

# Muscatine County Conservation Board 2016 At a Glance

The year 2016 was a busy one for the Muscatine County Conservation Board. Staff maintains 1,740 acres spread across 11 areas. Six of these areas are wildlife areas that require maintenance such as clearing brush, burning prairie, planting food plots, and repairing fencing. The other five areas are parks with trails, shelters, campgrounds, a Learning Center, a beach, restrooms, and cemeteries.

Listed below are some of the projects done in 2016.

- Construction of a volleyball court at the Deep Lakes Park beach.
- Installation of the new Learning Center exhibits.
- Construction of two water retention structures in Discovery Park.
- Tree plantings in Deep Lakes Park and Discovery Park.
- Fish habitat improvements and stockings at Deep Lakes Park and Discovery Park.
- Preparation for and clean up from the second highest flood at Saulsbury (at 18 feet it was still five feet below the 2008 record).
- Planting pollinator habitat at Discovery Park.
- Having a plan done for future Deep Lakes Park



amenities such as utilities, cabins, campground, restrooms and shelters.

- Construction of a water diversion structure at Deep Lakes Park beach.
- A stewardship plan for the proposed shooting range was drawn up and sent to FEMA for approval.
- Clearing and leveling up the proposed cabin area at Deep Lakes Park.

An all-time record number of campers kept the park officers and maintenance staff busy. Education staff were busy with an increase in the number of environmental education participants. We also saw a big increase in visitors to the Learning Center, due in part to the new exhibits.

Several large projects are already in the works for next year. A Fish Habitat Stamp Grant was submitted to the Iowa DNR for improvements to Heron Hideaway Pond in Discovery Park. The



City of Muscatine is working on a trail extension, part of which will run through Deep Lakes Park. And with the probable demolition of the old county care facility we may have an addition to Discovery Park.

So, we look forward to another busy project-filled year in 2017.



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## 2016 CONSERVATION BOARD

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

## Environmental Education Programs

In 2016, Conservation Board Staff gave 603 programs to 12,125 people. Program participants ranged in age from toddler through senior citizen.

In 2016, 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. Close to half (46%) 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, nature art & music, archery, habitats, astronomy, water quality and testing, and geocaching were just a handful of the many programs presented to participants.

Some of the weekend programs held were Canoeing & Kayaking, Raptors, Reptiles & Amphibians, Monarch Butterfly Tagging, Butterfly Gardening, Holiday Nature Crafts, and Storytelling.

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

- 36th Annual Fishing Seminar - 136
- 9th Annual Fishing Derby - 55
- 28th Annual Halloween Hike - 313
- Hunter Education Classes - 100
- Summer Nature Camps - 174
- Toddler/Preschool Camps - 124
- Canoe/Kayak Try-It - 70
- Reptiles & Amphibians - 69
- Raptors - 63
- Holiday Nature Crafts - 55

## 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, Muscatine Healthy Living Festival, Relay for Life, Musser Library Summer Program, and Muscatine Community Y Block Party.

## Cooperative Programs

In 2016, 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

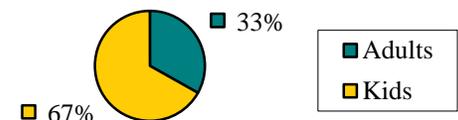
## Environmental Learning Center

In 2016, approximately 7,136 visitors (not including people who participated in our programs) came to the Environmental Learning Center to view the exhibits.



A giant salamander that greets visitors and an interactive tree are several of the new exhibits.

### Environmental Education 12,125 people served in 2016



### Environmental Education 603 programs given at various locations in 2016

