



MARSHALL COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2021
JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mike Stegmann, Director

As if a tornado and global pandemic wasn't enough in our little corner of the world to disrupt normally scheduled work and general operations, a unique weather event called a Derecho ravaged not just Marshalltown but the entire county and much of Iowa on August 10, 2020. Unlike other wind and storm events that cause damage in smaller parts or sections of the county, each county park and wildlife area was drastically effected. Power outages and widespread vegetation damaged were the primary concerns for community safety. At each MCCB area, gates were closed and news releases sent alerting the public of park closures until clean up could be accomplished and the area was made safe for use again. The majority of clean up efforts were undertaken by MCCB staff working at high use park areas first. Structural damage was documented at several locations and the combination of FEMA and insurance covered a majority of those repairs. Some clean up and repairs will continue well into the future. This storm delayed multiple projects originally slated for completion in FY21. Included but not limited to construction of a day use shelter at Sand Lake and new playground equipment at Grammer Grove. The storm also put a halt to the previously growing maple syrup programming the MCCB had been doing.

The Board approved several improvements including work through IDNR Fish Habitat grants awarded for the last two sections of shoreline armoring at Sand Lake. A new day use shelter house was approved for Sand Lake as well as the purchase of new kayak launch for the dock for both Sand Lake and Green Castle. The Board reviewed the use policy and made modifications to allow for partial opening of the Conservation Center for public use with some relaxation on covid protocols beginning in FY22. Also noted was the preliminary steps for reconstruction of the suspension bridge at Three Bridges County Park that was destroyed by the Derecho.

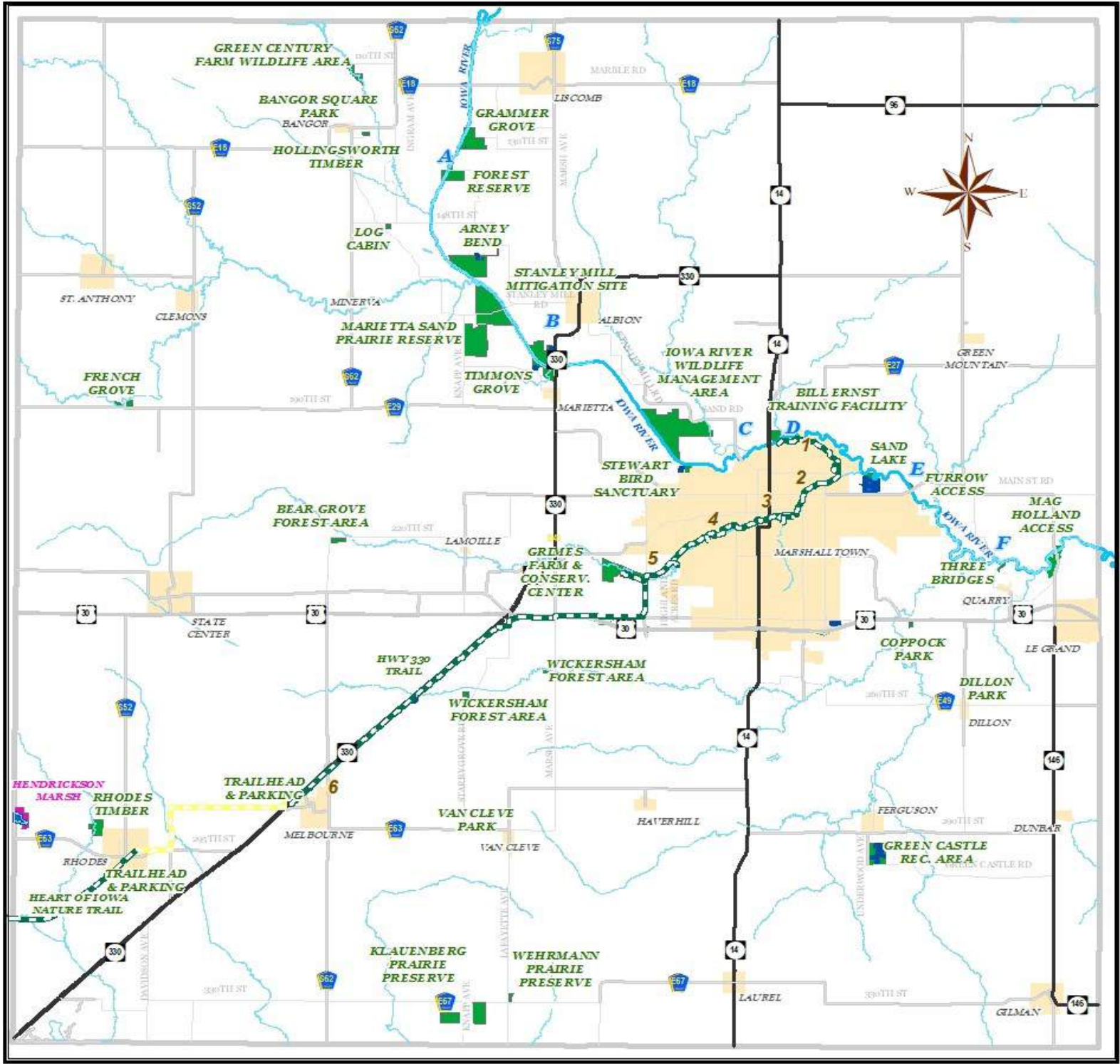
Improvements for Timmons Grove Campground were investigated with plans and preliminary cost estimates sought through Clapsaddle Garber and Associates for construction of a modern shower house. Site investigations and archaeological surveys were completed needed for the project. Fund raising for this project commenced in FY21 and will continue into FY22.

Equipment upgrades were made with the purchase of a forestry mower that will assist with not only regular forest maintenance activities but with long term Derecho cleanup. A drone with camera was purchased that will aid in maintenance planning, environmental education and promotional efforts. Additionally traffic counters were purchased and placed at the entrance to park to establish a base line for park use that will help with justification needs in securing funding.

FY21 welcomed Alan Naughton as MCCB Maintenance Technician. Alan worked for MCCB as a seasonal worker the previous four years and moved into the full time position allowing for a smooth transition.



MCCB Areas



ACRES

1. Arney Bend	203	10. Furrow Access	6	19. Marietta Sand Prairie	229	28. Wickersham Forest Area	17
2. Bangor Square	1	11. Grammer Grove	121	20. Mormon Ridge Log Cabin	0.5		
3. Bear Grove Forest Area	23	12. Green Castle Recreation Area	116	21. Rhodes Timber	60	Total Acres	2614.55
4. Bill Ernst Training Facility	33	13. Green Century Farm	35	22. Sand Lake	95		
5. Black Walnut Acres	2.05	14. Grimes Farm	160	23. Stewart Bird Sanctuary	22	Trails	
6. CD Coppock Park	10	15. Hollingsworth Timber	6	24. Three Bridges Park	13	Heart of Iowa Nature Trail	4.3 miles
7. Dillon Park	1	16. Iowa River Management Area	485	25. Timmons	216	Highway 330 Trail	9 miles
8. Forest Reserve	85	17. Klaunberg	240	26. Van Cleave	4		
9. French Grove	28	18. Mag Holland	80	27. Wehrmann Prairie	8		

Facts and Figures

Environment Education

Due to COVID 19, most programming during Fiscal Year 2021 happened virtually versus in person. Our Environmental Education department developed many video programs as well as make and take kits. When COVID restrictions were lifted, some programming was able to be held in person.



Youtube Videos

9 videos

Viewed by **128 people**



Facebook Live

24 Facebook Live Nature Story Hour

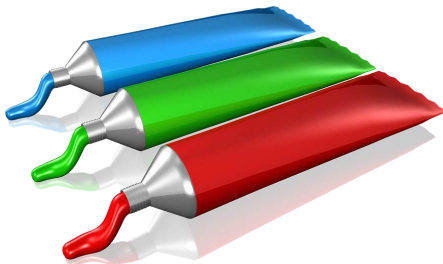
Reached **7615 people** with a **4020 views**



Zoom

2 Zoom meetings

Reached **408 preschoolers**



Make and Take Kits

12 Make and take kits offered

182 people participated

Included **54 families** with Summer Camp kits

In person

5 In person programs

Reached **254 persons**



Budget Revenue

RECEIPTS

Boat Titling Fees	\$ 785.00
Insurance Claim Reimb.	\$ 4,519.46
Miscellaneous	\$ 659.42
CARES act	\$ 4,500.67
Illegal Dumping to Co.	\$ 1,392.88

REAP

Program Receipts	\$ 16,894.00
Investment Interest	\$ 417..81

TRUST

Camping Fees	\$ 5,673.00
Investment Interest	\$ 1,959.66
Land Rental	\$ 10,658.43
Rent—Klaunberg Crop Ground	\$ 16,619.30
Rents	\$ 1,785.00
Misc. contributions/donations	\$228,758.59

B.KLAUENBERG—PRAIRIE EXP. TRUST

Investment Interest	\$ 1,488.15
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TOTAL REVENUE **\$296,075..37**

Grants and Donations

GRANTS

Iowa Department of Natural Resources Fish Habitat Grant	\$33,367.50
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DONATIONS

Friends of Marshall County Conservation	\$ 9,403.00
Nature Playscape	
Artis Wansley Estate	\$206,067.33
Friends of Marshall County Conservation	\$ 500.00
Summer Camp Boxes	



Reservable Facilities

CONSERVATION CENTER CLASSROOM*

Number of Rentals: 1 Revenue: \$ 200.00

LEONARD GRIMES MEMORIAL AMPHITHEATER*

Number of Rentals: 3 Revenue: \$1,050.00

GANDER LOOKOUT AT GREEN CASTLE RECREATION AREA*

Number of Rentals: 7 Revenue: \$ 530.00

* Due to COVID restrictions, reservations were limited



Camping



TIMMONS GROVE

Campsites rented: 143 sites Revenue: \$5332.00

GRAMMER GROVE

Campsites rented: 7 sites Revenue \$ 305.00

Approximately 412 campers visited both campgrounds

Budget Expenses

ADMINISTRATION

Salaries—Officers	\$60,550.04
Salaries—Deputies/Assistants	\$213,941.74
Overtime	\$22.51
Office Supplies	\$2,499.67
Wearing Apparel/Co Emp	\$2,002.96
Environmental Ed Supplies	\$4,234.20
Official Pub/Advertising	\$5.00
Postage	\$2,179.41
Travel Expense	\$0.00
Communications Equip. Service	\$17,675.56
School of Instruction	\$174.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,153.40
Gas/Electric Utilities	\$4,653.81
Water	\$323.81
Law Enforcement Exp.	\$0.00
Vehicle Maintenance/Repairs	\$16,861.18
Office Equipment—Maintenance	\$980.46
License/Fees	\$2,513.27
Equipment/Office Machines	\$2,357.11
Total	\$355,194.46

MAINTENANCE & OPERATION

Salaries—Other Help	\$18,884.13
Miscellaneous Supplies	\$1,037.53
Gas/Oil	\$8,576.71
Gas/Electric Supplies	\$7,599.49
Water	\$2,768.51
Equipment Maintenance	\$20,680.68
Misc. Repairs/Service	\$137,338.64
Sanitation Service	\$1,626.00
Credit Card Fees	\$617.51
Equipment/Office Machines	\$28,055.00
Total	\$238,184.20

GENERAL SUPPLEMENTAL

Emp Ben—FICA CO Share	\$20,739.84
Emp Ben—IPERS CO Share	\$25,833.81
Emp Ben—Health Ins CO Share	\$43,728.26
Emp Ben—Life Ins CO Share	\$167.56
Emp Ben—Dental CO Share	\$2,370.00
Emp Ben—Flex Adm CO Share	\$57.36
Emp Ben—LTD CO Share	\$384.97
Emp Ben - STD CO Share	\$1,316.39
Emp Ben—R-FHRA Admin	\$225.61
Total	\$94,823.80

MAINTENANCE & OPERATION

Emp Ben—FICA CO Share	\$1,444.66
Emp Ben—IPERS CO Share	\$0.00
Total	\$1,444.66

REAP

Purchase	\$1,372.00
Total	\$1,372.00

CONS LAND ACQUISTION TRUST FD

Purchase	\$99,098.78
Total	\$99,098.78

B.KLAUENBERG-PRAIRIE EXP. TRUST

Misc. Repairs/Supplies	\$0.00
Gas/Electric Utilities	\$122.06
Water	\$261.72
Total	\$383.78



Annual Highlights

RECREATION ENHANCEMENT

- Derecho clean up and burned brush piles.
- Serviced all equipment throughout year.
- Cut and chipped trees along trails and parks.
- Supervised summer aides.
- Handled all other maintenance issues as they arose.
- Invasive species removal at parks as timed allowed.
- Graded all park roads 1 times and repair as needed after storms.
- Attended various meetings and trainings.
- Built, checked and replaced wood duck boxes around county.
- Built, checked, and replaced kestrel boxes.
- Built Barn Owl boxes.
- Burnt various area throughout parks.
- Picked up trash in all parks throughout year.
- Sprayed parking lots, along bike trails, and around trees in all parks.
- Mowed all parks throughout year.
- Mowed burn breaks in all areas 2 times.
- Plowed snow as needed.
- Worked on planter and planted food plots at Iowa River area, Sand Prairie and Klauenberg.
- Assisted with Naturalist programing, videos and take and makes.
- Worked with eagle scouts and volunteers.
- Stained decks, split rail fence, and playscape stations.
- Responded to injured wildlife calls as they arose.
- Worked in playscape as needed.
- Cut volunteer trees at Sand Prairie.
- Meet with contractors throughout year.
- Armored shoreline at Green Castle.
- Replaced bridge at Timmons.
- Helped interview applicants for Technician position.
- Stocked perch in Green Castle.
- Walked and posted park boundaries.
- Installed new sign at Iowa River area.
- Took pictures for People in the Park.
- Installed trail and car counters in parks.
- Cleared willows from shoreline at Sand Lake.
- Cleaned and organized at center and shop.
- Burnt old house at Klauenberg.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Fiscal year 2021 challenge my creative abilities on how to provide programming safely during a pandemic. Many new skills were learned. Outreach to the public and schools forced me to think out of my box and outside my comfort zone. Here are a few highlights for the year.

- 2020 Summer Camps were held through Summer Camp Boxes, Facebook, and online videos. 58 youth participated in the camp boxes.
- For 2021 Summer Camps ,we adapted the camp to be completely outdoors and had multiple Covid mitigations strategies to prevent the spread of Covid
- We continued to work many different organization to provide programming to community members including: Marshalltown Library, MCTV, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Mid-Iowa Community Action, IDNR, Gutekunst Library, Chamber of Commerce, united Way, Governor's STEM Council, Noon Optimists.
- We expanded on out video editing skills and provided 27 educational videos including topic covering Marshall County Parks, Insect and Bird Identification, Woodworking for Wildlife, Leopold Benches, Wreath making and many more.
- We offered seven different family activity kits, created two new preschool/daycare kits for facilities to check out, and offered 24 Nature Story Hour programs via Facebook Live.
- We worked with the Friends of MCC to update their bylaws, recruit new members, and continue their growth through Live and Local programs— 2020 series was canceled however a virtual concert was held in June 2021.
- We recruited through the Day of Caring volunteers and started a renovation projects for the much loved Nature Playscape.
- We held school programs via Zoom and at the end of the school year hosted multiple field trips. However, because of Covid, I was not allowed in person at the schools.
- We encouraged the public to explore our parks through virtual events and activities like the Hiking Club, Virtual Trout Release, and Earth Day Clean up.

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS CONT.

BOARD

- Approved the expenditure for armoring the shoreline at Sand Lake.
- Allowed archery deer hunting only in MCCB refuge areas (Timmons South, Grimes Farm north of Linn Creek, Coppock Park, Grammer Grove, Wickersham West, French Grove, and Stewart Bird Sanctuary per City hunt regulations).
- Approved the expense of pouring a cement pad at Sand Lake for a new shelter house.
- Approved the purchase of outboard motor for the work boat.
- Approved the submittal of a Fish Habitat Grant to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for armoring the south shoreline at Sand Lake.
- Approved an archeological study at Timmons Grove South, area is where a potential shower house will be constructed.
- Approved engineering services from Clapsaddle-Garber Associates for the new shower house at Timmons Grove South.
- Entered into a new easement with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and Timberland Inc .
- Approved expenses for installation of a washer and dryer at the Nature Center.
- Approved the hiring of a new Maintenance Technician to replace one that had resigned.
- Reviewed and approved the MCCB Rules and Regulations.
- Approved the FY2020 Annual Report.
- Approved the Resolution on Acquisition or Development for Outdoor Recreation for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant for the Timmons Grove Shower house project.
- Approved the purchase of a drone for Environmental Education programming and promotional use.
- Approved the purchase of traffic counters.
- Approved the painting of the hallways, restrooms, and staff area at the Nature Center.
- Approved the purchase of 4 picnic tables for the Sand Lake shelter.
- Approved the expense for repairs to the Administration Building at the Fair Grounds due to derecho damage.
- Approved the purchase of a forestry mower.
- Approved the concrete work at the Nature Center to accommodate handicapped parking.

BOARD (continued)

- Approved the purchase of two ADA port a potties, one for Grammer Grove and one for Green Castle Recreation Area.
- Approved the purchase of wood fibers for the Nature Playscape and the Grammer Grove playground.
- Approved the purchase of two kayak launchers, one for Sand Lake and one for Green Castle Recreation Area.
- Approved the purchase of a culvert for Grammer Grove.
- Approved to order an appraisal to be completed by Hertz Appraisal Services for the land we have first right of refusal to purchase that lies adjacent to the west boundary of Sand Lake.
- Approved the hiring of Matt Husak to clean up tree damage from the dercho on the Heart of Iowa.
- Approved to enter into a contract with Clapsaddle-Garber Associates for engineering the suspension bridge at Three Bridges County Park. Fee for the services is \$5,000 and can be reimbursed at 75% by FEMA.
- Approved changes to the center use policy for the Nature Center and Amphitheater.
- Approved Fiscal Year 2022 salary increases.

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, Sheriff's office and online.
- 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. Patrol parks for firework use.

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
Alan Naughton, Maintenance Technician

Conservation Board

Tom Mack
Pam Paone
Steve Armstrong
Rich Naughton
Tom Deimerly

Seasonal Staff

Stacy Decoster, Summer Naturalist Assistant
Julie Stahl, Summer Maintenance Technician
Alan Naughton, Summer Maintenance Technician
Alex Mandi, Summer Maintenance Technician
Andrew Schaffer, Summer Extern
Monica Carroll, Summer Maintenance Technician
Aaron Eckley, Summer Maintenance Technician
Trevor Stamp, Summer Maintenance Technician
Mariah Bockes, Summer Maintenance Technician



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