

MARSHALL COUNTY CONSERVATION ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2023

JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

EMILY HERRING, DIRECTOR

Fiscal year 2023 saw many changes. In January 2023, I became director after Mike Stegmann retired after 19 years of service as a Marshall County Conservation director. Emma Bruck began as our new naturalist in March of 2023.

Another change during this year, was the acquisition of two new county areas. The first area, Mann Wetlands, 216 wetland and riparian area located adjacent to the Iowa River, was acquired in January. The purchase of this piece of property was possible due to receiving a REAP grant for \$953,000, donations from Pheasants Forever, National Turkey Federation, Artis and Red Wansley Estate, Friends of Marshall County Conservation, Marshalltown Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Russ Watt Memorial and children, Jim Dworzak, Dr. Wessel, Elanor Handorf Trust, Franklin E. Polley Memorials, Howard Stegmann Memorials, and other anonymous donors. This area will undergo wetland restoration and be planted to native seed in 2023.

The second addition, was Arti and Red's Pond a DOT borrow pond located just off Hwy 330 located south of Marshalltown and adjacent to the Hwy 330 Bike trail. Marshall County was given the opportunity to purchase this piece of land for \$48,000 before it went out to public auction. Using memorial funds from Artis (Arti) and Red Wansley, MCCB approved the purchase in June of 2023.



The pond is already stocked with Bluegill, Red-eared Sunfish, Largemouth Bass, and Crappie. Future plans for this area include fish docks, a maintained trail around the pond, and a small gravel boat ramp, which will be stocked by the Iowa DNR Catfish.

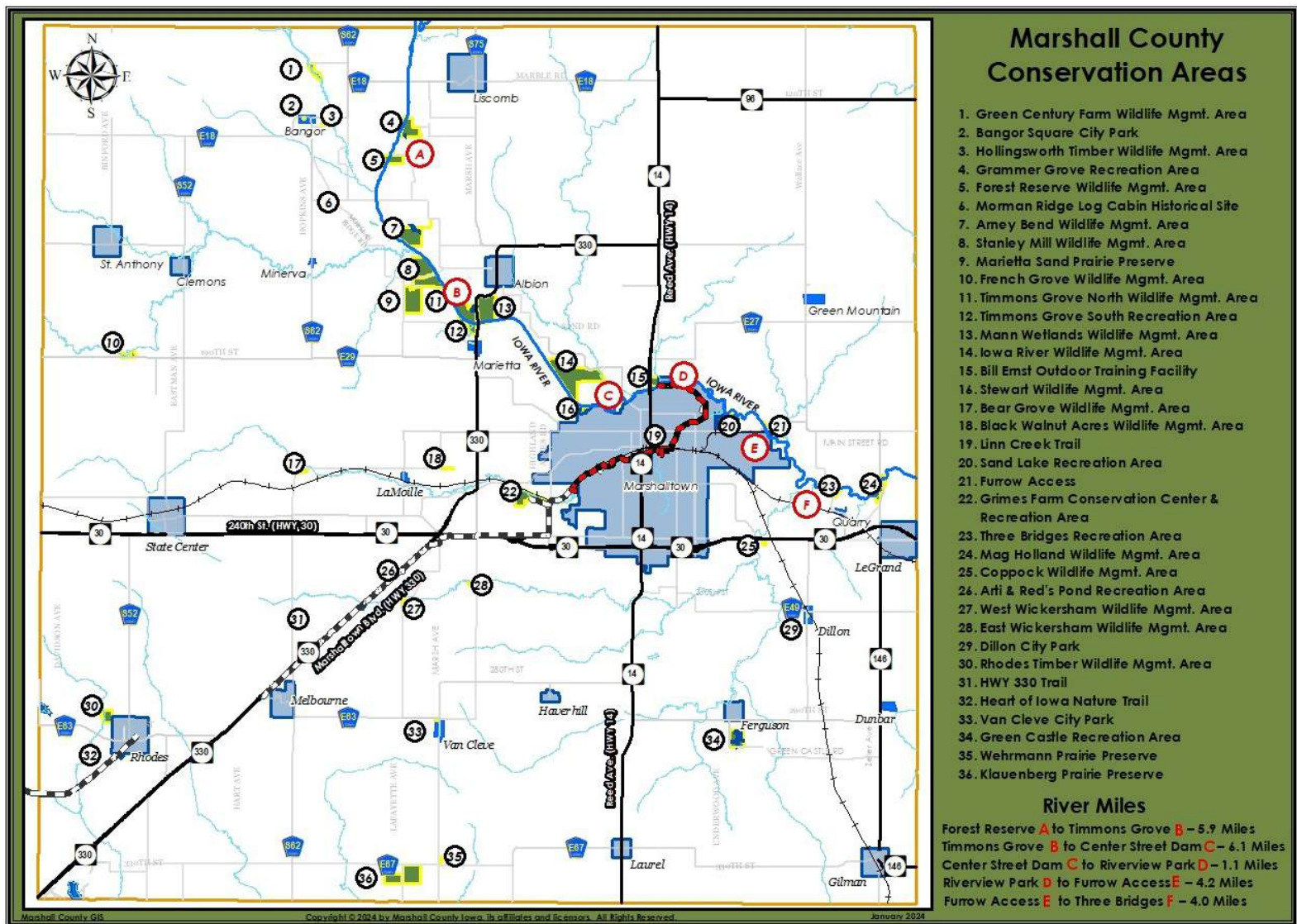
During this fiscal year, MCCB put out a bid for the construction of our first shower house, which will be located at Timmons Grove South Campground. A favorable bid came in and was accepted by the board. Construction for the shower house will begin early in FY 2024.

In May, Marshall County Conservation entered into an agreement with the Food Box to purchase for \$1 an open-air shelter located outside the food bank that was no longer being used. With the help of Ferneau Moving Company, the new shelter was moved to Sand Lake and was named by the public "Sunset Shelter." There will be electricity ran to the facility, a roof added, and stairs and a ramp installed to get the structure ready for public use.

During FY 2023, the Three Bridges Swinging Bridge, which was damaged by the derecho, was replaced with a new and improved swinging bridge. With this work, several hundred trees and shrubs were planted around the area. This project is still under review by FEMA, in hopes that the cost will be covered by disaster relief from the 2020 Derecho.

As FY 2023 comes to a close, we are looking forward to FY 2024 and the opportunity to acquire, develop, maintain and make available recreational and conservation areas for the public and wildlife.

MCCB AREAS



ACRES

1. Arney Bend	213	11. Furrow Access	6	21. Marietta Sand Prairie	228	31. Wickersham Forest Areas	16
2. Arti and Red's Pond	9	12. Grammer Grove	122	22. Mormon Ridge Log Cabin	1	Total Acres	2835.50
3. Bangor Square	2	13. Green Castle Recreation Area	116	23. Rhodes Timber	61	Trails	
4. Bear Grove Forest Area	22	14. Green Century Farm	34	24. Sand Lake	95	Heart of Iowa Nature Trail	4.miles
5. Bill Ernst Training Facility	33	15. Grimes Farm	162	25. Stanley Mill	319	Highway 330 Trail	11 miles
6. Black Walnut Acres	2	16. Hollingsworth Timber	6	26. Stewart Bird Sanctuary	22	Linn Creek	1.mile
7. CD Coppock Park	9	17. Iowa River Management Area	485	27. Three Bridges Park	13		
8. Dillon Park	.5	18. Klaenberg	240	28. Timmons	213		
9. Forest Reserve	85	19. Mag Holland	66	29. Van Cleve	3		
10. French Grove	28	20. Mann Wetlands	216	30. Wehrmann Prairie	8		

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FACTS AND FIGURES

Environment Education

TYPE OF PROGRAM	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS	PERCENTAGE
Youth Program	890	29	14.54%
School Program	1738	64	28.39%
Camp	171	10	2.79%
Family Program	1101	21	17.98%
Adult Program	583	16	9.52%
Concert	1550	4	25.32%
Hunter Safety	9	1	0.15%
Service Club	80	4	1.31%
Totals	6122	149	100%



REVENUE

BUDGET REVENUE

RECEIPTS

Boat Titling Fees	\$ 650.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 650.91

REAP

Program Receipts	\$ 16,092.00
Investment Interest	\$ 374.98

TRUST

Camping Fees	\$ 5,734.00
Misc State Grants & Reimb	\$ 897,122.64
Investment Interest	\$ 2,090.92
Land Rental	\$ 24,001.19
Rent—Klaunberg Crop Ground	\$ 28,120.06
Rents	\$ 13,053.00
Misc. contributions/donations	\$ 11,321.85

B.KLAUENBERG—PRAIRIE EXP. TRUST

Investment Interest	\$ 972.45
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TOTAL REVENUE \$1,000,184.00

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

Friends of Marshall County Conservation	
Electricity upgrade at Grimes Farm	\$7,500.00
Community Foundation of Marshalltown	
Green Castle Campground	\$20,000.00
James Dworzak Donation	\$25,000.00
Pheasants Forever	
Mann/Mount Property	\$39,000.00
David Perkins Donation	
Motus Equipment	\$ 5,000.00
REAP Grant	
Mann/Mount Property	\$893,000.00
Emerald Ash Borer Community Forestry Grant Program	\$ 4122.64

CAMPING

TIMMONS GROVE

Nights rented: 309 nights
Campers: 296 campers
Revenue: \$5539.00



GRAMMER GROVE

Nights rented: 40 nights
Campers: 47 campers
Revenue \$ 660.00



RESERVABLE FACILITIES



CONSERVATION CENTER CLASSROOM

Number of Rentals: 2 Revenue: \$ 600.00

LEONARD GRIMES MEMORIAL AMPHITHEATER

Number of Rentals: 6 Revenue: \$ 2,700.00

GANDER LOOKOUT AT GREEN CASTLE RECREATION AREA

Number of Rentals: 18 Revenue: \$ 1,650.00

GRIMES FARM SHELTER

Number of Rentals: 8 Revenue: \$ 250.00

EXPENSES

ADMINISTRATION

Salaries—Officers	78,411.46
Salaries—Deputies/Assistants	236,207.73
Overtime	16.86
Emp Ben-R-FHRA CO Share	4,153.54
Office Supplies	2,326.44
Wearing Apparel/Co Emp	1,757.80
Environmental Ed Supplies	5,051.46
Official Pub/Advertising	259.90
Postage	1,441.38
Travel Expense	1,544.00
Communications Equip. Service	16,345.27
School of Instruction	1,912.77
Miscellaneous	1,985.76
Gas/Electric Utilities	5,202.77
Water	445.20
Law Enforcement Exp.	183.80
Vehicle Maintenance/Repairs	5,840.60
Office Equipment—Maintenance	698.83
License/Fees	3,629.28
Equipment/Office Machines	2,413.97
<i>Total</i>	<i>369,828.82</i>

MAINTENANCE & OPERATION

Salaries—Other Help	22,761.61
Miscellaneous Supplies	2,106.80
Gas/Oil	16,734.49
Gas/Electric Supplies	9,666.54
Water	3,534.17
Equipment Maintenance	14,830.29
Misc. Repairs/Service	142,906.30
Sanitation Service	19,308.32
Credit Card Fees	730.56
Equipment/Office Machines	24,112.00
<i>Total</i>	<i>256,691.08</i>

GENERAL SUPPLEMENTAL

Emp Ben—FICA CO Share	23,915.27
Emp Ben—IPERS CO Share	29,484.13
Emp Ben—Health Ins CO Share	60,571.86
Emp Ben—Life Ins CO Share	187.61
Emp Ben—Dental CO Share	2,425.36
Emp Ben—Flex Adm CO Share	57.36
Emp Ben—LTD CO Share	425.12
Emp Ben - STD CO Share	1356.06
Emp Ben—R-FHRA Admin	300.44
<i>Total</i>	<i>118,723.21</i>

MAINTENANCE & OPERATION

Emp Ben—FICA CO Share	1,741.27
Emp Ben—IPERS CO Share	0
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,741.27</i>

REAP

Purchase	\$0.00
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>

CONS LAND ACQUISITION TRUST FD

Purchase	1,525,636.51
Grimes Farm to S75 Trail	1,939.00
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,527,575.51</i>

B.KLAUENBERG-PRAIRIE EXP. TRUST

Misc. Repairs/Supplies	0
Gas/Electric Utilities	0
Water	271.45
<i>Total</i>	<i>271.45</i>

TOTAL EXPENSES

2,274,831.34



ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

During the 2023 FY, Marshall County Conservation's Environmental Education program continues to grow through new and established programming. New programming this year included: wood-burnt charcuterie boards, Christmas bird count, West Marshall 5th and 6th grade field trip, and in-person visits to all Marshalltown preschool classrooms. Established programming included Nature Story Hour, Bobcat University fishing in conjunction with MICA, People in the Park, Zombie Run, Live and Local, Nocturnal Scavenger Hunt, Monarch Tagging, Junior Conservationist, XLP, and many more.

Programs, events, and areas were promoted through the quarterly newsletter Seasons, press releases to local news sources, monthly radio interviews, and social media posts including Facebook and Instagram. We also worked with the Marshalltown School District to place flyers for environmental educational events in student's digital backpack.

Other community engagement activities in the 2023 FY included multiple volunteers performing tasks such as zombie makeup artists and volunteers from East Marshall removing tree cages that had been protecting small trees from wildlife during establishment. Many of these projects would not have been accomplished without cooperation with many different agencies and organizations, including KDAO and KIX radio, Friends of Marshall County Conservation, MICA, MCCB Construction Class, Iowa DNR, United Way, Alliant Energy, Boy Scouts of America, Marshalltown Art Alliance, Trees Forever, Swift Greenhouse, AmeriCorp, Catholic Heart Work Camp, and countless volunteers.

In addition, in March we had Emma Bruck join the Marshall County staff as our Naturalist. With the transition of Emily Herring to Director at the beginning of 2023, environmental education programming continued seamlessly with new and established programming facilitated across the county.



ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS CONT.

MAINTENANCE

- Lowered Green Castle lake and apply chemical for weed removal.
- Prepped Timmons for shower house construction.
- Moved shelter to Sand Lake and started improvements.
- Fixed dock area at Sand Lake and reconfigured dock layout.
- Serviced all equipment throughout year.
- Cut and chipped trees along trails and parks.
- Cut and chipped ash trees in various areas.
- Supervised summer aides
- Handled all other maintenance issues as they arose.
- Invasive species removal at parks, as timed allowed.
- Graded all park roads 2 times and repaired as needed after storms.
- Attended various meetings and trainings including Winterfest, Prairie Conference, Safety Meetings and Invasive Weed Conference
- Built, checked and replaced Wood duck boxes around county.
- Built, checked, and replaced kestrel boxes.
- Prairie burns in various wildlife areas and 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.
- Planted food plots at Iowa River Area, Sand Prairie and Klauenberg.
- Assisted with Naturalist programing including MICA fishing, Kayaking events, build Charcuterie Boards, Zombie Run, and Pancake Feed
- Three Bridges bridge was rebuilt
- Removed tree cages from tree planting at center
- Cleaned and organized at center and shop.
- Tore down pit toilet at Van Cleave.
- Rebuilt trash bunks.
- Tore out old fences.

MAINTENANCE (Contiued)

- Meet with contractors throughout year.
- Watered and placed chicken wire on new tree plantings.
- Got new canoes and did canoe inventory.
- Mowed brush around Green Castle and clear hillside by observatory parking lot.
- Stained decks, split rail fence, and playscape stations.
- Responded to injured wildlife calls as they arose.
- Worked in playscape as needed.
- Stocked walleye in Green Castle and Sand Lake
- Worked with eagle scouts and volunteers.
- Mowed brush area at Iowa River Area.
- Walked and posted park boundaries as needed.
- Housed swans for Jackson County.
- People in the Park LEGO contest.
- Christmas Bird Count.
- Helped with Interviews for Naturalist.

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.
- Recovered stolen vehicle at Green Castle

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS CONT.

BOARD

- Approved use of the Leonard Grimes Memorial Amphitheater by the Marshalltown Community Theatre for the production of Sleepy Hollow.
- Approved the submittal of a REAP Grant for the Mann/Mount Acquisition.
- Approved a Waiver of Claims and Scuba Diving Permit for Sand Lake.
- Approved archery deer hunting only in MCCB Wildlife Refuge Areas.
- Accepted bid from Hay Construction for \$623,934.65 for the Timmons Grove Campground Improvements.
- Approved upgrading outside outlets on the west side of the Nature Center to 70 amp by Fiscus Electric for \$8,189.00.
- Approved the changing of the rental fee of the grass drill from \$10/acre to \$15/acre.
- Approved the archeological survey for Green Castle Campground by the University of Iowa.
- Approved the FY24 Budget Requests.
- Approved the expense of moving a donated shelter from the Emergency Food Box to Sand Lake by Ferneau & Sons Housing Moving Raisng, LLC not to exceed \$10,000.00.
- Approved the hiring of Emily Herring as Director of the Marshall County Conservation Board effective January 21, 2023.
- Approved the FY2022 Annual Report.
- Approved the hiring of Emma Bruck as Naturalist for Marshall County Conservation Board.
- Approved the purchase of 2 Gravely mowers.
- Approved the purchase of new Chevrolet Traverse and Dodge Ram.
- Approved the Clappsaddle Garber Associates Construction Phase for the Timmons Grove Campground Improvements.
- Approved the purchase of 2 picnic tables for Three Bridges County Park.
- Approved the hiring of 4 seasonal employees.
- Approved a stipend of \$2,000.00 for a summer extern.
- Accepted the Destination Iowa Grant of \$400,000.00 the Green Castle Campground Project.
- Approved the purchase of canoe trailer for \$2,200.00
- Approved the purchase of new kiosk for Timmons Grove Campground for \$4,158.85 plus shipping costs.

BOARD (continued)

- Approved the purchase of picnic table frames at a and fire rings for Timmons Grove Campground cost of \$5,900.00.
- Approved the cost of having concrete footings poured at Sand Lake for the shelter that was donated by Emergency Food Bank for \$4,875.00.
- Approved end of the year expenses of over \$2,000.00 at the discretion of staff as needed.
- Approved a 28E cooperation agreement with the Central Iowa Fair Board for the administration building located at the fairgrounds.
- Approved the expense of \$19,778.26 from Matt Husak for the creation of jetties on the Sand Lake south shoreline.
- Approved the purchase a parcel of land on Highway 330 from the Iowa Department of Transportation at a cost of \$48,000.00.
- Approved the FY2024 pay increases for staff.
- Approved moving gravel by Weidner Construction to Three Bridges County Park for repair of the steps on the trail at a cost not to exceed \$6,000.00.



VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all our volunteers! Volunteers help with tree planting, flowerbed maintenance, collating the newsletter, and much more.

- Aimee Deimerly-Snyder
- Allena Hupfeld
- Amelia Hutchinson
- Angela Corte-Curiel
- Annabel Turnbull
- Anthoneih Kopsa
- April Denton
- Aristeo Herrero
- Ashlyn Wilkens
- Aubrie Tejada
- Audrey Denton
- Ava Hendricks
- Avalyn Harper
- Bailey Grant
- Barry Gaarder
- Biana Cook
- Bill Carey
- Bob Backes
- Bob Dunham
- Bodie Hutchinson
- Bren Lee
- Brenda Smith
- Brian Krumm
- Bryer Cline
- Brynn Cawley
- Caleb Rasmussen
- Cargan Wright
- Carolyn Parry Weir
- Carrie Barr
- Carsen Snyder
- Carter Nunn
- Casee Veren
- Charlie Smith
- Charlotte McGinty
- Collins Grant
- Dale Greene
- Dana Keeling
- Delaney Ryan
- Dena Graff
- Dianne Freiboth
- Doni Sheldon
- Duane Perry
- Elle Schipper
- Erin Carpenter
- Erin Carpenter
- Evelyn DeCoster
- Everly Anenson
- Gary Fulton
- Gary Williams
- Grace Rasmussen
- Hunter Current
- Ian Meyer
- Ian Postel
- Irene Williams
- Isaac Benscoter
- Jack Mackin
- James Wenner
- Jasmine Johnson
- Jason Fifer
- Jason Strand
- Jeff Kooser
- Jessica Manken
- Jett Jansen
- Joan Studts
- Joel Phillips
- John Moellers
- Joyce Christenson
- Kandy Wittry
- Karen Bach
- Katelynn Hagen
- Kathy Sievers
- Katie Fink
- Kayann Lowry
- Kayer Kremer
- Ken Lyons
- Kerington O'Shea
- Kim Elder
- Kristi Cameron
- Kristin Stuchis
- Kyla Goecke
- Kyle Martin
- Larkin Fricke
- Leslie Rebelo
- Leticia Herrera
- Linda Mackin
- Lisa Naig
- Logan Howard
- Lucas Bantz
- Lucas Hagen
- Lydia Colwell
- Madilyn Manken
- Mallory Ostroski
- Marilyn Beard
- Marvis Drew
- McKenna Heisderffer
- Megan Hutchinson
- Merle Stubbs
- Micki Stanely
- Miller Heitmann
- Myles Goodman
- Nancy Gealow
- Nancy Seburn
- Nevia Brown
- Nicholas Wise
- Nicole Jenson
- Noon Kiwanis
- Parker Gooding
- Phil Rush
- Rachel Longstreet
- Randy Stubbs
- Riley Anderson
- Rob Christenson
- Roger Heatwole
- Sally Wilson
- Sharon Depew
- Shawn Denton
- Shelby Frohwein
- Shelly Applegate
- Sierra Johnson
- Stacey DeCoster
- Stefani Gutierrez
- Steve Mraz
- Steve Salasek
- Sue Cahill
- Susan Grabianowski
- Syndee Fredrigill
- Thalia Gallegos
- Theresa Walton
- Tina Nelson
- Tom Swartz
- Trinity Keeling
- Vanessa Engel
- Vania Madrigal
- Wyatt Stalzer
- Yessenia Alvarez Zamora

STAFF

Emily Herring, Director
Tami Krough, Administrative Assistant
Emma Bruck, Naturalist
Jeremiah Manken, Operations Supervisor/
Park Ranger
Tyler Renze, Maintenance Technician
Alan Naughton, Maintenance Technician

SEASONAL STAFF

Bill Carey, Summer Naturalist Assistant
Julie Stahl, Summer Maintenance Technician
Hunter Hughlette, Summer Field Intern
Ethan Meyer, Summer Field Intern
Wyatt Benson, Summer Field Intern
Danielle Shadlow, Summer Naturalist Extern

CONSERVATION BOARD

Tom Mack
Pam Paone
Steve Armstrong
Rich Naughton
Tom Deimerly

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
- Theisens
- Marshall County Soil Conservation District
- Marshall County ISU Extension Service
- Central Iowa Ornithologists
- Marshalltown Park & Rec.
- Boy Scouts of America
- Central Iowa Fair
- Alliant Energy
- Consumers Energy
- Marshall County Master Conservationists
- Marshall County Master Gardeners
- Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce
- Firehouse Aquatics
- Marshall County Arts and Culture Alliance