

Muscatine County Conservation Board 2019 At a Glance

The Conservation Board had a busy 2019 with some big projects moving forward, and one major project temporarily on hold.

The new playground at Discovery Park was installed in early May with help from many volunteers. Conservation Board staff prepped the area, then volunteers, staff and installation reps from the playground company spent about three days putting the playground pieces together and setting them in the correct places.

Once the playground equipment was in, the concrete base was poured and the rubber surfacing installed. Sidewalks were added and the playground was ready to use. Thanks to the Roy J. Carver Trust for providing us with funding for the playground.



In the new addition, where the playground is located, a new restroom was installed, the roads were resurfaced, several parking lots added, and a road connecting that area to the existing area was added. Thanks to the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors for funding those projects.

Two new vault-style restrooms were installed. One in Discovery Park near Discovery Pond and one in Deep Lakes Park near the trail at Stewart Road and 41st Street.



The project that was delayed was the Deep Lakes Park cabins. Exceptionally high water covered the site for the cabins as well as the site for the road to the cabins, and it has been very slow to recede. We are actually glad that it happened before any construction. Now the cabin sites are moved to higher ground and plans are to have them ready for use in 2020.

Flooding on the Cedar River closed the Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area campgrounds for most of May and June, so staff spent a lot of time doing flood clean up.

Staff spent much of early September sprucing up Deep Lakes Park, Discovery Park and the Environmental Learning Center for conference visitors. In mid September, the Conservation Board, along with Louisa

County Conservation Board, hosted the 2019 Iowa's County Conservation System (ICCS) Fall Conference at the Merrill Hotel in Muscatine.

The Fall Conference drew nearly 300 County Conservation Board members, staff, and spouses from across the state to learn about "Life Along the Mississippi River". Participants even took a cruise down the Mississippi River from Moline to Muscatine on the Celebration Belle Riverboat. It was the most highly attended fall conference in many years. It was a lot of work, but worth it with all the great comments we received.



At our wildlife areas, staff spent time maintaining the parking lots, and removing invasive plants and brush.

Long-time Board Member Jenny Paetz turned in her resignation due to other obligations, so we will look forward to a new face on the Board in 2020.

So, with the cabin project as well as other projects, 2020 will be another busy year for the Conservation Board.

2019 CONSERVATION BOARD

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

Environmental Education Programs

In 2019, Conservation Board Staff gave 652 programs to 12,146 people. Program participants ranged in age from toddler through senior citizen.

In 2019, two-thirds of the programs were presented to children ranging in age from 18 months through high school. The remaining one-third of programs were given to adults. 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 stumping, archery, habitats, astronomy, weather, 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, Nature Crafts, Monarch Butterfly Rearing & Tagging, Mushrooms, Orienteering, Animals in Winter, Origami Flowers, and Bald Eagle Day/Watch.

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

- 39th Annual Fishing Seminar - 183
- 12th Annual Fishing Derby - 103
- 31st Annual Halloween Hike - 184
- Hunter Education Classes - 76
- Summer Nature Camps - 162
- Toddler/Preschool Camps - 116
- Trout Releases - 157
- Bald Eagle Day- 115

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 approximately 1,375 people at other events not sponsored by the Conservation Board including; River City Outdoor Show, Join Scouts, Muscatine Art Center, Muscatine Community Y Block Party & Halloween Party, NWTJ Jake's Day, Muscatine County Fair, and The Nature Conservancy's Swamp Stomp.

Cooperative Programs

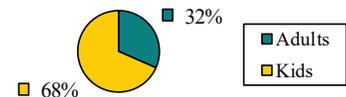
In 2019, the Conservation Board partnered with many other groups for various programs and projects.

- 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
- Muscatine Art Center
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- Muscatine Pollinator Project
- Muscatine County Fair

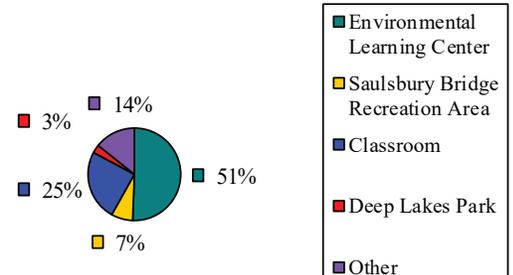
Environmental Learning Center

In 2019, approximately 6,700 visitors (not including people who participated in our programs) came to the Environmental Learning Center to view the exhibits.

Environmental Education
12,146 people served in 2019



Environmental Education
652 programs given at various locations in 2019



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