



Muscatine County Conservation FY26

Annual Report
July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026



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Annual Report of the Muscatine County Conservation Board Fiscal Year 2026 July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

TO: The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
REPORTED BY: Katie Hammond, Executive Director

Following is the annual report of the Muscatine County Conservation Board for the fiscal year (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026) as prescribed in Chapter 350.3 of the Code of Iowa (1993).

FY26 at a Glance

Deep Lakes Park Campground –

The Deep Lakes Park Campground was completed in FY26 and open for camping starting April 15, 2026.

Online reservations started rolling in as soon as the sites were advertised on MyCountyParks.com in February 2026.

The campground quickly became a popular camping destination for the remainder of the FY26 camping season with most weekends booked and a handful of sites booked throughout the week.



The Muscatine County Conservation Foundation purchased 26 trees from Forest Keeling to be planted at the new campground. It will be a while before the trees provide adequate shade for the campers, but they provide a nice aesthetic and the promise of future shade.

Deep Lakes Park, Maintenance Shop – A design and plans finally came together for the Deep Lakes Park Maintenance Shop in FY26. The project was bid in 2 parts. Wolfe Contracting received overall construction bid. Curry's won the septic bid. The plan was to renovate the 60' x 80' building to include a restroom, office space, and temperature-controlled maintenance area in two of the concrete stalls. The remaining area was opened up for equipment storage. At the end of FY26 the well and septic tank had been installed, concrete walls removed, and minimal construction. The project is expected to be completed by the end of August 2026.



Environmental Learning Center – The 20th Anniversary Celebration was held on July 20, 2025. It was a great day with a diversity of activities going on throughout the park. Guests could fish, paddle, geocache, meet live animals, hike, and more. There was also a fish fry to recognize and thank past and present donors that included a presentation about the Environmental Learning Center.

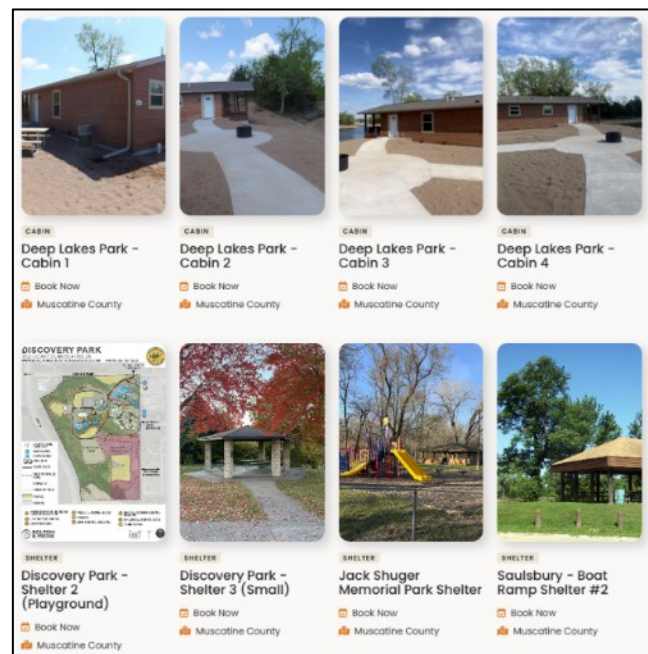


Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust Grant – A grant was received from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust in FY25 to replace the life support system for the aquariums, purchase new habitats for reptiles and amphibians and rebuild the Raptor Mews. At the completion of FY25 everything was complete except for the Raptor Mews which were built in FY26.

MyCountyParks.com – Online Reservation System

– On April 2, 2025, the online reservation system went live for Muscatine County Conservation. People gained the ability to make reservations for the Saulsbury Lodge, Cabins at Deep Lakes Park, picnic shelters at Discovery Park, Saulsbury, and Jack Shuger, and the main campground at Saulsbury. In February 2026 the Deep Lakes Campground was added. In FY26 the online reservations took in a total of \$108,322 in revenue* with \$58,441 coming from cabin reservations; \$36,285 from camping, \$7,290 from Saulsbury Lodge, \$5,846 from shelter reservations and \$460 in canoe and kayak rentals.

Overall, we believe the public appreciates the ease of seeing available dates, and making reservations anytime day or night, even when our office is closed.



*Note – These revenue dollars include online fees and credit card fees.

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.

Board Roster

The five members of the Muscatine County Conservation Board are a decision-making and policy-making body appointed by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors. The board's authority includes the acquisition and development of land, adoption of rules and regulations, comprehensive planning of an overall county conservation board program and specific site plans for individual areas. Other functions of the Board include hiring an executive director, developing a budget, and working with other governmental subdivisions to provide programs for the public.

The primary consideration of the board is to provide a balanced conservation, recreation, and education program to the citizens of the county, through proper planning and identification of needs and demands. The County Conservation Board can be the primary county agency dealing with natural resource issues in its county. (Source: *Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards*)

The **Muscatine County Conservation Board members** who served during this reporting period were:

Name	Title	Started	Expiration Date
Mike Schulte	Vice Chair	January 2022	December 2026
Julie Jindrich	Chair	January 2023	December 2027
Karen Hartman	Member	January 2024	December 2028
Jeff Snyder	Member	July 2026	December 2029
Sherry Seright	Member	January 2023	December 2030

Note: Dakoatah Jacobs was appointed in January 2025 but resigned after 6 months of service due to medical reasons. The Supervisors appointed Jeff Snyder in July 2026 to finish this term.



Meetings Held

Meetings are typically held on the third Monday of each month at 6:00 pm at the Environmental Learning Center.

The board held 12 regular meetings and three (3) special meetings during the fiscal year.

Agendas and minutes from the meetings are on file at the Muscatine County Conservation Office, 3300 Cedar Street, PO Box 109, Muscatine, Iowa, 52761. They are also posted to the Muscatine County Conservation website at <https://www.muscatinecountyiowa.gov/conservation/conservationboard/> on the main page under Conservation Board.

Muscatine County Conservation Staff

The Muscatine County Conservation Board maintained eight permanent full-time staff positions, one permanent part-time, and four seasonal positions. There were no changes to permanent staff positions. A Naturalist Intern position was added starting July 1, 2025.

Three seasonal maintenance staff helped to take care of parks in the summer of 2025: Trinidad Martinez took care of Discovery Park, Alyssa Skirloff was at Saulsbury, and Braedyn VanAuken at Deep Lakes Park. Two summer externs helped with Environmental Education the summer of 2025: Michelle Haller & Laura McDonald. Kathi Eichelberger was hired as the Intern Naturalist.



Permanent Muscatine County Conservation Employees

Name	Title	Dates Started
Katie Hammond	Director	10/2023
Lori Dietrich	Office Manager	05/2023
Luke Hart	Naturalist I	05/2023
Michelle Berns	Naturalist II	12/2007
Kent Kaufman	Operations Supervisor	02/1986
Ryne Brimeyer	Ranger – Deep Lakes Park	10/2014
Kristin Neeld	Ranger - Floating	06/2022
Trevor Ebeling	Ranger – Saulsbury Bridge Rec. Area	02/2023
Dave Schuler	Animal Care & Aquariums	2017-Present (Permanent Part Time)

Award Winning Environmental Education Team:

Muscatine County Conservation was awarded the Community Impact Award from United Way Muscatine for their hard work and dedication to Environmental Education and the Spark program. The award was accepted by Director, Katie Hammond and Naturalist, Michelle Berns. Luke Hart was unavailable the day of the award ceremony.

One community partner stands out year after year for their commitment to providing students with hands-on learning experiences. This partner was one of the first to say yes when asked if they could help the first summer of SPARK, and they've only expanded their partnership from there.

Each summer, they engage more than 300 children with hands-on experiences like building aquarium ponds, measuring river otter hides, dissecting owl pellets, and more. During the school year, they create hands-on activities aligned with grade-level curriculum such as local fossils, the Star Lab, animal life cycles, and plate tectonics, reaching about 3,000 students across the county. Yes, you heard that right...3,000 students each year! They go to preschools, daycare centers, anywhere and everywhere they are asked.

Their commitment to students and hands-on learning is unparalleled, and their Naturalists are local celebrities in any school they walk into.



MCC Permanent Employees for FY26



Katie Hammond
Executive Director



Lori Dietrich
Office Manager



Kent Kaufman
Operations Supervisor



Luke Hart
Naturalist



Michelle Berns
Naturalist II



Ryne Brimeyer
Ranger/Maintenance



Kristin Neeld
Ranger/Maintenance



Trevor Ebeling
Ranger/Maintenance



Dave Schuler
Animal Care

MCC Seasonal, Temporary & On Call Employees for FY26

Name	Title	Dates Started
Kathi Eichelberger	EE Intern (previous Extern 2023 & 2024)	July 2025
Laura McDonald	EE Extern	June 2024 & 2025
Michelle Haller	EE Extern	June 2025 & 2026
Trinidad Martinez	Mowing/Maintenance at Discovery Park	April 2023-2026
Kristie Miller	Cabin Custodian	September 2025
Alyssa Skirloff	Maintenance Intern – Saulsbury	May 2025
Braedyn Van Auken	Maintenance Intern – Deep Lakes Park	May 2025
Lexie Eaton	Maintenance Intern – Saulsbury	May 2026
Raen Acker	Maintenance Intern – Deep Lakes Park	May 2026

The cabin custodian position is responsible for cleaning the cabins at Deep Lakes Park, it is a part-time, on-call position without regular hours. The position can be filled by one or two people. Staff fill in as needed.

Volunteers

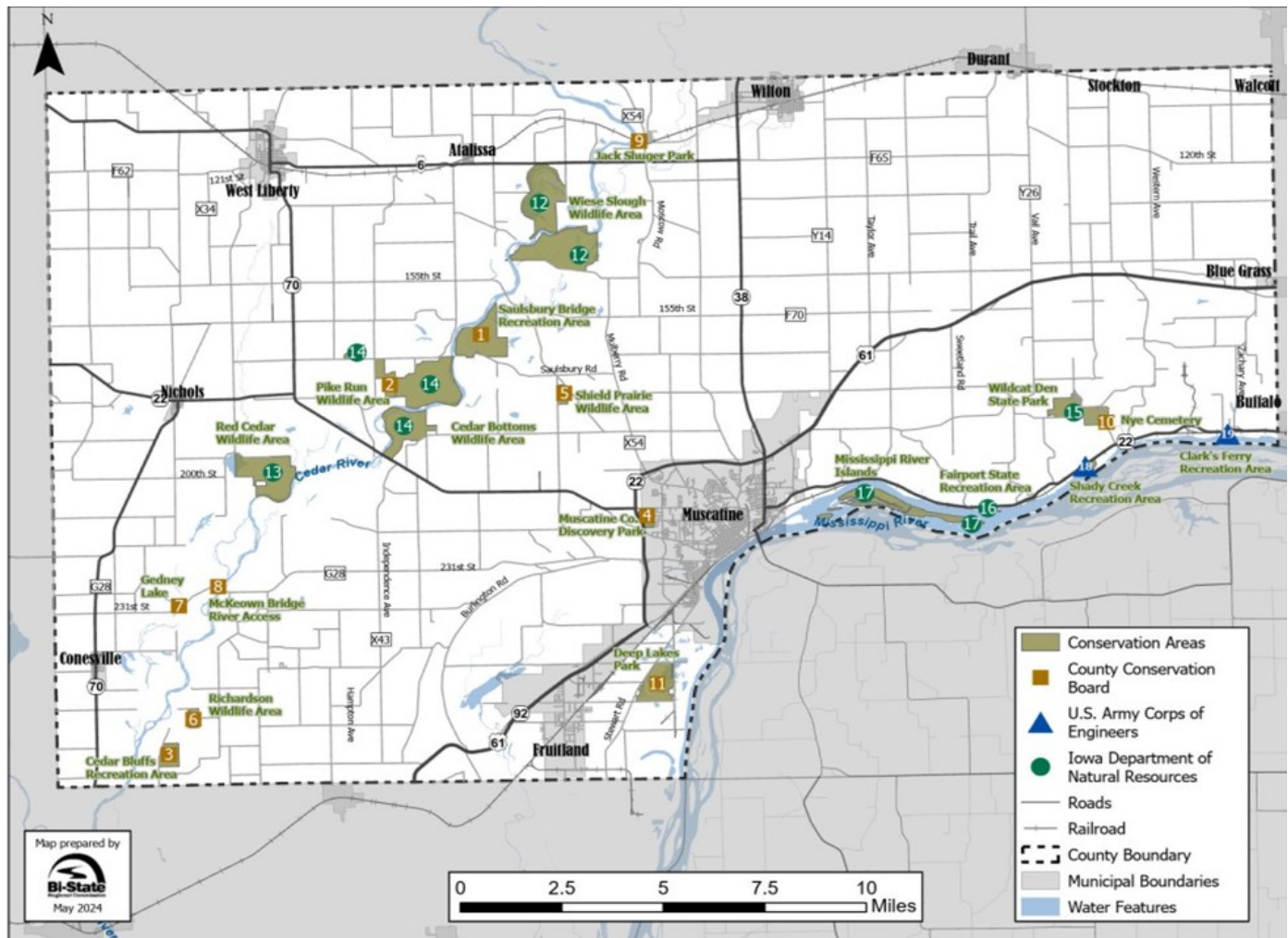
The Conservation Board enjoyed working with several groups of volunteers, mostly coordinated by the United Way of Muscatine. These groups included school groups, Boy Scouts, HNI employees, and more.

Pictured below are a group of interns from Bayer and HNI who were flexible with the weather and did a fantastic job of deep cleaning the Environmental Learning Center!



Area Inventory

Muscatine County Conservation currently owns and/or manages 11 areas comprising a total of approximately 1,760 acres for conservation, recreation, open spaces, and wildlife benefit. There were not any new property acquisitions in FY26.



		Information	Picnicking	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Electricity	Water	Restrooms	Camping	Cabins	Nature Center	Intrepretive Trail	Hiking Trail	Biking Trail	Native Prairie	Boat Ramp	Canoeing/Kayaking	Trail Riding	Accessible Area	Accessible Dock	Fishing	Hunting	Historic Site	Ice Fishing	Cross Country Skiing
Muscatine County Conservation																									
1. Saulsbury Bridge Rec. Area	675		●	●	●	●	●	●	●				●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●
2. Pike Run Wildlife Area	182												●		●						●	●			
3. Cedar Bluffs Rec. Area	176												●								●	●		●	●
4. Discovery Park	100	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●				●	●	●		●		●
5. Shield Prairie	80														●							●			
6. Richardson Wildlife Area	77														●							●			
7. Gedney Lake	18		●														●				●				
8. McKeown Bridge Access	7		●													●	●				●				
9. Jack Shuger Memorial Park	4		●	●	●	●		●								●	●				●				
10. Nye Cemetery	1																						●		
11. Deep Lakes Park	440		●				●	●	●	●			●	●		●	●		●	●	●		●		

1. Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area – 675-acres

Location: Eight (8) miles Northwest of Muscatine

911 Address: 2007 Saulsbury Road, Muscatine, Iowa

Date Acquired: The first 74-acres were purchased in 1968, around the Bridge to be developed into a park. In 1972 an additional 403-acres were purchased with the help of LAWCON funding. In 1986 & 1987 another 198-acres increased the park to 675-acres.

Management Restrictions: Land and Water Conservation Funds (LAWCON) were used on two of the main parcels to help purchase and provide amenities. With this funding the park must continue to be used for the recreational purposes set forth.

Current management: This mix of floodplain forest, open fields, creeks, and wetlands provides a diversity of wildlife habitats and outdoor recreation opportunities. 601-acres are managed for wildlife habitat and public hunting. 74-acres are used as multipurpose recreation.

Existing facilities: The reservable Saulsbury Lodge, 3 campgrounds, 2 latrines, shower house, dump station, firewood shed, 2 reservable picnic shelters, 2 modern playgrounds, 2 Maintenance Shop buildings, Cedar River Access, accessible fishing dock at Chicken Creek, and Chicken Creek boat landing.

FY26 Updates:

- Natural Resources – Prescribed burning operations took place to help control woody species and prep food plot areas. Food plots were planted. Hazard trees were removed from the campground and other areas within the park. Cutting, spraying, and other measures were taken to help control invasive species.
- Dozens of native trees were planted at Saulsbury that were donated by the Community Foundation after they arrived late for a volunteer workday on Towhead Island. These are assisting in replacing ash and other trees that are dying from old age, flooding, or pests.
- Normal maintenance took place at Saulsbury including mowing, spraying as needed, and flooding clean-up.
- An equestrian mounting step was installed in the parking area to assist guests in easily mounting horses.

Planned Improvements:

- Continue to remove invasive species as needed and monitor tree and woodland health.
- Replace the Chicken Creek restroom with a new latrine
- Improvements to the Lodge include painting indoors, new siding, windows, and flooring.

Documented Use:

- School of the Wild was held at Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area with 342 participants from Jefferson 4th Grade (86 students x 4 days) in 12 programs. The students come for four days, immersing themselves in conservation, outdoor recreation, and natural resource education.
- A total of 2,385 participants attended programs at Saulsbury throughout the fiscal year.
- There are two reservable picnic shelters at Saulsbury. The Boat Ramp shelter had five (5) reservations at \$25. The Chicken Creek Shelter had 16 reservations at \$25.
- We don't have good numbers on general park users because quite a few people hunt, horseback ride, hike, fish, and boat at Saulsbury and those numbers aren't captured.



Camping at Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area

The Conservation Board manages three campgrounds at Saulsbury Bridge Recreation area including the Main Campground with 24 sites and 20-30-50-amp electric, the River Campground with 11 sites, and the Tent Only primitive area with multiple sites.

Camping fees remained at \$25/site/night for the Main Campground, \$20/site/night for the River Campground, and \$10/night for the tent only primitive campsites.

In April 2025 the Board began accepting online reservations for the Main Campground only using MyCountyParks.com. Guests must make reservations at least 3 days in advance to use the online reservation system. Sites are also available on a first-come, first-served basis on a 1–2-day basis for sites not already reserved online. Rangers place bright colored reservation slips in the camp pedestals to help guest see availability.



The Board continued to offer FREE Wednesdays as the only promotional items. There were 54 campers who took advantage of the Free Wednesday camping.

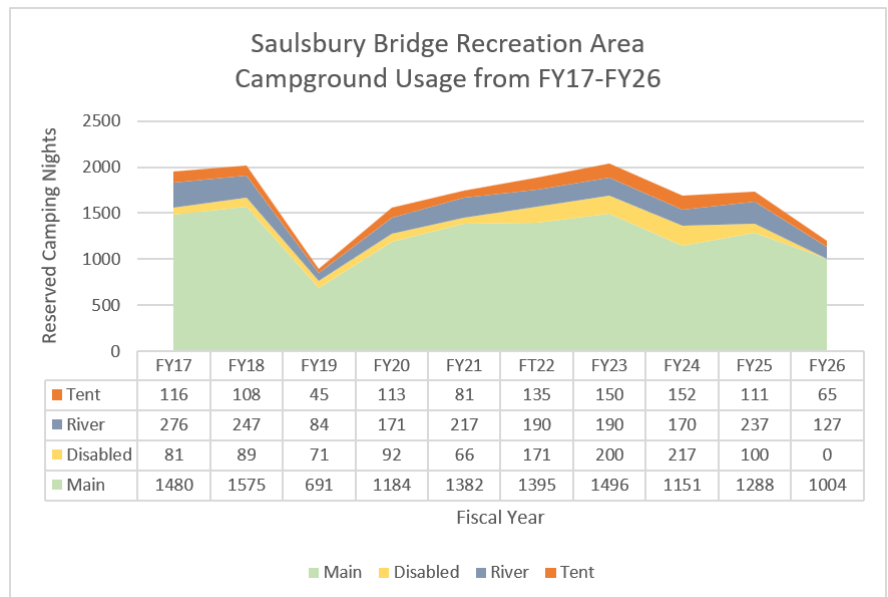
There is a shower house, firewood, playground, dump station, and fresh water in the Main Campground. River & tent campers are allowed to use these amenities as well.

In FY26, camping revenue at Saulsbury was \$25,856.95 with a total of 1,196 Camper Use Nights.

- The **Main Campground** had 1004 Camper Use Nights. (This is the number of nights that sites were filled throughout the fiscal year.)
- The **River Campground** was filled 127 Camper Use Nights.
- The **Tent Camping** was utilized for 65 Camper Use Nights.

The Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area campground also brought in \$1,994.10 in firewood sales.

This chart (right) shows campground use data for the past 10 years.



The River Campground was closed briefly three times throughout FY26 and the main campground had to close half of the sites after water crossed the main road. These closures were partially responsible for the lower numbers. In addition, in April 2026 the new Deep Lakes Campground opened. Some of the regular Saulsbury Campers tried out the new campground also.

FY19 held a major flood where the campground was closed for a prolonged period of time, which is evident in the dip.

Note – permanently disabled is sectioned out in part of this graph. The Conservation Board is no longer offering a discount for permanently disabled persons as of FY25.

Saulsbury Lodge

The Saulsbury Lodge is available for group rentals. It offers a pleasant option for small to medium sized group gatherings. It is suitable year-round for picnics, family gatherings, youth groups, church groups, and small receptions.

The Lodge comfortably seats up to 75 people with tables and chairs provided. There is a small kitchen area with fridge and stove, and modern restrooms. The room can be temperature controlled with electric baseboard heat and air conditioning.

Behind the lodge is a nice overflow patio with a picnic table and grill. A nice wide path leads out to the historic Saulsbury Bridge where guests can look out over the Cedar River. Guests also have access to the nearby campgrounds, and hiking trails.



In FY26, the daily rental for most users was the weekend rate of \$110/day, and \$80/day for youth groups. A deposit is no longer required.

Those wishing to hold a wedding reception at Saulsbury Lodge are required to rent the facility for three days for \$370. This allows a day for set-up, a day for the event, and plenty of time for clean-up.

Documented Use: In FY26, the Saulsbury Lodge was reserved 113 days.

Weekend reservations were the most popular with 53 and 1 weekday general reservation. These were mostly birthday parties, family reunions, baby showers, and holiday celebrations.

There were 30 youth groups on weekdays and 18 on weekends. The majority of these were the Christian Day Campers and Girl and Boy Scout groups. Five (5) youth groups took advantage of the option to spend the night.

Two weddings were held at Saulsbury as well (each 3-days long per policy).

In total the Saulsbury Lodge brought in \$9,347.45 in revenue.



2. Pike Run Wildlife Area – 182 acres

Location: Six miles east of Nichols and 10 miles NW of Muscatine

911 Address: 1729 Iron City Avenue, Nichols, IA

Date Acquired: March 23, 1983, the first 77.37 acres were purchased. An additional 103.09 acres were purchased on August 10, 1990.

Management Restrictions: This area was purchased with the help of Wildlife Habitat Stamp Grant funds along with the Muscatine Prairie Endowment Fund and Pheasants Forever. The area must be maintained for public hunting.

Current management: This wildlife area is primarily used for wildlife habitat and public hunting. There is a beautiful wooden plank bridge that spans Pike Run creek, allowing people to get to the far side. Some mowed hiking trails are maintained for access by staff and the public.

Existing facilities: Pike Run features a native sand prairie, oak timber, wetlands, and Pike Run creek travels through the area. There are two small parking lots, a bridge across Pike Run, and about a quarter-mile trail. Adjoins the DNR area Cedar Bottoms Wildlife Management Area.



Updates in FY26: Invasive species removal, prescribed fire, and general maintenance.

Planned Improvements: Upgrades to the bridge with boards re-attached or replaced as needed. Continued habitat improvements including controlling invasive species and prescribed fire.

Potential Expansion: The Nature Conservancy is interested in selling the Russell Tract of prairie to MCCB. A NAWCA grant was applied for in FY26 that would make the transfer possible, but it was unsuccessful.

Documented Use: One group from Otter Nature Camp visited Pike Run for a total of 10 youth.

3. Cedar Bluffs Recreation Area – 177 acres

Location: Six miles west of Letts, Iowa

911 Address: 2727 Casey Avenue, Letts, IA

Date Acquired: 2 parcels acquired December 31, 1976, totaling 177.17 acres.

Management Restrictions: Purchased with LAWCON funding.

Current management: For wildlife habitat purposes and compatible recreational uses such as hunting, hiking, & mushroom hunting. This is a popular area for hunting rabbits, deer, turkey, and squirrels.

Existing trails: Mowed hiking trails.

Existing facilities: Parking lot.

Improvements this fiscal year: spraying of invasive species, mowing, burning, and maintaining a safe and clean park for public enjoyment.



Planned Improvements:

In FY27 staff plan to conduct more prescribed burns, map the trails, and continue work to control invasive species.

Documented use for this area: One nature camp with 10 students hiked the trails at Cedar Bluffs.



4. Discovery Park - 100 acres



Location: On Cedar Street in Muscatine, just off HWY 61.

911 Address: 3300 Cedar Street, PO Box 109 Muscatine, IA.

Date Acquired: August 1, 1995. This park was formerly the location of the County Farm and was turned over to Conservation. The 10-acre parcel to the west was purchased from June and Etal Pries in 1996 for \$24,000.

Current management: This area is Muscatine County Conservation's premier area. It is managed for people, environmental education, and wildlife habitat. This park also houses the Muscatine Arboretum and the Old Barn.

Management restrictions: This area is within the city limits of Muscatine. There is no alcohol, hunting, or trapping allowed.

Existing facilities: Environmental Learning Center which includes the main Conservation offices, a maintenance shop, 3 reservable picnic shelters, nature themed playground, 1.5-miles of paved hiking/biking trail, 2-miles of mowed trail, 2 ponds, accessible fishing dock on Discovery Pond, fishing dock (without good access) on Heron Hideaway, wildlife viewing blind, outdoor raptor enclosure, 2 modern outdoor restrooms, 1 latrine, historic cemetery, Muscatine Arboretum, and the Old Barn.

Improvements this fiscal year: The Heron Hideaway dock was overhauled with new boards and support runner boards. The Raptor Mew's were completed with the help of the Carver Trust Grant. General maintenance including weeding of flower beds, mowing, spraying, hazard tree removal, and invasive species removal was conducted.

Planned Improvements: In FY27, we would like to do some crack sealing in the asphalt and increase accessibility.

Documented use: This is by far our busiest park. There are walkers, joggers, and bicyclists on the trails daily. In addition, many field trips, public programs, and nature camps take place in the parks and there is a lot of traffic to our offices for paperwork and rentals. Although we do not count every person who enters the park, we do document guests to our programs and the ELC.

A total of 10 programs were held only in Discovery Park with a total attendance of 315 people. In total, there were 230 programs held between the ELC and Discovery Park with a total attendance of 3,156 people.

Picnic Shelters: Discovery Park has three reservable picnic shelters. Last year MCC began accepting online reservations through MyCountyParks.com. The shelters are popular for birthday parties, graduation parties, church services, and family reunions.



- Shelter DP 1 is the biggest, it is located near the Environmental Learning Center. It is rented for \$40. There was a total of 43 rentals.
- Shelter DP 2 is the shelter by the playground. It had 44 rentals at \$40/reservation.
- Shelter DP 3 is a small shelter near Discover Pond. It had 12 rentals at \$20/reservation.

Environmental Learning Center

The Environmental Learning Center at Discovery Park is a 10,500 square foot facility.

Date Acquired: July 20, 2005

Current management: The ELC has dual purpose. First and foremost, it is a state-of-the-art interpretive center. Exhibits interpret our natural history, habitats, and wildlife. It is also the location for the MCC offices.

Learning Center Hours: Monday – Friday from 8:00 am – 4:30 pm; Saturday & Sunday from noon - 4:00 pm. Closed most holidays.

Featured Exhibits: Two 1,200-gallon aquariums with native fish; natural history exhibits featuring the change in habitats and wildlife in Iowa; live animal ambassadors who help teach environmental education; outdoor live raptor exhibit; over 100 mounted animals; an old hunting/trapping shack; Kids' exploration area; book nook; and several interactive displays.

Existing facilities: Conservation offices; exhibit space; public restrooms; large classroom with center divider; access to all the amenities in Discovery Park.

Improvements this fiscal year: The Environmental Learning Center underwent quite a few improvements during FY25 so there weren't as many improvements needed during FY26. One new feature is a giant morel mushroom that sits in front of the building donated as a memorial.



Planned Improvements: Staff have started talking about some major improvements to the ELC and display updates.

Documented Use: The ELC (alone) was the site of 49 environmental education programs for 915 people. An additional 230 programs were held between the ELC and Discovery Park for 3,156 participants. This includes school field trips and groups who have sessions both indoors and out.

There was a total of 5,641 people who visited the ELC on their own, not as part of an organized program.



Twenty-nine (29) groups reserved the Classroom at the ELC for meetings during FY26 with an estimate of 480 people in attendance. Eight of those groups were charged and paid a total of \$340. We do not charge for other county offices, or conservation groups to utilize the classroom.



5. Shield Prairie - 81 acres

Location: From HWY 22, go 2 miles north on Seven Springs Rd

911 Address: 1825 Seven Springs Road, Muscatine, IA

Dates Acquired: This area is owned by the Iowa DNR and managed by Muscatine County Conservation. The DNR purchased the land from Dorothy M. Shield in 1985 for \$65,000 using non-game funding. The current agreement is good through December 31, 2036.

Management restrictions: A management plan was created covering fiscal years 2023-2036.

Current management: Management objectives for this area are to maintain diversity and integrity of the remnant prairie. To promote wildlife diversity and sustainability and to protect ornate box turtles, a SGCN species found on site. During Bee Surveys Conservation staff also found a Rusty Patch Bumblebee in August 2026.

Existing facilities: There is a small parking lot in the SW corner of 7 Springs Road.

Improvements this fiscal year: None.

Planned Improvements: We are going to apply for a Wildlife Diversity Program grant to purchase herbicides to help control woody invasive species and pay for some mowing of the woody invasives after the herbicide has a chance to work. Krenite for a bud inhibitor, and Milestone or Transline to treat black locust stumps. We would also like to establish prescribed fire burn breaks for burning.

Documented use: None – this area is open to the public and used when we are not present. There were not any public programs held at Shield Prairie this year. The Naturalist had bat survey equipment on the site again this year to assist with bat research being conducted by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and conducted bee surveys on the site.



6. Richardson Wildlife Area – 77 Acres

Location: From 231st, go south on Echo Avenue 4 miles, turn right on 260th and go half a mile. 5.5-miles NW of Letts, Iowa.

911 Address: 1344 260th Street, Letts, IA

Date Acquired: 1997 the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation purchased the property for Muscatine County Conservation with the idea we would raise funds to purchase it back from them. A wildlife habitat stamp grant was applied for in May 1997 to purchase the property. It was approved and a funding agreement in place in 1998. The Wildlife Habitat Stamp Fund grant was successful to cover 75% of the costs. On June 9, 1999 – the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation transferred the property to Muscatine County Conservation.

Management Restrictions: This area was purchased with a combination of Wildlife Habitat Stamp Funds (\$22,500) and funding from Pheasants Forever (\$7,500), for a total purchase price of \$30,000 and must remain open to public hunting.

Current management: This area is managed for wildlife habitat. It has a farm number from FSA Farm #131. There is an agreement with the nearby property owner for a food plot on the tillable acres. The board works to maintain habitat, reduce invasive species, and promote native plants and wildlife.

Existing facilities: There is a cable parking lot, with a gravel base. We maintain a mowed hiking trail down to the creek. There is a low water crossing that is accessible during some water levels but needs work to get equipment across.



Improvements this fiscal year: Normal maintenance and spraying of invasive species. The food plot is being cash rented by Bob Sywassink.

Planned Improvements: We would like to do work on the low water crossing so that we are able to get equipment to the other side of the creek for management and to work on filling in some holes where an old gully was.

Documented use: None – no public programs were held at Richardson. We have several people who utilize the area for hunting, but do not have documentation.



7. Gedney Lake – 18 acres

Location: 1-mile west of the Cedar River on 231st Street (G28)

911 Address: 1302 231st Street, Conesville, IA

Date Acquired: On November 1, 1967, the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors granted management control of the Gedney Lake Area, including the old road east of the bridge to the Conservation Board for use as a fishing access area.

Restricted Use: This area received a Marine Fuel Tax grant to install a concrete boat landing in 1981. The grant covered half the cost \$2,652 x 2. Then in 1999 a WRAC grant was secured to armor the shore, place a picnic table and two trees (\$1,417 grant)

Current management: This area is a nice picnic spot, it provides boat access for Gedney Lake, and is a fishing area.

Existing facilities: The old bridge still spans $\frac{3}{4}$ of the lake. The public can picnic or sit on the bridge to enjoy the area. There is also a boat landing and parking area that can be used for launching boats or fishing from the shore.

Improvements this fiscal year: Normal maintenance of mowing, spraying, and weed eating as needed.

Inundation: When the Cedar River floods, the boat landing and lower parking area go under water. The bridge is high enough to avoid flooding.



Planned Improvements: This area could potentially use more rock, especially after any high-water events.

Documented use for this area: None

8. McKeown Bridge River Access – 7 acres

Location: West side of Cedar River bridge on 231st (G28); about 6.5-miles west of Muscatine.

911 Address: 1399 231st Street, Conesville, IA

Date Acquired: The County purchased this ground on December 31, 1968 from Jane McKeown. Eventually, management of the site was turned over to Muscatine County Conservation to build the boat access. The ramp was extended in 1982 and rip rap added for streambank stabilization in 1987.

Management Restrictions: None

Current Management: The area is used as a boat access to the Cedar River or for fishing from shore. We actively keep the access open from trees, debris, and mow as needed.

Existing facilities: Gravel parking lot.

Improvements this fiscal year: None

Planned Improvements: Habitat work, continued rock and grading, keep an eye on rip rap and vegetation.

Documented Use: The Conesville Fire Department utilized the boat landing for their annual catfish tournament fundraiser. The number of participants is unknown.



9. Jack Shuger Memorial Park - 4 acres

Location: Driving north through Moscow on X54, turn left (west) onto Cedar St. The Park is at the end of the Street.

911 Address: 1515 Cedar Street, Moscow, IA

Date Acquired: April 20, 1967 (boat landing) & October 2, 1967 (park)

Management Restrictions: A Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) Grant was used to acquire 1.5 acres; create access roads and the parking lot; build the boat ramp, shelter house, latrine, picnic facilities, and improve the water system. Playground equipment is included in the LAWCON stuff, although it was funding with a big capital campaign and numerous donations.

Current management: Maintained access to the Cedar River for boat launch and fishing.

Existing facilities: Reservable picnic shelter, modern playground (built May 2001), restrooms, basketball court, stairs down to the boat landing, boat landing (boat landing moved upstream and redone in 1995 with the help of a WRAC grant), and a bench.

Improvements this fiscal year: Heavy rain required blading of the road down to the boat landing a couple times. We have a mowing agreement for Jack Shuger with Bob Peck.

Planned Improvements: Continue to maintain the area and keep it a great place for people to go.

Documented Use: The shelter at Jack Shuger was reserved 6 times with approximately \$150 in user fees collected.



10. Nye Cemetery – 1 acre

Location: One mile north of HWY 22 on Wildcat Den Road

911 Address: 1915 Wildcat Den Road, Muscatine, IA

Date Acquired: July 22, 1988

Current management: This one-acre pioneer cemetery is the final resting place for Benjamin Nye, the first settler in Muscatine County.

Management Restrictions:

Managed as a pioneer cemetery.

Existing facilities: There is a small parking lot in the North. There are also multiple headstones.

The Cemetery is near the Pine Creek Grist Mill, which was built and operated by Benjamin Nye in the 1840's. It has been restored to operating condition and is able to grind various grains.

Improvements this fiscal year:

We have a mowing agreement with Bob Peck to keep the area mowed. He does a great job keeping the area looking its best. Some trees along the fenceline came down that had to be cut up and removed.

Planned Improvements: Some of the parking lot posts are beginning to decay, they will need to be replaced in the future.



11. Deep Lakes Park – 440 acres

Location: From HWY 61, turn onto Dick Drake Way, go straight to Stewart Road, turn right, go to Pettibone Ave and turn left. Deep Lakes is about a mile down on your right.

Main Access (Beach, Cabins, & Boat Ramp): 2552 Pettibone Ave., Muscatine, IA

Cabins: 1,2,3,4 Lakeview Cabin Rd., Muscatine

Campground: 2488 41st St, Muscatine

Lake Jewell (parking lot and boat landing): 2443 57th Street, Muscatine

Island Lake (parking lot): 2531 Stewart Road, Muscatine

Ray's Pond (parking lot, maintenance shed, small gazebo shelter): 2480 41st Street, Muscatine

Belle's Pond (parking lot, & future campground): 2488 41st St, Muscatine

Lake Chester (North Parking Lot): 2514 41st St., Muscatine

Dates Acquired:

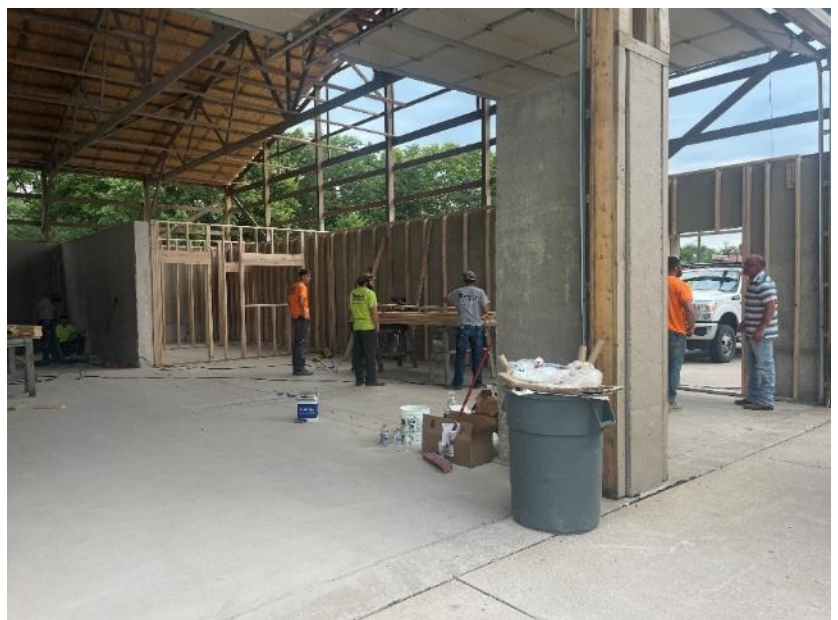
- December 20, 2012 – 398 acres donated from WG Block Co. (valued at \$2,381,500)
- January 8, 2013 - 36 acres donated from WG Block Co. (valued at \$207,500)
- December 29, 2023 - 1 acre purchased from John & Tammy Ramirez for \$184,457.41
- October 23, 2025 – 5-acres purchased from Twin City Concrete with two large buildings. One is 50' x 200'; the other is 60' x 80'. Purchase price was \$400,000.



Existing facilities:

- 120-acres of clear deep-water lakes; numerous small lakes and ponds
- Several parking lots
- Public restrooms at the Beach/Boat Access on Lake Chester and at the old maintenance shop off 41st & Stewart Road
- Porta pots at Jewell Lake & the parking lot heading back toward the cabins
- Boat access & docks on Lake Chester & Jewel Lake
- Accessible fishing dock on Lake Chester
- Swimming beach
- 1.4-miles of paved biking trail
- 4 reservable cabins
- *New* Deep Lakes Campground with 22 full hook-up sites officially opened April 15, 2026.
- *New* Deep Lakes Disc Golf Course with 18 holes under construction at the end of FY26 to be opened in FY27.
- *New* Deep Lakes Maintenance Shop under construction at the end of FY25 to be completed in FY27.

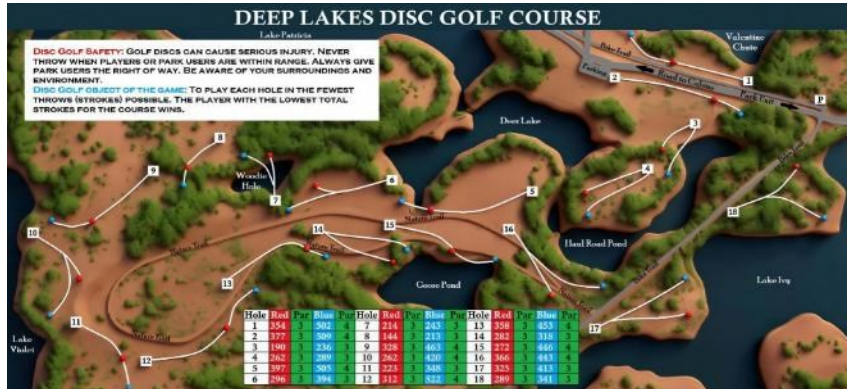
Current management: For outdoor recreation including camping, cabin stays, fishing, paddling, swimming (beach ONLY), bike trail with connection to the Greater Muscatine Trail System, environmental education, and soon will include Disc Golf.



Deep Lakes Park FY26 Improvements:

Deep Lakes Campground – the campground was completed and open starting April 15, 2026. (See the next page!)

Deep Lakes Disc Golf Course - At the end of FY26 the Deep Lakes Disc Golf Course is about 85% constructed. Most of the tee pads are finished, and baskets are installed. Construction is expected to be finished, and the course officially opens in FY27. Work remaining to be done includes more brush removal, ordering and installing course signage and advertising the course.



Deep Lakes Maintenance Shop – Plans were approved and construction began for a new Maintenance Shop to be located at 2570 Pettibone Ave, Muscatine. The 60' x 80' building was chosen to be renovated to meet staff needs. Two bays are being finished to include a restroom, office space, and shop space in a temperature-controlled environment. The other three bays will be used for cold storage. At the end of FY26 work was about 75% complete.

Osprey Nest Platforms – At the end of FY26 two nesting platforms have been built by staff. We are awaiting REC to deliver 2 30' telephone poles for them to be mounted on and MPW has agreed to install them once they are ready. One will be placed between Lake Ivy and the bike trail, the other will be mounted along the bike trail, north of the cabins between Chester and Patricia.

Planned Improvements for FY27 & beyond:

- Completion of the Disc Golf Course
- Completion and move into the Maintenance Shop
- Picnic Shelter at the Main Access
- Work on getting 41st street and the beach parking lot hard-surfaced **Documented use:**

Environmental Education – there were a total of 7 programs held at Deep Lakes Park with 177 participants. Louisa County Conservation brought a group of about 20 vision impaired nature campers to view the Environmental Learning Center again and then went to Deep Lakes Park to swim at the beach and paddle for the rest of the day.



Deep Lakes Park Cabin Reservations:

The cabins at Deep Lakes Park were rented by 140 groups (a 31% increase) with a total revenue of \$54,248.29. Each of these groups stayed at least 2 nights (required), many of them stayed longer.

There was a total of 332 nights full in the cabins during FY26. Cabin 4 was the most popular with 113 nights full, and Cabin 2 the second most popular with 90 nights full. (see table below)

Cabins 1 & 3 have one bedroom and sleep a maximum of 4 people.

- In FY26 the cost was \$134/night from April -October and \$109/night from November-March.

Cabins 2 & 4 have two bedrooms and accommodate a maximum of 8 people. We find that these cabins are rented most often.

- In FY26 the cost was \$149/night from April – October and \$124/night from November – March.

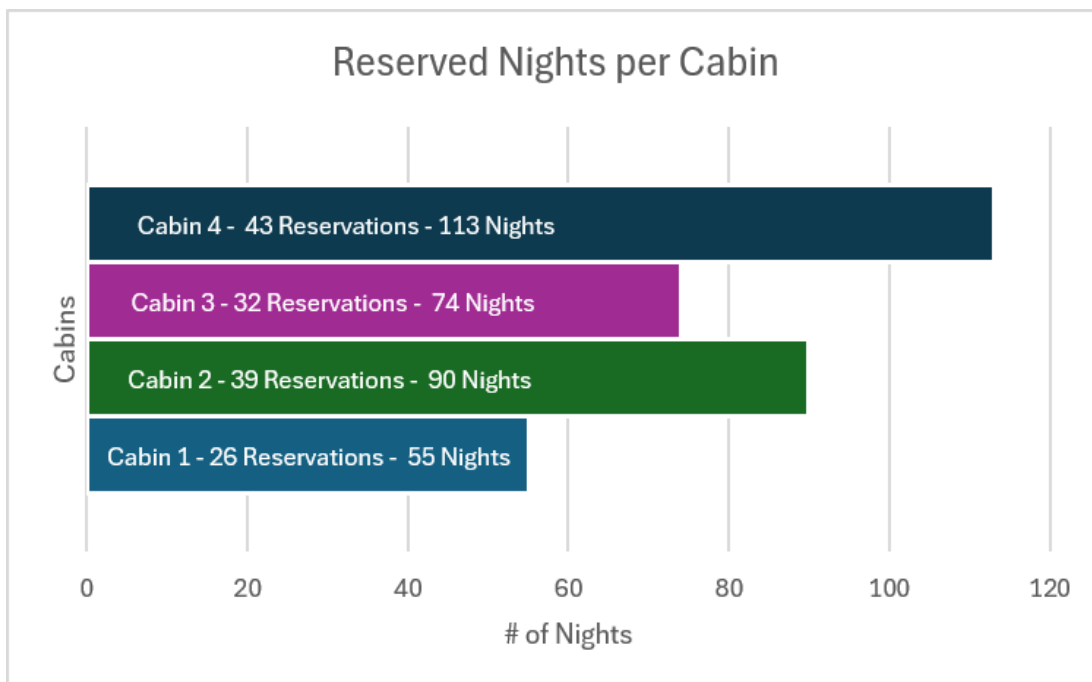
Cabin Rentals During FY26

Cabin 1 – 26 reservations – 55 nights full

Cabin 2 – 39 reservations – 90 nights full

Cabin 3 – 32 reservations – 74 nights full

Cabin 4 – 43 reservations – 113 nights full



Deep Lakes Park Campground

The Conservation Board opened the Deep Lakes Park Campground on April 15, 2026. This new full-hook-up campground is complete with septic, water, and 20-30-50-amp electric at each site. There is a Huffcutt shower house with 4 family style restrooms each with toilet, sink, and shower. The roadway is asphalt with concrete camp pads (Approximately 13' x 85') and an adjacent gravel picnic pad (13' x 85'). Sites 1-11 are back-in, sites 12-22 are pull-through.

Camping fees were set at \$40/site/night with free Wednesdays as the only promotional item.

In February 2026 the Board began accepting online reservations



for the DLP Campground using

MyCountyParks.com. Guests can make reservations at least 3 days in advance to use the online reservation system. Sites are also available on a first-come, first-served basis on a 1–2-day basis for sites not already reserved online. Rangers place bright colored reservation slips in the camp pedestals to help guest see availability.

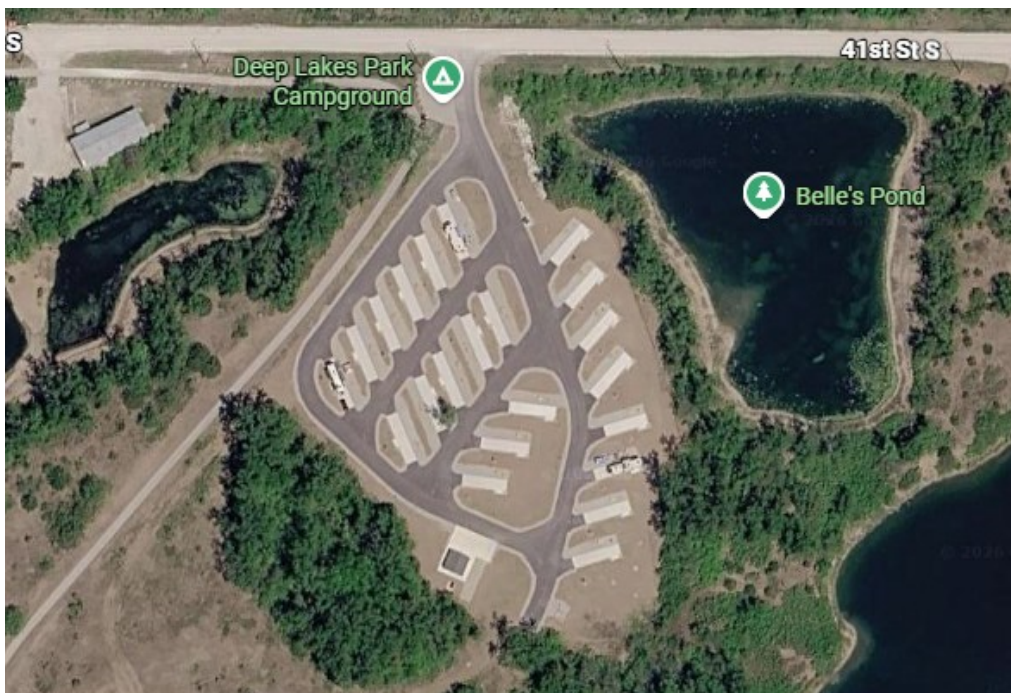
Firewood is provided by an outside vendor who provides 10% of proceeds to the County.

The DLP Campground wasn't officially open until April 15, 2026. FY26 data is only for half the regular camping season due to the opening date.

Doug and Bobbie Bunn were the camp hosts for the first season. They occupied campsite #22, helped to keep the facilities stocked and cleaned, and assisted campers.

FY26 Revenue was \$21,302.04 with a total of 730 overnight reservations.

Online reservations accounted for \$18,982.04 in revenue and 655 nights of camping. In-person, day of camping accounted for 75 camping nights and a revenue of \$2,320 at Deep Lakes Park.



Publicity and Marketing

Muscatine County Conservation Newsletter

- The Environmental Education staff work cooperatively with the Office Manager to edit, design, write, and distribute two issues of the “Conservation News” Newsletter each year.
- It includes programs and special events, a donation form for the Friends of Muscatine County Conservation, a fun page for kids, and information about our parks and wildlife areas.
- The newsletter is offered online and via email. Approximately 998 subscribers receive the newsletter in the mail while another 564+ receive it via email. An extra stack of 100 is typically placed on the counter at the ELC and guests pick them up as desired or they are passed out at programs. The newsletter is available to view or download at <https://www.muscatinecountyia.gov/conservation/news/>

Websites

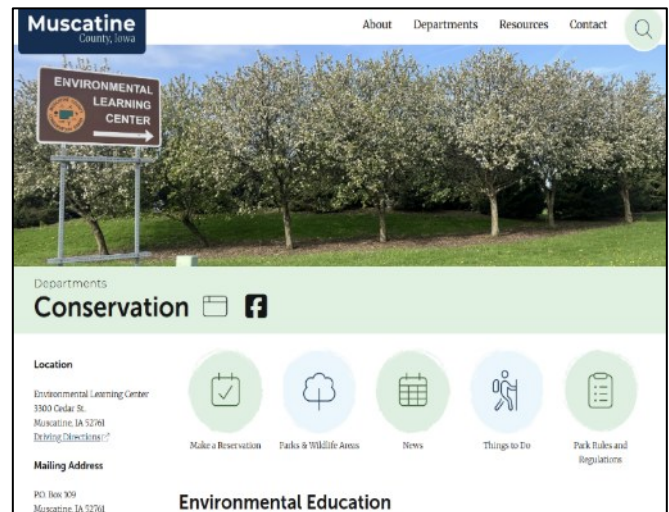
In FY26 Muscatine County received a new website and Conservation decided to utilize the same website as the rest of the county. The new website is:
<https://www.muscatinecountyia.gov/conservation>.

To make it as easy as possible for people to find us, we kept the domain

[MuscatineCountyConservation.com](https://www.muscatinecountyia.gov/conservation).

Office staff have access to update and add information to the website. It is our priority to keep this website up-to-date and current with events and information.

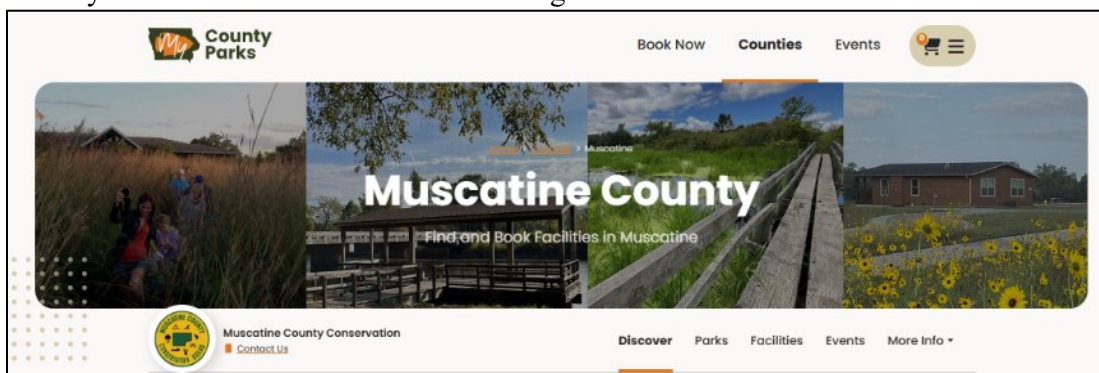
The website includes information about all of our areas, activities, events and education, news, job opportunities, and volunteer announcements.



[MyCountyParks.com](https://www.muscatinecountyia.gov/conservation) – this website is managed by Iowa’s County Conservation Systems (ICCS) and represents all 99 County Conservation Boards in Iowa.

Muscatine County Conservation has chosen to use this website for online reservations for cabins, camping, shelters and other reservations.

In FY26 the Deep Lakes Park Campground was added to the list of items reservable online. Online reservations have been a huge hit. We exceeded our revenue predictions and have found people enjoy the ability to see availability and make reservations in the evening when our office is closed.



Job announcements are always posted on MCP because it is the premier posting location for all County Conservation jobs and where people go to find them.

News Releases & Media

- As requested, radio and television interviews are conducted.
- Events are advertised on Facebook, the website, in our newsletter, flyers, and some in-house advertising.

Muscatine County Conservation Facebook Page

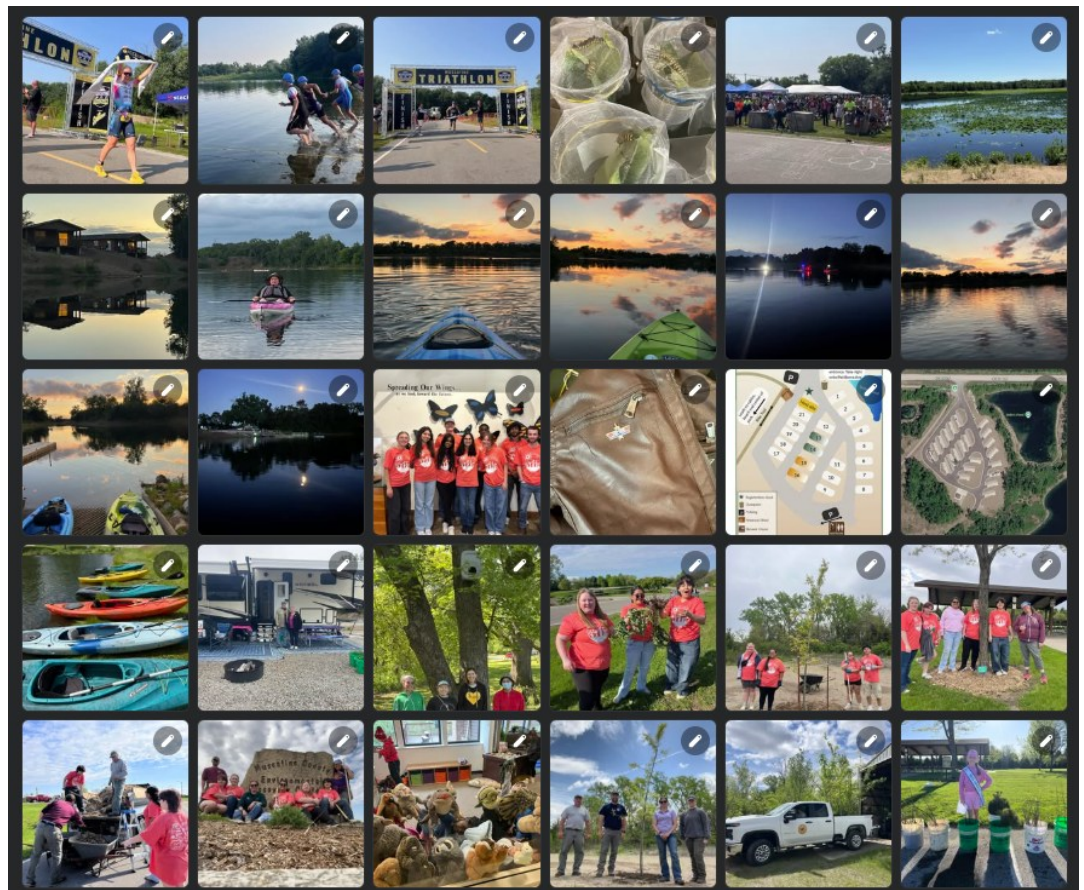
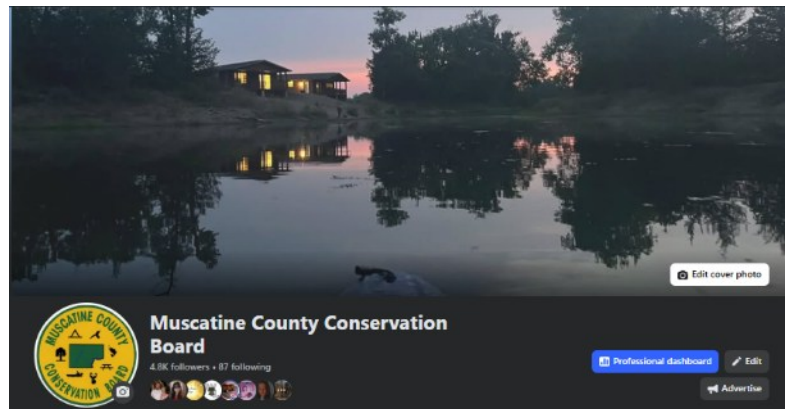
Muscatine County Conservation maintains a Facebook page titled, “Muscatine County Conservation Board.” It is used to advertise programs and events, share photos, and communicate with the public. Facebook continues to be a good way to reach people and advertise programs, camps, and other events.

We currently have 5,547 people who “follow” our page. Throughout the fiscal year we had a reach of 695,273 people in total through Facebook.

The posts with the most reach in FY26 was a post on July 29, 2025 getting 13,156 views about having Monarch Caterpillars that people could take home to watch grown and then take home. It has been a very popular program and really gets people excited about Monarchs and other pollinators.

Other popular posts included posts about the Muscatine Triathlon with 9,984 views and another with 8,525 views.

Videos and pictures that include our live animal ambassadors continue to be very popular.



Environmental Education

The goal of Muscatine County Conservation's environmental education (EE) program is to promote stewardship through various programs and events on conservation, recreation, and natural resources education. Naturalists provide a diversity of programs to a variety of audiences ranging from toddlers to senior citizens with school field trips, public programs, summer nature camps, and civic groups.

The Board maintains two full-time, permanent Naturalists to provide high quality, award winning Environmental Education programs in the County. In a typical year we also hire two externs to help with programming and an animal caretaker to help with feeding the live animals as well as cleaning cages and aquariums. In FY26 a Naturalist Intern position was also approved.

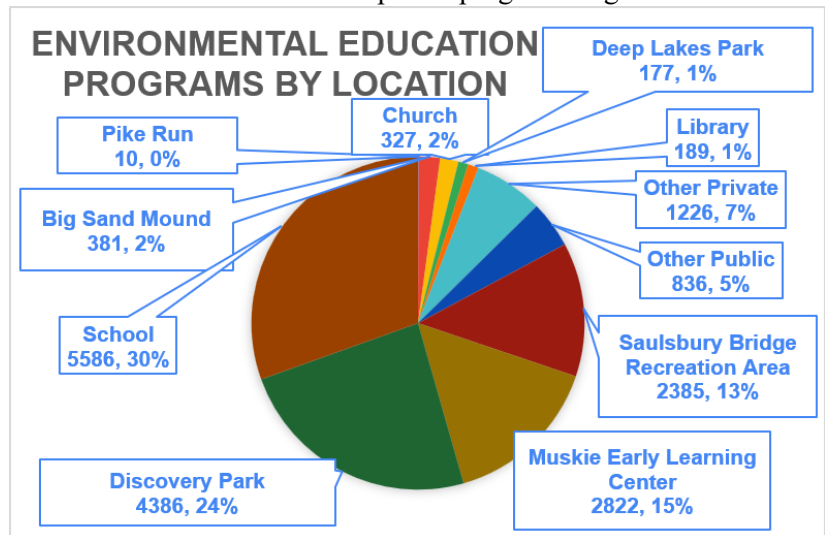
A total of 903 environmental education programs (groups) were held in FY26, with a total of 18,325 people in attendance.

Thirty percent (30%) of our Environmental Education programs took place in the schools serving 5,586 students and another 24% took place at Discovery Park and the Environmental Learning Center with 4,386 people in attendance.

Programs at The Muskie Learning Center (MELC) account for the location for 15% of our programming or 2,822 students.

Thirteen percent (13%) of our EE efforts took place at Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area with 2,385 participants. Staff also held programs at Deep Lakes Park (177 participants) and Pike Run (10 guests).

We saw every K-5th grade student at least once, and sometimes multiple times during the school year because of a unique partnership with SPARK and AIM (Aligned Impact Muscatine.)

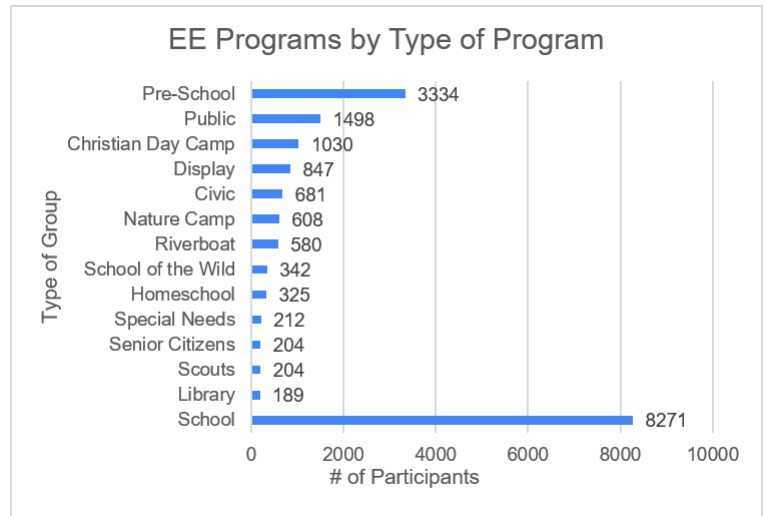


Types of Programming -

Environmental Education in schools is by far the biggest group of people/students that we educated. There were 433 programs held with school groups, with a total of 8,271 students in attendance. There were an additional 200 pre-school programs held with a total of 3,334 students in attendance. Eighteen (18) homeschool programs were also presented with 325 students.

Types of Public Programs

- **Civic/Private** – Programs given to civic or private groups, that are not open to the general public. This year 681 participants attended 33 such programs.
- **Nature Camps** – A total of 608 youth attended 43 nature camp programs throughout the fiscal year.
- **Public Programs** – 1,498 people attended 31 public programs that are open to the public. The biggest Public Programs were the Halloween Hike Drive Thru at Saulsbury (600), 20th Anniversary Celebration (175), Andy Hartsock Memorial Fishing Clinic and Derby (158), and Big Sand Mound Field Day (102).
- **Display** – There were a total of 847 people who visited display booths that included live animals and environmental education at 8 events.
- **Library Programs** - 189 people attended 16 programs provided in conjunction with our local libraries.
- **Riverboats** – 580 riverboat travelers toured the Environmental Learning Center and learned about Raptors in 14 groups.



Ambassador Animals

This group of working reptiles, amphibians, and raptors help teach EE. These critters visit and teach thousands of people/students every year, traveling in and out of schools, parks, and libraries to promote conservation.

Raptors

- Nadie the Barred Owl
- Skipper the Red-Tailed Hawk

Snakes

- Louie & Vincent - Speckled Kingsnakes
- Kajika the Fox Snake
- Scarlet the Corn Snake

Turtles

- Sheldon the Soft-Shell Turtle
- Mr. B & Marty - both Blanding Turtles
- Murtle the Painted Turtle
- Timmy the Red-Eared Slider
- TT & Jezebelle both 3-Toed Box Turtles (not native)

Amphibians

- Xyrus the American Toad



Grants Received in FY26

Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust – In FY25 A \$100,505 grant was received to redesign the aquatic life support system for the two 1,200-gallon fish aquariums and to add the aquatic turtles to the same system. The grant also provided new enclosures and enrichment materials for the snakes and new turtle tanks. At the end of FY26 all of the projects are finished, and grant funds have been spent.

Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership – A grant was received to cover half the cost of new ballistic vests for the three park rangers. The total cost of the vests was \$2,643.03 with \$1,209.16 being reimbursed.

Cooperative Programs and Agreements

- A. **Iowa Department of Natural Resources** – An agreement continues for management and development of Shield Prairie. Discussions are underway to apply for a wildlife habitat grant to help manage the area.
- B. **Muscatine County Conservation Foundation** – The Board continues to work with the MCC Foundation for fundraising and grant writing as needed. Visitors donate to the Foundation through the Newsletter or donation box in the Environmental Learning Center. New this year, the Foundation revised their bylaws to include “outdoor recreation” in the list of things they do and support.
- C. **Iowa’s County Conservation Systems (ICCS)** – Muscatine County Conservation continues to work with ICCS on a variety of projects including the MyCountyParks.com website, legislative priorities, trainings and more.

Projects Planned for FY27

Environmental Learning Center

- Begin discussions about an upgrade for the kid’s area of the ELC potentially with some furniture and new games and activities.
- Install MOTUS antenna for tracking birds, bats, and insects

Deep Lakes Park

- **Campground** – Continue to plant trees in the Campground to provide shade for visitors.
- **Maintenance Shop** – Completion of the Maintenance Shop that started in FY26.
- **Picnic Shelter** – Build a picnic shelter near the beach area at Deep Lakes Park.
- **Deep Lakes Disc Golf Course** - The local Disc Golf players will finish the Disc Golf Course during FY27.
- **Osprey Nest Platforms** – Install the Osprey Nest Platforms

Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area

- Replace the vault restrooms at Chicken Creek.
- **Saulsbury Lodge** – Gather estimates and work on plans to renovate the Saulsbury Lodge. It is in need of new siding and windows, fireplace insert, indoor flooring, and a nice indoor painting job.

Other Top Priorities - Large Projects

Deep Lakes Park

- Install a picnic shelter
- Continue trail connections
- Expand the cabin area
- Continue to host and support the Muscatine Triathlon
- Install 2 Osprey Platforms

Shield Prairie

- Habitat management – forestry mow, spray, & burn

Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area

- Lodge improvements
- Remove old shelter by river campground, potentially rebuild?
- Replace restroom by Chicken Creek
- Habitat work

Discovery Park

- Continue improving sidewalk connections
- Replace foot bridge on creek (mowed) trail
- Landscaping/weeding control

Environmental Learning Center

- Maintain geothermal
- Traveling displays
- Add or change up displays, add stuff to kids' exploration area
- Install MOTUS Antenna



Richardson Wildlife Area

- Fix low water crossing to the other side of the creek
- Fill in gully area where former owner had old equipment and holes are visible

Pike Run

- Updates and repairs to the boardwalk

Approved by the Muscatine County Conservation Board on **Monday, September 21, 2026.**

Julie Jindrich, Chair

Katie Hammond, Director

Attachments

- A – Administrative and General Basic Expenses
- B – Revenue
- C – Conservation Reserve / REAP / Equipment Reserve

Attachment A – FY26 Expenditure Report

General Basic Expenditures

Administration

Director & Office Manager Salaries	\$ 161,653.85
Uniform Allowance	\$ 800.00
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 1,200.00
FICA	\$ 12,177.31
IPERS	\$ 15,358.78
Health Insurance - Admin	\$ 28,295.34
Annuity	\$ 6,000.00

\$ 225,485.28

Conservation Board	\$ 439.51
Office Supplies	\$ 767.69
Uniforms	\$ 619.60
Postage/Mailing	\$ 1,251.86
Telephone	\$ -
Tuition/Registration	\$ 705.00
Meals & Lodging	\$ 1,071.60
Dues/Memberships	\$ 2,600.00

\$ 7,455.26

Maintenance & Operations

Salaries (Maintenance/Rangers)	\$ 271,789.15
Uniform	\$ 1,800.00
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 2,400.00
Salaries (Part time - Cabin Custodian)	\$ 4,854.00
Salaries (Part Time - Maintenance)	\$ 31,125.56
Sick Pay Reimbursement	\$ 2,774.55
FICA	\$ 24,053.46
IPERS	\$ 25,699.98
Health Insurance - Admin	\$ 28,453.26
Annuity	\$ 12,000.00

\$ 404,949.96

Fertilizer/Seed/Herbicides	\$ 805.53
Construction/Maintenance Supplies	\$ 3,578.47
Road Rock/Rip Rap/Dirt	\$ 645.38
Custodial Supplies	\$ 7,395.62
Fuels	\$ 13,909.41
Equipment and hand tools	\$ 5,035.94
Safety/Protective Equipment	\$ 4,877.08
Drainage District Taxes	\$ 2,650.00
Temp Help (Camp Host/Project Mgr.)	\$ 4,790.00
Tuition/Registration	\$ 1,270.00
Meals & Lodging	\$ 660.07
Utilities	\$ 2,762.82



Electric - SB House & Shower House	\$ 1,025.55
Electric - SB Campground	\$ 3,013.71
Electric - SB Service Building	\$ 1,462.90
Electric - Chicken Creek	\$ 710.80
Electric - Boat Ramp	\$ 567.51
Electric - Jack Shuger	\$ 382.60
Electric - Deep Lakes Park - Cabins	\$ 3,511.09
Electric - Deep Lakes Park - Shop	\$ 918.30
Electric - Deep Lakes Park - Campground	\$ 502.38
Electric - Saulsbury	\$ 2,660.84
Electric - Environmental Learning Center	\$ 18,973.58
Well Sampling / Service	\$ 326.00
Water Conditioner - SBRA	\$ 99.72
Vehicle Maintenance/Repair	\$ 4,246.68
Building Maintenance /Repair	\$ 23,228.34
Equipment Maintenance/ Repair	\$ 7,672.51
Rental Machinery	\$ 920.00
Waste Disposal Service	\$ 18,747.78
Hotel Motel Tax	\$ 2,885.70
Certification Costs ILEA	\$ -
Park Equipment	\$ 340.00

\$ 140,576.31

The Old Barn

Utilities	\$ 583.11
Building Maintenance /Repair	\$ 695.00
Waste Disposal Service	\$ -

\$ 1,278.11

Recreation Services

Salaries (Environmental Education)	\$ 122,773.86
Uniform	\$ 800.00
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 1,200.00
Salaries (Animal Caretaker)	\$ 8,250.27
FICA	\$ 9,407.03
IPERS	\$ 12,000.15
Health Insurance - Admin	\$ 27,403.17
Annuity	\$ 6,000.00

\$ 187,834.48

Animal Feed	\$ 5,563.10
Recreational Supplies	\$ 8,869.55
Collections/ Displays	\$ -
Publications/Notices	\$ 4,329.79
Tuition/Registration	\$ 795.00
Meals & Lodging	\$ 38.67

\$ 19,596.11

Total Cons Gen Basic & Gen Supp \$ 987,175.51

Attachment B – FY26 Revenue

Financial Report - Revenue

REAP Revenue		\$ 22,996.41
Revenue	\$ 17,879.00	
Interest	\$ 5,117.41	
Recreation Revenue		\$ 122,057.17
Camping Fees	\$ 41,267.38	
Firewood	\$ 1,994.10	
Program Fees	\$ 10,555.00	
Canoe & Kayak	\$ 1,929.74	
Other Recreation Fees	\$ 849.99	
Saulsbury Lodge	\$ 9,347.45	
Classroom Rentals	\$ 440.00	
Picnic Shelters	\$ 4,213.37	
Cabins	\$ 51,460.14	
Federal Grants & Entitlement (28XX)		\$ -
State Grants & Reimbursements (26XX & 27XX)		\$ -
Rent (61XX)		\$ 2,050.00
Richardson Land Rent	\$ 2,050.00	
Conservation Donations (81XX)		\$ 20,915.89
Donations (81XX)	\$ 20,915.89	
Other Conservation Receipts		\$ 4,397.15
Hotel Motel Tax	\$ 2,788.15	
Sales/Fuel Tax Refunds	\$ 714.00	
Handgun Purchase asst.	\$ -	
Boat Titles	\$ 895.00	
Total Revenue		\$ 172,416.62



Attachment C – FY26 Conservation Reserve / Land Acquisition

Conservation Reserve (Land Acquisition) *		
Starting Balance on 7/1/2025	\$	375,735.31
Revenue		
Camping Fees	\$	41,267.38
Fire Wood	\$	1,994.10
Program Fees	\$	10,555.00
Canoe & Kayak Rentals	\$	1,929.74
Other Recreation	\$	849.99
Land Rent (Richardson's)	\$	2,050.00
Cons Share - Boat titles	\$	895.00
Donations	\$	20,915.89
Rent Saulsbury Lodge	\$	9,347.45
Rent Learning Center Classroom	\$	440.00
Rent Picnic Shelters	\$	4,213.37
Rent Cabins at DLP	\$	51,460.14
Sales/Fuel Tax Refund	\$	714.00
State Grants	\$	-
Total Revenue	\$	146,632.06
Expenditures		
Capital Projects	\$	8,183.32
Deep Lakes Park	\$	99,412.58
Non-Capital Expenses	\$	18,338.34
Total Expenditures	\$	125,934.24
Ending Balance on 6/30/26	\$	396,433.13



FY 26 - Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)		
Starting Balance on 7/1/2025	\$	137,297.01
Revenue		
REAP FY26 Per Capita	\$	10,294.00
REAP FY26 Per County	\$	7,585.00
Interest on Income	\$	5,117.41
Total Income	\$	22,996.41
Expenditures		
Animal Caretaker Salary	\$	4,353.71
FICA	\$	332.79
Ipers	\$	410.86
REAP Capital Improvements	\$	-
Total Expenses	\$	5,097.36
Balance as of 6/30/2026	\$	155,196.06



FY 26 - Equipment Reserve		
Actual Amount	\$	53,269.07
Budget Amendment (Increase)	\$	40,000.00
Total Funding	\$	93,269.07
Expenditures		
2025 1550 JD Mower	\$	17,964.21
2026 Ford F-150 Truck	\$	33,859.00
Total Expenses	\$	51,823.21
Balance as of 6/30/2026	\$	41,445.86

**Iowa Code 350.6 states that "Upon request of the county conservation board, the board of supervisors shall establish a reserve for county conservation land acquisition and capital improvement projects. Money credited to the reserve shall remain in the reserve until expended for the projects upon warrants requisitioned by the county conservation board. This Conservation Reserve Account, also called "Land Acquisition" allows the gifts, contributions, and bequests of money, rent, licenses, fees, charges, and other revenues received by the county conservation board to be placed in this account to be carried over and used for land acquisition and capital improvements.*

Note: Some FY25 expenditures were reimbursed in FY26 and some FY26 expenditures will be reimbursed in FY27.