

Muscatine County Conservation Board 2018 At a Glance

Just as expected, 2018 turned out to be a very busy year for the Conservation Board with a lot of big projects moving forward.

At Deep Lakes Park, the area for the cabins was graded and prepped. The plans for the cabins were drawn up and they are ordered. By the summer of 2019 we will have four cabins available for rent, two that will sleep six-eight people and two that will sleep up to four people.

A new restroom was installed by the Deep Lakes Park beach. They are vault



toilets that will be open year round. These are much improved over the old type of pit toilets. We plan to add more of these permanent restrooms in the future and say goodbye to porta-potties.

The Melon City Bike Club donated and constructed a pavilion at the Deep Lakes Park trailhead on Stewart Road and 41st Street. The pavilion will have an information kiosk, bench, trash can, and an air/repair station. A permanent

restroom will also be installed near the pavilion.



At Discovery Park, the plans for the new 15-acre addition, we received in 2017, are moving forward. The area was cleaned up, and an old maintenance shed and fruit cellar were removed.

The Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust provided us with funding for a new playground on the area. The playground, which has a nature-inspired theme, is ordered and scheduled to be installed in the spring of 2019. A shelter and restrooms are also going in next spring.

Other big projects completed at Discovery Park were replacing the roofs on the shelters, restroom, and Environmental Learning Center, and replacing worn planks on the trail footbridges.

At Saulsbury, the gutters on Saulsbury Lodge were replaced. Camping was going great until flooding right around Labor Day closed the campgrounds for

the rest of the season.

At the remainder of our wildlife areas, staff kept busy clearing brush, burning prairie plots, and planting food plots.

A grant from the Muscatine Health Support Foundation was received to purchase two AEDs for park officers to carry in their vehicles.

We purchased five more kayaks to add to our fleet that also includes canoes. The canoes and kayaks are used for environmental education programs as well as rented to the general public. Last summer on select weekends we had canoes and kayaks available at Deep Lakes Park for hourly rentals. We plan on offering that service again next summer.

The Conservation Board, along with Louisa County Conservation Board, is hosting the 2019 Iowa's County Conservation System (ICCS) Fall Conference on September 17-19 at the Merrill Hotel in Muscatine. The event, typically attended by 200-250 County Conservation Board members, staff, and spouses from across the state, will showcase some of our county parks as well as "Life Along the Mississippi River".

So, with all the on-going projects it looks as if 2019 will be another busy year for the Conservation Board.

2018 CONSERVATION BOARD

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

Environmental Education Programs

In 2018, Conservation Board Staff gave 629 programs to 11,092 people. Program participants ranged in age from toddler through senior citizen.

In 2016, three-quarters of the programs were presented to children ranging in age from 18 months through high school. The remaining one-quarter of programs were given to adults. Close to half of the programs were given at the Environmental Learning Center and Discovery Park.

Nature hikes, fishing, canoeing & kayaking, Native American games, eagle watching, survival, animals, creek stomping, nature art & music, gardening, archery, habitats, astronomy, and water quality and testing, were just a handful of the many programs presented to participants.

Some of the weekend programs held were Canoeing & Kayaking, Reptiles & Amphibians, Outdoor Family Night, Monarch Butterfly Rearing & Tagging, Butterfly Gardening, Wildlife of Iowa, and Archery.

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

- 38th Annual Fishing Seminar - 60
- 11th Annual Fishing Derby - 36
- 30th Annual Halloween Hike - 135
- Hunter Education Classes - 77
- Summer Nature Camps - 152
- Toddler/Preschool Camps - 123
- Trout Releases - 101
- Voyageur Canoeing - 130
- Wildlife of Iowa - 74

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.

Staff presented programs to many people at other events not sponsored by the Conservation Board including; Muscatine Bald Eagle Watch, River City Outdoor Show, Big Sand Mound Field Day, Musser Library Summer Program, Muscatine Community Y Block Party & Halloween Party, Louisa County Outdoor Women, NWTf Jake's Day, and The Nature Conservancy's Swamp Stomp.

Cooperative Programs

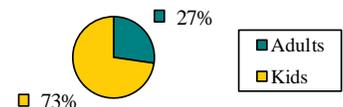
In 2018, the Conservation Board partnered with many other groups for various programs and projects.

- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Monsanto
- Musser Public Library
- Muscatine Community Y
- City of Muscatine
- Muscatine Chapter of Izaak Walton League
- Muscatine Branching Out
- Boy Scouts/Eagle Scouts
- Girl Scouts
- Mid-American Energy
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- Muscatine Pollinator Project
- Melon City Bike Club

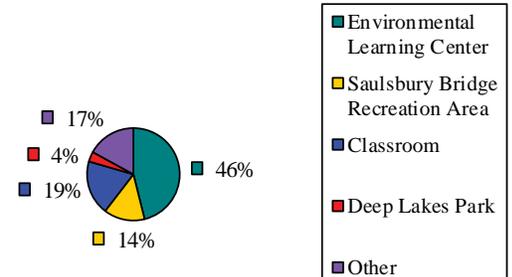
Environmental Learning Center

In 2018, approximately 5,931 visitors (not including people who participated in our programs) came to the Environmental Learning Center to view the exhibits.

Environmental Education
11,092 people
served in 2018



Environmental Education
629 programs given at various locations in 2018



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