

Muscatine County Conservation Board 2017 At a Glance

It was another busy year for the Conservation Board with many projects moving forward and one coming to a halt at least for now.

We acquired approximately 15 acres of ground when the old care facility was demolished. The Board of Supervisors decided that this area would make a nice addition to Discovery Park. We hired a park planner to design a plan for the area that may include a picnic shelter, playground, trails, and a restroom which the Supervisors graciously offered to pay for.



Several projects were the result of grant funds. The trail at Deep Lakes Park was constructed and opened in late summer. Funding for the trail came from a statewide Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Grant, which will also fund cabins at Deep Lakes Park. Bank improvements were made to Heron Hideaway Pond in Discovery Park. That funding came from an Iowa DNR Fish Habitat Stamp Grant.

Other projects undertaken last year include; fencing in the beach area at Deep Lakes Park, doing erosion repair at Richardson Wildlife Area, putting a new roof on Chicken Creek Shelter, and having a plan for the utilities and septic system at Deep Lakes Park drawn up.

The Conservation Board took over management of the Old Barn. The Friends of the Old Barn will still fundraise and hold events at the barn.

The website was redone to make it more mobile-friendly, and easier for Conservation Board Staff to update and manage.

After many years of requests from the public for a shooting range, and a lot of work by Conservation Board staff we finally received approval from FEMA to construct one on flood buyout property belonging to the County. The shooting range was getting closer to becoming a reality; all that was left was approval

from the County Zoning Board and Board of Adjustment. The Zoning Board would not make a decision so it did not make as far as the Board of Adjustment. The Conservation Board can come back in the future with the proposal since there was no decision made, but for now the project is off the table.

Next year is already shaping up to be another busy one as we will be constructing the Deep Lakes Park cabins and continuing development at the new Discovery Park addition.



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2017 CONSERVATION BOARD

Chairperson	Deb Elliott
Vice-chairperson	Mark Petersen
Member	Jenny Paetz
Member	Jim Goedken
Member	Mike Schulte

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.

Environmental

Education Programs

In 2017, Conservation Board Staff gave 557 programs to 11,598 people. Program participants ranged in age from toddler through senior citizen.

In 2017 nearly three-quarters of the programs were presented to children ranging in age from 18 months through high school. The remaining quarter of programs were given to adults. Close to half of the programs were given at the Environmental Learning Center and Discovery Park.

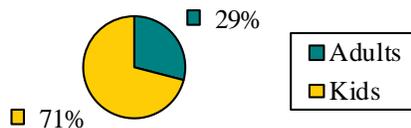
Pollinators, Prairies, Birds, Insects, Bats, Archery, Canoeing & Kayaking, Water Cycle, Pond Study, Fishing, Habitats, Reptiles & Amphibians, Raptors, and Hiking were just a handful of the many programs and activities presented to participants.

Some of the weekend programs and events held were Canoeing & Kayaking, Raptors, Reptiles & Amphibians, Monarch Butterfly Tagging, Seedballs, Archery, Trout Releases, and Nature Hikes.

Below is a list of some of our larger programs with their attendance.

- 37th Annual Fishing Seminar - 95
- 10th Annual Fishing Derby - 82
- 29th Annual Halloween Hike - 126
- Hunter Education Classes - 105
- Summer Nature Camps - 149
- Toddler/Preschool Camps - 100
- Raptors - 60

Environmental Education 11,598 people served in 2017



Staff presented programs to many people at other events not sponsored by the Conservation Board including; Muscatine Bald Eagle Watch, River City Outdoor Show, Musser Library Summer Program, Muscatine Community Y Block Party, and The Nature Conservancy's Swamp Stomp.

Environmental Learning Center

In 2017, approximately 6,502 visitors (not including people who participated in our programs) came to the Environmental Learning Center to view the exhibits.

Cooperative Programs

In 2017, the Conservation Board partnered with many other groups for various programs and projects.

- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Monsanto
- Musser Public Library
- Muscatine Community Y
- City of Muscatine
- Muscatine Parks & Recreation
- Muscatine Arboretum Association
- Muscatine Chapter of Izaak Walton League
- Muscatine Branching Out
- Boy Scouts/Eagle Scouts
- Girl Scouts
- United Way of Muscatine
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- The Nature Conservancy
- Muscatine Pollinator Project
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Environmental Education 557 programs given at various locations in 2017

