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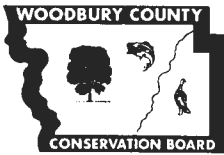
**WOODBURY COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT
July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013**

Woodbury County Conservation Board
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Board Members:
Cindy Bennett
Greg Grupp
Don Dixon
Mark Taylor, D.O.
Christine Zellmer-Zant

Rick D. Schneider, Director
Mark Peterson, Deputy Director
Dawn Snyder, Education Director

Executive Summary

On behalf the Woodbury County Conservation Board, it is my pleasure to present the FY 13 Annual Report outlining the county conservation department's activities and accomplishments this past fiscal year.

The Woodbury County Conservation Board is a five-member board appointed by the county Board of Supervisors. Members are appointed for five-year terms. Meetings are scheduled the first Thursday of each month.

The Conservation Department manages sixteen areas comprising 5,525 acres including developed parks, preserves, wetlands, public hunting areas, river accesses, historical sites, and the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center. Facilities are extensive and include the nature center, modern and non-modern campgrounds, cabins, swimming beaches, shower and restroom buildings, open and enclosed shelters, playgrounds, trails, paved roads, parking lots, signs, maintenance shops, and park residences. Additionally, the department holds fourteen conservation/scenic easements on 1,685 acres. Department staff includes thirteen full time, three regular part time, and approximately sixteen seasonal employees along with interns and numerous volunteers. Various employment crews are used to accomplish specific tasks and projects.

Our mission is to provide high quality outdoor recreation and educational opportunities and to help people understand the value of natural resources in their lives. It has been our pleasure to carry out our mission and serve the public in this manner during the past fiscal year. The outstanding assistance and willing cooperation of so many local, state and federal agencies including the county Board of Supervisors and Secondary Roads Department, the Iowa Natural Resources Department, and numerous local organizations described in Section IV of this report is critical to the Conservation Department's continued success.

The beginning of the past fiscal year found our department continuing to deal with after effects of the 2011 flood involving mold remediation, re-insulating, dealing with heat pump problems and dead trees. Nearly all these issues were alleviated by the start of 2013, and we were able to move on to minor construction projects such as shoreline armoring and pump house replacement at Snyder Bend Park. Staff has worked hard to maintain top quality facilities and outdoor recreation areas for the public. We look forward to continuing these efforts in the future.

Woodbury County has many outstanding natural resource and outdoor recreation opportunities supported by its taxpayers. I strongly encourage everyone to your county park areas available just outside your doorstep. I hope you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Yours for Conservation,

Rick D. Schneider, Director

WOODBURY COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

I. BOARD ROSTER/MEETINGS

The conservation board members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors for five year terms. Members serving in 2012-2013 were as follows:

Meetings

<u>Attended</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Expiration Date</u>
10	Mark Taylor	President	December 31, 2014
10	Chris Zellmer-Zant	Vice President	December 31, 2015
9	Don Dixon	Secretary	December 31, 2017
11	Cindy Bennett	Member	December 31, 2013
12	Greg Grupp	Member	December 31, 2016

Don Dixon's term expired December 31, 2012 and he was reappointed to another five year term in December, 2012.

The Board held eleven regular monthly meetings and one special meeting during the fiscal year. Minutes of these meetings are on file in the conservation office at Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center and are available for viewing on our website www.woodburyparks.com.

OTHER MEETINGS ATTENDED

Two staff and one board member attended the Iowa State Association of County Conservation Boards Annual Conference held at Honey Creek Resort on September 14 - 15, 2012. The department's six law enforcement officers attended the County Conservation Peace Officers Association's annual law enforcement workshop on October 1-3, 2012 at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy in Johnston, Iowa. Three staff attended the annual Winterfest Employee Workshop in Waterloo on January 22-24, 2013. The Director attended the ISAC Fall School of Instruction in Des Moines on November 14-15, 2012 and the Spring School of Instruction in Des Moines on March 14-15, 2013. Staff members hosted a county conservation booth at the Woodbury County Fair in August 2012 and assisted with a district conservation booth at the Clay County Fair in September 2012.

Additional meetings attended by employees and/or board members during the fiscal year were as follows:

Woodbury County REAP Committee grant review – August 19, 2012 at Western Iowa Technical College
Loess Hills Prairie Seminar – May 31 - June 2, 2013 in Monona County
Western Regional CCPOA Law Enforcement Workshop
Wind and Solar Energy Conference in Sioux City
Woodbury County training meetings
Pesticide and Water Operator training meetings
Woodbury County Conservation Foundation meetings
Woodbury County Department Head meetings
Loess Hills Alliance committee meetings
Western Iowa Tourism meetings
IACCB District meetings
National Wild Turkey Federation Chapter
Pheasants Forever Chapter
Staff meetings

The Conservation Board hosted a volunteer recognition and awards presentation reception on March 21, 2012 at Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center. Numerous volunteers were recognized for their many hours of service to the Board and the Nature Center. Doris Swanson of Sioux City was presented the Conservation

Educator Award for her volunteer work with classes at the Nature Center. Ray Deabler of Sioux City was presented the Friend of Conservation Award for his volunteer efforts at the Nature Center.

II. ADMINISTRATION/MAINTENANCE

Staffing

Department staff during the fiscal year included thirteen full time, three regular part time and numerous seasonal employees. A part time Senior Aid position through the Woodbury County Community Action Agency continued to provide valuable receptionist assistance while providing employment for previously retired individuals.

The department's five Resource Managers and Deputy Director are certified law enforcement officers who maintain their certification through the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. These officers are also covered under the IPERS Protective Class of employees whereby the employer and employee both pay a higher rate into IPERS retirement system. Mark Haindfield, Resource Manager and 41-year employee with the Board, retired May 31, 2013. Brian Stehr, Resource Technician, was promoted to fill the Resource Manager position at Snyder Bend Park. Josh VanVoorst, Resource Technician at Southwood Conservation Area, transferred to the same position at Snyder Bend-Brown's Lake. Erik Lindsay was hired to fill the Resource Technician position at Southwood Conservation Area.

Numerous temporary seasonal employees were hired from April through October for maintenance tasks in the county park and wildlife areas.

Various employment programs provided through a variety of other agencies in the community help supplement board staffing needs when available. Conservation Corps Iowa, the AmeriCorps program through the Minnesota Conservation Corps, was contracted to work a total of 5 days in September 2012. Four naturalist interns were employed in 2012 and 2013 to assist with summer camps and programs at the nature center and parks and to assist with resource management tasks. Work Study interns from Briar Cliff University and Morningside College were employed during the school year. An "Outdoor Skills" youth grant provided funding to hire one intern in 2013 to teach and promote various outdoor skills to area youth. The Woodbury County Conservation Foundation provided funding for a Habitat intern to work on projects near the Nature Center, Riverside Bluffs, and other park areas. Board staff uses community service workers when available. Campground host volunteers provided a valuable service and were used in most of the parks at least part of the camping season. General volunteers are an important resource and have been a great assistance at the Nature Center and in the parks. The Receptionist/Volunteer Coordinator position has worked to contact and organize volunteers. Staff continued to recruit and train volunteers to provide a wide variety of assistance with many tasks. Numerous groups including area businesses, Middle School Peer Helpers, high school students, college students, church groups, and Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops provided numerous volunteers that completed a variety of projects and tasks for the board during the year.

Positions employed hired throughout the fiscal year were as follows:

- (1) Director
- (1) Deputy Director – Field Operations
- (5) Resource Manager
- (1) Assistant Resource Manager
- (3) Resource Technician
- (1) Office Manager
- (8) Seasonal Park Ranger
- (1) Education Programs Director
- (1) Naturalist
- (1) Resource Naturalist
- (2) Nature Center Receptionist
- (1) Receptionist/Volunteer Coordinator
- (8) Summer Intern Naturalist
- (5) Security Guard
- (11) Seasonal Park Maintenance Employee
- (1) Outdoor Skills IDNR Grant employee
- (1) Habitat Intern

The number of employees listed represents the various persons hired to fill these positions over a two season period. The numbers do not necessarily represent the number of authorized positions.

Grants

The Conservation Department is very active in pursuing grant opportunities each year. Numerous grant applications were written and submitted by board staff during the fiscal year including the following:

<u>Grants Submitted</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>\$ Requested</u>	<u>\$ Awarded</u>	<u>Award Date</u>
IDNR Outdoor Skills	Teach outdoor skills	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	March 2013
Sioux City Rotary	Outdoor Playscape	\$ 20,000	\$ 0	
Gilchrist Foundation	Flood tree replacement	\$ 2,386	\$ 2,386	December 2012
Gilchrist Foundation	Raptor Exhibit	\$ 20,234	\$ 10,000	July 2012
Fish Habitat	Snyder Bend Shoreline	\$ 30,690	\$ 30,690	January 2013
Marine Fuel Tax	Little Sioux River ramps	\$ 52,000	\$ 52,000	March 2013
Western Iowa Tourism	Nature Center brochure	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	September 2012
MRHD	Outdoor Playscape	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	May 2013
Wildlife Diversity Fund	Tree Shear	\$ 7,500	\$ 0	
Siouxland Comm. Found.	Outdoor Playscape	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	February 2013
CN Railroad	Outdoor Playscape	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	March 2013
Union Pacific Found.	Outdoor Playscape	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	February 2013
Gilchrist Foundation	Tree Shear	\$ 7,500	\$ 0	July 2013
Burlington Northern Found.	Outdoor Playscape	\$ 10,000	\$ 0	July 2013
WalMart Foundation	Outdoor Playscape	\$ 2,500	\$ 0	July 2013

Conservation staff continues to seek grant dollars and leverage available funds to assist with major development projects, land acquisition, publicity, and environmental education. **During FY13, a total of \$141,310 in grants was administered and another \$20,000 in grant applications was written and submitted for funding.**

Long Range Planning

Long range strategic planning is a very important responsibility of the Board. A special strategic planning meeting was held by the Board as part of their regular meeting on April 4, 2013. Accomplishments included review and action on staff succession plans, review of the Salary/Wage Plan, review of Personnel Policies and By-Laws, updating the five-year Capital Improvement Program and ten-year Equipment Replacement Schedule, and review of land acquisition and easement plans. Long range planning needs to be addressed every year to maintain focus and purpose by the Board and an efficient, effective and responsive department.

Board Policies

Board policies are reviewed annually and are addressed when needs arise. The Conservation Board coordinates department policies closely with other county policies and procedures. Personnel policies and the Board's By-Laws will be reviewed for needed changes in the next fiscal year. The Director is working to establish a new vehicle and equipment numbering/tracking system for the department to better track expenses for each item. The Board reaffirmed their unique nepotism policy for the department which exempts the Conservation Department from the County's nepotism policy as it pertains only to seasonal employees.

Training

Training requirements for new and existing employees involves a large time commitment. A variety of training must be administered and received to ensure that employees are prepared to do their jobs. New full time and seasonal employees receive orientation training regarding board policies, especially safety related concerns. Training is important to ensure that employees are able to safely and efficiently do their jobs.

Staff attended numerous specialized training sessions during the fiscal year, many of which were required to maintain certifications. The Board's six Law Enforcement Officers attended various training and

certification schools including the County Conservation Peace Officers Association's annual training school at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy in October 2012 to obtain required continuing education units and firearms qualification. Additional training was received at the Western Iowa Regional Workshop held in March 2013 and a district handgun qualification meeting in April 2013. Three employees attended the Winterfest Employees Training Workshop in Waterloo in January 2013. Training sessions on safety issues typically result in a review of Personal Protective Equipment and acquisition of items needed to keep employees safe.

Staff attended a Prescribed Wildfire refresher course in February 2013 to maintain their wild land firefighting knowledge and certification. Full time park staff attended the county safety meeting held at Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center on November 1, 2012. The Director and Deputy Director attended the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards annual conference at Honey Creek Resort in September 2012. Eight staff members are required to maintain Pesticide Applicator Certification in several categories and attended several sessions during the year to obtain continuing education units for certification. The Director and Deputy Director attended classes to receive continuing education units for maintaining certification as Water System Distribution Operators for the Nature Center's public water supply system. All full time staff maintains CPR, AED and Basic First Aid certification.

Committees/Appointments

Since Woodbury County will host the 2014 annual conference for county conservation boards, a Conference Planning Committee was appointed consisting of the Director, Deputy Director, Education Programs Director, Gregg Grupp and Mark Taylor.

The Deputy Director served as a member of the statewide review committee for competitive county conservation board REAP grants. Dawn Snyder, Education Programs Director, served on the REAP Conservation Education Programs statewide grant review and scoring committee. The Director served as an alternate from Woodbury County to the Loess Hills Alliance Board of Directors and as a member of the Stewardship Committee, Protection Committee and the Protection Committee's grant review group, and the Deputy Director served on the Stewardship Committee. The Director and Deputy Director served on the Habitat and Executive Committees for the Woodbury County Chapter of Pheasants Forever. The Director served as Publicity Chair for the local chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, and served on the Woodbury County Health Insurance Committee. Bob Fundermann, Assistant Resource Manager, served as Chief Firearms Instructor for the County Conservation Peace Officers Association. Bernie Ketelsen, Resource Manager, served on the Woodbury County Safety Committee. Dawn Snyder and Board member Christine Zellmer-Zant served on the Woodbury County Conservation Foundation. All five Board members served on the Woodbury County Conservation Endowment Board. Two staff and Board member Mark Taylor serve on the Woodbury County REAP Committee.

Agreements/Partnerships

The Board and staff have continued to develop and nurture partnerships with numerous agencies and organizations for the benefit of conservation. Board staff continued to work with area school districts regarding incorporation of annual field trips to the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center for various grades. The Board's Receptionist/Volunteer Coordinator and Resource Naturalist also worked with various agencies to provide after school programs for youth and public programs in the parks. Ducks Unlimited has been a major partner through agreements with the Board to develop and enhance Owego Wetland Complex and other areas in the county. The Loess Hills Alliance has provided partnership opportunities by making available through the Board fire fighting equipment to be used on private lands. The Alliance also provides continuing training for Advanced Wildland Burns whereby board staff receives refresher training. Trained individuals can be available to assist the National Park Service in fighting forest fires. An Agreement is maintained with Golden Hills Resource Conservation Development to provide for the installation and long-term maintenance of special interpretive panel signs along the Loess Hills Scenic Byway. A major partnership effort has been formed between the Board and the Natural Resources Conservation Service in developing various agreements to manage the Owego Wetland Complex.

Siouxland District Health Department provides testing services for the nature center's public water supply as required by IDNR, and conducts annual water testing on all park wells. Staff has been working with Iowa DNR and CF Industries to locate potential sites to erect nesting towers for Ospreys near Brown's

Lake. The goal is to have an agreement in place by late summer to allow for the nesting towers to be erected following harvest, and be ready for the Ospreys return in spring 2014.

The Board continued to nurture partnerships and agreements with Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation regarding conservation easements and Woodbury County Pheasants Forever in acquiring and providing seed and seeding equipment. An extremely valuable partnership is maintained with the County Secondary Roads Department. Secondary Roads has provided countless hours of work with specialized heavy equipment, surveys, engineering and construction oversight on numerous conservation projects. A special Interdepartmental Agreement for maintaining specified park roads continued between the Conservation Board and Secondary Roads.

The Board participated in the DNR's annual Camping Kick-Off Weekend at all county campground which was well received. Campers received a voucher for one night free camping later in 2013 along with other small gifts. Board staff also works closely with staff from Stone State Park on prairie and trail management around the nature center.

A more detailed description of various cooperative ventures is discussed in **Section IV** of this report.

Technology

Board staff continued to make considerable use of GIS technology for better management of county parks and wildlife areas, and use in various grant and permit applications. This technology is heavily used for prescribed burn management of wildlife areas and preparing detailed maps for grants or permit applications. A new hand held Trimble GEO Explorer 6000 GEOXT GPS unit was purchased to replace an older, malfunctioning unit during the fiscal year. The new unit allows accurate signal through leaves and in valleys.

New computers were provided and installed by the City/County IT Department in April 2013. Staff continues to seek alternatives for a speedier internet service for the main office computers.

The board's updated website, www.woodburyparks.com, provides a multitude of information for visitors. Available cabin rental dates for the Board's camping cabins at Little Sioux Park and Snyder Bend Park can be accessed through the website. Video clips are available showing the inside of the cabins and enclosed shelters as well as the nature center. Donations and certain sales can also be made through the website. All four park offices are connected to the internet and the County's GroupWise email and main "U" Drive which provides an efficient method of information exchange with the main office. High speed internet access has been installed at all park offices, and wireless internet access for campers and park users at Snyder Bend Park and Bigelow Park. It will be a goal of the Department to provide high speed wireless internet access for park users in all four of the main developed park areas in the future.

The board continued to provide three outlets for the public to obtain DNR licenses at Little Sioux Park, Southwood Conservation Area, and Brown's Lake. These outlets are part of the DNR's electronic licensing system that has been operating since 2000, and these systems were upgraded in 2010.

The Board is part of a statewide publicity and promotion effort for all county conservation boards through a website, www.MyCountyParks.com. This advanced website provides excellent access for all county conservation boards in Iowa to promote their areas and facilities to potential visitors across the country.

Environmental Education/Publicity

The Board's environmental education program continued to experience strong demand for programs and information during its twenty-fourth year. Emphasis for school class programs is centered on encouraging classes to visit the nature center and experience the outdoors in the loess hills. Students have the opportunity to view and learn from the exhibits, watch educational videos, listen to a naturalist program or participate in an educational hike. Volunteers are an immense help with the many classes that come to the center. The nature center is an excellent facility to host various types of public programs regardless of weather conditions. Board naturalists and the Director conducted numerous radio and television interviews concerning various programs and events during the fiscal year. Numerous programs were presented to various groups and organizations in the community and at the county parks. The Board cooperated with the Woodbury County Soil Conservation District in providing trees to fifth graders in rural school districts

throughout the county. The Board's newsletter, "Woodbury Wanderings", continued to be a popular publication and is published three times a year and is available on the website in digital format. The Board continued to sell advertising to help support printing costs of the newsletter which is a free publication. Efforts continue to encourage subscribers to sign up to receive the newsletter electronically. Several Resource Managers, the Deputy Director, and naturalists serve or assist as Hunter Safety and Fur Harvester Instructors teaching and assisting with these classes throughout the county during the year. Several classes are held at the nature center and various park offices. Hunter Safety classes are now part of the curriculum of the three local public high schools and are assisted by Board staff with over 200 students receiving the training in the past year. The nature center Gift Shop features many items which help promote the nature center with its name and logo. Summer day camps held at the nature center were again very successful, are self sustaining, and were again expanded during the fiscal year. A complete annual report of the Board's environmental education program is located at the end of this report in **Section VII**.

The Board provided an information booth at the Woodbury County Fair in conjunction with other county departments. Staff also assisted with a District III County Conservation booth at the Clay County Fair in September 2012.

A dedicated, hard working group of volunteers worked with the Education Programs Director and Naturalist to raise money for nature center programs and needs through the ninth annual "Nature Calls" fund raiser. Over \$40,000 was raised at the September 22, 2012 event which was held at the Sioux City Convention Center and experienced record attendance. Recent proceeds have helped fund one summer naturalist intern and the new raptor display and Outdoor Playscape projects.

Communication

Communication contacts between various conservation organizations and the Board were coordinated by the Director during the fiscal year. Maintaining close working relationships with various state, county, and federal organizations along with local organizations is a high priority. Staff continually seeks new methods to communicate through the Board's website and other electronic means.

Regular staff meetings were conducted during the fiscal year. Communication efforts among staff locations have been enhanced with the use of e-mail, high-speed internet, fax machines, and cell phones. Conservation staff conducted regular maintenance checks on major equipment, playground equipment, park facilities and vehicles during the year. Emphasis is placed on safety issues in all park areas according to the Board's safety policy. Routine safety inspections of park shops help ensure a safe working environment for employees and compliance with OSHA regulations.

Equipment Purchases

Major equipment/furniture items purchased by the Board during the fiscal year were as follows:

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
1	John Deere 1600 Turbo Series II Wide Area Mower	\$ 45,414
2	John Deere XUV 825i	\$ 26,932
1	Motorola XTS2500 Mobile Radio	\$ 2,896
12	Motorola HT1250 Portable Radio	\$ 9,201
8	Motorola CDM1250 Mobile Radio	\$ 5,934
1	Trimble GEO Explorer 6000 GEOXT GPS	\$ 7,825
1	Office Desks/Cabinets for Little Sioux Park	\$ 2,157
1	Stihl Hedge Trimmer	\$ 450
1	Stihl Pole Saw	\$ 549

A complete equipment inventory is on file in the conservation office.

III. FUTURE

CIP/Revenue Requirements

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the Conservation Department is reviewed regularly by the Conservation Board. A five year improvement program is prioritized, approved annually and submitted to the Board of Supervisors as part of the annual budgeting process. The CIP is based on needs and available grants and revenues, and can fluctuate throughout the year. In **Section VI**, this report describes various capital improvement projects scheduled for completion during the next fiscal year. These include construction of boat ramp accesses to the Little Sioux River, improvement of the nature center access road and parking lot and related repairs, remodeling/reroofing park residences, engineering beach drainage issues, regarding a portion of Southwood Conservation Area access road, extending water to all campsites at Brown's Lake and Snyder Bend, replacing playground surfacing material, and numerous other projects. Longer range projects include construction of a trailhead shelter at Little Sioux Park, cabins at Southwood Conservation Area, making better use of the shelter at Fowler Forest Preserve, and an accessible fishing jetty at Brown's Lake. All projects are dependent on park user fees and other revenues generated from conservation areas that are deposited into the Conservation Reserve Fund which finances these improvements. These revenues are also used as leverage to cost-share with available grant programs which provide additional funding for capital improvement projects.

Large scale projects could not be completed without the availability of various grant monies. Applications to grant programs such as LAWCON and REAP as well as project specific grants will be made when appropriate provided grant monies and match dollars continue to be available. Many state and federal grant sources are shrinking or disappearing completely. Construction costs continue to rise at a steady pace making it imperative that grant funds be obtained to complete necessary capital improvements. The Board and staff need to continue to look for new sources of revenue, and the county Board of Supervisors needs to be involved in this effort. User fees and other charges will continue to be monitored to insure a competitive product and price, but these revenues will need to be supplemented with additional sources. Long range planning must be an on-going effort by the Conservation Board and staff and should include the Board of Supervisors in dealing with this problem. The Board has collaborated in the past with the Board of Supervisors to issue bonds to finance specific projects with park revenues used to pay back the bonds. This is an innovative way to complete high cost improvements when interest rates are attractive for borrowing.

Land Acquisition

Land acquisition efforts are anticipated to be minimal during the next fiscal year. Easement opportunities will be monitored for any attractive possibilities.

Rare opportunities for fee title acquisition occasionally arise from willing sellers and the Board should take advantage of these offers coupled with the availability of grant dollars to fund acquisitions. The Board will continue to work only with willing sellers, and potential acquisitions will be reviewed to determine their viability within the Board's system and Long Range Land Acquisition Plan. Acquisitions are usually dependent upon grants which typically fund 50% -100% of acquisition costs.

Cooperation

As described in **Section IV**, the Board will continue to cooperate wherever possible with other agencies, departments, and private organizations to further the awareness of conservation and promote the Board's goals and objectives throughout the next fiscal year. Cooperative efforts and partnerships are critical to the success of the Conservation Board. Locally, the Board looks forward to continuing cooperation with Western Iowa Tech, Pheasants Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited and River City Anglers Club. The Board will also continue to work with the Woodbury County Conservation Foundation, Loess Hills Audubon, the Northwest Iowa Sierra Club, Stone State Park and IDNR, The Nature Conservancy and Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to promote conservation issues and projects. Collaborative efforts will continue with the Loess Hills Alliance to promote conservation and protection measures for Iowa's loess hills. The Board also looks forward to continued use of various grant programs including employment programs such as Conservation Corps Iowa and Woodbury County Community Action Agency Senior Aides program, and community service worker programs, along with interns and volunteers to complete various maintenance and educational projects throughout the Board's conservation system.

A critically important cooperative relationship exists between the Conservation Department and other county departments, particularly Secondary Roads. Many small projects could not get accomplished or could cost much more if it wasn't for the ready cooperation of the County Engineer and his staff who assist often with a variety of maintenance and construction projects in the parks due to their specialized equipment. It is imperative that these types of relationships continue among departments.

Priorities/Strategic Planning

The Board's top priorities for the next fiscal year will be construction of new accesses to the Little Sioux River, regrading a portion of the Southwood Conservation Area access road, and seeking solutions to repair or replace paving of the nature center access road and parking lot. The Board's policies and long range plans will continue to be reviewed and updated as necessary. Future planning efforts assist in developing the Board's budget requests, and a strategic planning meeting of the Board needs to be held annually. Board priorities continually change, but timely review of these priorities will allow needs to be efficiently matched with limited resources. Strategic planning has already proven its value within the department.

Staff

Full time conservation staff numbers have been insufficient for many years, but have been addressed through strategic planning and communication with the Board of Supervisors. Priorities for full time staff positions include a Natural Resources Coordinator, two additional Resource Technician positions, and a third naturalist for the department. With the recent retirement of the department's GIS Specialist, the Board has no trained staff or specialist to work on GIS projects which are critical to department efficiency. The increasing amount of state and federal regulations and requirements along with grant writing and personnel issues reduces productive hours and places pressure on available employees. Increasing training requirements take more hours away from department production thereby placing even more pressure on limited manpower resources. New staff positions should be considered which can better accommodate and benefit the Board's programs and service to the public. Additional employee retirements within the next five years will also impact staff needs and will require reassessment and probable reassignment of duties. Position requests have been favorably received by the Board of Supervisors, but recent economic conditions and budget constraints have not allowed new positions to be added at the present time.

Board staff will continue to recruit, train and organize volunteers that can assist with operating and maintaining the nature center and park facilities. Campground hosts have proven to be particularly effective, and staff will continue to seek individuals willing to serve in that capacity. The Board will continue to annually recognize special individuals who have made outstanding contributions of their time and efforts to apply conservation practices and promote conservation education by conferring the "Friend of Conservation" and "Conservation Educator" awards. The volunteer recognition program will continue to reward and acknowledge those dedicated volunteers that assist the Board in various ways. The Board's outstanding environmental education program will continue to be the top promotional tool for the Board's park and conservation areas and programs.

IV. COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS AND ORGANIZATIONS

1. Cage Catfish Program

In past years, the Conservation Board received nearly 3,000 catfish fingerlings annually from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division to be raised in cages at Little Sioux Park and Southwood Conservation Area. The fish are released in late summer. Starting in 2010, the Iowa DNR changed this program to provide fingerlings every other year. In spring 2013, Little Sioux Park received 1,200 catfish fingerlings and Southwood Conservation Area received 1,000. These fish were released into the lakes in August 2013. The Board was informed by IDNR that this popular program would be eliminated after the 2013 conclusion. The Cage Catfish Program has provided catchable size fish in a much quicker time period than normal maintenance stocking. It has also been a very visible program to the public which encouraged them to ask questions about various fish stocking programs and techniques.

State fisheries personnel also assist in checking, managing and stocking the county-owned lakes and ponds as well as state-owned lakes, including Snyder Bend Lake and Brown's Lake. Occasional maintenance stockings are conducted in Snyder Bend Lake and Brown's Lake. The

state also conducts occasional creel surveys and investigates for undesirable vegetation problems such as Eurasian watermilfoil and Brittle Naiad found and treated previously in Little Sioux Park and Snyder Bend Lake. The most recent problem of an exotic species, Asian Carp, are now found in the Missouri River and attached oxbow lakes such as Snyder Bend Lake and inland rivers including the Big Sioux River and Little Sioux River due to the 2011 flood. DNR Fisheries staff has documented Naiad species in Little Sioux Park lake again, and provided suggestions to improving fish habitat in the Peter's Pit area.

2. Management Agreements

The Woodbury County Conservation Board presently operates two areas totaling 46 acres under management agreement with the Iowa Department of Natural resources. These areas include Bigelow Park and the office/nature center area at Stone Park. The Board also operates one area under management agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation which is the Copeland Park Access on the Little Sioux River west of Correctionville at the State Highway #31 bridge. The Bigelow Park management agreement was renewed as a 50 year management lease agreement in 2010.

3. Wildlife Habitat Restoration Program

The Board maintains an active wildlife habitat restoration program by planting tree and shrub seedlings and various types of grass cover and food plots on its park lands each year. Last year, 100.4 pounds of prairie and forb seed were planted on 10.39 acres of public land. Alfalfa was replanted on 3.39 acres. Wildlife food plots totaling 89.4 acres were planted on public wildlife areas. Controlled burns for prairie for grassland improvement as well as seed production were conducted on 244.37 acres. Staff cooperated with the Woodbury County Pheasants Forever Chapter in providing free seed for establishing food plots on public and private lands.

The Board's undeveloped wildlife areas are managed specifically for wildlife populations. Food plots and farmlands are managed to benefit wildlife. Some lands are enrolled in USDA programs, including eight CRP contracts and six WRP contracts which the Board must maintain.

The restoration and establishment of native prairie and forbs is a popular component of the board's habitat program. The board maintains four Truax native grass drills of various sizes required to plant native grass seed, and the board's equipment and technical assistance is constantly in demand. Ranging from the small 6' drill, which is ideal for small plantings, to the large 12' no till drill which is suitable for large acre planting, the drills are made available to landowners on a rental basis and were used to plant hundreds of acres in the fall of 2012 and the spring of 2013. Depending on time and weather, staff typically harvests native grass seed each fall for use in replanting both public and private areas as well as providing a seed source for roadside vegetation management programs. Last fiscal year, 470 bulk pounds of Indian grass and switch grass was harvested representing a value of approximately \$3,760. The Board assists the Secondary Roads Department with seeding various road shouldering, regrading and box culvert construction projects throughout the county. Native grass species are used when practical.

Non game habitat improvement programs include maintenance of bluebird house trails at Southwood Conservation Area and Little Sioux Park. Volunteers also maintain bluebird house trails along one mile of fence line at the Interstate rest area south of Sergeant Bluff, and the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center. Other non-game efforts include offering a variety of programs to the public. Board staff assists the local Ducks Unlimited chapter at the annual Green Wing Day for youth and assist with construction of woodduck houses for use throughout the county. These houses are installed at various sites by department staff and monitored occasionally to determine usage and condition. Representatives from the Waterfowl Association of Iowa have assisted with installing nesting structures at Owego Wetland Complex.

Special planting equipment for planting seedling trees and shrubs is made available to landowners on a donation basis. Employees work closely with landowners and state conservation personnel surveying and establishing populations of wildlife species as well as enforcing fish and game regulations.

Conservation staff continues to assist to a small degree with implementation of the "Slough Bill" which helps benefit wildlife through designation of certain private habitat lands as tax exempt properties. The Conservation Director serves as certifying agent for native prairie designation in the county. The Director also works with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, County Assessor, and State District Wildlife Biologist in promoting this law to provide valuable quality habitat and to conserve soil and water resources in the count. The county Soil Conservation District Technician is responsible for compiling the necessary forms and certification of landowners participating in the "Slough Bill" for the Woodbury County Natural Resources Conservation District. During the twenty-ninth year of application, 106 landowners claimed exemptions for 228 different parcels totaling approximately 2,480 acres, an increase of 40 acres from the previous year's applications.

At the annual conference of the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards held at Honey Creek Resort in September 2012, Woodbury County received the 2nd place award among large counties for wildlife habitat improvement awarded by the Iowa Chapter of the Izaak Walton League.

4. Water Recreation Access Cost-Share

This state cost-share program typically provides up to seventy-five percent of the cost for boat ramps, docks, and related facilities used by boaters and fishermen. The Conservation Board has obtained several boat ramp and dock facilities through this program, as well as assistance for parking lot improvements and restroom facilities. A limited amount of funds are made available to conservation boards each year for various cost-share projects. Monies in this fund are derived from a special tax on fuel sold within the state. In January 2013, Board staff submitted a grant application for cost share funding on the proposed boat ramp project on the Little Sioux River at Little Sioux Park and was successful in receiving up to \$52,000 toward that project. Since the state grant funds now include some federal funds, construction cannot begin until after October 1, 2013. Necessary permits need to be obtained prior to any construction.

5. Supplemental Environment Projects (SEP)

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division has established a process whereby monies paid as penalties in environmental enforcement cases can be directed to supplemental environmental projects, or SEPs. Instead of fines and penalties being paid into the state's general fund, the process allows for the penalties to be directed to the county conservation board in the county where the violation occurred for the board to expend on environmentally beneficial projects. An annual report is sent to IDNR to verify the amount of monies collected during the fiscal year and explain how they were expended by the county. Monies are placed in a special SEP fund and budgeted for expenditure through that fund. During the fiscal year, no environmental penalties or fund interest were received by the Conservation Board, and the fund contains a zero balance. The Conservation Board has designated Owego Wetland Complex as their main priority for expenditure of any SEP funds.

This cooperative agreement with the IDNR is extremely valuable to counties in that it provides a source of funds to assist with special environmental projects. Revenues to the fund are totally dependent upon violations that may occur and any penalties that the IDNR may impose.

6. Naturalist Programs

The Board's environmental education program completed its twenty-fourth full year in June 2013. Please refer to **Section VII - Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center Annual Report**. Although most programs and presentations are organized by the naturalists, the Director and other staff assist in presenting programs to various groups and organizations throughout the year. Staff members occasionally participate in various publicity efforts with the media. Resource Managers are frequently requested to present programs to school classes as well as information on specific topics about their areas and careers.

7. Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts

Scouting programs in the area continue to use county conservation parks for camping and other activities. The naturalists and Resource Naturalist occasionally work with Eagle Scout candidates and Girl Scout Gold Award candidates on their community service projects. Several Eagle Scout projects were planned and completed for the nature center during the last fiscal year involving the Outdoor Playscape project. Staff will continue to work with scout groups to foster an interest in conservation ethics and careers, and to provide opportunities for smaller service projects.

8. Woodbury County Pheasants Forever

This local private organization was formed in January 1986. The group is dedicated to improving habitat to increase the number of pheasants within the county, and works with landowners and other conservation agencies to meet their goals. Since 1987, the local chapter has assisted financially in the purchase of 852 acres of additional wildlife habitat areas in the county. In two acquisitions, the local chapter was responsible for nearly 25% of the total acquisition costs.

The Chapter hosted a Youth Day in conjunction with Whitetails Unlimited at Little Sioux Park October 7, 2012 with 80 youth in attendance, and a Youth Fishing Derby in June 2013. In the spring of 2013, the Pheasants Forever Chapter and conservation staff cooperated in providing 300 pounds of free seed for establishment of food plots on public and private lands. Board staff assisted the Chapter by providing equipment and planting advice when possible to private landowners along with equipment for prescribed burns. The Board plans to continue cooperative efforts with the Pheasants Forever Chapter for the establishment of additional permanent habitat and food plots on private lands.

9. River City Anglers Club

The River City Anglers Club is a local organization comprised of persons interested in the betterment of fishing resources in the local and Midwest area. The group holds an annual event featuring fishing experts and a swap meet to raise monies that can be used for special projects benefiting fish resources and fishermen. The club has donated several thousand dollars to the Board for the improvement of fishing facilities and opportunities at Brown's Lake and Snyder Bend, and sponsored the 400 gallon aquarium display at the nature center.

10. Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation is an IRS 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to the conservation and preservation of natural resources in Iowa. This group can provide specialized assistance to landowners in the acquisition and protection of various types of land. The Conservation Board utilized the assistance of the Heritage Foundation in acquiring an addition to Shagbark Hills in 1987, the Hammond addition to Southwood Conservation Area in 1989, three additions to Oak Ridge in 1999, 2000 and 2006, two additions to Owego Wetland Complex in 2001, and negotiation of permanent conservation easements. The advantages of the foundation include quicker response to seller's requests and demands, and the ability to provide specialized tax deductible options to willing sellers that cannot be provided by governmental entities. The Foundation provides their services at cost, and the Conservation Board maintains a sustaining membership with this organization.

The Board holds fourteen easements on over 1,685 acres and is responsible for annual monitoring of these easements.

11. Woodbury County Conservation Foundation

The Woodbury County Conservation Foundation was formed in January 1990. It is an incorporated non-profit organization that received tax exempt status in 1991, and is dedicated to the conservation and preservation of natural resources in Woodbury County. Similar in goals to the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, the Woodbury County Conservation Foundation concentrates on specific projects to assist the Conservation Board in completing major acquisition and construction projects. The foundation's main goals have been the acquisition and protection of

native loess hill prairie areas and the establishment of a regional nature center for the conservation board. The foundation's most ambitious project, establishment of a nature center, was realized in 1995. The foundation's tax exempt status is an invaluable help in raising funds for various projects such as the nature center, and will continue to be a vehicle for future fundraising efforts. The foundation has positions for nine directors, two seats which are reserved for a county conservation board member and staff member. Dawn Snyder, Education Programs Director and conservation board member Christine Zellmer-Zant served as representatives on the foundation board of directors. Dawn also serves as Secretary/Treasurer for the Foundation. Regular meetings are held by the foundation, and its mailing address continues to be the Conservation Board office mailing address. As a 501(c) (3) organization, the foundation provides a tax-deductible avenue for donations, contributions and grants to be used toward conservation projects including the nature center, land acquisition, and parks.

During the fiscal year, a special group of volunteers worked on the Board's annual fundraising "Nature Calls" event, a micro brew tasting and auction event held each fall. The ninth annual event was held September 22, 2012 and netted over \$25,000 for the Outdoor Playscape project which was completed in 2013. The Foundation provided funding for a Habitat Intern in 2013 to work on prairies and other habitats, and they provided funds toward the Outdoor Playscape project. They also provided funding for a Conservation Corps Iowa crew of six workers to conduct five days of tree and brush clearing as part of prairie restoration efforts at Riverside Bluffs. The Foundation continued to offer special incentives to boost memberships, including camping discounts, free nights of camping and nature center gift shop discounts. On January 27, 2013 the Foundation held its annual meeting at the nature center and featured a program from the Henry Doorly Omaha Zoo. The Foundation has continued to fund scholarships for needy Summer Camp children.

12. REAP

The Iowa Resource Enhancement and Protection Act (REAP) was passed by the 1989 session of the Iowa General Assembly and went into effect July 1, 1989. This legislation was to be a long-term, multi-million dollar commitment to the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of natural and scenic areas; county and state parks; upgrading environmental education programs; protection of endangered animal and plant species and wildlife habitat; halting soil erosion; and improving air and water quality.

For the 2013 fiscal year, \$12 million was appropriated by the Iowa legislature which was allocated among eight different areas, including conservation boards, which will share 20% of the appropriation. Of this 20%, sixty percent goes directly to county boards on per county and per capita basis. The remaining 40% is administered through the Natural Resources Commission for competitive grants to conservation boards. To be eligible for the per capita share and competitive grants, counties must spend at least 22 cents per thousand dollars of taxable valuation on conservation programs. During the 2013 fiscal year, Woodbury County spent approximately 40.5 cents per thousand dollars of taxable valuation on conservation programs. During the fiscal year, Woodbury County received \$6,893 for its per county share and \$24,618 for its per capita share. Also credited to the REAP account was \$15,000 representing final payment from Woodbury County Secondary Roads Department for their share of the purchase price of the Peter's Pit addition to Little Sioux Park.

During the fiscal year, one expenditure in the amount of \$5,586.18 was made from the REAP account for the balance of the purchase price of a JD 1600 Wide Area Mower.

Carryovers in the REAP Fund are typically obligated for future facility developments or specialized equipment. A portion of the funds may be used for cost-sharing land acquisition and capital improvement grant projects if necessary. For FY 14, the Legislature increased the REAP appropriation to \$16 million. The Board is hopeful that REAP funding may soon reach the originally legislated \$20 million per year level. Since REAP funds are used for special projects and expenditures, the board is not dependent on this special appropriation for operational expenditures. It is anticipated that Woodbury County's REAP funds in the next fiscal year will be used to assist with Little Sioux River access improvements.

13. National Wild Turkey Federation

A local chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation known as Loess Hills Longbeards was formed in January 2000. The chapter conducts an annual membership and fundraising banquet. Chapter meetings are held at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, and the Director served as publicity chairman during the fiscal year. This group is dedicated to the preservation and establishment of the wild turkey throughout the United States. Most funds raised by chapters are forwarded to a state and national organization and used for a variety of programs to acquire and enhance habitat and promote the wild turkey. The Conservation Board received a \$7,500 grant in 1999 to assist with an addition to Oak Ridge Conservation Area. Two grants totaling \$17,000 were received in July 2005 and January 2006 to assist with a 228-acre acquisition project in Oak Ridge Conservation Area. A grant for \$10,000 to assist with a 320-acre acquisition project in Oak Ridge was received in January 2008. Staff will continue to work with this organization to promote their efforts in enhancing wildlife habitat and populations in the county.

V. LAND ACQUISITION

There were no acquisitions of land via fee title or by easement during the fiscal year.

The Board considered partnering with the local Pheasants Forever Chapter to purchase 8 acres of abandoned railroad right-of-way near Luton, but the Chapter felt it wasn't worth the money with the limited access. One of the easement landowners sold 259 acres of crop land from his farm which generated a 2% transfer fee for the Board's easement monitoring fund. The easement continues to be attached to the sold parcels resulting in another landowner to work with during easement monitoring visits each year.

Easements, river accesses, and expansion of Snyder Bend Park will be priorities in the future. Future acquisitions will continue to be dependent upon available grants and the Board's ability to maintain areas. Acquisitions must fit into the Board's plans with priority being placed on Oak Ridge Conservation Area, Owego Wetland Complex, and existing parks. Land is acquired only from willing sellers.

At the end of the fiscal year, the conservation board managed 16 different areas comprising approximately 5,525 acres, and held fourteen easements on over 1,685 acres.

VI. AREA DEVELOPMENT

1. Snyder Bend County Park

Snyder Bend County Park is located two miles southwest of the Salix interchange on Interstate 29. This 35-acre area was acquired in 1961, and is currently managed as a full service outdoor recreation park area. Existing facilities at this site include modern and tent camping areas, a camper's shower and restroom facility, playground equipment and open play areas, picnicking grounds, an open shelterhouse, restroom building, boat ramp and parking lot, paved access and interior roads, concrete trail, four modern family cabins, a residence, and maintenance shop/office and storage area.

This park still felt the effects of the 2011 Flood in 2012. Additional trees died and had to be removed. The drought of 2012 prevented new turf seeding and newly planted trees to get established and reseeding and replanting was done again in 2013. In 2012, it was discovered that the cabins had a mold problem in the crawl spaces. A mold remediation contractor was hired to correct this potential health issue. Wall insulation in the crawl spaces had been ruined beyond repair and was removed and replaced with spray on foam insulation. Approximately 500 feet of the east boundary fence was replaced due to flood conditions and age. The remainder of the fence will be replaced in the near future. Flooding had eroded the lake bank by the observation deck, and this was repaired with fill material and rip rap with the assistance of Secondary Roads Department. The Roads Department also assisted with cleaning out the entrance road



ditches that had blown full of sand following receding of flood waters. The flood had also accelerated lake bank erosion the length of the park. Staff applied for and received a Fish Habitat grant to armor the 2,100 feet of shoreline with rip rap along with proper shaping of the bank. This work stabilized the bank, provided safe access for the public and provided new fish habitat with the rock strata. The grant provided 90% of the total cost. This project was assisted by Secondary Roads Department staff and equipment.

The old pump house serving the park was the oldest facility in the park system, originally constructed in 1964. It had been in need of replacement for several years. A new facility was constructed using reinforced, concrete filled vinyl walls with vinyl ceiling and steel roof, epoxy coated floor and fiberglass doors to withstand the wet, corrosive conditions. All plumbing was moved to the new facility and the old building removed and the old abandoned well properly plugged. A well closing grant through the Siouxland District Health Department assisted with this cost.



Camping and cabin rentals experienced very strong usage during the fiscal year helping to replace the revenue lost from the 2011 flood year. Iowa DNR staff worked to keep supplemental water pumped into the lake from the power plants, and worked on reconstructing the water control structures and settling pond which kept Snyder Bend Lake levels sufficient for recreational use. Lake activity continued to be heavy with good fishing available.

Plans for the next year include continuation of planting trees and reseeding a prairie area south of the cabins. Staff will be looking into extending water hydrants to each electrical campsite. Staff will continue working with IDNR personnel to find locations for Osprey nesting platforms and install these in the near future. Other future plans include development of an accessible fishing pier jetty near the lake.

Visitation to the park returned to near normal levels in 2012-2013. It is estimated that the park hosted approximately 150,000 visitors during the fiscal year.

2. Bigelow Park - Brown's Lake

Bigelow Park is located on the south shore of Brown's Lake one mile west of the Salix interchange on Interstate 29. This 36-acre state-owned area, which also contains the Dale G. Bell Memorial Arboretum, was acquired from the Department of Natural Resources through management agreement in October 1970. It was renewed in 2002, and again in 2010 for a 50-year lease period. The area is highly developed and is managed as a high-use outdoor recreation park. Facilities at this park include a 41 unit modern camping area, a tent camping area, a camper's shower and restroom building, enclosed shelterhouse with restrooms, playground equipment and open play areas, swimming beach area, concession/restroom building, boat ramp and dock facilities, parking lots, maintenance shed/office and storage area, paved roads, and a residence.

2012 saw the first full year of public use for the new shower/restroom/tornado shelter facility in the campground. This is the newest and most modern camping facility in the Board's system and it has been well received and a big improvement for the campground and park. Minor improvements were also made to the beach restroom/concession facility with the addition of new water heater, mixing valve and shower heads for swimmers.



Drainage ditches along the main park road along with culverts were cleaned out with special equipment by the Secondary Roads Department. These structures had not been cleaned out since their installation in the early 1970's and were beginning to cause surface drainage problems. A 1,200 foot property line fence along the park road past the boat ramp was replaced with new fence. Dying trees were removed in the park and new trees planted.

Weekly water quality monitoring was conducted at the swimming beach during the summer months in cooperation with IDNR. Dust control agent was applied to the portion of gravel road near the boat ramp.

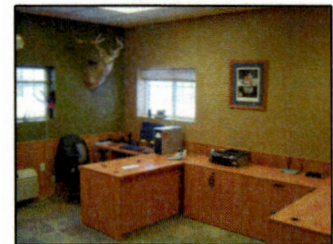
Plans for next year include extension of water to every camp site and additional planting of trees. Long range improvements include a major renovation or replacement of the beach concession building, constructing an accessible fishing jetty near the picnic area, and clearing more shoreline areas for fishing access.

This popular area experienced near normal visitation numbers during the fiscal year following a flood year and a drought year. It is estimated the park hosted an estimated 180,000 visitors during the fiscal year.

3. Little Sioux Park

This 609-acre developed park area is located two miles southwest of Correctionville off State Highway #31. The bulk of this park area was acquired in 1965, with 118 acres of abandoned county owned gravel pits on the north and 40 acres adjacent to the south added to the park jurisdiction in 1999. Fourteen acres were added in 2004 to provide a trail connector to the town of Correctionville. Thirty-two acres encompassing an old gravel pit adjacent to the shooting range was added in 2008. The park also includes an area formerly known as the Little Sioux Greenbelt, 25 acres of river bottom timber located on the east side of the river and acquired in 1974. Little Sioux Park is currently managed as a high-use outdoor recreation and conservation park. Facilities existing at the park include two modern campground areas with shower and restroom facilities, camping cabins, picnicking grounds, playground equipment and open play areas, enclosed shelterhouse, several small open shelters, three modern restrooms, swimming beach area, shooting range, hiking trails, hard surfaced trail, non-modern campground, a ten acre lake, historic one-room schoolhouse, maintenance shop/office and storage area, paved roads, and a residence.

Improvements during the fiscal year included renovation of the park offices with new flooring, paint and furniture. Water quality monitoring on the swimming beach was conducted weekly during the summer months in cooperation with the IDNR. Removal of dead and dying Scotch pine trees continued with the wood used for camper firewood. Stumps were removed and numerous new trees planted, staked and mulched.



A new canoe access on the Little Sioux River was designed with bids let for the project in April 2013. Construction is planned for October 2013 and will be cost shared through a Water Recreation Cost Share grant from the Department of Natural Resources.

Controlled burns were conducted on 90.44 acres of prairie plantings. A 5 acre prairie area was seeded along the Union Bridge Trail. Numerous special events were held at the park including a Youth Day sponsored by the local Pheasants Forever Chapter and Whitetails Unlimited, a Youth Fishing Derby sponsored by Pheasants Forever, and the Halloween Camping Weekend.

Plans for next year include construction of the new canoe access. Future plans include development of a trailhead shelter/lodge facility in the park, addition of playground equipment near the beach, and continued tree removal and replacement.

Little Sioux Park again provided the largest amount of revenue during 2012-2013 but was down from the previous record year due to the extreme hot weather. New and renovated facilities continue to attract more users, and the new trail continues to be extremely popular with park users and Correctionville citizens. It is estimated that the park hosted approximately 300,000 persons during the fiscal year.

4. Fowler Forest Preserve

This attractive day-use area is located one-half mile west of Smithland on State Highway #141. The original 50-acre site was acquired in May 1965, with an additional 58 acres added to the area in 1981. In 1998, 52 acres located between the preserve and the city limits of Smithland was added to the area which now totals 160 acres. This park is managed primarily as a day-use preserve and includes an open picnic shelter, restroom facilities, hiking trails, parking lot, and playground equipment.

This area continued to be a popular picnicking and rest area stop for persons traveling along Highway 141. Future plans include continued replacement of steep trail sections with railroad tie box steps and renovation or replacement of the large open shelter. Attendance for the fiscal year is estimated at 17,000 people.

5. Southwood Conservation Area

This mostly undeveloped conservation area is located one mile south and three fourths mile west of Smithland. A majority of the area, 463 acres, was acquired from 1978-80 with fifty percent cost sharing funds received through the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. Another 160 acres was acquired in 1989 with cost sharing from the state Wildlife Habitat Stamp Fund and donations from local Pheasants Forever Chapters. The entire park now totals 623 acres. The area provides a limited amount of development along the east boundary of the property and is managed primarily as a wildlife conservation park. Facilities on this site include primitive and tent camping areas, a nineteen site modern electrical campground, hiking and bridle trails, two 7-acre lakes, boat launching area and dock, modern restroom and shower building, maintenance shop/office and storage area, and a residence.

Dust control agent was applied to the gravel road along the camping areas. Several food plots were maintained within the park area. Native grass seed harvest operations were headquartered at Southwood Conservation Area where seed is cleaned, dried and stored. Approximately 470 bulk pounds of native grass seed was harvested and processed at the park in 2012. Controlled burns were conducted on 153.93 acres of grasslands to encourage prairie growth and deter invasive woody vegetation. The main park road was renamed the "Roy F. Johnston Memorial Parkway" in memory of long time park supporter Roy Johnston who helped construct the original park road. Equestrian and hiking trails were realigned and rocked to correct and prevent erosion problems.



Plans for next year include removing the 'S' curve and realigning the park access road to make it easier for large campers and horse trailers. Future plans include extending electrical service to a number of tent campsites and construction of primitive cabin units. Southwood Conservation Area is a popular destination for people who enjoy large, undeveloped open spaces, but still have access to basic amenities. It is also a popular spot for equestrian users, hunters and campers. It is estimated that at least 40,000 people visited this conservation area during the fiscal year.

6. Shagbark Hills

This undeveloped 379-acre natural area is located one and one-quarter miles south of Correctionville on County Road L-27. The area is managed as a public hunting area and is regularly used by hunters, hikers and birdwatchers.

This area is open for public hunting and provides good opportunities for a large variety of upland game species. A portion of the acres enrolled in CRP were bid out for haying in August 2012 to assist local livestock producers with feed due to the drought conditions.

7. Midway Park

This 20-acre abandoned gravel pit site is located three and one-half miles north of Merville on State Highway #140. It contains old gravel pit ponds, a vault latrine restroom, rock ramp accesses to the

ponds and picnic facilities. The area was acquired in May 1978 from the Midway Park Association of Kingsley, Pierson, Merville and Lawton. The park has been developed into a picnic area and is managed for this purpose. The gravel pit ponds also provide good fishing for many park users.

8. Copeland Park Access

In January 1986, the Board obtained a right-of-way lease for a .36 acre access from the Iowa Department of Transportation located one-half mile west of Correctionville. This site will be maintained as an undeveloped river access.

9. Inkpaduta River Access

In February 1989, the Board obtained a two acre river access by easement through a trade-off agreement involving the closing of an abandoned secondary road right-of-way and establishment of a new right-of-way to the river. The area provides a parking lot and limited access to the Little Sioux River for fishermen and canoeists. Long range plans include installing a graded and rocked canoe ramp access if permission can be obtained to cross the flood dike.

10. Inkpaduta Historical Monument

In April 1989, the Board acquired .04 acres adjacent to the county road right-of-way and State Highway #31 for a historical marker site. This area marks the location of the Sioux Indian Inkpaduta's campsite during the winter of 1856-57 where they stayed before being driven away by the white settlers. A large boulder with an 18" X 24" bronze informational plaque was erected on this site in the fall of 1989. This site preserves a small part of county history, and attracts many interested travelers as they pass on the adjacent highway.

11. Walling Access

This 13.04-acre river access on the Little Sioux River near Correctionville was purchased in 1989. The area is managed for wildlife and as an access for canoeists and fishermen to the Little Sioux River. Design of a new canoe/boat access on the Little Sioux River at this area was completed and bid in April 2013 for fall construction.

12. Oak Ridge Conservation Area

This large, undeveloped conservation area identified by the board in 1990 will be the Board's largest acquisition project when completed in the future totaling approximately 3,200 acres. The largest parcel containing 530 acres was added in 2000, and connected three separate existing parcels. Another 19 acres were added in 2002, 231 acres in 2005, and 315 acres in 2007. The area is located between Oto and Smithland, and presently consists of four separate Units totaling 2,082 acres.

Timber stand improvement work covering 14.9 acres was completed in Unit 2 with the assistance of a Conservation Corps Iowa crew who worked five days on the effort. The project is partially funded with a Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program grant through the NRCS and will average 11 acres per year through 2016.



Prescribed burns were conducted on various parcels scattered throughout Unit 1. Specific areas were identified for haying to help alleviate feed concerns for local livestock producers due to the drought of 2012. The Board allowed minimal haying on an



experimental basis as an option to controlled burns to see what the affect would be on wildlife populations. This type of grassland management will probably be used in the future as a management tool and a source of revenue as long as there are no adverse impacts to wildlife.

Future plans include removal of remaining interior fences and continuation of timber stand improvement work that will enhance prairie and timber resources. Existing native prairie areas as well as wooded areas will be rejuvenated through controlled burns. Additional parcels within the identified boundaries of the Oak Ridge Area will be acquired from willing sellers as they become available and as grant monies are available to fund such purchases.

13. Owego Wetland Complex

This 1,330-acre area is located in the Missouri River bottoms adjacent to an abandoned town known as Owego. The original 320-acre parcel was purchased in 1999. Following the purchase of a permanent wetland easement by the federal government, the Conservation Board acquired residual rights and subsequent title to other parcels comprising the complex. Basic wetland restoration work was funded with federal Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) monies.

The wet, cold spring of 2013 prevented crews from completing prescribed burns on 640 acres. Burning will take place as soon as conditions and timing are right. With continued drought conditions into the fall of 2012 following a dry waterfowl season in 2011, it was decided to activate the irrigation wells and pump into the excavated areas of the wetland to attract waterfowl for hunters. This was the first pumping since 2008 due to extended wet conditions in prior years. Pumping was to begin in early September, but the oldest well on the original parcel was in need of major repairs. The repair work was done as quickly as possible and pumping was completed prior to the season opener. Over 44 million gallons of water was pumped during a two week period using about 750 gallons of diesel fuel. Funding for the fuel and pump repair came from the sale of hay on CRP, WRP and other grasslands opened up by the Board for drought haying. Several strip areas were open for haying on Owego as part of this effort. The hayed areas provided open areas for hunters to walk and flush game, and allowed early spring vegetation growth for nesting and young chicks. A youth duck hunt was held in October 2012 sponsored by the local conservation officer.

The Owego Wetland Complex provided good hunting opportunities in the fall of 2012 and spring 2013. The future continues to look bright for the impact this complex will have on wildlife populations as well as outdoor recreation opportunities for hunters and bird watchers.

14. Administrative Offices/Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center

The Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center is located on approximately 10 acres of land in the southwest corner of Stone State Park. The area is under management agreement with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The nature center, completed in 1995 features a large exhibit hall, classrooms, library/resource room, gift shop, and conservation board offices. Additional features include a paved access road, parking lot, maintenance shop and a 2.5-mile hiking trail system with outdoor amphitheater.

Several new features were added to the Nature Center during the past year. The Raptor House was completed with the design assistance of Adam Wheelock, architect for Canon, Moss Brygger & Associates. The site first needed major drainage work installed which included underground storm water drainage inlets and outlets along with new sidewalk. This project also required moving a portion of the retaining wall behind the Nature Center. The new structure opened in spring 2013 and houses a Barred Owl and Red Tail Hawk. The second major addition was the new Outdoor Discovery Playscape which includes a waterfall feature on the south side of the center. Both projects were funded entirely with donations and grants from outside sources. The Playscape is scheduled to hold a grand opening in fall of 2013.

Other improvements included redesigning of new bird feeding stations that restrict deer and other animals from spilling or damaging the feeders. Numerous bird feeders can now be installed with viewing from the Nature Center. Hand railings were sand blasted and repainted by a painting contractor. Inside, a floor drain was installed in the aquarium room.

Future plans include repaving of the access road and parking lot for the Nature Center along with repairs to the entrance bridge and patio. A very detailed report on the nature center follows in **Section VII**. Continued strong visitation numbers were experienced during the sixteenth year of operation.

15. Curtin Timber

This 90-acre timbered area located three miles northeast of Oto was purchased in February 1992. The area has been left in its natural state for the last 20 years, and provides excellent habitat for deer and wild turkey. A forty-foot easement for foot access to the property was also acquired from the landowner pending future acquisition of adjoining property that would provide access to the county gravel road. This area is managed as a public hunting area, and is used by many hunters, hikers and mushroom hunters.

16. Riverside Bluffs Area

This 135-acre loess hill native prairie area was acquired in 1992-93 from three different landowners through a state REAP grant that was awarded in 1991. The property is separated by West 19th Street and is located in the Riverside area of Sioux City. The area features virgin loess hills prairie along with outstanding scenic views overlooking the Missouri and Big Sioux River valleys. The area provides a unique, high quality prairie within the city limits.

The Woodbury County Conservation Foundation, which played a significant role in the grant application and acquisition process, continues to raise money for improvements on the area. For 2013, the Foundation provided funding to contract with a Conservation Corps Iowa crew of six people for five days to conduct prairie restoration work. Several acres of brush and trees were cleared exposing hidden ridge tops and obscured native prairies. The Foundation also provided funding for a seasonal habitat intern who spent considerable time on this area. Staff used new GPS instruments to locate boundary survey pins and markers for installation of new boundary signs. A group of volunteer students from Morningside College participated in a volunteer cleanup event at this area and collected over 1,400 pounds of trash.

Additional sections of fence need to be replaced or constructed to control unauthorized use and traffic. Hiking access for the property is maintained and allowed. Controlled management burns of the prairie areas and elimination of woody vegetation is being planned for the north segment in the next few years. The area is managed as a prairie preserve and includes management practices such as removal of woody vegetation and prescribed prairie burns.

VII. **DOROTHY PECAUT NATURE CENTER**



**Annual Report
July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013**

**Woodbury County
Conservation Board
4500 Sioux River Road
Sioux City, IA 51109-1657
712-258-0838
<<http://www.woodburyparks.com>>**

Highlights



- The Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center completed two large construction projects this year: the Raptor House and the Discovery Forest Nature Playscape.
- The outdoor Raptor House opened on May 4, 2013 and featured two new birds of prey: a Barred Owl and a Red-tailed Hawk.

- Hired Karl VanCura of Midwest Design Group to design the Natural Playscape/Outdoor Classroom at the Nature Center. Ed Storm of FEH Associates consulted on this as well.
- Put the Nature Playscape Project to bid in February 2013. Brady Roan with Roan Landscaping and Construction was



hired to create the water feature and landscape improvements. Don Sewalson of Sewalson Contracting, Inc. was hired to build the treehouse component of the Playscape. Construction began in March 2013 and concluded by July 2013.



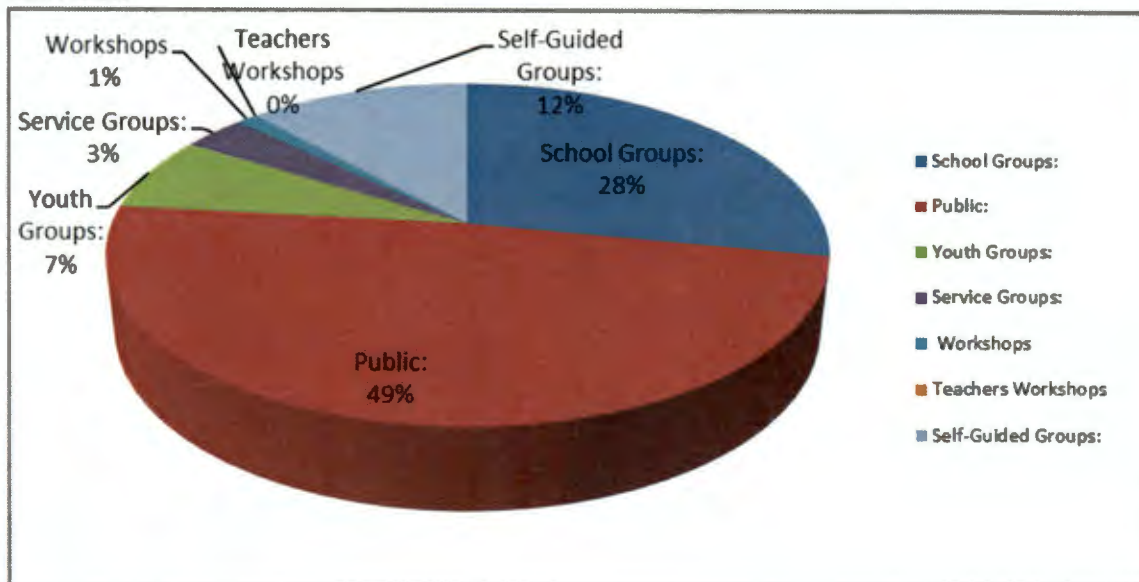
- The Woodbury County Conservation Foundation established a Special Projects Fund within the Siouxland Community Foundation in Fall 2013. This fund will allow WCCF to raise funds for specific conservation projects. By establishing within the Community Foundation, a higher level of interest on our return of investment can be achieved.

- The 9th Annual Nature Calls Fundraiser in September 2012 boasted the largest crowd yet with more than 530 people attending. It was held at the Sioux City Convention Center.



Programs

DPNC's mission of providing quality environmental education and outdoor recreation is carried out through our educational philosophy of environmental awareness, sensitivity, knowledge, understanding, appreciation and responsible actions. Each philosophical step is considered when designing programs for different age levels. To ensure participants receive a positive learning experience our staff is committed to engaging all levels with experiential and interactive activities.



Program Facets:

Public and Family Programs: A wide variety of programming is offered throughout the year for all aspects of families in our surrounding area. This past year we offered 162 public programs and had more than 6,500 participants. Due to the new exhibits and outreach opportunities, we increased our public program reach by 12%. In the winter of 2013, the Nature Center also cooperated with the Woodbury County Conservation Foundation (WCCF) in hosting the *Henry Doorly Zoo* for a Live Animals and their Habitats program. More than 425 people attended that key event. The Resource Naturalist instituted "Play in the Parks" programs at Little Sioux Park and Snyder Bend Park over the Fourth of July weekend. The interns provided free programs on archery, fishing, animals, etc. to hundreds of visitors. DPNC also hosted the OWLS (Older, Wiser, and Livelier Souls) for adults to learn more about environmental topics and our natural world. Nature Tales is a popular preschool story time with preschool children and an adult. Winter Fun Day and Summer Programs in the Parks continue to be big hits with the community. The Lunch-Time for Animals is held once per month and allows the public to view the resident animals eating. This has been a popular addition to our program offerings. Our staff believes involving the entire family instills the values of our mission as well as providing quality activities for the residents of our area.

School Groups: DPNC is a field trip site for preschool through high school. The Center's staff provides resources, materials, and curriculum supplements for teachers to enhance the learning process of their students. Approximately 28% of our audience we reach is school children. Within the tri-state area DPNC reaches an average of 150 schools including urban, rural, public, and private audiences. School audiences and outreach remained constant during the past year.



Naturalists are working with the Sioux City School District and other schools to continue to promote our programs and facilities. DPNC continues to find new ways to reach students and teachers—an increasing challenge due to the lack of public funds for field trips.

Our Educational Programs Guide lists our offerings for school and youth ages preschool to 12th grade. It is distributed to more than 1,200 teachers in the tri-state area. Last year our direct school programs reached more than 3,700 youth. Additionally, more than 1,500 students visited the Nature Center for a self-guided experience. For Non-Woodbury County Schools, we charge a user fee of \$1.00 per student. These fees are used to provide funding for additional programs, materials, staffing and supplies.

College Groups: Professors from at least four local colleges use the DPNC as an onsite educational tool for their students. DPNC staff also provides programming and internships for students entering the natural resources field. College and University classes from around the tri-state area use our facility for meetings, classes, and field studies. Staff conducts WILD, PLT and WET workshops to pre-service elementary and secondary education students.

Youth Camps & Programs: The DPNC offers Summer Day Camps that reach an average of 300 children annually. Many campers return each year due to the current program's seven levels. This program is developed with our education program goals in mind and is extremely popular. Typically, camps fill within a few weeks after the initial registration date and many camps have a waiting list.

The Summer Camps beginning in June 2013 were very successful with 294 children attending the 19 camp sessions. This season included two sessions for 3-5 year olds with an adult; two sessions for 4-year old campers, five sessions for 5-6 year olds; four sessions for 7-8 year olds; two sessions for 9-10 year olds; two sessions for 11-12 year olds; and two sessions for 13-15 year olds. The revenue received from the camps helps to pay for the four Summer Naturalists positions. Camps are designed to offer engaging outdoor activities for ages 3 through 15. The Discovery Forest Nature Playscape was an appealing addition for our campers and a great way to help reinforce our outdoor awareness goals.



Participants were again given the choice between 3-day camp sessions or 5-day camp sessions. This continues to be a popular change to the camp program and allows scheduling and financial flexibility for families. We provided a new option for 12-15 year olds in 2012. They could choose between two day trips for their camps. One group visited Ashfall Fossil Beds in Nebraska and the other group visited the Yankton area including a guided tour of the Gavin's Point Dam and Fish Hatchery. We offered this again for the 2013 season with the options of visiting points of interest north, south and around Sioux City. Unfortunately, due to lack of interest, both of these trips had to be cancelled.

Scholarships were again provided during the 2013 Summer Camp season. The Woodbury County Conservation Foundation co-sponsored the Camps to allow this opportunity and 6 scholarships were awarded totaling \$285. The WCCF sponsorship also allowed us to purchase camp supplies and assisted with transportation for children ages 11-12 to visit Little Sioux Park during their camp session.



Outdoor Skills Grant for Underserved Populations: We received a \$5,000 grant from the Iowa DNR to conduct special fishing programs for underserved urban populations. Henry Moss was contracted to conduct these programs part-time beginning May 2012 through August 2012. In May 2013, WCCB received an additional \$4,000 from the Iowa DNR. These funds were to conduct both shooting sports education and fishing activities to underserved populations. Kristin Shaw was hired to conduct these programs.

On-site programming is available for schools, youth, civic and community groups throughout the year. Staff utilizes materials within our teaching collection and live reptiles and amphibians. Native American Youth, ESL youth, scouts, 4-H groups and others often request special programs from our staff. We reached more than 930 youth during our programs this year.

Service Learning Groups/Volunteers: Resource Naturalist Jim Henning had the opportunity to work with multiple service groups over the last year including; church, school and scout groups. He also worked with two young men trying to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout who did their projects at the nature center. Both scout projects focused on building something for the new Discovery Forest Nature Playscape; one group built 8 benches for the feature, while the other built a pergola entryway to the playground. Other service groups worked on trail maintenance, landscaping, staining benches, roadside cleanup, playground construction and prairie rescue. This offers a good opportunity for people to help their community and learn about their natural areas at the same time.



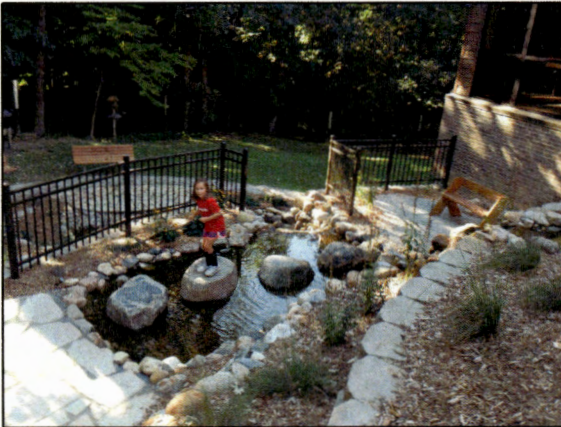
Service Group Programs: Programming is also offered for groups such as Garden Clubs, Sertoma Clubs, Rotary, etc. throughout the year. A total of 453 people were reached through these meetings.

Workshops: The educational staff presents programs at a variety of workshops designed for adults in the profession. Last year a total of 146 people were reached in workshops. Primarily, the workshops included Hunter Education.

Teacher Training: In cooperation with Iowa's Area Education Agency (AEA 4/12) and Morningside College the DPNC staff is able to offer a variety of workshops including Project WILD, Project WET and Project Learning Tree (PLT) for teachers' continuing education and graduate credits. Pre-service workshops are offered to college students pursuing an educational

degree. The past year, 4 workshops were offered, providing service to more than 100 pre-service teachers. Other groups use our facility for their teacher workshops as well.

Community Development: Staff networks with a variety of community agencies to maximize resources. Some partnerships include cooperative teaching with Area Education Agencies, schools, WIT and City of Sioux City. The Education Director also serves on the Natural Resources committee of the Western Iowa Tourism Region. She serves as a director to the board of Friends of FM90 radio and is on the Siouxland Association of Fundraising Professionals Board. Snyder also joined the REAP-CEP Board and scores statewide grants for educational projects twice per year on behalf of the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards. WCCB collaborated with the Sioux City Public Library and the City of South Sioux City Library for Summer Reading Program and provided programs in both Library buildings. DPNC was also involved with the efforts to make Sioux City a Blue Zones Community.



Casual Visitors: DPNC is open to the public 9am-5pm Tuesday through Saturday and 1-5pm on Sundays. Evening programs are available by appointment. Areas of interest include hiking trails through native prairie and woodlands, wildlife viewing area, all new interpretive displays including an interactive badger in a tunnel under the prairie diorama, working beehive, and 400 gallon native fish aquarium, resident education animals, and butterfly and herb gardens. The new Raptor House brought in several new visitors. An estimated 51,000 people visited the Nature Center last year.

Grants:

The WCCB and WCCF applied for 10 grants during this period, requesting and receiving a total of \$60,935.00. Total amount requested was \$85,935.00

<u>Grants July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013</u>	<u>Amount received</u>	<u>Funds Targeted For</u>
Junior League of Sioux City	\$14,935.00	Playscape Phase II
Gilchrist Foundation	\$10,000.00	Raptor House
Missouri River Historical Development, Inc.	\$10,000.00	Playscape
Siouxland Community Foundation	\$ 5,000.00	Playscape
Canadian National Railroad Foundation	\$ 5,000.00	Playscape
Union Pacific Foundation	\$10,000.00	Playscape
Western Iowa Tourism Region	\$ 1,000.00	Nature Center Brochure
Iowa DNR—Outdoor Skills for Underserved Populations	\$5,000.00	Programs
Total received:	\$60,935.00	

Nature Center

Trails: The trails provide a great interpretive asset for programs and wonderful recreational addition for park users. Resource Naturalist Jim Henning continues to work with volunteers and service learning groups. Wood chips were added to the trails when possible. Decks, benches and bridges along the trails are stained annually. Hazard trees are removed from grounds and trails as needed. An informational kiosk is located at each trail head and provides information on the trails, plant identification and natural history information. Student interns provide temporary display information for each of the kiosks. Future plans for trails include reworking areas along Hidden Valley, Bluestem Trail and White Tail Ridge to make the trails more level, thus a little more user friendly. There are also plans for further development of Fox Run and additional enhancements and signage along the other trails. Prairie management, including woody vegetation removal and prescribed fire, is coordinated by Mark Peterson and Jim Henning.

Resource Management and Maintenance: Projects over the last year included new bird feeding stations at DPNC, assisting with raptor house construction and assisting with construction/planning of water feature and nature playscape. The nature center trails are an ongoing project; nature center staff and volunteers moved wood chips onto trails and spent many hours maintaining the stairways along our trails. Other maintenance projects over the year included mowing, snow removal and exhibit troubleshooting.



Exhibits

The new exhibit gallery opened in April 2011. The changes have been well-received and we have had very little problems with the design and functionality. Any problems have been readily addressed by Split Rock Studios. A 5-year warranty was provided with their contract of service.

DPNC focused this year on outdoor exhibits—branching to outdoor exhibits with the Raptor Enclosure and Natural Playscape projects.

Raptor Enclosure

Construction began on the Raptor House in November 2012. Work at the south east corner of the nature center was completed first to address several drainage issues. Guggenmos Construction built the Raptor House, which was designed by Adam Wheelock of Canon Moss Brygger & Associates, PC. The facility was designed to hold two large birds of prey. In late April 2013



WCCB acquired two new raptors from Kay Neumann of SOAR. A Barred Owl and a Red-tailed Hawk were added to the live animal exhibits at the Nature Center. The grand opening and dedication of the Raptor House was held May 4, 2013. The public reception of the new birds, raptor house and Skye the Kestrel has been excellent.



Raptor House Donors

Bald Eagle (\$10,000)

Gilchrist Foundation
Greg & Teri Grupp

Great Horned Owl (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

In Memory of William C. Bair

Red-tailed Hawk (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Nancy Rutter-Spriggs
Nature Calls 2011 Raffle

Barred Owl (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Bill & Donna Bradbury
Iowa Ornithologists' Union
In Memory of Claire Legerski-Walding
Loess Hills Audubon Society
In Memory of Wayne O. Milbrodt
Scheels

Cooper's Hawk (\$500 - \$999)

Gene & Ginger Martin
In Memory of Donald Roberts

Eastern Screech Owl (\$100 - \$499)

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary
Friends of Woodbury County Library
In Honor of Karson & Tiana Kruid
In Memory of Pearl E. Linden
Northwest Iowa Group Sierra Club
Siouxland PACE

American Kestrel (\$20 - \$99)

Grace United Methodist Church
Dan & Sally Hartley
In Honor of Ben & Sophia Jensen
Ruby Ann Stump
Sam Thomas

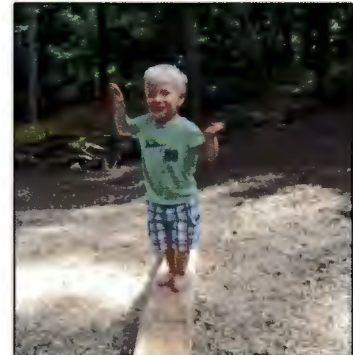
In-Kind Donors

Adam Wheelock, Cannon Moss Brygger & Associates, PC
Bacon Creek Design, Inc.
Guggenmos Construction
Helen Harvey
Maurer Sign & Design
Mike Barkley Business LLC
Don Poggensee
Paul O. Roisen
Saving Our Avian Resources

Discovery Forest Nature Playscape



This project first began in 2011 when WCCB and Junior League of Sioux City began researching the need for an outdoor playscape. In August 2012 we initiated an RFP to design the playscape. We selected Midwest Design Group (Karl VanCura). FEH Associates, PC was also involved with the design,



specifically for the structural engineering of the treehouse. Iowa DNR Forester Joe Schwartz assessed the trees on our proposed site. We removed some hazard



trees and Gardner Tree Service trimmed the tops of several large oaks.

In February 2013 we let bids for the Playscape project. Brady Roan with Roan Landscaping and Construction was hired to create the water feature and landscape improvements. Don Sewalson of Sewalson Contracting,

Inc. was hired to build the treehouse component of the Playscape. Construction began in March 2013 and concluded by July 2013.



The Nature Playscape is a nature-based play area that allows children to climb a tree fort, clamber over logs, create natural art, wade in the water and experience safe, outdoor play. Research shows that regular time in nature reduces stress, supports creativity and imaginative play, facilitates better social and physical development and improves fitness, motor-skills and well-being. The Nature Playscape was designed to enable this process.

The \$95,000+ project was made possible through generous individual contributions and numerous grants. More than \$101,000 has been raised.

In addition to the Nature Playscape, a Loess Falls Water Feature is located adjacent to the Nature Center and new Raptor House. The area is designed for gentle water play and observation. The



upper pool has four large “stepping stone” boulders that people are able to cross to reach a quiet reflection area and sit on a bench. The lower pool is designed for people to gradually wade into the water. There is a zero access point, even allowing mobility impaired guests to explore the water.

From the start, much of this project has been volunteer-driven. The Junior League of Sioux City has played an integral part of the planning and funding process. Additional Playscape components were created by volunteers, including two Eagle Scout candidates and their Scout Troops. Jeremy Hill of Troop 225 constructed the Entry Feature or Pergola of the Playscape. Matt Rodasky of Troop 225 built several benches for the Playscape. More than 91 Nature Center volunteers have helped with this project over the past

several months—logging more than 465 hours.



Discovery Forest Nature Playscape Donors

\$ 25,000

Donna Popp

\$ 15,000 - \$24,999

Junior League of Sioux City
Herb & Rosie Kuehne

\$ 10,000 - 14,999

Missouri River Historical Development, Inc.
Union Pacific Foundation

\$ 5,000 - 9,999

Canadian National Railroad Foundation (CN)
Siouxland Community Foundation
Woodbury County Conservation Foundation

\$ 1,000 - 2,499

Bill & Donna Bradbury
Nature Calls Raffle
Todd Rubin & Cathy Corey
Nancy Rutter-Spriggs
Anne Shaner

\$ 500 - 999

Bonnie Zetterman
Wal-Mart Foundation

\$ 250 - 499

Joseph & April Bousquet

\$ 100 - 249

Matt & Theresa Basye
Loy G. Dunn
Loyanne & Brian Jensen
Mahoney-Hill Charitable Fund Trust
In Memory of Anna Wright

\$ 1 - 99

AAUW--Sioux City Branch
Michelle Boonstra
In Memory of Carol Chapman
Sierra & David Chapman
Gabbie Hoernemann
Greg & Krista Jochum
Kingsley Garden Club
Charity Koehler
Marilyn Milbrodt
Rodger & Linda Miller
Mark & Judy Monson
New Horizons United Church of Christ
Pamela & Eric Pfautsch
Kelly Riibe
Sioux City Women's Club
Sandra M. Updegraff

InKind/Contractors

Boy Scout Troop 225
FEH Associates PC
Gardner Tree Service
James & Debbie Henning
Jeremy Hill
Dennis Lihs
Midwest Design Group
Scott Musselman
Roan Landscaping & Construction
Matt Rodasky
Sewalson Contracting, Inc.
Ed Storm
Karl Van Cura
Dean Van Roekel

Marketing

The WCCB and Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center maintains a positive relationship with local media. The naturalists participated in more than 180 interviews for radio, television and newspaper during the past year. In addition to media releases, PSA's, articles and interviews, WCCB parks are included in two I-29 rest area kiosks. Networking with Western Iowa Tourism Region, Siouxland Hospitality Association, Iowa Tourism Bureau, Iowa Welcome Centers and Siouxland Tourism Bureaus has allowed expanded visibility of our areas.

In April 2013 a new Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center was printed in full color. The redesigned brochure was featured as an insert in the Sioux City Journal Friday paper, reaching more than 22,000 people. The brochure was partially funded by a grant from Western Iowa Tourism Region.

We expanded to online advertising on Siouxcityjournal.com with a grant from Western Iowa Tourism Region. The WCCB page was established in March 2012 through Fall 2012. More visibility to our website, cabins, programming and Facebook page was gained through this advertising venture.

An advertisement was placed in the Siouxland Visitor's Guide to attract additional tours and visitors to our area. An ad was also placed in an advertising supplement for Iowa tourism. This piece reached more than 1 million households via the Des Moines Register, Omaha World Herald & Minneapolis newspapers. DPNC was featured in Iowa Department of Economic Development television and magazine ads to promote Iowa. WCCB also participated in advertising for a map of Sioux City. The Conservation Board provided an informational booth at the Woodbury County Fair.

Woodbury Wanderings Newsletter

Our newsletter is published 3 times a year and features updates on our parks, natural history articles and our calendar of events. The newsletter is also online with the addition of our web page. The newsletter is mailed to approximately 2,200 households three times per year. Since June 2003, issues have also included a downloadable PDF version of the newsletter. Interested subscribers are encouraged to request their newsletter online or in this format to reduce mailing costs of the publication.

Web Page <<http://www.woodburyparks.com>>

The site features beautiful new photos, updated information, video clips of the cabins, shelters and nature center and the ability to donate online to the Woodbury County Conservation Foundation. Maps of all WCCB areas are available as .PDF files to download for free.



Rentals

The Nature Center is an attractive spot for business retreats and private rentals. The classrooms have been rented to numerous groups for anniversary parties, wedding receptions, family reunions and business retreats. More than 1,973 people (a total of 80 groups) used our rooms for a rental space. The revenue generated from these rentals goes to the General Fund for reimbursement. Last year the Nature Center collected \$2,360.00 in revenue. The Nature Center recognizes groups such as Friends of Stone Park, Audubon Society, and Sierra Club that have a primary mission of conservation and education as "First Priority Users." These groups are allowed free use of our meeting rooms. The combined number of groups (Rentals and First Priority) using our facility was 50 groups. Rental rates for the nature center stayed the same as last year, with a price break for non-profit groups.

Nature Nook Gift Shop

The Nature Center gift shop sells items such as shirts, postcards, books, note cards, and nature-related toys and gifts. We also feature handmade items from local artists such as wooden bowls and jewelry. All proceeds from the shop go to the Nature Center.

GIFT SHOP FINANCIAL REPORT

July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013

INCOME

Gift Shop	\$ 2,079.10
Total Income	\$ 2,079.10

EXPENSES

667-6102-461	
2601 Office supplies	(\$ 369.11)
2955 Unspecified	(\$ 1,349.32)
4020 Printing	(\$ 176.00)

Total Expenses

	(\$ 1,894.43)
Total Income over Expenses	\$ 184.67

Staff

DPNC has a total of six staff dedicated to the operation and programs of the facility. Dawn Snyder serves as Nature Center Education Director and Head Naturalist and holds BS in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology from Iowa State University. She has more than 25 years of experience in the interpretation field, with 16 years as DPNC Director and 9 years as Head Naturalist for WCCB. She serves as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Woodbury County Conservation Foundation. Snyder also serves on the state REAP-CEP grant review committee as a representative for IACCB and Loess Hills Alliance Promotion Committee.

Theresa Kruid, Naturalist, has been at the DPNC for 16 years. She has 21 years of experience in the interpretation field and holds BS in Recreation and Park Management (Environmental Interpretation and Outdoor Education emphasis) from Pennsylvania State University. The naturalist developed DPNC's successful summer day camp program, which completed eleven years of camps and continues to grow each year.

Jim Henning began his role as Resource Naturalist in May 2009. He has a Natural Resource Management degree from Upper Iowa University. His duties include programming, resource management and building and grounds maintenance.



DPNC Support staff includes 2 part-time receptionists, Pam Pfautsch and Marilyn Milbrodt, and a Part-time Volunteer Coordinator/ Receptionist, Betty West. Summer staff for 2012 included Ally Jo Lloyd, Kristin Shaw, Jaci Dahl and Abby Duin. Henry Moss was hired as Outdoor Skills intern, funded by a grant from Iowa DNR. He taught fishing and shooting sports to underserved populations. Elliott Zadow, Jillian Lenz, Aerial Wauhob, and Coreen Robinson served as seasonal employees to assist with summer programs and events in 2013. Another Iowa DNR grant allowed us to hire

Kristin Shaw as the Outdoor Skills intern. Funds from WCCF allowed us to hire a Habitat Stewardship Intern. Abby Duin was hired to fill this seasonal position. DPNC general hours are 9am to 5pm Tuesday through Saturday and Sunday from 1-5pm.

Each of the interns had a chance to experience habitat management and/or trail work for two weeks during the summer. Most of them had the chance to work with service groups and all of them were trained with chainsaws and brush cutting equipment. They each also had the opportunity to learn how to operate our John Deere Gator and Bobcat skid loader.

Volunteers

During the past 12 months volunteers logged more than 2,848.75 hours of volunteer service. Support staff at the Nature Center and WCCB is comprised of approximately 170 non-paid active volunteers, 21 of these being Junior Volunteers under the age of 18. Volunteer duties include animal care, gardening, reception & clerical, summer camp naturalist assistants, prairie rescue, educational, curatorial, research, trail maintenance, program assistance, fund raising and general maintenance. Eleven service groups also assisted with prairie rescue/habitat management, mulching trails, staining, play scape and several maintenance projects. Contributed service translates to an estimated \$38,356. Volunteers were recognized at the 14th Annual Volunteer Recognition and Awards Dinner in March 2013.



Conservation Awards

This was the 24th year for the WCCB to confer awards to outstanding individuals for their dedicated service. Ray Deabler received the *Friend of Conservation* award for his support of the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center. Doris Swanson was recognized for the *Conservation Educator* award. Swanson is a retired teacher and an active community volunteer.



**Conservation Educator
Doris Swanson**



**Friend of Conservation
Ray Deabler**



Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center

Volunteer Contributed Services July 1, 2012 –June 30, 2013

	<u>Hours</u>	<u>\$/Hour</u>	<u>\$Value</u>
Education/Interpretive (information services, docents, teachers, etc.)			
Camp Assistant (11)	240.5	\$9.25	\$2,224.62
Naturalist Assistant (6)	206.5	\$9.25	\$1,910.12
Special Event (75)	449.75	\$9.25	\$4,160.19

Administrative/Clerical/Maintenance (office, routine maintenance, etc)			
Clerical (4)	32	\$9.25	\$296.00
Maintenance (107)	709.75	\$9.25	\$6,565.19

Curatorial/Collections (research, gardens, care of objects, etc.)			
Animal Transport (2)	7.5	\$10.00	\$75.00
Gardening (6)	31.5	\$9.25	\$291.38
Trail Maintenance (36)	107	\$9.25	\$989.75
Playscape Project (86)	447.5	\$9.25	\$4,139.38
Raptor Project (3)	45.75	\$9.25	\$423.19
Prairie Rescue/Habitat Management (36)	106	\$9.25	\$980.50

Professional (legal, fundraising, guest speakers, consultants, etc.)			
Fundraising Solicitation (5)	27	\$25.00	\$675.00
Fundraising Special Events (23)	271.25	\$18.00	\$4,847.50
Program Instructors (6)	18	\$20.00	\$360.00
Consultants (2)	26.75	\$25.00	\$668.75
Photography (1)	6	\$20.00	\$120.00
Veterinarian (1)	4	\$50.00	\$200.00
Raptor Project Engineer(1)	90	\$90.00	\$8,100.00
Accountant (1)	12	\$50.00	\$1,080.00
Carpenter (1)	8	\$25.00	\$200.00
Auctioneer (1)	2	\$25.00	\$50.00

Totals **2,848.75 hours** **\$38,356.56**

Training

The DPNC is committed to professional development and interpretive staff participates in the IAN Annual Professional Development program. Snyder attended some local fundraising sessions hosted by Association of Fundraising Professionals. She also received online supervisory training through Woodbury County Human Resources Department. Snyder & Kruid both received Basic Archery Instructor training and Star Lab training. Henning attended the Secondary Roads training session in the fall of 2012 and the fire refresher course in Feb 2013. Support staff is trained in computer software, First Aid, CPR and other services vital to their jobs.



Special Projects

Fundraising—Nature Calls 2012

A group of volunteers was recruited to assist with fundraising ideas. *Nature Calls*—a beer sampling, nature art sale and auction—was the targeted special event fundraiser. The Ninth Annual Nature Calls raised an additional \$23,600 for Nature



Center exhibits and educational programs. An additional \$1,680 was raised in a raffle for the Playscape project. Committees worked throughout the year to plan this large event, which although it requires a tremendous amount of staff time, was considered a worthwhile endeavor. The event was held at the Sioux City Convention Center and was our largest crowd yet, boasting more than 530 people.



Woodbury County Conservation Foundation

The WCCB maintains a close relationship with the Conservation Foundation (WCCF). Dawn Snyder serves as the Foundation's Secretary and Treasurer.

WCCF hosted its annual meeting at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center in February 2013. The event included a presentation by the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha. More than 425 people attended this educational event. The Foundation co-sponsored the Conservation Board Summer Day Camps to provide \$285 in scholarships for underprivileged youth. They also contributed approximately \$2,000 in educational materials, funded a Habitat Stewardship Intern and supported the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar. They continue conservation education and natural area protection in our area. The minutes of WCCF meetings are on file at the WCCB Office.



The WCCF initiated an annual membership campaign in 2003 to increase visibility and assist with special needs.

October 1, 2012 - October 1, 2013	WCCF Memberships
46 Individual Memberships	\$ 930.00
56 Family Memberships	\$ 1,960.00
48 Wildlife Conservationist Memberships	\$ 2,652.00
42 Woodland Conservationist Memberships	\$ 4,875.00
7 Prairie Conservationist Memberships	\$ 1,750.00
3 Wetland Conservationist Memberships	\$ 1,800.00
3 Distinguished Conservationist Membership	\$ 5,143.50
205 Memberships	\$ 19,100.50
Donation Preference Breakout:	
To Help Further WCCF's Mission	\$ 9,667.00
For Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center Support	\$ 1,660.00
For Raptor House	\$ 1,500.00
For Nature Playscape	\$ 5,333.50
For Loess Hills Area Habitat Support	\$ 800.00
For Woodbury County Park Enhancements	\$ 150.00
Total Memberships	\$ 19,100.50

The 2012-2013 membership campaign built upon the success of the past eight years. Current members of the WCCF Board of Directors are: Brian Hazlett, President; Chris Zellmer-Zant, Vice President; Dawn Snyder, Secretary/Treasurer; Dianne Blankenship; Herman Schultz; Bob Moritz; Norbert Ruhland; Randy Kramer, Anne Shaner

and Rod Tondreau.

Online donations can be received via a PayPal account, allowing more avenues to donate. WCCF is the channeling agency for the Nature Calls fundraiser and continues to be a vehicle for transfer of large donations to the Woodbury County Conservation Board.

Endowment

In May 2012 the WCCF established an endowment fund within the Siouxland Community Foundation. This will give donors a simple and efficient way to continue supporting the Woodbury County Conservation Foundation (WCCF) while providing us with a source of lasting support. The Woodbury County Conservation Foundation Endowment Fund is designed to give donors access to the most favorable tax advantages available as well as help WCCF develop planned giving programs. A separate Special Projects Fund within the Siouxland Community Foundation was established in Fall of 2013.

Memorials

- Pearl E. Linden Memorial for Raptor House
- William C. Bair Memorial for Raptor House
- Don Roberts Memorial for Raptor House
- Dave Krom Memorial for Education Programs
- John Bylin Memorial for Education Programs



List of Donors

Numerous individuals and organizations assisted us in the past year. We would like to acknowledge them for their generous support.

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Mark Peterson
Deputy Director

Dawn Snyder
Education Program Director

Theresa Kruid
Naturalist

Jim Henning
Resource Naturalist

Barb Schultz
Secretary

Pam Pfautsch
Part-time Receptionist

Marilyn Milbrodt
Part-time Receptionist

Betty West
Part-time Volunteer Coordinator/Receptionist

Rita Birke
Senior Worker

Hours:

Tuesday – Saturday 9am – 5pm
Sunday 1 – 5pm
*Closed Mondays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve,
Christmas Day and New Years Day.*

**A Program of
Woodbury County**



DPNC Mission Statement:

To provide quality environmental education programs and outdoor recreation experiences; to manage our natural resources in an ecologically sound manner; and to conserve and interpret our natural, historic, and cultural resources.

Goal of the Environmental Education Program:

- To help citizens of all ages and backgrounds develop an awareness and sensitivity toward the environment.
- To acquire knowledge and understanding for effective environmental action.
- To foster positive attitudes and patterns of conduct toward the environment.



VIII. FY '13 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
GENERAL CONSERVATION BUDGET

RECEIPTS

Sale of Surplus Commodities	\$	301.95
Nature Center Rental		2,065.00
Fuel Tax Refunds		3,614.80
Newsletter Advertising		975.00
Miscellaneous		405.00
Taxation		<u>\$ 1,435,575.98</u>
 TOTAL		 \$ 1,442,937.73

DISBURSEMENTS

Administration

Department Heads	\$	97,759.15
Supervisory		67,152.35
Wage Plan Employees		42,681.60
Matching FICA		15,368.98
Matching IPERS		19,084.98
Emp. Hospitalization		24,685.71
Life Insurance		86.04
Dental Ins.		1,052.92
LTD Insurance		448.66
Gas/Oil		3,318.44
Office Supplies		1,826.32
Magazines & Books		360.02
Wearing/Safety Apparel.		361.38
Publishing Notices		420.42
Printing		2,138.96
Postage		780.16
Travel/Expense		2,631.18
Professional Services		366.00
School of Instruction		2,848.00
Medical Fees		383.00
Motor Vehicle Expense		483.22
Radio Expense		-0-
Dues\Memberships		2,830.00
Tax Allotment		3,730.71
Motor Vehicle Purchases		-0-
Office Equipment & Furn.		134.98
Lease Purchase Agreement		5,008.82
Sub-Total:		<u>\$ 295,942.00</u>

County Parks

Supervisory	\$	114,959.27
Wage Plan Employees		213,429.35
Temporary Emp.		137,563.00
Overtime		0.00
Matching FICA		34,975.32
Matching IPERS		41,766.81
Emp. Hospitalization		71,317.06
Life Insurance		199.20
Dental Ins.		2,437.71
LTD Insurance		936.92
Chemical Supplies		4,199.75
Agricultural & Hort.		7,962.90

Custodial Supplies	5,657.65
Gas/Oil	41,914.28
Arms/Ammunition	873.48
Wearing/Safety Apparel.	4,782.81
Telephone/Telegraph	3,843.11
Cell Phones	2,051.29
Natural & LP Gas	2,850.20
Garbage	14,057.75
Electricity	59,589.47
Maintenance	36,626.92
Equipment Maintenance	17,163.41
Motor Vehicle Expense	9,680.85
Radio Expense	145.00
Furn/Equip. Purchase	3,565.49
Lease/Purchase Agreement	\$ -
Sub-Total:	\$ 832,549.00

Naturalist

Wage Plan Employ. PT	\$ 49,704.25
Supervisory	53,805.90
Wage Plan Employees	82,115.11
Temporary Emp.	0.00
Matching FICA	13,277.70
Matching IPERS	16,100.36
Emp. Hospitalization	40,195.20
Life Insurance	86.40
Dental Ins.	1,057.32
LTD Insurance	397.00
Gas/Oil	1,650.94
Office Supplies	297.93
Magazines & Books	7.98
Wearing Apparel	624.89
Printing	2,885.38
Postage	608.46
Mileage	114.83
Travel/Expense	10.00
Professional Serv.	0
School/Instruction	79.00
Motor Vehicle Expense	103.93
Dues/Membership	244.00
Office Equipment & Furn.	233.45
Sub-Total:	\$ 263,600.03

Nature Center

Janitorial Supplies	\$ 615.61
Gas/Oil	861.85
Wearing/Safety Apparel	38.96
Telephone/Tele.	4,234.56
Cell Phone	1,667.44
Garbage	927.40
Electricity	10,619.06
Building Maint.	9,808.01
Equip. Maint.	2,241.16
Contractual Services	19,832.65
Sub-Total:	\$ 50,846.70

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS (ACCRUAL BASIS): \$ 1,442,937.73

APPROVED BUDGET: \$ 1,444,958.00

BALANCE JUNE 30, 2013 (ACCRUAL BASIS): \$ 2,020.27

257-022
NATURE CENTER
ASSETS

Interest	\$	-0-
Contributions		24,687.92
Accrued Assets Adjustment		-0-
TOTAL ASSETS (ACCURAL BASIS):	\$	24,687.92

LIABILITIES

Transfers Out (To Reserve fund)	\$	7,455.00
Accrual Liabilities Adjustment		-0-
TOTAL LIABILITIES (ACCURAL BASIS):	\$	7,455.00

NET ASSETS OVER/UNDER LIABILITIES: \$

BALANCE JULY 1, 2012: \$ 91,029.00

BALANCE JUNE 30, 2013 (ACCRUAL BASIS): \$ 108,261.92

667-610
CONSERVATION RESERVE FUND

ASSETS

User Fees	\$	236,507.40
Nature Center Program Fees		23,051.00
Ag Rentals		13,263.68
Concession Rentals		477.50
Equipment Rentals		1,655.20
Donations		109,735.50
Reimbursements		37,615.63
Interest		3.95
Grants		105,793.05
Gift Shop Revenue		2,079.10
Miscellaneous		10,189.38
Transfers In (Fund 257)		7,455.00
Accrued Assets Adjustment		(75,706.11)
TOTAL ASSETS (ACCRUAL BASIS):	\$	472,120.28

LIABILITIES

610-1 Administration

Capital Improvements		82,691.94
Accrued Liabilities Adjustment		(14,842.26)
Sub-Total:	\$	67,849.68

610-2 Nature Center Gift Shop

Office Supplies	\$ -
Magazines & Books	369.11
Unspecified	1,349.32
Printing	176.00
	<hr/>
Sub-Total:	\$ 1,894.43

610-3 Nature Center Programs

Temp. Employ.	\$ 20,585.78
Matching FICA	1,574.80
Matching IPERS	-0-
Office Supplies	2,306.39
Unspecified	3,279.40
Official Publ. & Legals	1,855.00
Printing	1,256.78
Buildings	2,443.52
Office Equipment/ Furniture	10,867.84
Accrued Liabilities Adjustment	14,842.26
	<hr/>
Sub-Total:	\$ 59,011.77

612-4 LWCF - Brown's Lake

Capital Improvements	\$ 24,795.86
	<hr/>
Sub-Total:	\$ 24,795.86

612-5 HMGP Grant

Capital Improvements	\$ 14,061.28
	<hr/>
Sub-Total:	\$ 14,061.28

Transfers Out (To Debt Service fund)	\$ 104,676.50
Transfers Out (To CIP fund)	\$ 170,098.41

TOTAL LIABILITIES (ACCRUAL BASIS): \$ 442,387.93

NET ASSETS OVER/UNDER LIABILITIES: \$ 29,732.35

BALANCE JULY 1, 2012 (ACCRUAL BASIS): \$ 246,251.52

ACCRUAL ADJUSTMENT: \$ 20,975.85

BALANCE JUNE 30, 2013 (ACCRUAL BASIS): \$ 296,959.72

266-610

REAP FUND

ASSETS

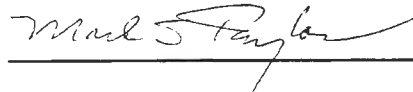
Miscellaneous Reimbursement	\$	15,000.00
Per County Allocation received FY 13		6,893.00
Per Capita Allocations received FY 13		24,618.00
Interest		0.00
Accrued Assets Adjustment		<u>374.49</u>
TOTAL ASSETS (ACCRUAL BASIS):	\$	46,885.49

LIABILITIES

610-1 Administration

Capital Improvements	\$	<u>5,586.18</u>
Sub-Total:	\$	5,586.18
TOTAL LIABILITIES (ACCRUAL BASIS):	\$	5,586.18
NET ASSETS OVER/UNDER LIABILITIES:	\$	41,299.31
BALANCE JULY 1, 2012 (ACCRUAL BASIS):	\$	71,840.15
ACCRUAL ADJUSTMENT:		-0-
BALANCE JUNE 30, 2013 (ACCRUAL BASIS):	\$	113,139.46

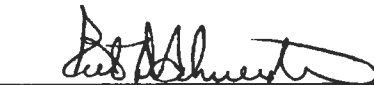
Respectfully Submitted,



Mark Taylor, President



Don Dixon, Secretary



Rick D. Schneider, Director