

# 2021 Environmental Education report to the Board

September 13, 2021

## Programming:

- 222 Programs, Outdoor Experiences, service learning<sup>1</sup>, Co-Sponsored in FY21
  - 4,094 Contacts
  - Conducted a few in-class programs and outdoor experiences in April and May 2021
  - Summer camps were held with fewer participants per camp, one camp per location, self-brought snacks, limited travel in county vehicles, and no overnight camps.
  - StoryWalks at several location through the year<sup>4</sup>
  - Staff updated the Pioneer Day outdoor experience to be inclusive to all communities in Ames and changed the name to Iowa History Day.

## Partners:

- Raised \$30,450 towards contract purchase of the Osheim property
- funds raised in FY22 will again go towards the Osheim property

## Water Testing:<sup>2</sup>

- SCC staff testing 11 stream and 2 lake sites and volunteer testing 26 sites
- 23 kits put together and in use
  - Plan to add 6 more kits to our stock
- 254 visits have been conducted and entered on the Clean Water Hub
- Will ask volunteers to turn all kits back in when winter arrives so kits can be inspected and supplies restocked/updated

## Other:

- Dial and Discover (OnCell) for FY20<sup>3</sup>
  - 15 stops
  - 623 pageviews by 293 unique visitors (similar to last year)
  - 5.15 pages viewed per visit for an average time of 2:58 minutes. (increase from last year)
  - 50% new visitors
- [Chronolog.io](#) still going strong<sup>3</sup>
  - McFarland Park timber stand Improvement area
  - TELC at the ford
  - Hickory Grove Lake on the island
- Interpretive panels<sup>3</sup>
  - Peterson Park on fishing and history of the area
  - Hickory Grove Park on watersheds, Lake restoration, history of area, and recreational opportunities
- Wrote a successful REAP-CEP grant for programming at [Cultivating Hope Farms](#) targeted towards people with different abilities

- **Nature Connect** SCC's Service Assistance Program in co-operation with MICA<sup>5</sup>
  - 2 coupons were each used twice for camping and program fees

**Footnotes: Select Strategic Plan Correlations**

1. Stewardship of Natural Resources: Outcomes and Strategies 1c. – Provide opportunities for the public and SCC stakeholders to get involved with invasive species reduction on SCC land and their own property
2. Stewardship of Natural Resources: Outcomes and Strategies 2. – Continue water quality monitoring and expand lake and volunteer-led monitoring as per the Water Quality Monitoring Plan
3. Community Engagement: Outcomes and Strategies 1- Continue to communicate in multiple ways to engage and educate the public
4. Community Engagement: Outcomes and Strategies 1- Continue to integrate more SCC parks and properties into programming
5. Resource Alignment: Outcomes and Strategies 2a.- Continue to provide access to programs, properties, and projects for all income levels