“Improving quality of life through programs of conservation and education.”

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Your Conservation Board, FY16: Conservation Board members are county residents who have an expressed interest in conservation. They are appointed by the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors to staggered five-year terms. For more information about the roles of a Conservation Board member, contact the Executive Director (see below).

For more information about programs and activities of the Conservation Board, contact the Executive Director, Dan Cohen.

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Visit Buchanan County Conservation Board at www.buchanancountyparks.com!

Dan Cohen, Executive Director
Fontana Park, Hazleton, IA

— “Increasing our quality of life through programs of conservation and education.”
Executive Summary

The Wapsipinicon River Corridor was center of a lot of attention during the FY16 fiscal year. This is not surprising, as the corridor is recognized as only one of five state-designated Protected Waters Areas, is an Iowa Bird Conservation Area and state Water Trail, and provides the bulk of recreational opportunities and habitat in Buchanan County.

This year’s land acquisition projects are indicative of a 50-plus year strategy of protecting and enhancing a connected Wapsipinicon River Corridor for environmental quality and public outdoor recreation. The Guy Grover Timber and Tree Plantings was expanded through purchase of 15 acres that connected other public lands in Liberty Township. The Board also began efforts to acquire 110 acres as a key connection of public lands in Perry Township.

The Wapsipinicon River benefited during the state’s largest volunteer cleanup - Project AWARE. Conservation Board staff and volunteers helped plan and implement the week-long river cleanup that began in Independence and resulted in more than 30 tons of garbage removed from the river.

The Conservation Board took the lead in obtaining a consultant (INRCOG) and bringing together conservation partners and the public to develop an update of the Buchanan County Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Plan. Through this process, a county-wide needs assessment survey of residents was conducted, focus group meetings were held, and professionals were consulted. The result is a document that can be used by the county, cities, and other groups when determining conservation priorities and resources needed to get good work done.

The involvement of county residents is key to the success of conservation in Buchanan County. Indeed, conservation often is defined by the actions of people. This year set a record for the number of people engaged during environmental education programs conducted by Conservation Board staff – attendance figures surpassed 21,000! The number of acres on private lands that received conservation planting assistance through the Conservation Board also set a new record.

Every park visitor, every educational program attendee, every landowner who partners on conservation practices, and every citizen who enjoys a clean environment and nature-based outdoor recreation are key to signs of success in the efforts of dedicated Conservation Board members and staff!
The Annual Report and Long Term Planning

This Annual Report serves two roles. The report is an explanation of the projects and services provided during the Fiscal Year running from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Such a report is called for in the 1955 legislation which established the County Conservation Board system (Chapter 350 of the Code of Iowa). This report goes a step further, and indicates future objectives of the Conservation Board and its staff. It serves as an annual update of the Outdoor Recreation, Conservation, and Open Spaces Plan. These plans can be viewed online by visiting www.buchanancountyparks.com.

Conservation and Natural Resources

The USDA estimates that, from 1990 to 2013, retired CRP and other factors resulted in nearly 3,000 square miles of habitat loss for pheasants and other upland wildlife. That equates to more than an eight mile wide strip of land stretching from Council Bluffs to Davenport! Land planted to oats, hay, and wheat suffered a 28 percent loss between 2003 and 2011, as much of it was converted to row crops. Not surprisingly, many of Iowa’s rivers and lakes are considered impaired by pollutants.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources receives less than one percent of the state’s general tax appropriations, routinely ranking among the lowest states in per capita spending on environmental protection. Although the state has many plans for improving natural resources and the environment (such as the Nutrient Reduction Strategy, Wildlife Action Plan, and State Parks plans), to date, there is no reliable and sustainable funding mechanism to implement these efforts. Also, in Iowa, most landowner programs are voluntary. Therefore, conservation and natural resources rely heavily on local agencies and organizations, and an educated and motivated citizenry. The Conservation Board has a strong policy of promoting and implementing conservation practices, and protecting and enhancing natural areas.

Private Lands - Landowner Assistance

Although the Conservation Board manages 40 properties, these public lands account for less than one percent of the landscape. To a large degree, the fate of waters, wildlife, land, air, and wise use of natural resources is in the hands of private landowners and land managers. The Conservation Board is involved in promoting a knowledgeable and conservation-minded citizenry, and providing
planting equipment and services for implementing conservation practices on private land.

During the year, Conservation Board staff and equipment were used to plant a record 1,050 acres of grass and forbs, and 8,500 trees. Demand for prairie planting was so high, that staff and equipment needed to be increased. The Conservation Board Director wrote a successful grant to the Buchanan County Community Foundation on behalf of Buchanan County Pheasants Forever, and the Chapter will be purchasing a new seed drill. Staff also helped a private business get involved in conducting plantings, resulting in an additional 550 acres of habitat plantings in Buchanan County.

The most important long-term impact the Conservation Board has on private lands and the environment is through environmental education programming. Because implementing conservation practices on private land is almost always voluntary, as are people’s actions at home, an educated citizenry with an appreciation for nature and the environment is key to implementing conservation on the landscape. The Conservation Staff also continues to implement the Prairies to Schools/Prairies to Businesses Program, and advising Schools, Cities, and trails groups on ways to incorporate conservation plantings and energy considerations.

The Conservation Board also is interested in working with groups at the watershed level. This year, the Conservation Board Director attended meetings of the Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed Management Authority (WMA). The WMA is a cooperative venture among counties, cities, soil and water conservation districts, and other interested groups to address flood risk and water quality. There also has been similar work on the Cedar River Watershed.

**Public Lands - Natural Areas**

Natural areas constitute most of the public land managed by the Conservation Board. On these areas, management practices are implemented to enhance wildlife habitat, maintain unique natural features, including healthy forests, prairies, wetlands, and waterways, and improve water quality. For more information about management of individual Conservation Board areas, see pages 16-26.

The Conservation Board acquired the 15-acre Kuhn Addition to the Guy Grover Timber and Tree Plantings. The acquisition was made possible through contributions from Buchanan County Pheasants Forever, Tri-Rivers Waterfowlers, Buchanan County Wildlife Association, and Whitetails Unlimited. It connected the east side of the area to the river, and to other public lands in the Liberty Township portion of the Wapsipinicon River Corridor.
The Wapsipinicon River Corridor is recognized as one of Iowa’s most important areas for wildlife habitat and public recreation, and is a Conservation Board top priority for protection and enhancement. Efforts also were underway to acquire a 110-acre area of the Corridor in Perry Township that is viewed as a key connection point for public lands in Black Hawk and Buchanan counties.

Conservation Board staff once again targeted forest enhancement efforts at the recently acquired Iron Bridge Woodland, which has endured flooding that led to some tree loss and invasive weeds. Trees also were planted in reforestation areas at Cortright Wildlife Area, Jakway Forest, and Fontana Park. More than 700 trees were planted.

Burn management on grassland habitat was conducted on 17 burn management areas, comprising more than 120 acres. A night burn was conducted as public education program, and drew lots of attention. Mechanical removal of invading woody vegetation also was used in several prairie areas.

A new sunflower food plot was planted at Crumbacher Wildlife Area in the spring, and the area should provide good opportunities for dove hunting in September. The area is prone to being wet, so future plantings may be hit-and-miss.

Invasive species are of special concern throughout Iowa, as they supplant native species and greatly reduce habitat diversity. Some of the more prevalent species in Buchanan County public lands include Reed’s canary grass, garlic mustard, crown vetch, multiflora rose, Canada thistle, and buckthorn. The Conservation Department worked hard to eradicate or reduce these species, and to nurture establishment of native plants and wildlife. Pulling, spraying, and mowing were regularly used in problem areas. Some of the bigger invasive species problems are identified for individual Conservation Board areas on pages 16-24.

To address needs of nesting bluebirds, wood ducks, and bats, more than 100 nest boxes are maintained and monitored throughout conservation areas. Staff began compiling data collected from nest box monitoring and made some recommendations to change the location of some boxes.

The Conservation Board continues to promote the Wapsipinicon River Water Trail. A new effort was undertaken to better sign the Water Trail Accesses. Planning also began for an update of the existing trail brochure. During the past decade there has been a notable increase in demand for water access on the Wapsie. This is especially apparent at access from Independence to Quasqueton. Conservation Board staff partnered with Iowa DNR professionals and local stakeholders to plans to improve access and traffic flow
at the Iron Bridge Access and Veteran’s memorial Park in Quasqueton. Landscape architecture drawings and cost estimates were developed, and funding opportunities are being sought.

Great attention was given to the Wapsipinicon River in July. Iowa DNR coordinated the 2015 Project AWARE statewide cleanup for the Wapsipinicon River, starting in Independence. More than 30 tons of trash were removed from the river, most of which was recycled. Conservation Board staff helped plan and promote the event, and conducted educational sessions.

**Future Objectives – Private Lands & Public Natural Areas**

- Continue timber stand improvement at Jakway and Fontana Parks, and enhance new forest management plantings at Iron Bridge Woodlands and the southwest corner of Crumbacher Wildlife Area.
- Give acquisition priority to areas as per the Conservation Board’s policy.
- Acquire the 110-acre property currently in the Harris Estate.
- Address increased demand for landowner planting assistance.
- Monitor fish populations at Koutny Pond, Fontana Park, and Grover Pond.
- Work with USF&WS to replace the intake at Koutny Pond and develop an improved draw down water control for the marsh.
- Conduct prairie and timber burns as per a burn schedule. Use mechanical removal to rid prairie areas of woody plants.
- Continue to offer the Prairies to Schools/Prairies to Businesses Program.
- Continue nest box, monarch, frog and toad, bald eagle nesting and other wildlife monitoring.
- Continue to address invasive species problems, especially the following:
  - Crown vetch at the Hodges and North Wildlife Area;
  - Thistles and woody plants at the Crumbacher Area;
  - Garlic mustard at Jakway Forest, Putty Root, Wehner Woods, and Schneider-Heinick-Rowe;
  - Honeysuckle at Fontana Park and Wehner Woods;
  - Buckthorn at Jakway Forest and Newton Township Area.
  - Water milfoil and brittle niaid at Kounty Pond.
- Obtain funding to implement improvements plans for Iron Bridge Access.
- Conduct, organize, or promote volunteer river and parks cleanups.
- Continue efforts to rehabilitate the Buffalo Creek Area as a wildlife area and roadside park.
- Maintain a sunflower/wildlife food plot at Crumbacher Wildlife Area.
- Provide technical and program support for the Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed Management Authority.
**Parks and Recreation**

Of the Conservation Board’s 40 managed areas, some are considered parks where a significant portion of the area is maintained for picnicking, camping, and/or other facility-oriented activities.

Efforts were made to improve visitor experiences in the popular Fontana Park Wildlife Display. For decades, a boardwalk path provided access to view the animals. The boardwalks would become slippery when wet or if covered with frost. Snow removal was a problem. In spring, Conservation Board staff removed the old boardwalks and the system was replaced with concrete sidewalks. In addition to providing better footing and ease of snow removal, the new walkways are better for wheelchair use.

Plans also were drawn for a new winter animals building, to house waterfowl, rabbits, and some birds of prey during cold weather months. The building will provide better space for conducting animal care and storing feed and equipment. There will be improved public viewing of the live animals in winter and educational displays about wildlife during the warm season when the animals are in outside enclosures. Friends of Fontana Park has made the project a priority for fundraising, and a grant was obtained from the Buchanan County Community Foundation.

Fontana Park is the most visited county area. More than two-thirds of all county residents, and many non-county residents, visit the park each year. The Fontana Interpretive Nature Center is among the most popular attractions. The Fontana Interpretive Nature Center received some operational upgrades, including new geothermal furnace replacements, deck replacement, and exterior doors. Exhibits were periodically changed to address new messages and the needs of repeat visitors, as per an Exhibit Plan.

The Trails through Jakway Forest were opened up and GPS’d as part of a new trials plan. Several trail loops were identified and new wayfinding signs were developed and installed to help users navigate through the county’s largest upland forest. Interpretive signs will be added to the Timber Management Loop to help educate people about ongoing forest management. Also, at Jakway, the Richardson-Jakway Historic Site received attention with a new coat of paint in the House interior.

As part of a mitigation agreement, a new handicap accessible fishing pier with step and sidewalk access was developed at the Otter Creek Wildlife Area near Hazleton. Work was completed through a contract administered by Buchanan County Secondary Roads.

Efforts continued to develop and improve longer-distance trails. Plans for a trail along the west side of Fontana Park to County Road C57 - creating a loop to the City of Hazleton was sidelined due to lack of support along some private land. The Conservation Board staff assisted Black Hawk County Conservation Board in an effort to resurface a segment of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail in Buchanan County, near Brandon, and to develop a trailhead in Brandon.
Conservation Board staff developed the trailhead design. The project was fully funded with successful grants from the DOT’s Statewide Enhancement Program, the Wellmark Foundation, and Buchanan County Community Foundation. Wayfinding signs also were placed on county roads and I-380 – directing people to the trailhead in Brandon. The project will promote trail use and the City of Brandon. Efforts also are underway to find funds to eventually pave the remaining non-paved segments of the Trail.

A mountain bike trail was developed at Three Elms Area. Conservation Board staff partnered with a group of Trails Association volunteers to install directional signs and designated the trail. Volunteers entered into an agreement to maintain the trails, and the grand opening event was conducted in May.

**Future Park Development Objectives**

- Place a latrine at Three Elms Area.
- Provide new nature center displays, as per the exhibit plan.
- Continue grooming ski trails at several parks and natural areas.
- Continue to partner with Black Hawk County Conservation Board to provide improvements to the Cedar Valley Nature Trail segment in Buchanan County.
- Consider a policy change to allow ATVs and UTVs to access park roads and parking lots.
- Continue cooperative efforts for a regional park concept along the Cedar Valley Nature Trail.
- Consider water supply at Lime Creek should rural water service be offered.
- Consider upgrades to Jakway and Lime Creek to 50-amp service.
- Provide electricity to the tractor shed at Jakway.
- Consider campground development at Koutny Pond.
- Place interpretive signs along the Timber Management trail at Jakway Forest.
- Develop a new plan for the future use of the Buffalo Creek Area.
- Consider improvements for the historic Iron Bridge at the Iron Bridge Access. Include a latrine at Iron Bridge Access in plans for improved use.
- After five years of cabin use experience, evaluate use and potential for more cabins.
- Construct a new winter animals building at Fontana Park.
- Obtain additional space for equipment storage and maintenance.
- Obtain property at the entrance to Fontana Park to better sign the entrance and provide a more appealing greeting to park visitors.
- Replace the roof on the East Shelter, and within a few years replace the roof on the Main Shelter.
- Replace old playground equipment with new equipment at Fontana Park.
Environmental Education

(For more EE Program statistics, see Appendix C on page 35.)

Environmental education (EE) is an important strategy used by the Conservation Board to provide information and experiences that allow people to make more informed personal choices regarding conservation practices, natural resources protection, and environmental health. In a landscape dominated by private lands and interests, informed choices made by environmentally literate citizens will determine the future of Iowa’s water, air, wildlife, and wild places. Demand for education programs, especially through area schools, remains strong. To address the incredible need for local education and recreation programs, the Conservation Board employs two full-time naturalists.

This year’s participation in EE programming hit a new record. More than 1,000 programs were presented to more than 21,000 participants. Programming to area youth has been the main emphasis of the EE Program. In addition to meeting the need to interact with youth, the program strives to reach adults and families. More than half of all programs are primarily held outdoors as part of the strategic effort to get people outside. In addition to the many presentations, EE staff also work on displays, media outreach, and other park interpretation.

School Programs

There were 866 presentations by Conservation Board staff delivered to students from area schools throughout the year (pre-school through college). Attendance was 16,940. Both outdoor field trips and in-class programs were offered on various topics related to EE program goals and teachers’ curricula. Emphasis is placed on getting youth outdoors. Most field trips are to Fontana Park, although students also visit other county parks (indicated in park listings on pages 17-26). Naturalists meet with teachers to make sure presentations meet curriculum needs. The National Archery in the Schools Program gained more participation, and local students competed locally and nationally. Spring and fall are especially busy times for programs delivered.
to schools, limited only by availability of Conservation Department staff.

**Youth and Camp Programs**

Eighty-nine presentations were made to youth groups, including scout, 4-H, library, and church groups, as well as youth enrolled in BCCB camps. Youth progressed from preschool participants in the Wee Nature Tales (ages 3-5), to the Nature Explorers (ages 6-8), and on to Young Naturalists (ages 9-12). Youth also participated in a series of Extreme Outdoor Adventures and a River Raiders overnight canoe trip. A cooperative effort with Buchanan County 4-H helped get more youth involved in an “Earth, Too Clover Kids” 4-H Club.

**Public Programs and Adult Education**

Environmental education does not stop with youth. There were 115 programs were offered during the year for families and adult participation. Of these, 55 programs were requested by civic groups, senior centers, and nursing homes. Sixty programs were advertised to the general public. These programs were on a variety of topics related to environmental education goals. A Buchanan County Community Foundation Grant was received to help provide materials for a series of programs to teach people food preservation techniques. The Conservation Board also promoted and provided meeting space for the Fontana Herb Society.

**Interpretive Resources**

In addition to in-person programs, educational efforts include publications, self-guided trails, displays, web sites, and other media. More than 9,500 people signed the Nature Center guest book during the year. Since its inception, the Nature Center has drawn visitors from all 50 states and more than 70 foreign countries. The Nature Center and Wildlife Displays continue to be very popular. These displays require a lot of upkeep and enhancement, and receive financial support from the nonprofit group Friends of Fontana Park. An outdoor kiosk display was changed with the seasons. A new interpretive kiosk designed by Conservation Board staff was placed at a new Cedar Valley Nature Trail trailhead in Brandon. Other interpretive resources included four issues of the Otter Creek Quarterly, maintenance of web sites (buchanancountyparks.com, mycountyparks.com, and www.tripadvisor.com), and maintaining a Facebook page and conservation listserve. Work is underway on a new Wapsipinicon River Water Trail brochure and interpretive trail signs for Jakway Forest.

**Future Objectives for Environmental Education**

- Disseminate program information and provide teacher inservice training.
- Work with PE teachers, Archery in the School classes, youth leaders, etc. to get more participation in outdoor programming, especially for older youth.
- Coordinate and promote field trips to conservation board or other outdoor areas, with the objective of participation by every Buchanan County elementary school classroom.
Engage youth and adult groups in special projects such as cleanups, water testing, invasive species removal etc.

Provide issues instruction, with an objective of one 6-12th grade level participating at each county school annually.

Coordinate and promote field trips to the Richardson-Jakway Historic Site, with the objective of participation of at least one 4th-8th grade level from each school.

Promote and evaluate the use of “nature play” areas.

Host at least one educator training at the nature center annually.

Make reference materials and activity guides available to teachers, and advertise this availability.

Conduct one or more public service learning programs, such as cleanups and invasive species removal annually.

Offer at least 24 programs per year for participation by the general public.

Offer summer educational/recreational programs for pre-school and school age children.

Conduct Outdoor Adventures type programming for 7-12 graders.

Offer public programs annually that bring people to outlying parks.

Better promote Conservation Board sponsored programs through media, postings, and contact with various groups.

Host at least one educator training at the nature center annually.

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Offer at least 24 programs per year for participation by the general public.

Offer summer educational/recreational programs for pre-school and school age children.

Conduct Outdoor Adventures type programming for 7-12 graders.

Offer public programs annually that bring people to outlying parks.

Better promote Conservation Board sponsored programs through media, postings, and contact with various groups.

Offer adult-oriented programs on in-depth conservation topics annually, such as those presented as Master Conservationist and Master River Stewards, at least biannually.

Publish the Otter Creek Quarterly

Make meaningful changes in nature center displays at least semi-annually, as per the Exhibit Plan. Make use of traveling displays and on-loan exhibits as periodic display features, at least annually.

Make quarterly updates to the outdoor kiosk near the playground at Fontana Park. Consider placement of a second kiosk.

Develop interpretive signs for the Jakway Timber Management Trail.

Support and educate the public about the REAP Program and the Iowa’s Water and Land Legacy.

Maintain strong Conservation Board web site presence. Use the web site to interact with school groups, the public, and other users.

Maintain databases and use in targeting programs and events.

Conservation Volunteers

(Volunteers are listed in Appendix D)

Volunteers are an important part of Conservation Board programs and activities, providing both physical assistance and visible public support. Since its opening in 1994, volunteers have been instrumental to nature center operations. Nature center volunteers act as receptionists, and assist in preparation of newsletter mailings, which are assembled by volunteers at the Independence Senior Center. Since its organization in 1994, Nature center receptionist volunteers have donated 11,648 hours of service. At the current basic minimum hourly wage of $7.25, the total dollar value of this service is $84,449. This year, 25 nature center receptionist volunteers contributed 770 hours!

Nature Center receptionists are just one area of the Conservation Volunteers Program. There are 18 areas in which people may volunteer. During the year, more than 100 volunteers monitored nest boxes, developed and maintained herb and landscape plantings,
conducted cleanups, served as campground hosts, helped with educational programs, helped with mailings, fundraised with Friends of Fontana Park and the Richardson-Jakway Foundation, prepared rain barrels for a rain barrel workshop, picked up litter, and helped with the Project Aware river cleanup. Volunteers were recognized during a spring luncheon, which drew approximately 60 participants. A March Volunteer Training was conducted to recruit new volunteers and provide refresher training for current volunteers.

**Future Volunteer Program Objectives**
- Better distribute the Volunteers brochure.
- Host a Volunteer Recognition event.
- Recruit more nature center receptionists and campground hosts.
- Better communicate the volunteer program in media.
- Continue using volunteers as much as possible in the 18 areas of need.

**Board and Staff Development**

The Buchanan County Conservation Board functions as a corporate body, making group policy decisions regarding facilities, natural resource areas, development of recreation areas, environmental education, and other departmental policy. Conservation Board policies are implemented by the Executive Director, who is responsible to the Board. Other staff are hired by the Executive Director with Board approval, and are directly responsible to the Executive Director. Buchanan County Conservation Board members, with the expiration dates of their terms, are listed to the right.

The Conservation Board conducted a Strategic Planning Retreat in February. During this important meeting, Board members discussed Conservation Board mission, goals, objectives, and future plans for parks, natural areas, and the environmental education program. In March, the Board conducted a Field Day to visit some of the parks and natural areas under its management policies. Some Board members attended the Iowa Association of County Conservation Board Annual Conference held in Linn County.

Conservation Department staff are encouraged to further their professional development. Park rangers and technicians kept current on all necessary chemical applicator and Mine Safety Health Administration certifications, as required. Two staff prepared for more certification training. Field staff attended the Iowa Association of County Conservation Board Employees annual training. Park rangers attended County Conservation Peace Officer Association (CCPOA) trainings. Naturalists attended workshops and training provided by the Iowa Association of Naturalists (IAN) and Iowa Conservation Education Coalition (ICEC). The Director attended meetings and training provided by the IACCB, IACCB, Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC), County Conservation Directors Association, and attended regular Safety Committee, Department Heads, and Trails Association meetings. The Director served on the ISAC Legislative CoSTAR Committees.

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**Conservation Board Term Expirations**

- Patricia Fencl, 12/31/16
- Andy Crump, 12/31/17
- Loren Hamilton, 12/31/18
- Ronnie Wolfe, 12/31/19
- Karen Stephenson, 12/31/20

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Staff Roster

There was one change in regular fulltime staff during the year. Conservation Technician Karen Ott resigned and Michael Maas was hired to fill the vacancy. Employee names and start dates of employment are shown below.

Fulltime Staff
Dan Cohen, Director.......................................................... 1/13/86
Mike Van Raden, Park Ranger........................................... 7/1/90
Jeremy Whittle, Park Ranger.............................................. 8/14/06
Chris Hansen, Conservation Technician.............................. 5/15/00
Michael Maas, Conservation Technician............................ 11/9/15
Karen Ott, Conservation Technician................................. 9/01/03 - 9/15/15
Sondra Cabell, Naturalist................................................... 5/30/01
Angela Auel, Naturalist..................................................... 8/9/10

Part time and Seasonal Staff
Elaine Walker, Office Manager.......................................... 2/17/10
Diane Johnson, Secretary/Volunteer Coordinator............... 10/10/12
Katherine Cantin, Naturalist Intern................................. 5/15/15 - 8/15/16
Dalton Koch, Seasonal Cons. Tech........................................ 5/9/16
Ben Milius, Seasonal Cons. Tech........................................ 5/11/15 - 8/22/15
Dakota Popp, Seasonal Naturalist Intern......................... 5/23/16

Conservation Board Background

County conservation boards are agencies of county government created by statute (Chapter 350.1 of the Code of Iowa). They have broad policy-making responsibilities in the area of local conservation, education, and recreation programs. Conservation boards are relatively autonomous, and control all properties and set the direction for conservation programs. Conservation boards address diverse matters for parks, preserves, museums, recreation, wildlife management, and education.

The Conservation Board consists of five county residents, appointed to staggered, five-year terms by the Board of Supervisors. Members of the Board are appointed on the basis of their demonstrated interest in conservation matters, and serve without pay.
Buchanan County Conservation Board Meetings
With the exception of the December meeting (held at Bill’s Restaurant in Independence), all regular monthly Conservation Board meetings were held in the Board Meeting Room of the Fontana Interpretive Nature Center. Special meetings were called for time sensitive reasons and were held at the Independence Public Library. Board meetings were tentatively scheduled for 6 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month, unless a conflict occurred that required a change in meeting date. All meetings were posted and open to the public.

Future objectives
• Conduct a Board Member Strategic Planning Retreat.
• Adopt an Updated of the Conservation Board’s Long-term Plan.
• Conduct an annual Board Field Day
• Attend the IACCB Annual Conference and Spring meeting.
• Assist in planning statewide and regional training workshops.
• Maintain a minimum of 24 hours of professional development for fulltime staff, and 20 hours for board members.
• Work to retain quality and dedicated staff.

Buchanan County Conservation at a Glance

Facilities
Total number of areas managed....................................................... 40
Total acres managed........................................................................ 2,973
River accesses (with designated ramps)............................................. 5
Lakes/ponds/reservoirs with fish....................................................... 5
River/stream fishing......................................................................... 22
Areas open to hunting...................................................................... 28
Modern campgrounds...................................................................... 3
Primitive campgrounds................................................................... 3
Number of picnic shelters................................................................. 10
Shower houses.................................................................................. 2
Group campgrounds........................................................................ 1
Hard surface trail............................................................................. 1
Interpretive trails............................................................................. 2
Hiking/walking trails....................................................................... 14
Ski trails.......................................................................................... 2
Nature center................................................................................... 1
Live wildlife displays...................................................................... 1
Historical interpretation centers...................................................... 1

Visitors and participation (FY16)
Nature center visitor signatures in Guest Book.......................... 9,548
Fontana campground users............................................................. 2,010
Jakway campground users............................................................ 631
Lime Creek campground users..................................................... 281
Participants in environmental education programs............... 21,595
Areas and Facilities

The following are descriptions of Conservation Board areas and facilities, and a brief account of highlighted activities during the past year. Not described are routine maintenance activities such as mowing, maintaining roads and fences, janitorial and cleanup, patrolling, administration, and public relations.

Conservation Board Areas (key)
A – Location; C – Current Management
B – Acquisition D – Major Activity During the Year

1. Fontana Park - 134 acres
A. Fontana Park is located one mile south of Hazleton, off Highway 150.
B. The original 128 acres were acquired in 1959, and since that time Fontana has been the base of operations and the location of administrative offices for the Conservation Board. An additional six acres were added in 1998 with the donation of the Jarrett Slater addition.
C. Fontana Park offers modern and primitive camping, two cabins, a shower house, a live animal display, woodland, a prairie plot, three picnic shelters, chapel area, interpretive and ski trails, hard surface and soft trails, stream and lake fishing, Conservation Board offices, educational plantings, and the Fontana Interpretive Nature Center (the Nature Center has drawn visitors from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and many foreign countries). Management practices relate to visitor use, park and recreation area development, wildlife exhibit, educational and recreational programming, natural areas management, and administrative offices.
D. New sidewalks were installed to replace an old boardwalk system around the wildlife display. Plans were drawn for a new winter animals building to replace the shed that currently attempts to function for this purpose. Grant funds and donor dollars were sought, and a grant was approved from Buchanan County Community Foundation. New doors and geothermal furnaces were installed to replace old units. Tree plantings were maintained in areas of the woodland that were most devastated from the 2008 tornado, and where canopy seed trees did not exist. Fontana Park continues to be the largest visitor draw for the Conservation Board, and the place that introduces citizens to Conservation Board facilities and programs. Fontana Park was the main destination for school and other youth field trips. Nest boxes were maintained.

2. Jakway Forest - 315 acres
A. Located 1 1/2 miles south of Aurora off W45.
C. Managed for modern and primitive camping, picnicking, public hunting, interpretive trails, equestrian riding, hiking, ski trails; disc golf, and a historic site. Ongoing Timber Stand Improvement (TSI): 100-year rotation on approximately 200 acres of timber. Contains shower house with modern restrooms, a storm shelter, dump station, disc golf course, two pit latrines, wildlife observation blind, picnic shelter, staff residence, heritage plantings, and the Richardson-Jakway Historic Site.
D. A new trail design was developed and wayfinding signs were placed in the large forest area. Interpretive signs are planned for the main trail, on the topic of woodland management. Finishing work was done to the

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disc golf course. Two pioneer suppers were held as fundraisers for the Richardson-Jakway Historic Site. School field trips and other programs were conducted on topics of Iowa history, trees/forestry, crayfish, and photography. Buckthorn, garlic mustard, and multiflora rose are the main invasive species concern in the timber, and efforts were made to control these species. Nest boxes were maintained.

3. **Buffalo Creek Area - 81.5 acres**
   A. Located one mile East of Winthrop off HWY D22.
   B. Acquired in 1961. In 1998, 1.5 acres on the east side were donated by Dr. A.J. Murphy.
   C. Managed for picnicking, hiking, and public hunting. Natural areas include a bottomland woodland, ponds, and constructed prairie. Contains a pit latrine and shelter house. A walking trail is maintained around the park area and to a pond.
   D. Tree plantings were maintained and a small area was planted to prairie as efforts continued to transition the area from a mowed park to a wildlife area. The walking trail was extended. Nest boxes were maintained.

4. **Lime Creek Area - 45 acres**
   A. Located 1.5 miles northeast of Brandon.
   B. 39 acres were acquired in 1964. A six-acre addition was donated by Lime Creek Fish & Game Club in 1985.
   C. Managed for modern and primitive camping, and for public hunting during fall and winter. Natural area is managed as a riverine woodland. Contains two pit latrines, a playground, swing-set, and two shelter houses.
   D. Normal maintenance and patrolling. Nest boxes were maintained.

5. **Boies Bend Area - 26 acres**
   A. Located 1.5 miles west of Quasqueton.
   B. Acquired in 1967.
   C. Managed for primitive camping, picnicking, river fishing with stairway access, restored prairie, woodland, and public hunting. Contains a pit toilet.
   D. A management burn was conducted at the prairie.

6. **Otter Creek Roadside Park – 13 acres**
   A. One mile south of Oelwein at the intersection of Highways 150 and 281.
   B. Acquired as former FEMA buyout property in 2002 from the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors.
   C. Managed as a roadside park with walking and ski trails, picnicking, fishing, canoe access, and a savanna planting.
   D. Normal maintenance and patrolling.
7. **Cutshall Area - 85 acres**
   A. Located 4.5 miles north of Jesup off V62.
   B. Acquired in 1959.
   C. Managed for picnicking, primitive camping, and public hunting. Natural area is managed as riverine wetland and timber. Trail is maintained for a Water Trail put-in, and along the river. Contains a picnic shelter.
   D. The Board considered potential acquisition to enlarge the area. The Water Trail access was improved and better signed.

8. **Patton Prairie - 45 acres**
   A. Located southwest of Aurora off Quonset Ave.
   B. Acquired in 1998 with REAP Grant Funds
   C. Managed as a native prairie and wetland with public hunting.
   D. Three prairie management areas were burned.

9. **Otter Creek Wildlife Area - 100 acres**
   A. Located on west edge of Hazleton, adjacent to Fontana Park.
   B. Acquired 1965, 1969, 1973, and 1983 with some parcels receiving LAWCON Grant Funds and one parcel donated. In 2014, 0.137 acres were impacted during construction of a new bridge. In return, 0.161 acres was purchased by Secondary Roads to become part of the Otter Creek Wildlife Area.
   C. Managed as a nature preserve and wetland habitat with public fishing at the pier.
   D. A new handicap accessible fishing pier was constructed as part of mitigation for bridge construction. An open house grand opening for the new bridge and fishing pier were held. Nest boxes were maintained.

10. **Nibeck Nature Preserve - 55 acres**
   A. Located adjacent to the north city limits of Hazleton.
   B. Forty acres were acquired in 1981, bequeathed by Leora Nibeck. An additional 7.5 acres were purchased from Chad Dettbarn in 2013.
   C. Managed as a nature preserve.
   D. ATV use and littering are the major issues. Trash pickup is ongoing.

11. **Van Laningham Wildlife Area - 3 acres**
    A. Located 4.5 miles east and 4.5 miles north of Independence.
    B. Acquired by gift from Thurman and Veva Van Laningham in 1967.
    C. Managed for wildlife habitat.
    D. Normal maintenance and patrolling.

12. **Sand Creek Area - 80 acres**
    A. Located three miles east and three miles south of Quasqueton.
    B. Acquired in 1971.
    C. Managed for public hunting and fishing on the Wapsipinicon River. A trail is maintained from the parking area to the river.
    D. Normal maintenance and patrolling. Nest boxes were maintained.
13. **Pine Creek Area - 40 acres**
A. Located five miles southeast of Independence.
B. Acquired in 1971.
C. Managed for public hunting, fishing, and native hard maple woodland.
D. Normal maintenance and patrolling. Nest boxes were maintained.

14. **Rowley Fen - 43 acres**
A. Located 0.5 mile northwest of Rowley.
C. Managed for unique fen habitat, restored prairie, and public hunting. The area was designated an Iowa Registered Natural Area in 1986.
D. Nest boxes were monitored. The fen and prairie plantings were featured field trip stops during Project AWARE and the Iowa Prairie Conference. Nest boxes were maintained.

15. **Koutny Pond-Hoffman Woods - 106 acres**
A. Located one mile east of Brandon.
C. Managed for wildlife habitat, public hunting and fishing, two fishing jetties walk-in boat access, prairie planting, marsh, and a 12-acre lake.
D. Assistance was sought from USF&WS to retrofit the water control structure for the wetland and replace the water control intake for the lake. The Board considered complaints related to a neighbor’s field drainage. Nest boxes were monitored. Nest boxes were maintained.

16. **Mickey Fox Area - 97 acres**
A. Located five miles north of Jesup off V62.
B. Sixty acres acquired in 1960. In 2003, an additional 37.10 acres were acquired from the Melvin and Lila Anderson Estate with funding from REAP. In January, 2013, an additional 21 acres was purchased from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation which had previously purchased the land from the Johnson Estate to hold while grants were being written. Funding came largely from REAP, Buchanan County Pheasants Forever, and Buchanan County Wildlife Association.
C. Managed for public hunting, fishing, and wildlife habitat.
D. Normal maintenance and patrolling. Nest boxes were maintained.

17. **Putty Root Preserve - 17 acres**
A. Located three miles northwest of Quasqueton.
C. Managed as an old growth oak-hickory woodland preserve. The putty root orchid, for which the parcel is named, grows here.
D. Garlic mustard removal remains a priority for management.
18. Crumbacher Wildlife Area - 371 acres
A. Located 3.5 miles southwest of Independence.
B. Acquired in 1989. The first 320 acres were acquired with Habitat Stamp Grant funds. Fifty one acres were acquired with funds from Buchanan County Pheasants Forever, German Shorthair Club, and Buchanan County Wildlife Association.
C. Managed for forest, prairie, and wetland habitat, and public hunting.
D. Weed tree encroachment and other invasive species control are ongoing, labor-intensive tasks in native and reconstructed prairies. Management burns were conducted in seven management areas. One burn was conducted at night as part of a public program. Sunflower and corn food plots were planted. Nest boxes were monitored. The area was used for several school field trips for class study of habitats. Nest boxes were monitored.

A. Located two miles west of Highway 150, off the Buchanan-Benton County Line Road.
B. Acquired in 1988 with public/private cost share grant funds by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (many donors were involved) and then transferred to the Iowa DNR. The Conservation Board assumed a management agreement with the Iowa DNR in 1995.
C. Managed for preservation and enhancement of the unique sand prairie, public hunting, and nature appreciation.
D. Nest boxes were monitored. The area was a featured stop during the Iowa Prairies Conference.

20. Blazing Star Prairie - 7.5 acres
A. Located two miles east and 1 1/4 miles south of Rowley.
B. Acquired in 1987 by cooperative efforts of the Conservation Board, Buchanan County Chapter of Pheasants Forever, Buchanan County Wildlife Association, and the Cedar-Wapsi Chapter of the Lutheran Brotherhood.
C. Managed as native prairie habitat with public hunting.
D. Normal maintenance and patrolling.

21. Swartz Preserve - 4 acres
A. Located 5.5 miles east of Hazleton at the junction of C57 and W33.
B. Acquired in 1991 by conservation easement from Mr. & Mrs. Ormel Swartz.
C. Managed for wetland habitat and as a wildlife preserve.
D. Normal maintenance and patrolling.

22. Bryantsburg Prairie Preserve - 1.5 acres
A. Located two miles south of Hazleton on Highway 150.
B. Acquired in 1988 by conservation easement from Mr. & Mrs. Henry Brandt.
C. Managed as a native prairie preserve.
D. The area was used for monarch tagging and releases, and for several school field trips and public programs. Woody vegetation was cut. Parsnip was pulled.
23. Schneider-Heinick-Rowe Wildlife Area - 20 acres
A. Located three miles east and 3.5 miles south of Quasqueton.
B. Acquired in 1996 by Buchanan County Chapter of Pheasants Forever, Tri-Rivers Chapter of White Tails Unlimited, Lime Creek Fish & Game Club, Littleton Hookanliners Club, and the Buchanan County Wildlife Association.
C. Managed for woodland and wetland wildlife habitat. Some rare plants are found on the site.
D. Garlic mustard removal remains a priority for management, and truckloads of garlic mustard were removed.

24. Three Elms Area - 75 acres
A. Located one mile southeast of Independence.
B. Acquired in 1964.
C. Managed for wildlife habitat, river access, fishing, and a public archery range maintained with assistance by the Wapsi Bow Hunters. In 2015, the Buchanan County Four Seasons Trails Association partnered with the Bowhunters to allow for trail maintenance to include mountain biking, under a signed agreement with the Conservation Board. Contains a boat ramp built with Motor Boat Fuel Tax Grant funds, handicap fishing, picnic shelter, prairie plot, and porta-potties.
D. The area receives high use. Signs were installed to help manage mountain biking and archery use. A mountain bike kickoff event was held. The area was used as a starting point for several public and school field trip canoe floats. Nest boxes were monitored.

25. Frogville Access - 116 acres
A. Located three miles northwest of Troy Mills.
B. Original 96 acres acquired in 1978 with LAWCON Funds. An additional 20 acres were acquired with Wildlife Habitat Stamp Grant funds in 1997.
C. Managed for public hunting and fishing.
D. Normal maintenance and patrolling. Nest boxes were monitored.

26. Troy Mills Access - 63 acres
A. Located three miles east and 4.5 miles south of Quasqueton.
C. Managed for riverine timber, fishing, hunting, and Wapsipinicon River access. The DNR owns 11.5 acres under a long term management agreement with the Conservation Board. Camping has been allowed, although no developed campground is maintained. Contains a boat ramp.
D. There were complaints about ATV’s and other off-road vehicles, and barricades were placed. Nest boxes were monitored.

27. Wapsi River Access - 51 acres
A. Located 0.5 miles northwest of Independence.
C. Managed for picnicking, fishing, river access, and hunting. Contains a pit toilet and picnic shelter.
D. Snowmobilers use the area in winter to access the Wapsi. The prairie was burned. The area gets regular use as a roadside park, and ruts from off-road drivers is an issue. The prairie was burned. Nest boxes were monitored.
28. Iron Bridge Woodland and River Access - 34 acres
A. Located 4.5 miles northwest of Quasqueton.
B. Access acquired in 1996 from Buchanan County Secondary Roads, which manages the bridge. An additional 33 acres were acquired in 2012 from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, which had previously purchased the land from the Laverne Kress Estate. Major funding came from grants from the Wildlife Habitat Stamp Program, Buchanan County Pheasants Forever, Buchanan County Wildlife Association, Buchanan County Tri-Rivers Waterfowlers, National Wild Turkey Federation, and Iowa Whitetails Unlimited.
C. Managed for nature appreciation with public hunting, fishing, and river access, and as a historic site. Contains a boat launch constructed with a Waters Access Grant and a circa 1872 Bowstring Arch Bridge.
D. Additional trees were planted in the forest restoration area on the west side. The Wapsi River Waterfowlers placed and monitored nest boxes as volunteers. The access was used for canoe and kayak programs. The historic bridge was found to have structural damage, and was closed to pedestrian use. Plans were developed to improve traffic flow and congestion concerns, with assistance from Iowa DNR.

29. Newton Township Natural Area - 158 acres
A. Located nine miles southeast of Quasqueton.
B. Acquired with REAP Grant Funds in 1998.
C. Managed as a riverine woodland with public hunting, fishing, and canoe access to Buffalo Creek.
D. Nest boxes were monitored. Normal maintenance and management.

30. Hodges and North Wildlife Area – 66 acres
A. Located one mile south of the Jesup Highway Interchange, off V65.
C. Managed as restored prairie and wetland, with public hunting and fishing.
D. Crown vetch is the major weed problem along the pond and in the prairies, and burning and spraying is ongoing. Two prairie management areas were burned and trees were mechanically removed. Nest boxes were monitored. Litter is a problem. Geocaching and photography classes were held.

31. Buffalo Creek Wildlife Area - 52 acres
A. Located six miles south of Winthrop off W45.
B. Acquired in 1969.
C. Managed for riverine woodland habitat, public hunting, and stream fishing. The road to the Wildlife Area is managed by Secondary Roads with limited maintenance.
D. The parking area required some filling and fixing. Trees were destroyed and damaged by the neighboring landowner, who plans to help replant.

32. Hoover Area - 20 acres
A. Located three miles east and 3.5 miles south of Quasqueton.
B. Acquired in 1962.
C. Managed for wildlife habitat and public hunting.
D. The area is inundated with garlic mustard, but receives less staff attention due to higher priority areas that also require garlic mustard removal.

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33. Fairbank Fen – 41 acres
A. Located two miles east of Fairbank, a half mile off Highway 281.
B. Acquired by the Conservation Board in August, 2002, with funding from Buchanan County and State Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, Fairbank Gun Club, Buchanan County Wildlife Association, INHF and Kirkwood Wetland Students, and Hookanliners Club.
C. Managed as a prairie and wetland fen, with picnicking and public hunting.
D. A prairie management area was burned.

34. Anderson Addition to Cutshall Park – 25 acres
A. Located four miles north of Jesup, off Highway V62.
B. Purchased along with the Addition to the Mickey Fox Area on November 21, 2003 from the Lila Anderson Estate, with a REAP Grant. A donation from Buchanan County Pheasants Forever paid for a 6.5-acre prairie reconstruction.
C. Managed as river bottom timber, riverine wetlands, and restored prairie upland, with public hunting.
D. Bluebird and wood duck boxes were monitored. The prairie was burned.

35. Ham Marsh – 55 acres
A. Located four miles northwest of Independence, off Indiana Ave.
B. Purchased in 2006 from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation which had served as an intermediary in a bargain sale from the John and Maxine Ham Family. Ten acres had been protected in 1985 with a life estate agreement. These ten acres were donated to the Conservation Board, and 45 acres purchased, to secure the property.
C. Managed as a glacial wetland marsh, sedge meadow, and restored prairie, with some public hunting. A small area of hay ground is maintained for wildlife habitat and hay production for Conservation Board use.
D. The area was used for birding, monarch tagging, geocaching, and prairies programs. A prairie management area was burned. Hay ground was mowed and baled for feeding bison at Fontana Park. Educational bird programs were held.

36. Cortright Wildlife Area - 186 Acres
A. Located one mile southeast of Littleton, off River Road.
B. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) purchased 152 acres from Kevan Cortright, which the Conservation Board repurchased from INHF in 2008, with grants from the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA), REAP, Wildlife Habitat Stamp Fund, Iowa Pheasants Forever Build A Wildlife Area (BAWA) program, Iowa Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Buchanan County Wildlife Association, Buchanan County Pheasants Forever, and the Kirkwood Wetland Students. The 34-acre Hookanliner Addition was acquired from the Hookanliner Sportsmen in 2010. A REAP grant, and Buchanan County Pheasants Forever and Wildlife Association, funded the acquisition. Four acres adjacent to the southeast corner were purchase from James and Kathy Brown in 2010. Fish Habitat Grant funds paid for a river reconnection project, completed at the southeast ponds in 2010.
C. Managed as forest and forested wetlands, with a mile of Wapsipinicon Riverfront; restored timber and prairie areas; ponds; and for public hunting, fishing, picnicking, hiking, and nature appreciation.
D. Sleigh rides and Geocaching programs were conducted. Nest boxes were monitored.

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37. Robert “Chic” McGlaughlin Easement Area – 5 acres
A. Located at the Littleton Dam, off Highway D16.
B. The Iowa DNR purchased a public use easement from the Robert and Betty McGlaughlin Family. The land has since been sold to Craig and Nancy Coventry, with the easement attached. The easement covers a stretch of land along the Wapsipinicon River and the east half of the Littleton Dam. The Conservation Board signed a Management Agreement with the DNR in February, 2009 to manage and maintain the land, not including the dam. The DNR controls management of the dam.
C. Managed for public river access, fishing, and portage around the dam.
D. Efforts continue to better sign the area for public use in a way that is secure from vandalism.

38. Wehner Woods – 30 acres
A. Located at the northeast corner of Lamont.
B. The Conservation Board entered into a 15-year contract to purchase the property from Nels and JoAnne Wehner on August 18, 2009.
C. Managed as river bottom and upland timber, riverine wetlands, and nature appreciation, with public hunting and a nature trail.
D. Garlic mustard and honeysuckle are the main invasive species threats. A Lamont resident was contracted to keep the lot and trails mowed.

39. Guy Grover Timber and Tree Plantings – 186 acres
A. Located three miles east of Quasqueton. The area is divided into east and west parcels, connected by a path that goes through private land.
B. Guy and Shirley Grover donated the area to the Conservation Board in December, 2011. The property includes a conservation easement granted to the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation in 2007. The easement is perpetual and tied to the land. In 2015, 15 acres were purchased from Justin Kuhn, connecting the east side to the river.
C. Managed for river bottom and upland timber, riverine wetlands, prairie savanna, a fishing pond, and nature trails, for nature appreciation, with public hunting and fishing.
D. The Conservation Board acquired 15 acres to expand and connect this and other areas in the region to establish an intact Liberty Township Wildlife Complex. Boundary signs were placed. Nest boxes were monitored. Orienteering field trips were held.
40. Quigley-Slattery Heritage Prairie – 33 acres
   A. Located four miles northeast of Winthrop The area is a high quality, native mesic prairie and wetland.
   B. The area was owned for a long time by the Quigley family, and had been protected in grassland reserve. In 2011, the property and surrounding farm land was sold to Jerry Slattery, who attempted to convert parts of the prairie-wetland to row crop agriculture, but ended up selling 33 acres to the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation in 2012. The Conservation Board and INHF submitted successful grant requests and donor requests to recoup the cost. Major funding was secured from: REAP, the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant program; Iowa Pheasants Forever State Council; Buchanan, Linn, Clayton, and Black Hawk County Chapters of Pheasants Forever; Iowa’s Living Roadway Trust Fund; Buchanan County Wildlife Association; and Iowa Prairie Network. In March, 2015, the Conservation Board took possession of the property.
   C. Managed to enhance the prairie and wetland qualities for public education, hunting, and nature appreciation.
   D. A prairie management area was burned. Nest boxes were monitored. The area was a featured stop during the 2015 Iowa Prairie Conference. A dedication celebration was held in September, 2015.

Efforts to Expand County Parks and Natural Areas
   The Conservation Board was engaged in attempts to add to public lands in the Wapsipinicon River Corridor. Efforts were to acquire one tract proved unsuccessful. However, efforts now are underway to add 110 acres as a key connecting “piece” in Perry Township. This area would potentially connect the west boundary of Cutshall Area to the east boundary of Wilson Woods at the Black Hawk-Buchanan county line. The Conservation Board places public lands acquisition priority on places that expand existing properties, enhance wildlife corridors - especially along the Wapsipinicon River, have rare or unique qualities, and for which the Conservations Board has capacity to manage and maintain.

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Potential Acquisition Criteria

The Conservation Board places a high priority on land protection in Buchanan County. Acquisition is one method, and is appropriate in certain circumstances. The Conservation Board often uses the following criteria when evaluating land for possible acquisition:

- Presence of unique ecosystems or endangered species
- Degree of vulnerability to destruction or loss
- Whether the property enhances an existing area of habitat (greenbelts and additions)
- Size and value to wildlife
- Costs involved

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Two young prairie enthusiasts check out some Turk’s Cap Lilies at Quigley-Slattery Heritage Prairie. Dozens of people visited the site during a featured tour of the Iowa prairie Conference.

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― “Increasing our quality of life through programs of conservation and education.”
Board Meeting Highlights

The following are brief meeting highlights from the Conservation Board's 12 regular meetings and four special meetings.

July 21, 2015
The Director informed the Board that its offer to purchase 15 acres of land adjacent to the Guy Grover Timber and Tree Plantings for $2,900/acre was accepted by the sellers Justin and Molly Kuhn. The Board did not adopt a Tobacco-free Policy as approved by the Board of Supervisors. The process and schedule for input regarding an update of the County's REAP Plan was discussed.

August 18, 2015
The Board discussed the potential project to develop a bike trail connecting the west side of Fontana Park to the City of Hazleton. The project would need permission from a landowner who has not yet been supportive. The Board acted to authorize the Director to negotiate an offer to purchase 13 acres of wetland and forest if the landowner wished to sell. The Director provided the Board with information about costs to study and potentially fix problems with the historic Iron Bridge which has been closed to the public due to disrepair. The Board approved the purchase of a tractor.

September 22, 2015
The Director reported that various local conservation groups pledged a total of $20,000 to be used for the Kuhn Property acquisition. The Board approved providing full payment at closing. The Board approved purchase of utility task vehicle (UTV).

October 20, 2015
The Board approve a resolution for its support in state funding for the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. Raki Giannakouros of Blue Sky Solar presented a potential Power Purchasing Agreement to provide solar energy for a portion of the electricity needs at Fontana Park. The Board approved the Director's hiring of Michael Maas to fill the open Conservation Technician position. The Board adopted a policy for use of compensatory time for its employees. The FY15 Annual Report was approved.

November 17, 2015
Iowa DNR Conservation Officer Dakota Drish introduced himself as the new officer for Buchanan and Black Hawk counties. The Director informed the Board of the activities of the Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed Management Authority. The Board approved the sale of a 1971 Case tractor. The Board conducted its evaluation of the Director. The Board approved its salary policy for FY16.
December 17, 2015

The meeting was held in the meeting room at Bill’s Restaurant in Independence. The Board approved purchase of tractor blade. The Board increased seed drill rental fees without staff planting to $50.00 plus $10.00/acre, and $100 plus $25/acre for drill rental with staff doing the planting. All other park user fees remained the same as the previous year. The Board approved keeping gates open in outlying areas that allow hunting and picnicking until October 31. The Board discussed structural damages at the historic Iron Bridge. The update of the County Personnel Policy was adopted for Conservation Board staff, and reimbursement for staff use of personal cell phones was increased. The Director distributed a draft FY17 budget for review.

December 29, 2015 - Special Meeting

The Board confirmed staff wages for FY17. It approved its FY17 Budget, elected its officers, and nominated members to serve on the Roadside Advisory, Community Foundation, and Friends of Fontana Park Committees. The Board set its official meetings calendar.

January 19, 2016

The Director distributed and explained an environmental education assessment tool to for strategic planning. The Director presented a power point presentation entitled “The Gems of Buchanan County”.

February 20, 2016

The Board approved a State-designated Water Trails service agreement for the Director to monitor signage and other water trail needs in Buchanan County. The Board discussed complaints from a neighbor to Koutny Pond regarding his water drainage problems.

February 20, 2016 - Special Meeting

The Board held its strategic planning meeting. The Director presented a power point program on how various components of Conservation Board programs relate to its mission. Board members worked on the Environmental Education Assessment and other Long-term plan priorities. Potential projects and past board/staff discussions were addressed. The Board reviewed facilities, water accesses, and park and natural area offerings. The Director distributed a long-term plan for the Environmental Education Program.

Each year, the Conservation Board reviews its facilities and fees policies. This year, the Board approved increases its fees for conducting plantings using seed drill equipment. All other fees remained the same.

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March 15, 2016
Craig and Judy Albert - neighbors to Koutny Pond - presented information about their drainage concerns to the Board. The Board approved replacing two geothermal furnace units and adding a section of geothermal loop to the system. The Board approved allowing the Director to designate an area in the campground for summer intern use. Funding and potential grant applications for a new winter birds building at Fontana Park were discussed.

March 25, 2016 - Special Meeting
Board members conducted a field day to visit areas they manage for fact-finding and general discussion. No action was taken. Areas visited included: Three Elms Area; Koutny Pond and Albert drainage issues; Bearbower Sand Prairie; Lime Creek Area; Hodges & North Wildlife Area; and Cortright Wildlife Area

April 19, 2016
Craig and Judy Albert - neighbors to Koutny Pond - distributed information about their drainage concerns. Donna Jo Elsner requested the Board support her efforts to have Buchanan County Secondary Roads maintain a lane through the Troy Mills Access for year-round use. The Board agreed to support this proposal if the County was in agreement. The Board approved sale of a yearling heifer bison. The Director presented a landscape architecture plan for improvements to alleviate congestion and facilitate use at the Iron Bridge Access. The Board approved purchase of a land management IPad.

Above: During its April 26 meeting, the Conservation Board expressed an interest in acquiring Property from the Harris Estate. The property is strategically located as a key connection to other public lands along the Wapsipinicon River in Buchanan and Black Hawk counties.
**April 26, 2016 - Special Meeting**

The Board met to respond to a request for a quick decision on a neighbor’s drainage issues adjacent to Koutny Pond, and a request from a realtor for a timely response to land that the Board may be interested in purchasing. The Board approved allowing the neighbor to fix tile on county property, at his expense, through May 31, 2016, and if the neighbor has an interest, to draft a long-term tile agreement. The Board authorized the Director to inform sellers of the Harris Estate about interest in potential purchase of property.

**May 17, 2016**

Assistant County Attorney Dan Clouse addressed the Board by reporting on a meeting he and the Director had with Albert and his attorney regarding Albert’s drainage issues, and advised that the Conservation Board was under no legal obligations concerning the issue. The Director updated the Board on some infractions by neighboring landowners infringing on county property. The Board approved switching well water to rural water service due to water line impacts that resulted from boring lines for the new geothermal loop. Boring had occurred in an unauthorized location, and the Conservation Board discussed regress with the contractor. The Board approved an offer to purchase 110 acres in the Wapsipinicon River Corridor in Perry Township from the Harris Estate. The Board approved replacing old boardwalks in the animal display with concrete sidewalks. The Director informed the Board of a new interpretation of Open Meetings Law.

**June 21, 2016**

The Director informed the Board that the offer to purchase the Harris Estate was accepted. As per the offer, the Board approved naming the property the Roberts Wildlife Area. The Board authorized the Director to apply for REAP and other grant funding for the acquisition. The Director informed the Board that the Friends of Fontana Park grant request to the Buchanan County Community Foundation for the winter birds building was approved. The Board authorized extending the start date for this project to allow the Director to apply for another grant. The Board adopted the Board of Supervisors amended staff holidays policy.

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*Below: New in the Fontana Park Wildlife this year were wild turkeys (left). Plans are underway to construct an improved winter animals building to house ducks, vultures, rabbits, and other animals that are less adapted to cold weather, and to serve other animal care needs.*
Cooperative Programs and Agreements

The Conservation Board actively partners with many agencies and organizations as a means of increasing its effectiveness. The following represents some of the important partnerships during the year.

- Worked with Pheasants Forever (PF) to encourage the planting of native grasses, trees, and shrubs for wildlife habitat development on private land.
- Participated in local committees related to conservation and recreation, including the Independence School District, City of Independence, Trails Association, Sustainable Independence.
- Communicated closely with the Board of Supervisors.
- Provided tree and grass planting equipment to private landowners.
- Worked with the Friends of Fontana Park and Richardson-Jakway Foundation as partner groups for funding Conservation Board projects.
- Partnered with County Conservation Boards during 5th grade field days.
- Shared expert advice with DNR, NRCS, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF), US Fish and Wildlife Service, and others in development of wildlife habitat, environmental protection, and conservation practices.
- Partnered with Buchanan County ISU Extension for administering environmental education programs, such as the 5th Grade Field Day, Earth, Too 4-H Club, and Farm Safety Day.
- Worked with the Four Seasons Trail Association, Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation & Development, City of Hazleton, and Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments (INRCOG) to plan future trails.
- Partnered with Black Hawk County Conservation Board to obtain funding to resurface the Cedar Valley Nature Trail near Brandon.
- Worked with INRCOG and various cities and other partners to formulate an updated REAP Plan.
- Work on a coordinated effort to enhance and market areas and facilities in the counties that encompass the Cedar Valley Nature Trail (Black Hawk, Benton, Buchanan, Johnson, and Linn).
- Worked with groups and associations to improve support for REAP and the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund, especially through IACCB and the Iowa’s Water and Land Legacy Committee.
- Received substantial funding assistance from the following groups and programs: Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP), Buchanan County Pheasants Forever Chapters, Prairie Rapids Audubon Society, Tri-Rivers Waterfowlers, Buchanan County Wildlife Association, Friends of Fontana Park, and Richardson-Jakway Foundation.
- Provided meeting space and helped advertised programs for the Fontana Herb Society.
- Partnered with the DNR and other groups to promote eagle nest monitoring, sandhill crane sightings, monarch tagging and larvae monitoring, and other wildlife surveys.
- The Director served on the ISAC Legislative Committee, Buchanan County Four Seasons Trails Association, Buchanan County Chapter of Pheasants Forever Committee, Buchanan County Safety Committee, and Friends of Fontana Park.
- Naturalists served on the workshop planning committee for Iowa Conservation Education Coalition, Buchanan County Wellness Committee, Buchanan County Web Site Committee, and Friends of Fontana Park.
- The Wapsi Bowhunters and Mountain Bike group mowed and maintained grounds at Three Elms Park as part of the Trails Association.
- The Independence Senior Center Meal Site folded and taped the newsletter.
Appendices

Appendix A: Status of Funds

### A.1 Revenue

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Account Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>0001-1-22-6110-523000</td>
<td>Shelter Reservations</td>
<td>$2,080.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>0001-1-22-6110-622000</td>
<td>Firewood Sales</td>
<td>$1,651.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>0001-1-22-6110-843000</td>
<td>Insurance Reimbursement</td>
<td>$1,392.47</td>
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<td>0001-2-22-6110-2890002</td>
<td>Community Foundation Grant</td>
<td>$2,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0001-4-22-6100-847000</td>
<td>Misc Reimb.</td>
<td>$705.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0001-4-22-6110-612000</td>
<td>Rent of Equipment &amp; Machinery</td>
<td>$14,194.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>0001-4-22-6110-831000</td>
<td>Livestock Sales</td>
<td>$975.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>0001-4-22-6110-846000</td>
<td>Fuel Tax Refund</td>
<td>$999.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>0001-4-22-6110-847000</td>
<td>Misc Reimb.</td>
<td>$224.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0023-3-10-6110-242100</td>
<td>REAP</td>
<td>$16,187.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>0023-4-10-6110-600000</td>
<td>Interest on REAP</td>
<td>$395.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>0027-4-22-0210-810000</td>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>$18,581.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0027-4-22-6110-523100</td>
<td>Reimb. Private Source - Cabins</td>
<td>$13,215.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0027-4-22-6110-600000</td>
<td>Interest on Conservation Reserve</td>
<td>$1,059.77</td>
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<tr>
<td>0027-4-22-6110-811000</td>
<td>Reimb from Private Source</td>
<td>$2,819.82</td>
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<tr>
<td>0027-4-22-6110-848000</td>
<td>Conservation Reserve-Donations &amp; Refunds</td>
<td>$9,691.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>0027-4-22-6110-920000</td>
<td>Conservation Reserve-Sale of assets</td>
<td>$1,757.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>0029-4-22-6100-600000</td>
<td>Interest on Nature Center</td>
<td>$21.69</td>
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Reserve Accounts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Number</th>
<th>Beginning Balance</th>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th>Disbursements</th>
<th>Transfers</th>
<th>Balance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REAP-0023</td>
<td>$84,999.62</td>
<td>$16,582.19</td>
<td>$13,494.31</td>
<td>-$4,000.00</td>
<td>$84,087.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation Reserve-0027</td>
<td>$254,470.73</td>
<td>$47,123.59</td>
<td>$69,743.49</td>
<td>-$50.00</td>
<td>$231,800.83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation Nature Center-0029</td>
<td>$5,836.77</td>
<td>$21.69</td>
<td>$5,900.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$8.46</td>
</tr>
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</table>
A.2 Camping Revenue FY16

Fontana Camping Receipts
- Total # of People: 2,010
- Total Camping Units: 595
- Total Electrical Received: $21,513
- Total Primitive Received: $2,277
- Total Camping Revenue: $23,790 (22,787 FY15)

Jakway Camping Receipts
- Total # of People: 631
- Total Camping Units: 178
- Total Electrical Received: $7,203
- Total Primitive Received: $401
- Total Camping Revenue: $7,604 (8,557 FY15)

Lime Creek Camping Receipts
- Total # of People: 281
- Total Camping Units: 82
- Total Electrical Received: $1,774
- Total Primitive Received: $406
- Total Camping Revenue: $2,180 (3,821 FY15)

A.3 Expenditures and Balances - FY16

Land Acquisition and Development
- 0001-22-0210-000-60000 Land $5,000.00
- 0001-22-0210-000-63000 Farm Equipment $5,450.00

Administrative
- 0001-22-6100-000-10004 Salary-Director $58,475.72
- 0001-22-6100-000-10100 FICA-Director $4,279.14
- 0001-22-6100-000-11000 IPERS-Director $5,028.38
- 0001-22-6100-000-11300 Health Insurance-Director $18,180.00
- 0001-22-6100-000-11301 Life Insurance-Director $49.20
- 0001-22-6100-000-11302 Dental Insurance-Director $180.00
- 0001-22-6100-000-11303 Flex Fee-Director $54.00
- 0001-22-6100-000-46200 Real Property Insurance $5,780.00
- 0001-22-6100-000-26000 Office Supplies $852.21
- 0001-22-6100-000-26700 Educational Supplies $2,009.43
- 0001-22-6100-000-29400 Uniforms $2,324.26
- 0001-22-6100-000-40200 Foundation Grant $18,180.00
- 0001-22-6100-000-41200 Postage & Mailing $225.13
- 0001-22-6100-000-41320 Telephone $4,631.84
- 0001-22-6100-000-41321 Data Processing Service $1,200.00
- 0001-22-6100-000-42220 School of Instruction-Director $12,680.00
- 0001-22-6100-000-42221 School of Instruction-Board $1,374.24
- 0001-22-6100-000-42500 Legal & Court Related $946.48
- 0001-22-6100-000-46300 Vehicles & Equipment Insurance $4,030.00
- 0001-22-6100-000-46400 Workmen’s Compensation Ins $6,449.00
- 0001-22-6100-000-48000 Dues & Membership $2,220.00
- 0001-22-6100-000-63600 Office Equipment & Furniture $3,867.50

Total County Conservation - Administrative $127,072.35
Total Budgeted $128,932.00
Remaining Balance $1,859.65

Expenditures and Balances continued on page 33
### A.3 Financial Report FY15 – Expenditures and Balances (continued from page 32)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries-Part time</td>
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<tr>
<td>FICA</td>
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<td>IPERS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life Insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flex Fee</td>
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<td>Animal Display</td>
<td>$3,238.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemicals - Herbicides</td>
<td>$946.72</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plantings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Road Rock-Fontana</td>
<td>$1,170.01</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road Rock-Jakway</td>
<td>$129.85</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road Rock-other parks</td>
<td>$4,288.56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Signs</td>
<td>$1,439.24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Constr Maint-Fontana</td>
<td>$18,046.77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Constr Maint-Jakway</td>
<td>$883.79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Constr Maint-other parks</td>
<td>$11,670.64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janitorial Supplies</td>
<td>$2,555.62</td>
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<tr>
<td>Propane &amp; Fuel Oil / Fontana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fuel</td>
<td>$10,480.09</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minor Equipment &amp; Hand Tools</td>
<td>$949.26</td>
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<td>Official Publication/Legal Notice</td>
<td>$373.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bldg Repair &amp; Maint-RH Fontana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bldg Repair &amp; Maint-RH Jakway</td>
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<td>Mileage &amp; Sub-Employees</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Instruction-Employees</td>
<td>$1,228.20</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Hearing Tests</td>
<td>$69.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electricity-Fontana</td>
<td>$12,602.74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electricity-Jakway</td>
<td>$3,029.02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electricity-other parks</td>
<td>$1,292.65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural Water-Fontana</td>
<td>$2,249.83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural Water-Jakway</td>
<td>$1,188.24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle Equip Maint</td>
<td>$3,029.61</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janitorial &amp; Bldg Maint-Fontana</td>
<td>$1,386.15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janitorial &amp; Bldg Maint-Jakway</td>
<td>$655.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janitorial &amp; Bldg Maint-All Parks</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment Repair &amp; Maint</td>
<td>$5,851.70</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumbing Repair-Fontana</td>
<td>$1,133.30</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contr. &amp; Reimb to Other Govt</td>
<td>$6,500.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refund</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>$21,750.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer Program</td>
<td>$776.20</td>
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</table>

**Total Maintenance and Operations:** $475,692.92

**Total Budgeted:** $489,115.00

**Remaining Balance:** $13,422.08

**Total Year End Budget Remaining:** $9,831.73
### Appendix B: Donations – FY16 (Conservation Board and/or Friends of Fontana Park)

**Donations (cash contributors)**
- Buchanan Co. Pheasants Forever
- Nancy York
- Rich & Barb Roepke
- Ronald Luckeroth
- Duane & Barbara Blount
- Patricia Chase
- Janice Crowe
- Janelle Spencer Hines
- Mary Schlicher
- Clint & Ann Wrede
- Amanda Boyer
- Doug & Linda Hearn
- Wendy Vandewalle
- Larry Woods
- Douglas & Claire Blair
- Millie Jessen
- Gertrude Ackerman
- Rosalee A. Bird
- Ann Nolte
- Gail Reinap
- Norm & Susan West
- Roger & Jan Pint
- Dean & Linda Heins
- Verna Kerns
- David Kleppe
- A-Z Learning Center
- Grace United Methodist Church
- Linda Moon
- Rick & Joyce Trotter
- Paul Graff
- Marcella West
- Deb Downs
- Robert & Jean Bellis
- Max & Charlotte Grover
- Ron Hearn
- LeRoy Greenley
- Dorthea Sundquist
- Linda Jensen
- Catherine Latham
- Lavern Sand
- Janice & James Tranbarger
- Diane Kerns
- Jan Scott
- Kathy Hocken
- C.J. Lensing
- Dean & Lola Baragary
- Mark Stanford
- Helen Hillman
- Marybeth Jaggard
- Barbara Mirabelli
- Frankie King

**Donations (continued)**
- John & Barbara Kerns
- Billie Jo Tonn
- Deb Stanford
- Bruce & Janice Jefferson
- Donald & Macy Crawford
- Loren Hamilton
- Dave & Pat Fencel
- Jens & Joan Nielsen
- Charles & Rosemary Kreb
- Michael Winkers
- John & Lisa Ross-Thedens
- Patricia Hare
- Ardith Graf
- Jeff & LoAnn Milks
- Linda Lumsden
- Arlene Oelberg
- Steve & Janice Ephraim
- Ken & Barb Roberson
- Quasqueton Fed. Garden Club
- Joseph & Dixie Bagby
- Pat Arthaud
- Yvonne Brown
- Walter & Carol Buck
- Elaine Hughes
- Thomas Higgins
- Jessica Santee
- Debbie Burill
- Clifford & Alma Schlumbohm
- Fontana Herb Society
- Diane Johnson

**Memorial Donations (in memory of...)**
- Helen Degen Cohen
- Karl F Ladeburg
- Ken & Irma Orth Hopkins
- William Buck
- Scott Stearns
- William & Shirley Stiles

**Animal Sponsorships**
- Keira & Adaline Scharles
- East Elementary
- In Memory of Steve Sanders
- Ann Sanders
- Katherlyn Myers
- Marilyn Gallo
- Hazleton Commercial Club
- In Memory of Laverne Kaune
- Cy & Sydney Hearn
- Collette Doan
- Marybeth Jaggard

**Donated Items & Services**
- Loren Hamilton - planter use and raffle bench
- Spahn & Rose - Lumber for raffle bench
- Klever Concrete - partial sidewalk
- City Laundry - monthly towel service
- Marcie Baum - fishing poles
- Bruce & Rita Benter - nature paperweights
- Karen Simpson – box full of plates
- Steve Wascow- wood duck boxes/bird feeder
- Chad & Lisa Stelter - Deer mount
- Doug Borrett - wood carved pheasant
- Dan Brinkman - educational materials
- Bill Porter - Nature Items for educational use

Special thanks to all those who donated feed for animals in the Fontana Park displays and reusable containers for environmental education classes!
Appendix C: Environmental Education

Appendix C.1: Environmental Education Attendance Figures FY16

The following is a summary of the groups served through the EE program. The EE program is designed to meet a set of specific goals and objectives, described in the Buchanan County Conservation Board’s Long-term Plan. Figures for FY15 and FY15 are shown in parenthesis.

### School Student Programs (K-college)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of presentations:</th>
<th>866</th>
<th>(789)</th>
<th>(781)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total attendance:</td>
<td>16,940</td>
<td>(16,480)</td>
<td>(14,816)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average group size:</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>(20.9)</td>
<td>(19.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Youth Programs (other than school groups)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of presentations:</th>
<th>89</th>
<th>(83)</th>
<th>(82)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total attendance:</td>
<td>1,984</td>
<td>(1,711)</td>
<td>(1,737)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average group size:</td>
<td>22.3</td>
<td>(20.6)</td>
<td>(21.2)</td>
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</table>

### Teacher and Youth Leader Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number offered:</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>(11)</th>
<th>(7)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total attendance:</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>(149)</td>
<td>(108)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average group size:</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>(13.6)</td>
<td>(15.4)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Civic and Senior Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of presentations:</th>
<th>55</th>
<th>(72)</th>
<th>(64)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total attendance:</td>
<td>1,142</td>
<td>(1,023)</td>
<td>(1,033)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average group size:</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>(14.2)</td>
<td>(16.1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Public Programs (advertised to public)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of presentations:</th>
<th>60</th>
<th>(58)</th>
<th>(44)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total attendance:</td>
<td>1,183</td>
<td>(1,165)</td>
<td>(1,154)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average group size:</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>(20.1)</td>
<td>(26.2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Civic and Senior Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of presentations:</th>
<th>55</th>
<th>(72)</th>
<th>(64)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total attendance:</td>
<td>1,142</td>
<td>(1,023)</td>
<td>(1,033)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average group size:</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>(14.2)</td>
<td>(16.1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Outdoor programming: 52.2% of programs were primarily

### Appendix C.2: Programming Support - FY16

Karen Phelps, Benton CCB  
Buchanan County Wildlife Assoc.  
Elizabeth Kerr

Vin Collins  
Sarah Beckman, Bremer CCB  
Jackie McTaggart

Paul Bachman  
Scott Kinseth, Iowa DNR  
Linda Nebbe, Black Hawk Co. Wildlife Rehab

Terry Bengston  
Jason Auel, Iowa DNR  
Anita Miller

Heather Gamm, Bremer CCB  
Greg Schmitt, Iowa DNR  
Marybeth Jaggard

Doug Beier, BC Wildlife Assoc.  
Dave Harms, Wapsi Bowhunters  
Sherlyn Hazen, Buchanan County

Ken Ahurs, BC Wildlife Assoc.  
Steve McGraw, Wapsi Bowhunters  
Joe Olsen

Chris Anderson, Black Hawk CCB  
Pat Higby, UNI CEEE  
Rick Bednarek, ISU Soil Scientist

Gail Borels, Linn CCB  
Aaron Askleson, Benton CCB  
Gail Gavlock

Matt Crayne, Chickasaw CCB  
Marc Winn, Iowa DNR  
Mike Olsen, Iowa DNR

Betty & Don Butler  
Dan Kirby, Iowa DNR  
Logan McEwan, Iowa DNR

Mary & Harvey Davis  
Amber Sauser, Iowa DNR  
Justin Clark, Iowa DNR

Micki Sand-Cohen, ICSD  
Jen Dillon, Jesup FFA  
Ruby & Corilee Bodeker

Larry Stone  
Tom Shilke, Prairie Rapids Audubon  
Wanda Havercamp

Terry VandeWalle  
David Voigts  
Amber Sauser

Cynthia Thompson, ISU Extension  
Dawn Amundson, Fayette CCB  
Laura Ellers, Silos & Smokestacks

Roxanne Fuller, ISU Extension  
Katie Shelton, Black Hawk CCB Kristi  
Dakota Drish, Iowa DNR

Ashley Sherrets, ISU Extension  
Moeller, Buchanan County Health  
Jim Shields

Buchanan Co. Pheasants Forever  
Darrin Siefkin, Crawdaddy Outdoors

### Appendix C.3: Public Programs Offered - FY16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Whitewater Kayaking</th>
<th>Nature Explorers Day Camp</th>
<th>Princess Adventures (4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monarch Tagging</td>
<td>Young Naturalists Day Camp</td>
<td>Overnight Canoe Float</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richardson Jakway Meals (2)</td>
<td>River Raiders Canoe Adventure</td>
<td>Canoe Float</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clover Kids 4-H (10)</td>
<td>Monarch Butterfly Gardening</td>
<td>Goose Banding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo Contest &amp; Judging</td>
<td>Night Prairie Burn</td>
<td>Spirit of Chautauqua Iowa Music Tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolf Bus Trip</td>
<td>Community Water Walk Display</td>
<td>Who Goes There</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandhill Crane/Prairie Chicken</td>
<td>Volunteer Workshop</td>
<td>Star Party (2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bus Trip</td>
<td>Christmas Bird Count</td>
<td>Hike and Shoot</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trick-or-Treat for the Animals</td>
<td>Hungry, Hungry Animals (2)</td>
<td>Project Aware River Art</td>
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<tr>
<td>NASP Training (2)</td>
<td>Three Elms Mountain Biking</td>
<td>Cedar River Canoe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sleigh Rides</td>
<td>Our Living Soil</td>
<td>Rock Climbing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full Moon Snowshoe</td>
<td>Civil War</td>
<td>Survival Skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rain Barrel DIY</td>
<td>Composter &amp; Stand DIY (2)</td>
<td>Quigley-Slattery Heritage Prairie Celebration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preserving Local Foods (4)</td>
<td>Stained Glass</td>
<td>Outdoor Explorations for Early Learners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wee Nature Tales Day Camp</td>
<td>Garlic Mustard Rescue &amp; Feed</td>
<td>Calling All Owls</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Snowshoeing</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Buchanan Co. Pheasants Forever</th>
<th>Darrin Siefkin, Crawdaddy Outdoors</th>
</tr>
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</table>
## Appendix D: FY16 Volunteers

### Campground Hosts
- Judy Porter
- Scott & Jennifer Schuldt
- Randy & Sandy Zaug
- Vern & Wanda Williams-Tiedt
- Don & Barb Cook

### Friends of Fontana Park Board
- Dan Cohen
- Sondra Cabell
- Elaine Walker
- Diane Johnson
- Angie Auel
- Linda Ridihalgh
- Lisa Ross Thedens
- Wendy Vandewalle
- David Voigts
- Pat Fencil
- Loren Hamilton

### Richardson-Jakway Foundation
- Dan Cohen
- Sondra Cabell
- Elaine Walker
- Diane Johnson
- Angie Auel
- Linda Ridihalgh
- Lisa Ross Thedens
- Wendy Vandewalle
- David Voigts
- Pat Fencil
- Loren Hamilton

### Project AWARE pre-cleanup
- Loren Hamilton
- Dan Cohen
- Micki Cohen

### Thanks to the hundreds of people who donated their time and equipment to clean the Wapsi during Project AWARE.

### Wildlife Monitoring
- Ruby Bodecker
- Max Grover
- Faith Rulapaugh
- Michael Carver
- Janice Randall
- Elaine Hughes
- Tri-Rivers Waterfowlers

### Gardens and Landscaping
- Marybeth Jaggard
- (more names to come)

### Park Maintenance
- 4 Oaks - remove garlic mustard
- Ted Good (Ham Marsh)
- Rick Whittle - Staining tables
- Jesup High School - Staining tables
- 3 Elms mountain bike/archery
  - Rob Hughes
  - Jenny Yoder
  - Mike McGill
  - Gary Graesser
  - Jamie Bonazza
  - Neil Eager
  - Pete Gaumer
  - Terry Gaumer
  - Justin McLeod
  - Anita Barker
  - Travis Ficken
  - Nikki Murphy
  - Andy Higgins
  - Ben Reiff
  - Alex Anthopoulos
  - Travis Stoner
  - Chris Luloff
  - Dan Lawless
  - Steve McGraw

### Nature Center Receptionists - Hours
- Clark Willoughby - 12
- Michelle Smith - 8
- Janice Randall - 1
- Edith Biddinger - 25
- Ruby Bodeker - 37
- Margaret Damge - 9
- Ellen Gaffney - 33
- Joy Hintz - 13
- Helen Hoefer - 35
- Elaine Hughes - 84
- Marybeth Jaggard - 43
- Kathy Karsten - 39
- Frankie King - 34
- Bob Miche - 23
- Patti Olmstead - 8
- Judy Porter - 38
- Ken Roberson - 21
- Barbara Roberson - 35
- Shirley Rozendaal - 48
- Faith Rulapaugh - 42
- Ruth Schlitter - 35
- Lorene Shonka - 32
- Steve Schuelke - 11
- David Voigts - 48
- Jane Watson - 56

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— “Increasing our quality of life through programs of conservation and education.”
Appendix E: Grants Received FY16
(*Grants written through Friends of Fontana Park and Pheasants Forever for county projects)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Program</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buchanan County Community Foundation</td>
<td>Winter Birds Building</td>
<td>$9,040.82 (FFP)*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buchanan County Community Foundation</td>
<td>Prairie Seed Drill</td>
<td>$10,000.00 (PF)*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends of Fontana Park</td>
<td>Geothermal Furnace for NC</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
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<td>Buchanan County Pheasants Forever</td>
<td>Kuhn Addition to Grover</td>
<td>$7,500.00</td>
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<td>Buchanan County Wildlife Association</td>
<td>Kuhn Addition to Grover</td>
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<td>Tri-Rivers Waterfowlers</td>
<td>Kuhn Addition to Grover</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whitetails Unlimited</td>
<td>Kuhn Addition to Grover</td>
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<td>Prairie Rapids Audubon</td>
<td>Eagle Education Equipment</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
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</table>

Appendix F: Conservation Board and Board of Supervisors

F.1 Board Members and terms from founding to present (*Denotes charter board member)

Ralph L. Kimball*, Independence 1956-58  
C. L. (Mickey) Fox*, Jesup 1956-67  
L.O. Weston*, Lamont 1956-58  
“ “ “ 1962-65  
A.J. Murphy, Winthrop 1957-62  
R.C. Stewart*, Lamont 1956-62  
H.G. Lincoln*, Rowley 1956-57  
Jack Gates, Independence 1958-62  
Robert Buckman, Aurora 1959-62  
“ “ “ 1965-92  
Lacey Gee, Brandon 1962-63  
Warren Pratt, Rowley 1962-63  
Don Anderson, Independence 1962-81  
Kessler Clark, Brandon 1963-65  
Miller McMillen, Quasqueton 1964-66  
Raymond Finley, Brandon 1966-80  
Max Grover, Rowley 1967-93  
J.M. Touッシュendeaux, Jesup 1968-79  
John Miller, Jesup 1980-94  
Carroll Conklin, Independence 1981-95  
Harry Brooks, Independence 1982-83  
Bob Booher, Independence 1983-91  
Nyle McMartin, Jesup 1992-01  
Phil Thyer, Independence 1993-00  
Diane Slaughter, Independence 1994-03  
Loren Hamilton, Independence 1995-04  
Robert Bainbridge, Independence 1996-99  
Dr. Kenneth McDonough, Oelwein 2000-06  
Roger Johnson, Independence 2001-12  
Richard Vogel, Jesup 2002-05  
Gary Buresh, Independence 2004-12  
Jim Klever, Independence 2005-14  
Ranor Hoffman 2006-10  
Patricia Fencl 2006-  
Karen Stephenson 2011-  
Don Shonka 2012-15  
Ronnie Wolfe 2015-  
Andy Crump 2015-  

Appendix F.2 Board of Supervisors

The Conservation Board thrives on the support of the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors, and their understanding of the importance of local conservation programs. Members of the FY15 Board of Supervisors are shown below.

Buchanan County Board of Supervisors, FY16

[Images of board members]
1. Anderson Addition to Cutshall
2. Bearbower Sand Prairie
3. Blazingstar Prairie
4. Boies Bend
5. Bryantsburg Prairie
6. Buffalo Creek Area
7. Buffalo Creek Wildlife Area
8. Cortright Wildlife Area
9. Crumbaecher Wildlife Area
10. Cutshall Area
11. Fairbak Fen
12. Fontana Park
13. Frogville Area
14. Guy Grover Timber and Tree Plantings
15. Ham Marsh
16. Hodges and North Wildlife Area
17. Hoover Area
18. Iron Bridge Woodland and Access
19. Jakway Forest
20. Koutny Pond/Hoffman Woods
21. Lime Creek Area
22. Mickey Fox Area
23. Newton Township Wildlife Area
24. Nibec Preserve
25. Otter Creek Wildlife Area
26. Otter Creek Roadside Park
27. Patton Prairie
28. Pine Creek Area
29. Putty Root Preserve
30. Quigley-Slattery Heritage Prairie
31. Robert “Chic” McGlauhlin Easement
32. Rowley Fen
33. Sand Creek Area
34. Schneider-Heinick-Rowe Area
35. Swartz Preserve
36. Three Elms Area
37. Troy Mills Access
38. Van Lanningham Area
39. Wapsi River Access
40. Wehner Woods

Appendix G:
Map of Buchanan County Areas