helped to plant trees at Saulsbury.



## Area Inventory

Muscatine County Conservation currently owns and/or manages 11 areas comprising a total of approximately 1,760 acres for conservation, recreation, open spaces, and wildlife benefit. There was one acquisition in 2024, the Board purchased the property at 2570 Pettibone, adjacent to Deep Lakes Park.



		Information	Picnicking	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Electricity	Water	Restrooms	Camping	Cabins	Nature Center	Interpretive Trail	Hiking Trail	Biking Trail	Native Prairie	Boat Ramp	Canoeing/Kayaking	Trail Riding	Accessible Area	Accessible Dock	Fishing	Hunting	Historic Site	Ice Fishing	Cross Country Skiing
<b>Muscatine County Conservation</b>																									
1. Saulsbury Bridge Rec. Area	675		●	●	●	●	●	●	●				●			●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●
2. Pike Run Wildlife Area	182												●		●						●	●			
3. Cedar Bluffs Rec. Area	176												●								●	●		●	●
4. Discovery Park	100	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●				●	●	●		●		●
5. Shield Prairie	80														●							●			
6. Richardson Wildlife Area	77														●							●			
7. Gedney Lake	18		●														●				●				
8. McKeown Bridge Access	7		●													●	●				●				
9. Jack Shuger Memorial Park	4		●													●	●				●				
10. Nye Cemetery	1																								
11. Deep Lakes Park	440		●							●			●	●		●	●		●	●	●		●		

## 1. Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area – 675-acres

**Location:** Eight (8) miles Northwest of Muscatine

**911 Address:** 2007 Saulsbury Road, Muscatine, Iowa

**Date Acquired:** The first 74-acres were purchased in 1968, around the Bridge to be developed into a park. In 1972 an additional 403-acres were purchased with the help of LAWCON funding. In 1986 & 1987 another 198-acres increased the park to 675-acres.

**Management Restrictions:** Land and Water Conservation Funds (LAWCON) were used on two of the main parcels to help purchase and provide amenities. With this funding the park must continue to be used for the recreational purposes set forth.

**Current management:** This mix of floodplain forest, open fields, creeks, and wetlands provides a diversity of wildlife habitats and outdoor recreation opportunities. 601-acres are managed for wildlife habitat and public hunting. 74-acres are used as multipurpose recreation.

**Existing facilities:** The reservable Saulsbury Lodge, 3 campgrounds, 2 latrines, shower house, dump station, firewood shed, 2 reservable picnic shelters, 2 modern playgrounds, 2 Maintenance Shop buildings, Cedar River Access, accessible fishing dock at Chicken Creek, and Chicken Creek boat landing.

### Updates in FY25:

- Natural Resources – Prescribed burning operations took place to help control woody species and prep food plot areas. Food plots were planted. Hazard trees were removed from the campground and other areas within the park. Cutting, spraying, and other measures were taken to help control invasive species.
- Mowing – Normal maintenance took place at Saulsbury including mowing, spraying as needed, flooding clean-up, and other normal maintenance.
- Due to some vandalism, glass panes for some of the windows in Saulsbury Lodge were replaced.

### Planned Improvements:

- Continue to remove invasive species as needed and monitor tree and woodland health.
- Replace the Chicken Creek restroom with a new latrine
- Improvements to the Lodge include painting indoors, new siding, windows, and flooring.
- The campground post signs were updated with new numbers and a spot for the reservation slips.

### Documented Use:

- School of the Wild was held at Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area with 91 participants in 25 programs. The students come for an entire week, immersing themselves in conservation, outdoor recreation, and natural resource education.
- A total of 2,873 participants attended programs at Saulsbury throughout the fiscal year.
- There are two reservable picnic shelters at Saulsbury. The Boat Ramp shelter had five (5) reservations for a total revenue of \$125. The Chicken Creek Shelter had 17 reservations and approximately \$245 in reservation fees.
- We don't have good numbers on general park users because quite a few people hunt, horseback ride, hike, fish, and boat at Saulsbury and those numbers aren't captured.



## Camping at Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area

The Conservation Board manages three campgrounds at Saulsbury Bridge Recreation area including the Main Campground with 24 sites and 20-30-50-amp electric, the River Campground with 11 sites, and the Tent Only primitive area with multiple sites.

In FY24 camping fees were raised to \$25/site/night for the Main Campground with electricity upgraded to include 50-amp service. Prices remained at \$20 for the River Campground, and \$10 for the primitive.

In April 2025 the Board began accepting online reservations for the Main Campground only using MyCountyParks.com. Guests must make reservations at least 3 days in advance to use the online reservation system. Sites are also available on a first-come, first-served basis on a 1–2-day basis for sites not already reserved online. Rangers place bright colored reservation slips in the camp pedestals to help guest see availability.



The Board continued to offer FREE Wednesdays! Every Wednesday night is free!

There is a shower house, firewood, playground, dump station, and fresh water in the Main Campground. River campers are allowed to use these amenities and have a pit latrine. In FY25, total camping revenue was \$30,991.80 with a total of 1,368 Camper Use Nights.

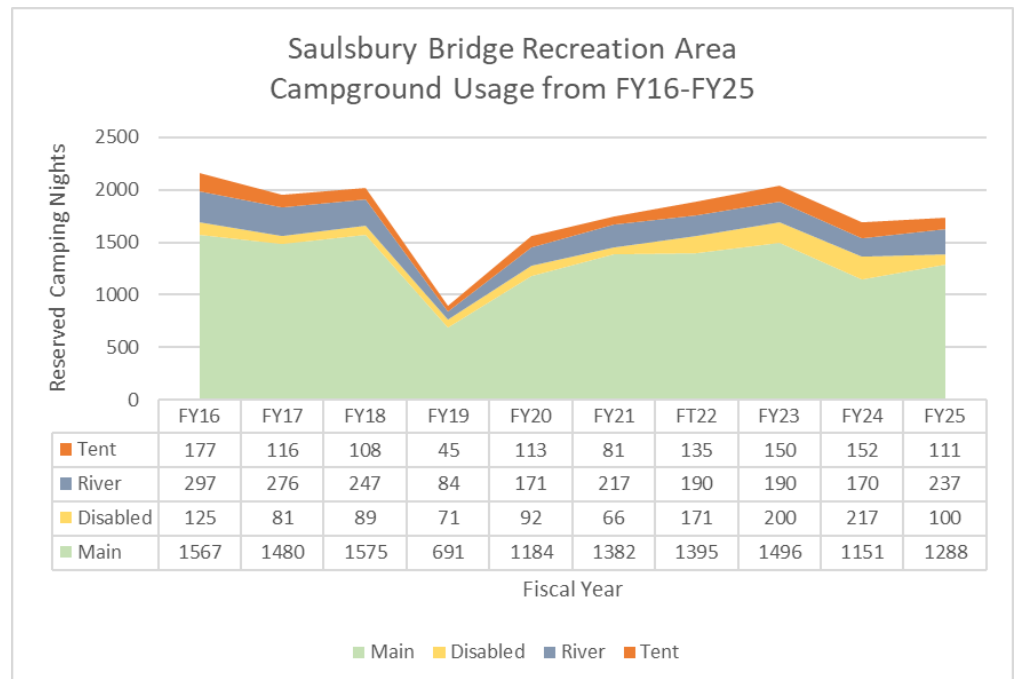
- The **Main Campground** had 1288 Camper Use Nights. (This is the number of nights that sites were filled throughout the fiscal year.)
- The **River Campground** was filled 237 Camper Use Nights.
- The **Tent Camping** was utilized 111 Camper Use Nights.

The Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area campground also brought in \$2,269.31 in firewood sales.

This chart (right) shows campground use data for the past 10 years.

FY19 held a major flood where the campground was closed for a prolonged period of time, which is evident in the dip.

Note – permanently disabled is sectioned out in this graph. They are camping in the main campground but pay the same amount as guests in the River Campground.



## Saulsbury Lodge

The Saulsbury Lodge is available for group rentals. It offers a pleasant option for small to medium sized group gatherings. It is suitable year-round for picnics, family gatherings, youth groups, church groups, and small receptions.

The Lodge comfortably seats up to 75 people with tables and chairs provided. There is a small kitchen area with fridge and stove, and modern restrooms. The room can be temperature controlled with electric baseboard heat and air conditioning.

Behind the lodge is a nice overflow patio with a picnic table and grill. A nice wide path leads out to the historic Saulsbury Bridge where guests can look out over the Cedar River. Guests also have access to the nearby campground, and hiking trails.



In FY25, the cost for several MCCB amenities increased with the new online reservation system through [mycountyparks.com](https://mycountyparks.com). The daily rental for most users was \$110/day, and \$80/day for youth groups. A deposit is no longer required.

Those wishing to hold a wedding reception at Saulsbury Lodge are required to rent the facility for three days for \$370. This allows a day for set-up, a day for the event, and plenty of time for clean-up.

**Documented Use:** In FY25, there were 91 daytime rentals. General reservations were the most popular with 23 reservations and church groups were a close second with 20 reservations. In addition, there were 7 showers, 16 scout groups, 12 family reunions, 5 birthday parties, and 8 graduation parties. In total the Saulsbury Lodge brought in \$5,756.87 in revenue.



## 2. Pike Run Wildlife Area – 182 acres

**Location:** Six miles east of Nichols and 10 miles NW of Muscatine

**911 Address:** 1729 Iron City Avenue, Nichols, IA

**Date Acquired:** March 23, 1983 the first 77.37 acres were purchased. An additional 103.09 acres were purchased on August 10, 1990.

**Management Restrictions:** This area was purchased with the help of Wildlife Habitat Stamp Grant funds along with the Muscatine Prairie Endowment Fund and Pheasants Forever. The area must be maintained for hunting.

**Current management:** This wildlife area is primarily used for wildlife habitat and public hunting. There is a beautiful wooden plank bridge that spans Pike Run creek, allowing people to get to the far side. Some mowed hiking trails are maintained for access by staff and the public.

**Existing facilities:** Pike Run features a native sand prairie, oak timber, wetlands, and Pike Run creek travels through the area. There are two small parking lots, a bridge across Pike Run, and about a quarter-mile trail. Adjoins to the DNR area Cedar Bottoms WMA.



**Updates in FY25:** Invasive species removal and general maintenance.

**Planned Improvements:** Upgrades to the bridge with boards re-attached or replaced as needed. Continued habitat improvements including controlling invasive species and prescribed fire.

**Potential Expansion:** A 2017 North American Waterfowl Conservation Act grant was received by Ducks Unlimited. It included purchasing a 34-acre parcel to be added to Pike Run. Due to various circumstances, the parcel was purchased by The Nature Conservancy. TNC completed habitat work on the parcel and has converted it to a high-quality prairie.

There is a potential to secure grant funding that would allow the property to be transferred to Muscatine County Conservation in FY26.

**Documented Use:** None.

### 3. Cedar Bluffs Recreation Area – 177 acres

**Location:** Six miles west of Letts, Iowa

**911 Address:** 2727 Casey Avenue, Letts, IA

**Date Acquired:** 2 parcels acquired December 31, 1976 totaling 177.17 acres.

**Management Restrictions:** Purchased with LAWCON funding.

**Current management:** For wildlife habitat purposes and compatible recreational uses such as hunting, hiking, & mushroom hunting. This is a popular area for hunting rabbits, deer, turkey, and squirrels.

**Existing trails:** Mowed hiking trails.

**Existing facilities:** Parking lot.

**Improvements this fiscal year:** spraying of invasive species, mowing, burning, and maintaining a safe and clean park for public enjoyment.



**Planned Improvements:** In FY26 staff plan to conduct more prescribed burns, map the trails, and continue work to control invasive species.

**Documented use for this area:** A nature hike took place at Cedar Bluffs with 10 participants.

## 4. Discovery Park - 100 acres

**Location:** On Cedar Street in Muscatine, just off HWY 61.

**911 Address:** 3300 Cedar Street, PO Box 109 Muscatine, IA.

**Date Acquired:** August 1, 1995. The initial property was county property, formerly the location of the County Farm, and was turned over to Conservation. The 10-acre parcel to the west was purchased from June and Etal Pries in 1996 for \$24,000.

**Current management:** This area is Muscatine County Conservation's premier area. It is managed for people, education, and wildlife habitat.

**Management restrictions:** This area is within the city limits of Muscatine. There is no alcohol, hunting, or trapping allowed.



**Existing facilities:** Environmental Learning Center, Offices, 3 reservable picnic shelters, nature themed playground, 1.5-miles of paved hiking/biking trail, 2-miles of mowed trail, 2 ponds, accessible fishing dock on Discovery Pond, fishing dock (without good access) on Heron Hideaway, wildlife viewing blind, outdoor raptor enclosure, 2 modern outdoor restrooms, 1 latrine, historic cemetery, Muscatine Arboretum, and the Old Barn.

**Improvements this fiscal year:** Flower beds were weeded by volunteers and staff and overhauled in preparation for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Several boards were replaced on various docks and decks throughout the park. All park prairies were burned during the spring, including the grassy area in the Arboretum. The front pond was sprayed for the invasive, Brittle Naiad. Some hazard trees were removed, and others fell due to storm damage.

**Planned Improvements:** We would like to increase accessibility by adding another sidewalk that takes visitors past the Raptor enclosure to the dock at Heron Hideaway and to the backside of the Environmental Learning Center, plus another spur leading to the wildlife viewing blind.

**Documented use:** This is by far our busiest park. There are walkers, joggers, and bicyclists on the trails daily. In addition, many field trips, public programs, and nature camps take place here and there is a lot of traffic to our offices for paperwork and rentals. Although we do not count every person who enters the park, we do document guests to our programs and the ELC.

A total of 16 programs were held only in Discovery Park with a total attendance of 384 people. In total, there were 210 programs held between the ELC and Discovery Park with a total attendance of 3,037 people.

Discovery Park has three reservable picnic shelters. This year MCCB began accepting online reservations through MyCountyParks.com. Shelter #1 is the biggest, located near the Environmental Learning Center. It rents for \$40. There was a total of 54 rentals. Shelter #2 is the shelter by the playground. It had 45 rentals. Shelter #3 is the small shelter near Discover Pond. It had 8 rentals. In total, shelter reservations brought in \$4,066.82 in revenue.



## Environmental Learning Center

The Environmental Learning Center at Discovery Park is a 10,500 square foot facility.

**Date Acquired:** July 20, 2005

**Current management:** The ELC has dual purpose. First and foremost, it is a state-of-the-art interpretive center. Exhibits interpret our natural history, habitats, and wildlife. It is also the location for the MCC offices.

**Learning Center Hours:** Monday – Friday from 8:00 am – 4:30 pm; Saturday & Sunday from noon - 4:00 pm. Closed most holidays.

**Featured Exhibits:** two 1,200-gallon aquariums with native fish; natural history exhibits featuring the change in habitats and wildlife in Iowa; live animals including snakes, turtles, a frog, a toad, and a salamander on display; outdoor live raptor exhibit; over 100 mounted animals; an old hunting/trapping shack; Kids' exploration area; Mr. Bakke's Book Nook; and several interactive displays.



**Existing facilities:** Conservation offices; exhibit space; public restrooms; large classroom with center divider; access to all the amenities in Discovery Park.

**Improvements this fiscal year:** A Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust grant was secured to replace the entire life support system for the two large aquariums and the turtle tanks. It supplied new enclosures for the turtles and snakes, and a new aquatic turtle tank for Timmy the Red Eared Slider and Murtle the Painted Turtle. Getting the new filtrations system going took a few months which led to some fish dying. By the end of FY25 new fish were added to the aquariums. The Geothermal system was revamped with the help of Winona. Staff now have the ability to view and adjust the geothermal system from an online platform. This project was costly, but necessary to protect the building from humidity, heat and cold.

**Planned Improvements:** We would like to add displays or traveling displays to the ELC and enhance the children's area. This could be done by purchasing new games and activities, children's sized furniture, or other fun items.

**Documented Use:** The ELC (alone) was the site of 46 environmental education programs for 778 people. An additional 210 programs were held between the ELC and Discovery Park for 3,037 participants. This includes school field trips and groups who have sessions both indoors and out.

There was a total of 5,480 people who visited the ELC on their own, not as part of an organized program.

Thirty-two (32) groups reserved the Classroom at the ELC for meetings during FY 25. Five of those groups were charged and paid a total of \$565. We do not charge for other county offices, or conservation groups to utilize the classroom.



## 5. Shield Prairie - 81 acres

**Location:** From HWY 22, go 2-miles north on Seven Springs Rd

**911 Address:** 1825 Seven Springs Road, Muscatine, IA

**Dates Acquired:** This area is owned by the Iowa DNR and managed by Muscatine County Conservation. The DNR purchased the land from Dorothy M. Shield in 1985 for \$65,000 using non-game funding. The current agreement is good through December 31, 2036.

**Management restrictions:** A management plan was created covering fiscal years 2023-2036.

**Current management:** Management objectives for this area are to maintain diversity and integrity of the remnant prairie. To promote wildlife diversity and sustainability and to protect ornate box turtles, a SGCN species found on site.

**Existing facilities:** There is a small parking lot in the SW corner of 7 Springs Road.

**Improvements this fiscal year:** A new entrance sign was purchased and hung in the parking lot in FY24. The old sign was completely missing.

**Planned Improvements:** We would like to apply for a Wildlife Diversity Program grant to purchase herbicides to help control woody invasive species and pay for some mowing of the woody invasives after the herbicide has a chance to work. Krenite for a bud inhibitor, and Milestone or Transline to treat black locust stumps. We would also like to establish prescribed fire burn breaks for a spring burn.

**Documented use:** None – this area is open to the public and used when we are not present. There were not any public programs held at Shield Prairie this year. The Naturalist had bat survey equipment on the site to assist with bat research.



## 6. Richardson Wildlife Area – 77 Acres

**Location:** From 231<sup>st</sup>, go south on Echo Avenue 4-miles, turn right on 260<sup>th</sup> and go half a mile. 5.5-miles NW of Letts, Iowa.

**911 Address:** 1344 260<sup>th</sup> Street, Letts, IA

**Date Acquired:** 1997 the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation purchased the property for Muscatine County Conservation with the idea we would raise funds to purchase it back from them. A wildlife habitat stamp grant was applied for in May 1997 to purchase the property. It was approved and a funding agreement in place in 1998. The Wildlife Habitat Stamp Fund grant was successful to cover 75% of the costs. On June 9, 1999 – the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation transferred the property to Muscatine County Conservation.

**Management Restrictions:** This area was purchased with a combination of Wildlife Habitat Stamp Funds (\$22,500) and funding from Pheasants Forever (\$7,500), for a total purchase price of \$30,000 and must remain open to public hunting.

**Current management:** This area is managed for wildlife habitat. It has a farm number from FSA Farm #131. There is an agreement with the nearby property owner for a food plot on the tillable acres. The board works to maintain habitat, reduce invasive species, and promote native plants and wildlife.



**Existing facilities:** There is a cable parking lot, with a gravel base. We maintain a mowed hiking trail down to the creek. There is a low water crossing that is accessible during some water levels, but needs work to get equipment across.

**Improvements this fiscal year:** Normal maintenance and spraying of invasive species. The food plot is being cash rented by Bob Sywassink.

**Planned Improvements:** We would like to do work on the low water crossing so that we are able to get equipment to the other side of the creek for management.

**Documented use:** None – no public programs were held at Richardson. We have several people who utilize the area for hunting, but do not have documentation.

## 7. Gedney Lake – 18 acres

**Location:** 1-mile west of the Cedar River on 231<sup>st</sup> Street (G28)

**911 Address:** 1302 231<sup>st</sup> Street, Conesville, IA

**Date Acquired:** On November 1, 1967 the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors granted management control of the Gedney Lake Area, including the old road east of the bridge to the Conservation Board for use as a fishing access area.

**Restricted Use:** This area received a Marine Fuel Tax grant to install a concrete boat landing in 1981. The grant covered half the cost \$2,652 x 2. Then in 1999 a WRAC grant was secured to armor the shore, place a picnic table and two trees (\$1,417 grant)

**Current management:** This area is a nice picnic spot, an access for Gedney Lake, and a fishing area.

**Existing facilities:** The old bridge still spans  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the lake. The public can picnic or sit on the bridge to enjoy the area. There is also a boat landing and parking area that can be used for launching boats or fishing from the shore.

**Improvements this fiscal year:** Normal maintenance of mowing, spraying, and weed eating as needed.

**Inundation:** When the Cedar River floods, the boat landing and lower parking area go under water. The bridge is high enough to avoid flooding.



**Planned Improvements:** This area could potentially use more rock, especially after any high-water events.

**Documented use for this area:** Two programs were held at Gedney Lake this year including a paddle when water levels were high. A total of 20 people attended programs at Gedney Lake.

## 8. McKeown Bridge River Access – 7 acres

**Location:** West side of Cedar River bridge on 231<sup>st</sup> (G28); about 6.5-miles west of Muscatine.

**911 Address:** 1399 231<sup>st</sup> Street, Conesville, IA

**Date Acquired:** The County purchased this ground on December 31, 1968 from Jane McKeown. Eventually, management of the site was turned over to Muscatine County Conservation to build the boat access. The ramp was extended in 1982 and rip rap added for streambank stabilization in 1987.

**Management Restrictions:** None

**Current Management:** The area is used as a boat access to the Cedar River or for fishing from shore. We actively keep the access open from trees, debris, and mow as needed.

**Existing facilities:** Gravel parking lot.

**Improvements this fiscal year:** Removed some trees that had fallen over the entrance road.

**Planned Improvements:** Habitat work, continued rock and grading, keep an eye on rip rap and vegetation.

**Documented Use:** The Conesville Fire Department utilized the boat landing for their annual catfish tournament fundraiser.



## 9. Jack Shuger Memorial Park - 4 acres

**Location:** Driving north through Moscow on X54, turn left (west) onto Cedar St. The Park is at the end of the Street.

**911 Address:** 1515 Cedar Street, Moscow, IA

**Date Acquired:** April 20, 1967 (boat landing) & October 2, 1967 (park)

**Management Restrictions:** A Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) Grant was used to acquire 1.5 acres; create access roads and the parking lot; build the boat ramp, shelter house, latrine, picnic facilities, and improve the water system. Playground equipment is included in the LAWCON stuff, although it was funding with a big capital campaign and numerous donations.

**Current management:** Maintained as an access to the Cedar River for boat launch and fishing.

**Existing facilities:** Reservable picnic shelter, modern playground (built May 2001), restrooms, basketball court, stairs down to the boat landing, boat landing (boat landing moved upstream and redone in 1995 with the help of a WRAC grant), and a bench.

**Improvements this fiscal year:** Heavy rain required blading of the road down to the boat landing a couple times. We have a mowing agreement for Jack Shuger with Bob Peck.

**Planned Improvements:** Continue to maintain the area and keep it a great place for people to go.

**Documented Use:** The shelter at Jack Shuger was reserved 6 times with approximately \$150 in user fees collected.



## 10. Nye Cemetery – 1 acre

**Location:** One-mile north of HWY 22 on Wildcat Den Road

**911 Address:** 1915 Wildcat Den Road, Muscatine, IA

**Date Acquired:** July 22, 1988

**Current management:** This one-acre pioneer cemetery is the final resting place for Benjamin Nye, the first settler in Muscatine County.

**Management Restrictions:** Managed as a pioneer cemetery.

**Existing facilities:** There is a small parking lot to the North. There are also multiple headstones.

The Cemetery is near the Pine Creek Grist Mill, which was built and operated by Benjamin Nye in the 1840's. It has been restored to operating condition and is able to grind various grains.

**Improvements this fiscal year:** We have a mowing agreement with Bob Peck to keep the area mowed. He does a great job keeping the area looking great. We hired Howard Forest and Prairie to drop and/or remove some dead trees from the site.

**Planned Improvements:** Some of the parking lot posts are beginning to decay, they will need to be replaced in the future.



## 11. Deep Lakes Park – 440 acres

**Location:** From HWY 61, turn onto Dick Drake Way, go straight to Stewart Road, turn right, go to Pettibone Ave and turn left. Deep Lakes is about a mile down on your right.

**911 Address Main Access (Beach, Cabins, & Boat Ramp):** 2552 Pettibone Ave., Muscatine, IA

Cabins: \*new\* 1,2,3,4 Lakeview Cabin Rd., Muscatine

Campground: 2488 41<sup>st</sup> St, Muscatine

Lake Jewell (parking lot and boat landing): 2443 57<sup>th</sup> Street, Muscatine

Island Lake (parking lot): 2531 Stewart Road, Muscatine

Ray's Pond (parking lot, maintenance shed, small gazebo shelter): 2480 41<sup>st</sup> Street, Muscatine

Belle's Pond (parking lot, & future campground): 2488 41<sup>st</sup> St, Muscatine

Lake Chester (North Parking Lot): 2514 41<sup>st</sup> St., Muscatine



### **Dates Acquired:**

- December 20, 2012 – 398 acres donated from WG Block Co. (valued at \$2,381,500)
- January 8, 2013 - 36 acres donated from WG Block Co. (valued at \$207,500)
- December 29, 2023 - 1 acre purchased from John & Tammy Ramirez for \$184,457.41
- October 23, 2024 – 5-acres purchased from Twin City Concrete with two large buildings. One is 50' x 200'; the other is 60' x 80'. The plan is to create a maintenance building in one of them. Purchase price was \$400,000.

**Existing facilities:** 120-acres of clear deep-water lakes; numerous small lakes and ponds; several parking lots (see addresses); public restrooms at the Beach/Boat Access on Lake Chester; porta pots at other locations; Boat access on Lake Chester & Jewel Lake; accessible dock on Lake Chester, and swimming beach; 1.4-miles of paved biking trail, 4 reservable cabins. A new campground with 22 full hook-up sites is under construction at the end of FY25 with an expected completion date of the end of September 2025. It includes a new Huffcutt family style shower house with 4 restrooms.

**Current management:** For outdoor recreation including fishing, paddling, swimming beach, bike trail with connection to the Greater Muscatine Trail System, environmental education, and soon will include camping.

### **Improvements this fiscal year:**

Work commenced on a levee improvement project with the sand being hauled from Deep Lakes Park on the South side.



## Deep Lakes Park Planned Improvements:

There are plans to finish the campground at Deep Lakes Park. At the end of FY25 all 22 concrete camp pads have been poured, the well has been drilled, septic tank is buried, conduit has been run for electric and future internet, and the Huffcutt shower house has been set (4 family style restrooms). The electrical lines need to be run, transformer pad poured, transformer set, 3-phase electrical ran to the campground by MPW, and asphalt roads and aprons connecting the road to the camp pads laid. The project has an expected completion date of late September 2025. Staff are hopeful of opening the campground for 1 month as a test run.

Disc Golf – A group of dedicated disc golfers have secured \$8,000 in matching funds plus in-kind donations to build a disc golf course at Deep Lakes Park. Construction is expected to take place in FY26.



## Documented use:

Environmental Education – there were a total of 8 public programs held at Deep Lakes Park with 222 participants. Louisa County Conservation brought a group of about 20 vision impaired nature campers to view the Environmental Learning Center then went to Deep Lakes Park to swim at the beach and paddle for the rest of the day.

## Cabin Rentals:

The cabins at Deep Lakes Park were rented by 97 groups with a total revenue of \$47,283.61. Each of these groups stayed at least 2 nights (required), many of them stayed longer.

Cabins 1 & 3 have one bedroom and sleep a maximum of 4 people.

Cabins 2 & 4 have two bedrooms and accommodate a maximum of 8 people.

## Cabin Rentals During FY25

Cabin 1 - 20 groups

Cabin 2 - 25 groups

Cabin 3 - 24 groups

Cabin 4 - 28 groups



## Publicity and Marketing

### Muscatine County Conservation Newsletter

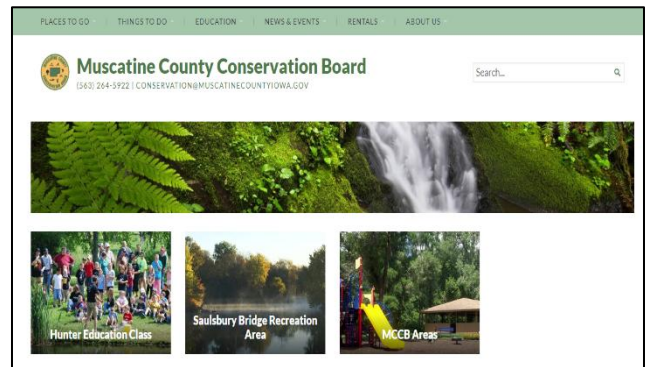
- The Environmental Education staff work cooperatively with the Office Manager to edit, design, write, and distribute two issues of the “Conservation News” Newsletter each year.
- It includes programs and special events, a donation form for the Friends of Muscatine County Conservation, a fun page for kids, and information about our parks and wildlife areas.
- The newsletter is offered online and via email. Approximately 998 subscribers receive the newsletter in the mail while another 564+ receive it via email. An extra stack of 100 is typically placed on the counter at the ELC and guests pick them up as desired or they are passed out at programs. The newsletter is available to view or download at [MuscatineCountyConservation.com/news-events/mccb-newsletter/](https://MuscatineCountyConservation.com/news-events/mccb-newsletter/)

### Websites

**MuscatineCountyConservation.com** –is our main website. It is in need of an update to be more user friendly on all devices.

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

The website includes information about all of our areas, activities, events and education, news, job opportunities, and volunteer announcements.

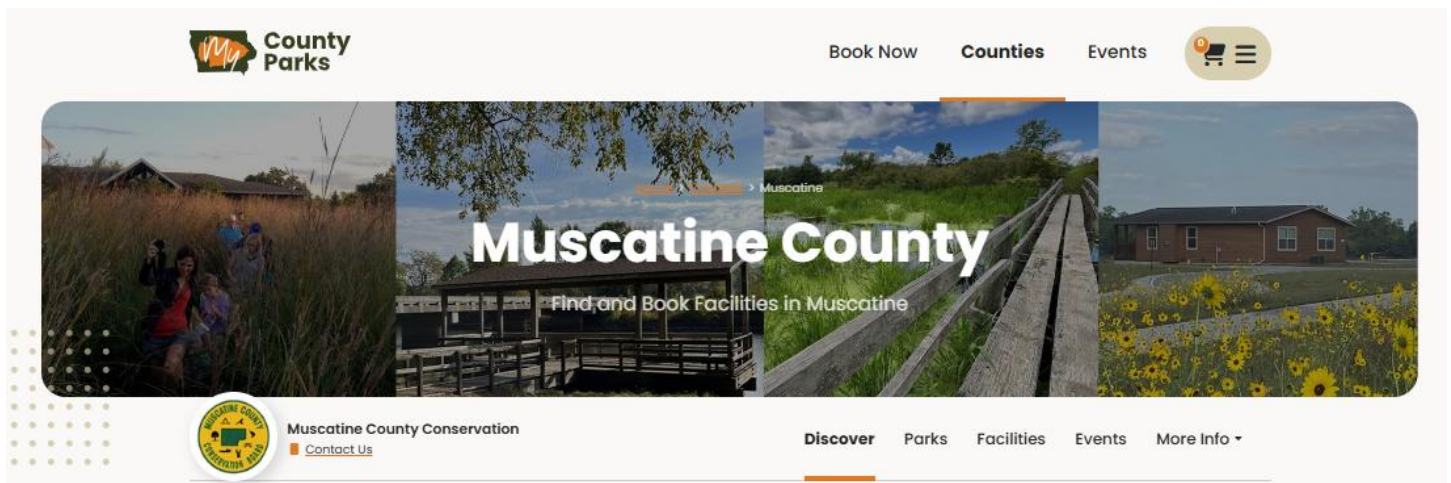


**MyCountyParks.com** – this website is managed by Iowa’s County Conservation Systems (ICCS) and represents all 99 County Conservation Boards in Iowa.

Muscatine 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 and continue to keep the website current with information about our parks and events.

In FY25, we enlisted the e-commerce function of MyCountyParks.com and now conduct the majority of cabin rentals, shelter reservations, Lodge rentals, and campsites online.

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



## News Releases & Media

- As requested, radio and television interviews are conducted.
- Events are advertised on Facebook, the website, in our newsletter, flyers, and some in-house advertising.



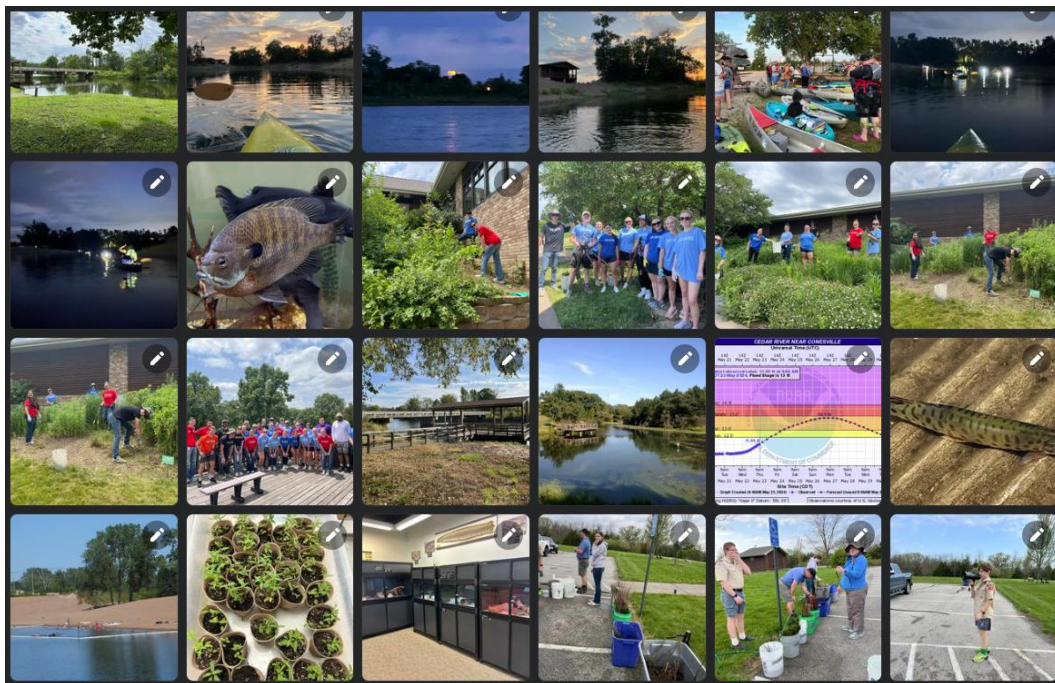
## Muscatine County Conservation Facebook Page

Muscatine County Conservation maintains a Facebook page titled, “Muscatine County Conservation Board.” It is 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, and other events.

We currently have 4,879 people who “follow” our page. Throughout the fiscal year we had a reach of 199,076 people in total through Facebook.

The posts with the most reach in FY25 was a post on June 24, 2025, thanking the DNR Guys from Odessa for helping us to catch an injured goose on Discovery Pond. It had 19,792 views with a reach of 11,685 and 12,543 impressions. A post with kittens dumped at Saulsbury that posted on June 17, 2025, reminding people NOT to dump animals had 19,219 views and 13,288 impressions.

Videos that include our live animals continue to be very popular.



# Environmental Education

The goal of Muscatine County Conservation's environmental education (EE) program is to promote stewardship through various programs and events on conservation, recreation, and natural resources education. Naturalists provide a diversity of programs to a variety of audiences ranging from toddlers to senior citizens with school field trips, public programs, 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 two externs to help with programming and an animal caretaker to help with feeding the live animals as well as cleaning cages and aquariums.

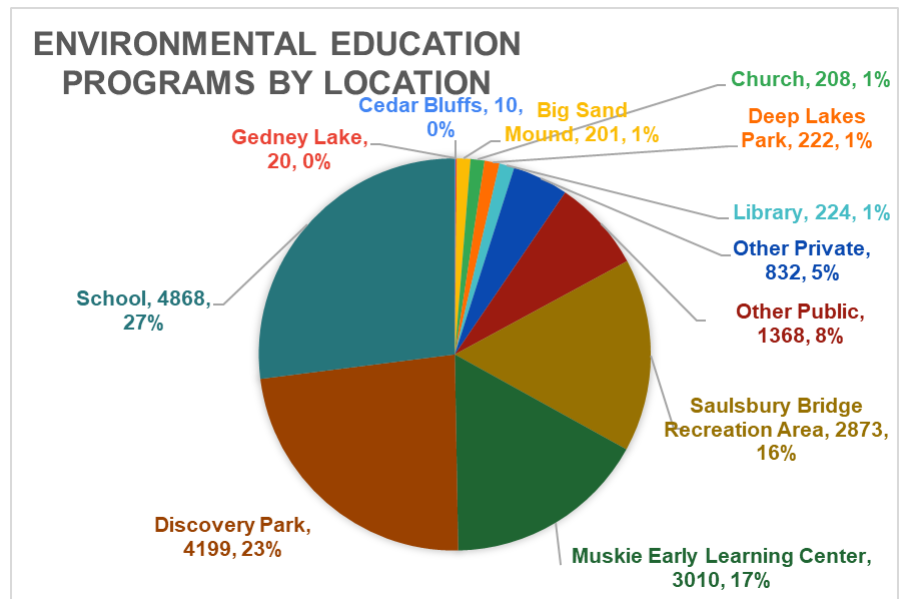
A total of 864 environmental education programs (groups) were held in FY25, with a total of 18,035 people in attendance.

Thirty percent (27%) of our Environmental Education programs took place in the schools and another 23% take place at Discovery Park and the Environmental Learning Center.

Programs at The Muskie Learning Center (MELC) account for the location for 17% of our programming.

Sixteen percent (16%) of our EE efforts took place at Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area. Staff also held programs at Deep Lakes Park, Gedney Lake, and Cedar Bluffs.

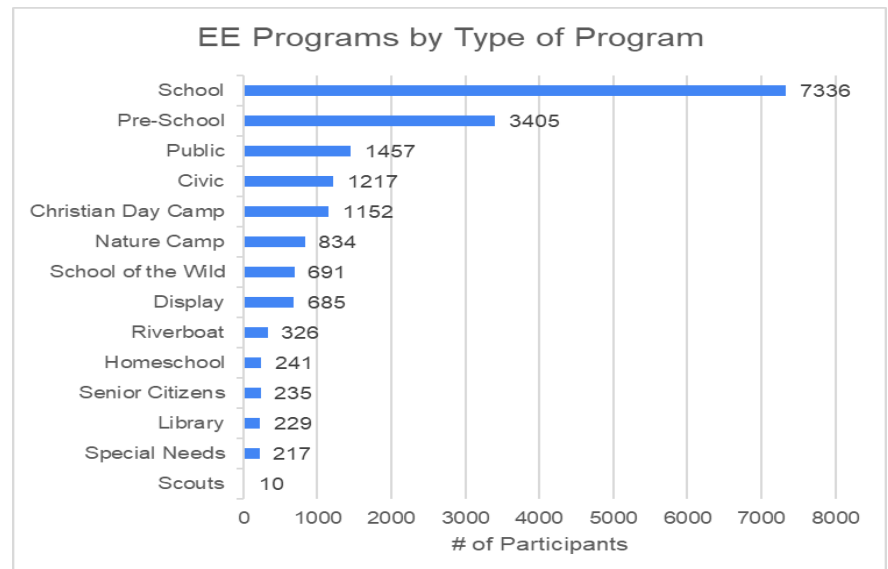
We saw every K-5<sup>th</sup> grade student at least once, and sometimes multiple times during the school year because of a unique partnership with AIM (Aligned Impact Muscatine.)



**Type of Programming**– There were 382 programs held with school groups, with a total of 7,336 students in attendance.

Types of Public Programs

- **Civic/Private** – Programs given to civic or private groups, not open to the public. This year 1,217 participants attended 49 such programs.
- **Hunter Education** – Two regular education safety classes were offered with a total of 42 people in attendance. MCC also assisted with a multi-lingual hunter ed class in Columbus Junction with 23 participants.
- **Nature Camps** – A total of 834 youth attended 56 nature camp programs throughout the fiscal year.





- **Public Programs** – 1,457 people attended 23 public programs that are open to the public. The biggest Public Programs were the Halloween Hike Drive Thru at Saulsbury (900), Hoover Fest with 375 participants, Kiddie Barnyard with 311 participants, and the JA Inspire Career fair with 288.
- **Display** – There were a total of 685 people who visited display booths that included live animals and environmental education.
- **Library Programs** - 229 people attended 17 programs provided in conjunction with our local libraries.
- **Riverboats** – 326 riverboat travelers toured the Environmental Learning Center and learned about Raptors.

## Ambassador Animals

Muscatine County Conservation has a group of working reptiles, amphibians, and raptors who help teach environmental education. These critters visit and teach thousands of people/students every year. These brave critters travel in and out of schools, parks, and libraries to promote conservation.

### Raptors

- Nadie the Barred Owl
- Thurston the Great Horned Owl
- Skipper the Red-Tailed Hawk

### Snakes

- Louie the Speckled Kingsnake
- Kajika the Fox Snake
- Vincent the Speckled Kingsnake
- Scarlet the Corn Snake

### Turtles

- Sheldon the Soft-Shell Turtle
- Mr. B the Blanding Turtle
- Murtle the Painted Turtle
- Timmy the Red-eared Slider
- TT a 3-Toed Box Turtle (not native)

### Amphibians

- Lio the Gray Tree Frog
- Tubbs the Tiger Salamander
- Elvis the American Toad



## Grants Received in FY25

**Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust** – A \$100,505 grant was received to redesign the aquatic life support system for the two 1,200-gallon fish aquariums and to add the aquatic turtles to the same system. The grant also provided new enclosures and enrichment materials for the snakes and new turtle tanks. At the end of FY25 \$79,023.59 of the grant funding had been spent and most of the work completed. The only thing left is to build the new Raptor Mew, at an estimated \$23,000.

**Building Capacity for Biodiversity** – The Nature Conservancy applied for a USDA NRCS 2024 Iowa Partners for Conservation grant. As part of the grant, a Fire Cache was established that is housed with Muscatine County Conservation for public use by people who have successfully passed the Federal fire courses S130 & 190, or who take the Prescribed Fire Course for Landowners put on by the Conservation Alliance of SE Iowa. Muscatine County's commitment includes \$1,000 annually for 5-years of in-kind staff time. At the end of FY25 a total of \$6,160 in-kind match was reported, which fulfills our obligation however we will continue to track hours over the grant period.

**Delta Dental Water Bottle Filling Station Grant** – Muscatine County Conservation received a grant from Delta Dental. No money was transferred for this grant. Delta Dental purchased and shipped an Elkay Water Bottle Filling Station to be placed on the side of the restroom near the playground. Maintenance staff installed the fountain with the help of some local plumbers.

## Cooperative Programs and Agreements

- A. **Iowa Department of Natural Resources** – An agreement continues for management and development of Shield Prairie. Discussions are underway to apply for a wildlife habitat grant to help manage the area.
- B. **Muscatine County Conservation Foundation** – The Board continues to work with the MCC Foundation for fundraising and grant writing as needed. Visitors donate to the Foundation through the Newsletter or donation box in the Environmental Learning Center. New this year, the Foundation revised their bylaws to include “outdoor recreation” in the list of things they do and support.
- C. **Iowa's County Conservation Systems (ICCS)** – Muscatine County Conservation continues to work with ICCS on a variety of projects including the MyCountyParks.com website, legislative priorities, trainings and more.

## Projects Planned for FY26

- Environmental Learning Center** – Upgrade for the kid's area of the ELC potentially with some furniture and new games and activities.
- Deep Lakes Park Campground** – We are working with Bolton & Menk and Triple B Construction to build a campground at Deep Lakes Park that will have septic and water along with 22 full-hook-up campsites and a shower house. Funding is secured; the project is expected to be completed by the end of September 2025.
- Deep Lakes Park Maintenance Shop** – Plans are underway to build a new maintenance shop at DLP that will have a small office area and some temperature-controlled space for working on equipment or projects. Funding is mostly secured.
- Deep Lakes Park Large Picnic Shelter** – \$100,000 has been budgeted from REAP to install a large reservable picnic shelter at Deep Lakes Park. The local Disc Golf players are planning on building a course at Deep Lakes Park with the help of staff.
- Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area** – The vault restrooms at Chicken Creek are scheduled to be replaced in the coming year(s).

**Saulsbury Lodge** – We plan on gaining estimates and working on plans to renovate the Saulsbury Lodge. It is in need of new siding and windows, indoor flooring, and a nice indoor paint job.

**Vehicle Replacements** – One patrol vehicle is scheduled for replacement this year including a 2018 pick-up truck.

## Other Top Priorities - Large Projects

### Deep Lakes Park

- Finish the campground & add reservations for sites to the MyCountyParks.com website
- Tree planting in the campground (or find a way to add shade)
- Install a picnic shelter
- Continue trail connections
- Expand the cabin area
- Continue to host and support the Muscatine Triathlon

### Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area

- Lodge improvements
- Remove old shelter by river campground, potentially rebuild?
- Replace restroom by Chicken Creek
- Habitat work

### Discovery Park

- Continue improving sidewalk connections – wildlife viewing blind, Heron Hideaway dock
- Build a new Raptor Mew (as part of the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust Grant)
- Replace foot bridge on creek (mowed) trail
- Landscaping/weeding control

### Environmental Learning Center

- Maintain geothermal
- Traveling displays
- Add or change up displays, add stuff to kids' exploration area

### Richardson Wildlife Area

- Fix low water crossing to the other side of the creek

### Pike Run

- Updates/repairs to the boardwalk

### Attachments

A – Administrative and General Basic Expenses

B – Revenue

C – Conservation Reserve / REAP / Equipment Reserve

**Approved by the Muscatine County Conservation Board at the meeting on Monday, October 21, 2025.**

*Julie Jindrich*

Julie Jindrich, Chair

*Katie Hammond*

Katie Hammond, Director

## Attachment A – FY25 Expenditure Report

### General Basic Expenditures

#### Administration

Director & Office Manager Salaries	\$ 153,865.27
Uniform Allowance	\$ 800.00
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 2,300.00
FICA	\$ 11,679.89
IPERS	\$ 14,617.20
Health Insurance - Admin	\$ 27,164.98
Annuity	\$ 4,800.00

**\$ 215,227.34**

Conservation Board	\$ 1,066.83
Office Supplies	\$ 1,087.35
Uniforms	\$ 287.20
Postage/Mailing	\$ 1,428.12
Telephone	\$ 15.97
Tuition/Registration	\$ 340.00
Meals & Lodging	\$ 1,280.04
Dues/Memberships	\$ 3,457.85

**\$ 8,963.36**

#### Maintenance & Operations

Salaries (Maintenance/Rangers)	\$ 247,819.87
Uniform	\$ 1,600.00
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 1,650.00
Salaries (Part time - Cabin Custodian)	\$ 3,805.00
Salaries (Part Time - Maintenance)	\$ 33,707.41
Sick Pay Reimbursement	\$ 2,368.57
FICA	\$ 22,228.30
IPERS	\$ 23,522.72
Health Insurance - Admin	\$ 35,694.82
Annuity	\$ 8,800.00

**\$ 381,196.69**

Fertilizer/Seed/Herbicides	\$ 4,364.12
Construction/Maintenance Supplies	\$ 1,175.43
Road Rock/Rip Rap/Dirt	\$ 1,076.87
Custodial Supplies	\$ 6,080.59
Fuels	\$ 12,115.94
Equipment and hand tools	\$ 3,971.12
Safety/Protective Equipment	\$ 1,452.51
Drainage District Taxes	\$ 2,353.00
Temp Help (Camp Host/Project Mgr.)	\$ 4,230.00
Tuition/Registration	\$ 795.00
Meals & Lodging	\$ 653.46
Utilities	\$ 3,407.96



Electric - SB House & Shower House	\$ 806.70
Electric - SB Campground	\$ 2,320.03
Electric - SB Service Building	\$ 1,575.56
Electric - Chicken Creek	\$ 651.22
Electric - Boat Ramp	\$ 512.61
Electric - Jack Shuger	\$ 359.39
Electric - Deep Lakes Park - Cabins	\$ 4,495.33
Electric - Deep Lakes Park - Shop	\$ 443.04
Electric - Saulsbury	\$ 2,304.89
Electric - Environmental Learning Center	\$ 20,555.88
Well Sampling / Service	\$ 219.00
Water Conditioner - SBRA	\$ 465.45
Vehicle Maintenance/Repair	\$ 1,200.01
Building Maintenance /Repair	\$ 30,219.41
Equipment Maintenance/ Repair	\$ 6,935.67
Rental Machinery	\$ 1,210.75
Waste Disposal Service	\$ 13,370.91
Hotel Motel Tax	\$ 2,398.73
Certification Costs ILEA	\$ -
Park Equipment	\$ 1,152.00

**\$ 132,872.58**

#### The Old Barn

Utilities	\$ 331.62
Building Maintenance /Repair	\$ 695.00
Waste Disposal Service	\$ -

**\$ 1,026.62**

#### Recreation Services

Salaries (Environmental Education)	\$ 116,873.90
Uniform	\$ 800.00
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 650.00
Salaries (Animal Caretaker)	\$ 4,026.50
FICA	\$ 8,728.07
IPERS	\$ 11,371.33
Health Insurance - Admin	\$ 26,323.36
Annuity	\$ 4,800.00

**\$ 173,573.16**

Animal Feed	\$ 6,665.30
Recreational Supplies	\$ 4,659.13
Collections/ Displays	\$ 394.59
Publications/Notices	\$ 2,643.21
Tuition/Registration	\$ 580.00
Meals & Lodging	\$ 327.90

**\$ 15,270.13**

**Total Cons Gen Basic & Gen Supp \$ 928,129.88**



## Attachment B – FY25 Revenue

### Financial Report - Revenue

<b>REAP Revenue</b>		<b>\$ 22,080.14</b>
Revenue	\$ 17,454.00	
Interest	\$ 4,626.14	
<b>Recreation Revenue</b>		<b>\$ 102,166.01</b>
Camping Fees	\$ 30,991.80	
Firewood	\$ 2,269.31	
Program Fees	\$ 7,480.00	
Canoe & Kayak	\$ 1,765.00	
Other Recreation Fees	\$ 1,987.60	
Saulsbury Lodge	\$ 5,756.87	
Classroom Rentals	\$ 565.00	
Picnic Shelters	\$ 4,066.82	
Cabins	\$ 47,283.61	
Federal Grants & Entitlement (28XX)		\$ -
State Grants & Reimbursements (26XX & 27XX)		\$ -
Rent (61XX)		\$ -
Richardson Land Rent		
<b>Conservation Donations (81XX)</b>		<b>\$ 107,970.48</b>
Donations (81XX)	\$ 107,970.48	
<b>Other Conservation Receipts</b>		<b>\$ 2,970.94</b>
Hotel Motel Tax	\$ 289.30	
Sales/Fuel Tax Refunds	\$ 746.70	
Handgun Purchase asst.	\$ 934.94	
Boat Titles	\$ 1,000.00	
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>\$ 235,187.57</b>



## Attachment C – FY25 Conservation Reserve / Land Acquisition

<b>Conservation Reserve (Land Acquisition )*</b>	
Starting Balance on 7/1/2024	\$ 271,926.41
<b>Revenue</b>	
Camping Fees	\$ 30,991.80
Fire Wood	\$ 2,269.31
Program Fees	\$ 7,480.00
Canoe & Kayak Rentals	\$ 1,765.00
Other Recreation	\$ 1,987.60
Cons Share - Boat titles	\$ 1,000.00
Donations	\$ 107,970.48
Rent Saulsbury Lodge	\$ 5,756.87
Rent Learning Center Classroom	\$ 565.00
Rent Park Shelters	\$ 4,066.82
Rent Cabins at DLP	\$ 47,283.61
Sales/Fuel Tax Refund	\$ 746.70
State Grants	\$ -
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 211,883.19</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Capital Projects	\$ -
Deep Lakes Park	\$ 35,716.00
Non-Capital Expenses	\$ 72,358.29
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 108,074.29</b>
<b>Ending Balance on 6/30/25</b>	<b>\$ 375,735.31</b>



<b>Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)</b>	
Starting Balance on 7/1/2024	\$ 119,931.29
<b>Revenue</b>	
REAP FY25 Per Capita	\$ 9,866.00
REAP FY25 Per County	\$ 7,588.00
Interest on Income	\$ 4,626.14
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 22,080.14</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Animal Caretaker Salary	\$ 4,026.50
FICA	\$ 307.90
Ipers	\$ 380.02
REAP Capital Improvements	\$ -
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 4,714.42</b>
<b>Balance as of 6/30/2025</b>	<b>\$ 137,297.01</b>



<b>Equipment Reserve</b>	
Actual Amount	\$ 86,019.07
Budget Amendment (Increase)	\$ -
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$ 86,019.07</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
2025 Chevy Silverado Patrol Truck	\$ 32,750.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 32,750.00</b>
<b>Balance as of 6/30/2025</b>	<b>\$ 53,269.07</b>

*\*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 the 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: FY24 expenditures were reimbursed in FY25 and some FY25 expenditures may be reimbursed in FY26.*