



**Wayne County Conservation Board  
Conservation Director; Kenny Banks**

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WAYNE COUNTY AUDITOR

FEB 02 2024

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# ANNUAL REPORT

**Fiscal July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023**

## Board Roster

Tom Rockhold – Chair, Lineville, IA  
Diane Olson Schroeder - Vice Chair, Humeston, IA  
Mike Lewis – Member, Seymour, IA  
Tom Swearingin – Member, Sewal, IA  
Marty Nickel – Member, Lineville, IA  
Garrett Abel – Member, Allerton, IA  
Don Seams – Member, Seymour, IA

## Terms expires December 31,

2023  
2024  
2026  
2023  
2023  
2026  
2028

-Don replaced Tom Swearingin in January 2023 after election

## Staff Roster

Kenny Banks – Executive Director, Allerton, IA  
Brittany Snow – Assistant Director/Technician, Lineville, IA  
Ashleigh Arnold – Naturalist, Centerville, IA  
Linda Allen – Part-time clerical, Part-time secretary, Allerton, IA  
Ronnie Guthrie – Part-time Technician, Corydon, IA  
Vernon Trower – Part-time Technician, Allerton, IA

**Regular County Conservation Board meetings held in accordance with Iowa Code 350.3.**

There were 12 regular meetings during the fiscal year.

Don Seams was appointed to Conservation Board as a supervisor in January 2023 to finish out fiscal for Tom Swearingin

**Conservation Park enhancements:**

- Cut several dead Ash Trees (ash bore) at Corydon Lake Park
  - Continuing of cutting of Ash Trees in all parks
- Helga, IDNR, helped implement a bow only management hunt at Bobwhite State Park
- Added honeybees and equipment,
- Removed all Ash trees from Moore Gosch Park
  - Working on all other parks
- Planted a variety of new trees at Moore Gosch Park in place of the trees removed
  - 12 total
    - 2 Kentucky Coffee
    - 2 Oak
    - 2 Sweet Gum
    - 2 Golden Maple
    - 2 Cypress
    - 2 Scarlet Maple
- Poured concrete for a permanent camp host site at Moore Gosch Park
- Poured concrete for the half basketball court at Moore Gosch Park
- Received Sheriff office old K-9-unit Tahoe
- Purchased CAT skid loader with 3 attachments February 23, 2023
  - Bucket, forks, grapple
- Added rock to sites at Lakeside Park and Moore Gosch Park
- Fixed road and dump station at Moore Gosch Park
- Started marking trees for removal at Corydon Lake Park
- Measured out area for new playground at Corydon Lake

**Conservation Set Backs:**

- Set back with start of mowing season in spring due to continual rain
- Drought following the continual spring rains
  - Food plots washed out
  - Mowing season ended early
    - Drought
- Ended up short staffed during the summer due to an employee family illness
- Passing of long-time friend of conservation and prairie extraordinaire, Lorena Blount

## Maintenance Areas:

### Corydon Lake Park:

- 143-acre park
- 64-acre lake
- 2 shelters; electricity and drinking water
- Modern shower house
- 19 campsites
- ADA EZ Dock and 2 kayak launchers
- Camping
- Playground
- Picnicking
- Hiking trails
- Fishing/boating; electric motors only
- 9-hole disc golf course
- 3<sup>rd</sup> year of water quality treatment with IDNR hatchery
- New playground in process

### Bobwhite State Park

- 390-acre park
- 90-acre lake
- 2 shelters
- Modern shower house
- 30 campsites
- Camping
- Playground
- ADA pit toilet South shelter
  - ADA sidewalk
- Picnicking
- Hiking trails
- Fishing/boating; electric motors only
- ADA dock and 2 kayak launchers
- Beach and swim area

### Moore-Gosch Memorial Park

- 29-acre park
- 12-acre lake
- Camping
- 1 shelter; electricity and drinking water
- Modern shower house
- 22 campsites
- Picnicking
- Fishing/boating; electric motors only
- Dock and a kayak launcher
- Playground
- Half-court basketball

### Lakeside Park

- 86-acre park
- 45-acre lake
- Camping
- 1 shelter; electricity and drinking water
- Modern shower house
- 29 campsites
- Picnicking
- Fishing/boating; electric motors only
- 2 ADA docks and 2 kayak launchers
- 2 ADA sidewalks at docks and shelter
- Single stall restroom on North side of park by the shelter
- 3 playgrounds
- WCCB large storage building

### Medicine Creek Wildlife Area

- 1,028-acre area
- 140 wetland acres
- Restored prairie
- Upland timber
- Public hunting
- Fishing/boating
  - Boat ramp
- Food plots
- Restocked by IDNR

# Campgrounds Use Totals:

## Corydon Lake Park:

Total of 227 units  
 54% in county  
 33% out of county  
 13% out of state  
 799 nights of stay  
 649 individuals

## Moore-Gosch Memorial Park:

Total of 297 units  
 26% in county  
 33% out of county  
 41% out of state  
 1,250 nights of stay  
 762 individuals

## Lakeside Park:

Total of 486 units  
 31% in county  
 50% out of county  
 19% out of state  
 1,952 nights of stay  
 1,475 individuals

## Bobwhite State Park:

Total of 311 units  
 56% in county  
 24% out of county  
 20% out of state  
 860 nights of stay  
 839 individuals

### % of use for FY 22/23

| Park    | In County | Out County | Out State |
|---------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| CLP     | 122       | 76         | 29        |
| BW      | 172       | 76         | 63        |
| MG      | 79        | 97         | 121       |
| LSP     | 150       | 243        | 93        |
| Total   | 523       | 492        | 306       |
| Total % | 40%       | 37%        | 23%       |

### \$ totals for camping FY 22/23

| FY 22/23      | BW              | LSP             | MG              | CLP             | Totals          |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| July          | \$1,200         | \$5,595         | \$1,815         | \$1,485         | \$10,095        |
| Aug.          | \$1,815         | \$3,975         | \$1,920         | \$2,865         | \$10,575        |
| Sept.         | \$2,790         | \$4,860         | \$1,785         | \$2,565         | \$12,000        |
| Oct.          | \$1,095         | \$2,010         | \$1,095         | \$615           | \$4,815         |
| Nov.          | \$675           | \$0             | \$0             | \$0             | \$675           |
| April         | \$540           | \$735           | \$2,985         | \$1,380         | \$5,640         |
| May           | \$2,295         | \$4,260         | \$5,805         | \$1,290         | \$13,650        |
| June          | \$2,490         | \$7,845         | \$3,345         | \$1,785         | \$15,465        |
| <b>Totals</b> | <b>\$12,900</b> | <b>\$29,280</b> | <b>\$18,750</b> | <b>\$11,985</b> | <b>\$72,915</b> |

### Account Balances Ending FY 22/23

Reap..... \$5,116.21  
 Wetland.....\$0  
 Donations..... \$3,850.00  
 Duncan..... \$79,949.77  
 SEP..... \$4,162.59  
 Cons. Reserve  
 IA Code 350.6.... \$3,156.95

Total camping fees collected.....\$72,915.00  
 15 shelter rentals at \$25.00.....\$375.00  
 Total revenue FY 22/23.....\$72,915.00

### **Law Enforcement Activities:**

- Took calls about hunting, fishing, and park regulations
- Operated under the Wayne County Sheriff's office
- County Officers patrolled each park
- In certain situations where law enforcement is needed, we called the sheriff's office
- Work with IDNR officer, for Wayne and Lucas County, Kyle Jensen on all hunting, fishing, and game matters
  - o Wildlife removal from roadways
  - o Wildlife disposal

### **Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance:**

- Performed routine maintenance on all mowers and equipment as necessary
  - o Change oil
  - o Change air filters
  - o Change gas filters
  - o Run correct air pressure in tires
  - o Check hydro oil
- Changed blades on mowers
- Sharpen mower blades
- Repaired mowers as needed
- Performed routine maintenance on trucks as necessary
  - o Oil changes
- Repaired trucks as needed (Front end White Ford)
- Kept updated gas log
- Keep updated mileage log in trucks
- Purchased a new mower (G2)
- Maintained hand tools
  - o Update as needed
- Maintenance tractor as needed
- 4 new tires on the White Ford
- Tire rod end and ball joints repaired on the White Ford
- Replaced pump on East gas barrel

### **Public**

- Monthly board meeting
- See Naturalist yearly report
- Work with Stacey, Corydon City Clerk to acquire old trash cans for use in parks
- Try to work with Rodger Gipple on land transaction by Bobwhite
- Attended back to school breakfast with Diane and Ashleigh promoting conservation
- Attempting to see Reap committee together
- Work with Amber and Stacey on new playground at Corydon Lake Park
- Participate in supervisor meetings to explain budget amendment and new budget for conservation
- Hosted community work day for students from Wayne Community School at the Corydon Lake Park
- End of year activities for Mormon Trail students at Lakeside Park
  - o Kayaking
  - o Fishing
  - o Water safety
  - o Archery
- Take on community service workers to work off hours
- Issued fuel wood permits to the public
- Met with George Antoniou from IDNR about Bobwhite Lake renovation
- Work with Stacey and Jared from the City of Corydon on tree removal from Corydon Lake Park
- Assist with Civil War Reenactment

### **Continuing Education:**

- Attended Winterfest in January of 2023
  - o Continuing education
  - o Attended RT-130 fire training sessions
  - o Keynote address Matt Stutzman; armless archer and Paralympic medalist
- Ashleigh attended the Roadside conference
  - o Networked with people from other counties and departments across the state
  - o Learned how Minnesota conducts their roadside burns
  - o Learned about native pollinators and ways to use this in programs
- Kenny attended and completed the IDNR CWD Ambassador program

### **Office:**

- Input claims in Excel
  - o Started new system to track claims/budget
- Filed claims
- Read e-mails
- Input camp receipts
- Took phone calls
- Cleaned office
- Maintain Facebook page
- Open mail and bills
- Filed copies of claims sent to courthouse
- Wrote up claims list
- Wrote up claims to submit to courthouse for payment
- Work on agenda for board meeting
- Took phone calls for shelter reservations
- Put information in together for board meetings
- Worked on budget for the next fiscal year
- Worked on timesheets promptly
- Kept updated logs for what was done that day
- Retrieved claims from courthouse for board meetings
- Post board meeting agenda outside office
- File and save information on computer
- Print off bills from e-mails
- Input camping receipts into computer
- Attend department head/safety meetings
- Work with Auditors Office
- Work with Recorders Office
- Work with Treasurers Office
- Make calls to turn on and off power and water with said entities according to season
- Work with State Auditors
- Welcomed supervisor Don Seams to first meeting as a board member for the Conservation in February to replace Tom Swearingin
- Update and return capital asset sheets to insurance company
- Received different printer from Auditor's Office

## Naturalist:

- Ashleigh worked full time with Wayne County Conservation
- Put on public programs at each park
- Provided programs at the Seymour, Wayne, and Mormon Trail elementary schools
- Provided programs at Corydon, Seymour, and Humeston libraries
- Maintained Honeybees and extracted honey
- Assisted with Maintenance and Office
- Attended Roadside Conference

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Monarch Tagging       | LB   |
| Fishing               | BW, CLP                                    |
| Snakes                | MT, S, W, CL, SL, HL, BW, MG, CLP, LSP, MP |
| Kayaking              | BW, LSP, CL, SL, HL, LB, CLP, MC, LR       |
| Fall Leaves           | MP   |
| Camp or Treat/cookoff | BW   |
| Mammals               | MP   |
| Turtle                | BW   |
| Birdfeeder            | CLP, BW, MG, MP, SL, HL, CL, FB Live       |
| Insect Study          | MG   |
| Seed Bombs            | WCF  |
| Furs                  | WCF, MP                                    |
| Honey Harvest         | BW   |
| Honeybees             | MP   |
| Pond Study            | LB, CLP                                    |
| Hike                  | BW   |
| Frogs                 | AWF  |
| Dutch Oven            | BW, MG                                     |
| Snake Feeding         | FB Live                                    |
| Pollinator            | Centerville Presbyterian                   |
| MHC/Maple Syrup       | FB Live                                    |
| Recycled Paper        | CL, HL, CL, MP                             |
| Biomes                | MT, S, W, SL, HL, CL                       |
| Desert                | MT, S, W, SL, HL, CL                       |

|                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Tundra           | MT, S, W, SL, HL, CL |
| Grasslands       | MT, S, W, SL, HL, CL |
| Forests/MHC      | MT, S, W, SL, HL, CL |
| Aquatics         | MT, S, W, SL, HL, CL |
| Endanger/Extinct | MT, S, W, SL, HL, CL |
| Starlab          | S                    |
| Survival Skills  | LSP                  |
| Fishing/Habitat  | LSP                  |
| Archery          | LSP                  |
| Bird Call Bingo  | SL, CL, HL           |
| Nature Journal   | SL, CL, HL           |
|                  |                      |

## Monthly Participants

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| July         | 50           |
| August       | 248          |
| September    | 716          |
| October      | 778          |
| November     | 722          |
| December     | 684          |
| January      | 736          |
| February     | 1,011        |
| March        | 722          |
| April        | 808          |
| May          | 223          |
| June         | 152          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>6,850</b> |

MT – Mormon Trail

S – Seymour

W- Wayne

MP – Murphy's Place

AWF – Allerton World Fair

MG – Moore-Gosch

BW – Bobwhite

CLP – Corydon Lake Park

LSP – Lakeside Park

WCF – Wayne County Fair

CHS – Corydon Head Start

SL – Seymour Library

CL – Corydon Library

HL – Humeston Library

LB – Leah Bradley

MC – Medicine Creek

LR – Little River

MHC – Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches

## Maintenance:

### Spring/Summer:

- Open parks
  - o Open bathhouses
- Board meetings
- Beach monitoring with ISU
  - o Water quality testing
- Mow/burn plot areas off
- Burn prairie for prairie restoration @ BW
- Burn CLP dam
- Burn brush piles @ BW & LSP
- Plant/drill food plots
- Bush hog entrances and parking @ MCWA
- Plant ½ food plot of winter wheat @ MCWA
- Work with Mark Flammang, IDNR, aquatic spraying of lake @ CLP
- Round 2 of building sinking fish structures @ CLP
- Work with IDNR, Kyle Jensen
- Burn and compost leaves
- Change boundary signs that have been shot
- Maintain mowers
- Mow all parks
  - o Usually 26 – 30 times per season depending on weather
- Trim all parks
- Spray all parks
- Spray campground pads
- Mow lake shores w/ side cutter
- Mow dams w/ side cutter
- Mow roadways and trails w/ side cutter and bush hog
- Mow MCWA entrance
  - o Field entrances for parking and dead-end road
- Fill trucks up when needed
- Oil change on trucks when needed
- Clean, repair, maintain all shower houses
- Clean/open shower houses in spring
- Load firewood in the box in the campground
- Fill pot holes in @ campgrounds
- Clean, maintain, rent out shelters in all parks
  - o Weddings
  - o Family reunions
  - o Graduations.... etc.
- Pick up trash @ all parks
- Primp all parks for special weekends, yearly festivals
  - o Old settlers
  - o Bordertown days
  - o Watermelon days
  - o Wayne Co. Fair
  - o Allerton World Fair
  - o Memorial Weekend
  - o 4<sup>th</sup> of July
  - o Labor Day Weekend
  - o Haunted Forest
  - o Easter
  - o Mother/Father's Day
- Clean vehicles, shop & equipment
- Clean the parks up after storm damage
- Set up booth @ County Fair
- Maintain kayaks and kayak trailer
- Received new mower
  - o Traded off G2 and place leaf bagger on G3
- Tapped Red Maple tree
  - o Yielded about 2 quarts
- All staff certified RT 130 burn certification at Winterfest
- Installed 2 new security cameras @ BW shop
- Repaired septic tank @ CLP
- Blue algae kill @ LSP
  - o 90% of fish lost
  - o Work with IDNR to restock fish @ LSP
- Ordered new laptop
- Marked 200 trees for removal @ CLP
- Gommatt picked up the Green Ford to put in a new transmission
- Hired Steve Benjamin to take Ron Guthrie's spot while he is out
- Front end work done on Green Ford (Nate's)
- Cleaned and fixed trash cans
  - o Distributed to all parks
- Turn water and utilities on in all parks for camping season



## Maintenance Continued:

### Fall/Winter:

- Fill out fuel wood agreements for cutting in BW, CLP, and LSP
- Close parks
- Winterize all shower houses
- Burn brush piles
- Cut hazard trees
- Cut and split firewood to sell at CG
- Worked on and submitted budget
- Fall burn
- Annual report
- Continuing education
- Build tables
- Repair tables
- Winterize trucks, tractors, mowers
- Winterize @ shop
- Clean fire rings
- Blade snow
- Shovel snow
- Work on ice removal
- Board meetings
- Clean shop
- Work in campgrounds, weather permitting
- Trickle charge batteries
- Move equipment inside for the winter
  - o Storage building @ LSP
  - o Back shop @ BW
- Inventory
- Put gates up at BW campgrounds to close campgrounds
- Work with IDNR, Helga Offenburger
  - o Fall hunt at BW
- Maintain chainsaws
- Fill trucks up when needed
- Oil change on trucks when needed
- Follow IDNR hazard tree cutting protocol
- Cutting every ash tree that the ash bore has killed in every park
- Planted 12 new trees at MG
- Turn off water and utilities at all parks for winter

### Future Park Plans:

1. Groom parks to meticulous standards
2. Continue tree cutting @ all parks regarding Ash Trees
3. MCWA dam project
  - a. Finished
  - b. Working w/ IDNR to restock
4. Food plots @ MCWA
  - a. Establish sunflowers for annual growth
  - b. Establish food plots
5. Provide excellent outdoor activities for local and non-local residents
6. Opportunities for the schools
7. Expand the kayak program
8. Continue working with IDNR for the lake at CLP
  - a. Water quality
  - b. Fish habitat
9. Work with ISU for beach monitoring at BW
10. Maintain all areas of the parks
11. Keep working w/ schools and the community via naturalist programs
12. Get CLP looking more like the other county parks with more grass growth and tree cutting programs
13. Cut 200 or more trees at CLP
14. Work with IDNR with herd reduction of bow hunting at BW
15. Work with IDNR with restocking fish population at the MCWA
16. Put in a new electric and water line at CLP
17. New playground @ CLP by the South Shelter
18. Grants for a restroom by new playground @ CLP Shelter
19. Bids for new mower
20. Harvest honey from beehives
  - a. Continue with pollinator program
21. Get water and electric to southside at BW