



**Black Hawk
County**

Conservation

2024 Annual Report



Black Hawk Park



Big Woods Lake Campground

Hickory Hills Park



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Board Roster and Details

2023

		Term Expires
President	Mike Bonser	12-31-2023
Vice President	Terri Rogers	12-31-2024
Secretary	Jenny Murphy	12-31-2025
Member	Adam Sacquitne	12-31-2026
Member	Jon McNamee	12-31-2027



2024

President	Terri Rogers	12-31-2024
Vice President	Jenny Murphy	12-31-2025
Secretary	Adam Sacquitne	12-31-2026
Member	Jon McNamee	12-31-2027
Member	Mike Bonser	12-31-2028

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board holds its regular monthly business meetings the **2nd Thursday** of each month.

Meetings are held at **5:00 p.m.** at the Administrative Office, or another designated location. Meetings are changed on legal **holidays** or if a quorum cannot be present.

Minutes of these meetings are on file at the Black Hawk County Conservation Administrative Office at 1346 W. Airline Highway, Waterloo, IA 50703.

Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors

Governing For the Future 2028 Vision Summary

Motivating Values

Black Hawk County Government is committed to these six intertwined principles.

We are Effective

We are Efficient

We are Responsible

We are Innovative

We are Collaborative

We are Adaptable



Vision Elements in a Rapidly Changing Future

Our motivating values lead to our 2028 vision focus on key roles for Black Hawk County government. Over the next two decades, we will strive to:

A. Building Desirable Communities

With others throughout our county and region, we form a safe, thriving community. Together, we build upon and enhance our abundant natural resources, superb land and water trails, quality education and health care, sound infrastructure, rich agricultural land, and growing cultural, historic, recreational and entertainment opportunities to enhance the mental, physical and spiritual well-being of our diverse public, visitors, and potential residents.

B. Promoting Economic Vitality

We seek to collaborate with all governmental entities, individuals, and other partners to promote quality economic and entrepreneurial development and innovative links with other economies around the world. We accent and strengthen our economic resources including agriculture and emerging technologies, abundant clean water and air, higher education, and an always learning work force. We have a respected land use police. Our desirable communities and rural areas and our thriving changing economy, attract and retain workers, families, and retirees.

C. Achieving Environmental Sustainability

We lead by example, learning from our own and others' successes and wisely investing in environmentally-sound county assets, waste-reducing and pollution-reducing operations, flood plain and watershed management, sustainability and renewable energy. In partnerships, county government promotes best environmental and healthy practices, products, services, buildings, public transportation, and natural resources. County employees work together with citizens and visitors, to protect and maintain our natural heritage in order to sustain clean water, clean air, and biodiversity.

D. Applying Technology to Serve

We utilize advances in technology to assure the best possible service to the public, particularly regarding convenience, transparency, accuracy, and opportunity for timely public input. The county's technological capabilities facilitate seamless compatibility within the county, with other counties, and with state centralized systems. Black Hawk County leadership is committed to efficient and inclusive electronic infrastructure, access, and utilization skills for all of the public, including effective access to services and information for those who are disabled and disadvantaged.

E. Working Together

We seek to partner with all levels of government and when appropriate with the non-profit and private sectors, in a culture of collaboration. We lead in providing resources for regionally delivered services, whether Black Hawk County government is the centralized authority or a cooperating partner in a service region.

F. Transforming How We Lead

We help each other succeed by attracting and using a diversity of talents and competencies in a transparent manner. We develop talent and abilities of persons across the lifespan, diversity and culture, enabling effectiveness and collaboration in decisions and action. We think innovatively by linking ideas and people in new ways. We join with people from all neighborhoods to develop shared vision and learn of emerging trends. Together, we work to prepare our communities and governments to adapt long term, plan short term, and take action daily.

Black Hawk County Conservation Strategic Plan Summary

Our plan incorporates the motivating values and vision elements of the Board of Supervisors vision statement, *Governing for the Future*. The current version of the Black Hawk County Conservation Strategic Plan can be found on our website at www.blackhawkcountyparks.com or obtained by contacting our office at 319-433-7275.



Mission

To enhance the quality of life & stimulate economic development in Black Hawk County by providing open space, outdoor recreation, education and resource management.

Other Plans & Factors Impacting Strategic Plan

The following is a list of other plans and documents that have bearing on our strategic plan:

I. Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

Many state and federal grants require compliance with SCORP. Key goals of SCORP include:

- *Encourage Iowans to improve physical & mental health through outdoor recreation.
- *Provide for local outdoor skills workshops to get people outdoors and active.
- *Increase public lands within 50 miles of major metropolitan areas.
- *Create conservation corridors/greenbelts (core habitat blocks of 3,000-5,000 acres) to improve water quality, recreation opportunities, and wildlife habitat.
- *Protect the endemic flora & fauna & provide quality recreational experiences through an ecosystem based management plan.
- *Enhance recreational opportunities by upgrading or creating new vertical infrastructure.

II. 2030 Iowa Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP)

- *Common species continue to be common.
- *Protected habitat will be diverse, representative, native plant communities in large and small blocks on public and privately owned land and waters.
- *Increase 50% public participation in wildlife associated recreation.
- *Wildlife associated recreation be available to all Iowans on public lands near their home.

III. Iowa Wetland Action Plan, 2010

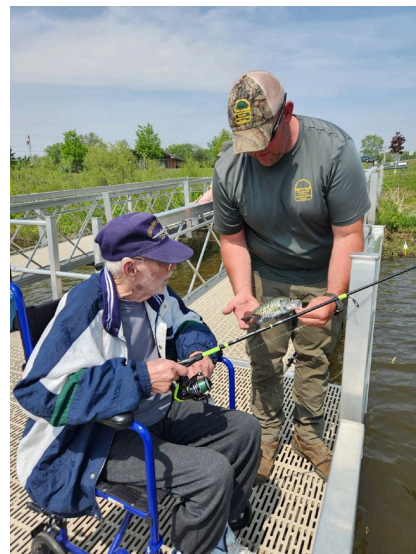
This plan prioritizes repairs and resource protection to wetland areas capable of supporting three critical needs: floodwater moderation, water quality, and wildlife habitat. The Middle Cedar River Watershed is a priority for the State of Iowa due to water quality and frequent flooding issues.

IV. Cedar River Watershed Coalition

The purpose of the Cedar River Watershed Coalition is to facilitate cooperation within the watershed and to organize and advocate for land practices and policies (federal, state, and local) that will reduce future flood damage and improve water quality.

V. Black Hawk County REAP Plan

- *Expand, acquire & develop open spaces.
- *Improve water quality through best practices and education.
- *Develop water and land trail opportunities.
- *Expand environmental education, roadside management, and historic preservation initiatives.
- *Expand & improve vertical infrastructure.



Black Hawk County Conservation teamed up with Care Initiatives Hospice for an afternoon of fishing with two of their patients. Conservation Director Mike Hendrickson, North Unit Ranger Karl Kozak and Iowa DNR Officer Lynn Koch provided fishing equipment and helped make sure it was a successful fishing trip.



Summary of Meetings

The following is a summary of the Black Hawk County Conservation Board meetings held in FY24. Complete minutes from all meetings can be found under **Meetings** at www.blackhawkcounyparks.com.

Resource Management

August 10, 2023

Motion by Rogers, seconded by McNamee to authorize staff to seek, open & tabulate bids for the sale of prairie hay. Motion Carried.

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Sacquitne to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation desires to make application for a Community Forestry Grant administered through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to help purchase and plant trees in the Big Woods Lake Campground; and

WHEREAS, the Big Woods Lake Campground is owned by the City of Cedar Falls and through a 28E agreement, managed by Black Hawk County Conservation; and

WHEREAS, the Black Hawk County Conservation Board has approved this application, including the commitment to fund a minimum of 50% match for said tree purchase and planting; and

WHEREAS, Black Hawk County Conservation will conduct the tree plantings within the Big Woods Lake Campground between the dates of September 15, 2023 and October 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Black Hawk County Conservation commits to adequately maintain the trees purchased and planted with funds awarded through the Community Forestry Grant Program for a minimum of 10 years as outlined in the developed maintenance plan as described in the application documents;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Black Hawk County Conservation Board authorizes staff to pursue a Community Forestry Grant for the purpose of seeking funding to help with the costs associated with the purchase and planting of trees for and at the Big Woods Lake Campground to revitalize the area following the loss of trees due to the Emerald Ash Borer and other natural disasters.

Resolution adopted.

September 14, 2023

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Sacquitne to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts a Wildlife Habitat Stamp Development Grant in the amount of \$4,850.00 and authorizes the Executive Director to sign the grant agreement documents.

Resolution adopted.

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Murphy to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts a Community Forestry Grant in the amount of \$3,709.95 and authorizes the Executive Director to sign the grant agreement documents.
Resolution adopted.

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Sacquitne to accept the bid of \$30/ton from Doug Bruns for prairie hay from 40 acres at Cedar River Natural Resource Area and 20 acres at Railroad Lake Access. Motion Carried.

October 12, 2023

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Rogers to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board approves the renewal of each of the following Compatible Use Agreements for another 10-year period, expiring in 2033.

Compatible Use Agreement – Walker Property

Compatible Use Agreement – Reiks Property

Compatible Use Agreement – Segebarth Property

Compatible Use Agreement – Schaefer Property

Resolution adopted.

December 14, 2023

Jim Weimer, Wildlife Conservationist, gave a presentation to provide an overview of Forest Management Planning and the details that are taken into consideration during plan development. No action was taken.

February 8, 2024

Motion by Bonser, seconded by McNamee to approve the Black Hawk Park Forest Management Plan and authorize staff to proceed with implementation. Motion Carried.

Motion by Bonser, seconded by McNamee to authorize staff to seek, open and tabulate bids for harvested logs that result from the Timber Stand Improvement project in Black Hawk Park. Motion Carried.

April 11, 2024

Motion by Murphy, seconded by McNamee to approve the bid from Weiland and Sons in the amount of \$9,030.00 for the sale of saw logs. Motion Carried.

Hartman Reserve

July 13, 2023

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Sacquitne to authorize staff to apply for a Safari Club International Grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 for *School of the Wild*. Motion Carried.

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Murphy to authorize staff to apply for a Teen Trust Grant in the amount of \$2,000.00 for *School of the Wild*. Motion Carried.

February 8, 2024

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Bonser to authorize staff to apply for a Silos & Smokestacks Grant in the amount of \$3,508.00 for an intern position. Motion Carried.

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Murphy to authorize staff to apply for a Guernsey Grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 for *School of the Wild*. Motion Carried.

May 9, 2024

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Sacquitne to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation approves entering into contract with Stantec for the purposes of conducting a wetland delineation and threatened and endangered species habitat assessment for the Hartman Preserve Erosion Control and for the Executive Director to sign the agreement. Resolution adopted.

June 13, 2024

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Sacquitne to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation accepts and approves supplemental agreement #1 with AECOM for Final Design and Bidding Services for the Hartman Preserve Stream Restoration Project with a cost of *Not to Exceed*, \$64,300.00 and authorize the Executive Director to sign the same. Resolution adopted.

Cedar Valley Nature Trail

December 14, 2023

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Rogers to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts the proposal from Tallgrass Archaeology in the amount of \$6,481.14 for historical/architectural evaluation of Cedar Valley Nature Trail bridges and authorize staff to proceed. Resolution adopted.

Casey Lake Restoration

September 14, 2023

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Murphy to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board authorizes entering into a contract with Shive Hattery for construction engineering services associated with the Casey Lake Restoration Project in the amount of \$123,100.00 and authorizes the Executive Director to sign the contract documents. Resolution adopted.

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Sacquitne to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board authorizes entering into a cooperative agreement with Iowa DNR for cost sharing of the Construction Engineering expenses associated with the Casey Lake

Restoration project in the amount of \$111,500 of which the DNR will reimburse Black Hawk County Conservation up to \$83,625.00 and for the Executive Director to sign the agreement. Resolution adopted.

October 12, 2023

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Sacquitne to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board authorizes staff to enter into a cost-share cooperative agreement with the Iowa DNR for cost-sharing of the construction expenses associated with the Casey Lake Restoration Project & for the Executive Director to sign the same. Resolution adopted.

November 9, 2023

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Sacquitne to approve the Casey Lake Fish Habitat project plans for bid letting, authorize the setting of the public hearing for this project at 5:00 PM on December 14, 2023, and authorize publication of the Notice to Bidders and Notice of Public Hearing when appropriate. Motion Carried

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Murphy to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts and approves to amend the Phase 2 design engineering contract with Shive Hattery to remove the P-Inactivation services, ultimately reducing the contract cost by \$19,500, and authorize the Executive Director to sign the amendment effectively closing the contract. Resolution adopted.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Sacquitne to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts and approves amendment #2 to Cost-Share Cooperative Agreement #22CRDLWBMBAM-0007 with the Iowa DNR to remove the P-Inactivation work, associated fees and adjust the reimbursement accordingly and authorize the Executive Director to sign the same. Resolution adopted.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Murphy to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts and approves to amend the current construction engineering contract with Shive Hattery, dated August 2, 2023, to add the P-Inactivation and authorize the Executive Director to sign the same. Resolution adopted.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Sacquitne to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts and approves amendment #1 to Cost-Share Cooperative Agreement # 24CRDLWBMBALM-0005 with the Iowa DNR to include the P-Inactivation work, associated fees and reimbursement accordingly and authorize the Executive Director to sign the same. Resolution adopted.

December 14, 2023

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Rogers to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts the lowest responsible bid of \$75,200.00 from Hudson Hardware Plumbing & Heating, Inc. for the Casey Lake Restoration, Fish Habitat Phase, and award contract to Hudson Hardware Plumbing & Heating with authorization for the Executive Director to sign the contract documents.
Resolution adopted.

May 9, 2024

Motion by Murphy, seconded by McNamee to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board approves Change Order #1 for the Casey Lake Fish Habitat project in the amount of \$30,600 for additional labor and materials to add additional fish habitat structures to Casey Lake, bringing the total contract with Hudson Hardware to \$105,800.00 and for the Executive Director to sign the same.
Resolution adopted.

Vehicle and Equipment Replacement

July 13, 2023

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Murphy to approve the bid of \$9,851.28 from Stokes Welding for the purchase of a mower. Motion Carried.

August 10, 2023

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Rogers to set the Public Hearing for the purchase of a front-end loader tractor on September 14, 2023, at 5:05PM and authorize staff to publish the Notice of Public Hearing. Motion Carried.

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Rogers to approve the state bid of \$52,392.20 from Karl Chevrolet for a ¾ ton pickup truck. Motion Carried.

September 14, 2023

Motion by Murphy second by Sacquitne to approve the bid of \$101,243.00 from Titan Machinery for a front-end wheel loader. Motion Carried.

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Murphy to approve the bid of \$91,865.00 from Triple V Equipment for a new garbage truck body. Motion Carried.

April 11, 2024

Motion by Bonser, seconded by Sacquitne to approve the quote of \$16,050.00 from Widman Motorcycle Sales, Inc for a professional grade log splitter. Motion Carried.

June 13, 2024

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Bonser to approve the bid of \$17,880.00 from P & K Midwest, Inc for the purchase of a pull behind, folding wing mower deck. Motion Carried.

Big Woods Lake Campground Joint Board

October 12, 2023

The Joint Board met at 3:00 PM on October 5, 2023. The Board discussed the potential campground expansion, adding another modern cabin, reviewed the FY24 budget, and two board members were assigned to be on the by-law nominating committee.

April 11, 2024

The Joint Board met at 3:00 PM on April 4, 2024. The Board passed motions to elect Mike Hendrickson as Chair & Chase Schrage as Vice-Chair of the Big Woods Lake Campground Joint Board and approve the by-laws. The Board also discussed current maintenance projects, the FY24 & FY25 budgets and proposed campground expansion.

REAP

November 9, 2023

The REAP assembly was held on October 24th at Hartman Reserve Nature Center.

June 13, 2024

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Murphy to move the following resolution: A resolution of the Black Hawk County Conservation Board, Black Hawk County, Iowa approving application to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Resource Enhancement and Protection Program for Hartman Bluff Preserve, Stream Restoration Project Funding.

WHEREAS, Black Hawk County Conservation Board, Black Hawk County, Iowa owns and maintains the Hartman Reserve Nature Center, in which contains the 46-acre Hartman Bluff Preserve; and

WHEREAS, Black Hawk County Conservation Board, Black Hawk County, Iowa is investing in watershed, and water quality improvements and resource preservation measures in the Hartman Bluff Preserve to maintain this unique, high-quality resource; and

WHEREAS, Black Hawk County Conservation Board, Black Hawk County, Iowa needs additional financial assistance to complete this important project; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of this Stream Restoration is critical to the protection, sustainability and overall health of this unique area at Hartman Bluff Preserve; and
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Black Hawk County Conservation Board, Black Hawk County, Iowa, authorizes the funding application to be submitted to the Iowa Department

of Natural Resources, Resource Enhancement and Protection Program for the Hartman Bluff Preserve, Stream Restoration Project.
Resolution adopted.

American Rescue Plan Act

July 13, 2023

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Murphy to accept & approve the increased cost of \$14,955.00 for a total cost of \$118,683.00 for the new minibus as approved by the Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors & being funded with ARPA. Motion Carried.

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Rogers to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts and approves the mechanical engineering proposal submitted by Modus Engineering of Waterloo, IA., in the amount of \$21,500 and utilizing American Rescue Plan funding for the purposes of designing an energy efficient HVAC system for the Conservation Administrative Office Building to provide even, clean, safe airflow for the public and staff. Furthermore, the Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve the same and enter into contract for these said services.
Resolution adopted.

August 10, 2023

Motion by Rogers, seconded by McNamee to set the Public Hearing for the Cedar Valley Nature Trail, Division 1, Phase 2 Project on September 14, 2023, at 5:00PM and authorize staff to publish the Notice of Public Hearing. Motion Carried.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Sacquitne to approve the plans and specifications for the Cedar Valley Nature Trail, Division 1, Phase 2 Project and for authorization to release the Notice to Bidders when appropriate. Motion Carried.

September 14, 2023

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Murphy to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts and approves the LOWEST REASONABLE BID submitted by Bruening Rock Products, Inc. of Decorah, IA, in the amount of \$1,831,919.31 and utilizing Destination Iowa Grant Funds and American Rescue Plan funding to complete the identified work associated with paving along Division I of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail project (unpaved portion of the trail) which consists of pipe culvert, revetment, and intake installations, asphalt paving of a 10' wide trail, installation of concrete trail and ADA detectable warnings at roadway crossings, earth shoulder construction, paving of granular road crossings. Furthermore, the Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve the same and award contract to Bruening Rock Products, Inc.
Resolution adopted.

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Sacquitne to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board approves amending the Professional Services Contract with Origin Design of Dubuque, IA, for the Cedar Valley Nature Trail, Division I, Paving project for Black Hawk County and utilizing Destination Iowa Grant and American Rescue Plan funds for

Construction Services to include construction administration, construction staking, and construction observation for this phase of the project. Contract amendment #6 for Construction Services for this phase of the project is a Not to Exceed amount of \$235,000.00 for said services. Furthermore, the Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve the same.
Resolution adopted.

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Sacquitne to approve the Black Hawk Park Shower Facility Improvements project plans for bid letting, authorize the setting of the public hearing for this project at 5:00 PM on October 12, 2023, and authorize publication of the Notice to Bidders and Notice of Public Hearing when appropriate. Motion Carried.

October 12, 2023

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Rogers to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts and approves contract amendment #7 for the Professional Services Contract with Origin Design of Dubuque, IA, for the Cedar Valley Nature Trail project, for Black Hawk County and utilizing American Rescue Plan funds for Final Design & Bidding Services for the replacement of the C1, E3, M1 bridges and targeted sections of asphalt overlay on Division 2 of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail as well as Final Design for the replacement of L1 bridge. Contract amendment #7 for these Services is a Not to Exceed contract amendment in the amount of \$178,000.00. Furthermore, the Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve the same.
Resolution adopted.

November 9, 2023

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Sacquitne to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts the Siggelkow Shower Facility project as substantially complete. The Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the project retainer of \$5,700.00 be released to Cardinal Construction, when appropriate, utilizing the American Rescue Plan funding. Furthermore, the Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the Board of Supervisors accept and approve the same.
Resolution adopted.

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Rogers to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts and approves Change Order #1 – Final, for the Hickory Hills Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements contract with Hudson Hardware Plumbing & Heating, Inc. in the amount of \$2,211.00 as determined through quantity verifications by the project engineer and utilizing American Rescue Plan funds. Change Order #1 – Final will increase the contract dated March 14, 2023, from \$705,086.10 to \$707,297.10 and adjust the project completion date to May 1, 2024. In addition, Black Hawk County recommends that Pay App #7 be submitted for payment which includes partial payment of retainage. Furthermore, the Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the Board of Supervisors accept and approve the same.
Resolution adopted.

December 14, 2023

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Sacquitne to authorize setting a public hearing for the ADA Playgrounds at 5:00PM on February 8, 2024, and for staff to release the Notice to Bidders and Notice of Public Hearing when appropriate. Motion Carried.

January 11, 2024

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Sacquitne to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts and approves the LOWEST REASONABLE BID submitted by Steege Construction, Inc. of Waverly, IA, in the amount of \$78,983.00 and utilizing American Rescue Plan funding for the purposes of maintaining the critical infrastructure at Black Hawk Park to meet the demands of the increased park usage. Furthermore, the Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve the same and award the contract to Steege Construction, Inc.
Resolution adopted.

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Bonser to approve the Administrative Office HVAC project plans for bid letting, authorize the setting of the public hearing for this project at 5:00 PM on February 8, 2024, and authorize publication of the Notice to Bidders and Notice of Public Hearing when appropriate. Motion carried.

February 8, 2024

Motion by Murphy, seconded by McNamee to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board moves that the PROPOSAL received by Play-Pro Recreation of Clive, IA for designing, procuring, and installing ADA compliant playground equipment and safety surfacing at four Black Hawk County Parks for a cost Not to Exceed \$240,000 be accepted utilizing American Rescue Plan funding for these purposes. This project will serve to ensure that all children, regardless of ability level or demographics, are afforded access to safe playground equipment and the opportunity to play, socialize, and gain cognitive and motor skills even in times of uncertainty. Furthermore, the Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve the same and enter into contract with Play-Pro Recreation for these said services.
Resolution adopted.

Motion by Bonser, seconded by McNamee to approve the Cedar Valley Nature Trail, Division 2 Structures and Paving Project plans for bid letting, authorize the setting of the public hearing for this project at 5:00PM on March 14, 2024, and authorize publication of the Notice to Bidders and Notice of Public Hearing when appropriate. Motion Carried.

March 14, 2024

Motion by Murphy, seconded by McNamee to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board approves amending the Professional Services Contract with IMEG Engineers of Rock Island, IL, for the McFarlane Park Septic System Replacement Project and utilizing American Rescue Plan funds for the design and bidding Services to include submittal to the Iowa DNR for construction permitting. Contract amendment #1 for design and bidding

Services for this project is in the amount of \$12,500 for said services bringing the total professional services contract dated June 20, 2022, to \$20,400. All other services, terms, and conditions of the original contract will remain the same. Furthermore, the Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve the same. Resolution adopted.

Motion by Murphy, seconded by McNamee to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts and approves the LOWEST REASONABLE BID submitted by Taylor Construction of New Vienna, IA, in the amount of \$1,398,415.27 and utilizing American Rescue Plan funding to complete the replacement of Miller Creek Bridge (C1), Sink Creek Bridge (E3) and the M1 bridge which serves as a Cedar River backwater bridge near McFarlane Park. In addition, asphalt resurfacing of trail segments, asphalt paving of three trail roadway crossings and installation of concrete trail with detectable warnings at four road crossings. Furthermore, the Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve the same and award contract to Taylor Construction. Resolution adopted.

Motion by Bonser, seconded by Murphy to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board approves amending the Professional Services Contract with Origin Design of Dubuque, IA, to for the Cedar Valley Nature Trail, Division 2, Structures & Paving project for Black Hawk County and utilizing American Rescue Plan funds for Construction Services to include construction administration, construction staking, and construction observation for this phase of the project. Contract amendment #8 for Construction Services for this phase of the project is a Not to Exceed amount of \$237,000.00 for said services. Furthermore, the Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve the same. Resolution adopted.

Motion by Bonser, seconded by McNamee to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts and approves the LOWEST REASONABLE BID submitted by Shovel 1, Inc dba Crystal Heating, Plumbing & Excavating of Waverly, IA, in the amount of \$191,624.00 and utilizing American Rescue Plan funding for the purposes of replacing and rezoning the Conservation Administrative Offices HVAC system including the addition of air scrubbers for the purpose of maintaining a healthy and sanitary working environment for the staff and public that utilize this facility on a daily basis. Furthermore, the Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve the same and award contact to the above listed. Resolution adopted.

May 9, 2024

Motion by Murphy, seconded by McNamee to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board approves amending the Professional Services Contract with Modus Engineering of Waterloo, IA, for the Conservation Administrative Office HVAC System Replacement project for Black Hawk County and utilizing American Rescue Plan funds for Construction Services including answering technical questions for the contractor as needed throughout the project, attending construction progress meetings, and ensuring that the construction is occurring as designed. Contract amendment #1 for said Construction

Administration is a Not to Exceed amount of \$5,500.00 for said services. Furthermore, the Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve the same. Resolution adopted.

June 13, 2024

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Bonser to approve the project plans for bid letting for the McFarlane Park Septic System Replacement Project, authorize the setting of the public hearing for this project at 5:00PM on July 11, 2024, and authorize publication of the Notice to Bidders and Notice of Public Hearing when appropriate. Motion Carried.

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Sacquitne to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts the Black Hawk Park Shower Facility Renovation project as substantially complete. The Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the contract balance of \$78,983.00 be paid to Steege Construction utilizing the American Rescue Plan funding. Furthermore, the Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the Board of Supervisors accept and approve the same. Resolution adopted.

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Murphy to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts the Hickory Hills Wastewater Improvement project as substantially complete. The Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the project balance of \$3,763.00 be released to Hudson Hardware Plumbing & Heating utilizing the American Rescue Plan funding. Furthermore, the Black Hawk County Conservation Board recommends that the Board of Supervisors accept and approve the same. Resolution adopted.

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Bonser to approve the project plans for bid letting for the Cedar Valley Nature Trail, Division 2, Paving Project, authorize the setting of the public hearing for this project at 5:00PM on July 11, 2024, and authorize publication of the Notice to Bidders and Notice of Public Hearing when appropriate. Motion Carried.

Capital Improvement Projects

December 14, 2023

Motion by Rogers, seconded by McNamee to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts the lowest reasonable bid of \$90,489.00 from J & L Custom Fence, Inc. for the Bison and Elk Handling Facility and award contract to J & L Custom Fence, Inc., authorizing the Executive Director to sign the contract documents. Resolution adopted.

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Rogers to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts the lowest reasonable bid of \$230.00/C.Y. for present surface material reclaiming, \$260.00/ton of asphalt and \$1,000 mobilization from Aspro, Inc for up to a maximum contract amount of \$50,000.00 to repair various locations on roadways in Black Hawk Park and award contract to Aspro, Inc., authorizing the Executive Director to sign the contract documents.

Resolution adopted.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by McNamee to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts the lowest reasonable bid of \$7,693.19 from Hudson Hardware Plumbing & Heating, Inc. for purchase & installation of the HVAC system in the Rotary Reserve Residence and award contract to Hudson Hardware Plumbing & Heating, Inc., authorizing the Executive Director to sign the contract documents.
Resolution adopted.

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by McNamee to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts the proposal from AECOM for Beaver Valley Wetland Pier Design preliminary engineering services for a Not-To-Exceed Amount of \$20,900 which includes geotechnical services from Terracon and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract documents.
Resolution adopted.

May 9, 2024

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by Bonser to authorize staff to seek, open and tabulate bids for the equipment & services budgeted in the FY25 budget: a midsize pickup truck, a mower, HVAC system for the BHP ranger residence, snow plow for truck #1, car trailer, used semi tractor replacement, spray unit for the ATV, Rotary Reserve windows & siding replacement, Black Hawk Park truck shed roof replacement, administrative office sidewalk replacement, security camera system for Harman Reserve and the administrative office, engineering and construction for the Hartman Reserve erosion project and the Beaver Valley Wetland Pier replacement project. Motion Carried.

June 13, 2024

Motion by Bonser, seconded by Sacquitne to approve the bid of \$8,321.00 from Hoffman & Hoffman Trenching, Inc for installation of conduit & fiber optic cable at Big Woods Lake Campground. Motion Carried.

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Bonser to approve the bid of \$7,656.32 from Hudson Hardware, Plumbing & Heating for the Black Hawk Park Ranger Residence HVAC system replacement. Motion Carried.

Memorandum of Understandings/Agreements

November 9, 2023

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Sacquitne to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board approves the Destination Iowa Grant Agreement Amendment #1 and authorizes the Executive Director to sign the same.
Resolution adopted.

December 14, 2023

Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by McNamee to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board approves and authorizes the renewal of the existing lease agreement with the Conservation Corps of Iowa for calendar year 2024 expiring on December 31, 2024. No other changes or amendments will be made to the original lease agreement dated January 27, 2022. A lease agreement renewal document will be executed by signature of both parties and will become an attachment to the original agreement dated January 27, 2022.
Resolution adopted.

January 11, 2024

The CBHS currently has a MOU with Black Hawk County Conservation Board to use the Administrative Offices and shop as an emergency pet rescue center during a regional disaster. Motion by Sacquitne, seconded by McNamee to allow the agreement to roll over for another year. Motion Carried.

A written report on CVAST activities was provided by Josh Collins. Motion by Bonser, seconded by Sacquitne to allow the existing agreement to roll over for another year and to continue allowing CVAST to maintain soft trails for mountain bikes in Hartman Reserve Nature Center. Motion Carried.

The 2023 Annual Report of the Friends of the Gilbertville Depot was provided to the Board. Motion by McNamee, seconded by Bonser to renew the lease of the Gilbertville Depot to the Friends of the Gilbertville Depot for 2024. Motion Carried.

February 8, 2024

Motion by Bonser, seconded by McNamee to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board accepts and approves entering into a Co-Awardee Agreement with Linn County for the purposes of administration of the Destination Iowa Outdoor Recreation Grant and for the Executive Director to sign the same, subject to final verbiage approval by legal counsel for both Counties.
Resolution adopted.

March 14, 2024

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Bonser to approve a partnership with Black Hawk County Soil & Water Conservation District and authorize staff to draft a support letter to be signed by the Executive Director for inclusion in the grant application documents. Motion Carried.

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Murphy to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board approves grant amendment #2 for the Destination Iowa Grant # 23-DOR-005 associated with the Cedar Valley Nature Trail, Division 1 Project. Grant Amendment #2 reflects the reduced overall estimated project costs from \$8,942,002 to \$6,600,000 and the corresponding reduction in the grant award amount from \$3,500,000 to \$2,640,000 allowing for the difference to be de-obligated by the Iowa Economic Development Authority. The Conservation Executive Director is authorized to sign the same. Resolution adopted.

Easements

August 10, 2023

Motion by Rogers, seconded by McNamee to move the following resolution subject to input of the legal description and final legal review: Black Hawk County Conservation Board approves and authorizes the Access Easement between Black Hawk County Conservation and Michael C. and Terri A. Harting, for access across the Cedar Valley Nature Trail, while setting forth stipulations that protect, in perpetuity, the integrity of the trail, its subsoils and surfacing. Said access easement will be executed by the Conservation Board Chair on behalf of the Conservation Board, the landowners; Michael C. and Terri A. Harting, notarized and then recorded with the Black Hawk County recorder at the landowners' request and expense. Resolution adopted.

November 9, 2023

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Sacquitne to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board approves a Limited Utility Easement with Iowa Regional Utilities Association for a 15' wide utility easement along the Cedar Valley Nature Trail to provide rural water to a residence off Sunnyside Road and for the Board Chair to sign the easement document. Resolution adopted.

Human Resources

July 13, 2023

Motion by Murphy, seconded by Rogers to accept Jessica Craig to fill the position of Building Cleaner. Motion Carried.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Murphy to accept Marley Millar to fill the position of Naturalist I. Motion Carried.

October 12, 2023

Motion by McNamee, seconded by Murphy to approve the Emergency Succession Plan for another year with an update to the Organizational Chart to account for the additional Naturalist position at Hartman Reserve. Motion Carried.

December 14, 2023

Motion by Rogers, seconded by McNamee to adopt the Black Hawk County Non-Bargaining Accrual Policy that lays out the accrual plan for vacation, casual days, and sick leave for non-bargaining employees hired before July 1, 2006. Motion Carried.

March 14, 2024

Motion by Bonser, seconded by McNamee to move the following resolution: Black Hawk County Conservation Board approves the TENTATIVE AGREEMENT with the Black Hawk

County Board of Supervisors, for Unit VII represented by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees AFL-CIO, Local 679 effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2029, and direct the chair to sign the Collective Bargaining Agreement for same.
Resolution adopted.

Motion by Murphy, seconded by McNamee to accept the letter of resignation from Rory Larsen effective March 22, 2024. Motion Carried.

May 9, 2024

Motion by Murphy, seconded by McNamee to accept a letter of resignation from Katie Klus, effective May 13, 2024. Motion Carried.

June 13, 2024

Motion by Bonser, seconded by Sacquitne to approve the increase for the Conservation non-bargaining individuals for FY25 as approved and budgeted by the BHC Board of Supervisors.
Motion Carried.

Black Hawk County Rescue/Patrol Boat

There were 7 calls for service in FY24.
2 calls – Extra patrol on the Cedar River
5 calls – Rescues/Recoveries



2024 Fiscal Summary

Operating Budget Revenue

FEES

Camping	\$364,482.87
Lodges/Shelters	\$105,576.53
Activity Fees	\$127,742.04
Cabins	\$69,063.03
Hotel/Motel	-\$0.01
	\$666,864.46

REIMBURSEMENTS

Misc State Reimbursements	\$58,240.10
Misc Reimbursements	\$7,206.16
Utility Reimbursement	\$3,262.72
	\$68,708.98

SALES

Targets/Firewood	\$17,722.67
Gift Shop	\$2,384.50
Saw Logs/Hay	\$12,270.00
Livestock	\$5,000.00
Capital Assets	\$7,871.00
Miscellaneous	\$5,706.84
Planting	\$7,541.00
	\$58,496.01

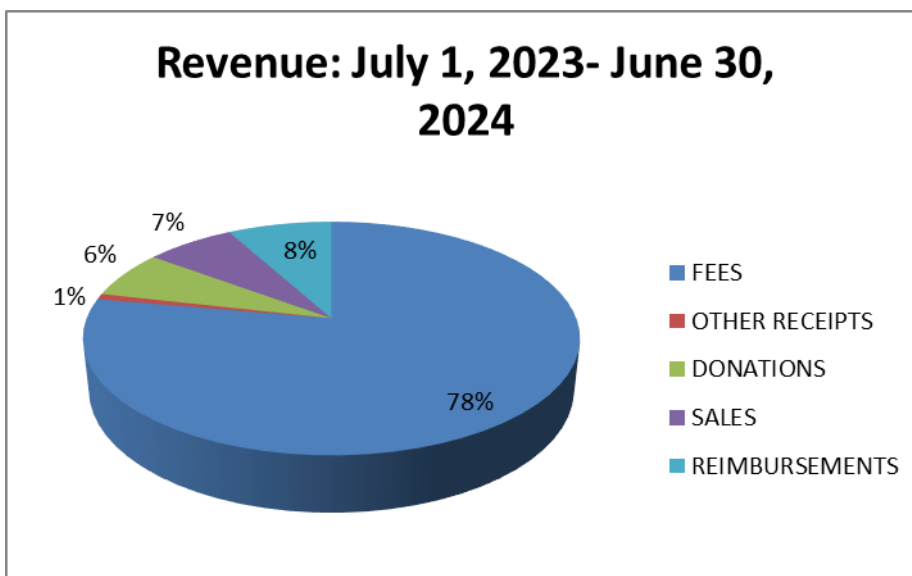
OTHER RECEIPTS

Boat Title Fees	\$2,205.00
Canceled check fee	\$60.00
Settlement/restitution	\$155.00
Gas Tax	\$4,352.70
	\$6,772.70

DONATIONS

General	\$23,000.00
Fundraisers	\$33,576.82
	\$56,576.82

FEES	\$666,864.46
OTHER RECEIPTS	\$6,772.70
DONATIONS	\$56,576.82
SALES	\$58,496.01
REIMBURSEMENTS	\$68,708.98
Total Receipts	\$857,418.97



Operating Budget Expenses

EDUCATION

Training	\$14,766.36
Dues & Memberships	\$2,665.00
	\$17,431.36

TRANSPORTATION

Vehicle/equip repair materials	\$29,417.58
	\$29,417.58

OFFICE SUPPORT

Office Supplies/Equipment	\$1,464.06
Printing	\$2,149.97
Postage	\$1,374.91
Copier Supplies	\$681.27
	\$5,670.21

PURCHASES

Tools, Targets, Minor Equip.	\$30,107.61
Fuel & Lubricants	\$68,000.67
Medical & Safety Supplies	\$3,899.46
Apparel	\$5,357.69
Household/Institutional	\$3,764.66
Wildlife Propagation	\$3,206.08
Signs	\$2,181.93
Food/Recreational/Craft	\$11,642.90
Service Charge	\$87.01
	\$128,248.01

EDUCATION	\$17,431.36
TRANSPORTATION	\$29,417.58
OFFICE SUPPORT	\$5,670.21
PURCHASES	\$128,248.01
SERVICES	\$138,920.50
MAINTENANCE	\$254,774.87
WAGES	\$1,419,792.57
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$713,862.52
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,708,117.62

SERVICES

Health Services	\$2,338.50
Professional Services	\$131,600.44
Machine/equip/vehicle rental	\$2,822.00
Licenses & Permits	\$1,090.00
Ads/Official Publication	\$1,069.56
	\$138,920.50

MAINTENANCE

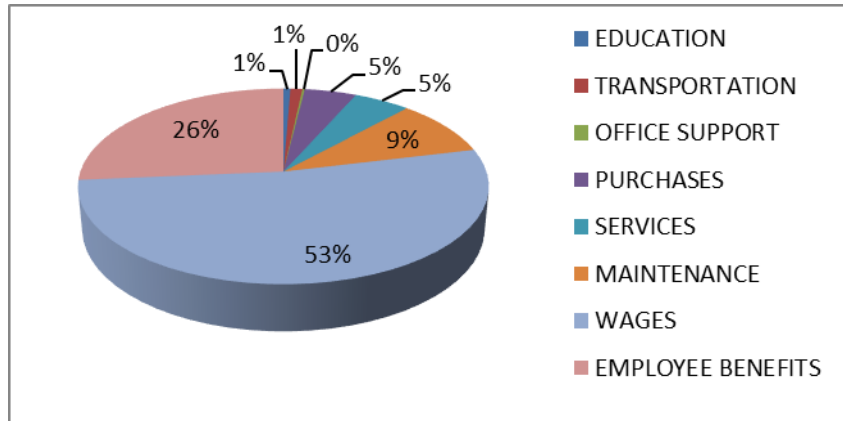
Land Lease	\$2.00
Janitor Supplies/Services	\$15,969.11
Construction Materials	\$1,812.00
Miscellaneous Repair Materials	\$80,300.91
Land Maintenance Supplies	\$6,772.21
Asphalt/Concrete/Rock	\$18,018.05
Refunds	\$2,794.88
Utilities	\$129,105.71
	\$254,774.87

WAGES

\$1,419,792.57

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

FICA	\$104,946.37
IPERS	\$128,314.31
Insurance	\$463,826.27
Workers Compensation	\$16,775.57
	\$713,862.52



REAP

RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION (REAP)

Balance from FY23	\$494,280.30
Land Rent	\$44,254.21
Per County - Per Capital Allotment	\$40,158.00
Interest	\$26,918.08
Whitetails Unlimited	\$6,155.64
Private Donations	\$4,976.04
Community Forestry Grant Reimbursement	\$3,709.95
Cedar Valley Cyclists - CVNT	\$2,500.00
Total Revenue	\$622,952.22

Expenditures

Casey Lake Restoration Project	\$44,531.74
Flail Mower	\$17,880.00
Wood Splitter	\$16,050.00
ADA Playgrounds - Concrete	\$9,077.27
Prairie seed	\$8,344.00
Big Woods Lake Campground - Tree planting	\$7,507.82
Beaver Valley Wetland - Engineering	\$6,899.68
CVNT bridge survey & evaluation	\$6,481.14
Hartman Reserve fire pump - 5yr inspection	\$1,330.00
Cedar Island Wildlife Area - spraying	\$1,015.29
Manure Spreader	\$1,000.00
Hartman Erosion Control Project	\$984.25
Bird Tracking Stations	\$50.28
Total Expenses	\$121,151.47
BALANCE CARRY OVER TO FY25	\$501,800.75

Conservation Trust

CONSERVATION TRUST

Balance from FY23	\$158,252.03
Gallagher donation for Hartman	\$20,000.00
General Hartman Donations	\$12,525.83
General Conservation Donations	\$8,326.06
Endowment Interest	\$7,563.00
Hartman Memorial Donations	\$3,332.25
Holiday Light Show Sponsors	\$2,500.00
Educational Programming Donations	\$2,290.00
Bricks for Birds - Hartman	\$1,249.12
Parks Donations	\$915.00
Hartman Intern Program	\$727.12
Total Revenue	\$217,680.41

Expenditures

Gallagher/Special Projects	\$18,252.84
General Hartman/Special Projects	\$13,452.06
Hartman Intern Program	\$7,862.89
Programming/Stormwater Education	\$7,067.41
Endowment/Resource Mgmt/CVNT	\$6,648.91
General Conservation/Parks	\$4,331.29
Bricks for Birds/Lucy Price Fund	\$3,611.85
Holiday Light Show	\$2,500.00
Hartman Memorials	\$1,699.96
Total Expenses	\$65,427.21
BALANCE CARRY OVER TO FY25	\$152,253.20

Capital Improvement Plan

Expenditures

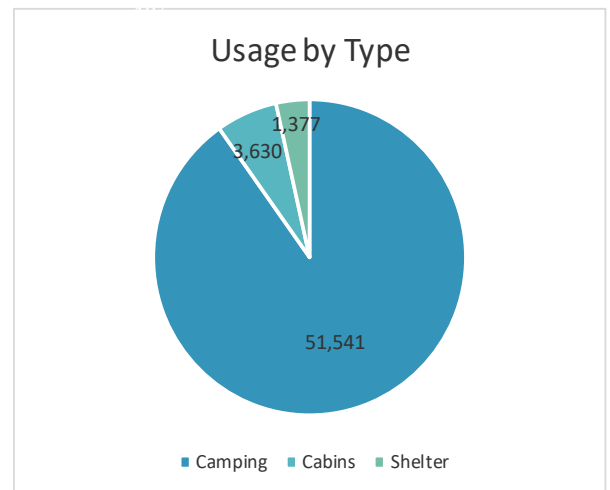
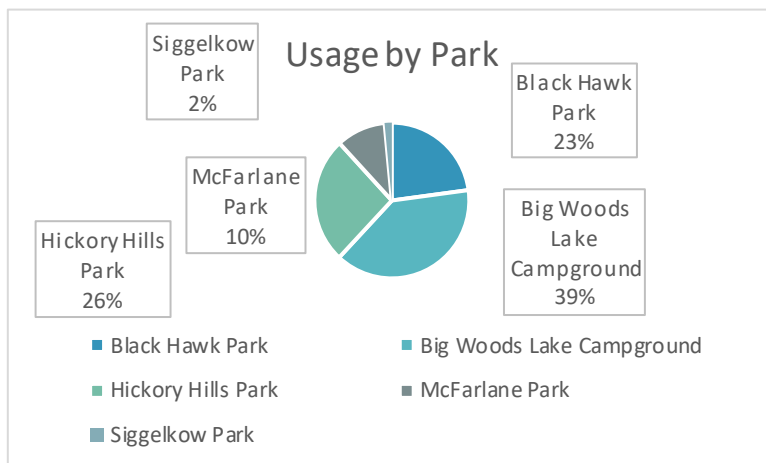
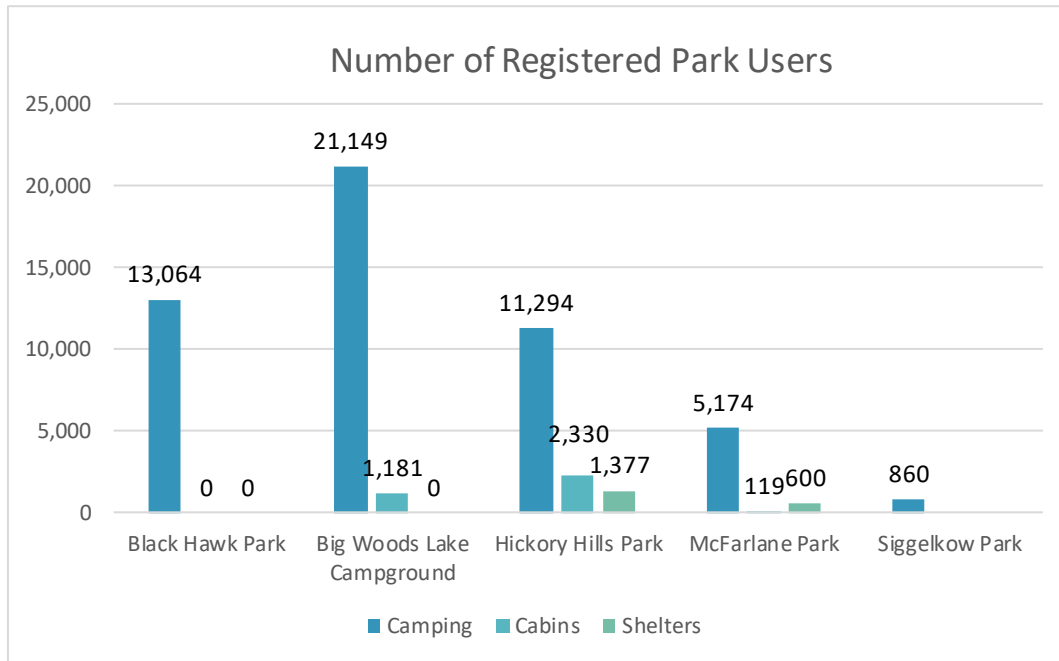
Casey Lake Restoration - Hickory Hills Park	\$205,492.94
Mini end loader	\$101,243.00
Garbage unit for hook-lift truck	\$91,865.00
Bison & elk handling pen - Hickory Hills Park	\$90,579.00
3/4-ton pick-up truck	\$52,392.00
Tractor w/cab & loader	\$51,150.00
1/2-ton pick-up truck	\$41,729.40
Gator	\$17,494.95
Mower	\$9,851.28
HVAC system - Lakeview Lodge	\$8,072.19
HVAC system - Rotary Reserve	\$7,693.19
Total Expenses	\$677,562.95

Revenues

Black Hawk County Gaming Association Grant	\$150,000.00
Casey Lake Restoration - Hickory Hills Park	
Revenues	\$150,000.00

Your Black Hawk County Parks

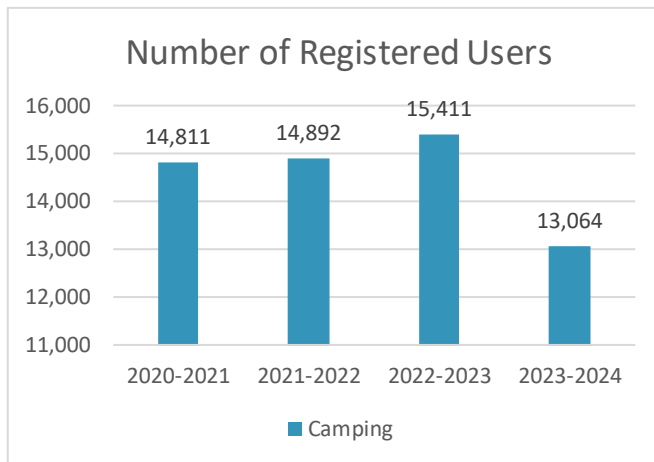
Usage in Your County Parks*



**These numbers do not reflect trail users, hunters, target shooters, boaters, or other day users.*

***We do not take shelter or cabin reservations at Black Hawk Park. There are no shelters in Big Woods Lake Campground.*

North Unit Black Hawk Park



Activities

The high-rise shower house/rest rooms at Black Hawk Park received a renovation. This renovation included a new coat of epoxy flooring, the restroom and shower stall partitions were replaced, and floor drains were added in front of the shower stalls. Sections of road in Black Hawk Park were repaired with asphalt overlay.

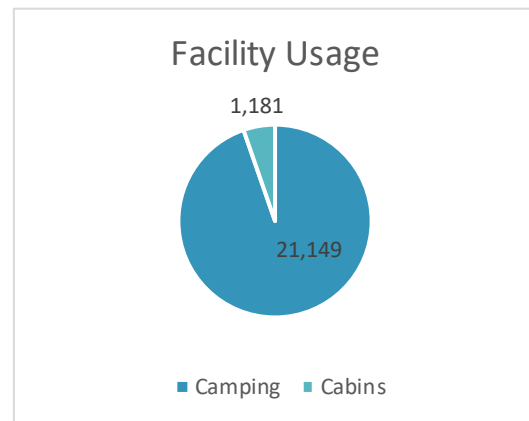
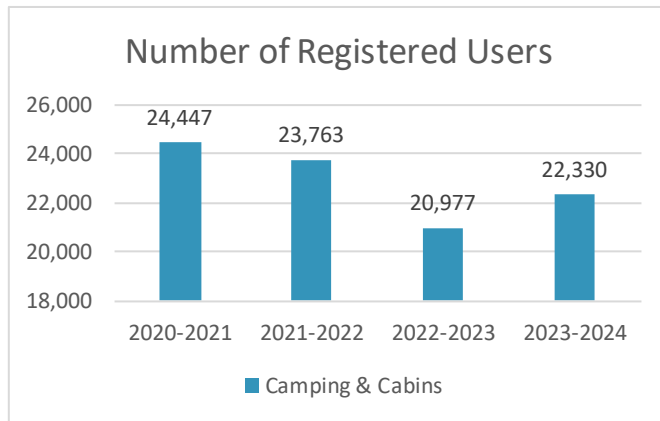
Events Held at Black Hawk Park

Halloween Weekend – October 7, 2023



Above are pictures of the renovated bathrooms and showers.

Big Woods Lake Campground



Activities

There were no large projects at Big Woods Lake Campground this year. Volunteers from Scheels helped North Unit staff apply a fresh coat of paint to the cabins.

Events Held at Big Woods Lake Campground

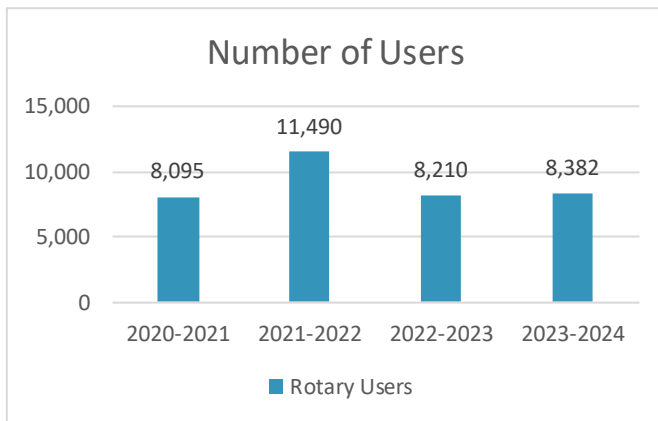
Halloween Weekend – September 30, 2023

Kids Fishing Derby – June 8, 2024



Volunteers from Scheels

Rotary Reserve Lodge

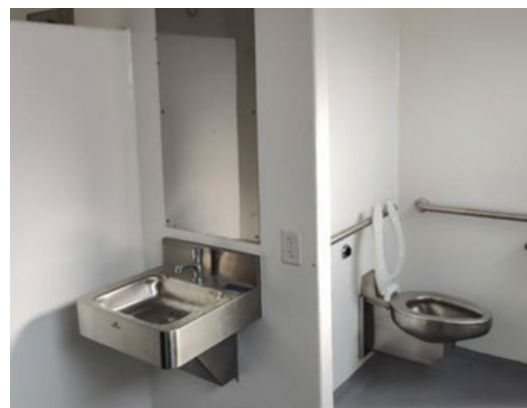
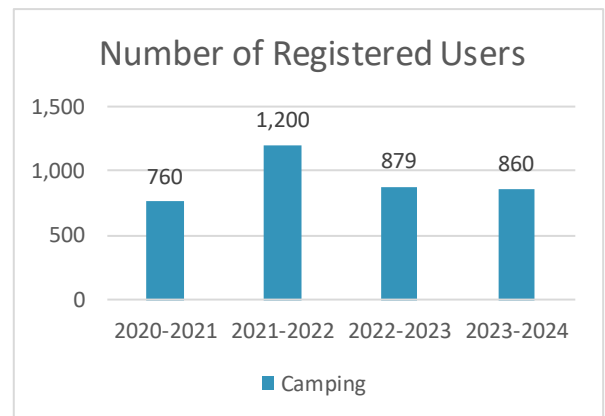


Activities

Updates to the Rotary Reserve Lodge continued this year with new stonework on the fireplace and support columns.

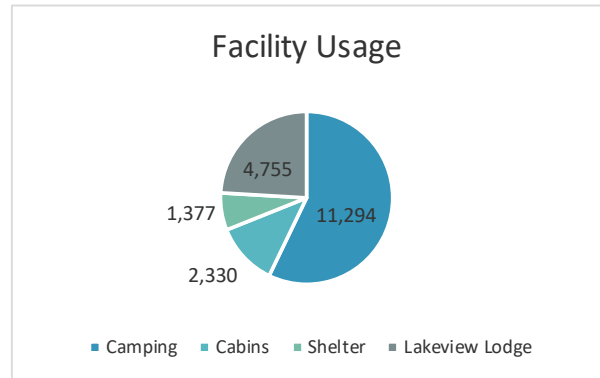
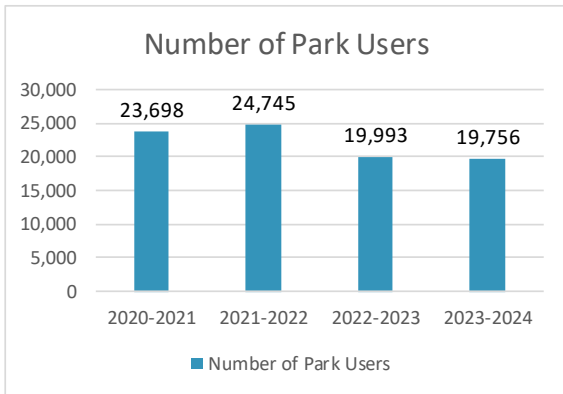
Siggelkow Park

Siggelkow Park has become more popular with campers in the past few years. With more people using the area it was time for some additional features. A prefabricated, concrete, single-room modern shower/restroom facility was added. Once the building was complete, conservation staff installed an access sidewalk to the new facility.



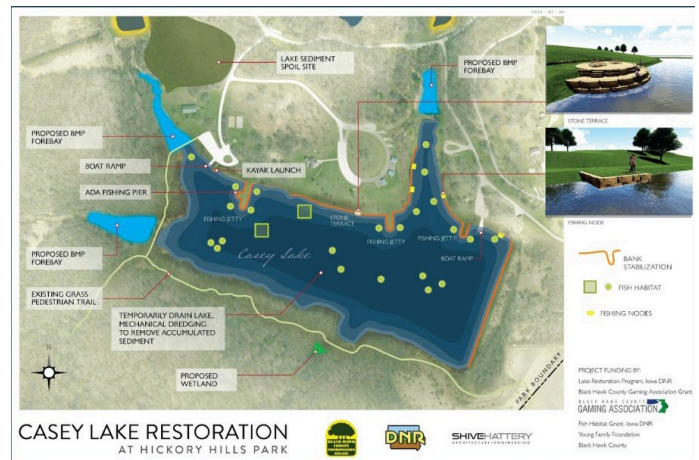
Exterior and interior of the new Siggelkow shower/restroom facility.

South Unit Hickory Hills Park



Activities

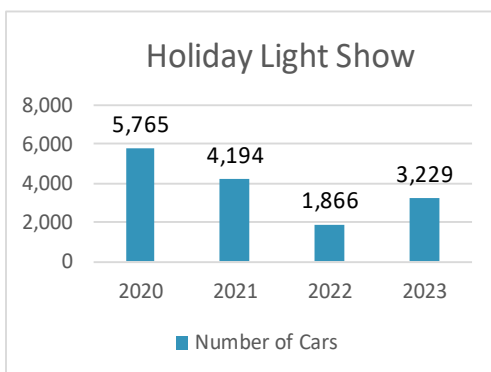
The Lake Restoration Project for Casey Lake is well underway. The lake was drained, and dredging began mid-November. Casey Lake was placed on the State's Impaired Waters List and suffered from excessive algae growth and sedimentation due to high nutrient levels and soil erosion. The Lake Restoration project, when complete, will serve to improve the water quality and aquatic habitat of Casey Lake while also providing additional and improved recreational opportunities.



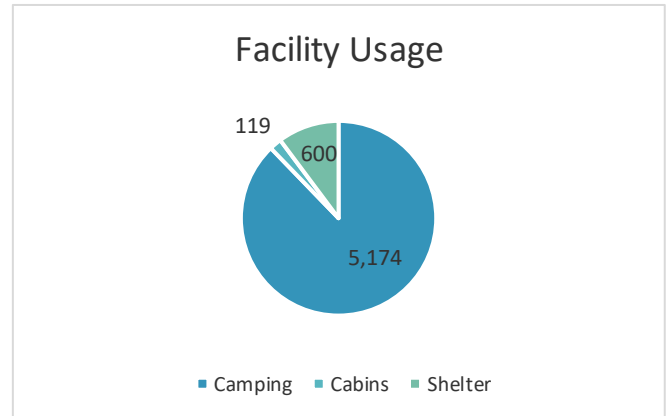
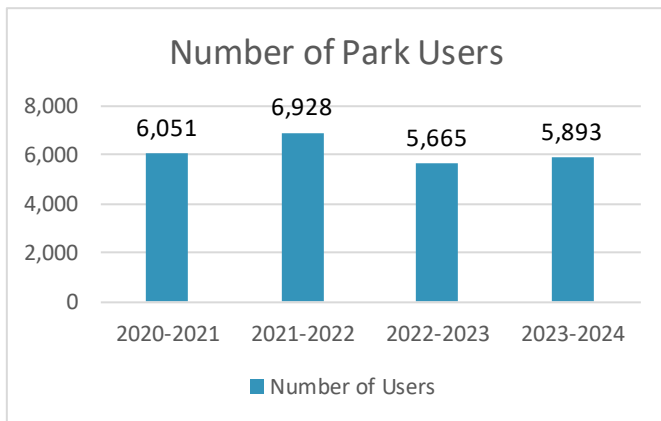
Other improvements to Hickory Hills Park include a new wastewater treatment facility and a bison handling pen.

Events Held at Hickory Hills Park Halloween Weekend – September 23, 2023

Holiday Light Show



McFarlane Park



Activities

There were no large projects at McFarlane Park this year.

Events Held at McFarlane Park

Halloween Weekend – September 30, 2023



Halloween Weekend at McFarlane Park

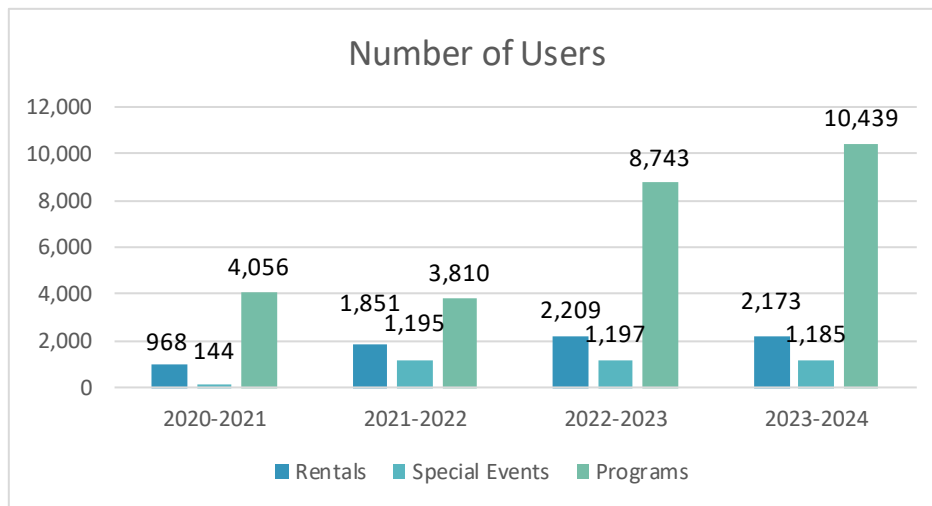
The Cedar Valley Nature Trail

Upkeep and maintenance of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail is an ongoing process. Additional culvert repairs and erosion control measures were completed. Paving preparation on the southern portion of the trail began and will be completed in the next fiscal year.



Erosion control along the CVNT

Hartman Reserve Nature Center



Activities

It was another busy year of programming at Hartman Reserve. Hartman staff served over 6000 youth in field trips, provided 450 youth with School of the Wild programming and delivered 24 different summer camps. Hartman received a new bus to transport kids and adults to camps, programs and events. 3,000 miles were put on the bus this summer alone!



Hartman Reserve Events

Under the Harvest Moon
Winter Wonderland
Maple Syrup Festival
Sticky Stride

October 27, 2023
December 2 & 9, 2023
March 8, 9 & 10, 2024
March 9, 2024



Administrative Headquarters



Black Hawk County rebranded this last year and with that came a new logo. Black Hawk County Conservation adopted the new logo for consistency and for better recognition as a Black Hawk County Department.

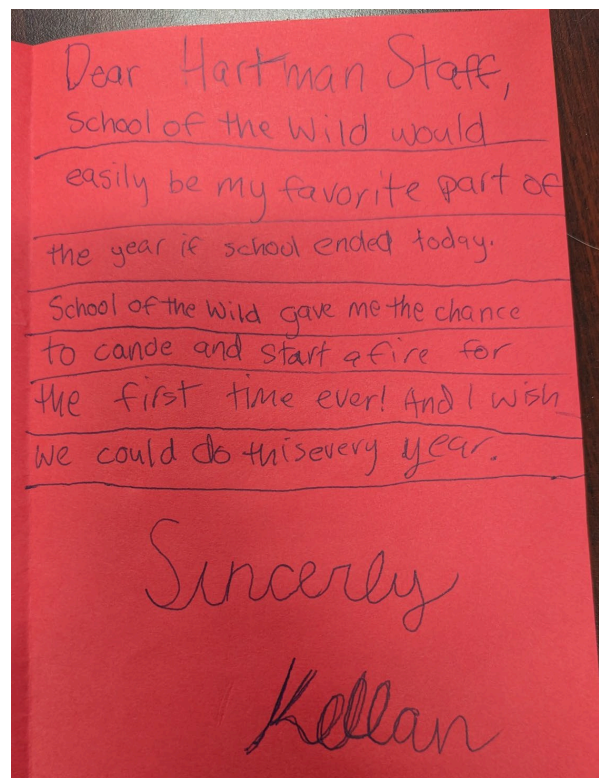
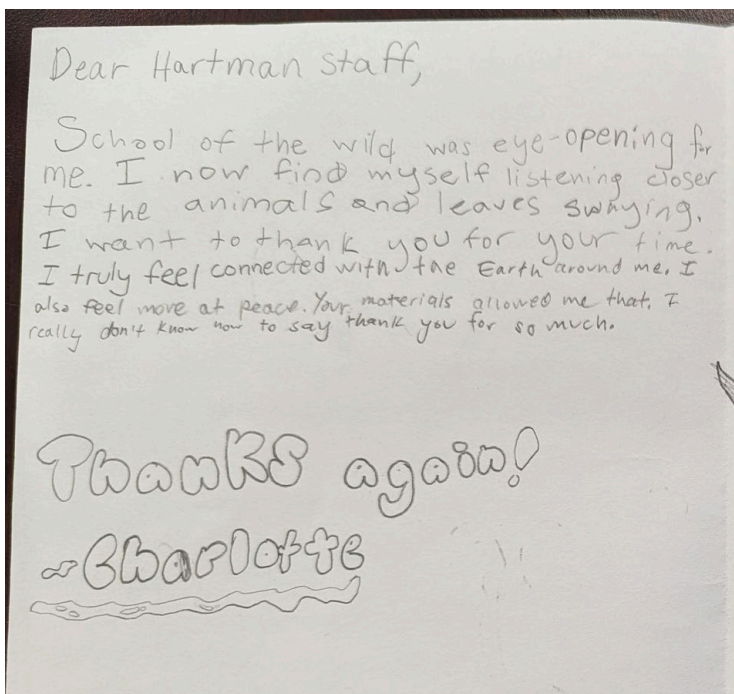
Staff Updates

Ben Rindels was promoted to Ranger III

Rory Larsen graduated from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy.

An additional full-time Naturalist I position was added at Harman Reserve. Former Hartman intern Marley Millar was hired for this position. Marley was then promoted to Naturalist II to fill the vacated position.

Megan Hamm was promoted to Naturalist III.



Letters to Hartman staff from students that attended School of the Wild.

Black Hawk County Conservation Staff

NAME	YEARS EMPLOYED	PRESENT POSITION
Full Time Employees		
Stanley Swingen	35	Maintenance III
Mike Hendrickson	33	Executive Director
Alan Finke	33	South Unit Ranger
James Weimer	29	Wildlife Conservationist II
Troy Petersen	29	Ranger III
Cherrie Northrup	29	Planning Administrator
Nichole Koelling	16	Office Manager
Scott Jones	13	Mechanic
Katie Klus	13	Naturalist III
Jodi Rutledge	12	Clerical III
Connie Svoboda	12	Development Coordinator/Naturalist II
Wade Myers	8	Maintenance II
Karl Kozak	7	North Unit Ranger
Will Souer	6	Wildlife Conservationist I
Amy Davison	6	Nature Center Manager
Gretchen Callaway	5	Clerical II
Ben Rindels	3	Ranger II
Tanner Archer	2	Maintenance II
Trevor Davis	2	Ranger II
Megan Hamm	1	Naturalist II
Marley Millar	1	Naturalist I
Part Time Employees		
Jessica Craig	1	Building Cleaner
Natural Resources Intern		
Trent Polley	Ethan Hennings	
Seasonal Employees		
Rickie French	Hope Kressin	Brady Spence
Asher Beerman	Dan Pranger	Isaac Wellendorf
Grant Brehm	Brennen Davis	Dax Johnston
Brandon Eberhard	Steve Hendershot	Cody Clayton
Brad McKee		

Natural Resource Management

Prairie Management

- *Prescribed Burns* - Approx. 141.5 acres of prairie were burned in the North Unit. Approx. 119.5 acres of prairie were burned in the South Unit.
- *Safety equipment for Burns* - Staff worked with Brad Metcalf, Black Hawk County Safety Coordinator and Mike Hendrickson, Conservation Director to acquire 6 radios for burning along with radio harnesses, and other tools such as fire-retardant clothing, drip torches, flappers and rakes.
- *Haying* – Approx. 112 acres of prairie were hayed which included the following: *Washington Union Access, Railroad Lake Access, Cedar River Natural Resource Area & Twin Springs Natural Area.*

Landowner Assistance Projects (Plantings, Mowing Establishment, Consultation)

- The Wildlife Conservationist's provide consulting and technical assistance with the implementation of conservation practices on private property which includes assistance with prairie plantings and prairie establishment mowing. A total of 124 acres of prairie were planted along with custom mowing for 7 different landowners.

Cedar Valley Monarch Zones Planting Projects –

www.cedarvalleymonarchzones.org

Black Hawk County Conservation partners with the local Cedar Valley Monarch Zones Project to provide expertise in the planning, planting, and development of new pollinator plantings throughout the county. A total of 20 acres of pollinator seed were planted this past year on private and public ground.



Casey Lake Restoration Project

- Advanced Drainage Systems (ADS) of Waterloo donated over 500 pallets to be used for construction of fish habitat structures.
- Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) continued with invasive species control and thinning in part of the upland watershed of Casey Lake.

Cedar Valley Nature Trail Restoration Plan

- Wildlife Conservationist's worked with the South Unit staff to continue implementation of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail Restoration Plan (Phase I). The work included walnut tree removal along the trail near McFarlane Park and the Cedar River Natural Resource Area.

Natural Resource Management, continued

Forest Management and Timber Stand Improvement

- The Forest Management Plan for *Black Hawk Park Developed Areas* was written and approved by the Conservation Board. Implementation of this plan began with crop tree release of walnut, hard maple, oak, and hickory according to the plan.
- Staff worked with the north unit park rangers to remove dead ash trees from the developed section of Black Hawk Park. This includes groomed areas such as shelters, roads, playgrounds and campgrounds. A total of 6,300 board feet of ash was removed for public safety.
- TSI work continues in the upland area of Hartman Reserve Nature Center and the State Preserve in accordance with the plan. This included invasive species control, select thinning of canopy, and crop tree release. This will also help with future erosion control in the deep ravines.
- Direct seeding of walnut, oak, and hickory nuts were implemented in approximately 3.5 acres at Schaefer Natural Area near Gilbertville.



Volunteers that helped with tree planting.

Iowa DNR Forest Community Grant

- Staff along with local volunteers planted trees at Big Woods Lake Campground and Black Hawk Park. This grant program provided \$3,700 in funds for this great effort.

Natural Resource Interns

- Ethan Hennings and Trent Polley were hired as interns to assist the Wildlife Conservationist's with land management. This included Blue Spotted Salamander research, tree and shrub plantings and care and prairie establishment mowing just to name a few. These positions are funded through the Friends of Black Hawk County Conservation Endowment.

Conservation Easements and Compatible Use Agreements

- All 8 conservation easements on private ground were monitored with no violations reported.
- Staff began implementing the updated compatible use agreements. Work at Schaefer Natural Area included tree removal from the prairie and direct seeding of hardwood nuts.

Community Partnerships

The following is an attempt to recognize some of the many partnerships that Black Hawk County Conservation has forged with various community groups and individuals to accomplish our mission.

Countywide

Ryan Kurtz and his Hawkeye Community College students assisted with various resource management projects.

The following agencies continue to work with BHCC to manage urban deer in Black Hawk County: George Wyth State Park (DNR), Lori Eberhard, Waterloo Leisure Services, the City of Evansdale, and the City of Cedar Falls.

Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments (INRCOG) works with staff to find funding for many projects throughout our system.

The Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa manages the Friends of Black Hawk County Conservation Endowment and the Cedar Valley Nature Trail Endowment.

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation continues to help with land protection and land acquisitions.

Cedar Valley Monarch Zones Project is a partnership between the City of Cedar Falls, Black Hawk County Conservation, Young Family Foundation, City of Waterloo, Hawkeye Community College and the Cedar Valley Arboretum.

University of Northern Iowa, DNR, USFWS (Wood Turtles)

Pheasants Forever (Food Plot Seed and Prairie Seeding)

The Tallgrass Prairie Center (Research Prairie Plots)

DNR, Cedar Falls, Waterloo, Hudson, Janesville, Evansdale, Gilbertville, George Wyth, (Cedar River Water Trail)

DNR Forestry and Fisheries

Whitetails Unlimited

North Unit

We have continued our partnership with the City of Cedar Falls to manage Big Woods Lake Campground with the Big Woods Lake Campground Joint Board.

Lucy Price Family Foundation – Lucy's Meadow at Hartman Reserve

South Unit

Black Hawk Archers maintain the field archery course at Hickory Hills Park.

McFarlane Park Volunteer Group continues to help maintain the park and organize events in McFarlane Park.

Friends of The Gilbertville Depot continue their lease agreement with Black Hawk County Conservation to help promote and maintain the Depot on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail.

We have signed an MOU with UNI to coordinate research with management of 100 acres of prairie at the Cedar River Natural Resource Area.

Preserve Cedar Valley Nature Trail – Assist with fundraising for trail bridge repair projects.

Hartman Reserve Nature Center

Catherine Livingston Fund at the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa

Cedar Valley Association of Soft Trails (CVAST)

Cities of: Cedar Falls, Elk Run Heights, Evansdale, Hudson, Raymond and Waterloo Stormwater partnership

Dry Run Creek Watershed

Exceptional Persons, Inc. (EPI)

Friends of Hartman Reserve

Green Iowa AmeriCorps

Gurnsey Foundation

Hawkeye Community College

Hearst Center for the Arts

Henry Doorly Zoo (Omaha)

Hydrite

Impact Outdoors

Inclusion Connection

Iowa AmeriCorps 4-H Outreach

John Deere

McElroy Trust

Prairie Rapids Audubon Society

REM

R.J. McElroy Trust

Scheels

Silos and Smokestacks Natural Heritage Area

University of Northern Iowa - Biology, Dr. Alex Oberle

Volunteer Center

Waterloo and Cedar Falls Community School Districts

Waterloo Center for the Arts

Waterloo Community Foundation

Volunteers

Black Hawk County Conservation relies on volunteers to serve in numerous capacities. Thank you to everyone who has helped Black Hawk County Conservation continue to provide quality recreational opportunities for the citizens and visitors of Black Hawk County.

