

Muscatine County Conservation Board 2022 At a Glance

In 2022, a sense of normalcy returned after several years of COVID-related closings and changes to our programs.

The Environmental Learning Center was back open to its regular schedule with lots of visitors.

All the local school districts had the naturalists back for to their classrooms for environmental education programs. We had no requests for virtual programs. Our April and May calendar filled up with field trips to Discovery Park, Saulsbury, and Deep Lakes Park.

We also had a full schedule of summer nature camps and public programs that filled up quickly.



In October, during its first season of cruising, the American Queen river boat made a stop in

Muscatine and the Environmental Learning Center was one of the morning stops for people getting off the boat.

In early November, the Iowa Association of Naturalists held their annual fall conference at the Environmental Learning Center. Over 100 naturalists from throughout the state attended the three-day conference.

Maintenance staff kept busy with normal park and facility maintenance. The campground was busy with no flooding issues for the second year in a row.

Some of the large projects completed in 2022 were hard-surfacing the Deep Lakes Park entrance road, updating the Deep Lakes Park Master Plan, painting the barn in Discovery Park, removing the old benches by the Saulsbury Lodge, removing the old playground at Saulsbury, and installing a new AV system in the Environmental Learning Center classroom.

The Board of Supervisors approved using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds

to get sewer and water lines run to Deep Lakes Park.

There were changes on the Conservation Board. Deb Elliott's second term on the Board ended in December and Sue O'Donnell resigned from the Board in December.

Bob Kenyon, Operations Supervisor, retired at the end of April after 43 years of service, and Kent Kaufman moved into the position. In June, Kristin Krumm was hired to fill the new Maintenance Technician/Assistant Park Officer position.

Staff looks forward to 2023 and working hard to make Muscatine County parks, facilities, and wildlife areas great places for all to enjoy.



2022 CONSERVATION BOARD

Chairperson	Deb Elliott
Vice-chairperson	Sue O'Donnell
Member	Mike Schulte
Member	Mark Petersen
Member	Karen Hartman

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 2022, Conservation Board Staff gave 647 programs to 13,564 people. Program participants ranged in age from toddler through senior citizen.

In 2022, 70% of the programs were presented to children ranging in age from 18 months through high school. The remaining 30% of programs were given to adults. A little over a third 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, monarch butterflies, basket making, weather, and water quality/testing, were just a handful of the many programs presented to participants.

Here is a list of some of our larger programs and the attendance.

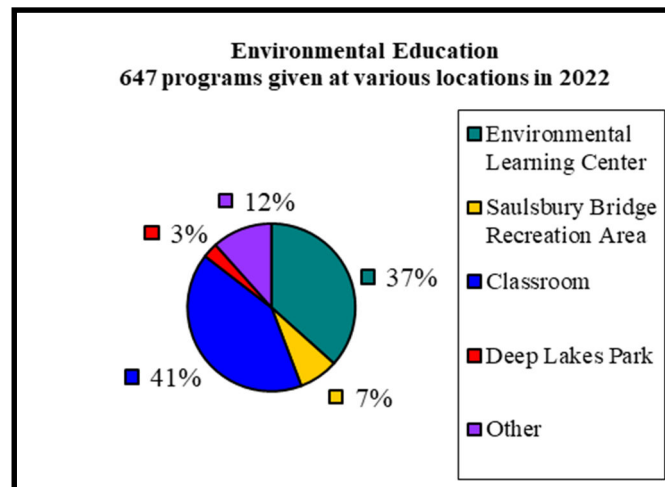
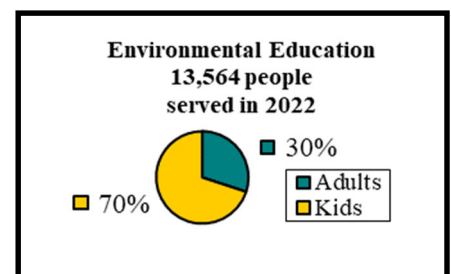
- ◆ Bald Eagle Day-374
- ◆ Voyageur Canoes - 113

- ◆ Halloween Drive-Thru - 1,200
- ◆ Hunter Education - 53
- ◆ Summer Nature Camps - 364
- ◆ American Queen - 91

Staff also presented programs at other events not sponsored by the Conservation Board including; Muscatine Art Center events, Musser Public Library events, Community Y Block Party, and Wilton Gun/Outdoor Show.

Environmental Learning Center

In 2022, approximately 5,422 visitors (not including people who participated in our programs) visited the Environmental Learning Center.



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