



2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT

641-673-9327

Mahaskaconservation.com

2342 HWY 92

Oskaloosa, IA 52577

7/1/25 - 6/30/26

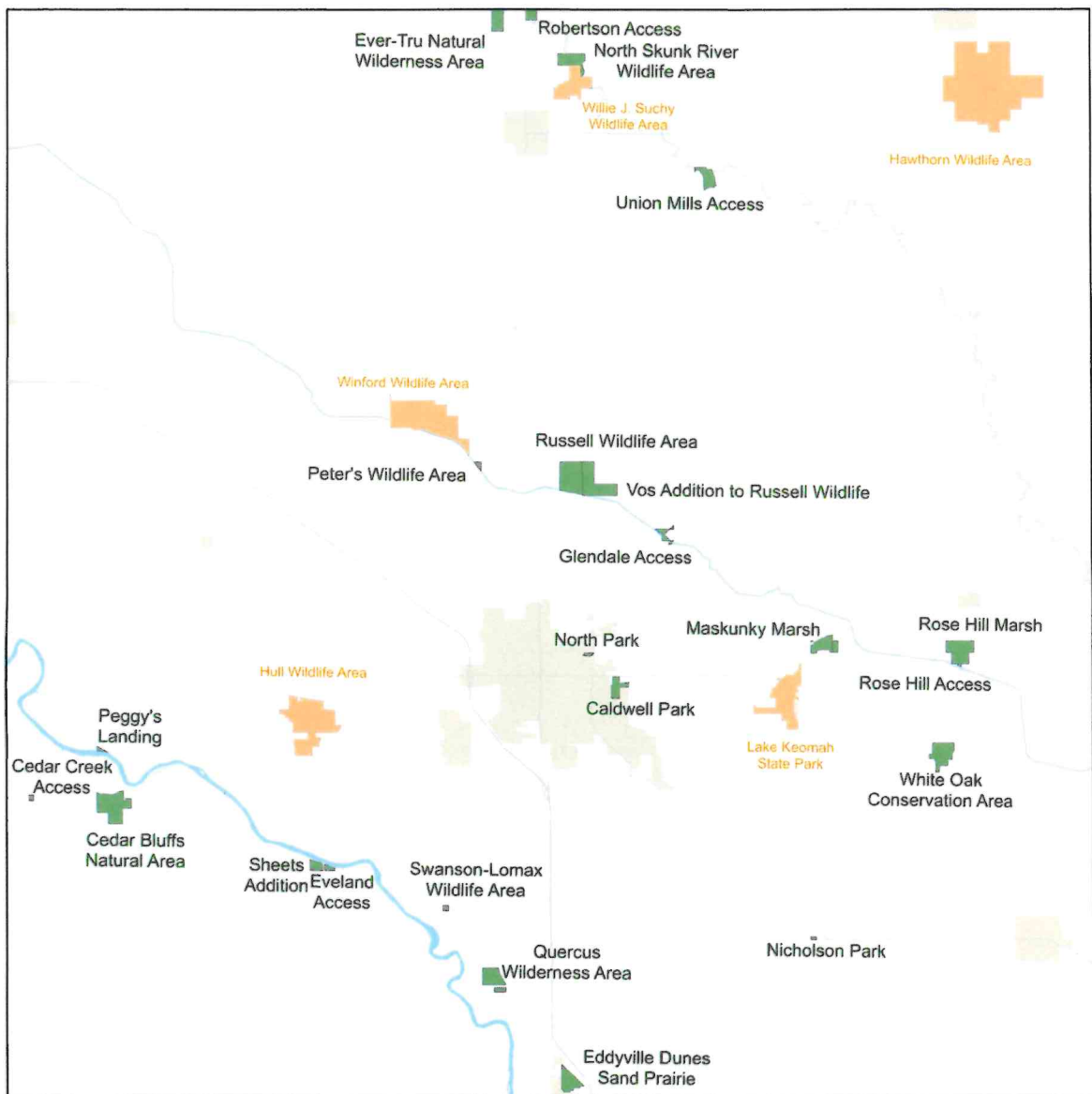


MAHASKA COUNTY CONSERVATION AREAS

21 areas / 1,722 acres | Natural Beauty



Managed by MCCB



BOARD MEMBERS

Linda Fox	Chairperson 2013 - Present (Term Expires 12/31/2026)
Jennifer Peterson	Vice Chairperson 2023 - Present (Term Expires 12/31/2027)
Chuck Webb	Secretary 2023 - Present (Term Expires 12/31/2028)
Steve Dixon	Member 2015 - Present (Term Expires 12/31/2029)
Curt Jager	Member 2001 - Present (Term Expires 12/31/2031)

Staff

Chris Clingan	Director
Tommy VanRenterghem	Park Ranger
Ethan Zieglowsky	Park Ranger
Laura DeCook	Environmental Education Coordinator
Ella Paulson	Administrative Naturalist
Caden Albright	Summer Cons. Tech
Don Clark	Summer Cons. Tech
Cindi Bossard	ELC Attendant
Dawn Weldon	ELC Attendant

CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP

Executive Director / Chris Clingan

As Fiscal Year 2025–2026 comes to a close, I am honored to reflect on another remarkable year for the Mahaska County Conservation Board. This year has been defined by progress, innovation, and collaboration. Together with our Board members, dedicated staff, volunteers, community partners, elected officials, and citizens, we have continued to demonstrate that investing in conservation is truly an investment in the future of Mahaska County.



One of our proudest accomplishments this year was the completion of the Caldwell Park Nature Playscape. What began as a vision to create a place where children could connect with nature has quickly become one of the most popular destinations in our park system. Families from across Mahaska County and beyond are visiting the playscape daily to explore, learn, and experience the outdoors together. Watching children climb, discover, and create memories in a natural setting has been an incredible reminder of why conservation and outdoor recreation matter.

Adjacent to the playscape, we also celebrated the completion of our Water Quality Initiative project. Through outstanding partnerships with the Mahaska Soil and Water Conservation District, the Iowa Soybean Association, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and many others, we restored wetlands that now improve water quality, provide critical wildlife habitat, and serve as an outdoor classroom for future generations. The surrounding landscape has been planted with more than 100 species of native grasses and wildflowers, creating one of the most diverse native plantings in our community while showcasing the beauty and ecological importance of Iowa's native landscapes.

This year also marked the completion of our new park entrance signs, kiosks and wayfinding signage throughout the county. The response from the public has been overwhelmingly positive. Visitors consistently comment on the fresh, professional appearance of our parks, and the new signage has created a unified identity that reflects the pride our community takes in its public lands. These improvements not only make our parks easier to navigate but also reinforce that Mahaska County is committed to providing exceptional outdoor experiences for residents and visitors alike.

Our efforts to promote Mahaska County have continued to receive statewide recognition. This year, our Home Away From Home tourism campaign received another award from the Iowa Association of Naturalists, recognizing the positive impact of telling our conservation story through creative outreach. In addition, the Mahaska County Conservation Board was honored at the Iowa State Capitol by the Resilient Iowa Communities (RIC) program, receiving three statewide awards recognizing excellence in conservation, sustainability, and environmental stewardship. These recognitions belong not only to our staff but to every partner, volunteer, and supporter who has helped make these accomplishments possible.

(cont. on next page)

Beyond Caldwell Park, significant restoration efforts continue at the Eddyville Sand Prairie. This unique natural area represents one of Iowa's rarest ecosystems, and the restoration work taking place there demonstrates what can be accomplished through strong partnerships. United States Fish and Wildlife Service, The Golden Goose Club, volunteers, contractors, and local supporters have all contributed their expertise and resources to restore native habitat, control invasive species, and preserve this exceptional landscape for future generations. The Eddyville project reminds us that conservation is never accomplished alone. In fact, many of the projects completed over the past year simply would not have been possible without the incredible partnerships we have built throughout Mahaska County and across the state. Our partners have multiplied our impact and allowed us to accomplish far more than we ever could on our own.

As a result of these efforts, Mahaska County is becoming recognized throughout Iowa as a leader in conservation. Communities, county conservation boards, state agencies, and organizations are increasingly looking to Mahaska County as an example of what can be achieved through vision, collaboration, and a commitment to excellence. That recognition is something every resident of Mahaska County can be proud of.

The work of county conservation boards extends far beyond parks and trails. Healthy natural resources contribute directly to healthy communities and strong local economies. According to the Outdoor Industry Association, outdoor recreation generates approximately 8 billion annually for Iowa's economy and supports over 80,000 jobs statewide. Locally, our parks attract visitors who support restaurants, campgrounds, retail businesses, and community events while improving quality of life for residents. Access to parks and natural areas also promotes physical and mental health, protects clean water, conserves wildlife habitat, and helps attract families, businesses, and a skilled workforce to communities like ours. Conservation is not simply an expense—it is an investment that produces lasting economic, environmental, and social returns.

As we look toward the future, we remain committed to building upon this momentum. There are exciting opportunities ahead, and we will continue seeking innovative partnerships, pursuing grant funding, and responsibly managing our natural resources to ensure Mahaska County remains a wonderful place to live, work, and explore.

On behalf of the Mahaska County Conservation Board, thank you for your continued support and confidence in our mission. Together, we are creating parks, restoring landscapes, strengthening our community, and leaving a legacy that will benefit generations to come.

With sincere appreciation,

Chris Clingan
Director
Mahaska County Conservation Board

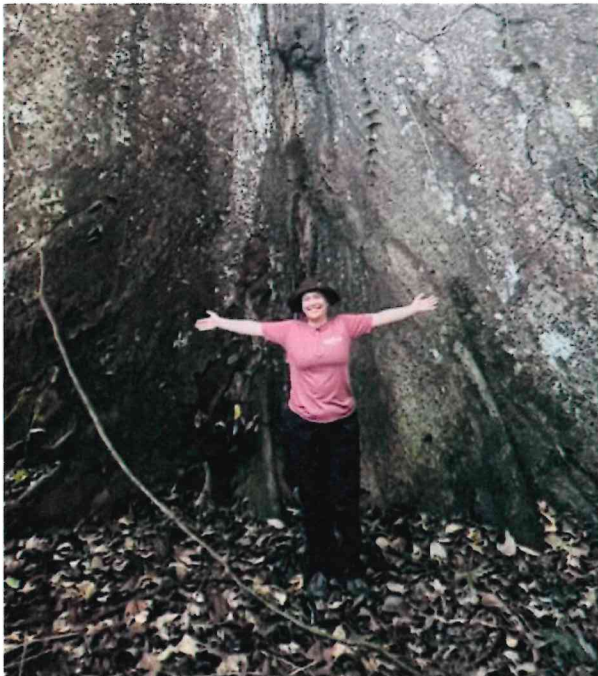
WELCOMING NEW TEAM MEMBERS

New faces - Staff

On April 22, 2026 Ella Paulson began work as the Administrative Naturalist for Mahaska County Conservation Board.

Ella has always had a sense of adventure and loves exploring the outdoors. She has a passion for bringing art and science together and finding creative ways to connect people to nature.

Ella has worked with MCC as an AmeriCorps member since October 2024 and has helped with environmental education programs and parks maintenance.



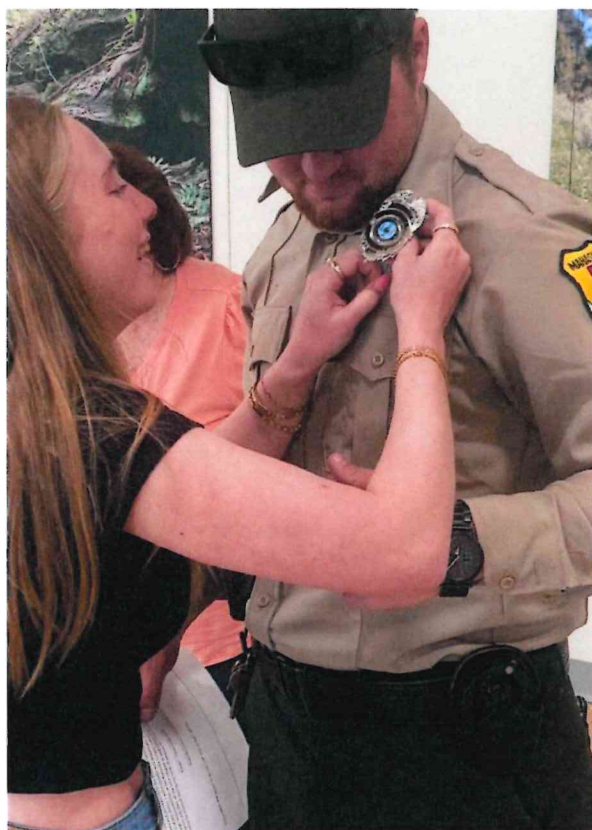
WELCOMING NEW TEAM MEMBERS

New faces - Staff

Ethan Zeiglowsky was sworn in as a peace officer at the June 16, 2026 Mahaska County Conservation Board monthly meeting.

Pictured in the pinning ceremony are Ethan, Ethan's girlfriend Annie, and Board Chair Linda Fox.

Ethan grew up in a small town in Southeast Iowa with a passion for the outdoors and a calling to preserve what we have left. His goal is to uphold that passion and bring a vibrant ideology to MCCB and our mission.

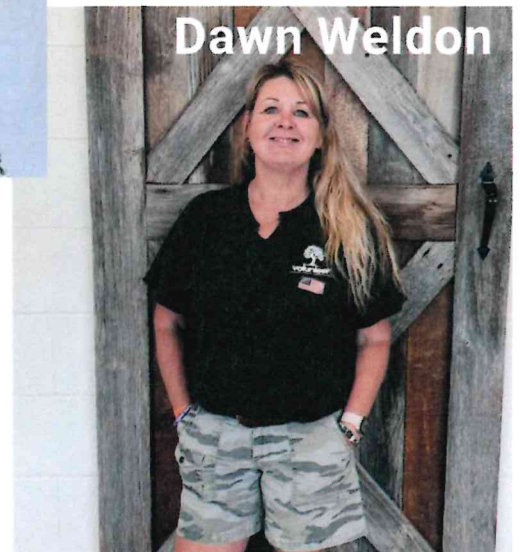
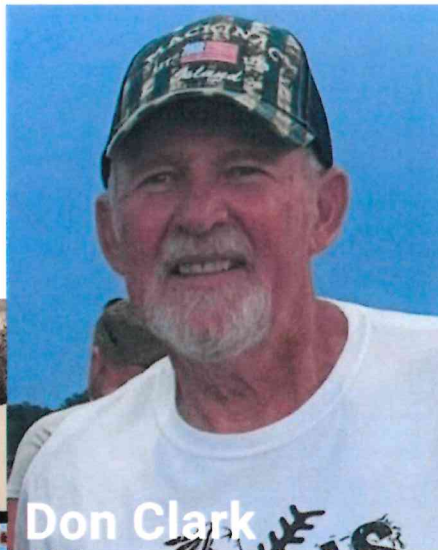


WELCOMING NEW TEAM MEMBERS

New faces- Seasonal and Part-Time Staff

Caden Albright and Don Clark were the 2026 Seasonal Conservation Techs for Mahaska County Conservation. The Seasonal Techs' duties included, but are not limited to, mowing, trimming, cleaning restrooms, and general maintenance as assigned.

Dawn Weldon started as an ELC attendant in May of this year. ELC attendant duties include greeting guests, interacting with visitors throughout their visit, keeping the center clean, and assisting in plant and animal care.

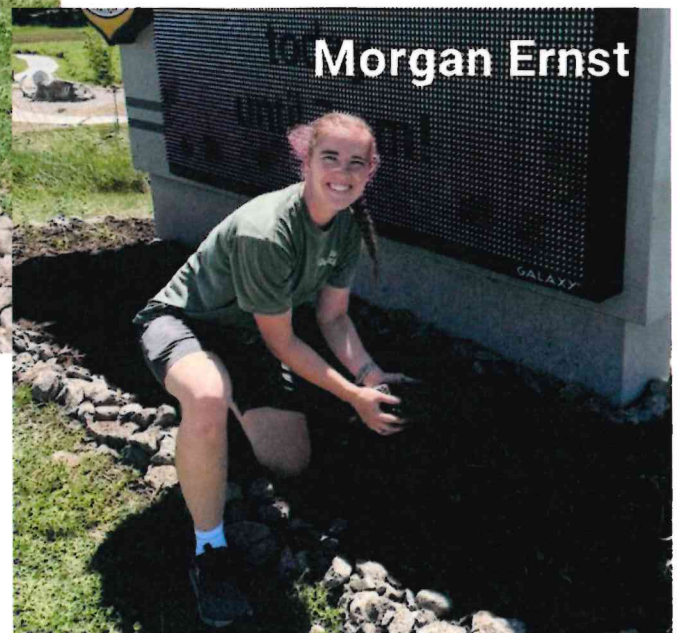


WELCOMING NEW TEAM MEMBERS

New faces - Externship

Mahaska County Conservation was pleased to host Oskaloosa High School teachers Stephanie Visser and Morgan Ernst for their Iowa STEM Teacher Externships during June and July. This was Stephanie's fourth summer with us and we were excited to welcome Morgan for her first externship with us.

They have provided valuable support to our staff by contributing to native plantings, building maintenance, improvements to the nature playscape, and trail maintenance.



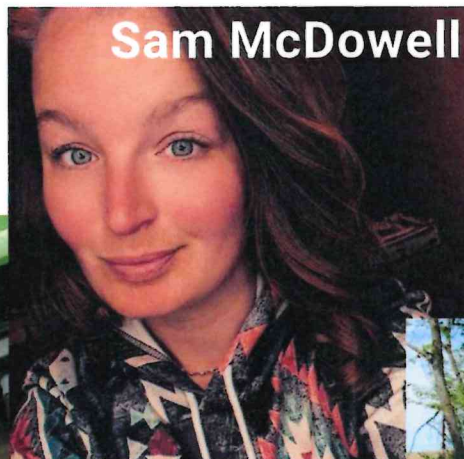
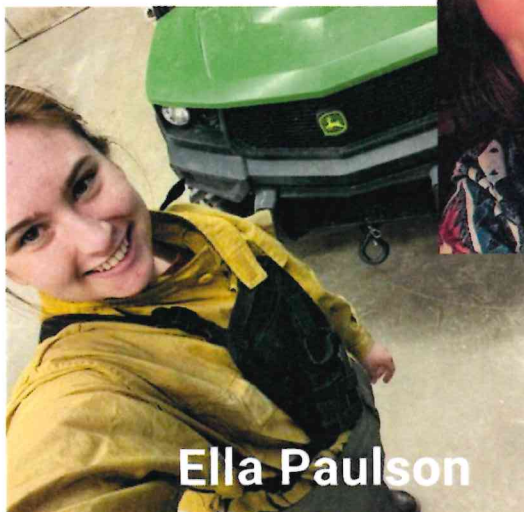
WELCOMING NEW TEAM MEMBERS

New faces - Green Iowa AmeriCorps Mahaska Partnership

Mahaska County Conservation was a host site for Green Iowa AmeriCorps, with Chris Clingan in the role of site supervisor. In October 2025, Ella began their second term as an 11-month AmeriCorps member, in February 2026, Sam McDowell began her 6-month term, and in June 2026 Jaydyn Steil began his 3-month summer term.

Projects included invasive species removal, native plantings around the oxbow wetland and in the nature playscape, prescribed burning, assisting with educational programs,, nature playscape maintenance, and native plant production.

This partnership included William Penn University, the Mahaska Soil and Water Conservation District, and the City of Oskaloosa.



NATURAL RESOURCES

Stewardship for Land, Water and Wildlife

**21 Areas
1,722 Acres**

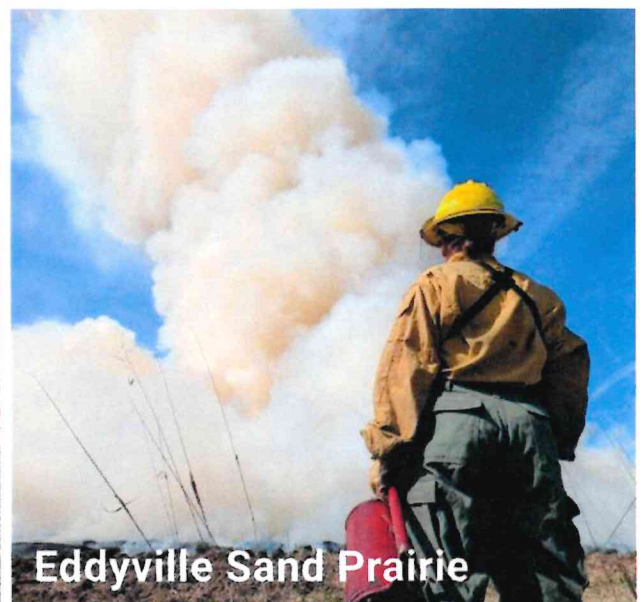
This includes acres devoted to wildlife habitat, restored prairies, food plots, and more.

Prescribed Burning

Mahaska County Conservation performed prescribed burning on approximately 203 acres at various areas. Some of the areas included Cedar Bluffs Natural Area, Russell Wildlife Area, Quercus Wilderness Area, and Eddyville Dunes Sand Prairie.



Cedar Bluffs



Eddyville Sand Prairie

NATURAL RESOURCES

Restoring One of Iowa's Rarest Natural Landscapes

Significant restoration work continued this year at the Eddyville Sand Prairie and Sand Dunes, one of Iowa's most unique and ecologically significant natural areas. Through a partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Golden Goose Club, the Mahaska County Conservation Board secured funding to clear-cut 31 acres of invasive woody vegetation that had gradually overtaken this rare sand prairie ecosystem. Removing these invasive trees and shrubs is a critical first step in restoring the open landscape that allows native prairie plants and wildlife to thrive. In addition, the Iowa Prairie Network awarded the Conservation Board a grant to purchase herbicide and fuel, providing the resources needed to conduct ongoing maintenance and ensure the long-term success of the restoration effort.

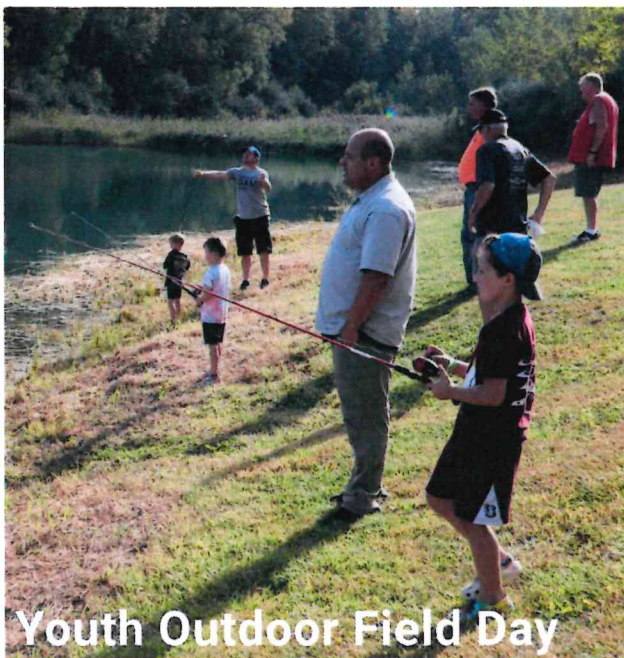
This project is an excellent example of what can be accomplished through strong partnerships and a shared commitment to conservation. Without the support of our partners, projects of this scale simply would not be possible. Restoring the Eddyville Sand Prairie preserves one of Iowa's rarest natural communities, protects habitat for native plants and wildlife, improves opportunities for environmental education and outdoor recreation, and ensures future generations can experience this remarkable landscape. Beyond its ecological value, the project enhances one of Mahaska County's premier natural attractions, helping draw visitors to the area while reinforcing our commitment to conserving the unique natural resources that contribute to a healthy environment, a vibrant community, and a strong local economy.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Some of the big and/or successful programs this last fiscal year were the Halloween Bash, Youth Outdoor Field Day, school field trips, OWLS programs, and summer camps.

Pictured below are highlights from this year's programs.



Youth Outdoor Field Day



Halloween Bash



STEM Lab

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The naturalists offered a variety of programs for the public, schools, homeschool groups and many others. These programs provide enviromental education that may not be otherwise accessible.

MONTH	# EDUCATION PROGRAMS	# ADULTS	# KIDS	TOTAL # PARTICIPANTS
2025				
July	12	150	111	261
August	5	35	26	61
September	9	194	288	482
October	14	872	1247	1,329
November	22	251	405	656
December	19	135	348	483
2026				
January	33	77	659	736
February	23	311	296	607
March	20	205	291	496
April	25	140	513	653
May	16	176	602	778
June	15	123	181	304
TOTAL	195	2,669	4,767	6,846

VOLUNTEER IMPACT & COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

Volunteer Program

Mahaska County Conservation volunteer program has a variety of opportunities for all ages and skill levels.



Volunteer Opportunities:

- **Environmental Learning Center Hosts** - This volunteer position helps greet visitors at the ELC.
- **Park Stewards** - This volunteer position allows you to "adopt" one or more MCCB areas and become a steward of those areas.
- **Environmental Education Volunteer** - This volunteer position helps the naturalist with educational programs, field trips and public events.

Pictured are volunteers helping at events. Currently, MCC has approximately 148 volunteers with 2,082 hrs. of volunteered time at a value \$75,243.48. in labor saved (this total was calculated using the Independent Sector's estimated value of volunteer labor of \$36.14/hr).



VOLUNTEER IMPACT & COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

2025 Commitment to Conservation Award

On February 02, 2026, Mahaska County Conservation presented the 2025 Commitment to Conservation Award during the Volunteer & Partnership Appreciation Dinner at the Environmental Learning Center. This award honors individuals who demonstrate exceptional dedication to conservation efforts within Mahaska County.

We are proud to recognize Amanda O'Brien as the 2025 recipient for her exemplary service as the campground host at Eveland Access. She continually seeks new ways to improve the park and enhance visitor experience. Her welcoming presence and unwavering attention to detail ensure that Eveland Access remains a premier outdoor destination.



VOLUNTEER IMPACT & COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

2025 Partnership Award

On February 02, 2026, Mahaska County Conservation presented the 2025 Partnership Award during the Volunteer & Partnership Appreciation Dinner at the Environmental Learning Center. This award recognizes outstanding dedication and support for conservation efforts within Mahaska County.

The 2025 Partnership Award was presented to Myriam Lafreniere-Landry. Her passion for improving water quality and prairie conservation has led to transformative projects throughout the county. Most notably, she partnered with MCCB to secure funding and bring together key stakeholders to design and construct two oxbow wetlands at Caldwell Park.

Myriam was unable to attend and Mahaska County Soil & Water Conservation District accepted the award on her behalf.



WHERE WE ARE NOW: STRATEGIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Resilient Iowa Communities Award

On January 20th, 2026, Mahaska County Partnership received three awards through the Resilient Iowa Communities (RIC) program at the RIC-ognition ceremony at the State Capitol. The partnership included the combined sustainability efforts from Mahaska County Conservation, the Mahaska Soil and Water Conservation District, the City of Oskaloosa, and William Penn University.

The partnership achieved Gold Status in Land Use and Environmental Management categories and Bronze Status in the Buildings & Energy Category. Some of the projects considered for this award included parks management throughout the county, native plant production efforts, energy efficient buildings, the nature playscape construction, and the oxbow wetland installation and other stormwater management projects.



WHERE WE ARE NOW: STRATEGIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Nature Playscape Grand Opening

Construction of the Nature Playscape at the Environmental Learning Center was completed in the fall of 2025. A grand opening ceremony was held on November 8th to celebrate this accomplishment. This installation provides an accessible space for all ages to play, relax, and connect with nature.

Since the initial construction, several improvements were made to continue to enhance this space. This included native plantings, seasonal interpretive signs, shrub and tree plantings, displaying a life size eagle nest, a water fountain installation, and the addition of a pit latrine.



WHERE WE ARE NOW: STRATEGIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Oxbow Wetland Restoration

Last summer, Mahaska County Conservation partnered with the Mahaska Soil and Water Conservation District to restore two oxbow wetlands in Caldwell Park. The Iowa Soybean Association also played an important role throughout the entire planning and construction process. This project is intended to filter runoff before it reaches Spring Creek, reduce erosion, and improve the ecological function of Caldwell Park.

The oxbows cover approximately 1.5 acres and an estimated 4,500 cubic yards of material was removed.

In June, native plant plugs were planted around both ponds to aid in stormwater filtration, improve soil health, and prevent the establishment of invasive species. The oxbows, in conjunction with the native vegetation, provide quality habitat for fish, insects, birds, and amphibians.



WHERE WE ARE NOW: STRATEGIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Environmental Learning Center Community Room Available for Rentals

The basement of the Environmental Learning Center was made available for public rentals on My County Parks. This space served as a venue for graduations, weddings, birthday parties, and educational seminars.

This community room has already accommodated 10 public rentals, generating \$2,500 in revenue during its first eight months of use.



WHERE WE ARE NOW: STRATEGIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Outstanding Interpretive Non-Print Media Award

In March, Mahaska County Conservation was awarded the Outstanding Interpretive Non-Print Media Award by Iowa Association of Naturalists and Iowa Conservation Education Coalition for Excellence in Environmental Education.

Home Away From Home is a cinematic promotional video created by Mahaska County Conservation to highlight the county's outdoor recreation, natural beauty, and welcoming community spirit. The project was made possible through a \$10,000 Iowa Tourism Grant in 2024, which supported the development of a high-quality video designed to showcase Mahaska County's landscapes, community culture, and conservation heritage. Key goals included presenting Mahaska County as a "home away from home" for visitors, inspiring local pride, educating viewers about the county's conservation history—particularly the legacy of John Lacey—and strengthening regional tourism through compelling visual storytelling. The project aimed not only to market a destination but also to deepen connection to nature and community.

The video's success is reflected in its wide reach, professional recognition, and positive influence on tourism partnerships. Within weeks of release, Home Away From Home reached viewers in 49 states, becoming one of Mahaska County Conservation's most shared and celebrated pieces of media.

The video continues to expand its reach through online availability, shorter promotional clips, and integration into regional and national marketing strategies, elevating Mahaska County's profile and strengthening community pride.



Frame from Home Away from Home Video

REVENUES

FY Comparisons

	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	FY 25/26
Camping	\$51,490.00	\$53,250.00	\$50,235.00	\$72,533.33	\$54,989.40
Cabins	\$9,985.00	\$7,160.00	\$9,949.57	\$14,240.50	\$18,616.00
Land Rent	\$39,953.30	\$6,618.00	\$4,174.30	\$1,674.50	\$1,200.00
Inst. Fees	\$2,105.00	\$2,060.00	\$1,055.00	\$2,793.53	\$2,154.94
Totals:	\$103,533.30	\$69,088.00	\$65,413.87	\$91,241.86	\$76,960.34

1,914 - Campground nights stayed
106 - Cabins nights stayed

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The economic impact numbers were generated using placer.ai with models developed by the Oskaloosa Economic Impact Committee.

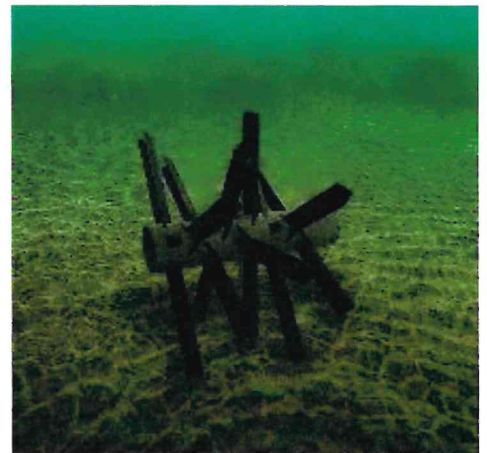
Location	Visitors	Retail	Camping	Dining	Gas	Total
Caldwell Park	27,200	\$734,400		\$435,200	\$190,400	\$1,360,000
Eveland Access Campgrounds	15,700	\$423,900	\$340,200	\$251,200	\$109,900	\$1,125,200
Russell Wildlife Area	14,300	\$386,100		\$228,800	\$100,100	\$715,000
White Oak Conservation	12,300	\$332,100		\$196,800	\$86,100	\$615,000
Eveland Access Cabins	11,600	\$313,200		\$185,600	\$81,200	\$580,000
Glendale Access	8,900	\$240,300		\$142,400	\$62,300	\$445,000
Environmental Education Programs	6,900	\$186,300		\$110,400	\$48,300	\$345,000
Maskunky Marsh	5,200	\$140,400		\$83,200	\$36,400	\$260,000
Eddyville Dunes Sand Prairie	4,700	\$126,900		\$75,200	\$32,900	\$235,000
Cedar Bluff Natural Area	4,100	\$110,700		\$65,600	\$28,700	\$205,000
Robertson Access	3,700	\$99,900		\$59,200	\$25,900	\$185,000
Quercus Wilderness Area	3,000	\$81,000		\$48,000	\$21,000	\$150,000
Rose Hill Access	1,500	\$40,500		\$24,000	\$10,500	\$75,000
North Skunk River Wildlife	980	\$26,460		\$15,680	\$6,860	\$49,000
Total	120,080	\$3,242,160	\$340,200	\$1,921,280	\$840,560	\$6,344,200

LOOKING AHEAD

Fish Habitat Structures

The Mahaska County Conservation Board was awarded a Fish Habitat Grant through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (Iowa DNR) to enhance fishing opportunities at two popular public waters in Mahaska County. Through this grant, MCCB will purchase and install 80 MossBack Fish Habitat structures—60 at White Oak Lake and 20 in Pond 1 at Russell Wildlife Area. Constructed from recycled PVC materials, these durable structures are designed to last a lifetime, providing long-term habitat that attracts and holds fish while creating better angling opportunities for the public.

This project would not be possible without the partnership and support of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Southern Iowa Anglers Club. By improving fish habitat, we are investing in the future of these fisheries and creating a better experience for anglers of all ages and skill levels. Better fishing attracts more visitors to our parks, which in turn benefits local businesses through increased spending on fuel, food, lodging, bait, and other recreational purchases. Projects like this not only improve our natural resources but also strengthen the local economy and reinforce Mahaska County's reputation as a great destination for outdoor recreation.



LOOKING AHEAD

Installation of Interpretive Signage in MCC Parks

This project will enhance the visitor experience in Mahaska County parks by installing interactive signs that support wayfinding and provide educational content on park habitats and history. Each sign will include QR codes that link to maps, written, audio, and visual content for an enriched, multimedia experience. Signs will be designed for seasonal content updates and accessibility for a wide range of users, including those with visual or hearing impairments.



LOOKING AHEAD

Investing in the Future of Our Forests

The Mahaska County Conservation Board was selected to participate in the Iowa Forest Resiliency Program, securing funding to complete forest improvement work on approximately 275 acres of county-owned woodlands. Over the next several years, professional forestry contractors will complete the majority of the work, including timber stand improvement, invasive species control, and other forest management practices designed to improve the long-term health, diversity, and resilience of our woodlands. These treatments will encourage healthy tree regeneration, increase wildlife habitat, reduce the impacts of invasive species, and help our forests better withstand future threats from pests, disease, and severe weather.

Beyond the environmental benefits, this project also represents a significant investment in Mahaska County's economy. Much of the work will be completed by private contractors, bringing grant dollars directly into our local communities while supporting skilled forestry professionals and related businesses. Healthy forests provide cleaner water, improved wildlife habitat, enhanced recreational opportunities, and greater carbon storage, all while making our parks more enjoyable for visitors. The Forest Resiliency Program demonstrates that conservation is not only about protecting natural resources—it is also about investing in our local economy and ensuring that future generations can enjoy healthy, productive woodlands for years to come.

The Mahaska County Conservation Board (MCCB) held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, July 21, 2025, at the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) in Caldwell Park. Board Chair Curt Jager called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Other members of the Board present at the meeting were Chuck Webb and Steve Dixon. The members of staff present were Director Chris Clingan, Naturalist Laura DeCook and Admin Assistant Molly Hicks. Also present was Mark Sullivan, Friends Board Chair.

Board Chair Jager asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion by Webb. Seconded by Dixon. The motion passed unanimously.

The Minutes were discussed.

- I. Dixon made a motion to amend the minutes of the June 16, 2025, board meeting. The Restitution Check for the Arson Case was amended to say the check was given to the What Cheer Fire Department. The amended minutes were approved by Dixon. Webb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Expenditures were reviewed.

- I. A few items on the expenditures list were discussed.
- II. The Kraig Ford expenditure was listed twice but was only paid once.
- III. Webb made a motion to approve the expenditures. Dixon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Ranger Ride Along Program was discussed.

- I. Dixon made a motion to approve the Ride Along Program waiver. Webb seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Venue Update for the ELC was discussed.

- I. Webb made a motion to approve the ELC Venue rental agreement form. Dixon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Southern Iowa Grassland Program was discussed.

- I. Dixon made a motion to proceed with the outlined plan. Webb seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Trespass of Heather Peterson.

- I. The topic was discussed. Heather Peterson is banned from all Mahaska County Conservation Property.

Mandatory Training for Appointed Officials was discussed.

- I. Mandatory training for appointed officials was discussed.

Heartland Insurance Bill was discussed.

- I. Webb made a motion to pay the \$46,041.00 Heartland Insurance bill. Dixon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Mahaska County Conservation Board (MCCB) held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, August 18, 2025, at the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) in Caldwell Park. Board Chair Curt Jager called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Other members of the Board present at the meeting were Chuck Webb, Steve Dixon and Linda Fox. Jennifer Peterson joined via telephone. The members of staff present were Director Chris Clingan, Naturalist Laura DeCook and Admin Assistant Molly Hicks. Also present was Mark Sullivan, Friends Board Chair.

Board Chair Jager asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion by Fox. Seconded by Webb. The motion passed unanimously.

The Minutes were discussed.

- I. Dixon made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2025, board meeting. Fox seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Expenditures were reviewed.

- I. A few items on the expenditure list were discussed.
- II. Dixon made a motion to approve the expenditures. Webb seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Pathfinders RC&D Agreement for Services was discussed.

- I. Dixon made a motion to approve using \$5000.00 from the Breckenridge Estate Fund to move forward with the Pathfinders RC&D agreement. Webb seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The 2024/2025 Annual Report was discussed.

- I. Dixon made a motion to approve the 2024/2025 Annual Report. Webb seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The next board meeting will be on September 15, 2025.

Public comments given.

Webb made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dixon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Chairman Curt Jager

Secretary Jennifer Peterson

Date 9/15/25

Date 9/15/25

The Mahaska County Conservation Board (MCCB) held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, September 15, 2025, at the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) in Caldwell Park. Board Chair Curt Jager called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Other members of the Board present at the meeting were Chuck Webb, Steve Dixon, Linda Fox and Jennifer Peterson. The members of staff present were Director Chris Clingan and Admin Assistant Molly Hicks. Also present was Mark Sullivan, Friends Board Chair.

Board Chair Jager asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion by Fox. Seconded by Dixon. The motion passed unanimously.

The Minutes were discussed.

- I. Fox made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2025, board meeting. Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Expenditures were reviewed.

- I. A few items on the expenditure list were discussed.
- II. Webb made a motion to approve the expenditures. Fox seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Terrain 360 Project was discussed.

- I. Web made a motion to approve using \$1200.00 from the REAP Fund to move forward with the project. Peterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Chevy 2500 Repair was discussed.

- I. Dixon made a motion to approve of having Baumerts Garage repair the truck. Fox seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Playscape Update was discussed.

- I. The playscape project was discussed and the group went outside to observe the progress.

Getting a Used Truck to Haul Equipment was discussed.

Cabin Stay Donation for Eveland Access Event was discussed.

- I. Fox made a motion to approve donating a cabin stay at Eveland Access Cabins to the October Fest Event as a prize. Peterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The next board meeting will be on October 20, 2025.

Public comments given.

The Mahaska County Conservation Board (MCCB) held a special board meeting on Thursday, October 2nd, 2025, at the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) in Caldwell Park. Board Vice Chair Linda Fox called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Other members of the Board present at the meeting were Chuck Webb. Curt Jager joined via phone call. The members of staff present were Director Chris Clingan, and Admin Assistant Molly Hicks.

- I. Board Vice Chair Fox asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion by Webb. Seconded by Fox. The motion passed unanimously.

Possible action item purchase of Ford F550 or set price range not to exceed \$30,000 .

- II. Jager made a motion to purchase a truck up to \$45,000 preferably with a dump bed. Webb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public comments.

- III. No public comments given.

Webb made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jager seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Chairman

Curt Jager
10/20/25

Secretary

James Peterson
10/20/25

The Mahaska County Conservation Board (MCCB) held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, October 20, 2025, at the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) in Caldwell Park. Board Chair Curt Jager called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Other members of the Board present at the meeting were Steve Dixon, Linda Fox and Jennifer Peterson. The members of staff present were Director Chris Clingan, Naturalist Laura DeCook and Admin Assistant Molly Hicks. Also present was Mark Sullivan, Friends Board Chair.

Board Chair Jager asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion by Fox. Seconded by Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.

The Minutes were discussed.

- I. Fox made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2025, board meeting. Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- II. Fox made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2025, Special board meeting. Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Expenditures were reviewed.

- I. A few items on the expenditure list were discussed. Amendment: The Pathfinders Agreement was not a donation.
- II. Dixon made a motion to approve the expenditures. Peterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The UMB Bill was discussed.

- I. Fox made a motion to pay \$33,082.50 for the bond. Peterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Job Descriptions were discussed.

- I. Peterson made a motion to approve the job descriptions for Executive Director, Park Ranger, Administrative Assistant / Naturalist, Park Ranger Supervisor and Environmental Education Coordinator. Fox seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The next board meeting will be on November 17, 2025.

Public comments given.

Dixon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Chairman Curt Jager

Secretary Jennifer Peterson

Date 11/17/25

Date 11/17/25

The Mahaska County Conservation Board (MCCB) held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, November 17, 2025, at the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) in Caldwell Park. Board Chair Curt Jager called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Other members of the Board present at the meeting were Steve Dixon, Linda Fox and Jennifer Peterson. The members of staff present were Director Chris Clingan, Naturalist Laura DeCook and Admin Assistant Molly Hicks. Also present was Mark Sullivan, Friends Board Chair and Larry Mateer.

Board Chair Jager asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion by Fox. Seconded by Dixon. The motion passed unanimously.

The Minutes were discussed.

- I. Peterson made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 20th 15, 2025, board meeting. Fox seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Expenditures were reviewed.

- I. Peterson made a motion to approve the expenditures. Fox seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Request for salvage of lumber at Swanson Barn.

- I. Peterson made a motion to approve that after a liability form is signed, Larry Mateer can salvage wood to make bird houses from Swanson Barn. Dixon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Wildlife Habitat Stamp Grant Resolution.

- I. Peterson made a motion to agree to abide by all covenants of chapter 23, and all the rules and regulations that apply to the Wildlife Habitat Stamp Program. Fox seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Fish Habitat Stamp Resolution.

- I. Fox made a motion to abide by all covenants of section 483A.3A code of Iowa 2001 and chapter 35 (571), Iowa Administrative Code and to move forward with the Fish Habitat Stamp Resolution Grant. Fox seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Consider approval of water lines and pit latrine at Caldwell.

- I. Dixon made a motion to move forward with adding water lines and a pit latrine at Caldwell Park. Peterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Budget committee discussion.

- I. Peterson made a motion to appoint a budget committee including Board Chair Curt Jager and Steve Dixon. Fox seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Director evaluation was discussed.

Iowa DOT project at Robertson was discussed.

The next board meeting will be on December 15, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. A potluck meal will be at 5:30.

Public comments given.

Dixon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Fox seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Chairman Curt Jager Secretary Linda Fox (Sec. Peterson)
Date 12/15/25 Date 12-15-25

The Mahaska County Conservation Board (MCCB) held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, December 15, 2025, at the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) in Caldwell Park. Board Chair Curt Jager called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Other members of the Board present at the meeting were Steve Dixon, Linda Fox and Chuck Webb. The members of staff present were Director Chris Clingan and Admin Assistant Molly Hicks. Also present was Mark Sullivan, Friends Board Chair and Kim Dixon.

Board Chair Jager asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion by Fox. Seconded by Webb. The motion passed unanimously.

The Minutes were discussed.

- I. Fox made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2025, board meeting. Dixon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Expenditures were reviewed.

- I. Webb made a motion to approve the expenditures. Fox seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Budget Proposal and possible action.

- I. Dixon made a motion to approve the budget we had before and ask the supervisors if they could pay for the health insurance. Fox seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Recommend Curt Jager to be reappointed to the Conservation Board.

- I. Dixon made a motion for Curt Jager to be reappointed to the Conservation Board. Webb seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Rose Hill Marsh Acquisition and possible action.

- I. Chuck made a motion to approve Dixons to pay \$5,000 plus \$1,600 for surveying and land acquisition. To be named appropriately at Rose Hill Marsh. Fox seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Freedom Rock was discussed. Chris will follow up and find out more information.

Tires for F550.

- I. Dixon made a motion to approve purchase of tires for F550 for the state bid amount of around \$2,000. Webb seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Goats for Swanson.

- I. Chuck made a motion to approve Chris looking into letting a neighboring landowner put goats at Swanson seasonally. Fox seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Cabin Donation.

- I. Fox made a motion to Approve donating a two-night cabin stay certificate to Oskaloosa Christian School Auction. Webb seconded and passed unanimously.

The next board meeting will be on January 19, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Public comments given.

Fox made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Webb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Chairman Linda Fox

Secretary Jennifer Peterson

Date 1-19-2026

Date 1-19-25

The Mahaska County Conservation Board (MCCB) held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, January 19, 2026, at the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) in Caldwell Park. Board Chair Linda Fox called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Other members of the Board present at the meeting were Steve Dixon, Curt Jager, Chuck Webb and Jennifer Peterson. The members of staff present were Director Chris Clingan and Admin Assistant Molly Hicks. Also present was Mark Sullivan, Friends Board Chair.

Board Chair Fox asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion by Webb. Seconded by Jager. The motion passed unanimously.

The Minutes were discussed.

- I. Jager made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2025, board meeting. Webb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Expenditures were reviewed.

- I. Jager made a motion to approve the expenditures. Dixon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Possible action on contract at Swanson Property.

- I. Webb made a motion to move forward with the contract. Peterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Cabin donation.

- I. Dixon made a motion to approve the two-night cabin stay certificate donation to Mahaska Hospice Auxiliary. Jager seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Director evaluation.

- I. Director evaluation was discussed.

Forest award and possible action to move forward.

- I. Dixon made a motion to move forward on this project. Webb seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Liability Waiver for facility rentals.

- I. Dixon made a motion to approve the waiver. Jager seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The next board meeting will be on February 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

- I. Dixon made a motion to approve the meeting date. Webb seconded and passed unanimously.

Public comments given.

Jager made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Webb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Chairman Linda For

Secretary Jennifer For

Date 2/23/2026

Date 2-23-26

The Mahaska County Conservation Board (MCCB) held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, February 23, 2026, at the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) in Caldwell Park. Board Chair Linda Fox called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Other members of the Board present at the meeting were Steve Dixon, Curt Jager, Chuck Webb and Jennifer Peterson. The members of staff present were Director Chris Clingan, Admin Assistant Molly Hicks and Park Ranger Steve Nugteren. Also present was Mark Sullivan, Friends Board Chair.

Board Chair Fox asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion by Jager. Seconded by Dixon. The motion passed unanimously.

The Minutes were discussed.

- I. Jager made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2026 board meeting. Webb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Expenditures were reviewed.

- I. Dixon made a motion to approve the expenditures. Peterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Rotation of board members.

- I. Jager made a motion to rotate board members by basic seniority of each member's term. Dixon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Wetlands projects on the Voss Property.

- I. Webb made a motion to move forward with the wetlands project on the Voss property, providing there is 100% funding for the project. Jager seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Adopt changes to the volunteer handbook.

- I. Jager made a motion to approve the changes to the volunteer handbook. Webb seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Temperature control policy.

- I. Jager made a motion to approve the temperature control policy. Webb seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on allowing public to pay part-time staff for private tours of the ELC.

- I. Dixon made a motion to approve the hiring of part-time staff to provide private tours of the upstairs area of the ELC when requested by renters of the ELC community room. The cost will be covered by the renter. Peterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The next board meeting will be on March 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Public comments given.

Dixon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jager seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Chairman Linda Fox

Secretary Steve Raper

Date 3/16/2024

Date 3/16/2026

The Mahaska County Conservation Board (MCCB) held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, March 16, 2026, at the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) in Caldwell Park. Board Chair Linda Fox called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Other members of the Board present at the meeting were Steve Dixon and Chuck Webb. The members of staff present were Director Chris Clingan and Admin Assistant Molly Hicks. Also present was Mark Sullivan, Friends Board Chair and Steve Fox.

Board Chair Fox asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion by Webb. Seconded by Dixon. The motion passed unanimously.

The Minutes were discussed.

- I. Dixon made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2026 board meeting. Webb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Expenditures were reviewed.

- I. Webb made a motion to approve the expenditures. Dixon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Policy for private parties to pay part-time staff for ELC tours.

- I. Dixon made a motion to approve the agreement with the suggested amendments. Webb seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Cabin donation request.

- I. Webb made a motion to approve the cabin donation request from the YMCA. Dixon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The next board meeting will be on April 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Public comments given.

Webb made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dixon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Chairman Linda Fox
Date 4-20-2026

Secretary Jennifer Petersen
Date 4-20-2026

The Mahaska County Conservation Board (MCCB) held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, April 20, 2026, at the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) in Caldwell Park. Board Chair Linda Fox called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Other members of the Board present at the meeting were Steve Dixon, Chuck Webb, Curt Jager, and Jennifer Peterson. The members of staff present were Director Chris Clingan and Admin Assistant Molly Hicks. Also present was Mark Sullivan, Friends Board Chair and Ella Paulson.

Board Chair Fox asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion by Jager. Seconded by Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.

The Minutes were discussed.

- I. Dixon made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2026 board meeting. Webb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Expenditures were reviewed.

- I. Webb made a motion to approve the expenditures. Peterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Fish Habitat grant and Wildlife Habitat stamp agreement approval.

- I. Webb made a motion to approve the Fish Habitat grant. Peterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- II. Jager made a motion to approve the Wildlife Habitat stamp agreement. Webb seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Scanlon Bait and Tackle request.

- I. A request from Scanlon Bait and Tackle to advertise in Mahaska County parks was discussed.

Cabin donation request.

- I. Jager made a motion to approve the cabin donation request from the Mahaska Chamber and development group. Peterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- II. Webb made a motion to approve the cabin donation request from the Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation for two free nights with an additional three weeknights at a 50% off discounted rate. Peterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Bond payment.

- I. Jager made a motion to approve the bond payment for \$358,082.50. Dixon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Stem externship.

- I. Dixon made a motion to approve stem externships for Steph Visser and Morgan Ernst. Jager seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Kiosk purchase for Russell from memorial funds.

- I. Webb made a motion to approve the purchase of a kiosk for Russell Wildlife Area using funds from the Max Jacobson memorial and the Marie De Beof Memorial. Peterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The next board meeting will be on May 18, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Public comments given.

Webb made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Chairman

Linda Fox

Secretary

Chuck Webb

Date

5/18/2026

Date

5-18-2026

The Mahaska County Conservation Board (MCCB) held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, May 18, 2026, at the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) in Caldwell Park. Board Chair Linda Fox called the meeting to order at 5:59 p.m. Other members of the Board present at the meeting were Steve Dixon and Chuck Webb. The members of staff present were Director Chris Clingan and Admin Assistant Ella Paulson. Also present was Mark Sullivan, Friends Board Chair.

Board Chair Fox asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion by Dixon. Seconded by Webb. The motion passed unanimously.

The Minutes were discussed.

- I. Webb made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2026 board meeting. Dixon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Expenditures were reviewed.

- I. Webb made a motion to approve the expenditures. Dixon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Offer to acquire Rose Hill Boat Ramp from Mahaska County for Conservation Board purposes

- I. Dixon made a motion to offer Mahaska County \$5,000 to acquire the Rose Hill Boat ramp for use by the Conservation Board. Webb seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Employee recruitment and retention discussion.

- I. Ideas to incentivize employee recruitment and retention were discussed.

Year-end spending.

- I. Dixon made a motion to approve spending the remaining funds for FY25-26 on area maintenance and repairs. Webb seconded and the motion passed unanimously

The next board meeting will be on June 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Public comments given.

Webb made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dixon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Chairman Linda Fox

Secretary Chuck Webb

Date 6/16/2026

Date June 16, 26

The Mahaska County Conservation Board (MCCB) held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) in Caldwell Park. Board Chair Linda Fox called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Other members of the Board present at the meeting were Steve Dixon, Chuck Webb, and Jennifer Peterson. The members of staff present were Director Chris Clingan, Administrative Naturalist Ella Paulson, and Park Ranger Ethan Ziegrowsky. Also present were Larry Miller, Karen Edwards, Tadd Ziegrowski, Drake Baarda, Luann Meyers, Heather Ziegrowsky, Annie Fritz, and Mark Sullivan, Friends Board Chair.

Board Chair Fox asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion by Dixon. Seconded by Webb. The motion passed unanimously.

The Minutes were discussed.

- I. Webb made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2026 board meeting. Dixon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Expenditures were reviewed.

- I. Webb made a motion to approve the expenditures. Peterson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Swearing in of our new Ranger Ethan Ziegrowsky.

- I. Ethan Ziegrowsky was sworn in as a Mahaska County Conservation Park Ranger.

The next board meeting will be on July 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Public comments given.

Dixon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Webb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Chairman Linda Fox

Secretary Chuck Webb

Date 7/20/2026

Date 7/20/2026