

MARSHALL COUNTY CONSERVATION ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2024

JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

EMILY HERRING, DIRECTOR

The fiscal year 2024 marked a year of change and growth for Marshall County Conservation. With the funds from the American Rescue Plan Act, MCC significantly improved county areas and facilities.

Timmons Grove Shower/Bathroom House was installed and completed by October 2023. The four-stall family-style structure was partially funded by ARPA dollars and by LAWCON funding. With the shower house, we installed two accessible campsites, a new kiosk, and a new sign. In addition, a grant was paid for planting over 60 trees throughout the campground and boat ramp.

The construction process of Green Castle Campground also began in FY 2024. The project was put out to bid in the fall of 2023, and construction began in the spring of 2024. This project's funding had multiple sources, but most came from ARPA and Destination Iowa Grant (ARPA Funds at the state level).

Another significant improvement that utilized ARPA funds was the replacement of the Geothermal Units at the Grimes Farm and Conservation Center.

Many other improvements have taken place utilizing outside funding sources and county funds. These include: Installation of fishing docks at Red and Arti's Pond – covered by reimbursement for the purchase of the property by a Fish Habitat Grant. Finished installation, roofing, and the running of electricity to the Sand Lake Shelter, Replacement and repair of the upper trail stairs at Three Bridges Recreation Area, Replacement of heating at the Grimes Farm House, The raising of concrete bridges near the Grimes Farm Conservation Area paid for by donations from the Iowa Valley Bicycle Club, The installation of the Motus Tower to monitor migrating birds, The addition of an electrical campsite at Timmons Grove Campground, and The establishment of a new access to Rhodes Timber Wildlife Area.

Marshall County Conservation acquired the west side of Sand Lake from the Howard Family. This portion of the property has long been given the first right of refusal to MCCB. This year, in October 2023, it was purchased using ARPA and Fish Habitat Grant funds.

MCC has also been blessed with volunteers who assist with projects throughout the areas. In FY 2024, we had 224 volunteers who gave us over 3,000 hours of their time! This included groups like Marshalltown Community College, which volunteered to repair the fishing piers at Sand Lake.

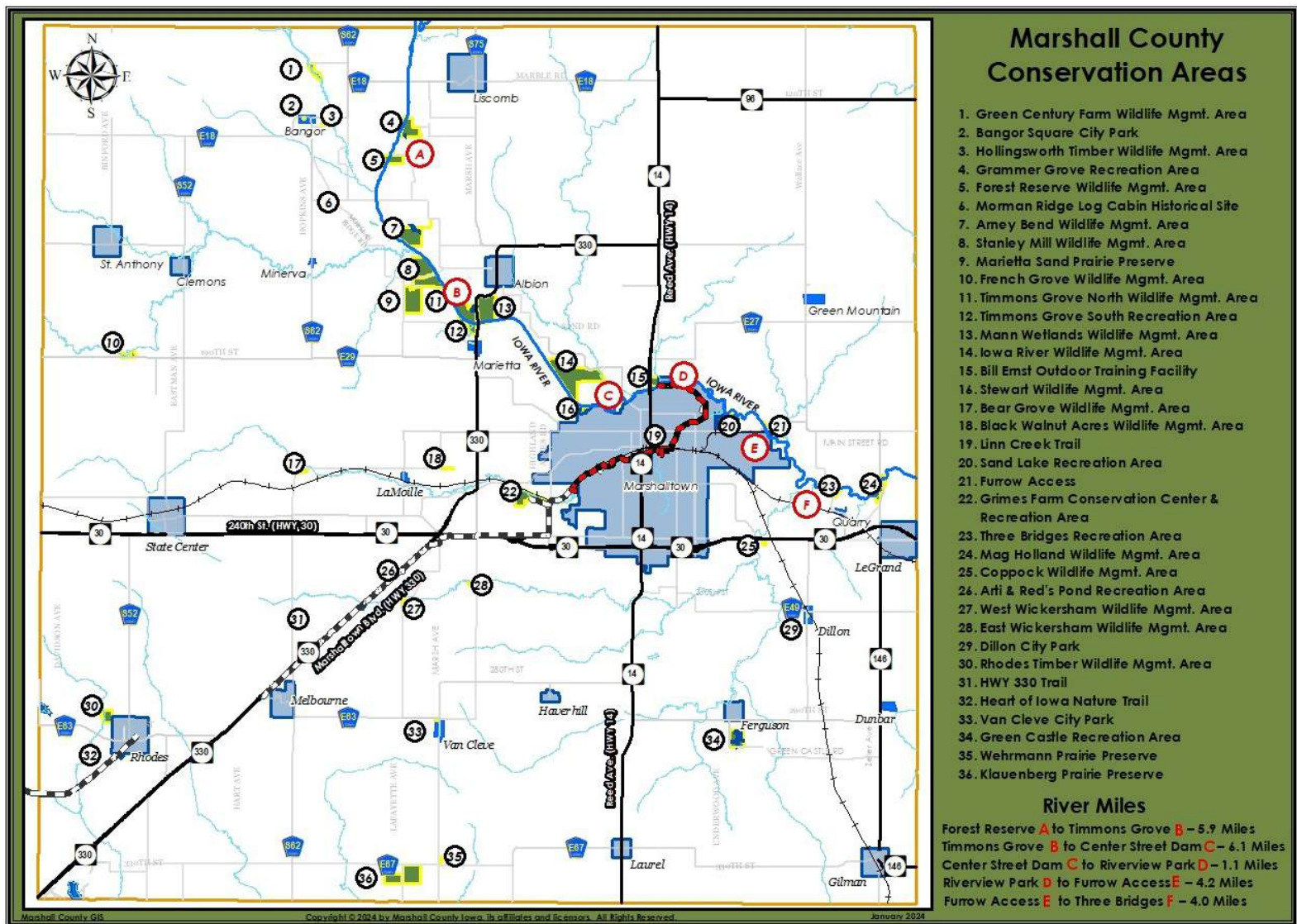
Work continued at Mann Wetlands as MCC entered into a contract with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to create and restore the area to wetlands at a fraction of the cost. Volunteers also did work to improve the woodland, including planting over 300 tree species.

Staff changes included the hiring of Tyler Renze, MCC's first natural resource manager, and Ben Steinberg, a maintenance technician.

Special projects included MCC assisting with Project Aware to remove trash from the Iowa River from Timmons Grove to Riverside Park, hosting a North American Prairie Conference Field trip at Marietta Sand Prairie, and creating the first MCC Atlas.

As FY 2024 comes to a close, we look forward to FY 2025 and the opportunity to acquire, develop, maintain, and make recreational and conservation areas available 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. Klaunberg	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		

REVENUE

BUDGET REVENUE

RECEIPTS

Boat Titling Fees	\$ 475.00
Insurance Claim	\$ 1,017.41
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 819.72
Material Supplies	\$ 3,847.50

REAP

Program Receipts	\$ 17,679.00
Investment Interest	\$ 791.11

TRUST

Camping Fees	\$ 10,082.00
Misc State Grants & Reimb	\$ 230,651.00
Investment Interest	\$ 2,154.54
Land Rental	\$ 20,331.10
Rent—Klaunberg Crop Ground	\$ 28,120.06
Rents	\$ 7,770.00
Misc. contributions/donations	\$ 59,754.50

B.KLAUENBERG—PRAIRIE EXP. TRUST

Investment Interest	\$ 1,976.12
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TOTAL REVENUE \$385,469.06

CAMPING

TIMMONS GROVE

Nights rented: 501 nights
Campers: 444 campers
Revenue: \$9,792.00



GRAMMER GROVE

Nights rented: 29 nights
Campers: 20 campers
Revenue \$ 290.00

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

Friends of Marshall County Conservation
Arti and Red's Pond \$5,000.00

Friends of Marshall County Conservation
Cross Country Skis \$6,567.00

Friends of Marshall County Conservation
Green Castle Campground \$5,000.00

Friends of Marshall County Conservation
Mann Wetland \$500.00

Friends of Marshall County Conservation
Zombie Run \$400.00

Lawcon
Timmons Showerhouse \$150,000.00

Fish Habitat Grant—Iowa Department of
Natural Resources \$42,000.00
Red and Arti's Pond

Fish Habitat Grant—IDNR
Sand Lake Addition \$37,921.00

Destination Iowa
Green Castle Campground \$400,000.00

RESERVABLE FACILITIES



CONSERVATION CENTER CLASSROOM

Number of Rentals: 7 Revenue: \$ 1,950.00

LEONARD GRIMES MEMORIAL AMPHITHEATER

Number of Rentals: 7 Revenue: \$ 3,150.00

GANDER LOOKOUT AT GREEN CASTLE RECREATION AREA

Number of Rentals: 22 Revenue: \$ 1,725.00

GRIMES FARM SHELTER

Number of Rentals: 2 Revenue: \$ 80.00

EXPENSES

ADMINISTRATION

Salaries—Officers	\$68,095.33
Salaries—Deputies/Assistants	\$300,162.61
Overtime	\$0.00
Emp Ben-R-FHRA CO Share	\$1,399.69
Office Supplies	\$2,291.38
Wearing Apparel/Co Emp	\$1,484.90
Environmental Ed Supplies	\$6,866.58
Official Pub/Advertising	\$675.00
Postage	\$1,542.60
Travel Expense	\$2,080.32
Communications Equip. Service	\$16,069.41
School of Instruction	\$2,079.00
Miscellaneous	\$10,796.28
Gas/Electric Utilities	\$5,510.19
Water	\$521.55
Law Enforcement Exp.	\$89.94
Vehicle Maintenance/Repairs	\$10,899.76
Office Equipment—Maintenance	\$1,249.24
License/Fees	\$2,859.00
Equipment/Office Machines	\$1,910.21
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$436,582.99</i>

MAINTENANCE & OPERATION

Salaries—Other Help	\$32,750.51
Miscellaneous Supplies	\$1,062.36
Gas/Oil	\$17,116.69
Gas/Electric Supplies	\$9,758.36
Water	\$3,480.21
Equipment Maintenance	\$14,321.96
Misc. Repairs/Service	\$154,271.86
Sanitation Service	\$19,983.97
Credit Card Fees	\$755.69
Motor Vehicles	\$213.00
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$253,714.58</i>

GENERAL SUPPLEMENTAL

Emp Ben—FICA CO Share	\$27,689.49
Emp Ben—IPERS CO Share	\$34,635.94
Emp Ben—Health Ins CO Share	\$96,786.66
Emp Ben—Life Ins CO Share	\$208.17
Emp Ben—Dental CO Share	\$3,325.86
Emp Ben—Flex Adm CO Share	\$143.40
Emp Ben—LTD CO Share	\$519.35
Emp Ben - STD CO Share	\$1,657.01
Emp Ben—R-FHRA Admin	\$240.77
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$165,206.65</i>

MAINTENANCE & OPERATION

Emp Ben—FICA CO Share	\$2,505.43
Emp Ben—IPERS CO Share	\$0.00
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$2,505.43</i>

REAP

Purchase	\$16,320.00
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$16,320.00</i>

CONS LAND ACQUISTION TRUST FD

Purchase	\$632,512.52
Grimes Farm to S75 Trail	\$1,500.00
Green Castle	\$763.84
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$634,779.36</i>

B.KLAUENBERG-PRAIRIE EXP. TRUST

Misc. Repairs/Supplies	0.00
Gas/Electric Utilities	0.00
Water	\$204.71
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$204.71</i>

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$1,509,313.72



ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

During the 2024 FY, Marshall County Conservation's Environmental Education program continues to grow through new and established programming. New programming this year included: the Miller Middle School XLP monthly group (ACES), West Marshall field trips for 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, summer skills, and various new art programs. 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.

This year we introduced Nature Adventures a nature program delivered in a flexible format specially designed for kindergarten through fourth-grade homeschooled students. Each month students discover a new nature-related topic through indoor activities, outdoor exploration, crafts, or games. Past topics have included hibernation, owls, herpetology, insects, 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 2024 FY included multiple volunteers performing tasks such as zombie makeup artists, zombies, and monarch tagging. 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, Marshalltown Art Alliance, Trees Forever, Catholic Heart Work Camp, and countless volunteers.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FACTS AND FIGURES

Environment Education

TYPE OF PROGRAM	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS	PERCENTAGE
Youth Program	543	30	10.25%
School Program	1491	0	28.14%
Camp	211	13	3.98%
Family Program	947	15	17.87%
Adult Program	681	23	12.85%
Concert	1250	3	23.59%
Service Club	175	8	3.30%
Totals	5298	182	100%



ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS CONT.

MAINTENANCE

- New shower house at Timmons and added five new campsites.
- New kiosk and Iron Ranger at Timmons.
- Tree planting at Timmons.
- Worked on creating Park Atlas.
- New entrance signs at Three Bridges, Timmons, Arti and Red's Pond, and Arney Bend.
- Hosted IAN conference, Operation Releaf and Project AWARE.
- Dug wetlands at Mann Wetlands.
- Built parking lot at Mann Wetlands.
- Installed Motus Tower in Albion.
- Surveyed Timbers.
- TSI in Mann Timber.
- Flooding clean up and started FEMA process.
- Rebuilt stairs at Three Bridges.
- Painted HandiCove and North Bay.
- Installed gate and parking lot at Arti and Red's Pond and posted boundary.
- Worked on Sand Lake shelter.
- Applied chemical for weed removal in Green Castle.
- 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.
- Fixed all park roads after storm damage and flooding.
- 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.
- Plowed snow as needed.

MAINTENANCE (Contiued)

- Planted food plots at Iowa River Area, Sand Prairie and Klauenberg.
- Assisted Naturalist programing including MICA fishing, Kayaking events, Zombie Run, and Pancake Feed.
- 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.
- Stocked walleye in Green Castle and Sand Lake.
- Met with contractors throughout year.
- Watered and placed chicken wire on new tree plantings.
- New benches on 330 trail, Three Bridges, and Observation Tower.
- Mowed brush at Sand Lake, Arney, and Mann Wetlands.
- Grind stumps and fill in holes at Mann, Sand Lake, and Timmons
- Walked and posted park boundaries as needed.
- Hosted District Meeting.
- People in the Park LEGO contest.
- Christmas Bird Count.
- Interviews for Natural Resource Manager and Maintenance Tech positions.
- Tore down pit toilet at North Bay.
- Tore out old fences at Mann.

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.

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS CONT.

BOARD

- Approved the putting a new roof on the donated shelter at Sand Lake
- Approved the installation of electricity and lights to the 2 shelters at Sand Lake.
- Approved the purchase agreement for the Sand Lake addition.
- Approved the expense of a new air conditioning/heating unit for the Grimes Farm residence.
- Allowed archery deer hunting only in MCCB Wildlife Refuge Areas (Timmons South, Grimes Farm north of Linn Creek, Coppock Park, Grammer Grove, Wickersham West, Stewart Bird Sanctuary, and French Grove).
- Entered into an agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for restoration of the Mann Wetlands.
- Approved the hiring of Tyler Renze as the Natural Resource Manager.
- Approved the purchase of a new law enforcement vehicle.
- Approved the hiring of Ben Steinberg as Maintenance Technician.
- Approved an archeological study for Three Bridges County Park by Bear Creek.
- Approved easement with Jary Hoskey for the Three Brides Archeological Study.
- Approved submittal of a Fish Habitat Grant with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for the purchase of Arti and Red's Pond.
- Held a public hearing for the Green Castle Improvements Project.
- Accepted the bid from Weidner Construction for \$1,011,776.736 for the Green Castle Improvements Project.
- Approved the FY2025 Budget.
- Approved the purchase of trees for the Mann Wetlands.
- Selected officers for 2024.
- Approved FY2023 Annual Report.
- Approved the purchase of 2 fishing docks for Arti and Red's Pond.
- Increased the cost of camping at Timmons Grove to \$22/night.
- Moved to replace one Geothermal unit at the Grimes Farm and Conservation Center.
- Approved the replacement of the three removing Geothermal units at the Grimes Farm and Conservation Center.

BOARD (continued)

- Approved the purchase of cross country ski sets and bindings.
- Approved the purchase of sonar chemical to treat the curly leaf pond weed at Green Castle.
- Approved the repair of the approaches to the bridges on the bike path.
- Approved entering a cooperative agreement with IDNR for acquisition of Arti and Red's Pond.
- Approved the ADA Accessible policy for campgrounds.
- Approved having the glycol levels of the geothermal units tested.
- Approved dust control treatment on 233rd St.
- Approved the Amphitheater Shade Contract with Bolton and Menk.
- Approved FY2025 salary increases.
- Approved the installation of electricity and water for new camping sites at Timmons Grove campground.
- Approved the hiring of seasonal employees.
- Approved the purchase of new park signs for Arney Bend, Timmons Grove North, and Grammer Grove.
- Approved the repair of brake lines on the Ford 1 ton truck.
- Approved payments to Weidner Construction for the construction of the Green Castle Campground.
- Approve the purchase of a 14' trailer.



VOLUNTEERS

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

Abel Stevenson	Catherine Noble	ISU GG Forestry	Mark Huss	Talon Bennett
Ailyn Pappas	Catholic Heart	ISU IRWA Ecology	Mark Proescholdt	Tate Williams
Aktion Club	Cayden Slifer	ISU IRWA Forestry	Marvis Drew	Thalia Gallegos
Alex Clover	Charles Gilbertson	Jack Mackin	Matthew Wenner	Tina Nelson
Alison Walters	Charlotte McGinty	Jackson Bidwell	MCC Construction Class	Tom Diemerly
Allena Hupfeld	Chase Bennett	Jacob Christen	Merle Stubbs	Tom Jasper
Alura Fieser	Cindy Mack	Jacob Classon	Micah Tupper	Tom Mack
Amanda Bennett	Cody Weaver	Jacob Jackson	Micki Stanley	Tom Swartz
Amy Snyder	Collins Grant	James Johnson	Mike Stegmann	Troop 394 -
Amy Yokum	Danny Nelson	James Wenner	Millie Heitmann	Trish Slifer
Andrew Pool	Delaney Ryan	Jan Swanson	Morning Kiwanis	Vanesssa Engle
Andy Spellman	Dena Graff	Jarret Heil	Myles Goldman	Wendi Kooser
Anessa Morrison	Denny Bruck	Jeff Kooser	Nancy Seburn	Wyatt Stalzer
Anna Bruck	Diane Hall	John Moellers	Nang Kham	Yahel Ramirez Garcia
Anthony Bradstream	Dianna Mick	Jolen Jesen	Naysa Rottink	
April Denton	Dianne Freiboth	Jorjan Janssen	Nicole Jensen	
Ashley Kong	Doni Sheldon	Joyce Christensen	Pam Paone	
Aubrie Tejada	Doris McCarty	Juam Moe	Parker Gooding	
Aubrey Denton	Ed Paone	Jun Moe	Preston Johnson	
Audrey Lambi	Edson Gallentine	Kaden Good	Pway Kham	
Aurora Deuw	Elle Schipper	Kager Kremer	Randy Stubbs	
Austin Pansegrau	Elliot Young	Kailer Wahl	Rich Naughton	
Ava Hendricks	Emerson Eastman	Kari Bruck	Rick Dolash	
Bear Huss	Emma Sanders	Kathy Sievers	Rick Eckerman	
Ben Kosbau	Ethan Misen	Katie Fink	Riley Anderson	
Bill Carey	Evans McWilliams	Kayann Lowry	Rob Christensen	
Bob Backes	Gary Fulton	Kaye Burke	Ruben Fuentes	
Bob Halverson	Gary Williams	Ken Lyons	Ryan Hull	
Brad Rahmiller	Grace Kipanze	Kiera Bradstream	Sara Renze	
Brad Wilkening	Greg Young	Kristi Cameron	Sara Weitzell	
Brant Coleman	Hallie Crouse	Krystal McConnell	Saydee Braye	
Bren Lee	Harvey Whitmore	Landon Wegner	Sharon Depew	
Briley McGrew	Haverhill Fire Department	Lanny Nuese	Sharon Stevens	
Brody Roads	Hayden Daters	Leng Moe	Shawn Denton	
Bryer Cline	Ian Meyer	Les Penck	Sheila Armstrong	
Cade Burchland	Irene Williams	Linda Mackin	Shelly Applegate	
Cael Curphy	Isaac Benscoter	Liyia Christen	Stefani Gutierrez	
Caleb Rasmussen	Isabella Morris	Lori Sogge	Steve Armstrong	
Cam Baker	Isabella Stotts	Lucas Bantz	Steve Mraz	
Carson Snyder	ISU GF Animal Ecology	Lydia Lillibridge	Sue Blaisdale	
Carter Nunn	ISU GG Ecology	Malek Deuw	Summer Bennett	
Case Hegeman		Marily Beard	Sydney Hull	

STAFF

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

CONSERVATION BOARD

Tom Mack
Pam Paone
Steve Armstrong
Rich Naughton
Tom Deimerly

SEASONAL STAFF

Bill Carey, Summer Naturalist Assistant
Julie Stahl, Summer Maintenance Technician
Hunter Hughlette, Summer Field Intern
Wyatt Benson, Summer Field Intern
Greg Morris, Summer Field Intern
James Lippe, Summer Field Intern
Keresten Bobby, Summer Naturalist Extern

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
- Marshall County Arts and Culture Alliance