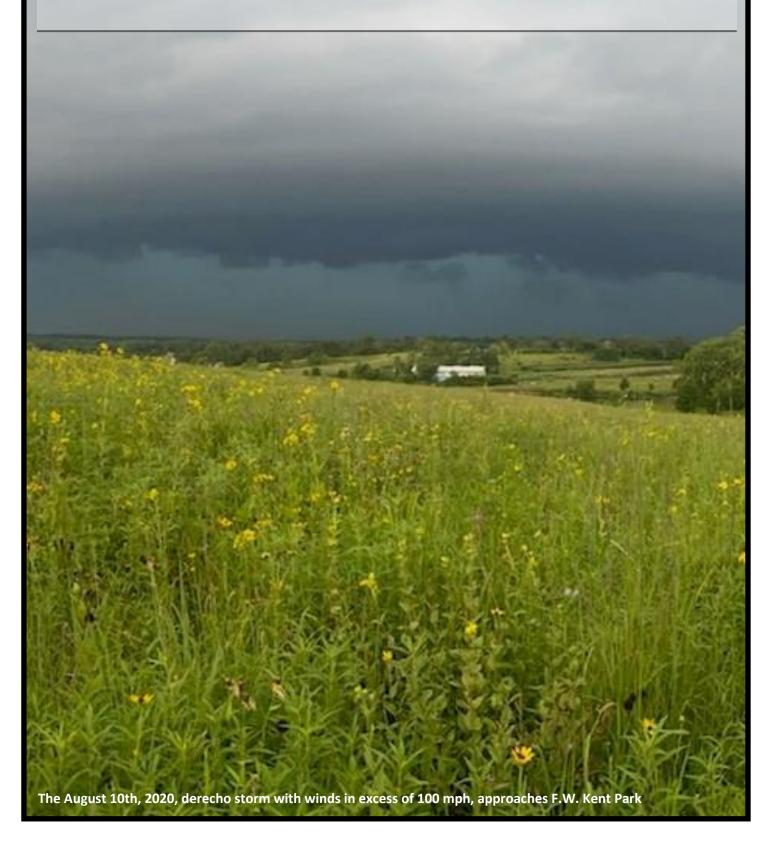
# FY21 ANNUAL REPORT JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD







JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD Larry Gullett, Executive Director 2048 Highway 6 NW, Oxford, IA 52322-9211 Phone - 319.645.2315 E-mail – Igullett@johnsoncountyiowa.gov Web-www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/conservation

**Board Members** 

Carolyn Buckingham Bonnie Winslow-Garvin Bill Waldie Connie Mutel Gene Zdrazil

April 4, 2022

To: Johnson County Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the Johnson County Conservation Board and staff we are pleased to present this FY2021 Annual Report. The derecho and Covid pandemic disasters presented unprecedented challenges that we all overcame to provide a conservation, recreation and education program we can all be proud of. It is evident that people value their park and recreation areas in Johnson County with a significant increase in visitation compared to pre-pandemic levels.

We really appreciate the continued, strong support from the Board of Supervisors in support of conservation in Johnson County.

Thank you for you do for conservation!

And J. Chron David D. Weble Sotto Somerillo Paul Bouska Marii Jana Ed Kringle Brad Freidhof Dong Kjosa Kevin Halemeyer Mister Monou Enin Dong Kjosa M Alle Aug Sullett Blick Clave Batter From C Bendotter day Sullett Blick & Havins Terry Kin Wale Schur Jeremy Rieck

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### FY21 Board of Supervisors



July 1, 2020 to June 15, 2021: L to R, Rod Sullivan, Royceann Porter, Pat Heiden, Lisa Green-Douglas & Janelle Rettig.

The Board of Supervisors appoint residents to serve 5 year terms on the Conservation Board, provide input on special projects and strategic planning, and appropriate funding to operate the conservation program.

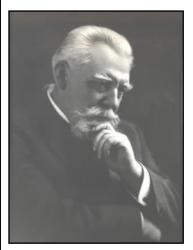
June 15, 2021 to June 30, 2021: Below: L to R. Lisa Green-Douglas, Rod Sullivan, Pat Heiden, Jon Green and Royceann Porter.





# Johnson County Conservation Board

### **Background**



Pioneer Iowa Conservationist and University of Iowa President Thomas Huston MacBride first conceptualized the county park system when he described his idea for a statewide system of county or rural parks before his colleagues in the Iowa Academy of Sciences in 1895.

However, it was not until 1955, that the 56<sup>th</sup> General Assembly passed the County Conservation Law, Chapter 111A, now Chapter 350, of the Code of Iowa, which made it possible for county residents to establish their own "county conservation board".

The citizens of Johnson County voted to establish their County Conservation Board in the general election of November 3, 1964. The vote was 9,811 yes and 1,935 no.

### Johnson County Conservation Board Vision:

The Vision of the Johnson County Conservation Board is a county where all citizens have access to a healthy landscape, environmental education and recreation opportunities; where the natural resources of the county are enhanced and protected; where conservation areas are restored and maintained at the highest standard and are safe, and where this vision is accomplished through partnerships with the public and private sector.

### Johnson County Conservation Board Mission:

Chapter 350 of the Iowa Code defines the Mission of the County Conservation Board.

"To acquire, develop, maintain and make available to the inhabitants of the county, public museums, parks, preserves, parkways, pathways, playgrounds, recreation centers, county forests, wildlife and other conservation areas, and to promote and preserve the health and general welfare of the people and to encourage the orderly development and conservation of natural resources, and to cultivate good citizenship by providing adequate programs of public recreation."

## Your County Conservation Board

The Conservation Board consists of five county residents appointed to five year staggered terms by the Board of Supervisors. Members of the board are selected and appointed on the basis of their demonstrated interest in conservation matters, and serve without compensation. The board operates as a corporate body. They make decisions regarding the preservation of local natural resources and the development of a well-organized program of public recreation. The Conservation Director, who is responsible to the Board, implements the conservation program.

County Conservation Boards are agencies of county government created by statute and governed by an appointed independent, non-partisan board. They have broad responsibilities in the area of local conservation and recreation programs. Few conservation agencies have such a broad discretionary authority in regard to program content and direction. The Conservation Board addresses such diverse matters as parks, preserves, resource management and conservation education.

Tom Hazelton, Iowa's County Conservation System CEO, presents the JCC Board with an Isaak Walton League Habitat Award at the November 17, 2020 meeting. Many of the meetings in FY21 were administered as electronic meetings due to the Covid pandemic and safety concerns.



### Members of the Conservation Board & FY21 Officers

July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020: Gene Zdrazil — President, Bill Waldie—Vice-President, Larry Wilson — Secretary



Gene Zdrazil, Lone Tree



Bill Waldie, Iowa City



Larry Wilson, Coralville



Connie Mutel, Solon



Carolyn Buckingham, Iowa City





Gene Zdrazil, Lone Tree



Bill Waldie, Iowa City



Carolyn Buckingham, Iowa City



Connie Mutel, Solon



Bonnie Winslow-Garvin, North Liberty

### **Conservation Board Meetings**

Monthly meetings of the Board are held in the Conservation Headquarters Building at F.W. Kent Park from April through October. During the winter months of November through March, meetings are held in the first floor meeting room of the Johnson County Administration Building, 913 South Dubuque Street, Iowa City or in other locations as posted. Regular board meetings are scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month and start at 5:30 PM. Special meetings are scheduled as needed. All meetings are open to the public. Meeting notices are posted on the county web page and in the local media.

All Board Meeting agendas and minutes are available to view or download through the County's website at: (Ctrl Click on the following links or copy and paste into your browser)

https://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/agendas-minutes

Special reports, newsletters and other information is also available through the County's website at:

https://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/department-of-conservation

	Appointed Date	Term Ending		
arry Wilson, Coralville	06/07/12	12/31/20		
Bill Waldie, Iowa City	06/20/13	12/31/21		
Connie Mutel, Solon	01/01/17	12/31/22		
Gene Zdrazil, Lone Tree	06/21/17	12/31/23		
Carolyn Buckingham, Iowa City	01/01/20	12/31/24		
Bonnie Winslow-Garvin, North Liberty	01/01/21	12/31/25		
*replaced Larry Wilson				
On January 19, 2021, the following were selected as officers of the Conservation Board:				
Gene Zdrazil	President			
Bill Waldie	Vice President			
Carolyn Buckingham	Secretary			

### Legal Assistance

The Johnson County Attorney provides legal assistance to the Conservation Board. Susie Nehring, Assistant County Attorney, worked closely with the Conservation Board, providing guidance for adherence to open meeting laws, executive sessions, land acquisitions, contract review and a variety of other needs.

### **Conservation Board Activities**

#### 15 Board Meetings in FY21:

- 12 regular meetings
- A public hearing to review the solar array plans and specifications at Hill's Access and the Education Center
- A special meeting for review of solar construction quotes for Hill's Access and the Education Center.
- Review of the final concept plan for Cangleska Wakan

#### Major Board Actions:

7 Request for Proposals, Request for Quotes and Request for Bids

14 Agreements for services or contracts

- 3 Land acquisitions completed
- 2 Acceptance of concept development/improvement plans
- Reviewed the concept plan for Pechman Creek Delta on 7/21/20.
- Approved the naming of the Schwab/Burford acquisition to Cangleska Wakan on 7/21/20.
- Approved the RFP for salvage of the old pole building at CRC on 8/18/20.
- Approved hiring Stanley Consultants as the derecho disaster consultant on 9/15/20.
- Approved an RFB for debris removal due to derecho on 10/20/20.
- Approved the RFP to design solar arrays at Kent Park and Pechman Creek Delta on 10/20/20.
- Recognized Larry Wilson for 6 years on the ICCS Board of Directors on 11/17/20.
- Accepted a bid from Miller Logging for debris removal due to derecho on 11/17/20.
- Accepted a REAP grant agreement with the IDNR for purchase of the MRRFP on 11/17/20.
- Approved the RFB for removal of EAB infected trees at Kent Park on 11/17/20.
- Approved the agreement for development of a marketing plan with IA-Research on 12/15/20.
- Approved an agreement with Miller Logging for removal of EAB infected trees on 12/15/20.
- Approved the updated 5 year capital plan on 12/15/20.
- Approved the project description template on 12/15/20,
- Administered the oath of office to Bonnie Winslow-Garvin on 1/19/21.
- Elected Gene Zdrazil, President, Bill Waldie, Vice-President and Carolyn Buckingham, Secretary on 1/19/21.
- Formally named the new north shop the Sutliff Operations Center on 1/19/21.
- Authorization to close on MRRFP, 100.3 acres on 1/19/21.
- Authorization to close on Gardner property, 2.1 acres on 1/19/21.
- Authorization to close on Erem-Durrenberger property, 3.0 acres on 2/16/21.

- Executed a 28e agreement with the City of Tiffin for cost share and maintenance agreement for the Clear Creek Trail on 2/16/21.
- Approved the plans, specifications and form of contract for solar arrays at Kent Park and Pechman Creek Delta on 2/25/21.
- Accepted a bid for solar arrays at Kent Park and Pechman Creek Delta on 3/16/21.
- Reviewed the concept plan for Cangleska Wakan on 3/31/21.
- Accepted an agreement with IA-Research for Phase 2 of the marketing plan on 4/20/21.
- Approved a proposal for replacing 4 barn roofs at Cangleska Wakan due to derecho, on 4/20/21.
- Approved an agreement for donation of the 26 acre, Phebe's Timber on 4/20/21.
- Approved an agreement with MODUS for design of solar arrays at the Education Center and Hill's Access on 4/20/21.
- Approved a RFQ for solar arrays at the Education Center and Hill's Access on 5/18/21.
- Approved an agreement with Stanley Consultants to develop an RFB for shingle replacement on the Celebration Barn roof, due to damage during derecho, on 5/18/21.
- Reviewed the marketing plan phase 2 results and recommendations from IA-Research on 6/15/21.
- Approved an access easement agreement with Herbet farms and Williams Way Inc. on 6/15/21.
- Accepted quotes for solar arrays at the Education Center and Hill's Access on 6/18/21.

### FY21—Staff Changes



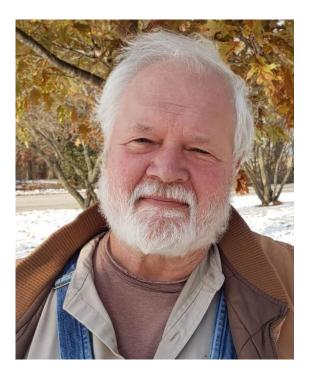
Alicia Claus – Bartels, Custodian, began working for JCC on December 21, 2020.



Marci Trana, Natural Education Specialist, began working for JCC on November 16,



Josh Allen, Mechanic, resigned on May 28, 2021, to begin a new job as Manager of Washington Discount Tire in Washington, Iowa.



Gary Pidgeon, Senior Maintenance Specialist, retired after 50 years of service to the Johnson County Conservation Board on September 25, 2020.

### Johnson County Conservation Board Personnel Roster—Full Time Staff July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

NAME	POSITION	START DATE	END DATE
Larry Gullett	Director	01/07/2013	
Dory Kjosa	Part Time Office Assistant	08/30/2010	12/29/2014
	Office Manager/Secretary	12/30/2014	
Emily Allen	Part Time Office Assistant	03/16/2015	6/28/2018
	Office Assistant	06/29/2018	
Charlie Bray	Park Ranger I	03/25/2013	03/27/2016
	Park Ranger II	03/28/2016	
Aaron Ohlsen	Park Ranger I	03/11/2019	
Brad Freidhof	Naturalist	09/03/2002	06/21/2014
	Conservation Program Mgr.	06/22/2014	
Dave Wehde	Vegetation Specialist	06/09/1986	10/24/2012
	Natural Resource Mgr.	10/25/2012	
Jeremy Rieck	Vegetation Specialist	05/17/2004	11/20/2012
	Natural Resource Mgmt. Specialist	11/21/2012	
Wade Schultz	Mechanic	06/23/1997	09/19/2012
	Operations Superintendent	09/20/2012	
Gary Pidgeon	Construction Man II	10/06/1970	04/07/1979
	Field Foreman	04/08/1979	06/30/2002
	Senior Maintenance Specialist	07/01/2002	09/25/2020
Terry Kinney	Field Worker I	11/06/1989	06/30/2002
	Field Worker II	07/01/2002	
Dave Gustafson	Field Worker I	03/15/2004	06/30/2009
	Field Worker II	07/01/2009	08/28/2011
	Utility Person	08/29/2011	
Ed Kringle	Field Worker I	10/17/2011	02/28/2015
	Trails Field Worker II	03/01/2015	
Josh Allen	Mechanic	02/22/2016	05/28/2021
Kristen Morrow	Education Specialist	08/12/2015	
Ben Woltz	Field Worker II	04/07/2015	
Mike Alexander	Natural Resource Mgmt. Specialist	08/01/2016	
Blake Harris	Natural Resource Mgmt. Specialist	08/21/2017	
Frances Owen	Education Specialist	05/21/2018	
Seth Somerville	Field Worker II	07/02/2018	
Paul Bouska	Custodian	07/15/2019	11/09/2020
	Maintenance Specialist	11/09/2020	
Kevin Halemeyer	Natural Resource Mgmt. Specialist	09/23/2019	
Marci Trana	Education Specialist	11/16/2020	
Alicia Claus-Bartels	Custodian	12/21/2020	

### Johnson County Conservation Board Personnel Roster—Seasonal Staff July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

NAME	POSITION	START DATE	END DATE
Lavonne Christianson	Naturalist Intern	4/29/2020	8/14/2020
Alexis Hook-Kealey	Naturalist Intern	4/19/2021	8/19/2021
Kimberly Miller	Ranger Intern	5/4/2020	9/4/2020
Jacob Moss	Ranger Intern	4/30/2020	8/30/2020
Jack Davis	Ranger Intern	5/10/2021	9/10/2021
Jacob Moss	Ranger Intern	5/3/2021	9/3/2021
Sherry Frantz	Campground Attendant	5/4/2020	10/18/2020
Bill Frantz	Campground Attendant	5/4/2020	10/18/2020
Sherry Frantz	Campground Attendant	5/10/2021	10/18/2021
Bill Frantz	Campground Attendant	5/10/2021	10/18/2021
Rebecca Bartlett	Seasonal Park Worker	4/6/2020	8/7/2020
Tim Beemer	Seasonal Park Worker	4/10/2020	8/10/2020
Joel Born	Seasonal Park Worker	5/11/2020	8/21/2020
William Burton	Seasonal Park Worker	5/18/2020	8/14/2020
John Castle	Seasonal Park Worker	5/26/2020	9/25/2020
Alicia Claus-Bartels	Seasonal Park Worker	1/21/2020	5/15/2020
Josh Crosbie	Seasonal Park Worker	5/11/2020	9/11/2020
Nathan Finn	Seasonal Park Worker	4/13/2020	8/13/2020
Chase Gehrke	Seasonal Park Worker	4/20/2020	6/30/2020
Hunter Gehrke	Seasonal Park Worker	5/18/2020	9/18/2020
Trevor Holley	Seasonal Park Worker	5/4/2020	9/4/2020
Nick Houg	Seasonal Park Worker	5/18/2020	9/18/2020
Nicholas Kertels	Seasonal Park Worker	6/1/2020	7/17/2020
Kristin Krumm	Seasonal Park Worker	5/18/2020	9/18/2020
Timothy Kurt	Seasonal Park Worker	5/18/2020	1/15/2021
Leon Lintz	Seasonal Park Worker	5/7/2020	11/6/2020
	Seasonal Park Worker	4/6/2020	7/31/2020
Marla Looper Cliff Murphy	Seasonal Park Worker	5/11/2020	9/11/2020
	Seasonal Park Worker	4/6/2020	8/7/2020
Emily Schultz Abigail Smith	Seasonal Park Worker	5/4/2020	8/14/2020
Ethan Aamodt	Seasonal Park Worker	5/14/2020	
John Aschenbrenner			8/13/2021 7/29/2021
	Seasonal Park Worker	4/25/2021	9/3/2021
Rebecca Bartlett	Seasonal Park Worker	5/3/2021	
Tim Beemer	Seasonal Park Worker	4/26/2021	8/25/2021
John Castle	Seasonal Park Worker	6/1/2021	10/1/2021
Mason Deja	Seasonal Park Worker	12/7/2020	4/7/2021
Terry Disterhoft	Seasonal Park Worker	5/10/2021	6/25/2021
Joshua Gaffey	Seasonal Park Worker	6/1/2021	8/12/2021
Laura Haima	Seasonal Park Worker	4/19/2021	8/19/2021
Gage Hazen-Faber	Seasonal Park Worker	4/19/2021	7/9/2021
Jace Kauffmann	Seasonal Park Worker	4/19/2021	8/19/2021
Ethan Krueger	Seasonal Park Worker	5/3/2021	8/10/2021
Timothy Kurt	Seasonal Park Worker	5/6/2021	1/6/2022
Leon Lintz	Seasonal Park Worker	5/10/2021	11/5/2021
Michael Martens	Seasonal Park Worker	3/8/2021	7/8/2021
Sabrina Peyton	Seasonal Park Worker	5/11/2021	9/10/2021
Mitchell Schmieder	Seasonal Park Worker	5/17/2021	8/20/2021
Emily Schultz	Seasonal Park Worker	5/17/2021	8/12/2021
Abigail Smith	Seasonal Park Worker	6/7/2021	8/13/2021
Gage Zvonik	Seasonal Park Worker	4/19/2021	8/19/2021

## <u>FY21 Program Highlights</u>

The following pages include images of *special projects* the Board and staff worked on during the fiscal year. In addition to these projects the staff also maintained 18 park and recreation areas throughout the county, including high use recreation areas, natural areas, trails and the education program.

#### • Derecho

On August 10, 2020, a derecho producing winds estimated at 80 to 110 mph, hit northern Johnson County for a estimated 30 to 60 minutes in duration. The storm closed all parks in the northern half of Johnson County for a minimum of 4 days and some portions of parks did not open for 30 days due to hazards from fallen trees and other debris. Staff of the Washington CCB mobilized to Kent Park and assisted with storm clean-up for 5 days. The JCCB staff was in emergency operations for 30 days, from August 10, 2020 to September 10th, 2020.

- Assisted 3 communities, including Solon, North Liberty and Swisher with emergency response and clean-up for 14 days.
- Completed a 3 week assessment of damage at 7 different parks, trails and natural areas.
- Facilitated two agreements with Stanley Consultants to develop two Request for Bids for debris removal and replacement of the Celebration Barn roof.
- Obtained permits from the IDNR for processing storm debris at four locations in the county.
- Developed and executed a contract with Miller and Sons Logging for debris removal in 6 areas.
- Developed a contract with Metal Monsters for replacement of roofs on 5 barns at Cangleska Wakan.
- ♦ Assessed damage to a destroyed lean-to structure and high tunnel greenhouse at Cangleska Wakan.
- Coordinated and documented the damage to facilities and debris removal through FEMA and Johnson County's insurance carrier—\$1.6 million cost for repairs and clean-up from the disaster.
- Facilitated debris removal daily from August 10, 2020 to February 25, 2021, 144 continuous workdays and continued clean-up into FY22.
- The following is a summary of debris processed from the county parks, i.e., it does not include the debris removed in the communities of Solon, North Liberty and Swisher.
  - \* 98 saw logs of white, red, black and bur oak, hickory, cherry, walnut, white and green ash, red elm and river birch salvaged and relocated to the sawmill at Cangleska Wakan
  - \* 76,895 cubic yards of material processed 113 semi truck loads of mulch produced, 11,408 cubic yards
  - \* 58 hazardous leaning trees removed
  - \* 128 hanging limbs removed by lifts and tree climbers
  - \* 166 stumps greater than 24" in diameter and hundreds of smaller stumps were planed flush with the ground.

#### • Sutliff Operations Center

- Completed salvage of the old pole building and reclamation of the site.
- Completed Phase 2 construction of the new shop through addition of the office, restrooms, roadway, parking and voting precinct.
- The site was used for the first time as a voting precinct for the special election for Supervisor on June 8, 2021.

#### • Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie

- Completed the acquisition of the 100.3 acre, site on February 1, 2021
- Submitted and received a Resource Enhancement and Protection Grant of \$400,000 for acquisition of the property.

#### Cangleska Wakan

- Completed the concept development plan with input from a planning advisory committee and neighbors.
- Officially named the property according to recommendations from Dick Schwab and Katherine Burford.

#### • Education Program Accomplishments

- Presented 194 programs to 3,612 participants representing the general public, school groups and organizations.
- Adapted the education and interpretive program to safety and health concerns resulting from the COVID pandemic and transmission of the virus.
- Added a new Education Specialist/Naturalist to the program addressing the demand for more programming and marketing of the overall conservation program.

#### • STEM Teacher Extern Program

O Host 2 teachers for 3 months, representing the Cedar Rapids and Vinton-Shellsburg School Districts and immersed them in water quality monitoring and analysis of 31 sites in the Kent Park Lake watershed to evaluate the effectiveness of the lake restoration effort.

#### • Pechman Creek Delta

 Completed the concept development plan for the entry area along Sand Road with input from a Planning Advisory Committee.

#### • Climate Change

- Five staff attended and completed training on climate adaptation in the workplace.
- Completed the design and engineering documents and request for quotes for arrays at the Kent Park Administration Building and Pechman Creek Delta.
- Constructed and brought on-line 3 solar arrays at the Sutliff Operations Center, Kent Park Administration Building and Pechman Creek Delta.
- Completed an assessment of electrical usage and feasibility of solar arrays at the Kent Park Campground, Kent Park Education Center and Hills Access and Campground.

- Completed design and engineering documents and distributed construction documents for arrays at the Kent Park Education Center and Hills Access and Campground.
- Began planning and design of car wrap options for the Chevy Bolt to promote green energy and use of electric vehicles.

#### • Trails

- Output Control Hoover Trail
  - \* Closed out 3 grants— Federal Lands Access Program, State Rec Trails and Federal Rec Trails
  - \* Seeded 3 acres of diverse prairie along Highway 382 and the Ely Road
  - \* Acquired the 2.1 acre, Gardner property and the 3.0 acre, Erem/Durrenberger property for the corridor between Morse and Oasis.
  - \* Finished the phase 3 project and closed the construction contract with Streb Construction
- Olear Creek Trail
  - \* Worked with the City of Tiffin to complete a connection along Ireland Ave. and executed a maintenance agreement for the section of trail within the city limits.
  - \* Executed an agreement with Stanley Consultants for planning services and construction documents for a connection from Half Moon Ave. to Kent Park.
  - \* Completed two Planning Advisory Committee meetings and an open house to obtain public input and comments.
  - \* Completed the zoological assessment of impacts as part of the environmental assessment.
- Implemented a non-toxic ammunition policy in all Conservation Board properties open to hunting.

#### • Cedar River Crossing

- Received a release of 4.1 forested wetland credits and 13.1 emergent credits in the wetland bank for meeting construction requirements.
- Received a release of 5.4 forested wetland credits and 17.43 emergent credits in the wetland bank for meeting hydrological requirements.
- ♦ Sold 1.3 emergent wetland credits and .19 forested wetland credits.
- Planted 17 Meadow Willow, Salix petiolaris, and 20 Buttonbush, Cephalanthus occidentalis, to supplement the buttonbush slough habitat type.
- Seeded 19.49 acres with prairie and wetland seed to restore the forested riparian wetland and impact areas from removing trees damaged in derecho.
- ♦ Engraved the equinox, solstice and north star lines on the stone cairn and treated with moss.

#### • Marketing Plan

- Completed phase 1 and received the final recommendations from phase 2 of plan development.
- Completed park information guides for all areas managed by the department.
- Completed development of a new website and homepage.
- Completed a template to describe public areas the Board is in process of acquiring.

#### • Kent Park

- Worked with the Iowa City Nordic Club to implement a 10.9 mile, groomed cross country ski trail system.
- ◊ Completed renovation to the Knight Prairie Pavilion.
- Completed development of an RFB and contract to remove 9.4 acres of Emerald Ash Borer infected trees.
- Installed a memorial bench at the Administrative Office in honor of Jonathan Payne.
- ♦ Completed seeding of 6.5 acres.

#### • Two Horse Farm

- Began developing 30 different analysis maps with the GIS department.
- Began working with the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska on a land donation.
- Aaron Basten and Dick Lutz worked on the botanical inventory of the site from April through June 30th.

#### • Phebe Timber

• Worked with the Williams family and developed an access easement across the property.

#### • Significant Operations Tasks

- Worked with IDNR on attempting to find the source of coliform bacteria for most of the year on well #2.
- Poured the concrete entry drive to the Sutliff Operations Center entirely in-house.
- Developed safety manuals for all power tools in four shops around the county.

#### • Prescribed Fire Program

♦ Applied prescribed fire to 268.16 acres at Kent Park and Cedar River Crossing.

### **Derecho**—damage and assessment





When the storm hit on August 10, 2020, all power and cell phone communication towers were lost thoughout the northern half of Johnson County. Rangers and staff help warn park users ahead of time and no lives were lost. Many trees fell across roads at multiple conservation areas throughout the county.

The campground at Kent Park was hit hard by the storm and several latrines and RV units sustained damage.



The Hoover Trail, between Solon and Ely was hit especially hard and in places was completely covered with tree debris.





Large areas of blowdown occurred at Cedar River Crossing and Cangleska Wakan The damage at Cedar River Crossing occurred in areas of active restoration, requiring clean -up of debris to meet herbaceous plant community restoration performance standards.







Assessment of damage required 2 full weeks of in field assessment by two people and then about 10 days of compiling data and reporting. Damage data was collected in 8 public areas in the north half of the county.



# Derecho-clean-up





Clean-up from the storm was on-going at the end of FY21 and continued into FY22. Several sites, including Ciha Fen, Cedar River Crossing and Cangleska Wakan could only be cleaned-up during the winter months when the ground is frozen. Clean-up activities required staff and contractors working together. Pictured to the left and below, staff of Miller Logging work at Ciha Fen and Cedar River Crossing.





Conservation staff helped with clean-up for about 3 weeks in Swisher, North Liberty and Solon. Pictured here is debris removal in the community of Swisher.





Above: Clean-up of the savanna restoration along a terrace at Cedar River Crossing.

Left: All stumps were ground flush with ground level after the debris was removed.

Below: 98 high quality saw logs of walnut, oak, cherry, ash, hickory and other species were transported to the sawmill at Cangleska for reuse.













The roofs on 5 barns at Cangleska Wakan were damaged by the derecho and work began on reshingling 4 of them during the fiscal year. In addition to the barn roofs, the barn doors sustained damage when they were inverted from the high winds, a lean-to at the site was destroyed and the high-tunnel used for production of local foods was damaged.



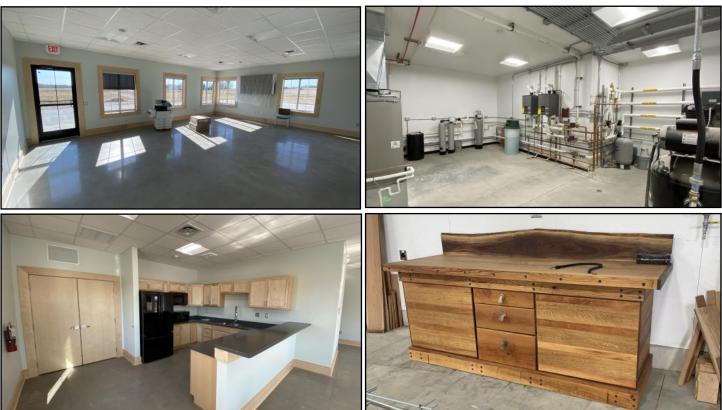


# **Sutliff Operations Center**



Phase 2 construction of the Sutliff Operations Center was completed during FY21. The addition includes office space, a kitchen, a meeting area which also serves as a voting precinct for NE Johnson County and restrooms. Staff also custom built work benches in the Phase 1 shop area from material processed at the Cangleska Wakan sawmill and kiln. The project included installation of an in-floor heat system, air conditioning and a water softener and iron filtration system.







The Sutliff Operations Center project including salvage of the old pole building and reclamation of the site, staff poured all the concrete road system saving about \$85,000 and construction of a lean-to for storage of equipment.



# Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie

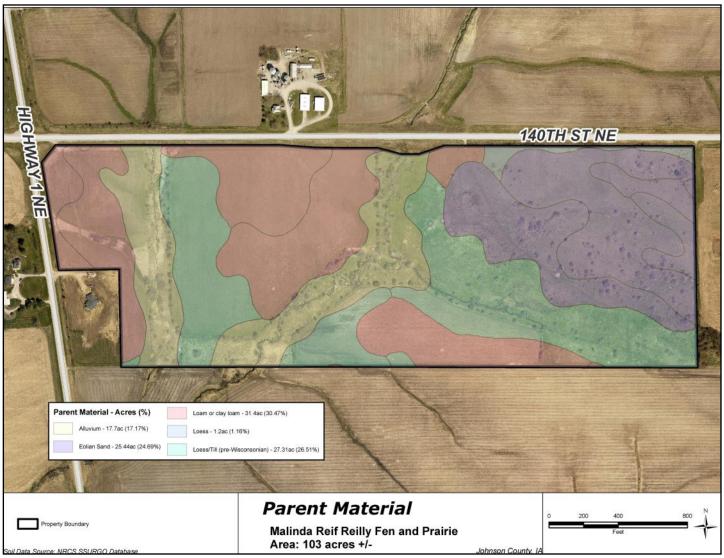


The Conservation Board acquired the 100 acre, Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie with cost share from a \$400,000 Resource Enhancement and Protection Grant from the IDNR. The area was preserved by John Reilly in memory of his late wife, Malinda Reif Reilly, who's family owned the property since 1914. Malinda cherished the site and assured it's preservation by stopping tiling of the fen and preventing conversion to row crop agriculture. Pictured below is Malinda driving an Olive 80 tractor with two dogs on her lap and full load of hay in 1947, when she was 23 years old.





The 100 acre area is located just north of Solon along the east side of Highway 1 and on the south side of the Sutliff Road. Fifty-five acres on the east half of the property has never been plowed and includes the fen and prairie. The remainder of the property was used to produce certified, organic hay and row crops and no herbicide has been applied to the site. The area is diverse in plant life with 217 documented species and soils derived from 5 different parent materials and geological processes.







The fen comprises approximately 1.3 acres of the site and includes many wetland associated species including 19 different sedges. Left: Culver's Root, a prairie species found in mesic environments and below, Prairie Indian Plantain, only found at one other site in Johnson County, is a signature plant of the site with an abundance of plants.













Some of the special plants found at the site. Top left and clockwise: Purple and white phase of Hill's Thistle—a plant listed as special concern in Iowa and these are the only known plants in Johnson County, Tall Green Milkweed, Antennaria/Pussytoes, Yellow Star Grass and Narrowleaved Loosestrife.







Dr. Ray Anderson, foreground, is pictured with Aaron Basten. Dr. Anderson is a specialist in sourcing glacial erratics—determined the large boulders at the site are from bedrock near St. Cloud, Minnesota and were transported here about 500,000 years ago by a glacier. Other pictures from below and clockwise, Bigmouth Shiner, Blacknose Dace, Widow Skimmer Dragonfly and Black Swallowtail Butterfly.







# **Concept Plan and Naming of Cangleska Wakan**





At the recommendation of Dick Schwab and Katherine Burford the area was officially named "Cangleska Wakan" by the Conservation Board. As part of the naming process members of the Iowa, Lakota Sioux, Winnebago and Ho-Chunk tribes were involved. The name refers to the interconnectedness of all things and is represented on site by the round barns, arch, labyrinth and cycles and seasons of the forest and savanna.



JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN MARCH 31 • 2021

The Conservation Board developed a concept plan for future development and improvements to the site with input from a planning advisory committee, staff and neighbors living close to the site.



#### CELEBRATION BARN AREA EXTERIOR IMPROVEMENTS





END OF THE ROAD, PARKING & STAGING



Aerial view renderings were completed of recommended improvements. Left image sketch shows a potential arch in Scott's Lane to provide parking at the future restroom site. Below: A walking path along the roadway promotes safety and pedestrian use of the area.



ONCEPTUAL ROADWAY & WALKWAY DESIGN

#### MIDDLE ROUND BARN

The middle round barn will serve as year-round gate centered around environmental and cound and conservation of the interior assertation will be found. A utility analysis will be required to service to solution of the interior assertation will be found. A utility analysis will be required to service an educational hub. A centralized, possibly contaile source heat will be explored to support an analysis and an analysis and and and practical equivalent and and and practical explored for an education program.







#### TWELVE-SIDED BARN

In coordination with partivide efforts to streamline certain operations, it is recommended that the wood kin and associated storage be relocated to the pole building. By relocating the kiln and associated storage of wood, the unique architecture and space can be used for mating discloss of faince enumenent.









The inside of the middle round barn will be used as a gathering and staging area for groups visiting the site to learn more about the areas cultural and natural resources.

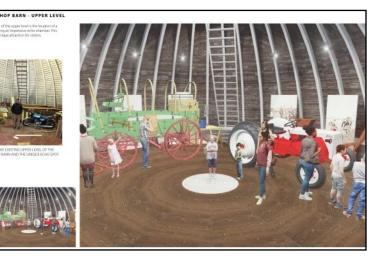


The 12 sided barn will be used to exhibit old machinery and other interpretive related artifacts donated by Dick Schwab and Katherine Burford.



The sawmill, kiln and lumber operation will be relocated to the south end of the existing pole building and be used to teach people about the process of making lumber and beauty of wood products.





Clockwise from upper left: The sawmill and local foods production fields will be located south of the existing pole building to increase efficiency in operations and help protect the site, inside of the Carpenter's Barn shows exhibits, various sign concepts and entryway and interior of the new restroom facility and office for staff. The interior of the new restroom and offices will incorporate the live edge siding as found in the existing round barns.

SAW MIL









Two young girls pose with the yeti at Pechman Creek Delta. Over 60 families found the yeti at each of the four hiding places: Pechman Creek Delta, Cedar River Crossing, Frytown, and Cangleska Wakan. The project was designed to help build awareness for JCC's less visited properties while also encouraging outdoor adventure during the winter months.





In the fall of 2020, naturalists launched Little Tyke Hikes, small preschool and elementary focused programs that taught about one natural science topic per week and included a self-guided hike. These participants look for birds during a songbird program.



In January of 2021, naturalists launched the Outdoor Adventure Club in partnership with the local 4-H program. The naturalists provided half-day adventure-focused programming for junior high students. This club recruited minority students who are underrepresented in outdoor sports.

### **STEM Teacher Education Program**

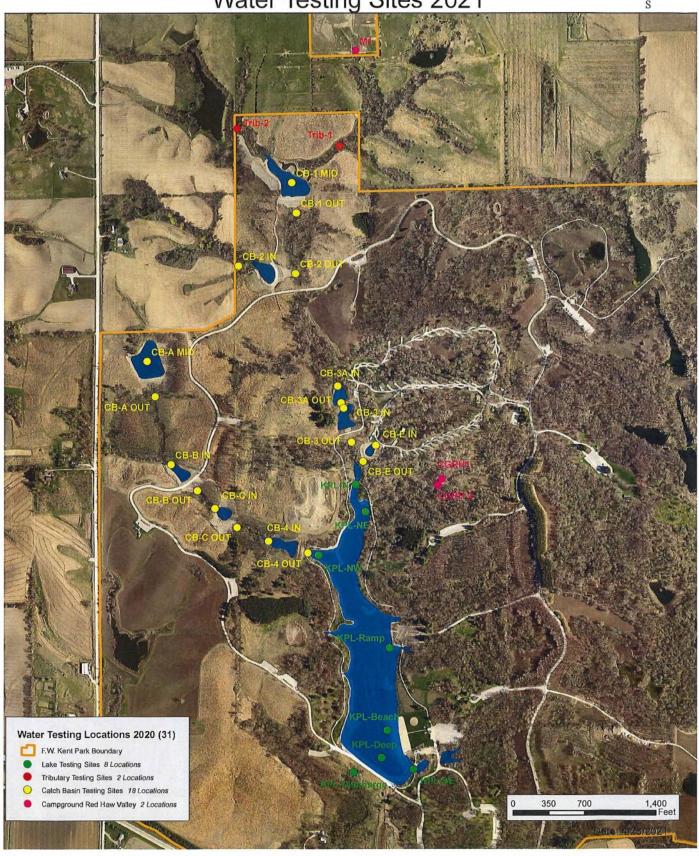


For 9 years the department has sponsored STEM Externs every summer - teachers looking at expanding their knowledge and teaching skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. In FY21, two teachers focused on monitoring water quality at 31 different sites at Kent Park and also planted water lilies as part of the lake restoration effort. The teachers tested 11 different parameters for water quality including phosphorus and nitrate concentrations, bacteria, dissolved oxygen, water clarity and temperature in the lake and catch basins.

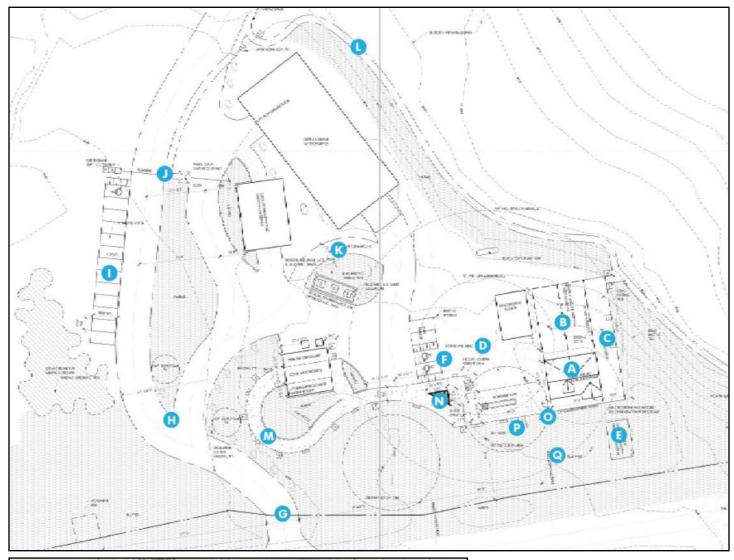




## F.W. Kent Park Water Testing Sites 2021



## Pechman Creek Delta-Entryway Concept Plan





The Pechman Creek Delta Entryway Plan was completed during FY21. The plan helps guide management practices in the entry area until funding is appropriated to implement the project. Pictured above is the final plan illustrating roadways, parking, resting areas, information and interpretive features and the office and restrooms. A primary focus of the plan was adapting the original farmstead site as an entryway into the 380 acre, wetland, savanna and prairie restoration project. Left: The improvements are superimposed onto existing site conditions.



Left: A color rendering plan view shows the new entryway off Sand Road and walkway and parking area in the farmstead site.

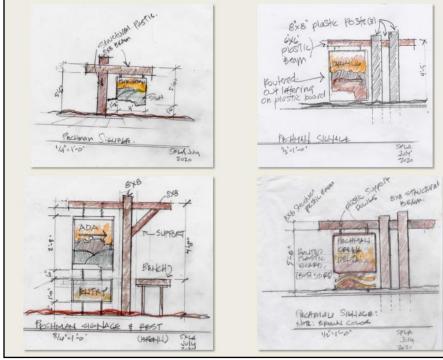
Below: A view of the grainary and office restrooms from the entryway.

Bottom: A view of the entryway improvements from Sand Road.

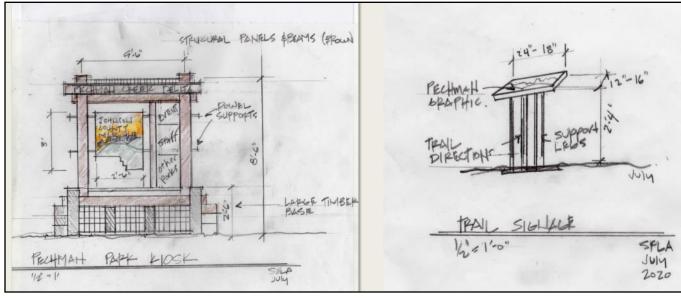




5-1



The planning process also recommended signage design options for the site. The post and beam concepts compliment structural features associated with family farm sites.



## Addressing Climate Change–Solar & Electric Vehicle



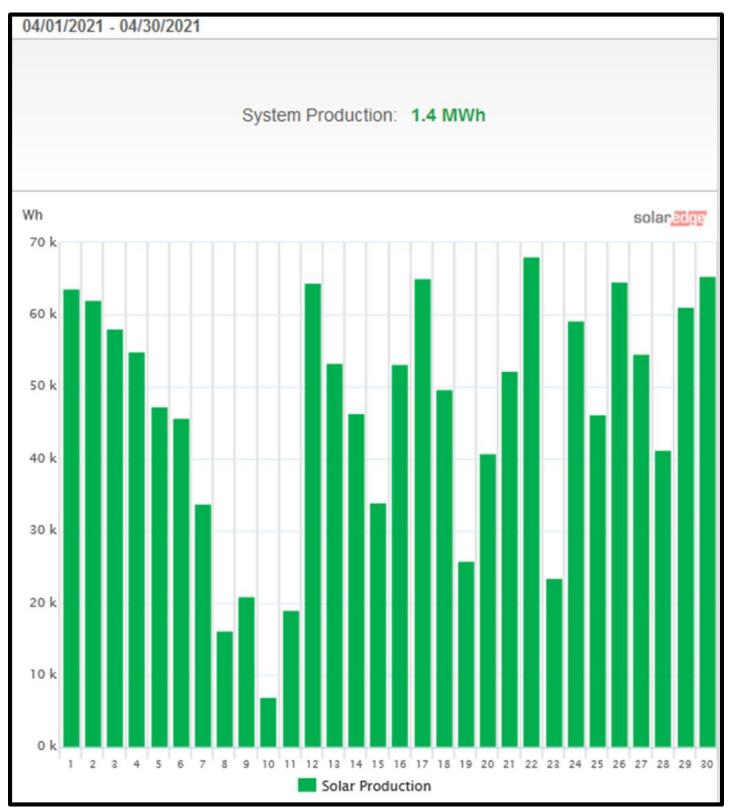
As part of the Board's focus on addressing climate change through reducing our footprint on carbon emissions an all electric Chevy Bolt was purchased and solar arrays were installed at Pechman Creek Delta and on the new shop and office complex at the Sutliff Operations Center. The arrays were installed in March and June of 2021.





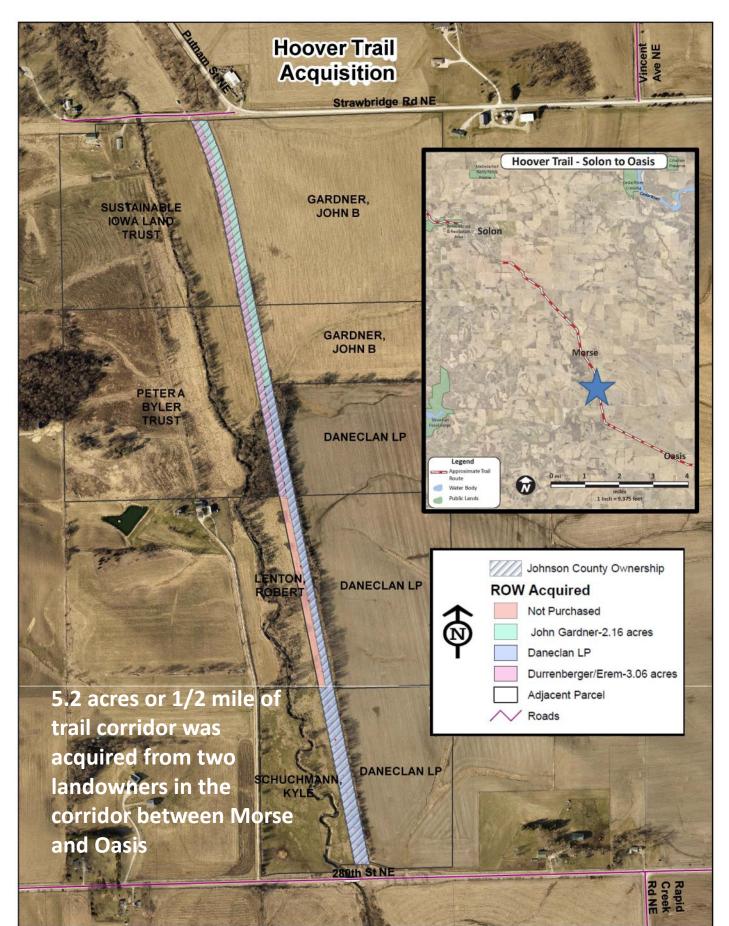
Real time and past energy production can be monitored by staff and the public in each solar array throughout the county by accessing the Johnson County website at:

https://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/department-of-conservation



The Sutliff Operations Center solar array produced 1.4 MWh of energy in April 2021.

## **Hoover Trail–Corridor Acquisition & Prairie Seeding**





To help mitigate impact of trail construction on existing plant communities the section of new trail along Highway 382 west of Solon and a section of trail along the Ely Road were seeded to a diverse mix of prairie and wildflowers. Stabilization of the steep slopes, which also serve as drainage ways off the roadway, was challenging and required large areas of erosion control blanket.



Below: The newly seeded areas were mowed to control annual weeds during the growing season and the prairie and wildflowers have stabilized the site and are doing very well.



## Clear Creek Trail—Tiffin Connection and Planning for an Extension to Kent Park

The Board focused on two Clear Creek Trail projects during the fiscal year:

- 1. A 3 year planning and partnership effort with the City of Tiffin was consummated through execution of a resolution and 28E agreement with the City Council to construct a connecting link to the trail along Ireland Avenue, and
- 2. Began a planning process to extend the trail west of Half Moon Avenue connecting to Kent Park.

28E Agreement between Johnson County Conservation Board, Johnson County, Iowa and the City of Tiffin, Iowa regarding construction of connecting trail along Ireland Avenue, and trail maintenance of the portion of Clear Creek Trail located in the East 1/2 of the NE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 33, Township 80 N., R. 7W., in Johnson County.





## **Non-toxic Ammunition Policy**

# SHOTGUN HUNTERS

ONLY NON-LEAD AMMUNITION CAN BE USED OR POSSESSED WHILE HUNTING WITH A SHOTGUN ON THIS AREA. THIS INCLUDES SOLID PROJECTILES (SLUGS) AND SHOT

JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

The Conservation Board adopted a non-toxic ammunition policy for all conservation areas open to hunting. The policy required hunters to use non-lead projectiles to help prevent lead poisoning in wildlife that inadvertently consume lead while ingesting the carcasses of animals. Only a few counties around the state have adopted such policies that protect eagles and other birds of prey. Several of the conservation areas along rivers and streams are congregating places for eagles and other birds of prey.





## **Snowmobile Trail Policy**

The Conservation Board officially designated three areas open to snowmobiling. All three areas, the Mehaffey Trail, sections of the Hoover Trail and a portion of Cedar River Crossing have long been used for snowmobiling. Rangers work with the local snowmobile clubs to manage and sign the areas to minimize impact on wildlife and provide areas safe for outdoor recreation.



## **Cedar River Crossing**



Wetlands at the site were monitored for hydrology and plant community establishment. During the spring of 2021, the wetlands were doing very well. Pictured below is a section of the newly remeandered stream feeding the main wetland. Soft stemmed bulrush was planted along sections of the stream corridor.







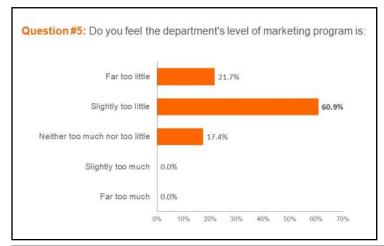


Work continued on establishing the native plant communities with seeding of 19.5 acres of prairie in reconditioned service roads impacted by derecho clean-up and planting of 17 Meadow Willow and 20 Buttonbush to supplement the existing plantings. Left: Prairie Larkspur flowered in the native sand prairie. Below: The prairie plantings in buffer areas around the wetland complex are doing outstanding in only their third growing season.





## **Marketing Plan**



The Conservation Board developed a marketing plan which included a survey of staff, board members, elected officials and the general public. In addition, the planning process included an analysis of the existing publicity and information distribution platforms and a summary of existing audience demographics. All the information gathered was used to make recommendations on how the department can better advertise and engage the public in conservation programs and projects.

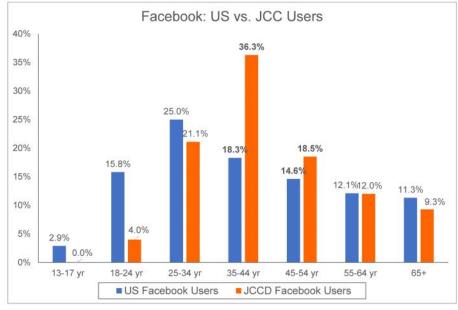
# JCC attracts a higher share of 35-44 and 45-54 yr. old vs. FB baseline average.

This reinforces the trend that Facebook (in the US) is viewed by younger people (Gen Z and younger Millennials) as the social media platform for "mom and dad".

<u>Facebook</u> In 2018, 39.4% of US Facebook users were 18-24 yr.; in 2021, it's 15.8% (a decline of -55.2 points).

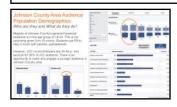
Facebook data privacy scandals and election misinformation have been attributed as factors in the decline among younger users (trust issues).

\* Data for 13-17 yr. N/A for JCC.



## Summary of Key Findings

- 50% of Johnson County Conservation (JCC) followers on Facebook and Instagram are from the age group 24-44, while ~70% are Female, especially skewed towards 35-44 Female.
- Majority of JCC followers are married and highly educated (72% are college-educated and 17% are currently or graduated from grad-school.) This information is key when catering content to your audience.





Social Media	Channel Mix	and Suggest	ted Content	
🔟 f	9	in	5	•
Pacebook Instagram Disease and a scheduler and installer, and excession of the scheduler and of the scheduler of the scheduler of the scheduler of the scheduler of the scheduler	Tabler Ing case (4) and case of the second of the second second lines of a second second rate of a second second rate case of the second second second rate case of the second	Detector In search protocol density finded search protocological and search and search of the anticological and search of the search of the search of the search of the search of the field of the search of the field field of the search of the field field of the search of the field of the field of the field of the search of the field of the fiel	Tables Internet to oppositive 2.4 Minute in according to an according and according to an according and according to according to a Description Descriptio	RecTable Course point(s) Hospital & Annual ProcTable Bythoma Distribution (STR 2018) (STR 2018) (ST



## Kent Park–Knight Prairie Pavilion & Winter Recreation





The staff finished renovation of the Knight Prairie Pavilion which included replacement of the wooden support posts with steel beams and then building limestone columns around the beams. Dave Gustafson, **Assistant Operations** Superintendent, did most of the stone work which required significant custom detail for mounting the interpretive panels.





The staff worked with the Iowa City Nordic Club to develop and manage 11 miles of cross-country ski trails at Kent Park. With the higher than average snowfall during the winter of 2020-21, skiers from around Iowa and several Midwestern states visiting the site to enjoy the groomed trails. The department's snowshoe check-out program was also a popular program during the winter season.





## **Operations and Maintenance Facts and Figures**

In addition to implementation of special projects the staff also maintained 18 properties during the year. The following is a partial list of what the staff maintains and operates throughout the year.

20 properties totaling 2,591 acres. 61.5 miles of park boundaries. 48.5 acres of turf at 13 areas 4 operations buildings at 4 areas 29 water control structures at 4 areas 12.5 miles of hard surface trail on 4 different trail systems. 2 staging areas to access 25 miles of water trail. 1,234 signs at 18 properties, including 1,198 regulatory signs, 21 interpretive signs, and 15 entry signs. 3 campgrounds at three areas. 123 campsites 101 electric sites 27 non-electric sites. 61 roofed structures at 7 different areas, including but not limited to Youth Group Lodge 7 picnic shelters at two sites. 4 gazebos including the Knight Prairie Pavilion. Bird Blind at Kent Park. 4 rounds barns and one double round barn 20 vault toilets at six areas. 11 operations related structures Administration bldg. at Kent Park 274 picnic tables. 145 fire ring/grills. 22 drinking fountains - indoor and outdoor 10 modern restroom facilities at three areas. 4 playgrounds at two areas. 4 boat ramps at four areas. Two miles of gravel road. 6.7 miles of hard surfaced roadway (chip seal and asphalt) 35 parking areas at thirteen areas - covering 8.3 acres and parking for 878 vehicles 19 trail bridges 9 - historic bridges on pedestrian trails at two areas 2 - Kent Park Conservation Education Center trail 1 – Frytown Trail 4 - Clear Creek Trail

3 – Hoover Trail

9 wells at seven different areas.

11 waste water systems at four different areas.

27 HVAC systems

2 commercial walk-in coolers

- 31 hand sanitizer units at two areas.
- 13 water heaters.

- 21 electrical transformers.
- 4.24 miles of electrical line.
- 3.61 miles of water line in seven areas.
- 2.68 miles of fiber optic cable.
- 660 feet of LP gas line.
- 21 septic tanks with a combined capacity of 26,000 gallons.
- 10 bulk fuel tanks at 4 areas.

25 vehicles.

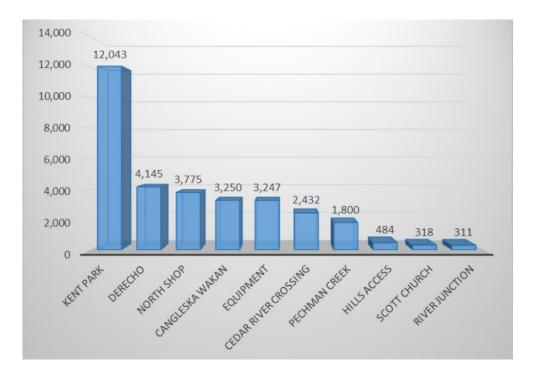
- 43 other types of motorized equipment, including
  - 18 utility vehicles (UTVs).
  - 11 turf mowers.
  - 6 tractors,
  - 1 backhoe,
  - 1 bull dozer.
  - 3 dump trucks.
  - 5 skid loaders.
  - 14 antique tractors
  - 5 antique cars.
- 14 trailers.
- 10 sprayers including prairie burning and herbicide application
- 40 other pieces of specialty equipment for park management (forestry mulcher, seeders, grapples, disks, harrows, etc)

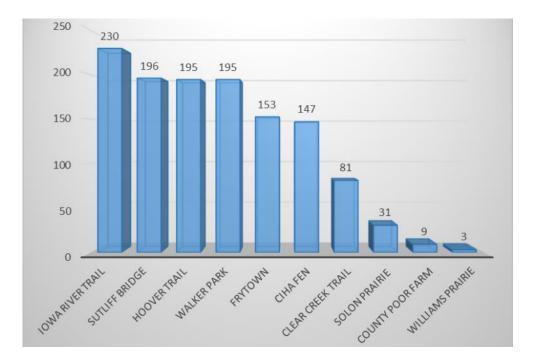


May 6, 2021. The Operations and Maintenance staff pour the concrete entry drive at the new Sutliff Operations Center. The project took three days to pour and saved the county approximately \$85,000 by doing it in-house.

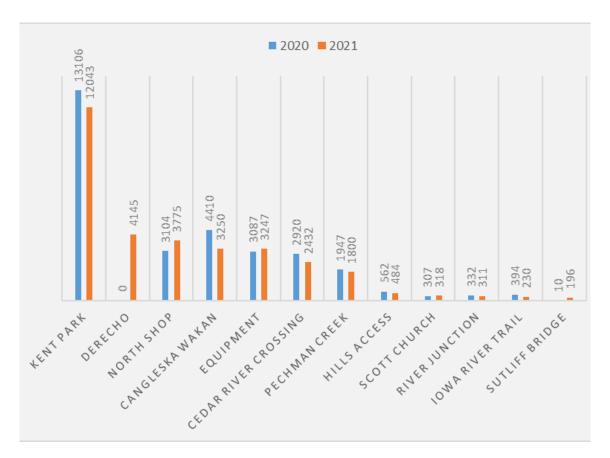
## FY21 Labor Report per Area

The following graphs and charts are provided to show comparisons related to how much time the staff spends in different areas throughout the County. The information is related only to hourly employees and not program area supervisors or employees that are exempt from FLSA.









## **Environmental Education Report**

Compiled by: Naturalists Kristen Morrow, Frances Owen, Marci Trana

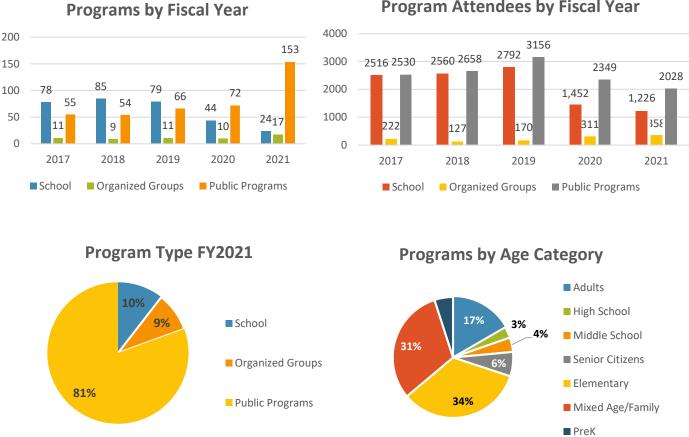


#### **Strategic Plan Connections:**

- The naturalists expanded the volunteer prairie seed harvest program in FY2021, increasing the number of public seed harvest events from 5 to 14. In addition to collecting seeds for JCC's restoration purposes, volunteers were allowed to take small amounts of native seed home for the purpose of establishing native plants at their homes.
- The naturalists engaged 3,612 people in programming in FY2021.
- There were 153 public programs organized in FY2021, up 132% over the previous year.
- The naturalists continue to work on initiatives to reach more diverse audiences. In FY2021, the naturalists launched an OWLS program to reach more seniors, and launched two new ongoing programs focused on providing opportunities to minority youth.
- The naturalists continue to host numerous water-focused programs. In FY2021, they provided 21 public programs focused on aquatic ecology, 31 public kayaking programs, and 2 public fishing programs. These programs connect people with their watershed and increase their interest in promoting water quality.
- The naturalists regularly maintain previous partnerships and continuously build new ones. In FY2021, the naturalists formed a new partnership with the regional 4-H program to launch the Outdoor Adventure club, providing monthly programs to underrepresented youth. They also partnered with the Iowa DNR and Corridor Outdoors to form the Outdoor Skills program, which also provides regular programming for underrepresented youth.
- Sustainability is woven into all aspects of JCC's educational programming – one of the ways the naturalists promote sustainable living is through wildcrafting focused programs, teaching people sustainable ways to harvest wild local foods and create art and functional objects from locally sourced vegetation.

#### **Education Programming – By the Numbers**

Total people served through direct programming in FY2021: 3,612 (-41% from pre-pandemic) Total programs led by naturalists in FY2021: 194 (+24% from pre-pandemic)



#### **Program Attendees by Fiscal Year**

#### Trends:

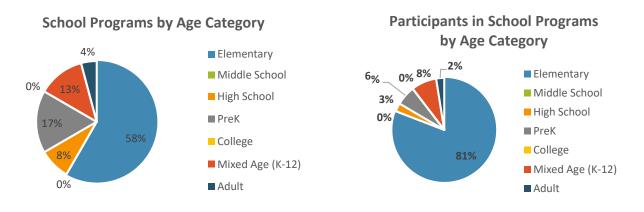
- Significant Decrease in Participant Levels: FY2021 was the first full year of programming through the COVID-19 pandemic. The demands for social distancing and all-outdoor programming altered program offerings available. The Iowa City Community School District, which accounts for the majority of schools served through field trips, prohibited field trips throughout FY2021. The number of students served through field trip programming decreased by 60% from pre-pandemic numbers as a result. The number of public program participants also decreased, by 36%. This decrease is likely due to offering fewer large programs and attending no large community festivals.
- Significant Increase in Public Programs Offered: The number of public programs naturalists • offered increased by 132% from pre-pandemic numbers. The naturalists offered a wide

array of daily programs throughout the summer and fall to provide engaging experiences and safe outdoor human connection for community members during a challenging year. The proportion of program type the naturalists conducted shifted significantly to public programs in FY21, with those composing 81% of all programs.

• Diverse Age Categories: Continuing the trend from FY2019 and FY2020, the age of the participants JCC naturalists serve is more diverse than in past years. Elementary (34%), Mixed-age/Family Programs (31%), Adult (17%) made up the largest proportions of JCC's program attendees.

#### FY2021 School Programming

Total people served through school programming in FY2021: **1226** (-56% from pre-pandemic) Total school field trips led by naturalists in FY2021: **24** (-69% from pre-pandemic)

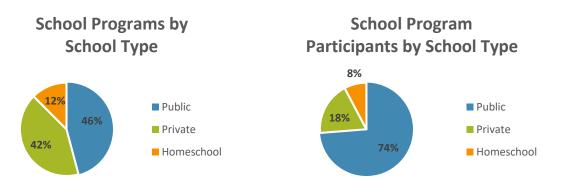


#### FY2021 School Programs by Age:

Elementary students make up the majority of both field trips conducted and volume of students in school programs. The JCC Education crew strives to balance the age demographics of programs through forming organization partnerships and creating public programs that target underserved age categories. For example, in FY2021, the Education crew started a monthly field trip with the local 4-H Program in part to reach more middle school students.

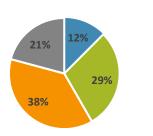


#### FY2021 School Programs by School Type:



#### FY2021 School Programs by Season:

#### School Programs by Season FY21



 Winter (January-March)
 Spring (April-

- May)
- Summer (June-August)
- Fall (September-December)

The naturalists have been working to spread fieldtrips options throughout all seasons by expanding program offerings. This effort provides more outdoor learning options for county residents while also lessening the intensity of peak fieldtrip season, decreasing staff burnout. In FY2021, the naturalists created and led two new winter school programs: snowshoe hiking (bottom left) and wild crafted paper making (bottom right).



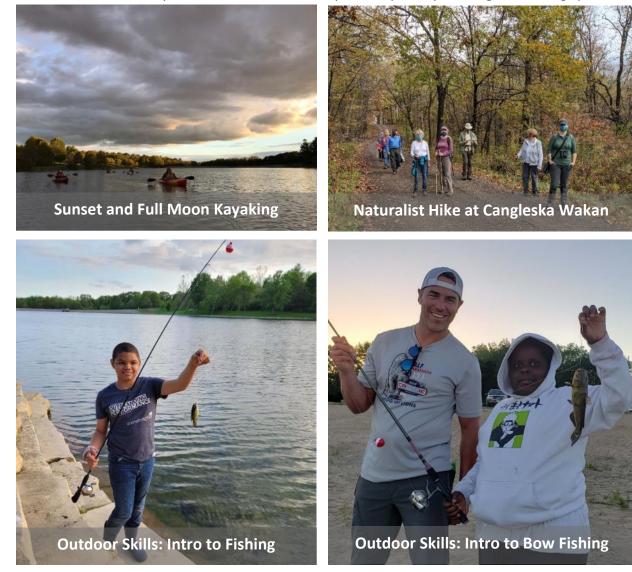


#### FY2021 Public Programming

Total people served through public programming in FY2021: **1,226** (-35% from pre-pandemic) Total public programs led by naturalists in FY2021: **153** (+132% from pre-pandemic)

With far fewer school programs in FY2021, the naturalists focused on significantly increasing public program offerings. Multiple programs were held most weeks of the year. Most programs capped participants to small groups of 20 people or fewer to provide ample social distancing. The programs were designed to emphasize outdoor adventure, environmental/citizen science, and wildcrafting.

**Outdoor Adventure Programming:** Among the adventure focused programs, the naturalists hosted 31 kayaking programs and 15 guided hikes and launched a new program called Outdoor Skills, which aims to build skills and provide mentorship for outdoor adventure for young adults who do not have family connections to outdoor sports, especially hunting and fishing sports.



**Environmental/Citizen Science Programming:** The naturalists hosted environmental science programs covering 15 different topics, spanning everything from caterpillar biology to aquatic macroinvertebrates and tadpole ID to animal tracks and signs. The naturalists conducted a weekly citizen science program called the Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program, building the framework to make this a public program in the future.



**Wildcrafting Programming:** The naturalists hosted 22 wildcrafting and woodworking focused programs, including classes on foraging, basket making, and ecoprinting. The naturalists also hosted their first week-long summer camps, which were themed on wildcrafting.





#### **Programming throughout the County**

The naturalists strive to offer programs throughout the county, and do so whenever there are appropriate site conditions/accessibility for public programs. The following list breaks down program locations and quantity for FY2021:

- Kent Park 109 •
- Cangleska Wakan 48
- Pechman Creek Delta 5 •
- Cedar River Crossing 3
- Frytown Conservation Area 1
- Off-site or Virtual 24





Paddle in the Park at Pechman Creek Delta





Seed Harvest at Cedar River Crossing



Froggin' Fun at Cangleska Wakan

#### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Initiatives

Globally, environmental education programs primarily serve the middle to upper-class, white, older individuals. The lack of diversity is shown in those facilitating as well as those receiving. The JCC environmental education staff is increasingly aware of the need to be more inclusive particularly to those residing within our community but not represented in our programs, events, staff, volunteers, and public use areas. We are dedicated to providing a welcoming and safe space for all members of Johnson County. To reach this objective, we have made concerted efforts to boost diversity in our programs and events, attended trainings and workshops, and made connections to those in the community with close social or organizational ties to these underrepresented groups and individuals. We are primarily focused on age, racial, gender, sexual orientation, and disability disparities but we remain vigilant for disparities we are not yet aware of. We hope that by building strong partnerships within our community and by offering programs designed to serve underrepresented groups, we are able to relay a message of welcome and safety to these underrepresented groups. The following sections show these efforts for FY2021.

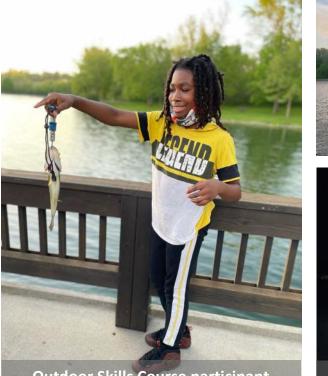
#### LGBTQ+

The naturalists hosted three events, along with two liaisons, for the LGBTQ+ community. These events were mostly focused on establishing the newly formed F.I.N.D. (Friends for the Intersection of Nature and Diversity) Adventure Group with two meet and greet style events and a group hiking event. Future planning and advertising efforts for this group were also completed in FY2021.



#### **Minority Youth and Minority Youth Mentors**

The naturalists hosted seven events/programs capturing minority and underserved youth and their mentors. These events included those offered through collaborative efforts with other local organizations. Topics included fishing, bow fishing, woodland survival, foraging, fly tying, fly fishing, kayaking, guided hikes and more. Planning to continue hosting regular programs for these groups and organizations also occurred within FY2021.



Outdoor Skills Course participant





#### Outdoor Skills Course participants

#### Senior Citizens 65+

The naturalists hosted six events/programs for those 65 years or older. These programs included the newly launched OWLS program, group hikes, virtual lectures, and fishing. Future planning with these groups and organizations also occurred with in FY2021.



#### Adult Minority Groups

The naturalists hosted one women's group hike and made attempted to meet with a woman of color group for an additional hike. Future plans with these groups were also made in FY2021.



#### Partnerships, Collaborations, and Connections designed to boost program diversity:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters:
  - Donation of nature bags
  - Event planning and marketing
- Iowa DNR:
  - Partner for Outdoor Skills Course
- <u>Corridor Outdoor Adventures:</u>
  - Partner for Outdoor Skills Course
- <u>Neighborhood Centers of Johnson</u> <u>County:</u>
  - Event planning and marketing, programs
- Sankofa Outreach Connection:
  - Event planning and marketing
- <u>G! World</u>:
  - Event planning and marketing

<u>United Action for Youth:</u> Event planning and marketing

- <u>TRAIL (Tools and Resources For Active</u> Independent Living):
  - o Event planning and marketing
- <u>UIRA (University of Iowa Retiree</u> <u>Association):</u>
  - Event planning and marketing
  - <u>Melrose Meadows Retirement</u> <u>Community:</u>
    - Event planning and marketing
- <u>Vintage Cooperative of Coralville:</u>
  Event planning and marketing
- <u>Iowa State University Extension and</u> <u>Outreach 4-H Youth Development:</u>
  - o Event planning and marketing

•

#### Trainings, Committees, Workshops, and Events:

- Attended the Let's Talk Disability, Ableism, and Allyship Virtual Event March 31
- Attended the Age Diversity in the Workplace Virtual Training.
- <u>Iowa City Area Juneteenth Celebration</u> Planning Meetings (four meetings attended)
- <u>Diversity and Inclusion Committee Member</u>/Meeting Attendance (seven meetings attended)

#### New Resources, Curriculum, and Initiatives

In addition to facilitating and preparing for educational programs, the JCC Education crew spends significant time creating new resources. The creation of these resources serves many purposes, including offering a greater diversity of field trip curriculum options, creating educational incentives for the public to head outdoors and explore JCC properties, and providing safe and engaging outdoor activities that families can enjoy during the pandemic. FY2021 was a year of extreme creativity and resource creation. The following lists the naturalists creations for this time period:

- Weekend self-guided scavenger hunts and learning hikes, including the Pumpkin Scavenger Hunt and Halloween Activity Hike, Seed Dispersal Hike, Tree ID Hike and Art in Nature Hike, Animal Tracks Hike, Bird Scavenger Hunt, and Monarch Migration Hike.
- New curriculum focused on wild crafting activities, including paper making from locally harvested materials, clay pottery from locally harvested clay, and basket-making classes. These activities have been utilized by both field trip groups, two weeks of JCC's first wild crafting summer camps, and public program offerings.
- **Nature Bags**, an initiative modeled after subscription boxes, in which families can sign up to buy a kit filled with self-guided educational and outdoor activities.
- JCC Passport, an initiative to prompt and incentivize the public to seek out and explore each JCC property.
- **Elf for your Health,** a weekly elf scavenger hunt in the month of December to encourage the public to both hike in winter months and become more familiar with 1-2 mile kid-friendly trails in Kent Park.
- **The Great Yeti Hunt**, an initiative to encourage the public to hike and explore throughout the winter while learning about and visiting seldom-visited JCC properties.
- **Outdoor Skills Class**, this collaborative project required the creation of several new curriculum options, including Introductory classes in bow fishing, fishing, jug fishing, shooting sports, hunting, fly-tying, and fly fishing. This program aims to introduce underrepresented youth to these outdoor sports and skills.







**Clockwise from top left:** One of the weekend self-guided learning hikes; newly created paper making materials and curriculum for making it from cattail leaves; wooden birds created and painted for bird scavenger hunts; Elf for your Health program; a completed passport by members of the public; a family with the yeti at Cedar River Crossing.



#### **Volunteer and Service Learning Programs**

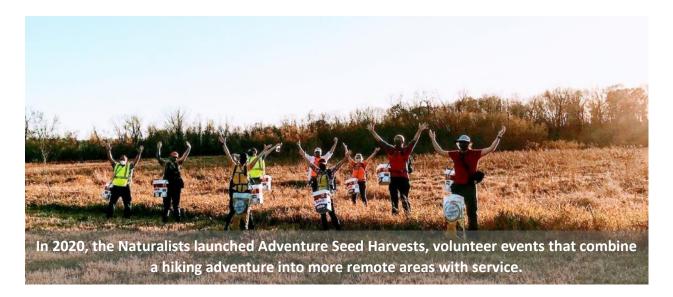
By the numbers: 294.5 hours of service completed by 67 people

#### Project List:

- Seed harvests
- Bluebird box monitoring and Bluebird trail overhaul
- Filling bird feeders at F. W. Kent Park
- CEC host
- Data collection for the Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program
- Special projects: filling Nature Bags and sewing fabric bags for clay pottery program

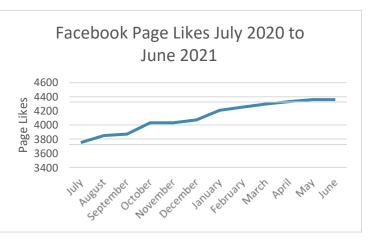
**Service Learning with School Groups:** 0 schools participated in service learning in FY2021 as few schools allowed in fieldtrips in FY2021.

**Note:** Volunteer hours dropped significantly from pre-pandemic numbers due to cancelled events such as The Great Iowa River Race and bird banding public programs. The CEC was closed to summer in visitors in 2020, eliminating the need for volunteer CEC Host assistance. The Volunteer Seed Harvest program expanded greatly, and seed harvesting programs made up 48.9% of volunteer hours. This program expanded from 5 public programs in FY2020 to 14 public programs in FY2021.



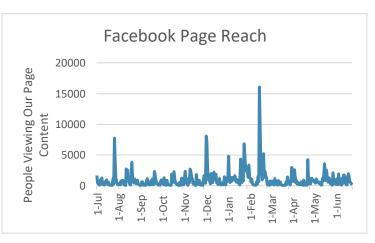
#### **Marketing Report**

**Facebook:** Our page likes grew from **3,752** in July 2020 to **4,360** in June 2021. That is a growth of **608** page likes. We did not track followers closely for FY21 but have added that metric for FY22. When new visitors click "like" at the top of our Facebook page, they are showing support for our Page and content. Our Page will show up as being liked in the about section of that person's profile. They



will automatically follow our page as well, which means our content will show up in their news feed. However, people can choose to unfollow our content while still liking our page and vice/versa.

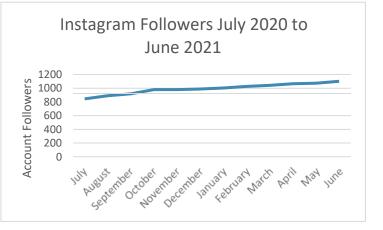
Our page reach is defined as the number of people who viewed our page on any one day. Our most viewed day of the year was February 18<sup>th</sup> at 16,096 unique page views.



#### **TOP POST**

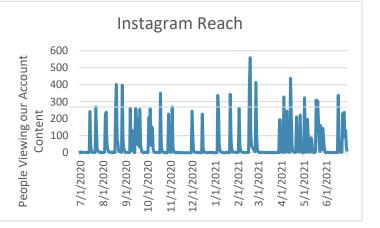


This traffic was most likely driven by our top Facebook post for FY20 (left) which reached 31,000 unique accounts and was shared to other Facebook accounts 177 times. The photo was of an owl's imprint in the snow while hunting. **Instagram:** Our account followers grew from **843** in July 2020 to **1100** in June 2021. That is a growth of **257** followers. When a person follows our page, our posts appear in their Instagram feed.

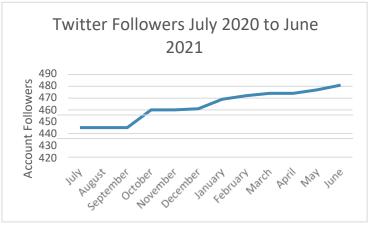


Our page reach is defined as the number of people who viewed our Instagram account on any one day. Our most viewed day of the year was February 18<sup>th</sup> at 559 unique page views.





This traffic was most likely driven by our top Instagram post for FY20 (left) which reached 645 unique accounts and was liked by 185 unique accounts. The photo was of an owl's imprint in the snow while hunting. This was the most popular post for both our Facebook and Instagram accounts. **Twitter:** Our account followers grew from **445** in July 2020 to **481** in June 2021. That is a growth of 36 followers. When a person follows our account, our posts appear in their news feed. Though the growth was slow, it was still a steady increase. Additional cross posted content and tweeting more regularly would likely increase the rate of new followers and increase visibility.



Our top tweet for FY20 had 1,599 impressions. It had 4

Image: Construction of the sector of the sector

**Tik Tok:** Our account followers fluctuated slightly during FY20, beginning with **8** followers in July 2020 and ending with **8** followers in June 2021. Our most popular video was viewed **838** times.

retweets.

Se Signature of the second of

# Park Ranger-Visitor Use Report

Compiled by Ranger Charles Bray and Ranger Aaron Ohlsen

#### 2021 Season Report

#### **Camping**

Johnson County Conservation has four campgrounds in three separate areas. Kent Park Campground and the Youth Group Campground are both located at F.W. Kent Park. Hills Access Campground is located just east of the town of Hills on 520th Street. River Junction Access is located three miles west of the town of Lone Tree off of Highway 22 in the very Southeast part of the county.

Total of all campgrounds combined: \*Youth Group Campground not included

Camping Permits issued- 3,486 Number of nights sold- 9,383 Number of campers- 9,943 Avg. nights stayed- 2.7 Camper Nights Generated- 26,846 Overall camping use increased 7% when compared to 2020.



Camp hosts Bill and Sherry Frantz as well as Ranger Intern Jacob Moss selling firewood to those camping at Kent Park.

#### Kent Park Camping

F.W. Kent Park Campground opened on April 9 and closed on November 14 in 2021. Kent Park Campground contains 86 campsites; all sites provide 30 and 50 amp electric service and Wi-Fi internet access at a cost of \$20.00/night per camping unit. A modern restroom and shower facility is available on site to registered campers.

2021 was Bill and Sherry Frantz's sixth season as camp host. They have decided this was their last season as camp host. The Frantz's began work May 10 on and ended duties on October 18.

#### Attendance:

Camping Permits issued- 2,709 Number of nights sold- 7,470 Number of campers- 7,790 Avg. nights stayed- 2.8 Camper Nights Generated- 21,481 Use increased 12% when compared to 2020.



The Campground full sign was posted on many weekends throughout the summer.

#### **Hills Access Camping**

The Hills Access Campground is open year-round and offers 19 total campsites. Hills Access contains 14 campsites that provide 30 and 50 amp electric service at a cost of \$15.00/night per camping unit. Five sites at Hills Access are designated as primitive camping (non-electric) sites at a cost of \$10/night per camping unit.

#### Attendance:

Camping permits issued- 674 Electric nights sold- 1,486 Non-electric nights sold- 270 Number of Campers- 1,867 Avg. nights stayed- 2.6 Camper Nights Generated- 4,864 Use decreased 15% when compared to 2020.

#### **River Junction Camping**

The River Junction Access Campground is open year-round and offers 12 campsites. All of River Junction Access is designated as primitive camping (non-electric) sites at a cost of \$10/night per camping unit.

#### Attendance:

Camping permits issued- 103 Non-electric nights sold- 157 Number of Campers- 286 Avg. nights stayed- 1.5 Camper Nights Generated- 436 Use decreased 36% when compared to 2020.

> Ranger Aaron Ohlsen gives out fliers, brochures, and information about JCCB to people at the Johnson County Fair



#### Youth Group Campground

The Youth Group Campground is located at F.W. Kent Park. It is open year round and offers five primitive (nonelectric) campsites that allow 20 campers per site at a cost of \$25.00/night per site. A heated lodge style building is available in the Youth Group Campground at a rental fee of \$25.00 per day without heat, or \$60.00 per day with heat.

#### Attendance:

#### Attendance:

Number of groups (permits)- 55

Number of campers- 1,560

Days stayed (sold)- 240

Average days stayed- 4.3

Camper days generated- 6,807

Use increased 47% when compared to 2020.

#### Group Use by month:

Jan-1 Feb-1 Mar-4 Apr-5 May-7 Jun-5 Jul-2 Aug-7 Sep-5 Oct-7 Nov-6 Dec-5



Ranger Bray instructing youth proper firearm safety during an outdoor skills class

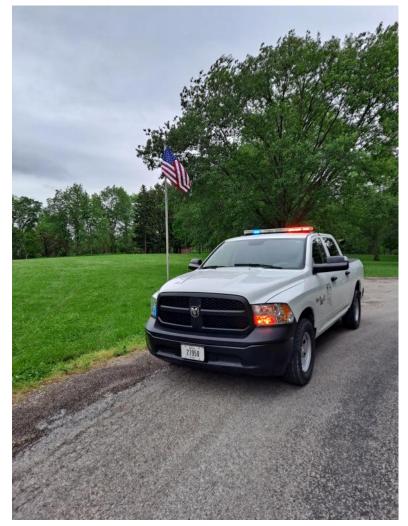
## **Visitor Assistance and Interaction**

Full time Park Rangers are Certified Peace Officers through the state of Iowa. A main focus of Park Ranger Staff is visitor assistance. Throughout the year Ranger Staff make contacts with the public, perform public service duties, and assist other agencies as requested. Iowa Certified Peace Officers are required to attend and document a minimum of 12 hours of annual training in addition to annual firearms qualification and annual Emergency Care Provider training to maintain Peace Officer Certification. JCCB Rangers acquire well over the 12 hour minimum required annually.

#### 2021 Training:

- Visitor Protection and Employee Safety
- Daytime firearms qualification
- Subdued light firearms qualification
- Legal updates for Fish, Game, and Parks
- Iowa Law Enforcement Emergency Care Provider training and updates
- HAZ-MAT mandated training
- Mental Health Awareness mandated training
- Implicit Bias / De-escalation Training
- Commercial Pesticide Applicator recertification
- Annual Wildland Firefighter refresher
- Storm Spotter Training
- Stop The Bleed Training
- Sexual abuse, mental trauma recognition

Much of the day to day contacts and public service duties Park Rangers perform do not make it to the yearly report, however many interactions are recorded and documented through dispatch and Tac.10 software.





Documented public interaction: Two full-time Rangers logged 160 calls for service through the Johnson County Dispatch Center and have 267 other documented public interactions.

Many calls for service not initiated by dispatch start as "out with a subject". Depending on the interaction the call can change to a different type of call. An example would be a call that began as out with subject, could upon further investigation become a motorist assist or intoxicated pedestrian call. Below is a list of call for service types Ranger Staff had in 2021

- Community policing (License Checks)
- General Animal Call
- Park Evictions Hills Access
- Park Eviction Kent Park
- Out with Subject
- Suspicious Activity/Persons
- Suicidal Subjects
- Parking Issues
- Intoxicated Pedestrian
- Illegal Dumping
- Assist in Death Investigation
- Medical Assistance
- Traffic Stops
- Motor Vehicle Accidents
- Crisis Center Referrals
- Noise Complaints
- River Rescue on Iowa River
- Violation No Contact Orders
- Trespass Warnings Issued
- Motorist Assists
- Assist Other Agency
- Hunting Violations

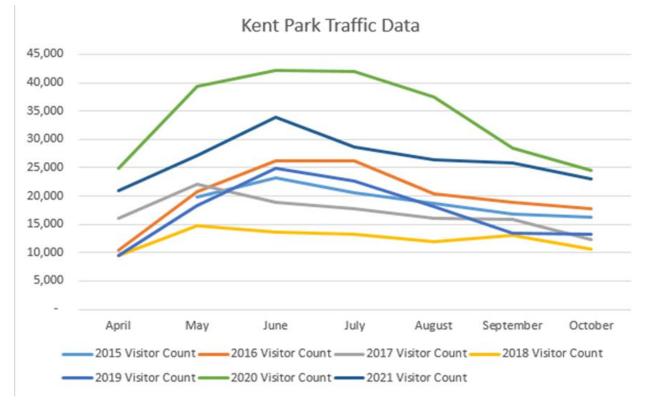
#### 2021 F.W. Kent Park and Hills Access Traffic Counter Summary

During the 2020 season a new traffic data collection method was implemented. Data is now collected by the TRAFx counters. TRAFx counters are used all over the world, but more importantly they are used by other agencies in our area, and are now the standard method of collection in parks. We are able to share and compare data with any agency that uses TRAFx. The TRAFx counter at Kent Park stays active year round. This is a great advantage over seasonal data collection only. The TRAFx counter was run simultaneously for one month with the old style counter to ensure accuracy.

#### Kent Park:

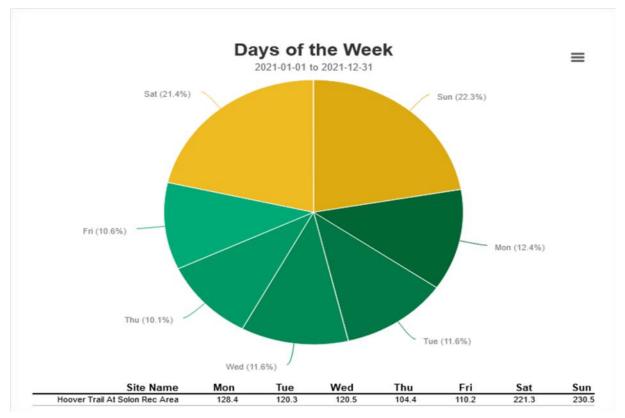
<u>The 2021 season showed a 22.1% percent decrease when compared to the 2020 season.</u> Despite this decrease, the graph below still shows 2021 as the second highest visitor number collected In Kent Parks history. This is presumably due to the lake being at full pool, an increase in amenities that weren't previously available during the lake restoration project, and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Month	2019 Vehicle Count	2019 Visitor Count	2020 Vehicle Count	2020 Visitor Count	2021 Vehicle Count	2021 Visitor Count
April	3,804.4	9,511	9,993.2	24,983	8,383.2	20,958
May	7,326.8	18,317	15,723.2	39,308	10,845.6	27,114
June	9,993.2	24,983	16,849.2	42,123	13,587.6	33,969
July	9,062	22,655	16,803.6	42,009	11,425.6	28,564
August	7,266	18,165	15,005.2	37,513	10,584.8	26,462
September	5,366.8	13,417	11,368	28,420	10,359.6	25,899
October	5,327.6	13,319	9,822	24,555	9,207.2	23,018
Totals	48,146.8	120,367	95,564.4	238,911	74,393.6	185,984



The graph below shows visitor count data at Kent Park from 2015 to 2021. A slight decrease in the visitor count has been observed in 2021 when compared to the 2020 season.

**Hoover Trail at Solon Recreation Area:** In 2021 a TRAFx trail counter was in place all year at the Hoover Trail at the Solon Recreation Area. The pie graph below shows the average counts for days of the week. As expected, weekends show higher usage than weekdays. This counter will stay active through the winter in an attempt to collect snowmobile usage. Snowmobiles are allowed on this particular trail.



#### 2020-21 F. W. Kent Park (Zone 26) Archery Hunt

The 2020-21 F. W. Kent Park Archery Hunt (Zone 26) opened on October 1, 2020 and closed on January 10, 2021. There were thirty slots available to participating hunters this year. Because of Covid-19 there was no safety orientation held and instead, slots were offered to hunters who had participated in last year's hunt. 24 slots were filled. According to our records, 7 of the 24 chose not to buy a license to participate in the hunt.

As in years past, one hundred antlerless tags were available for the duration of the hunt. Three incentive (any-deer) tags for next year's hunt were available to the first three hunters to harvest three female deer. Three hunters succeeded in harvesting at least three female deer, incentive tags will be available to them at the beginning of the 2021-22 hunt.

There were three hunters that earned incentive, any-deer tags, during the 2019-20 hunt, they began the 2020-21 season with the incentive tags, and two of the three hunters were successful in harvesting a mature buck (one of those is pictured below).

#### Break Down of 2020-21 harvest:

- Adult Does 10
- Fawn Does 7
- Fawn Bucks 3
- Spike Buck 1
- Adult Bucks- 2

#### Total Harvest - 23 (Same harvest total as the 2019-20 hunt)



F.W. Kent Park Buck harvested in the 2020-2021 season by Jim Niemeier

# Johnson County Conservation Board 2021 Special Use Permits Issued

Under Section 26 of the Johnson County Conservation Board Rules and Regulations, certain events and activities may only take place on Johnson County Conservation Board controlled property after a fully executed special use permit is issued and approved by the Johnson County Conservation Board Director or authorized representative.

#### Section 26. Events and Activities Requiring Special Use Permits:

It shall be unlawful to engage in any activity listed below on any board controlled property except by contract or special use permit issued by the Board, it's Director or authorized representative.

A. Community events or activities that are promoted in any public media format as being open to all members of the public who wish to attend.

B. General public events or activities that require closing part of a public area to public use.

C. Any event or activity that may interfere with traffic flow or impede the use of an area by the public.

D. Any event or activities that require the uses of an area that would not typically be allowed pursuant to the JCCB Rules and Regulations.

The Board, its Director or authorized representatives are authorized to take action to terminate any activity or event listed above for which a special use permit was not obtained prior to the time and date scheduled for the event or activity.

#### Special Use Permits Issued: (total permits issued)

#2021-1 Richard Lutz to access JCCB areas with personal vehicle

#2021-2 Aaron Basten to access JCCB areas with personal vehicle

#2021-3 Jeremiah Vallad, Army National Guard, Use Kent Park for training

#2021-4 Gideon Ney, KCC, Solon and Williams Prairie for Bio acoustic data collection

#2021-5 Bob Hutson, UI ROTC, Kent Park for training

#2021-6 Mark Wyatt, Iowa Bicycle Coalition, Dubuque and Mehaffey trail for bicycle ride

#2021-7 Stephen Charlton Iowa DNR, Audio study herps at Kent Park

#2021-8 Johnson County SWAT Team, training at Kent Park

#2021-9 Rick Walton, Corn Feeders Bike Group, food truck at shelter rental

#2021-10 Robert Howe, Harvest Prairie Seed from Kent Park, for prairie at private residence

#2021-11 UI ROTC, Conduct Land Navigation Training at Kent Park

#2021-12 UI ROTC, Conduct Land Navigation Training at Kent Park

#2021-13 Emily Miller, Baptism Ceremony at Kent Park Beach

#2021-14 Nordic Ski Club, Groom XC ski trails at Kent Park

#### 2021 Report

#### Wood duck Nest Boxes

#### F.W. Kent Park

Box Location	Year Est.	2018	2019	2020	2021
CEC Wetland	2017	Used	Used	Used	Used
CEC Pond	2017	Unused	Used	Used	Unused
Pond #1	2017	Used	Used	Used	Used
Youth Group Camp Pond	2017	Used	Used	Used	Used
Pond #2, North	2017	Used	Used	Used	Used
Pond #2, South	2017	Used	Used	Used	Used
Wetland #4	2017	Unused	Used	Used	Used
Wetland #5	2017	Used	Used	Used	Used
Wetland #6, West	2017	Used	Installed	Used	Used
Wetland #7, West	2017	Used	Used	Used	Used
Wetland #7, East	2017	Used	Used	Used	Used
Echo Ave Pond, North	2017	Used	Used	Used	Used
Echo Ave Pond, Middle	2017	Used	Used	Used	Used
Echo Ave Pond, South	2017	Used	Used	Unused	Unused
Lake Trail, North Box Left	2020	-	-	Installed	Used
Lake Trail, North Box Right	2020	-	-	Installed	Unused
Campground Site 79	2020	-	-	Installed	Used



Pictured: A wood duck box on Pond #2 had a successful hatching of Wood Ducks

#### Ranger staff duties relationship to the six focus areas of the strategic plan.

Protect Restore Connect Water Quality Partnerships Sustainability

#### Below is a breakdown of Park Ranger activities by focus area

#### Protect

- Develop and enforce JCCB rules and regulations as well as Iowa State laws on all JCCB areas
- Provided and maintained safe areas for people to utilize in response to the Covid-19 pandemic
- Remained on duty and on site throughout the Covid-19 pandemic to provide people with safe outdoor recreation.
- Facilitate the White-tailed Deer Management Program for F.W. Kent Park
- Acquired new patrol boat
- Special archery-only deer hunt
- Aerial deer herd surveys
- Spotlight deer herd and raccoon surveys
- Surrounding landowner deer herd surveys
- Submit recommendations for future deer seasons
- Issue/approve Special Use Permits for users that intend to use JCCB facilities for activities that fall outside normal intended use
- Use of Ranger worn body cameras
- Acquired Narcan to use in case of a Medical Emergency involving an opioid overdose.
- Provide public access to a tornado safe room at Kent Park
- Provide clean and sanitary areas for park users
- Install and maintain boundary markers on JCCB areas
- Invasive plant removal with volunteer groups
- Facilitate CPR/First Aid training and refreshers for all JCCB staff (full-time and part-time)
- Made stop the bleeding kits available to every JCCB chainsaw crew
- Made stop the bleeding kits available at every JCCB facility
- Provide and maintain AED's at 8 locations
- Perform monthly playground safety inspections



#### Restore

- Special archery deer hunt at Kent Park to control the deer population and aid in restoration of native flora and fauna
- Fish surveys and stocking in Kent Park water bodies
- Build and place fish habitat structures in Kent Park Lake, and new catch basins
- Maintain and document usage of Wood duck nest structures on JCCB areas

#### Connect

- Connected mass amounts of people to the outdoors during the Covid-19 pandemic, when everything else was closed.
- Continue to provide opportunities to everyone in a safe manner during the Covid-19 pandemic
- Continuing to expand the use of a mobile computer in the Ranger Patrol Program
- Tac.10 software to provide real time connection to all emergency services and dispatch in Johnson County
- Use of MACH and Tracs software through IDOT
- Accurate record keeping of all law enforcement activities
- Access and storage of all camping activities through Johnson County network
- JCCB employees have the ability access live camping use reports
- Enter park user data into live real-time spreadsheets
- Long term storage of park user data in cloud storage
- Engage campers and park visitors on a daily basis
- **Three annual Hunter Education Classes**
- **Two Mentored Youth Hunts**

Provide job shadow and ride-a-long opportunities to the public that offers hands on ranger experience

Facilitate the grooming of several miles of cross country ski and fat tire bike trails at Kent Park Connected mass amounts of people to the outdoors during the pandemic, when everything else was closed





#### Water Quality

- Collect monthly water samples from all JCCB public water sources to ensure safe drinking water
- Trained Natural Resource staff to preform beach water sampling
- Participate in Kent Park Lake Restoration project
- Provide input for wetland mitigation projects on JBBC areas



#### Partnerships

- Nordic Ski Club and Fat Tire Bike Club to groom several miles of cross country ski and Fat tire bike trails at Kent Park
- Workplace Learning Center for employee recruitment
- Kirkwood Community College for employee recruitment
- Greencastle Airport for aerial deer population survey
- Johnson County Sheriff's Department for law enforcement assistance and investigations
- Provide areas for Sheriff's Department, Iowa State Patrol, and First Responders to train
- Provide storage for First Responder boat at Pechman Creek Delta
- Kroul Farms for Campground firewood supply Outdoor Mentors and Highland Hideaway to assist with two mentored youth Pheasant hunts

# FIEWOOD GOG-6.18 PM A

#### Sustainability

Constant monitoring of the deer population in the Kent Park management zone

Hold a special deer hunt in Kent Park to maintain a healthy deer herd Continue to offer quality outdoor recreation opportunities in a safe setting Use public funds in a wise and fiscally prudent manner





Ranger Ohlsen going over rules and expectations to Kent Park archery hunters during orientation for the Kent Park Management Archery Hunt.

# Whitetail Country

### Cedar Rapids Promotes Outdoor Life

A \$1,500 WTU grant on behalf of Iowa's Cedar Rapids Chapter helped support Corridor Outdoor Adventures in Shueyville, where they work to educate youth and adults in the outdoors, and to create experiences that provide them with the skills and inter-est to be lifelong hunters. While COVID caused some changes



son, hosted two youth mer program that introduced youth to fishing, fishing. They've also

partnered with the Iowa DNR, Johnson County Conservation, and Outdoor Mentors to expand their outdoor programs.

Sandusky River Youth Hunting Day A S3,285 WTU grant on behalf of the Sandusky River Chapter

Ranger Aaron Ohlsen featured in Whitetails Unlimited Magazine. JCCB partnered with different organizations to assist in several mentored youth pheasant hunts.



An angler shows off a nice bass, caught

out of one of the sediment ponds

Maintenance staff and Ranger staff work together to make repairs to the Bluebird playground slide.





A very good boy finding Deer Sheds at F.W. Kent Park



An angler shows off a nice bass, caught out of one of the sediment ponds

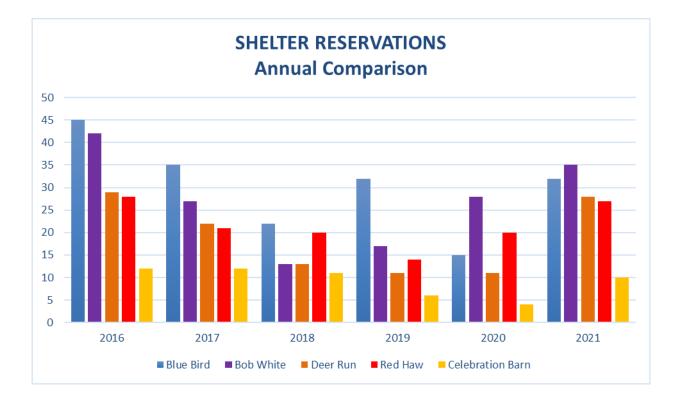
> Ranger Intern Jack Davis rounding a toilet paper holder



# Facility Reservation Summary <u>Annual Shelter Report 2021</u>

SHELTER RESERVATIONS - Monthly 2021										
	Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct									
Blue Bird	1	8	6	7	8	2	0			
Bob White	3	5	7	5	8	4	3			
Deer Run	2	6	7	6	3	2	2			
Red Haw	1	5	6	4	5	3	3			
Celebration Barn	0	1	0	1	2	2	4			
Total	7	25	26	23	26	13	12			

SHELTER RESERVATIONS - Annual Comparison										
	2016      2017      2018      2019      2020      2021									
Blue Bird	45	35	22	32	15	32				
Bob White	42	27	13	17	28	35				
Deer Run	29	22	13	11	11	28				
Red Haw	28	21	20	14	20	27				
Celebration Barn	12	12	11	6	4	10				
Total	156	117	79	80	78	132				



# **JCCB** Volunteer Program Information – FY 2021

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS		ACTIVITIES/EVENTS
Aaron Basten	Julie Kearney	Bluebird Box Monitoring
Alice Atkinson	Karen Schuette	Bluebird Box Preparation
Alicia Hoerschelman	Katherine Bouska	Botanical Inventory
Andrew Miller	Ken Atkinson	CEC Host
Ben Rowold	Larry Wilson	Caboose Maintenance
Beth Smith	Laura Noiseux	Clay Pottery Program
Bill Pusateri	Lavonne Christiansen	Drone Photography/Photography
Candida Pagan	Lenore Holte	Filling Bird Feeders
Carol Mennenga	Lisa Leech	Grounds Maintenance
Chris Olney	Lisa Stark	Integrated Monarch Monitoring
Christopher Cantu	Lois Albrecht	Nature Bag Filling
Colette Brodersen	Mary Flanagan	Seed Harvest
Connie Aldridge	Mary McMurray	Vehicle Maintenance
Dan Phillips	Melinda Turnbull	Water Quality Monitoring
Dave Gallaher	Micki Miller	
David Kramer	Mike Theobald	
Debbie Bryant	Phyllis Black	
Ezra Edgerton	Raymond Zebrowski	
Gene Zdrazil	Richard Lutz	
Ginny Paulson	Sara Pitcher	
Griffin Noiseux	Sarah Fink-Cliffton	
Hai Huynh	Sarah Williams	
Hayes Noiseux	Steve Schuette	
Jenny Hollis Miller	Susan Manworren	
Jenny Morton	Susan Nehring	
Jenny Trana	Suzanne Micheau	
Jerry Mennenga	Tom McMurray	
Jodie Theobald	Girl Scout Troop 5172	
John Castle	Hahn Family	
Julie Damiano	Nolte Family	

# Thank You Volunteers!

# **JCCB** Volunteer Summary

ТАЅК	TASK HOURS T		ТАЅК	HOURS
Bluebird Box Monitoring	74		Filling Bird Feeders	14
Bluebird Box Preparation	6		Grounds Maintenance	29
Botanical Inventory	825		Integrated Monarch Monitoring	9
CEC Host	36		Nature Bag Filling	1.5
Caboose Maintenance	80		Seed Harvest	144
Clay Pottery Program	10		Vehicle Maintenance	4
Drone Photography/Photography	750		Water Quality Monitoring	34
			TOTAL	2,016.5





# **Natural Resources Report**

2021 Fiscal Year

Compiled by David D. Wehde, Natural Resources Manager

The Natural Resources staff are responsible for all maintenance, development and providing guidance to all staff about any activity that has a direct impact on natural resources. This includes projects and management in all areas managed by the department. In addition to managing all the wetlands, prairie, savanna and forests the natural resources staff also maintain all the trees and shrubs in landscaped park areas, manage the Memorial Tree Program and the water quality monitoring program throughout the county. Three of the largest programs include managing the burn program, all seeding/planting and seed harvest projects and invasive species management and control.

The derecho storm on August 10, 2020 had a profound impact on the entire department relative to work needing done in clean-up of the damage. For 3 full weeks after the disaster the Natural Resources staff performed detailed assessment of the damage in all parks located in the northern half of the county.

The maps on the following pages represent a portion of the work completed in FY21.

Controlling invasive species such as White Mulberry and overstocked Silver Maple in the wetland restoration at Cedar River Crossing was a major focus of work in FY21. Pictured below is the site before and after thinning along one of the riparian wetland channels. Removing the woody invaders helps the wetland herbaceous plant community get established and improves the site for use by wetland associated species of wildlife—birds, reptiles, amphibians, etc.

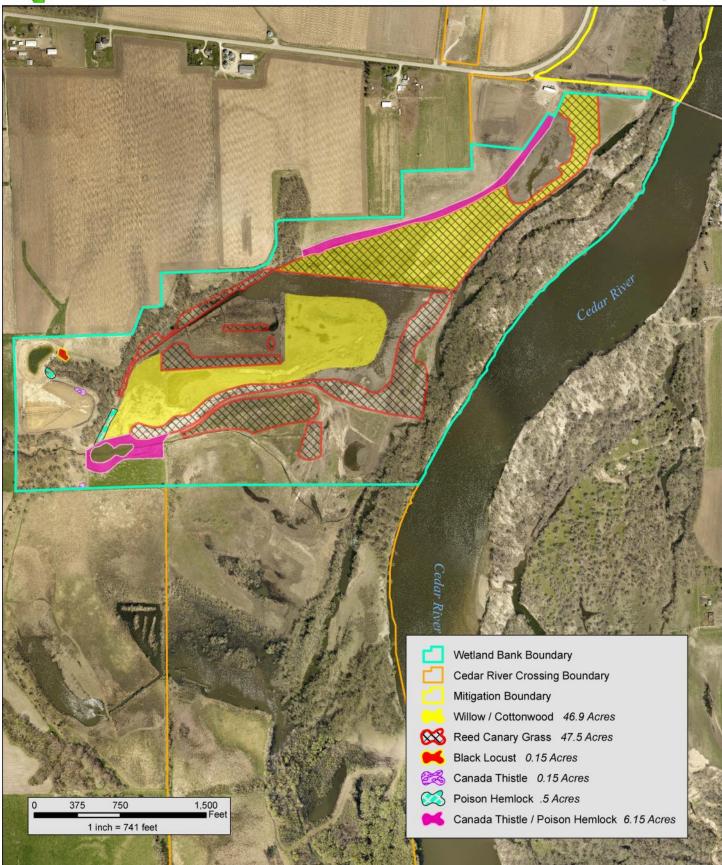






Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area Wetland Bank Management 2021 - Herbicide Application

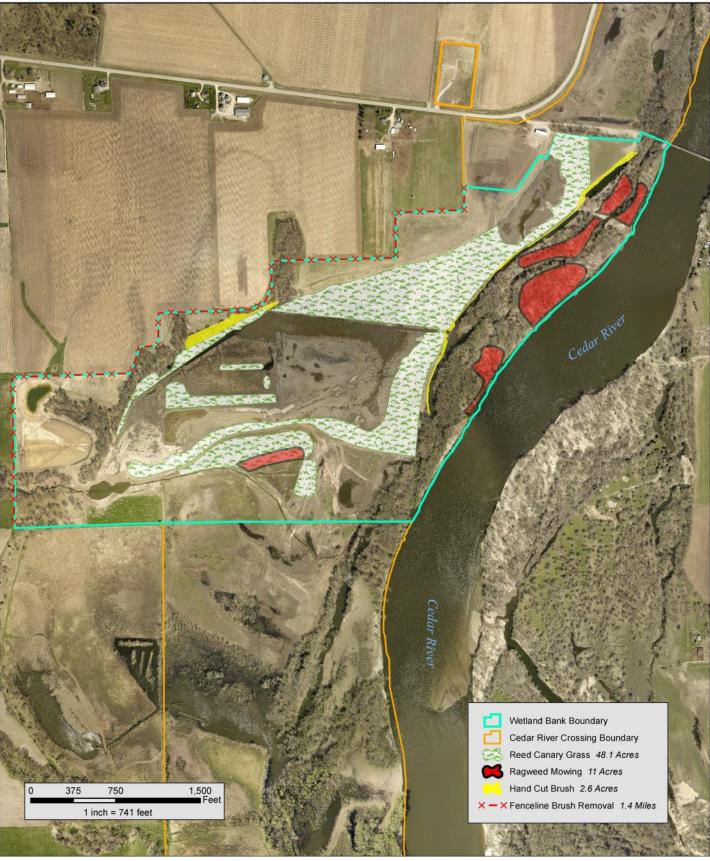






Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area Wetland Bank Management 2021 - Mowing / Hand Cut

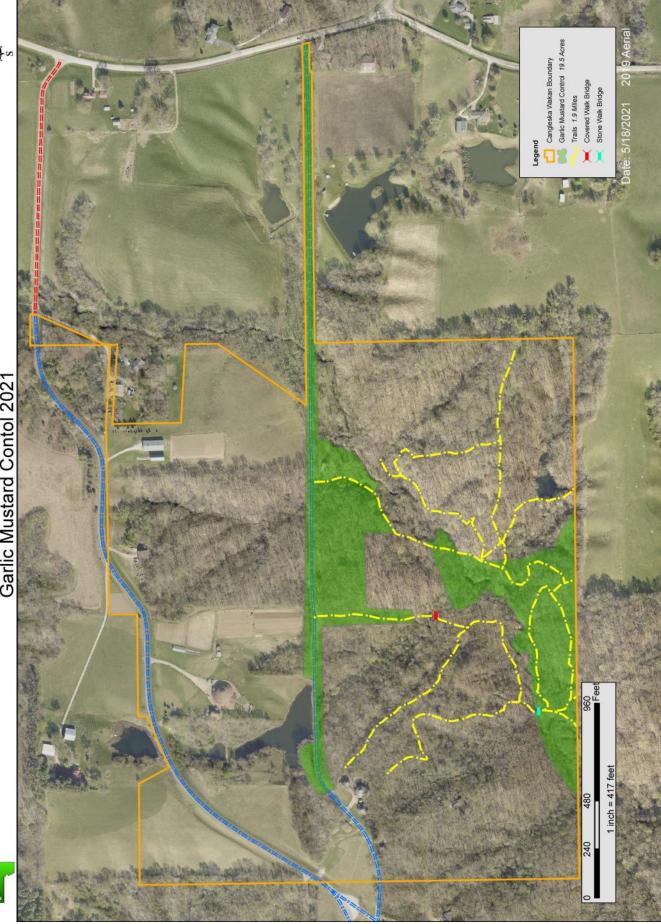






Cangleska Wakan Garlic Mustard Contol 2021

N M





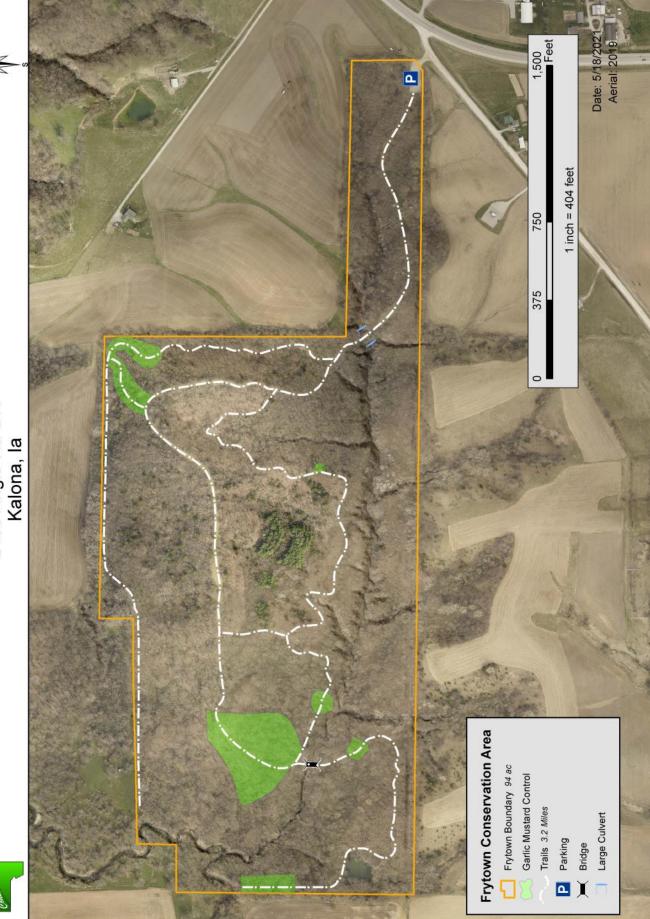
# Ash Trees for EAB Treament 2021







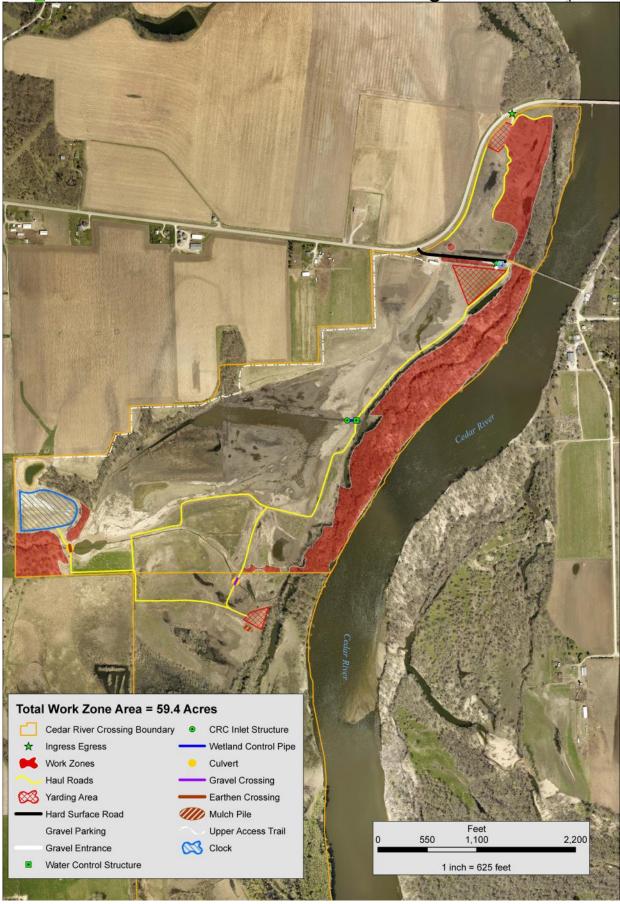
Frytown Conservation Area 2198 Angle Rd SW Kalona, la

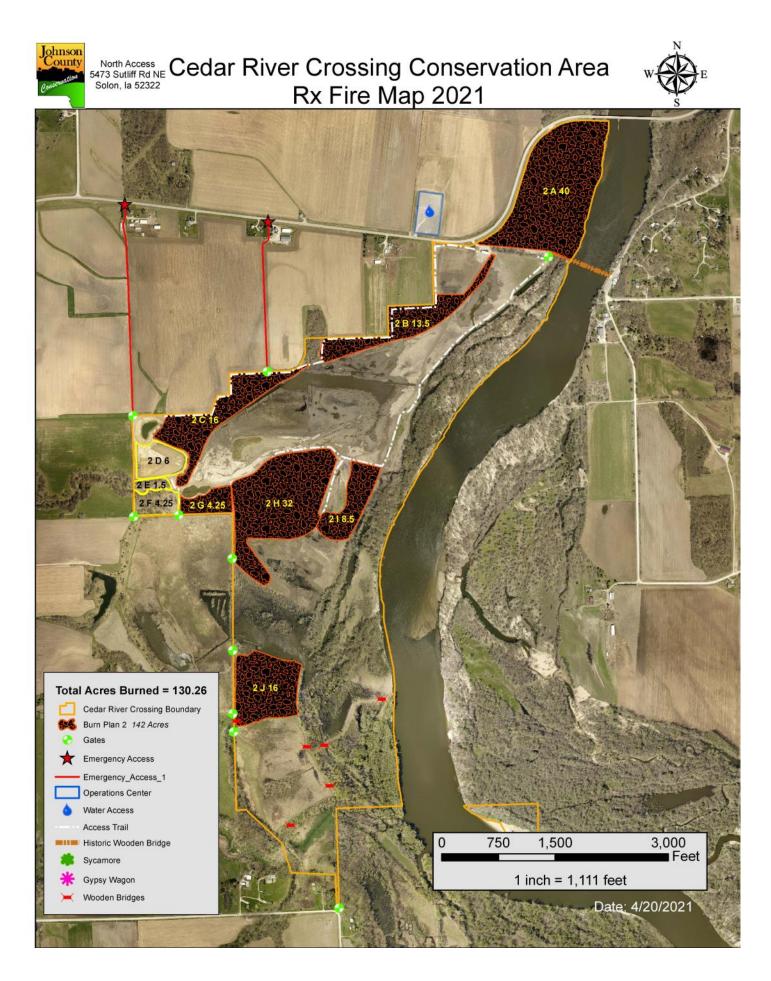




# Cedar River Crossing





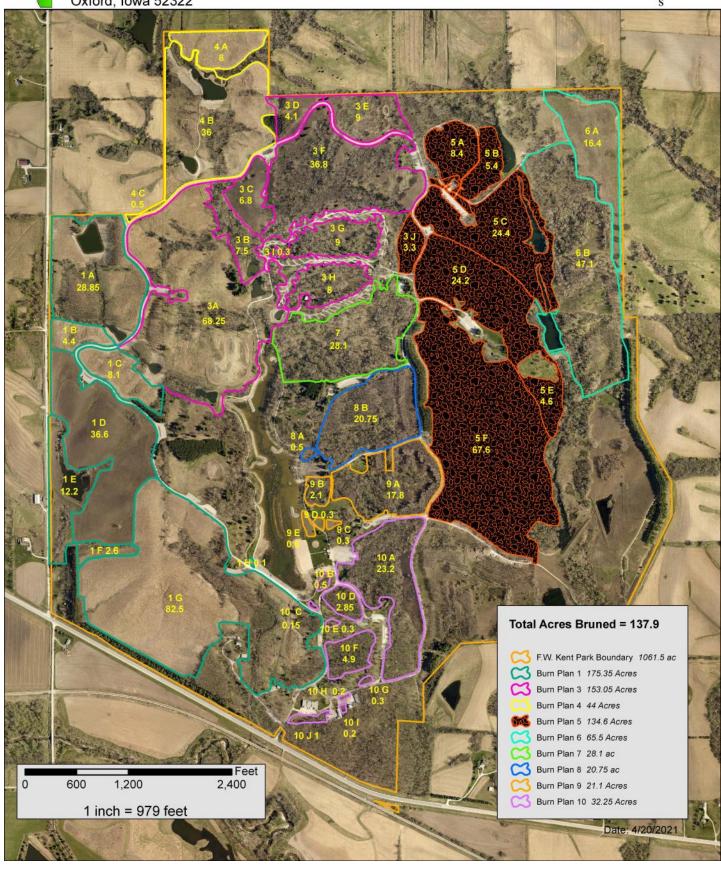




F.W. Kent Park 2048 Hwy 6 NW Oxford, Iowa 52322

# F.W. Kent Park Rx Fire 2021

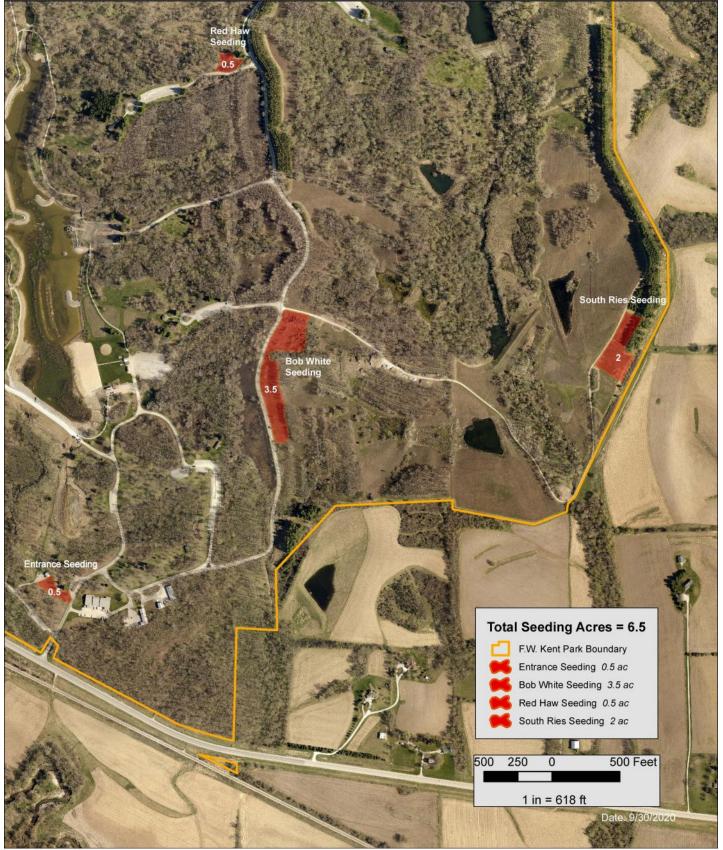






# F.W. Kent Park Prairie Seeding Fall 2020

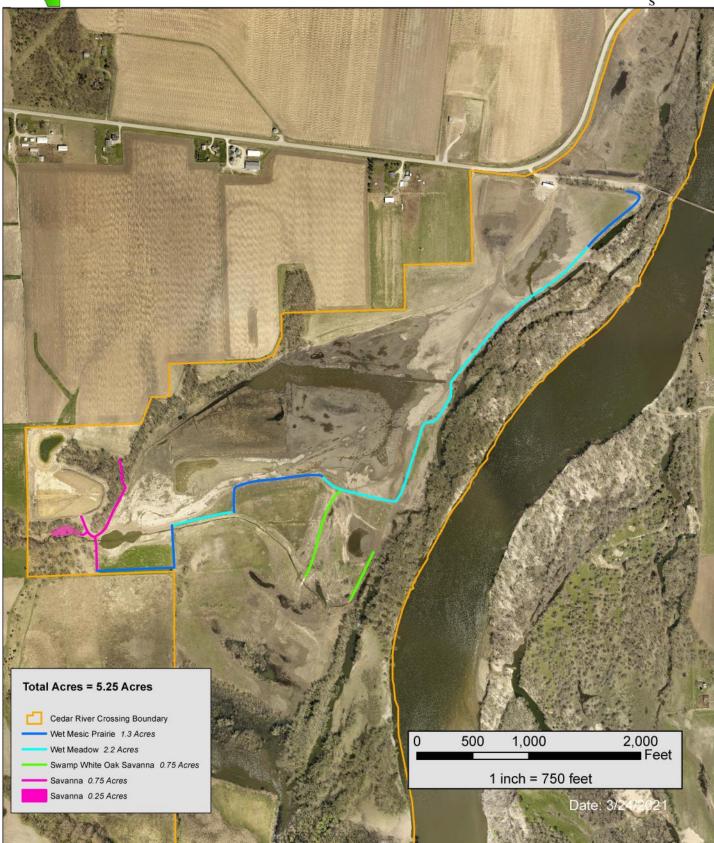






# Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area





# **FY21 Natural Resources Area Report**



Bio-cell at the boat ramp parking area in Kent Park.

### F.W. Kent Park

- Maintained Memorial Tree Program
  - o Ordered and installed Memorial-Honorary Trees. And plaques.
  - o Mulched, staked and installed protective tubes on existing Memorial/Honorary trees and other trees and shrubs installed by tree spade.
  - o Watered Memorial/Honorary Trees and other transplants.
  - o Updated Memorial-Honorary Tree records.
  - o Sprayed around Memorial/Honorary Trees and transplants.
  - o Repaired broken limbs Memorial/Honorary Trees.
  - o Removed numerous Memorial/Honorary Trees posts and plaques.
  - o Located trees Memorial/Honorary Program.
  - ◊ Removed dead Memorial/Honorary trees.
- Composed and conducted the 2021 Prescribed Burn Plan.
  - o Pre and Post prescribed burn maps.
  - o Post prescribed burn records and submit to the IDNR
  - o Prescribed burning conducted on 137.26 acres of various habitat types.
  - o Conducted Grassland Curing Guide for Johnson County NWS Fire Danger Index.
  - o Ordered prescribed fire equipment including the radio system.
  - o Maintained the prescribed fire equipment.

- o Monitored fire effects.
- o Registered prescribed fire crew for RT-130 Wildfire Refresher Course.
- o Completed RT-130 Annual Refresher Prescribed Fire Crew.
- o Acquired and install new sprayer parts.
- NWCG Online training L-180/S-130/S-190.
- Constructed Prescribed-fire hand tools.
- Fire supply inventory/ready purchase list.
- Firefighting PPE.
- Updated prescribed burning equipment check list.
- Built storage and organize fire tools.
- Prescribed Burn Plan staff meeting.
- Installed and maintained firebreaks.
- Managed Invasive Species Program
  - Mowed invasive brush and Cut and Treated invasive brush (19.8 acres).
  - Meeting with Miller logging ash removal.
  - Mow lanes for Ash removal Herring plantation.
  - Ash removal various locations.
  - Monitoring invasive species distribution.
  - Invasive brush control acres treated map.
  - Review and research herbicides.
  - Update MSDS sheets.
  - Updated herbicide records books.
  - Ordered herbicides.
  - Completed herbicide label reference folder.
  - Attended pesticide CEU training.
  - Maintained the herbicide inventories.
  - Built herbicide dobbers and kill sticks.
  - $\circ$   $\,$  Created GIS Maps of invasive brush control F.W. Kent Park.



Michigan Lily in a savanna restoration at Kent Park.

- Cut and sprayed Reed Canary Grass.
- Herbicide usage request 2021 all parks and preserves.
- Invasive brush removal Hwy 6 prairie planting.
- Write RFB for Removal of Emerald Ash Borer Infected Trees.
- Request for Quotes Removal of Emerald Ash Borer Infested Trees, Attend pre bid meeting and bids.
- Meet with LLC Tree Service EAB injection on Ash Trees.
- Mark Trees for EAB removal and thinning.
- Pull Dames Rocket.
- Installed and removed deer protective tubes on trees.
- Pruning ornamental trees and shrubs.
- Updated forestry plans F.W. Kent Park.
- Cut up logs for firewood processing.
- Cleaned up T.S.I. area.
- Stump grind unwanted stumps.
- Developed and implemented prairie and wetland harvest and seeding plans 2021
  - Hand collected 48 lbs. of prairie forb, grass and wetland seed with an estimated value of \$8114.00.
  - Seeded prairie 9.5 acres.
  - $\circ \quad \text{Dried seed.}$
  - o Collected, cleaned and labeled wetland and prairie seed..
  - Maintained the native seed inventory and report 2021.
  - Site preparation prairie reconstruction.
  - Volunteer Prairie Seed Collection Public Event.
  - Repaired and relocated the seed dryers.
  - Mow prairie and wetland seeding's.
  - o Ordered wetland seed.
  - Site preparation sprayed black locust.
  - o Site preparation prairie seeding's
  - Wetland plants order and planting plan.
  - Prepped equipment for seeding.



Bottlebrush Grass in a savanna restoration at Kent Park.



One of the many diverse prairie restorations at Kent Park.

- o Ordered Water Lilies.
- Installed 63 Water Lilies F.W. Kent Park.
- Prepared for Water Lily Lake Planting F.W. Kent Park.
- Sort and organize plant stock.
- Sort sedge seed and dry.
- Ordered prairie plants.
- Repaired native seed grinder.
- ◊ Seed inventories.
- Updated Floristic Inventories all units.
- Organized public wood cutting area.
- Stock and Clean up public firewood pile (10 Permits sold 1,000.00 dollars 2021)
- Maintained Wetland Mitigation Sites
  - Wetland monitoring wells repairs.
  - Wetland monitoring well data collection MA-1A Forested.
  - Wetland monitoring well data entry MA-1A Forested.
  - Completed wetland monitoring reports.
  - Completed Wetland Monitoring Report for Clear Creek Trail wetland mitigation sites MA-1A Forested.
  - Invasive species control Clear Creek Trail Wetland Mitigation.
  - o Invasive species control Clear Creek Trail Wetland Mitigation.
  - Ready data sheets and equipment Clear Creek Wetland Mitigation Monitoring Report.

- Clear Creek Trail Wetland Mitigation Well Monitoring.
- Clear Creek Trail Wetland Monitoring Report.
- Constructed maps clear Creek Trail Wetland Monitoring Report MA-1A.
- Photos Clear Creek Trail Wetland monitoring.
- Checked and repaired ponds and wetlands control structures.
- Interviewed and hired seasonal staff.
- Facilitated the STEMS program
  - Stems program meeting.
  - Orientation and training Stems teachers.
  - Site visits Stems teachers' program project.
  - Stems program project guidelines and assistance.
- Facilitated the Water Monitoring Program
  - F.W. Kent Park Water Testing Procedure update.
  - Water Quality Testing cost spread sheet.
  - $\circ$   $\,$  Constructed updated map F.W. Kent Park Water Testing sites 2021.
  - Completed field forms F.W. Kent Park Water Testing.
  - Water Quality Testing equipment inventory.
  - Research and Purchase water quality testing supplies.
  - Report F.W. Kent Park Lake Water Quality.
  - Trained Stems teachers and seasonal staff to operate boat.
  - Safety training Stems teacher externs.
  - Water Quality data entry.
  - Constructed Water Testing Map F.W. Kent Park Water Quality Project.
  - o F.W. Kent Park Lake Project collect water samples at 31 locations. F.W. Kent Park Water Shed.
  - o Administered Water Testing and Water Quality training staff.
  - Picked up E. coil sample bottles.
  - E. coil testing.
  - o Filled out applications for on-line reporting with the State Hygienic lab Stem teachers and staff.



A large Hackberry just inside the gate at Ciha Fen was split in half by the derecho and needed to be removed. Notice the tow strap holding the tree together.

- Take Water samples to U of I State Hygienic Lab.
- F.W. Kent Park Water Quality training part time staff.
- Full time and seasonal staff training.
- Installed road stone on walking trails.
- Aquatic vegetation survey of the lake reefs.
- Write and conduct work reviews.
- Completed State Habitat Survey 2020-2021 and submit. (Awarded First place in statewide competition)
- Removed hazard trees lake trail.
- Competed IT computer safety course.
- Safety training.
- Weed, mulch and sprayed entrance and islands.
- Conducted work evaluations.
- Interviews and selections Seasonal Park Workers.
- Training Natural Resource Management crew.
- IT training.
- Attended diversity training.
- Hearing tests.
- Ornate Box Turtle Report 2020.
- Documented and updated Endangered, Threatened and Special Concerned species IDNR.
- NWS Storm Spotter Recertification.
- Pruned back Smooth Wild Rose office.
- Updated First Aid kits.
- Computer Safety Class.
- Weed Bio Cells Boat Ramp.
- Scouting projects list.
- Conducted inventory orchid species.
- Maintained and retrofit a variety of resource management throughout the year.
- Repair fence lines.
- Seed collection permit Robert Howe.



Three semi-truck loads of firewood were salvaged from the derecho and transported to Cangleska Wakan for burning in 3 facilities that are heated with firewood.

- Orchid survey
- Derecho Related Work
  - Storm damage removal.
  - FEMA report forms storage.
  - Label and submit storm damage photos.
  - Derecho invoice cataloging from Miller logging
  - o Organize burn pile.
  - Removed storm damaged, hazard trees and unwanted trees and shrubs.
  - Moved logs to public firewood cutting area.



Natural Resource staff maintain several miles of trails and bridges that serve as service roads in the south half of Cedar River Crossing

- Review crop tree release and general thinning procedures.
- Goldenrod study course (Blake).
- Savannas of Iowa study (Blake).
- Herbicide applicators testing.
- Install Meadow Willows North Valley View Prairie.
- Repair trail tile Buffalo pasture.

## Invasive Species Control and Management Conducted invasive species control on the following plant species

Common Buckthorn Autumn Olive Bush Honeysuckle's Species Multiflora Rose Garlic Mustard Thistles (Nodding) Canada thistle Day Lily Black Mustard Black Locust Willow Species Japanese Hops Sericea Lespedeza Smooth Brome Grass Soap Weed Reed Canary Grass Wild Parsnip Sweet Clover Crown Vetch Dame's Rocket Tree of Heaven White Mulberry Oriental Bittersweet Poison Hemlock

### Scott Church Park

- Maintenance of Memorial/Honorary Trees and the plackets.
- Mulched around trees.
- Sprayed around trees.
- Collected and cleaned prairie seed.
- Removed invasive brush prairie reconstructions.
- Installed and remove deer protective tubes on trees.
- Invasive species control conducted on prairie reconstruction.
- Pruned trees.
- Monitored prairie plantings.
- Install firebreaks in preparation for burning.



Mowing Giant Ragweed in prairie and wetland restorations at Cedar River Crossing is important, otherwise the dense stands will shade choke the emerging prairie and wetland plants.

### Walker Park

- Maintenance on Memorial/Honorary Trees and plackets.
- Mulch around trees.
- Pruning ornamental trees and shrubs.
- Sprayed around trees.
- Installed and removed deer protective tubes on trees.
- Cut and Treated invasive brush.
- Removed Dames Rocket.

### Frytown Conservation Area

- Maintenance of firebreak/trail system.
- Updated Floristic Inventory of unit.
- Trimmed out gate.
- Mowed entrance and trails.
- Inspected for storm damage.

- Removed fallen trees on trails.
- Pruned out trail system.
- Monitored trail system and culverts..
- Removed litter.
- GIS updates to maps.
- Garlic Mustard Control.
- Cut and treated invasive trees and shubs.
- Sprayed Canada thistle.
- Checked border records.
- Opened trail system removed storm damage.
- Removed illegal tree stand.
- Mow invasive brush in prairie relict.

### Solon Prairie

- Pruning
- Trail maintenance.
- Installed firebreak.
- Removed litter.
- Cut and Treated invasive brush.
- Monitored site.
- Collected prairie seed.
- Sprayed Bouncing Bet.
- Sprayed Day lilies.
- Take photos of site.
- Inspected and cleaned up the site storm damage.
  - Storm damage estimates FEMA.
  - Prescribed mowing prairie (2 acres)
  - Log FEMA data.



Staff continue to monitor and update inventories of fish and wildlife on county managed properties. Pictured here are the staff collecting and identifying small fishes at the Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie.



#### **Hills Access**

• Maintenance on planted trees and Memorial/Honorary Trees.

- Mulched around trees.
- Pruning.
- Installed and removed deer protective tubes on trees.
- Cleaned up damaged trees.
- Monitored the site.
- Mark Green Ash to be treated for EAB.
- Site assessment for installation of Solar Panels.

### **River Junction**

- Maintenance on mulch around planted trees.
- Pruning.
- Installed and removed deer protective tubes on trees.

### **Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area**

- Managed the prescribed burn plan and program.
  - Installed firebreaks.
  - Removed low limbs firebreak.
  - Prescribed fire prep.
  - Mobilized firefighting equipment.
  - Checked personal Firefighting PPE.
  - Prescribed burning 130.26 acres.



To help protect the site from damage due to UTV tracking and soil compaction the staff hand carried out many of the stumps and debris left from derecho clean -up that occurred during the winter months.

- Seeding and harvest of prairie and wetland ecotones.
  - Seeding plan and maps for wetlands and prairie.
  - Prairie and Wetland seeding and maps.
  - $\circ$  Collected wetland seed.
  - Pick up seed.
  - Monitored prairie seeding.
  - Seeding prep.
  - Ordered prairie and wetland seed.
  - Prairie seeding maintenance.
  - Wetland seeding 62.09 acres.

- Prairie seeding 12.0 acres.
- Installed 20 wetland shrubs (Buttonbush).
- Installed 25 wetland shrubs (Meadow Willow).
- Updated seeding records Cedar River Crossing Wetland Mitigation Bank.
- Removed rocks and debris from seeding area.
- Mowed seeding area's
- Seed cover crop North Shop.
- Collect Rose Mallow and Blue Flag Iris.



Ninety-one prime sawlogs were salvaged from the derecho storm damage and transported to the sawmill at Cangleska Wakan. Each log was source marked and numbered. These are sawlogs salvaged from Cangleka Wakan.

- Managed invasive species
  - $\circ$   $\;$  Cut and Treated invasive brush.
  - Reed Canary Grass Control.
  - Sprayed Canada thistle.
  - Spray around wetland mitigation installed trees.
  - Pick-up Sprayer Pechman Creek Delta.
  - Garlic Mustard Control.
  - Build new herbicide daubers.
  - Calibrate tractor sprayer.
  - Calibrate F/S sprayer.
  - Repaired sprayer
  - Cleaned out Mule sprayer.
  - Cut and treat invasive brush.
  - $\circ$   $\;$  Cut Nodding Thistle, sweet clover and poison hemlock  $\;$
  - Sprayed Soapweed.
  - C/T Black Locust in the De-nitrification pond area.
  - Removed Silver Maple and Boxelder.



- Mowed trail system.
- Updated Floristic Inventory of the unit.
- Wetland mitigation processes and requirements.
  - Weekly monitoring of groundwater wells.
  - Open and close stop logs on control structure.
  - o Conducted Wetland Monitoring field survey for Ely Road and Hoover Trail Wetland mitigation.
  - Wetland Monitoring Data Collection.
  - o Removed silt fence from the wetland bank construction activities.
  - o Care of trees and shrubs planted in the mitigation site.
  - Installed Hydrological monitoring wells.
- Installed and maintained bridges.
- Maintained a variety of specialized resource management equipment.
- Facilitated assessment and clean-up from derecho
  - FEMA paper work.
  - Monitor Derecho clean up.
  - Storm damage clean up Miller Logging.
  - Storm damage clean up grind stumps Miller Logging.
  - Marked trees to be removed storm damage clean up.
  - Removed dangerous hangers and saw logs

Culver's Root and Gray-headed Coneflower in one of the prairie restorations at Kent Park.

- Transported saw logs to Cangleska Wakan.
- Inventoried water testing supplies.
- Cleaned and organized new building and shop area.
- Repaired and stabilized bridges.
- Maintained water quality testing supplies and equipment.
- Litter Removal Sutliff Bridge Unit.
- Restocked first Aid Kits.
- Attend diversity training.
- Hauled fill dirt to the new shop.
- Training seasonal staff.
- Transported equipment to F.W. Kent Park for winter storage.
- Constructed work benches in the new shop.
- Snow removal.
- Facilitated water testing 2021.
- Mowed around shop.
- Haul Case IH tractor to Center Point.
- Storm Damage Drone Flights FEMA Report.
- Maintained and winterized a variety of equipment.
- Built an organizer box for water control structures.
- Removed debris from Wetland control structure.
- Researched the Monarch Butterfly Conservation Project for CRC and completed and submitted forms.
- Seasonal employee training.
- Repaired the culvert wash out and seeded.
- Maintained the MSDS and chemical storage cabinet.
- Installed wire for bird control on the lean-to.
- Stop the Bleeding (Staff Training).

### Clear Creek Area and Trail

• FEMA Report loss of Trees Clear Creek Trail Wetland Monitoring Report.



Mowing and burning helps control willows in the bottomland areas at Cedar River Crossing.



- Updated Floristic Inventory of unit.
- Invasive species control including cutting, treating and spraying poison hemlock and garlic mustard.
- Participated in the Review Clear Creek Trail planning processes.
- Invasive species control Poison Hemlock.
- Managed the CIPCO access to high lines.
- Mow Clear Creek Trail Wetland Mitigation Site MA-2
- Derecho assessment and Clean up.

### Williams Prairie State Preserve

- Updated Floristic Inventory of the unit.
- Invasive species control including mowing and cut and treating wood species. Trimmed parking lot and barrier posts.
- Harvested Prairie and wetland seed.
- Updated prescribed burn plan.
- Inspected border signs.
- Removed litter parking lot and ditch.
- Issued a seed collection permit.
- Dr. Gideon Research Project Williams Prairie State Preserve and Solon Prairie.

### Ciha Fen Preserve

- Compiled information and updated Floristic Inventory of the unit.
- Invasive species control including cutting, treating and spraying Miscanthus, Canada Thistle, Bouncing Bet and Reed Canary Grass.
- Garlic Mustard control.
- Removed dead and unwanted trees.
- Site photos and power point 2020.
- Monitored and repaired fence lines.
- Updated prescribed burn plan.
- Developed the burn plan and submitted an update to ITC/UTC 2021.
- Contact ITC on intent to conduct prescribed burn.

Several of the bridges in the southern half of Cedar River Crossing were rebuilt and anchored down during FY21.

- Remove litter.
- Mowed and maintained fire lines.
- Assessed derecho storm damage and facilitated debris removal with Miller Logging.
- ITC utility right of way.
- Transported saw logs to Cangleska Wakan.
- Developed and maintained the yarding area and haul routes for debris removal.
- Removed some of the storm damage dangerous hangers and leaning trees.
- Completed derecho documentation and clean-up reports.



Bur Reed is an indicator species of a high quality wetland. This picture was taken in a relic, wetland enhancement site at Cedar River Crossing.

### Pechman Creek Delta

- Updated floristic inventory of Unit.
- Controlled invasive species: Canada Thistle, Reed Canary Grass, Wild Parsnip.
- Assist with delta LED lighting Project.
- Wired and installed lights.
- Facilitated water testing and inventoried supplies.
- Gather groundwater well supplies and monitored the well.
- Removed fallen trees in buffers around fields
- Input water monitoring data.
- Install firebreak around the prairie planting.

### Sutliff Boat Ramp

- Removed litter.
- Pruned Memorial Tree.

## Johnson County Historic Poor Farm

- Maintained seeding records.
- Consultation given to planners for the Prairie Management Plan.
- Site checks for invasive species.



A Ring-necked Pheasant in the native grassland at Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie. Picture by Aaron Basten.

Donated by	In Memory of or In Honor of	Species	Location
Megan Harney	Fred and Kathy Koehler	Scarlet Oak	Bob White Turning Circle
Trip and Ellen Strub	Carl F. (BUD) Strub JR.	Northern Red Oak	Red Haw Parking Lot
Sue Rugger	Charlotte Dunlap	Northern Red Oak	Northeast Red Haw Shelter

- Developed and provided a prescribed burn plan.
- Provide prairie seeding management plan and species list to Impact 4G.

### Hoover Nature Trail

- Inspected the sites natural resource associations.
- Removed litter.
- Assessed damage and removed derecho storm damage in compliance with FEMA guidelines.
- Developed a seeding plan for the area along highway 382.
- Storm damage estimates FEMA
- Storm damage clean up
- Tubed trees, pulled support wires that were causing damage to trunks.
- Prairies seeding (3 acres).
- Addressed erosion matting problems and recommended improvements to contractors..

### **Dubuque Street Trail**

• Removed fallen trees from derecho and assessment per FEMA requirements.

### Mehaffey Bridge Trail

• Removed fallen trees from derecho and assessment per FEMA requirements.

#### Cangleska Wakan

- Participated in the planning sessions.
- Garlic Mustard Control and mapping of work completed.
- Remove low branches along Scotts Lane
- Derecho storm damage assessments FEMA.
- Transported saw logs to saw mill.
- Submitted a Natural Resources Concept plan for the planning process.
- Facilitated derecho storm damage clean-up and documentation for FEMA



A Dekay's Brownsnake found at the Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie.

- Tree pruning around buildings.
- Moved and re-staked and reset Hydrangea Tree damaged by derecho.
- Split firewood from derecho and placed into storage.
- Prune trees around the barns and landscaped areas.
- Reconditioned yarding area and seeded into prairie seeding ¼ acre.

### Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie

- Developed natural resource management maps for the areas.
- Maintained and updated the plant inventory and photos.
- Checked for Beaver Dam
- Picked up litter in ditch.
- Controlled Nodding thistle, Canada thistle, multi-flora rose and parsnip.
- Facilitated Insect inventory with Mandy Duffey
- Removed electric fence wire.
- Prepared for and conducted aquatic's survey.
- Flagged Tall Green Milkweed.
- Collect Hill's Thistle seed.

### Two Horse Farm

- Located River birch.
- Reviewed and cataloged the species inventory from Aaron Basten and Dick Lutz.

## Derecho storm damage from the cities of

- Solon
- Swisher
- North Liberty

### Memorial & Honorary Trees Planted 2021 Fiscal Year

Total Memorial & Honorary Installed 2021 Fiscal Year: 3

Total Memorial & Honorary Trees installed since creation of program in 2001: 480

A Great Spangled Fritillary butterfly at the Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie.



# **FY21 CONSERVATION BUDGET**

## by Dory Kjosa

## Expenditures

\$2,989,562.49	Department 24—General Basic
\$85,126.45	Department 32—Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)
\$897,878.51	Department 82—Conservation Trust
\$1,141,554.71	Department 83—Conservation Bond
\$143,805.50	SERF Fund
\$598 <i>,</i> 300.20	Department 85—Capital Fund
\$12,783.59	Department 44—Capital Fund
\$5,869,011.45	Total Expenditures FY21
Revenues	
\$1,168,303.31	Grants and Wetland Credit Sales
\$226,265.91	Other Revenue (camping, shelters, donations, etc.)
\$39,803.94	REAP

\$1,434,373.16 Total Generated Revenues FY21

## JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD FINANCIAL REPORT CONSERVATION GENERAL FUND - DEPARTMENT 24 July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Expenditures:

### **Conservation Administration**

01 24 6100000 10015	Director's Salary	\$138,443.04
01 24 6100000 10025	Conservation Program Manager Salary	\$ 92,661.61
01 24 6100000 10035	Rangers, Office Manager & Office Assistant	\$252,879.74
01 24 6100000 10105	Part Time Ranger Intem	\$ 35,183.63
01 24 6100000 11005	Employer FICA	\$ 39,298.99
01 24 6100000 11105	Employer IPERS	\$ 46,079.87
01 24 6100000 11315	Health Insurance	\$103,629.16
01 24 6100000 11325	Life Insurance	\$ 3,640.26
01 24 6100000 26005	Stationary - Forms	\$ 2,547.12
01 24 6100000 26105	Periodicals - Books	\$ 141.84
01 24 6100000 29405	Uniforms	\$ 881.05
01 24 6100000 40005	Advertising	\$ 388.52
01 24 6100000 40205	Printing	\$ 3,215.69
01 24 6100000 41205	Postage	\$ 114.33
01 24 6100000 41475	Cell Phone Service	\$ 12,065.76
01 24 6100000 42235	Staff Registration Fees	\$ 1,439.00
01 24 6100000 42245	Board Registration Fees	\$ 1,267.00
01 24 6100000 44405	Office Equipment Service	\$ 1,518.19
01 24 6100000 48005	Dues	\$ 4,549.00
01 24 6100000 63215	DP Software Purchase	\$ 113.62
01 24 6100000 63865	AV Equipment Purchase	\$ 446.88
		\$740,504.30

### **Conservation Maintenance & Operation**

		•	
01 24 6110000 10025	Salaries	\$	185,796.87
01 24 6110000 10035	Full-Time Wages	\$	733,412.94
01 24 6110000 10105	Part-Time NB Wages	\$	169,111.79
01 24 6110000 10115	Part-Time Reg Wages	\$	41,408.52
01 24 6110000 11005	Employer FICA	\$	84,730.70
01 24 6110000 11105	Employer IPERS	\$	88,556.31
01 24 6110000 11315	Health Insurance	\$	290,866.88
01 24 611000011325	Life Insurance	\$	1,847.02
01 24 6110000 20205	Pesticides	\$	10,983.73
01 24 6110000 20315	Nursery Supplies	\$	4,000.29
01 24 6110000 21005	Asphalt	\$	12,919.50
01 24 6110000 21205	Road & Parking Lot Material	\$	2,259.96
01 24 6110000 21405	Sign Materials	\$	8,870.86
01 24 6110000 21905	Construction Material & Supplies	\$	13,240.35
01 24 6110000 22105	Electric Supplies	\$	2,511.16
01 24 6110000 23205	Custodial Supplies	\$	11,819.80
01 24 6110000 24005	Shop Supplies	\$	5,523.66
01 24 6110000 24015	Fixtures Material	\$	667.69
01 24 6110000 24115	Plumbing Parts	\$	3,092.56
01 24 6110000 24125	Heating Parts	\$	1,645.62
01 24 6110000 25005	Fuels	\$	40,191.30
01 24 6110000 25105	Motor Vehicle Fluids	\$	3,243.37
01 24 6110000 25405	Equipment Parts	\$	36,869.60
01 24 6110000 29005	Hand Tools	\$	8,026.53
01 24 6110000 29305	Safety Supplies	\$	18,184.48
01 24 6110000 29405	Uniforms	\$	5,446.99
01 24 6110000 42705	Professional Fees	\$	2,654.49
01 24 6110000 42845	Lab Service/Drug Testing	\$	1,329.00
01 24 6110000 43005	Natural Gas	\$	7,579.09
01 24 6110000 43105	Electricity	\$	40,384.24
01 24 6110000 44005	Motor Vehicle Maintenance Contract	\$	5,000.00
01 24 6110000 44105	Contract Repair	\$	13,642.67
01 24 6110000 44205	Heating Repair	\$	6,220.00
01 24 6110000 44505	Plumbing Repair	\$	8,427.98
01 24 6110000 44705	Electric Repair	\$	1,414.06
01 24 6110000 45205	Equipment Rental	\$	11,186.28
01 24 6110000 47405	Pest Control	\$	283.71
01 24 6110000 47505	Septic Tank Service	\$	7,105.00
01 24 6110000 49605	Landfill Fees	\$	7,215.82
01 24 6110000 63005	Agr-Hort Equipment Purchase	\$	15,225.45
01 24 6110000 63105	Construction Equipment Purchase	\$	68,640.00
01 24 6110000 63505	Motor Vehicle Purchase	\$	1,124.00
01 24 6110000 63835	Law Enforcement Equipment Purchase	\$	136.95
		\$	1,982,797.22

### **Rec & Environmental Services**

01 24 6120000 21205	Sand	<u>\$</u> \$	<u>1,713.30</u> 1,713.30
	<b>Environmental Services</b>		
01 24 6121000 10025	Salaries	\$	168,535.31
01 24 6121000 10105	Part-Time NB Intern Naturalist	\$	10,404.00
01 24 6121000 11005	Employer FICA	\$	12,921.19
01 24 6121000 11105	Employer IPERS	\$	15,909.67
01 24 6121000 11315	Health Insurance	\$	49,859.06
01 24 6121000 11325	Life Insurance	\$	344.66
01 24 6121000 26105	Study Material Exhibit	\$	5,745.34
01 24 6121000 29405	Uniform	\$	828.44
		\$	264,547.67

DEPARTMENT 24 TOTALS \$ 2,989,562.49

### JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD REVENUE REPORT CONSERVATION GENERAL FUND - DEPARTMENT 24 JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

Revenue Sources:

Conservation Administration			
01 24 6100000 81002	Donations	\$	7,212.51
01 24 6100000 92004	Surplus Property Sales	\$	1,947.00
		\$	9,159.51
	<b>Conservation Maintenance &amp; Operation</b>		
01 24 6110000 52001	General Camping Fees	\$	176,783.00
01 24 6110000 52011	Youth Group Camp Fees	\$	2,950.00
01 24 6110000 52301	Shelter Fees	\$	18,141.00
01 24 6110000 83901	Firewood Sales	\$	7,901.65
		\$	205,775.65
	Recreation Services		
01 24 6120000 52201	Boat Fees	\$	8,510.75
01 24 6120000 52901	Misc. Recreation Fees	\$	2,820.00
		\$	11,330.75

TOTALS

\$226,265.91

## JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD FINANCIAL REPORT SPECIAL RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT (REAP) - DEPARTMENT 32 JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

Expenditures:

### Nonprogram & Other Uses Conservation Land Acquisition

09 32 0210000 21905	Construction Material	\$ 1,261.07
09 32 0210000 29905	Education Program Supplies	\$ 366.80
09 32 0210000 42705	Professional Fees	\$ 12,437.63
09 32 0210000 60005	Land Acquisition	\$ 2,121.00
09 32 0210000 63005	Agr-Hort Equipment Purchase	\$ 68,939.95

## DEPARTMENT 32 TOTALS \$ 85,126.45

## JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD REVENUE REPORT SPECIAL RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT (REAP) - DEPARTMENT 32 JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

Revenue Sources:	Nonprogram & Other Uses Conservation Land Acquisition		
09 32 0210000 26512 09 32 0210000 60004	Special Resource Enhancement Interest	\$ \$	38,211.00 1,592.94
	DEPARTMENT 32 TOTALS	\$	39, 803. 94

## JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD FINANCIAL REPORT CONSERVATION TRUST - DEPARTMENT 82 JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

Expenditures:

### Nonprogram & Other Uses Conservation Land Acquisition

21 82 0210000 20335	Memorial Tree Program	\$	1,485.17	
21 82 0210000 42325	Engineering & Professional Fees	\$	171,806.66	
21 82 0210000 44105	Contracted Construction	\$	660,227.66	
	Wetland Mitigation Bank			
21 82 0210100 48305	Ag & Hort Services/WMB	\$	64,359.02	
	DEPARTMENT 82 TOTALS	\$	897,878.51	

## JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD REVENUE REPORT CONSERVATION TRUST - DEPARTMENT 82 JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

Revenue Sources:

### Nonprogram & Other Uses Conservation Land Acquisition

	TOTALS	\$ 668,091.13
	Transfer of Department 24 Revenue - FY 20	\$ 152,741.00
	TOTALS	\$ 515,350.13
21 82 0210100 62901	Sale of Wetland Credits	\$ 43,092.00
21 82 0210000 84301	Recoveries on Insured Losses	\$ 446,441.16
21 82 0210000 81042	Donations/Memorial Tree Program	\$ 1,615.00
21 82 0210000 81013	Donations/Wings 2 Water	\$ 100.00
21 82 0210000 81002	Donations	\$ 51.00
21 82 0210000 61004	Rent	\$ 15,400.06
21 82 0210000 60004	Interest	\$ 3,650.91
21 82 0210000 28902	Grants Received	\$ 5,000.00

## JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD FINANCIAL REPORT SERF FUND JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

	SERF Fund TOTALS	\$ 143,805.50
Expenses:	Solar Projects	\$ 143,805.50
Budget :		\$ 150,000.00

## JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD FINANCIAL REPORT CAPITAL PROJECTS - DEPARTMENT 85 JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

Budget:		\$ 700,000.00
Expenses:	Sutliff Operations Center	\$ 598,300.20

DEPARTMENT 85 TOTALS \$ 598,300.20

## JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD FINANCIAL REPORT CAPITAL EXPENDITURES - DEPARTMENT 44 JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

	<b>DEPARTMENT 44 TOTALS</b>	\$ 12,783.59
Expenses:	Solar Projects	\$ 12,783.59
Budget :		\$ 200,000.00

## JOHNSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD FINANCIAL REPORT CONSERVATION BOND - DEPARTMENT 83 JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

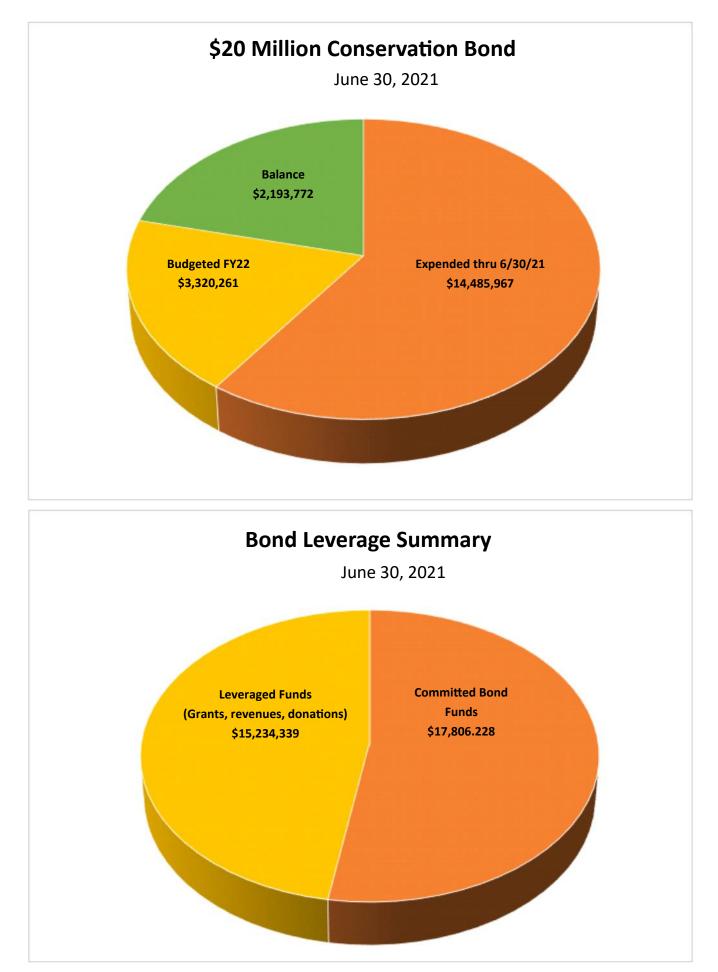
Expenditures:

22 83 0210000 60005	Land Acquisition	\$ 987,820.04
22 83 0210000 60105	Land Improvements	\$ 5,589.80
22 83 0210000 61005	Construction	\$ 148,144.87

DEPARTMENT 83 TOTALS \$ 1,141,554.71



The Conservation Bond sign was developed to identify areas and projects that are funded through the Conservation Bond Program. The signs are posted throughout the county at Ciha Fen, Cedar River Crossing, Pechman Creek Delta, Clear Creek Trail, Hoover Trail, Mehaffey Trail, Kent Park Lake Restoration, Cangleska Wakan and the Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie.

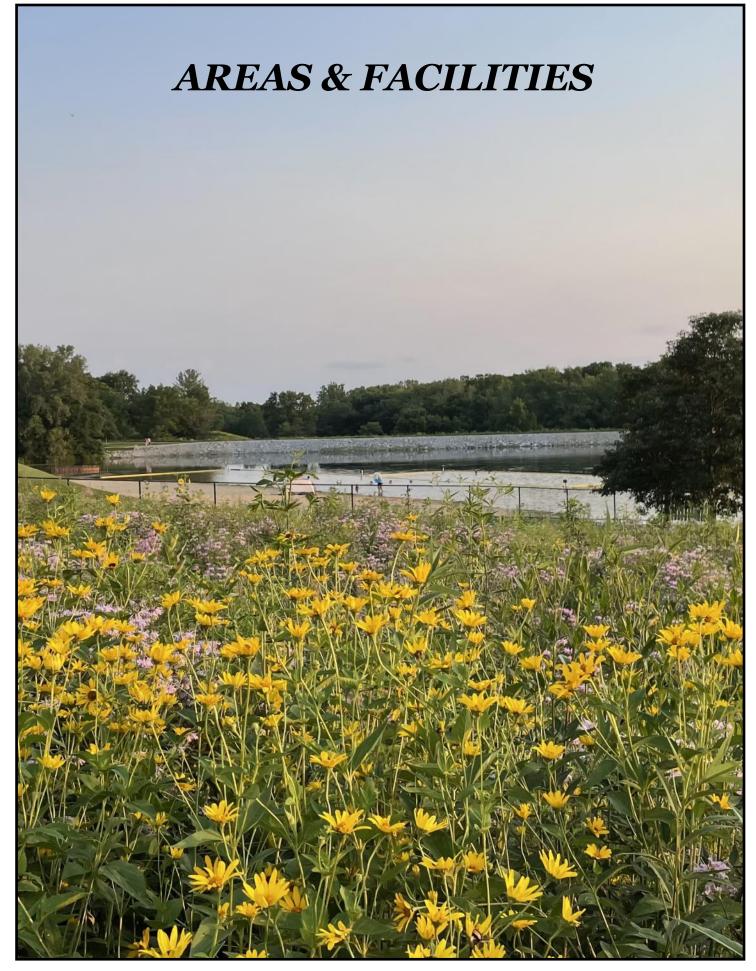


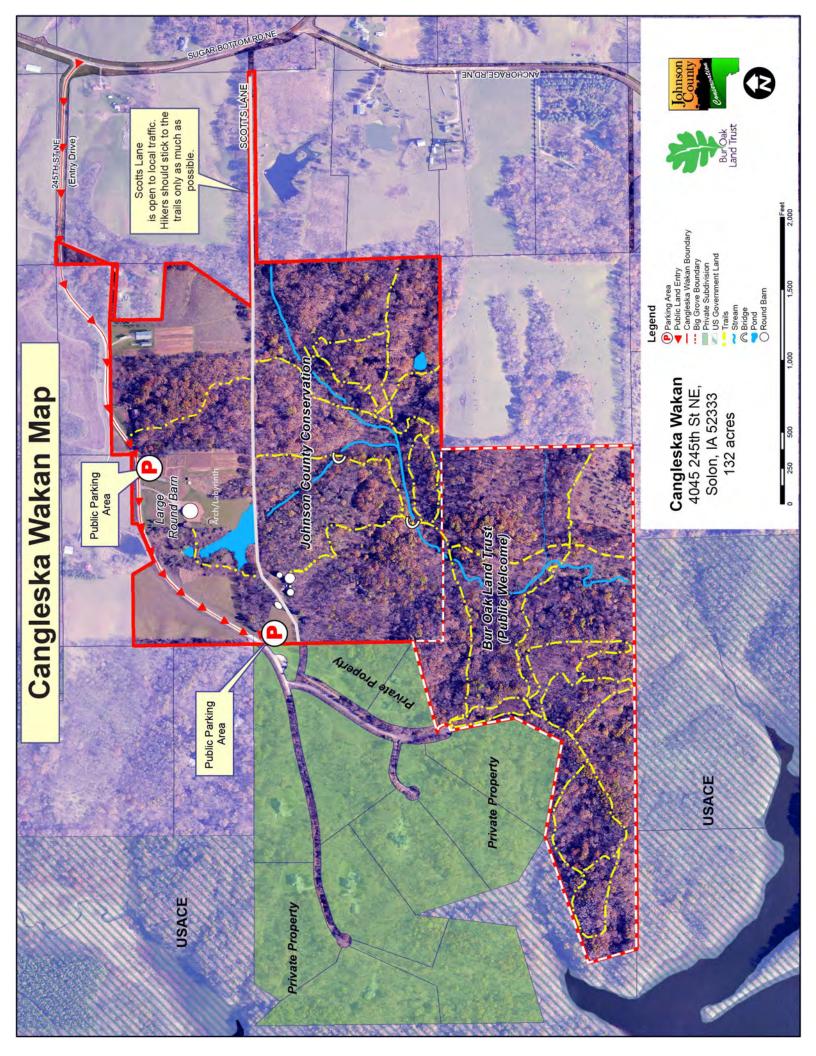
Conservation Bonding Projects Implementation Schedule and Budget 06/30/2021

YEAR Restoration	Ciha Fen 81 acres	Reif Prairie /Fen	Clear Creek Trail I	KP Shower House, Beach, Entry, ADA Restrooms	Schwab Burford Acquis.	Mehaffey Bridge Trail	Land Acquis.	Poor Farm Trail	Hoover Trail I 49.5 acres	Cedar River Crossing 174 acres	Clark's & Wetland Bank CRC <sup>61 acres</sup>	Sutliff Bridge Access	Clear Creek Trail II 22.2 acres	Pechman Creek Delta 380 acres	Hoover Trail II 8.5 acres	Admin.	TOTAL 958.2 acres
2010			289,281														289,281
2011																11,324	11,324
2012	283,966		11,364														295,330
2013			77,654														77,654
2014				130,118					16,142	1,250		2,776				2,000	152,286
2015 6,300				366,012			452		272,693	415,312		26,659	35,929	2,600	1,625		1,127,582
2016 62,700				5,369		76,150	2,944		140,349	2,505	73,401	84,799	18,755	1,214,430			1,681,401
2017 94,765				17,501		78,872	11,446		28,840		216,906	4,200	157,628				610,157
2018 523,665				897	4,500	161,291			385,560		1,308,282		130,682		16,617	1,799	2,533,293
2019 587,118					1,857,400	1,165,411	1,000		571,681		70,128		89		100,727		4,353,554
2020 1,000			53		1,180,335	176,982	98,700		427,317		26,318			0	8,313		1,919,018
2021 62,798		529,316					8,836		61,801		23,546		5,590		49,668		741,555
2022				1,200,000			1,890,000					578,000	1,500,000				
2023				1,200,000											700,000		
2024				1,200,000				500,000									
2025				1,100,000				500,000									
2026				660,000											1,000,000		
2027				660,000											1,500,000		
2028				660,000											1,500,000		
BONDING 1,275,548	283,996	529,316	378,352	519,897	3,042,235	1,658,706	114,542		2,197,918	419,067	1,695,035	118,969	343,083	1,217,030	127,282	15,123	13,792,435
GRANTS DONATIONS 1,554,150 REVENUE	172,145	400,000	512,642		1,098,000	1,257,441			3,037,054		5,500,000		377,260	675,647			14,584,339
TOTAL 2,828,698	456,141	929,316	890,941											1,892,677			28,376,774

## GRANTS, GIFTS, RENT, DONATIONS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FISCAL YEAR 2021

Interest	\$	362.82
Donation - I Olson	\$	50.00
Memorial Tree Plaques - R Schmidt	\$	100.00
Memorial Tree Plaques - T Murphy	\$	50.00
Memorial Tree Plaques - M Hogan	\$	50.00
Memorial Tree Plaque - M Michael	\$	15.00
Interest	\$	362.38
Donation - Wings 2 Water - N Farhadmotamed	\$	100.00
Interest	\$	315.28
Memorial Tree - L Green-Douglass	\$	250.00
Memorial Tree Plaques - Janssen	\$	50.00
NS Pole Bldg Bid - Certified Scales	\$	1.00
Memorial Tree Plaque - T Reynolds	\$	25.00
Memorial Tree Plaque - B Miller	\$	25.00
Farm Ground Rental - Westfall	\$	6,843.75
Interest	\$	301.52
Memorial Tree - M Hamey	\$	250.00
Memorial Tree - P Densen	\$	250.00
Interest	\$	281.46
FY 20 Department 24 Revenue Transfer	\$	152,741.00
Grant - Iowa DOT - Hoover Trail	\$	5,000.00
Interest	\$	252.06
Memorial Tree - T Strub	\$	250.00
Farm Ground Rental - FY20 - Bountiful Harvest Farms LLC	\$	1,209.56
Interest	\$	289.02
Deposit into Wetland Credit Long Term Trust	\$	(558.00)
Wetland Bank Credit Sale - City of North Liberty	\$	5,820.00
Farm Ground Rental - FY21 partial - Bountiful Harvest Farms LLC	\$	503.00
Farm Ground Rental - Westfall	\$	6,843.75
Interest	\$	309.73
Insurance Payment - Derecho Damages	\$	446,441.16
Memorial Tree Plaques - R Swiderski	\$	50.00
Memorial Tree - S Rugger	\$	250.00
Interest	\$	193.76
Wetland Bank Credit Sale - Forevergreen Development	\$	23,765.00
Wetland Bank Credit Sale - Greenbelt Trail Subdivision	\$	14,065.00
Interest	\$	982.88
IDOT Grant for the Hoover Trail	\$	21,947.48
IDOT Grant for the Hoover Trail	\$ ¢	58,264.70
REAP Grant for Malinda Reif Reilly Fen and Prairie	\$	400,000.00
TOTAL	Ş	1,168,303.31





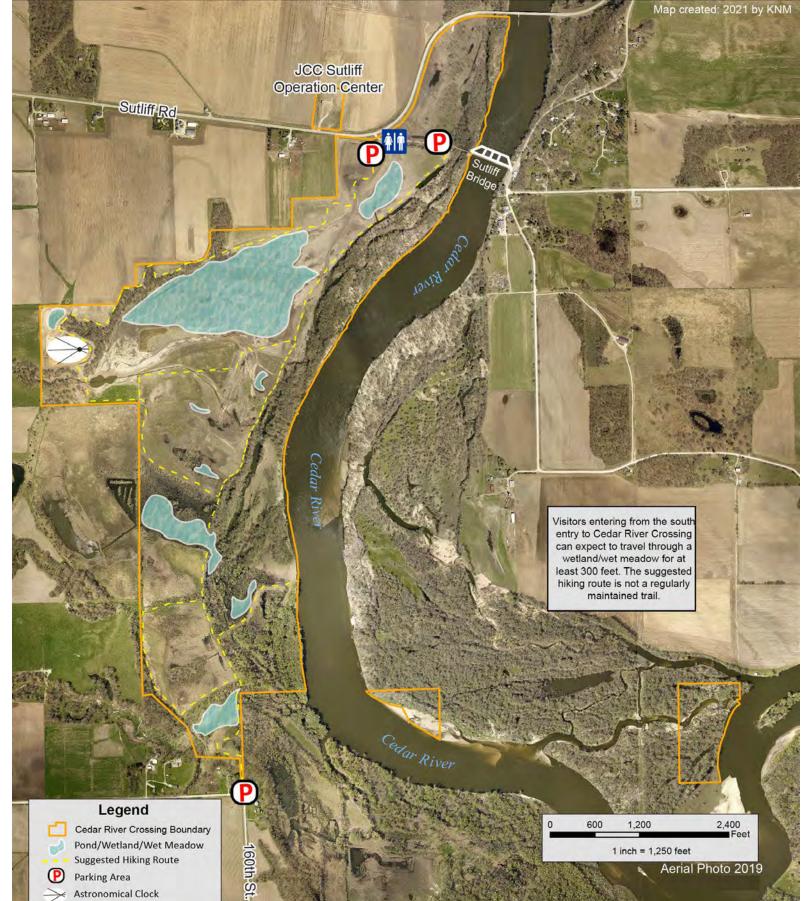


Restroom

# Cedar River Crossing Conservation Area

North Parking Area: 5473 Sutliff Rd NE, Solon, IA 52333 South Parking Area: 5398 160th St NE, Solon, IA 52333

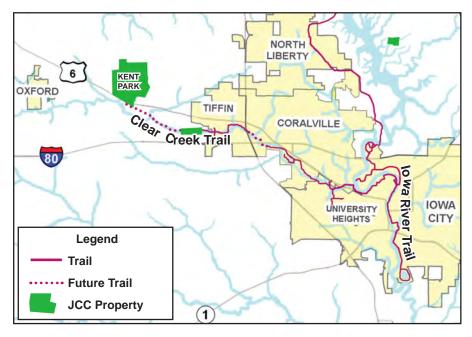












## Area Clear Creek Trail Map

The Clear Creek Trail is developed and managed by the following agencies:

Johnson County Conservation (JCC): management of the trail from Ireland Ave. in Tiffin, west to Half Moon Ave. JCC will manage the extension of the trail west from Half Moon Ave. to Kent Park. City of Tiffin: management of the trail between Ireland Ave and the I-80 underpass.

**City of Coralville:** management of the trail from the I-80 underpass to Rocky Shore Drive. The Coralville segment of the Clear Creek Trail will connect to the Iowa River Trail by mid 2021.



# Frytown Conservation Area 2198 Angle Rd SW Kalona, Ia



## **Hills Campground & Access**

4210 520th St SE Iowa City, IA 52240



#### Hills Campground & Access Overall Map



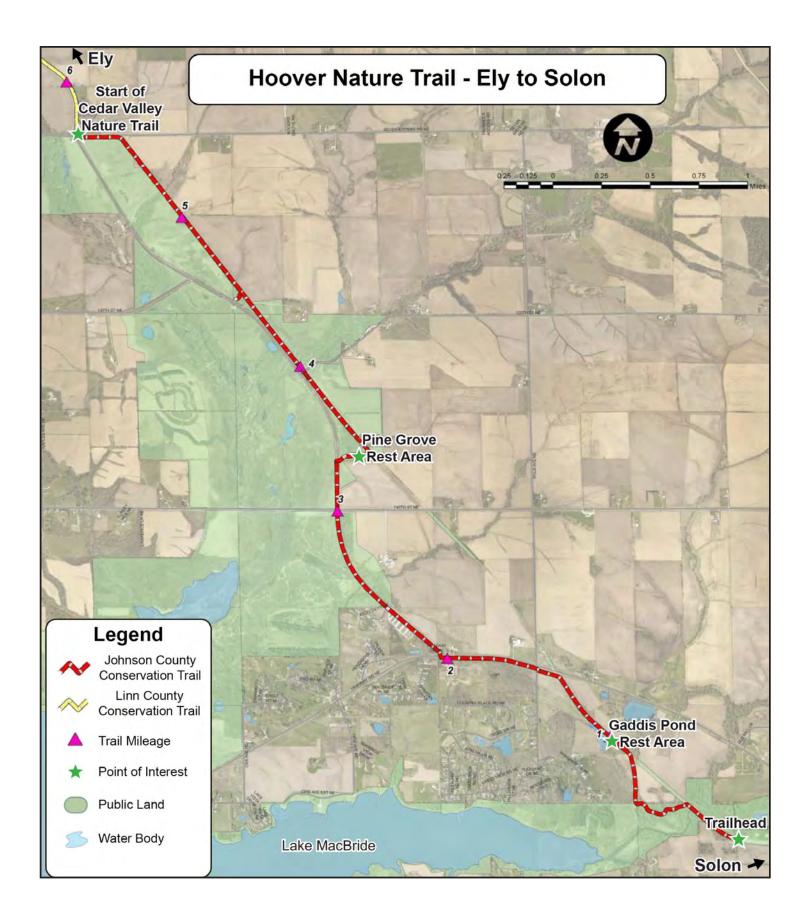
#### Hills Campground & Access Map

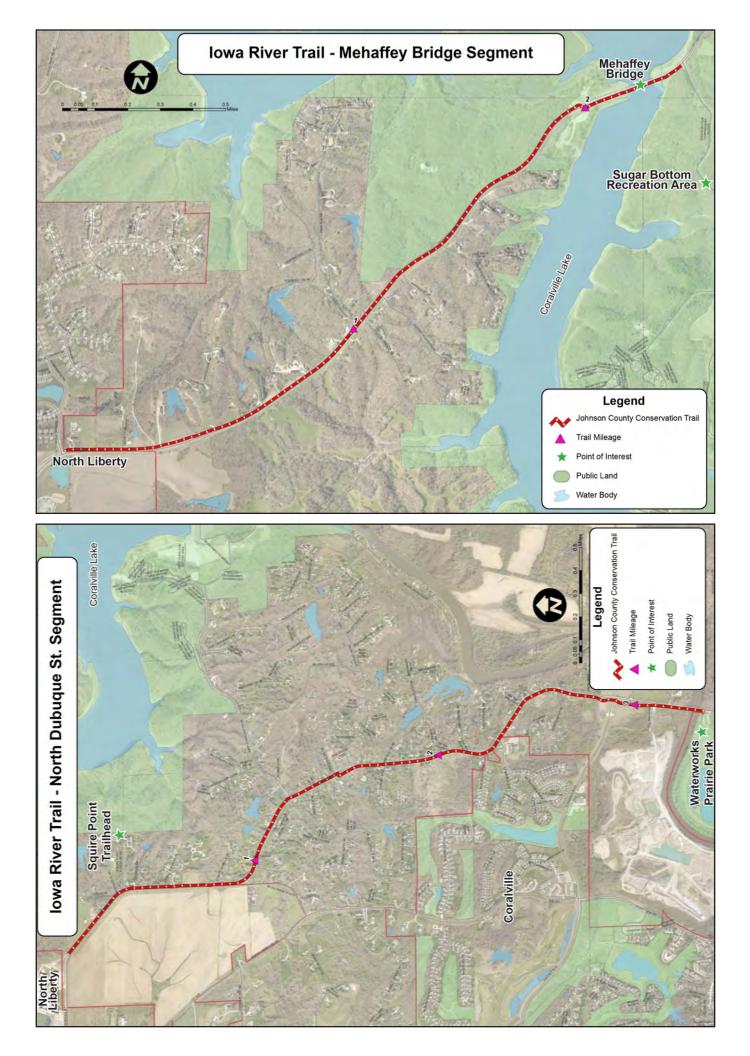




• The area on the east side of the lowa River is open to archery only deer hunting.



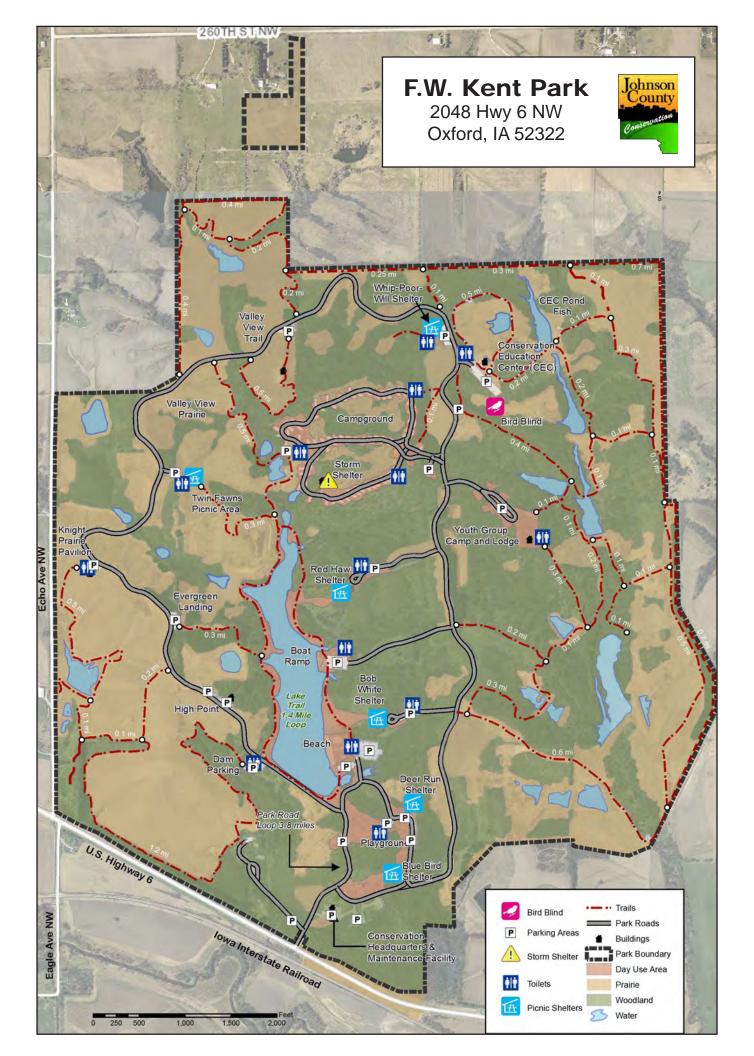




#### IOWA RIVER WATER TRAIL



\*A



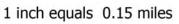


# Pechman Creek Delta

5875 Sand Rd SE, Lone Tree, IA 52755



Trail (mileage is from dot to dot)



Johnson County

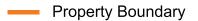
## Phebe Timber

4492 Kansas Ave SW Iowa City, IA 52240





#### Legend



- Road
- Parking Area



**River Junction Campground & Access** 

Johnson County

> Park Location Within Johnson County

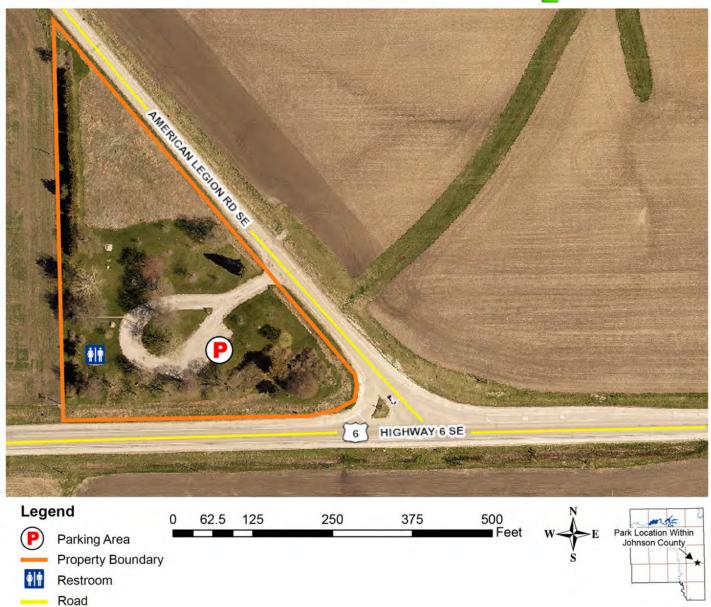
6051 River Jct Rd SE Lone Tree, IA 52755



# **Scott Church Park**

5409 American Legion Rd SE Iowa City, IA 52240

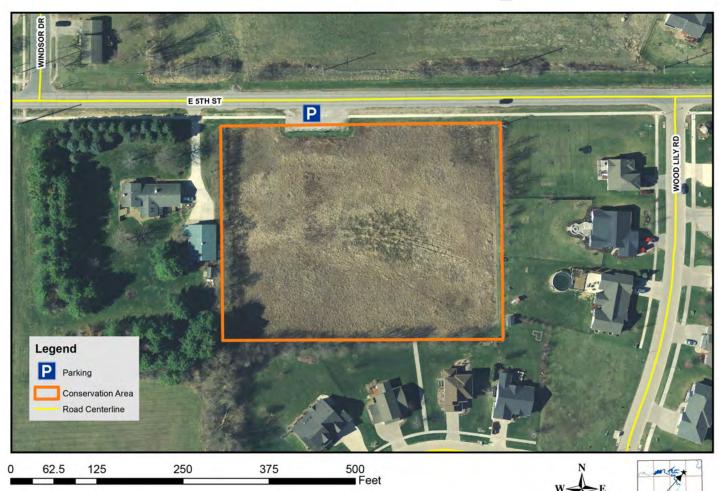




Solon Prairie 713 East 5th St Solon, IA 52333



Park Location Within Johnson County



#### Sutliff Bridge and Access 1293/1295 White Oak Ave NE

1293/1295 White Oak Ave NE Lisbon, IA 52253





Walker Park 6078 Otter Creek Rd SE Lone Tree, IA 52755



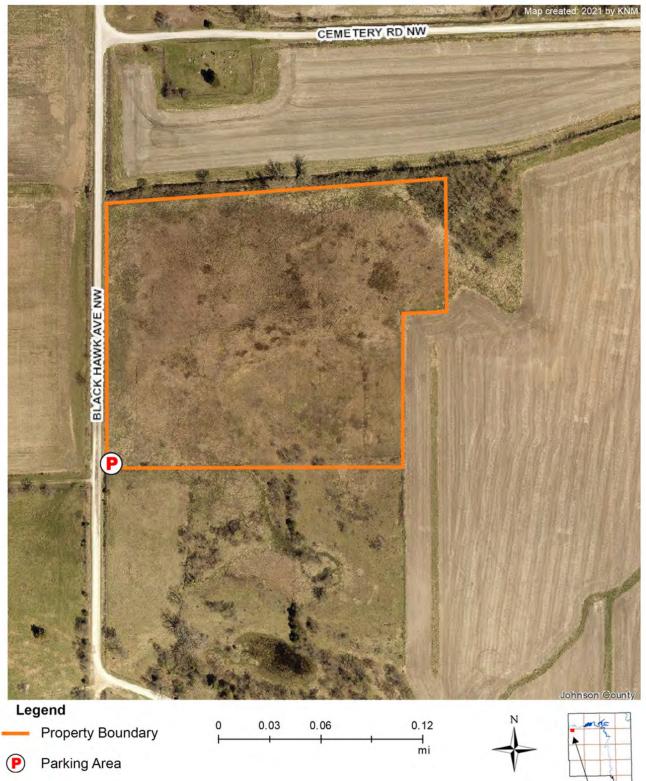
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#### **Williams Prairie Preserve**

2298 Black Hawk Ave NW Oxford, IA 52322





Park Location Within Johnson County