

FY26 Annual Report

To: Louisa County Board of Supervisors

Prepared by: Jacob Ewart on behalf of Louisa County Conservation Board

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

LOUISA COUNTY
CONSERVATION



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At a Glance...

- **Shop Improvements** – The maintenance shop in Wapello received major repairs this year including new siding, windows, doors, and a concrete floor. These repairs have greatly improved the usability of the shop by fixing the leaky roof and siding, increasing curb appeal, and creating much more usable space by removing the dirt floor and pouring concrete.
- **Snively Restrooms** – Snively Campground restrooms also received repairs and a facelift this year. Alongside a leaky roof, the restrooms suffered from lack of paint, amenities, and overall usability. Staff worked to replace the roof, install fans for ventilation, and remove encroaching trees and brush from the area. Staff also installed hand sanitizers, trash cans, a fresh coat of paint, and new signage.
- **Virginia Grove Fish Habitat Stamp Grant** – Through a grant with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, staff were able to make improvements to the Virginia Grove pond to boost the habitat of the aquatic species and improve water quality overall. The project included a solar powered aeration system alongside rock placed in and along the water for fish habitat and bank stabilization.
- **Big Sand Mound Field Day** – Staff, with the Big Sand Mound Advisory Committee and Muscatine County Conservation, hosted a field day of exploration at Big Sand Mound near MidAmerican Energy and Bayer. This opportunity is open to the public once every three years and features a full day of teaching by area professionals and explores topics like early Iowans, turtles and snakes, mound formation, lichens, birds, flora, and radio telemetry. The next event will occur summer of 2029.
- **Prescribed and Wildfire Operations** – This year there were two wildfires on Board properties. These wildfires occurred from either neighboring properties or from roadside fires. Chinkapin Bluffs Wildfire burned for nearly six hours and consumed roughly 100 acres of forested undergrowth. Wilson Prairie Wildfire burned for two hours and consumed roughly fifteen acres of native prairie grass. Local VFDs were able to safely contain the wildfires and LCCB is extremely grateful for their responsiveness and hard work. Staff successfully used prescribed fire as a controlled management tool on 6 different properties for a total 83 acres burned.
- **New Position: Naturalist Technician** – Sarah Martinez, LCCB Naturalist, resigned in July of 2025 to further her education and pursue marine biology. With an empty position, it was decided to hire a replacement for her, but with an equal emphasis on field work. The title of the new position describes just that: Naturalist + Technician. Amanda Stallman was hired in August of 2025 and has excelled in the new position. Amanda may start her day teaching students about nocturnal animals. She may finish the same day with a chainsaw in hand at Cairo Woods. This dual role position helps relieve pressure on both the Education Coordinator and Operations Supervisor by giving each team help after the Technician position was lost in 2024. Amanda Stallman found her love for the outdoors after growing up on a small farm in Amana, Iowa. She gained her experience in the field of Natural Resources after graduating from Kirkwood Community College with a Parks and Natural Resources Degree in 2022. You can find her lifting weights at the gym or creating some art in the prairie in her free time.



Board Information

The five members of the Louisa County Conservation Board are a decision-making and policy-making body appointed by the Louisa County Board of Supervisors. The board's authority includes the acquisition and development of land, adoption of rules and regulations, comprehensive planning of an overall county conservation board program and specific site plans for individual areas. Other functions of the Board include hiring an executive director, developing a budget, and working with other governmental subdivisions to provide programs for the public.

The primary consideration of the board should be to provide a balanced conservation, recreation, and education program to the citizens of the county, through proper planning and identification of needs and demands. The County Conservation Board can be the primary county agency dealing with natural resource issues in its county. (Source: Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards)

LCCB made some major updates to their Bylaws this year including term limits and an attendance policy.

This year, Josh Hardin was reappointed by the Louisa County Board of Supervisors for his second 5-year term.

The Louisa County Conservation Board members who served during this reporting period were:

Name	Current Title	Expiration Date	Regular Meetings Attended
Shawn Maine	President	December 31, 2026	12
Elizabeth Kling	Secretary	December 31, 2027	9
Joellen Shantz	Member	December 31, 2028	11
Sam Willson	Member	July 2027*	12
Josh Hardin	Vice-President	December 31, 2030	12

*Sam Willson was removed from the Conservation Board after the June 2022 meeting. He was reinstated in January 2025 for the remainder of his term when he was removed. Therefore, his term will expire in July of 2027.

The board held 12 regular meetings and 5 special meetings during the fiscal year. Agendas and minutes from the meetings are on file at the Louisa County Conservation Office, 12635 County Road G56, Suite 101, Wapello, Iowa, 52653. The previous 12 months of meeting minutes can also be found online at: mycountyparks.com/County/Louisa. To find meeting information on the website, hover on "More Info" at the top, then click "Conservation Board". This page will provide minutes for the past year, the current Annual Report, and information about the next meeting.

Online Tools and Resources

Mapping and Directions: Find all our areas and addresses on Google Maps.

Reservations and Area Information: To find more information on individual areas, to reserve Langwood, a campsite, or shelter, or to sign up for a program, visit our website at MyCountyParks.com/County/Louisa. This website is where staff will post all information about upcoming events, board meetings, and information about nature camps and public programs. This website is managed by ICCS (Iowa County Conservation System).

Naturally Louisa County Newsletter: LCCB, cooperatively with Tri Rivers Conservation Foundation, also publishes Naturally Louisa County - a quarterly newsletter featuring articles from The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Louisa Regional Solid Waste Agency, Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge, Friends of Port Louisa Refuge, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Louisa County Izaak Walton League, Pheasants Forever (PF), Quail Forever (QF), and other local conservation organizations. To sign up for the newsletter, email conservation@louisacountyia.gov or go to mycountyparks.com and find the Naturally Louisa County Newsletter tab under “more info”.

Job Posting: Louisa County Conservation uses mycountyparks.com for posting employment. This applies to both seasonal and permanent positions. To find employment opportunities, click “careers” on the top ribbon of the landing page of mycountyparks.com

Facebook: Staff will continue to post reminders about upcoming events, important news updates, bid requests, sales, job postings, and environmental educational opportunities. This is where you will find the most up to date information about what is happening at LCCB. Follow us @Louisa County Conservation.

Recognition

Will Parsons was the recipient of the “Friend of Conservation” award for rebuilding a footbridge at Langwood Education Center. Staff and Board are very thankful for Will for providing this much needed connection between trails for students and trail users.



LCC Staff

The Louisa County Conservation Board maintained five permanent staff positions and seven seasonal positions.

Permanent Staff:

Name	Title	Date Started
Jacob Ewart	Executive Director	7/2022 (PFT)
Dani Boysen	Office Manager	7/2016 (PPT)
Lana Artz-McComb	Naturalist	3/2016 (PFT)
Sarah Martinez (Resigned 7/2025)	Naturalist	5/2023 (PFT)
Amanda Stallman	Naturalist Technician	8/2025 (PFT)
Tanner Hollingsworth	Operations Supervisor	7/2024 (PFT)



Seasonal Staff:

Name	Title	Dates
Luke Perkins	Conservation Technician - 6 month	2023 – 2026 (SFT)
Mason Cooley	Conservation Aide - 3 month	2025 – 2026 (SFT)
Brelynn Randall	Naturalist Aide - 3 month	2024 – 2026 (SFT)
Emily Hemphill	Naturalist Aide - 3 month	2025 – 2025 (SFT)
Ziva Green	Naturalist Aide - 3 month	2026 – 2026 (SFT)
Lynette Moore	Toolesboro Interpreter	2019 – 2026 (SPT)
Nonie Crumly	Toolesboro Interpreter	2020 – 2026 (SPT)
Ann Kauffman	Toolesboro Interpreter	2025 – 2026 (SPT)

PFT: Permanent Full Time (32+ hours/week, receives full benefits)

PPT: Permanent Part Time (20-31 hours/week, receives full benefits)

SFT: Seasonal Full Time (32+ hours/week seasonally, no benefits)

SPT: Seasonal Part Time (< 20 hours/week seasonally, no benefits)

In addition to paid staff, the conservation board used the services of volunteers and community service workers including school groups, Scouts, and many individuals.

Board Area List and Use Categories

The Louisa County Conservation Board currently owns 16 areas comprising of approximately 2,600 acres for the uses of conservation, recreation, open spaces, trails, and wildlife benefits. LCCB also manages 4 other areas for either the State of Iowa or US Army Corps of Engineers. Additionally, LCCB is part of a cooperative agreement to assist in the management of two water trails along the Iowa River and Lake Odessa. There were no land acquisitions or sales this year.

Own:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baird Grove - Baird Timber - Cairo Woods Wildlife Area - Cappy Russell Access - Chinkapin Bluffs Recreation Area - Eden Park - Flaming Prairie Park - Hickory Hollow - Hoover Nature Trail - Hwy 61 Access - Indian Slough Wildlife Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Langwood Education Center - River Forks Access - Virginia Grove Recreation Area - Wetland Interpretive Trail - Wilson Prairie |
|--|---|
-
- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manage: - Snively Access and Campground - Toolesboro Mounds and Museum/Littleton Brothers Memorial - Wykert's Landing |
|---|

The following is a list of areas broken down into categories of use. Some may appear in more than one category. Names have been shortened to their common names for ease of use.

Parks and Recreation	Campground	Wildlife Area	Boat Access
Chinkapin Bluffs	Flaming Prairie	Baird Grove	Flaming Prairie
Eden Park	Virginia Grove	Baird Timber	River Forks
Langwood	Snively Campground	Cairo Woods	Hwy 61 Access
Virginia Grove		Chinkapin Bluffs	Cappy Russell
Toolesboro/Littleton		Hickory Hollow	Snively Campground
		Hoover Nature Trail	Wykert's Landing
		Indian Slough	
		Virginia Grove	
		Wetland Interpretive Trail	
		Wilson Prairie	

Area Amenities

Area Number	Area <i>911 Address</i>	Acreage	Electricity	Water	Toilets	Picnicking	Hiking Trails	Equestrian Trails	Fishing	Boating - motor	Canoe/Kayaking	Boat Ramp	Hunting - Forest	Hunting - Upland	Hunting - Wetland
1	Baird Grove <i>6011 Q Avenue, Morning Sun</i>	20					●						●		
2	Baird Timber <i>2851 K Ave, Wapello</i>	19											●		
3	Cairo Woods Wildlife Area <i>9032 S Ave, Columbus Jct. (Main Access)</i>	526					●	*	●		●		●	●	
4	Cappy Russell Access <i>6444 West Co. Rd. X-71, Oakville</i>	<1				●			●	●	●	●			
5	Chinkapin Bluffs Recreation Area <i>14198 R Ave, Columbus Jct.</i>	394	●	●	●	●	●		●				●	●	●
6	Eden Park <i>17426 Co. Rd. X17, Columbus Jct.</i>	154		●		●	●								
7	Flaming Prairie Park <i>14624 Co. Rd. X61, Wapello</i>	75	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●			
8	Hickory Hollow <i>12786 148th Street, Wapello</i>	34					●						●		
9	Highway 61 Access <i>10726 Highway 61, Wapello</i>	<1							●	●					
10	Hoover Nature Trail (all sections) <i>N/A</i>	83					●								
11	Indian Slough Wildlife Area <i>1225 L Avenue, Wapello (Main Access)</i>	1052					●	*	●		●		●	●	●
12	Langwood Education Center <i>14019 H Ave, Wapello</i>	92	Reservable use only												
13	River Forks Access <i>1001 Main St, Columbus Jct.</i>	<1				●			●	●	●	●			
14	Snively Access & Campground <i>9246 Co Rd X61, Wapello</i>	6	●	●	●	●			●	●					
15	Toolesboro Mounds & Littleton Memorial <i>6568 Toolesboro Avenue, Wapello</i>	5	●	●	●	●									
16	Virginia Grove Recreation Area <i>20406 55th Street, Morning Sun</i>	138	●	●	●	●	●		●		●		●	●	
18	Wetland Interpretive Trail <i>14207 H Ave, Wapello</i>	40				●	●		●						
17	Wilson Prairie <i>10400 Co Rd G44X, Muscatine</i>	37					●								
19	Wykert's Landing <i>1714 20th Street, Oakville</i>	<1							●	●	●	●			
20	LCC Office <i>12635 County Rd G56, Wapello</i>	Open M-F, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - (319) 523-8381													
21	LCC Maintenance Shop <i>8299 K Avenue, Wapello</i>	Call for appt. - (563) 272-8066													
* Open May 21 to September 15															

LCCB Areas A-Z

Baird Grove – 20 Acres

Location: Directly NE of Virginia Grove along Q Avenue

911 Address: 6011 Q Avenue, Morning Sun

Year Acquired: 1997

Acquisition Method: Donated by Baird Family

Land Management Type(s): Forest

Management Restrictions: None

Current Management: This wildlife area is all woodland, used mostly for wildlife habitat and hunting. Baird Grove is a beautiful place for spring and fall walks, viewing woodland wildflowers and hunting mushrooms. This property is adjacent to Virginia Grove and can be fully accessed by traveling off-trail and crossing ravines.

Existing Facilities: There is a small parking lot and about a quarter-mile trail loop.

Updates This FY: Staff performed trail maintenance periodically throughout the year.

Planned Improvements: Connecting this area to Virginia Grove would be very helpful, however, the ravines are large and bridges may be needed to get across. Staff plan to continue to remove invasive species and keep trail clear.

Documented Use: Staff routinely observed public use throughout the year, particularly during hunting season.



Baird Timber – 19 Acres

Location: Five miles south of Wapello

911 Address: 2851 K Ave, Wapello

Year Acquired: 1983

Acquisition Method: Cash

Land Management Type(s): Forest

Management Restrictions: None

Current Management: This wildlife area is all woodland, used mostly for wildlife habitat and hunting. Baird Timber is a beautiful place for spring and fall walks, viewing woodland wildflowers and hunting mushrooms.

Existing Facilities: There is a small parking lot and about a quarter-mile trail loop.

Updates This FY: Staff performed trail maintenance routinely throughout the year, especially prior to hunting seasons.

Planned Improvements: Staff plan to continue to remove invasive species as needed and monitor tree and woodland health.

Documented Use: Staff routinely observed public use throughout the year, particularly during hunting season.



Cairo Woods Wildlife Area – 526 acres

Location: Five miles southeast of Columbus Junction, Iowa

911 Address: 9032 S Ave, Columbus Jct. (Main Access)

Year Acquired: 1984 - 1987

Acquisition Method: Wildlife Habitat Stamp Funds

Land Management Type(s): Forest, Upland Prairie

Management Restrictions: Any type of development or use which does not provide, protect, or enhance wildlife habitat. Allowed uses are only compatible activities such as fishing, hunting, hiking, berry picking, etc.

Current Management: This is a popular area for hunting rabbits, deer, turkey, pheasant, and quail. Cairo Woods also continues to be one of the best places in the county for picking black raspberries and blackberries. There are six miles of mowed hiking trails, five miles of which are open to equestrian use from May 21 to September 15 each year.

Existing Facilities: There are three gravel parking lots, as well as an accessible hunting blind located near the East Access.

Updates This FY: Maintenance staff used the skid steer and mulcher along the trail edges to make more room to hike, as well as bladed and added rock to east and west entrance roads.

Planned Improvements: Staff plan to conduct more prescribed burns and enhance upland game populations. Food plots are also planned.

Documented Use: Many hunters and equestrian riders have been spotted on the trails by staff. Berry picking and dog training exercises have also been recorded.

99 County Parks: Cairo Woods has a selfie station, placed in FY19 as part of the Iowa Tourism's 99 Counties, 99 Parks promotion. It was placed near the main access for people to snap selfies.



Cappy Russell Access – <1 acre

Location: Along the Iowa River approximately one-half mile west of Oakville

911 Address: 6444 West Co Rd X71, Oakville

Year Acquired: 2004

Acquisition Method: Cash

Land Management Type(s): River Access

Management Restrictions: This area is restricted from time to time due to flooding

Current Management: This site is maintained as a boat access on the Iowa River.

This is a heavily used access to the Iowa River and can also be used to reach the Mississippi River which is just a few miles downstream.

Existing Facilities: Facilities include a concrete boat access and gravel parking lot.

Updates This FY: LCC made continued effort to keep the trash can emptied and the parking lot mowed. Larger road rock was added near the boat access.

Planned Improvements: Staff will continue to add rock to the parking lot when needed.

Documented Use: Staff observed consistent use by boaters, anglers, and paddlers.

Flooding Info: When the Iowa River is at 20.2 feet, the parking lot is underwater.



Chinkapin Bluffs Recreation Area – 394 acres

Location: One mile southeast of Columbus Junction

911 Address: 14198 R Ave, Columbus Jct.

Year Acquired: 1992 (on the bluff) and 2002 (below the bluff)

Acquisition Method: 1992 – REAP ; 2002 – Wildlife Habitat Stamp Fund

Land Management Type(s): Forest, Bottomland, Prairie

Management Restrictions: The Fuller (on the bluff) property was purchased using REAP funds. This restricts the Board from putting in organized sporting equipment or swimming pools, etc. The wetland addition (below the bluff) was purchased using a mix of Wildlife Habitat Grant funds (75%), and local donations. Management of this lower section does not allow any type of development or use which does not provide, protect, or enhance wildlife habitat. Allowed uses are only compatible activities such as fishing, hunting, hiking, berry picking, etc.

Current Management: This is a multi-use recreation area. Management includes developing the site for hunting, gathering, nature hikes, birdwatching, picnicking, hiking, cross country running, field trips, and nature camps. There are two agriculture fields that are rented with nearby food plots that are planted for wildlife near the accessible blind.

Existing Facilities: Shelter with a fireplace, several picnic tables, grills, drinking fountain, composting toilet, overlook deck, playground equipment, sundial, swinging bench, pawpaw plantation, accessible hunting blind, and five miles of hiking trails. The Hoover Nature Trail bisects the property along the bottom side of the bluff.

Updates This FY: Farm agreements continued with Bo McLaughlin. Continued updates and management to the pawpaw plantation with the help of Tom Wahl. Trail maintenance and limb clearing to widen trails were also completed. A storybook walk was installed at the upper section of the property with the help of a Scout Project by Ethan Brown.

Planned Improvements: Staff are exploring the possibility of an accessible concrete path to replace the limestone trail to the overlook and playground area. Grant funding will be needed to complete this project.

Documented Use: There were seven programs held here along with non-reserved use of the shelter. For reserved use, see Reservation/Camping Data on page 27.



Eden Park – 154 acres

Location: 4 miles northeast of Columbus Junction

911 Address: 17426 Co. Rd. X17, Columbus Junction, IA

Year Acquired: 2010

Acquisition Method: Donation by Donna Eden

Land Management Type(s): Forest, Bottomland, Prairie

Management Restrictions: MidAmerican has an easement on the property which could restrict the scale of major projects. Hunting and trapping are NOT allowed.

Current Management: The rolling topography includes grasslands, wetlands, two creeks, and forests. A 9-hole disc golf course extends through the prairie and forest on the west portion of the property.



Existing Facilities: Facilities include a gravel parking lot, three miles of hiking trails, playground, drinking fountain, and picnic table on a cement pad.

Updates This FY: Staff continually mowed the trails, and disc golf course maintenance continued this year.

Planned Improvements: Planned improvements include improved trail signage for disc golfers, installation of tee pads, construction of a picnic shelter, and additional picnic tables.

Documented Use: 84 rounds of disc golf were played this fiscal year of which, 23 are unique players. Families are also seen using the playground often.



Flaming Prairie Park – 75 acres

Location: Approximately 15 miles south of Muscatine

911 Address: 14624 Co. Rd. X-61, Wapello

Year Acquired: 1978

Acquisition Method: Donated by Grain Processing Company (GPC)

Management Agreement: (Boat Access) 25-year lease with US Army Corps of Engineers. Expires 2030

Land Management Type(s): Forest, Bottomland

Management Restrictions: None

Current Management: For wildlife habitat, camping, picnicking, fishing, Mississippi River boat access and other recreational uses. Hunting and trapping are NOT allowed. Campground was constructed using Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant.

Existing Facilities: Facilities include two shelters, camping & picnicking facilities, 20-30-50-amp service for 17 campsites, two latrines, and a Mississippi River boat access.

Updates This FY: Staff continued maintenance of trash cans, restrooms, shelters, and lawn grass.

Planned Improvements: Improvements include continued work on road maintenance and using the forestry mulcher on both sides to make management easier and safer.

Documented Use: See Camping/Reservation Data on page 27. There was also a public program held for a cleanup.

Flooding Info: Being in the floodplain, flooding has been and always will be an issue. Seep water begins to affect campsites when river levels exceed 12 feet. Water begins to drain when the river reaches 10 feet.



Hickory Hollow – 34 acres

Location: One mile east of Grandview (behind the cemetery)

911 Address: 12786 148th Street, Wapello

Year Acquired: 2014

Acquisition Method: Donated by River Products Company

Land Management Type(s): Forest

Management Restrictions: This area was donated with a 404 Permit for Indiana Bat mitigation on 28 acres of the property. The area cannot be developed or cleared except for soft trails for maintenance and foot bridges for access. Habitat work (girdling cedars, invasive species removal) must be done prior to April 14 each year to avoid the Indiana Bat maternity season. The remaining 5.32 acres can be developed and is not subject to the 404 permits.

Current Management: The area can be used for hunting (not within 200 yards of occupied building), gathering, hiking, and bird watching.

Existing Facilities: This site has a gravel base parking lot and pole building.

Updates This FY: Staff performed their annual habitat work and mowed and trimmed the grass picnic area.

Planned Improvements: Improvements next year will be continued cedar girdling and invasive species removal.

Documented Use: Users have been spotted exploring this area and hunters have also been seen in the parking lot.



Highway 61 Access – <1 acre

Location: Approximately two miles north of Wapello on the east side of the road.

911 Address: 10726 Highway 61, Wapello

Year Acquired: 1989

Acquisition Method: Quit Claim by Iowa DOT

Land Management Type(s): Boat and fishing access

Management Restrictions: None

Current Management: This site is maintained as an access to the Iowa River for fishing. No concrete boat access is provided, but canoes/kayaks can be carried from the parking lot during most water levels/conditions.

Existing Facilities: Facilities include a parking lot and access road.

Updates This FY: Staff trimmed back woody trees from bank for better fishing access.

Planned Improvements: Improvements staff plan to accomplish revolve around bank growth and the entrance road. The new highway will likely disturb this site and will need to be re-evaluated after construction.

Documented Use: This access has many cars/trucks in the lot at many times of day. Especially during higher water events, this is used nearly all year.



Hoover Nature Trail – <1 acre

Location: Three major chunks – Morning Sun, Columbus Jct., and a disconnected section between Wapello and Columbus Jct.

911 Address: None

Year Acquired: 2006

Acquisition Method: Quit Claim by Hoover Nature Trail Inc.

Land Management Type(s): Trail

Management Restrictions: None

Current Management: Morning Sun and Columbus Jct. portions are mowed and cleared, but the middle chunk is underdeveloped. A major management challenge is the crossing for Long Creek. These intersect and there is currently no way to cross Long Creek. Another challenge is disconnectedness. Two extremely small parcels need to be acquired in the middle to reconnect three miles of trail with gravel road access on either end.

Existing Facilities: There is a parking lot in Morning Sun and a trailhead at the Louisa County Fairgrounds. The Morning Sun portion is roughly three miles one way, and the Columbus Junction portion is roughly two miles one way. The underdeveloped portion in the middle is three miles one way.

Updates This FY: Staff cleaned many trees off the trail and mulched the sides as time and equipment allowed.

Planned Improvements: Continued efforts to clear trails in a timely manner after storms and keep erosion to a minimum are the biggest improvements staff have planned for the sites. Many portions are in dire need of renovations before the trail is completely lost. Plans include renovating major washouts and continued efforts to connect the underdeveloped portions to roadways – and each other – for public use.

Documented Use: Many cars are seen in the parking lots at Morning Sun and on the various lots in Columbus Jct. Hunters also use this trail to access portions of Chinkapin Bluffs during squirrel season.



Indian Slough Wildlife Area – 1,052 acres

Location: Three miles northwest of Wapello, Iowa

911 Address: 1225 L Avenue, Wapello (Main Access)

Year Acquired: 1985 - 1988

Acquisition Method: Wildlife Habitat Stamp Funds

Land Management Type(s): Forest, Bottomland, Prairie

Management Restrictions: Any type of development or use which does not provide, protect, or enhance wildlife habitat. Allowed uses are only compatible activities such as fishing, hunting, hiking, berry picking, etc.

Current Management: This site is managed for wildlife habitat purposes and compatible recreational uses such as hunting, fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing and trapping.

Existing Facilities: Facilities include water control structures, access roads, four parking lots/access points (Rudisill, Main, Turkey Run, & Kuder Lake) and mowed trails. Equestrian use from May 21 to September 15 each year. Brandon Bark covered telephone poles are also located on the property for Indiana Bat research by the Iowa DOT.

Updates This FY: Trails were maintained and a food plot (soybean) was planted inside the bermed area. Introductory planning was also started to revamp the area and create a water control structure to increase water retention. A grant was sought after, but LCCB was not chosen at this time.

Planned Improvements: Planned improvements include improved trail signage for increased usability. Staff plan to plant more food plots here as drought and flooding conditions allow.

Documented Use: Many hunters and hikers were seen on the property as well as bow fishermen during high water events.



Langwood Education Center – 92 acres

Location: Three miles southeast of Grandview, Iowa

911 Address: 14019 H Ave, Wapello

Year Acquired: 2000

Acquisition Method: Cash

Land Management Type(s): Forest

Management Restrictions: None

Current Management: Langwood is currently managed for environmental education, outdoor recreation, and rental facilities. Youth groups are encouraged, particularly in conjunction with outdoor education programming, to use the area. Many private groups also rent the facility for reunions, weddings, campouts and more.



Existing Facilities: Many facilities are on this site, which include an enclosed lodge with wood-burning stove, central heating and air, furnished with tables, chairs, refrigerator, stove, microwave, pots & pans and table service; unheated two-story A-frame dormitory with 21 cots; unheated bathhouse with four showers and four flushing toilets; five electrical hookups for campers; eight aluminum canoes; two bridges and a bird viewing blind.

Updates This FY: There were fewer updates than last year, with a new oven and more rock for the entrance road and parking lot. The pond dam was burned off to reduce encroaching woody species, and rock was added near the docks to minimize ruts and mud when putting on programs. A mounted water fountain was also installed on the lodge.

Planned Improvements: Plans to install a water softener and redo the leaking plumbing lines to the showers are underway. Plans to fix the leaking roof on the bathroom are also being discussed. As usual, replacing/repairing the lodge and bathrooms are taking place in conjunction with long-term plans for future building(s).

Documented Use: There were 30 programs held at Langwood this year, many of which were multi-day events. See Reservation/Camping Data on page 27.



River Forks – <1 acre

Location: One mile east of Columbus Jct.

911 Address: 1001 Main St, Columbus Jct.

Year Acquired: 1973

Acquisition Method: Cash

Land Management Type(s): Boat access

Management Restrictions: None

Current Management: Managed as a boat access with area for picnicking. Boaters are allowed to primitively camp with permission.

Existing Facilities: Facilities include a concrete boat access, parking lot, and a bench along the riverfront.

Updates This FY: Staff continued mowing the boat access parking lot and clearing mud off the access after flood events.

Planned Improvements: Improvements include adding rock to the parking lot, continued area leveling, and removing stumps from the center of the parking area.

Documented Use: Many anglers, boaters, and visitors are often spotted near or on the boat access throughout the season.



Snively Access & Campground – 6 acres

Location: On the west bank of the Odessa Wildlife Management Complex, four miles east of Wapello

911 Address: 9246 Co Rd X61, Wapello

Management Agreement: Sub-lease agreement with the Iowa DNR through the US Corps of Engineers. 25-year lease expires 2032

Land Management Type(s): Camping and canoe/kayak access

Management Restrictions: LCCB is unable to keep earned profits. Any money LCCB earns from the site must be spent at the site, which includes rock, improvements, patrol, maintenance, admin, etc.

Current Management: Snively is managed for camping, day use picnic and fishing, and as a canoe/kayak launch site.

Existing Facilities: Facilities include 32 gravel campsites with electric 20-30-50-amp hookups, picnic tables and grills, latrine, and three frost-free water hydrants. Staff annually install a removable dock with benches, kayak launch, and handicap accessible ramp.

Updates This FY: The restrooms at Snively were remodeled including a new roof, paint, and amenities. The removable dock and kayak launch were installed and the hill to the campground was bladed. Many loads of rock were spread along the camp pads and driveway to help campers know where their sites are.

Planned Improvements: Staff plan to continue to add rock and keep the rock sprayed with herbicide to keep it looking and functioning better.

Documented Use: Snively campground and boat access were used for three programs, including using it as a launch, docking area, picnic site, and more. See Reservation/Camping Data on page 27

Flooding Info: When the campground needs to be closed due to safety, refunds can be issued instead of the required “rain checks”. However, when users want to cancel for any other reason, refunds will not be issued. Instead, they will have the option to move dates or sites to accommodate their needs.



Toolesboro Mounds & Littleton Memorial – 5 acres

Location: Approximately 10 miles southeast of Wapello off County Road 99

911 Address: 6568 Toolesboro Avenue, Wapello

Management Agreement: Agreement in place with State Historical Society of Iowa since 1990 and is renegotiated annually. All expenses at the site are reimbursed, including staff and mowing.

Land Management Type(s): Burial mounds and granite monuments

Management Restrictions: No work may be done on the mounds which can cause damage or erosion/rutting. Mowing on the mounds is done very sparingly to accommodate these needs.

Current Management: Toolesboro is a National Historic Landmark to be used for the preservation and education of the unique cultural history found in Louisa County. The facilities are open to the public and often visited by travelers of the Great River Road/All American Road, historians, school field trips, the public and more. The Littleton Memorial is managed between the Louisa County Historical Society through LCCB, and the descendants of the Littleton family. LCCB mows and trims at these sites and staffs the museum seasonally.

Existing Facilities: On site, there are two well-preserved burial mounds, a visitor center, and a restored prairie site. Also on the site is a nine-foot-tall black granite memorial. There are benches, flags, a trash can, and flowerbeds. In addition, there are six oak trees with engraved stones: one for each Littleton brother.

Updates This FY: Maintenance staff continued to mow and trim the area and worked on removing large portions of the stump in front of the museum. Museum staff continue to keep the museum clean and functioning as well as giving valuable information and tours to visitors. The floor was leveled and new laminate flooring was installed. In addition, new shelves and new desks were purchased.

Planned Improvements: Staff have plans to burn the prairie this year to invigorate plant growth. Other site improvements include removing roots from around the museum for easier maintenance and keeping the mounds cleaner and more attractive to visitors.

Documented Use: Toolesboro was open for 88 days and was visited by 276 individuals while open. There is no number for how many off-hour visitors were present. There are outdoor interpretive panels to learn about the mounds when not open. When visitors sign in, they are asked what state and/or country they are from. This year, 23 states were accounted for and three countries including Australia, England, and Ireland. Two programs were held this year.



Virginia Grove Recreation Area – 138 acres

Location: 10 miles southwest of Wapello

911 Address: 20406 55th Street, Morning Sun

Year Acquired: 1975 – 1978, 2023

Acquisition Method: Cash & LAWCON grant

Land Management Type(s): Forest, Prairie, Campground

Management Restrictions: None

Current Management: For multi-use recreation, including hunting, fishing, camping, picnicking, hiking and education programs.

Existing Facilities: Facilities include two shelters, 11 campsites with 20-30-50-amp service plus two non-electric campsites near the windmill, latrine, playground equipment, three frost-free hydrants, handicapped accessible fishing dock, one room schoolhouse, four footbridges, and a three-acre pond.

Updates This FY: The skid steer and mulcher were used to widen trails and clear brush in many portions of the park. Invasive species (honeysuckle) were removed. Pedestal stickers were updated, and the playground mulch was sprayed to help stop weeds from growing. Lots of work was completed at the pond site including an aeration system, rip rap armoring, and fish habitat through a grant with the Iowa DNR.

Planned Improvements: Planned improvements include renovations to the restrooms for better experiences overall. A leaking roof and aging facilities are making the need for porta-pots very high. To decrease costs, staff plan to make the restrooms nicer and avoid the fee for porta-potties. The newly acquired Mabeus property is also quite overrun with invasive woody species. Major work will need to be done to remove them.

Documented Use: Three programs were held at Virginia Grove including the Halloween Hike which brought roughly 150 people to the park. See Reservation/Camping Data on page 27.



Wetland Interpretive Trail – 40 acres

Location: Three miles southeast of Grandview, Iowa

911 Address: 14207 H Ave, Wapello

Year Acquired: 2008

Acquisition Method: Donated by Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation

Land Management Type(s): Prairie, Wetlands

Management Restrictions: None

Current Management: Management for this site includes a prairie and pond for recreation and wildlife habitat.

Existing Facilities: Visitors are allowed to fish in the pond and hike the Wetland Interpretive and perimeter trails. There is a parking lot on the horseshoe driveway with a concrete pad and shelter.



Updates This FY: The area outside of the hoop driveway was burned this year. The shelter which was acquired last year was constructed with the help of MidAmerican CARES Group.

Planned Improvements: Staff plan to do a better job this year of keeping the limestone trail clear of weeds and grass. This will help the overall aesthetics and make a better experience for all. Also planned is more burning to keep willow, cottonwood, and cattails out of the prairie and wetlands. This year the goal is to burn everything inside the hoop driveway.

Documented Use: Many users were seen parked in the parking lot at the WIT, and students also used the Interpretive Trail as part of their experience at Langwood.



Wilson Prairie – 37 acres

Location: Four miles northeast of Grandview, Iowa

911 Address: 10400 Co Rd G44X, Muscatine

Year Acquired: 2019

Acquisition Method: REAP and Donation from Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation

Land Management Type(s): Prairie

Management Restrictions: REAP funding restricts the Board from putting in organized sporting equipment or swimming pools, etc.

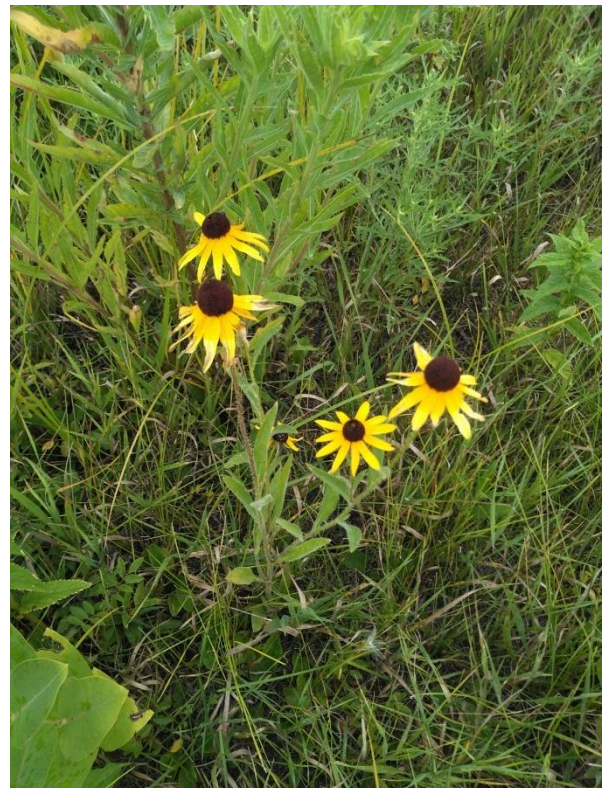
Current Management: This site is managed as a prairie with Interpretive Trail.

Existing Facilities: The main attraction on site is a one-mile square perimeter loop around the prairie with nine interpretive panels showcasing the prairie. This prairie is believed to be a native prairie, having never been plowed.

Updates This FY: Extensive work was done to remove woody species in and around the prairie. A prescribed fire was used to further help control invasive species.

Planned Improvements: Improvements include continued management as a native prairie and taking care of the somewhat rare flora that is present.

Documented Use: Many users were seen parked in the parking lot at Wilson Prairie. There were also four programs held on site.



Wykert's Landing – <1 acre

Location: Along the Mississippi River approximately five miles east of Oakville

911 Address: 1714 20th Street, Oakville

Management Agreement: 10-year lease with US Army Corps of Engineers. Expires 2032

Land Management Type(s): River Access

Management Restrictions: This area is restricted from time to time due to flooding.

Current Management: This is maintained as a boat access on the Mississippi River.

Existing Facilities: Facilities include a concrete boat access and gravel parking lot.

Updates This FY: LCC made continued efforts to keep the parking lot mowed and keep encroachment to a minimum. High water levels made accessing the river difficult this spring and summer.

Planned Improvements: Improvements include continued addition of rock to the parking lot



Documented Use: Staff witnessed consistent use by boaters, anglers, and paddlers.



LCCB Maintenance Shop – 1 acre

Location: Directly west of Wapello city limits behind the Farmer's Elevator

911 Address: 8299 K Avenue, Wapello

Year Acquired: 1977

Acquisition Method: Unknown

Land Management Type(s): Shop

Management Restrictions: None

Current Management: The shop is used for storage of equipment and vehicles and is a home base for the maintenance crew.

Existing Facilities: Facilities on site include various buildings for storage and an office space for maintenance staff.

Updates This FY: Much needed renovations including new roof, siding, doors, and a concrete floor in the cold side of the shop were made this year.

Planned Improvements: Still on the list of things that need done are more rock for the parking lot and an auction to dispose of remaining surplus equipment.



Environmental Education

The Environmental Education (EE) team yet again upheld the goals set forth by LCCB: to create environmentally knowledgeable and aware citizens who enjoy and wisely use our natural resources and contribute to a sustainable environment.

Goals/Changes This Year:

- Continue to charge fees for EE services to non-Louisa County groups and declining services to out-of-county groups during peak season (late April - early October) to ensure services are available for Louisa County citizens.
- Continue to increase our outreach, especially in Louisa County communities, through partnerships with the four libraries including weekly summer reading programs and ongoing programming throughout the school year.

Environmental Education in Louisa County can be broken into 7 major categories...

- School groups – Includes field trips to Board areas, partner areas, as well as programs in the classroom
- Youth private – Scouts, homeschool groups, etc.
- Adult private – Motts, Care Initiatives, Colonial Manor, etc.
- Nature camps – Pre-registered, multi-day summer events
- Hunter education – In cooperation with DNR, to gain hunter education certificate
- National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) – Facilitated by PE teachers, with LCCB equipment
- Public programs – Summer Reading at libraries, Trunk-or-Treat, Halloween Hike, etc.

Overview: A total of **196** programs were administered this year to a total of **5,953** non-unique attendees.

School Groups: 97 programs and at least **1,441** unique Louisa County students attended a program or field trip at least one time. Naturalists see every student K-5 in Louisa County at least twice a year. With the addition of out-of-country students and classes getting more visits in a year, there were **3,872** non-unique school group attendees this year.

Youth and Adult Private: 23 programs with **452** non-unique attendees

Nature Camps: 24 programs with **280** non-unique attendees

Hunter Education: 4 programs with **68** non-unique attendees

NASP: 1 program with **130** unique attendees

Public Program: 47 programs with **1,151** non-unique attendees

Type	# of Programs	% of Programs	Participants
School	97	49%	3,872
Public Programs	47	24%	1,151
Nature Camp	24	12%	280
Youth/Adult Private	23	12%	452
Hunter Ed	4	2%	68
NASP	1	1%	130
Total	196	100%	5,953

Location	% Programs
Classroom	25%
Other Public	24%
Langwood	21%
Other Private	7%
Outdoor Classroom	5%
Big Sand Mound	4%
Chinkapin Bluffs	4%
Wilson Prairie	2%
Complex	3%
Virginia Grove	2%
Snively	1%
Toolesboro	1%
Iowa River Water Trail	1%
Flaming Prairie	1%
Odessa Water Trail	1%

Reservations/Camping

Camping Information

Snively: **1,929** camper use days and had **\$12,029.40** in revenue. **216** reservations, **165** of which are unique

Virginia Grove: **714** camper use days and **\$6,479.72** in revenue. **84** reservations, **43** of which are unique

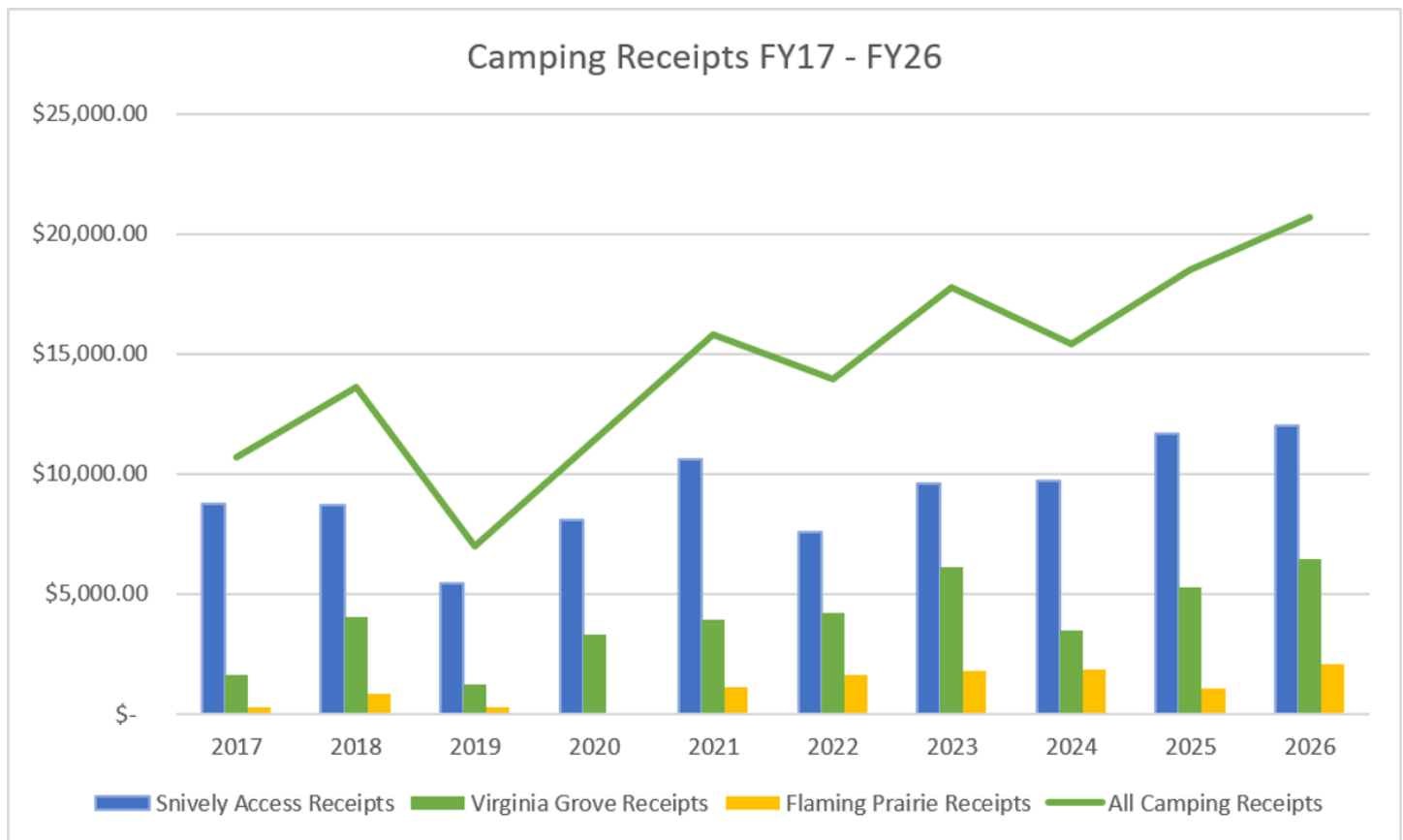
Flaming Prairie: **316** camper use days and **\$2,498** in revenue. **43** reservations, unknown unique guests

Shelter Information

Chinkapin Bluffs: **12** reservations and **\$767.86** in revenue

Langwood Rentals

19 rentals and **\$5,930.98** in revenue



Snively Demographics		
County Name	#	%
Louisa	68	31.5%
Muscatine	51	23.6%
Other State	33	15.3%
Scott	13	6.0%
Washington	12	5.6%
Des Moines	9	4.2%
Henry	6	2.8%
Johnson	6	2.8%
Lee	3	1.4%
Polk	3	1.4%
Linn	2	0.9%
Bremer	1	0.5%
Cedar	1	0.5%
Clinton	1	0.5%
Dallas	1	0.5%
Delaware	1	0.5%
Iowa	1	0.5%
Jones	1	0.5%
Mahaska	1	0.5%
Monroe	1	0.5%
Van Buren	1	0.5%
20 Iowa Counties, 15 States	216	100.0%
Other States: California, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin,		

Langwood Demographics		
County Name	#	%
Muscatine	11	57.9%
Louisa	4	21.1%
Linn	2	10.5%
Des Moines	1	5.3%
Jasper	1	5.3%
4 Iowa Counties	19	100.0%

Virginia Grove Demographics		
County Name	#	%
Louisa	58	69.0%
Henry	9	10.7%
Muscatine	6	7.1%
Other State	4	4.8%
Johnson	2	2.4%
Union	2	2.4%
Des Moines	1	1.2%
Van Buren	1	1.2%
Washington	1	1.2%
8 Iowa Counties, 4 States	84	100.0%
Other States: Connecticut, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin,		

Financial Report

General Basic Expenses		
Salaries		
Executive Director	\$	63,202.17
Environmental Education Coordinator	\$	55,510.39
Operations Supervisor	\$	49,923.67
Naturalist Technician	\$	43,509.81
Office Manager	\$	35,699.69
Conservation Technician	\$	12,200.00
Conservation Aide	\$	7,240.50
Naturalist Aide	\$	8,883.00
Museum Interpreter	\$	4,288.97
	\$	280,458.20
Administration		
Office Supplies	\$	3,043.99
Environmental Education	\$	5,949.45
Internet, Security, Phone Services	\$	3,262.03
Employee Continuing Education	\$	477.00
Dues, Permits, Physicals, etc.	\$	2,838.33
Drainage District Fees	\$	1,674.00
	\$	17,244.80
Operations		
Fuel	\$	11,232.18
Minor Equipment	\$	1,967.42
Uniforms	\$	894.80
Park and Shop Utilities	\$	12,042.32
Motor Vehicle Maint/Repair	\$	2,686.34
Operating Equipment Maint/Repair	\$	10,066.42
Park Maintenance	\$	17,750.07
Park Projects	\$	47,983.34
Langwood Maintenance	\$	8,921.34
Eden Park Maintenance	\$	540.00
Wildlife Habitat	\$	304.23
	\$	114,388.46
Donation Expenses	\$	4,935.07
Grant Expenses	\$	17,719.94
Gen Basic Total	\$	434,746.47

General Supplemental Expenses		
FICA, Insurance, IPERS, Workers Comp		
FICA	\$	20,370.46
IPERS	\$	23,193.19
County Share Insurance	\$	39,980.22
Equipment/Liability Insurance	\$	25,088.00
Workers Compensation	\$	8,919.61
Gen Sup Total	\$	117,551.48

General Fund Totals		
General		
General Basic Expense	\$	434,746.47
General Supplemental Expense	\$	117,551.48
General Total Expenses	\$	552,297.95

General Basic Revenues		
Grants		
VG Fish Habitat Stamp	\$	14,940.00
Conservation Foundation of Louisa County - EE	\$	1,000.00
IPN Small Grant	\$	1,600.00
Paint Iowa Beautiful	\$	179.94
	\$	17,719.94
Donations		
Toolesboro Donations	\$	165.00
Orion Renewable Energy Donation	\$	2,000.00
Mississippi River Days Booth Donation	\$	500.00
Pheasants Forever Storage	\$	300.00
EE Donations	\$	150.00
Random Donation	\$	2.00
Prescribed Fire Donation	\$	100.00
Littleton MOU	\$	2,000.00
Tri-Rivers MOU	\$	3,000.00
Big Sand Mound Field Day Fees	\$	2,270.77
	\$	10,487.77
Camping		
Snively	\$	12,029.40
Flaming Prairie	\$	2,498.00
Virginia Grove	\$	6,479.72
Firewood	\$	223.00
	\$	21,230.12
Shelters		
Chinkapin Bluffs	\$	767.86
Virginia Grove	\$	87.56
	\$	855.42
Langwood Rentals	\$	5,930.98
Environmental Education		
Nature Camp	\$	4,942.09
Program	\$	2,612.20
Newsletter Ad	\$	200.00
	\$	7,754.29
Toolesboro Contract	\$	15,846.99
Land Rent		
Kinder Morgan	\$	89.10
McLaughlin	\$	16,190.00
Tomahawk Farms	\$	11,374.00
	\$	27,653.10
Equipment Rentals		
Tree Planter	\$	40.00
Truax Drill	\$	100.00
	\$	140.00
Eden Park FY25 and FY26 Expenses	\$	8,863.58
Sales of Surplus Equipment	\$	585.00
Gas Tax Reimbursement	\$	596.10
Hotel/Motel Tax Reimbursement	\$	267.84
Gen Basic Total	\$	117,931.13
General Total Revenue	\$	117,931.13

Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)	
Starting Balance	\$ 189,486.83
Revenue	
REAP CCB Allocation	\$ 7,585.00
REAP Per Capita Allocation	\$ 2,580.00
Interest on Investments	\$ 6,943.31
	\$ 17,108.31
Expense	
Fish Habitat Match	\$ 2,145.27
Ending Balance	\$ 204,449.87

Conservation Reserve / Land Acquisition Fund	
Starting Balance	\$ 185,811.96
Revenue	
Transfer from GB to Reserve	\$ 69,489.17
Expense	
Mabeus Repayment	\$ 40,000.00
Mower #1 Lease	\$ 8,355.96
Mower #2 Lease	\$ 13,069.06
	\$ 61,425.02
Ending Balance	\$ 193,876.11

Partners

- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- State Historical Society of Iowa
- Louisa County Historical Society
- Louisa Regional Solid Waste Agency
- Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation
- Iowa State University Extension
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- The Nature Conservancy
- Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Louisa Development Group
- Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Iowa's County Conservation Systems (ICCS)
- Many Iowa County Conservation Boards
- Louisa County VFDs
- Louisa County Governmental Offices

Next FY...

After a successful year, Board and staff look to further increase the aesthetics, usability, and functionality of all county parks and recreation areas. In doing so, these are some short-term goals for next year:

- Continue work on entrance roads and parking lots
- Eden Park improvements including shelter and picnic area
- Explore options for Virginia Grove Schoolhouse restoration
- Revamp trail signage and road signs
- Continued work in forested areas to manage invasive species

Long-term goals include Langwood Lodge restoration/remodel and better Hoover Nature Trail connections. The Board will continue to monitor grant opportunities and funding sources to make these goals a reality.

Approved by the Louisa County Conservation Board at the meeting on August 6, 2026

Shawn Maine, President

Jacob Ewart, Director