



MARSHALL COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2020
JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mike Stegmann, Director

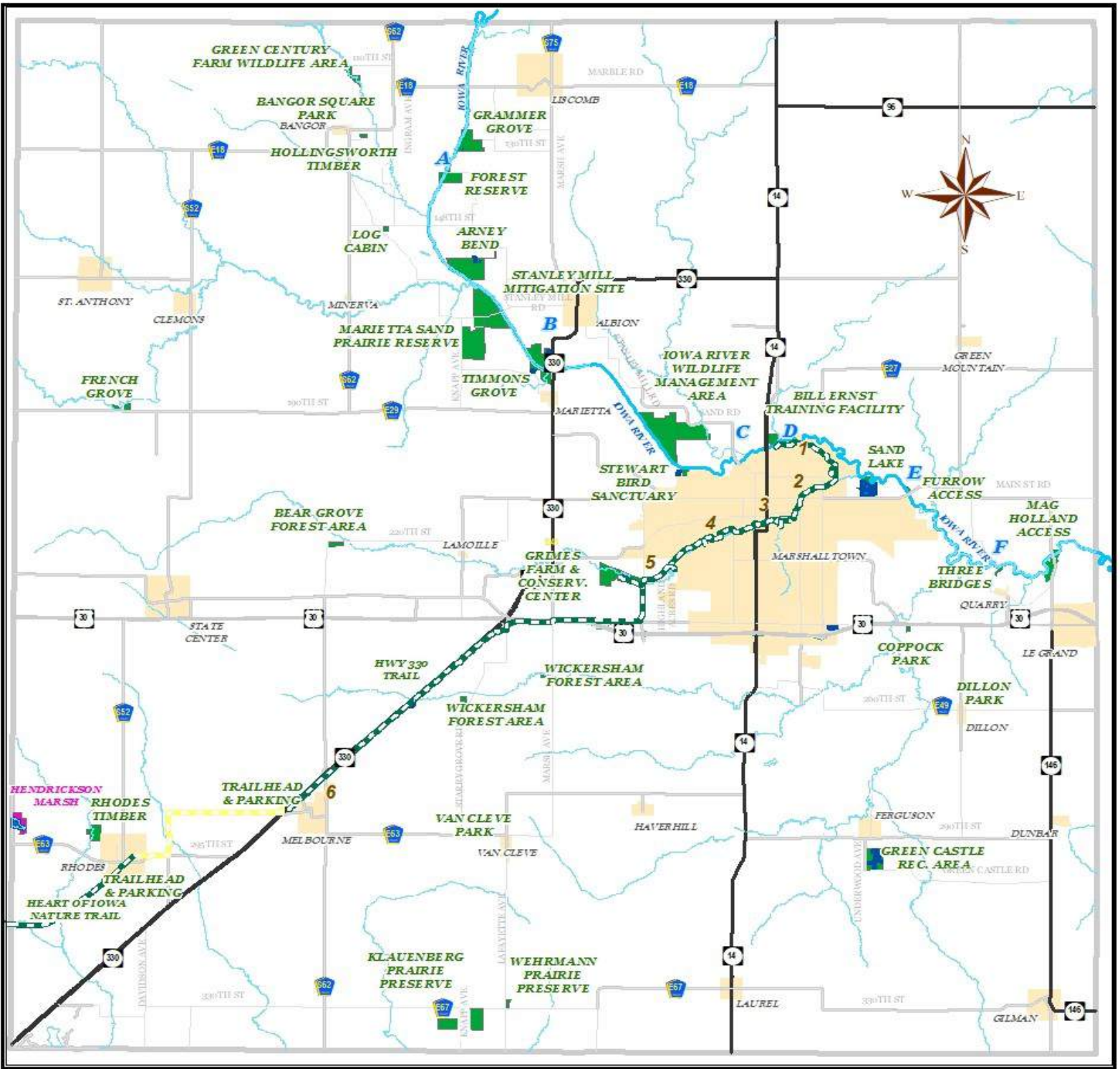
FY20 for the MCCB continued to bring updates and changes to many of the MCCB areas. Fiber optics service was installed to the Conservation Center. In response to increased use and volume during special events, undersized public parking areas at the Grimes Farm were increased. Increased use at the Grimes Farm also demanded expansion of the patio area that surrounds the amphitheater and was completed. The west silt basin at Green Castle was renovated with support from a grant awarded through the Iowa DNR Fish Habitat Fee program. This will now allow for additional fish rearing for stocking into the main lake. Shoreline armoring was also extended along the north shore at Sand Lake made possible through an IDNR Fish Habitat Grant. Many small work projects are completed annually by MCCB staff that may go unnoticed to park visitors. Vegetation management is a never ending battle with trees and shrubs that encroach into prairie management areas. This year, a great amount of time was spent at the Marietta Sand Prairie removing undesirable trees from the prairie areas. Smaller prairie areas were also reclaimed at Green Castle Recreation Area.

A gift of land was accepted from Harry Black of two acres consisting of a walnut tree planting. Harry had the forethought that when time comes for the trees to be of harvestable size that proceeds should benefit a conservation organization. The MCCB is grateful to Mr. Black for this gift to benefit the MCCB into the future.

Right in the midst of processing Maple syrup in March 2020, the Corona virus shut down how society functioned and the MCCB was not spared. This put a cancellation to in person MCCB programming including the Trees to Table Pancake breakfast usually held in March. Per order of the Governor of Iowa, the Conservation Center at the Grimes Farm, playgrounds and campgrounds were closed. Campgrounds reopened just in time for Memorial Day weekend however the Conservation Center remained closed through the remainder of FY20. However, parks and wildlife areas remained open and with lack of other community based activities available, the public sought out these areas to escape the stresses of quarantine. Throughout the pandemic, MCCB park use increased significantly in every area. It is estimated in some instances public use of parks saw better than triple normal use. MCCB EE summer camps were quickly modified to take home programs which didn't slow the response of the public. Virtual programs were and continue to be made and presented through venues such as YouTube and Facebook. The public has received and is appreciative of this Environmental Education shift to reach out and provide these services. Throughout the pandemic, annual and seasonal maintenance activities continued to be performed by staff who were able to keep at safe social distancing. These maintenance activities allowed for continued heavy use of parks and natural public lands in the county. The Iowa DRN proceeded with its urban trout stocking program at Sand Lake but with silent a release of no announced date or time in order to prevent large gatherings of people.

We would be remiss if we didn't pay special thanks to the many volunteers who assist with every facet of MCCB operations. Organized volunteer events and activities including Prairie Heritage Day, Trees to Table and numerous other programs require much more time than MCCB staff can provide. In addition to organized volunteer activities, many people help maintain areas by picking up trash left by others. To all those who help, thank you.

MCCB Areas



Acres					
1.	Arney Bend	203	14.	Hollingsworth Timber	6
2.	Bangor Square	1	15.	Iowa River Wildlife Management Area	485
3.	Bear Grove Forest Area	23	16.	Klaunenberg	240
4.	Bill Ernst Training Facility	33	17.	Mag Holland	80
5.	C.D. Coppock Park	10	18.	Marietta Sand Prairie	229
6.	Dillon Park	1	19.	Mormon Ridge Log Cabin	0.5
7.	Forest Reserve	85	20.	Rhodes Timber	60
8.	French Grove	28	21.	Sand Lake	95
9.	Furrow Access	6	22.	Stanley Mill	315
8.	Grammer Grove	121	23.	Stewart Bird Sanctuary	22
9.	Green Castle Recreation Area	116	24.	Three Bridges Park	13
10.	Green Century Farm	35	25.	Timmons Grove	216
11.	Grimes Farm	160	26.	Van Cleve Park	4
12.	Heart of Iowa Nature Trail	4.3 miles	27.	Wehrman Prairie	8
13.	Highway 330 Trail (American Discovery Trail)	9 miles	28.	Wickersham Forest Areas	<u>17</u>
			Total Acres:	2612.50	
			Total Miles of Trails	13.3 miles	

Facts and Figures

Environment Education

	PROGRAMS	PARTICIPANTS	PERCENTAGE
TYPE OF PROGRAM			
Civic	2	21	.5103%
Public	25	2221	53.9733%
Senior Citizens	2	43	1.0450%
Youth	29	779	18.8578%
Youth Nature Clubs/Day Camp	2	50	1.2151%
9-12 Grades	2	48	1.1665%
Kindergarten - 4th grades	10	424	10.3038%
5—8 grades	7	420	10.2066%
Preschool	2	112	2.7217%
TOTAL	81	4415	

* Due to COVID 19, all face to face public programming ceased in March, however educational Youtube videos were created

PROGRAM	INCOME	EXPENSES	NET
Zombie Run	\$2035.00	\$1275.19	\$759.81
Maple Syrup*	\$1630.00	\$1523.83	\$106.17
Prairie Heritage Day	\$372.66	\$331.93	\$40.93
Pancake Break-fast	Not held because of COVID19		
EE Programming	\$6,603.00	\$3,299.58	\$3,303.42
Photo Contest/Chili Supper	\$148.00	\$58.53	\$89.47

*Sales did not start until Summer due to the Nature Center being closed for COVID19



Youtube Video viewing:

Birds - 59
 (combined 2 video numbers)
 Wildflowers - 53
 Amphibians - 97
 Mammals - 67
 (combined 6 video numbers)

Total Number of Visitors to the Nature Center:

3,686
 Number of States
 Represented:
26
 Number of Countries
 Represented:
4

The Nature Center was closed, starting in March, due to COVID 19

Budget Revenue

RECEIPTS

Boat Titling Fees	\$ 470.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 10,077.89

REAP

Program Receipts	\$ 17,036.00
Investment Interest	\$ 1,534.10

TRUST

Camping Fees	\$ 5,270.00
Investment Interest	\$ 6,650.66
Land Rental	\$ 14,664.80
Rent—Klaunenberg Crop Ground	\$ 16,619.30
Rents	\$ 4,440.00
Misc. contributions/donations	\$100,305.46

B.KLAUENBERG—PRAIRIE EXP. TRUST

Investment Interest	\$ 6,511.73
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TOTAL REVENUE **\$183,579.94**

Grants and Donations

GRANTS

Outdoor Recreation Grant	\$ 5,000.00
Iowa DNR Fish Habitat Grant	\$33,840.00
Iowa DNR Fish Habitat Grant	\$20,569.48

GRANT MATCH

Izaak Walton League	\$ 500.00
Pheasants Forever	\$ 2,500.00
TriCounty Bass	\$ 100.00

DONATIONS

David Roe Memorial	\$ 1,335.00
Friends of Marshall County	\$ 500.00



Reservable Facilities

CONSERVATION CENTER CLASSROOM

Number of Rentals: 11	Revenue: \$ 2,300.00
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LEONARD GRIMES MEMORIAL AMPHITHEATER

Number of Rentals: 3	Revenue: \$1,050.00
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GRIMES FARM SHELTER*

Number of Rentals: 2	Revenue: \$ 110.00
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GANDER LOOKOUT AT GREEN CASTLE RECREATION AREA

Number of Rentals: 16	Revenue: \$ 1,330.00
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*Reservable or on a first come/first serve basis



Camping



TIMMONS GROVE

Campsites rented: 157 sites	Revenue: \$5040.00
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GRAMMER GROVE

Campsites rented: 14 sites	Revenue \$ 230.00
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Approximately 443 campers visited both campgrounds

Budget Expenses

ADMINISTRATION

Salaries—Officers	\$55,429.92
Salaries—Deputies/Assistants	\$199,185.97
Overtime	\$144.43
Office Supplies	\$1,759.17
Wearing Apparel/Co Emp	\$1,218.72
Environmental Ed Supplies	\$4,578.21
Official Pub/Advertising	\$100.00
Postage	\$1,432.88
Travel Expense	\$1,504.01
Communications Equip. Service	\$80,935.11
School of Instruction	\$1,315.00
Miscellaneous	\$2,009.33
Gas/Electric Utilities	\$4,876.62
Water	\$546.34
Law Enforcement Exp.	\$4,923.64
Vehicle Maintenance/Repairs	\$2,294.06
Office Equipment—Maintenance	\$798.14
License/Fees	\$2,546.75
Equipment/Office Machines	\$3,039.32
Total	\$368,637.62

MAINTENANCE & OPERATION

Salaries—Other Help	\$18,342.26
Miscellaneous Supplies	\$1,212.29
Gas/Oil	\$10,167.80
Gas/Electric Supplies	\$8,405.69
Water	\$2,471.77
Equipment Maintenance	\$11,620.13
Misc. Repairs/Service	\$70,281.33
Sanitation Service	\$9,723.95
Credit Card Fees	\$407.59
Equipment/Office Machines	\$23,250.00
Total	\$155,882.81

GENERAL SUPPLEMENTAL

Emp Ben—FICA CO Share	\$19,143.63
Emp Ben—IPERS CO Share	\$24,284.22
Emp Ben—Health Ins CO Share	\$78,087.16
Emp Ben—Life Ins CO Share	\$167.56
Emp Ben—Dental CO Share	\$2,662.50
Emp Ben—Flex Adm CO Share	\$57.36
Emp Ben—LTD CO Share	\$354.87
Total	\$124,757.30

MAINTENANCE & OPERATION

Emp Ben—FICA CO Share	\$1,403.18
Emp Ben—IPERS CO Share	\$0.00
Total	\$1,403.18

REAP

Purchase	\$3,780.00
Total	\$3,780.00

CONS LAND ACQUISITION TRUST FD

Purchase	\$120,262.25
Total	\$120,262.25

B.KLAUENBERG-PRAIRIE EXP. TRUST

Misc. Repairs/Supplies	\$84.50
Gas/Electric Utilities	\$353.35
Water	\$255.84
Total	\$693.69



Annual Highlights

RECREATION ENHANCEMENT

- Serviced all equipment throughout year
- Hauled rock to repair roads in all parks
- Cut and chipped trees along trails and parks
- Supervised 3 summer aides
- Handled all other maintenance issues as they arose
- Invasive species removal at parks throughout year
- Fixed bridge at 3 Bridge
- Graded all park roads 2 times and repair as needed
- Sprayed along bike trail fence and rock
- Banded wood ducks
- Attended various meetings and Winterfest
- Built, checked and replaced wood duck boxes around county
- Built, checked, and replaced kestrel boxes
- Built barn owl nest boxes
- Burnt various area throughout parks
- Picked up trash in all parks throughout year
- Spray parking lots, bike trails, and around trees in all parks
- Stocked walleye fry Sand Lake and Green Castle
- Mowed all parks throughout year
- Mowed burn breaks in all areas 1 time
- Worked on planter and plant food plots at Iowa river area, Sand Prairie and Klauenberg
- Hand harvested seed
- Assisted with Naturalist programing
- Hauled rip rap to Sand Lake and Furrow
- Worked with eagle scouts and volunteers
- Stained decks, split rail fence, and playscape stations
- Maple syrup activities
- Respond edto injured wildlife calls as they arose
- Installed new signs at Green Castle and Nature Center
- Worked in playscape as needed
- Closed shelters and playgrounds and reopen
- Attended REAP meeting and REAP Congress
- Made improvements on Sugar Shack
- Prairie Heritage Day event and prep
- Zombie Run event and prep
- Opened up view from North Bay
- Cut volunteer trees at Sand Prairie
- Nature center improve dstorage and shelving
- Met with contractors throughout year
- Syphoned out West Silt pond for dam work

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

A countless number of times I have taught children how animals adapt to be able to survive. The 2020 fiscal year has been a year of adaptation for the Environmental Education program. The end of this year taught me how to adapt, as well as how to continue to improve the EE program for Marshall County Conservation. Here are a few of the highlights for the year:

- Worked with MICA to teach 670 at-risk kids how to fish, canoe, bird, geocache, and introduced them to Marshall County Parks.
- Provided my first overnight summer camp at the Izaak Walton League, very little sleep, but A LOT of fun.
- Held the first-ever very successful Zombie Run at the Grimes. Farm, we had many generous donors, 84 runners, and 76 Zombie Volunteers.
- We received a grant and donations to purchase enough kayaks to teach an entire class, 60 new fishing poles, a kayak trailer, and fishing supplies.
- We hosted/organized a field trip at the Grimes Farm for GMG K-6th Grade, in total 265 students.
- Before COVID-19 hit in early 2020, we were contacted to educate many new organizations and school groups including: BCLUW Schools (86), Miller Middle School TOP Group(375), St. Paul Preschool, Grandview Assisted Living Facility.
- Learned how to record and edit videos and provided programming via Facebook, YouTube, Google Meets.
- Created social distance programming including: Summer Camp Boxes, Bobcat University Family Activities, Craft Take and Makes



ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS CONT.

BOARD

- Approved the installation of fiber optics at the Nature Center at Grimes Farm.
- Approved concrete work to add additional seating in the Leonard Grimes Memorial Amphitheater.
- Allowed the Bottom Feeders to hold an after hours catfish tournament at Three Bridges County Park.
- Approved the non-ambulatory permit policy for MCCB Areas .
- Approved the submittal of a Fish Habitat Grant with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for armoring the shoreline at Sand Lake.
- Approved the submittal of a Fisheries Education Grant through the George H.W. Bush Vamos A Pescar Education Fund.
- Updated the conservation easement with Timberland Inc. and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for a large forest north of LeGrand. The new easement would prohibit the subdivision of the land.
- Approved the Iowa Wireless Amateur Radio Network (IWARN) to hold their 2020 Field Day at Grimes Farm.
- Approved the Fiscal Year 2021 budget requests.
- Approved the Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report.
- Approved the purchase of a new law enforcement radio.
- Approved the purchase of a new UTV/ATV from John Deere/Van Wall.
- Approved entering into an Iowa Department of Natural Resources Agreement for Fish Habitat Grant #20-03. This is a 90/10 cost share grant for armoring 700 feet of the shoreline at Sand Lake.
- Approved the MCCB bylaws.
- Accepted a land donation from Harry Black.
- Approved the purchase of playground equipment for Grammer Grove.
- Approved the construction of new steel shelter at Sand Lake Recreation Area.
- Approved the purchase park identification signage for the Iowa River Management Area and the Bill Ernst Outdoor Training Complex.
- Approved creation of parking lots for the Stanley Mill
- Approved the increase of camping fees at Timmons Grove.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Attended various trainings including: Shooting Qualifications shotgun and pistol, Force on Force, Professional Communication, Mental Health, Dependent Adult Abuse Reporting, DNR updates, ILEACP, Haz-Mat update, and Legal updates. Training hours were given by CCPOA and Sheriff's office.
- Patrolled parks and checked campers on regular basis and made various contacts when not on patrol. Checked hunting and fishing licenses in parks on numerous occasions while not on patrol. Dealt with problem campers and illegal dumping numerous times throughout the year. Assist Sheriff's Office with car accidents, missing persons, and abandoned property



Marshall County Conservation Established 1958

Staff

Mike Stegmann, Director
Tami Krough, Administrative Assistant
Emily Herring, Naturalist
Jeremiah Manken, Operations Supervisor/Park Ranger
Tyler Renze, Maintenance Technician
Olivia Vanderhart, Maintenance Technician

Seasonal Staff

Stacy Decoster, Summer Naturalist Assistant
Julie Stahl, Summer Maintenance Technician
Alan Naughton, Summer Maintenance Technician
Noah Winters, Summer Maintenance Technician
Alex Mandi, Summer Maintenance Technician

Conservation Board

Jeff Mathis
Ray Helland (served through April 2020)
Tom Mack
Pam Paone
Steve Armstrong
Rich Naughton (started April 2020)

Community Support

The Marshall County Conservation Board wishes to express special recognition and appreciation for the cooperation given by the following agencies and people. And many others too numerous to mention.

- Marshall County Board of Supervisors
- Marshall County Auditor and staff
- Marshall County Treasurer and staff
- Marshall County Engineer and staff
- Marshall County Attorney and staff
- Marshall County Recorder and staff
- Marshall County G.I.S and staff
- Marshall County Zoning
- Marshall County Sheriff and staff
- Marshall County Chapter of Izaak Walton League
- Community Foundation of Marshall County
- Marshall County Pheasants Forever
- Marshalltown Community YMCA
- Marshalltown Garden Club
- Area Education Agency 267
- Iowa Valley Continuing Education
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources: Wildlife & Fisheries, Law Enforcement, & Forestry Bureaus
- IDNR Resource Enhancement and Protection
- Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
- Iowa Department of Transportation
- Martha-Ellen Tye Foundation
- Times Republican Newspaper
- Enterprise Record – State Center
- K.F.J.B. Radio Station
- K.D.A.O. Radio Station
- K.Z.A.T Radio Station - Tama
- Marshall County Soil Conservation District
- Marshall County ISU Extension Service
- Central Iowa Ornithologists
- Marshall Town Center
- Marshalltown Park & Rec.
- Boy Scouts of America
- Central Iowa Fair
- Alliant Energy
- Consumers Energy
- Marshalltown CVB
- Marshalltown Community College McTV
- HyVee
- TriCounty Bass Club
- Marshall County Master Conservationists
- Marshall County Master Gardeners
- Garden Club of Marshall County
- Story County IRVM