

FY18 Annual Report

July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018



Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor –

A Park in Progress

*Collaboration. Cooperation.
Conservation. Connectivity.*



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Crooked Bend – Skunk River Greenbelt



At A Glance

Connecting people with nature and improving natural resources - making Story County a great place to live, work, and recreate.

Education

- 30,000+ contacts annually
- 1,100+ public and school programs
- Programs for tots to seniors
- In all Story County school districts
- Named ***Best Environmental Education Program in Iowa*** (counties with more than three naturalists)

Recreation/Parks

- 3,100 acres under management
- 1,900 acres public hunting
- 89 miles of trails including new Skunk River Water Trail
- Campgrounds, lakes, picnic areas, meeting spaces, playgrounds

Recently Completed Projects

- Hickory Grove Lake Watershed Project Phase #1 (Streambank stabilization and buffer, livestock exclusion, septic replacement)
- Sensitive Areas Inventory Phase #1 (County-wide)
- Comprehensive Natural Resources and Recreation Plan (a component of the *Story County Comprehensive Plan 2036: Cornerstone to Capstone (C2C)*)
- County-wide Trails Plan (a component of the C2C)
- West Peterson river/ lake shoreline stabilization
- River Access improvements at Lekwa and 265th Street Accesses
- Watershed Water Quality Assessments (County-wide)
- Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor – Phase #1

Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM)

- Conservation focused right of way and drainage ditch maintenance
- 63 miles of drainage ditch management
- Roadway park and prairie management
- 5,700 acres under management

Current Projects

- Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor – *Phase #2 in progress, Phase #3 in design*
- Praeri Rail Trail extension to Dakins Lake – *in design*
- Hickory Grove Lake Watershed Project Phases #2 (shoreline and gully stabilization through dredging and access improvements) – *in design*
- Sensitive Areas Inventory Phase #2 (County-wide) – *in progress*
- “*Designate the Skunk*” – South Skunk River was designated as a State Water Trail.
- Heart of Iowa Nature Trail Paving Phase #1 – *in design*
- Carroll Prairie acquisition
- Ronald “Dick” Jordan Family Wildlife Area acquisition
- Peterson Access improvement
- Askew Access improvement

Upcoming Projects

- Hickory Grove Park sewer replacement
- Army Corps of Engineers land acquisition
- New beach house at Hickory Grove Park
- Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor – *Phase #3 (trail connector)*
- Cabins at Dakins Lake
- Hosting the 2020 IACCB Conference



Economic Impact

of Story County Conservation Parks

712,893* annual visits x \$25.37/person average expenditure* =

\$18,086,085



CAMPING

5859 Camper Nights x \$59.60* = **\$349,196**



TRAILS

49,639* visitors x \$8.80* = **\$436,826** *Heart of Iowa Trail only*



HUNTING

1800 acres x \$400/acre** = **\$720,000**



Hickory Grove Lake

71,123 annual visitors = **\$6.46 mil*****

Statewide County Parks add **\$291 mil to the GDP** and **5,789 jobs to Iowa***

* *The Economic Value of Iowa's Natural Resources* – ISU Study, December 2012

**REAP Statistical Information - DNR

***Iowa Lakes Valuation Project – DNR

Introduction

We have commented before that every year seems to pass by with increased vigor and velocity. This year has been no exception. And, as with every other year, we endeavored to make the environment healthier and Story County a great place to live, to work, and to recreate.

Our county's natural resources, parks, and our own individual interests make Story County rich in diversity. Whether you enjoy walking with your dog, going on a bird hike, observing a bit of solace in nature, seeing bluebells in the spring or the majesty of a compass plant in the summer, hearing the sound of nothing but bicycle tires humming down the trail, searching for that elusive ring-necked pheasant on a crisp morning, or paddling down a river, we are blessed to be able to share in opportunities like these.

As you will see in this report, Story County Conservation achieved some significant accomplishments this year for the citizens of Story County. The board and staff are always pleased to listen to your thoughts and desires and to make improvements with the help of our neighbors, friends, families, and communities. We look forward to building upon our successes and lessons learned together as we move into the coming years.



Michael Cox
Director, Story County Conservation



Dr. James Pease
Chair, Story County Conservation Board

Boards and Staff

Story County Board of Supervisors

Marty Chitty (2017-2018)
Lauris Olson (2017-2018)
Rick Sanders (2017-2018)

Story County Conservation Board

Dr. Nancy Franz (2017-2018)
Christine Laumer (2017-2018)
Craig Meyers (2017-2018)
Dr. Jim Pease (2017-2018)
Ted Tedesco (2017-2018)
Rick Sanders, ex-officio (2017-2018)

Story County Conservation Staff

Administration

Michael Cox, Director
Melissa Johannes, Administrative Assistant
Jolene Van Waus, Financial Data Manager

Environmental Education

Rebekah Beall Warburton, Naturalist
Heather Hucka, Naturalist
Jerry Keys, Environmental Ed. Coordinator
Jessica Lancial, Naturalist
Erica Place, Outreach Coordinator
Elizabeth Waage, Naturalist

Field Operations

Russ DeWall, Conservation Technician II
Luke Feilmeier, Park Ranger
Joe Hill, Conservation Technician
Beau Hoppe, Conservation Technician
Dustin Horne, Conservation Technician
Benjamin Marcus, Conservation Technician
Patrick Shehan, Special Projects Ranger
Danny Simcox, Park Ranger
Ryan Wiemold, Parks Superintendent
Amy Yoakum, Natural Resource Specialist

Integrated Roadside Vegetation Mgmt.

Tyler Kelley, Vegetation Mgmt. Specialist
Joe Kooiker, Vegetation Mgmt. Biologist

Seasonal Employees – 2017

Ashley Bozman, Conservation Aide
Tracy Christiansen, Conservation Aide
Seth Dicks, Conservation Aide
Megan Dohrman, Vegetation Mgmt. Aide

Seasonal Employees – 2017 (continued)

Melody Gerver, Naturalist
Jacob Harmon, Conservation Aide
Zach Jamison, Conservation Aide
Cierra Johannes, Waterfront Aide
Hannah Kroeger, Conservation Aide
Jamey Kuehn, Conservation Aide
Nathan Mead, Vegetation Mgmt. Aide
Katelyn Moore, Waterfront Aide
Drew Phillips, Vegetation Mgmt. Aide
Dakota Popp, Naturalist
Wiley Schatz, Park Ranger aide
Matthew Shanklin, Conservation Aide
Alec Sutton, Waterfront Aide

Seasonal Employees – 2018

Eric Baldwin, Park Ranger Aide
Tanner Christiansen, Conservation Aide
Tracy Christiansen, Conservation Aide
Megan Donovan, Conservation Aide
Nicholas Hadaway, Conservation Aide
Kaitlyn Hardin, Waterfront Aide
Hannah Kroeger, Conservation Aide
Ted Lenaerts, Vegetation Mgmt. Aide
Kathryn Diane Maxwell, Naturalist
Joseph Olberding, Waterfront Aide
Tim Schoppe, Conservation Aide
Taylor Smith, Naturalist
Donovan Snodgrass, Conservation Aide
Chance Steffes, Vegetation Mgmt. Aide
Allison Stegmann, Conservation Aide
Sam Van De Berg, Conservation Aide
Kara Welch, Waterfront Aide



May 2018 – Story County Conservation Staff

**Back Row: Beau Hoppe, Ben Marcus, Heather Hucka, Joe Hill, Melissa Johannes, Russ DeWall.
 Middle Row: Danny Simcox, Beth Waage, Jolene Van Waus, Jessica Lancial, Rebekah Beall, Erica Place,
 Joe Kooiker, Jerry Keys. Front Row: Michael Cox, Tyler Kelley, Dustin Horne, Luke Feilmeier,
 Amy Yoakum, Ryan Wiemold, Patrick Shehan.**



May 2018 – Story County Conservation Seasonal Employees

**Back: Taylor Smith, Allison Stegmann, Eric Baldwin, Joe Olberding, Donovan Snodgrass, Diane Maxwell.
 Front Row: Sam Van De Berg, Ted Lenaerts, Hannah Kroeger, Megan Donovan, Nick Hadaway.**

Annual Highlights

Recreation Enhancements

- Hickory Grove Park trails were expanded on the south side of the lake, steps were replaced at Snow Bunting Lodge, and a new stone entrance monument, kiosks, and a flagpole were installed at the main entrance.
- Camp pads were enlarged at Dakins Lake, rock was added to entrance roads, and a flagpole and monument were installed. Revetment was completed along the eastern lakeshore.
- Woodland trail steps were replaced at McFarland Park.
- Staff worked with Iowa State University (ISU) College of Design students on a trail wayfinding design at McFarland Park.
- West Peterson boat ramp dock was repaired and reconfigured.
- Design work and easements were completed for the Praeri Rail Trail (PRT) extension project from Highway 65 into Zearing.
- Flood damage repairs were made on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail, and fences at cattle crossings were replaced. Trail counters were installed between Slater and Huxley, and 911 signage and updated rules were placed along the entire trail.
- Phase I construction, including site grading and stream stabilization, at the Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor (TELC) was completed, and Phase II construction began.
- Phase I of the Hickory Grove Lake Restoration project, including shoreline stabilization and seven rock check dams, was completed.

- Volunteers from the Ames Morning Rotary Club and the ISU Natural Resource and Ecology Management (NREM) Department planted 100 trees and shrubs as part of a Trees for Kids grant. Volunteers from Workiva and Ames Morning Rotary watered trees throughout the year.



May 2018 - Volunteers planting trees at TELC

- Master planning and design documentation for improvements to the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail were completed. SCC was awarded a Central Iowa Regional Transportation Planning Alliance (CIRTPA) grant to pave the trail between Slater and Huxley.
- An on-line campground reservation system was implemented for selected sites at Hickory Grove Park and Dakins Lake beginning with the 2018 camping season.

Natural Resource Enhancements

- Renovation of the Robison Wildlife Acres pond included a new outlet structure, sediment excavation, and fishery restoration.



March 2018 – Robison Wildlife Acres pond renovation

- Oxbows were re-established at the Ronald “Dick” Jordan Family Wildlife Area. Savannah, prairie, and timber areas were restored.
- A tile was repaired at Roland Wildlife Area, and 26.5 acres were seeded to prairie.
- Work continued on a plan to protect prairie remnants at the county’s pioneer and historic cemeteries.
- Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa crews completed natural resource management projects at the Jordan Wildlife Area, Christiansen Forest Preserve, Hickory Grove Park, and Robison Wildlife Acres.
- Botanical and Ecology Consulting began Phase II of the sensitive areas inventory through field surveys on over 5,000 privately-owned acres.
- A trailer was purchased and adapted for trails work days and other field events.
- Field days were held for the Wasp Watchers program, the Indian Creek Watershed, Palmer Amaranth identification, and the ISU NREM Club.
- Fishing line recycling stations were built and donated by the Ames Anglers and installed at 13 sites by the ISU Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.
- A food plot was installed at Skunk River Flats.
- Trees were cleared below the spillway at Hickory Grove to prepare for Phase II of the Hickory Grove Lake Restoration project.
- A higher osprey pole was installed at West Peterson Park.
- A bank stabilization project was completed at West Peterson Park with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to restore the river bank to previous dimensions and maintain trail access around the lake.
- Prairie seed (valued at \$6,000) was collected and processed for future restoration projects.
- Signs were placed on the 11 Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 10 watershed boundaries with Prairie Rivers of Iowa, Story County Board of Supervisors, Story County Community Foundation, and the Story County Soil and Water Conservation District.



June 2018 – Watershed boundary sign installation

Education and Outreach

- Story County Conservation conducted 1,028 education and outreach programs resulting in 28,105 contacts through 633 indoor presentations, 390 outdoor experiences, and 5 service learning opportunities.
- The Wild Women of the Woods workshop, where participants learned ways to enjoy the outdoors, was attended by 75 women.
- Staff developed three new programs on watershed, biodiversity, and wetlands after attending a Water Rocks workshop. Two other school programs were created at the request of teachers.
- Naturalist Heather Hucka received the 2017 Master Frontline Interpreter Award from the National Association for Interpretation, Story County Conservation's environmental education staff received the 2017 Outstanding Environmental Education Program award from the Iowa Association of Naturalists (IAN) and Iowa Conservation Education Coalition (ICEC), and Story County Conservation field and administrative staff received the National Association for Interpretation Heartland Region Excellence in Interpretive Support Award.



November 2017 - Heather Hucka celebrating her award



May 2018 – SCC EE staff with their IAN/ICEC Award

- The quarterly Prairie Horizons newsletter provided articles and a schedule of SCC programs, events, and meetings. A total of 1,901 mailed and 707 electronic subscriptions were distributed quarterly, 890 SCC volunteers received the newsletter via email, and 535 printed copies were distributed to libraries, city halls, and businesses.
- Sixty-six press releases were sent to media outlets, and special event fliers were distributed to schools, groups, and local businesses to publicize programs.
- Programs and events were shared on Facebook and the county's website. Postings to SCC's Facebook page included press releases, conservation-related news from other websites, and photographs of SCC projects and volunteer experiences. By the end of FY18, SCC had 2,623 "fans," an 11% increase over FY17. Two paid ads ran on the Facebook page in May, 2018; this was the first time SCC has paid for an ad on a social media platform. A total of \$35 was spent in an effort to promote the spring festival and a volunteer project. More paid advertising on social media is anticipated in the future.

Recent Ads on Story County Conservation

Ads activity is reported in the time zone of your ad account.

[+ Create Ad](#)

Event Promotion Mustard Pull & Pints! Wednesday, May 23, 2018, 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Promoted by Mick Farland on May 18, 2018 Completed	1,483 People Reached	23 Event Responses	\$20.00 Spent of \$20.00 View Results
Event Promotion Spring Festival Sunday, May 6, 2018, 2 PM - 5 PM Promoted by Mick Farland on May 4, 2018 Completed	2,095 People Reached	65 Event Responses	\$15.00 Spent of \$15.00 View Results

- Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube were also used, with Instagram seeing considerable growth and new demographics. More effort will be spent on these other social media platforms.
- The county updated its website, enabling SCC more capabilities to convey information and provide pictures or videos of projects.



June 2018 - FLOAT V participants hiking in the Rocky Mountains

Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management

- Staff completed 79 Secondary Roads Department work orders. These requests included seeding, brush control, and weed complaint investigations.
- 202 centerline roadside miles were sprayed to control weeds.
- 32 noxious weed complaints were handled by phone or registered letter.
- Brush was sprayed in five townships by a contractor, and site distance issues were addressed at intersections and bridges by staff.
- Approximately 2,300 pounds of native grass and forb seed was distributed to landowners in cooperation with the local Pheasants Forever chapter.
- Brush re-sprouts were treated with aquatic herbicides in three drainage districts, covering over 13 miles of open ditches. Trees and brush were cut and piled for burning in the Hardin-Story #3 open ditch. Letters detailing drainage district projects and timelines were sent to landowners.



October 2017 – Combining at Grant Ridge

- Staff worked with numerous landowners to encourage implementation of conservation practices.
- 325 pounds of usable prairie seed was produced at two seed nurseries. Hand-harvested forbs from volunteer collection events added to the diversity of the seed harvested by combines.

IRVM FIELD OPERATIONS COMPARISON BY FISCAL YEAR			
	FY16	FY17	FY18
Roadside Plantings (sites)	68	44	70
Roadside Plantings (acres)	39	20	44
Custom Plantings (sites)	3	4	0
Custom Plantings (acres)	3	17	0
Conservation/Other Plantings (sites)	0	1	2
Conservation/Other Plantings (acres)	1.33	3	40.6
Roadside Burns (sites)	1	8	3
Roadside Burns (acres)	2.5	25	8.72
Roadside Weeds Sprayed (miles)	212.5	194.5	202
Foliar Brush Sprayed (miles)	83	122.5	48
Equipment Rentals (landowners)	37	13	20
Equipment Rentals (acres)	1,100	170	310.5
Pounds of Seed Harvested	265	372	325
Drainage District (amount billed)	\$20,532.46	\$14,255.08	\$12,512.30
Drainage District Revenue Received	\$18,051.78	\$14,931.20	\$11,214.80

Volunteer Engagement

Volunteers are integral in attaining SCC’s mission. Volunteer hours logged in FY18 included: serving on boards and committees (Story County Conservation Board, Story County Trails Advisory Committee, and Story County Conservation *Partners*), providing office/clerical help, cleaning SCC parks through the Adopt-A-Park program, providing natural resource and land stewardship work, collecting prairie seed, and helping with environmental education programs.

SCC also provided volunteer opportunities at scheduled events, including TEAM (Trail Enhancement and Management) workdays, seed harvests, Ames Area Amateur Astronomers programs, prairie walks, and spring and fall festivals.

Volunteer opportunities were advertised on SCC’s website and Facebook page, *Prairie Horizons* newsletter, and the Volunteer Center of Story County website. Various student and adult organizations were matched to SCC volunteer tasks to complete service projects.

SCC partnered with the Ames High Business Collaborative to engage students in real-world, business-related volunteer projects. Students volunteered their time to create brochures, build websites, and design marketing materials among other projects.

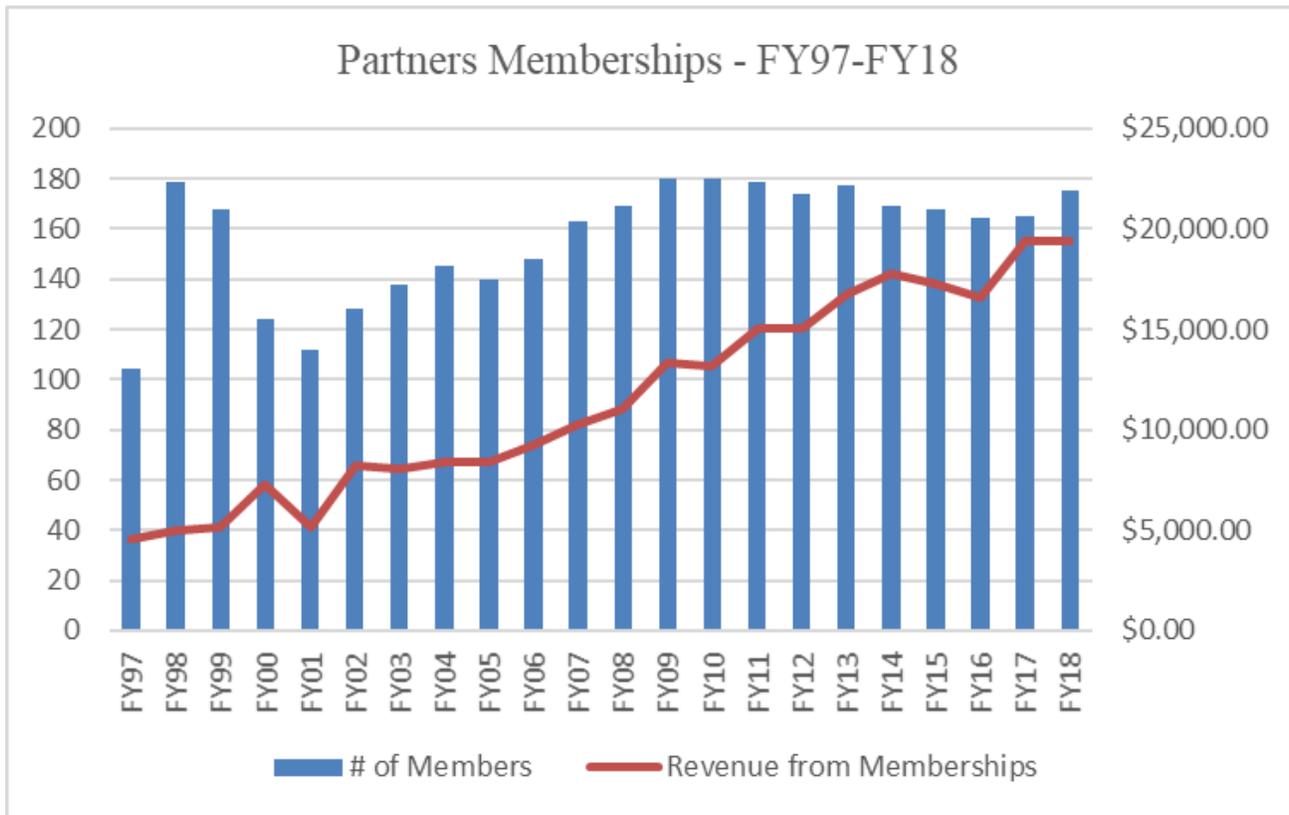
The 3,765 volunteer hours donated in FY18 roughly equate to 1.8 full-time staff. Using the Independent Sector volunteer service value of \$22.73 per hour, volunteers provided \$85,578.45 of service to SCC in FY18.

VOLUNTEER HOURS FY18 (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018)		
Volunteer Category	Occurrences	Volunteer Hours
Administration	178	456.5
Environmental Education	159	1190.5
Roadside program	34	257.5
Field	630	1,860.5
TOTALS	1,001	3,765

Story County Conservation Partners

Story County Conservation *Partners* provides financial resources and volunteer support for SCC. In FY18, *Partners* hosted spring and fall festivals at McFarland Park, sponsored the photo contest, and gave financial support towards the acquisition of Carroll Prairie.

Membership levels in the organization range from Great Horned Owl at \$30/year to Red-tailed Hawk at \$1,000/year. *Partners* averaged 173 memberships during FY18 and raised a total of \$19,394 to support SCC.



Story County Conservation Board Meeting Summaries

July 17, 2017

The board approved the following: employment of Nathan Mead, vegetation management intern; hourly rate adjustments for Ashley Bozman and Hannah Kroeger, natural resource aides; employment of Beverley Chance, Dakins Lake campground attendant; Story County Conservation Violence in the Workplace Policy; a first reading of Story County Conservation Employee Handbook; the Story County Conservation Respiratory Protection Plan; Resolution #2017-3 recognizing Prairie Rivers of Iowa as the official watershed management organization for SCC; and placement of a tree and bench at Hickory Grove Park in memory of Dorothy Lewis.

The board also considered bids for TELC and recommended that the Story County Board of Supervisors award a contract to Peterson Contractors, Inc. for Bid Package #1 – Stream Restoration.

Director Cox updated the board on the county's C2C Plan annual review, a timeline for review of SCC's Strategic Plan, possible dates for the legislators' reception, discussions regarding construction of a solar array at the ISU Research Park, and status of the PRT extension project.

August 7, 2017

The board approved a second reading of the Story County Conservation Employee Handbook, submission of a Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) grant application for development of the Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor - Phase 2, purchase of a mobile command terminal software license for one law enforcement laptop, and electrical work for repairs to the Dakins Lake lift station. The board also acknowledged a fee-for-service work order with Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa and recommended that the Story County Board of Supervisors approve Cooperative Agreement #18CRDLWBMBALM-001 between the IDNR and SCC for shoreline stabilization and gully erosion structures at Hickory Grove Lake.

The director gave updates on scheduled completion of the Hickory Grove Park shower house, a verbal agreement with the Union Pacific Railroad for purchase of property in Zearing for extension of the PRT, solar energy studies for several SCC parks, and destruction of the IRVM pole barn in a recent storm. Plans are underway for a dedication of the Skunk River Water Trail next spring, and the IDNR is moving forward with plans for access improvements at Peterson Park and Cambridge Ponds.

September 11, 2017

The board met to review SCC's strategic plan. Results of a stakeholder feedback survey were reviewed, and SCC future vision stories for the next three years were created. There were no action items.

September 18, 2017

The board approved employment of Joel Born, conservation aide effective September 19, 2017; Resolutions #2017-04, #2017-05, and #2017-06 for Living Roadway Trust Fund grants to purchase a tumble drum mixer, a Kubota UTV, and a chemical safety cabinet; and Resolution #2017-07 temporarily suspending the refuge status at Hickory Grove Park for a controlled goose hunt.

The board also considered several contracts and agreements and recommended approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors: Cooperative Agreement #18CRDLWBNNHOOG-0004 between the IDNR and SCC for stabilization work at West Peterson Park; a contract between SCC and

Hall Backhoe and Trenching for stabilization work at West Peterson Park; a contract between SCC and Daniel Moody for pond outlet replacement and excavation work at Robison Wildlife Acres; an agreement between Shive-Hattery, Inc. and Story County Conservation Board for Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor, Bid Package #1; and an agreement with Central Iowa Water Association for an easement on the PRT.

Chair Franz reported on the updates to the SCC Strategic Plan, which will be finalized for approval prior to FY19 budget preparations.

Director Cox reported on the following: a September 19 public hearing regarding TIF funding for the Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor - Phase 2, a successful introductory ISU OLLI class featuring SCC, solar power analysis reports for several SCC parks, construction status at TELC, and research on a proposed storage facility shared by IRVM and two other county departments.

October 9, 2017

The board approved the Story County Conservation FY17 Annual Report and a Fee-for-Service Work Order with Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa for invasive species work at Murphy/Micah French Cemetery.

Director Cox gave updates on a potential land exchange along the Skunk River Greenbelt, a memorandum of understanding to transfer land in the Skunk River Greenbelt to Story County scheduled for the October 10 board of supervisors' agenda, and construction progress at TELC.

The board reviewed a written report from Environmental Education Coordinator Keys.

October 9, 2017

A strategic planning session followed the regular board meeting. Board members and partners reviewed stakeholder feedback, SCC's mission statement, and preferred SCC visions.

November 13, 2017

The board approved an hourly wage adjustment for Nathan Mead, vegetation management aide; REAP Development Grant Agreement #18-R2-85 between SCC and the IDNR for the Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor – Phase II; Resolution #2017-08 supporting a fish habitat grant application; and a first reading of the SCC 2018-2020 Strategic Plan.

The board reviewed the SCC FY19 Capital Improvement Plan, Story County's Coordinated Long-Range Plan, and FY19 IRVM and Conservation budget proposals.

Updates were given on construction at TELC, solar power options at SCC parks, the December 15 legislators' reception, land acquisition for the PRT extension project, and progress on the Hickory Grove Lake renovation.

December 11, 2017

The board approved 2018 SCC board meeting dates; second reading of the SCC 2018-2020 Strategic Plan; the SCC FY19 Capital Improvement Plan; and FY19 Conservation and IRVM budget proposals. The board also reviewed Change Order #1 between SCC and Peterson Contractors, Inc. for Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor – Bid Package #1 and recommended approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors.

January 8, 2018

Chair Franz administered the oath of office to Craig Meyers, who will serve an additional five-year term. Officers elected for 2018 were: Jim Pease, chair; Craig Meyers, vice-chair; and Christine Laumer, secretary.

The board approved employment of Tim Schoppe, seasonal conservation aide; Resolution #2018-01 endorsing a grant application to the Central Iowa Regional Transportation Planning Alliance's Transportation Alternatives Program; and a deed of conservation easement between Loren and Nancy Donaldson and SCC Board. The board also acknowledged Change Order #2 between SCC and Peterson Contractors, Inc. for TELC.

Vegetation Management Biologist Joe Kooiker gave a report on the IRVM Program, and Director Cox updated the board on HUC 10 watershed area signs, land acquisitions, employee bargaining unit agreements, construction progress at TELC, and a SCC supporters' banquet scheduled for April 12.

Board members gave reports on IACCB 2020 conference planning, TELC Phase II design meetings, and the legislators' reception. Pease distributed copies of a new Skunk River Water Trail brochure.

February 19, 2018

The board approved a first reading of revisions to Story County Conservation By-laws, Rules and Regulations, and Safety and Health Management Policy, a list of unbudgeted FY18 purchases, Resolution #2018-2 endorsing a grant application to Wellmark Foundation for hard surfacing and trail improvements on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail, and Resolution #2018-3 endorsing funding for the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Fund.

The board also considered and recommended that the Story County Board of Supervisors approve proposed plans for TELC, Phase 2, and an amendment to an agreement with Shive-Hattery Inc. for additional design work and construction staking for the PRT extension.

Director Cox reported on the county's strategic plan, and there was discussion on the IACCB 2020 conference.

March 12, 2018

The board approved air rifle and archery target shooting programs in areas managed by SCC, a merit adjustment for Jerry Keys, grazing lease agreement with Finch Livestock Exchange, and second readings to Story County Conservation By-laws, Rules and Regulations, and Safety and Health Management Policy.

The board also considered and recommended that the Story County Board of Supervisors approve a firewood contract with Finco Tree/Wood Service LLC, an easement agreement on the PRT with Iowa Regional Utilities Association, and an agreement with Prairie Rivers of Iowa to coordinate and install watershed and creek signs.

Parks Superintendent Ryan Wiemold gave an update on field operations. Director Cox reported on an award to be presented to SCC by the National Association of Interpreters and on economic impact studies planned for three SCC parks.

March 26, 2018

The board met to consider and recommend that the Story County Board of Supervisors approve a bid award to Boulder Contracting LLC for TELC Phase 2 construction, an amendment to an agreement with Shive-Hattery Inc. for Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor, Bid Package #2, an agreement with Snyder and Associates for Heart of Iowa Nature Trail Paving Improvements and expenditure of Story County Energy Transfer Funds, and a contract with Conley's Trucking Inc. to haul and spread rock at Dakins Lake.

The board also approved 2018 campground attendant contracts with Tom Foley, Ernie Gummo, and Beverley Chance.

Director Cox gave updates on the Hickory Grove Watershed Improvement and Lake Restoration project, tree planting at TELC, and the PRT extension project.

April 9, 2018

The board approved a collective bargaining agreement between Story County, Iowa Conservation Board and Public, Professional, & Maintenance Employees Local 2003 (Conservation Unit) for 2018-2021; employment of 2018 seasonal staff including salary adjustments for Tracy Christiansen and Timothy Schoppe; a lease agreement with John and Jan Lekwa for property on the Skunk River Greenbelt; a Trees for Kids Grant agreement; an addendum to the Story County Conservation Safety and Health Management Policy; and FY18 budget amendment requests. The board also approved the director to express the board's interest in acquiring land along the Skunk River in Union Township.

The board considered and recommended the following for approval by the Story County Board of Supervisors: a contract with Boulder Contracting, LLC for Phase 2 construction of TELC; a Fish Habitat Stamp agreement with the IDNR for Hickory Grove Lake Restoration; three project sponsor acknowledgements with Iowa State University CyBIZ Lab for economic impact analyses at TELC, Dakins Lake, and Hickory Grove Park; and a project sponsor agreement with ISU's Institute for Design Research and Outreach for the design of wayfinding signs at McFarland Park.

The director gave updates on plans for the upcoming recognition dinner for SCC supporters, acceptance of an award to SCC at the National Association of Interpreters Conference, discussions with The Nature Conservancy regarding management of the Ames High School Prairie, the implementation of online camping reservations, and a potential land acquisition.

May 14, 2018

The board approved employment of 2018 seasonal staff; merit adjustments for Director Michael Cox, Vegetation Management Biologist Joseph Kooiker, and Parks Superintendent Ryan Wiemold; a lease agreement with Brent and Jody Larson for property on the Skunk River Greenbelt, and the placement of two benches at Christiansen Forest Preserve in memory of Vernon Bauge.

The board also considered and recommended the following for approval by the board of supervisors: two contracts with Con-Struct, Inc. for construction of water trail accesses at Peterson Park and Askew Bridge utilizing Energy Transfer Funds; a development and easement agreement with Hunziker Development Company, LLC and Aurora Heights, LLC for recreational trail construction and operation on a portion of TELC, and a watershed awareness month proclamation.

Natural Resource Specialist Amy Yoakum gave an update on the natural resource program, and Director Cox gave updates on repairs needed on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail and to the JD5510 tractor, phase 2 construction at TELC, notice of North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) project funding towards the purchase of Jordan Wildlife Area, phase 1 of the Hickory Grove Lake renovation, planning for phase 3 of the sensitive areas inventory, and a tentative meeting scheduled for June 18 to review the county watershed assessment.

June 11, 2018

The board approved employment of 2018 seasonal staff; FY19 salaries, step, and longevity adjustments for SCC employees; an amended collective bargaining agreement between Story County, Iowa Conservation Board and Public, Professional, & Maintenance Employees Local 2003 (Conservation Unit) for 2018-2021; a resolution endorsing a grant application to the Iowa State Recreational Trails Program for hard surfacing/trail improvements on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail from Slater to Huxley; and a Prairie Lakes IX Wetlands Project Agreement between SCC Board and the IDNR.

The board also considered and recommended that the Story County Board of Supervisors approve a change order for Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor-Bid Package 2 with Boulder Contracting, LLC and the extension of a contract for services with Botanical and Ecological Consulting.

Outreach Coordinator Erica Place reported on volunteers and the outreach program. Director Cox gave updates on the Bear Creek Bridge, revised plans for the Hickory Grove Lake renovation project, fence repairs along the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail, and an additional easement in Zearing for the PRT extension project.

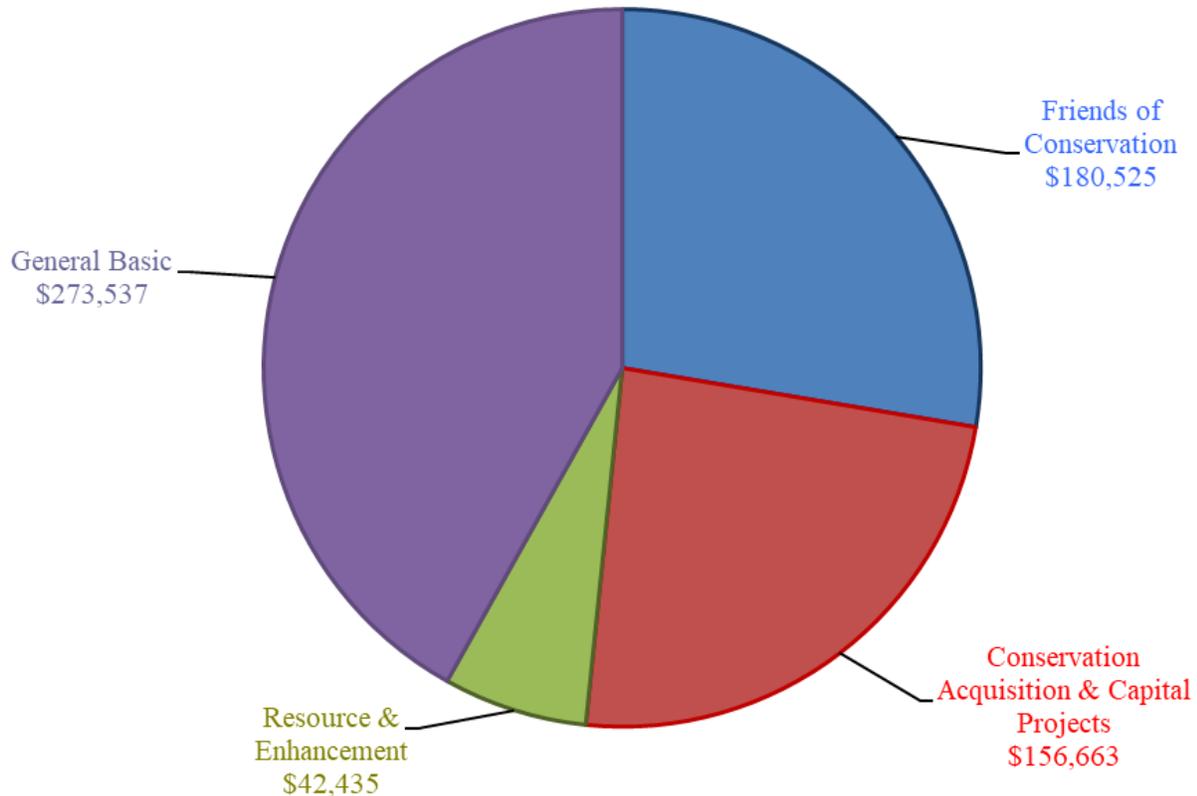
Grants Awarded

The following grants and agreements were awarded in FY18. Expenditures and reimbursements may occur in the year awarded or over several years.

FUNDING SOURCE	TITLE	AMOUNT AWARDED
Central Iowa Regional Transportation and Planning Alliance - TAP	Heart of Iowa Nature Trail: Slater – Huxley Hard Surfacing and Trail Improvements Project	\$200,000
Iowa Department of Natural Resources - North American Wetlands Conservation Act Project	Prairie Lakes IX Wetlands Project	\$100,000
Iowa Department of Natural Resources - REAP Development Grant	Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor – Phase II	\$468,582
Iowa Department of Natural Resources - Fish Habitat Stamp Fund	Hickory Grove Park Restoration	\$46,580
Iowa Department of Natural Resources - Alliant Energy	Operation ReLeaf 2017	\$20,731
Iowa Department of Natural Resources - Trees for Kids Grant Program	Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor	\$3,845
Iowa Department of Natural Resources - Cooperative Agreement	Hickory Grove Lake Renovation – Phase I	\$31,070
Iowa Department of Natural Resources - Cooperative Agreement	Hickory Grove Lake Creel Survey	\$3,000
Iowa Department of Natural Resources - Cooperative Agreement	West Peterson Park Stabilization Work	\$12,000
Iowa Department of Transportation - Living Roadway Trust Fund	Justrite Chemical Safety Cabinet	\$680
Iowa Department of Transportation - Living Roadway Trust Fund	Kubota RTV-X1100C	\$10,000
Iowa Department of Transportation - Living Roadway Trust Fund	Tumble Drum Mixer	\$6,308
Total Grants/Agreements – FY18		\$902,796

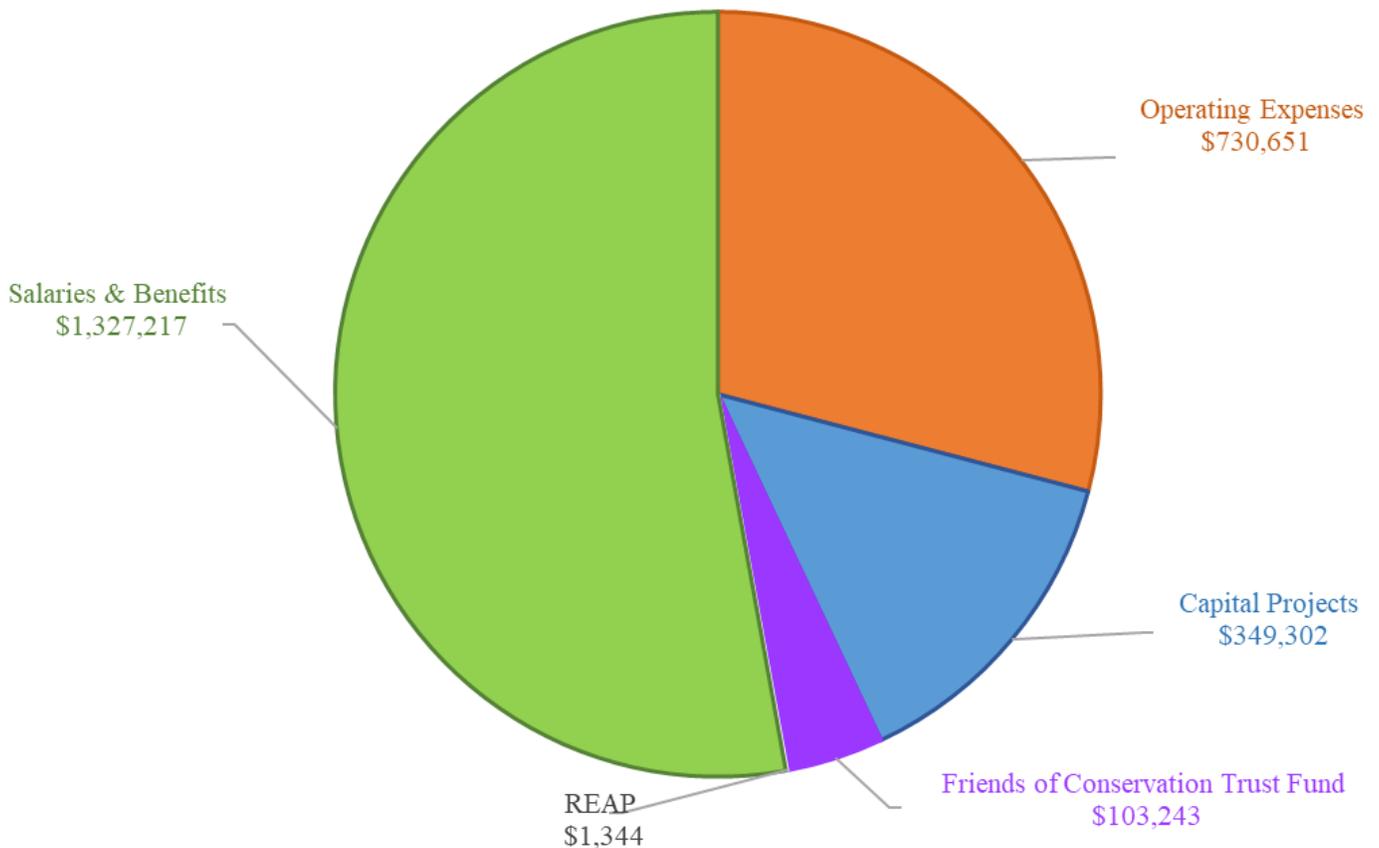
Financial Reports

CONSERVATION REVENUE - FY18 = \$653,160



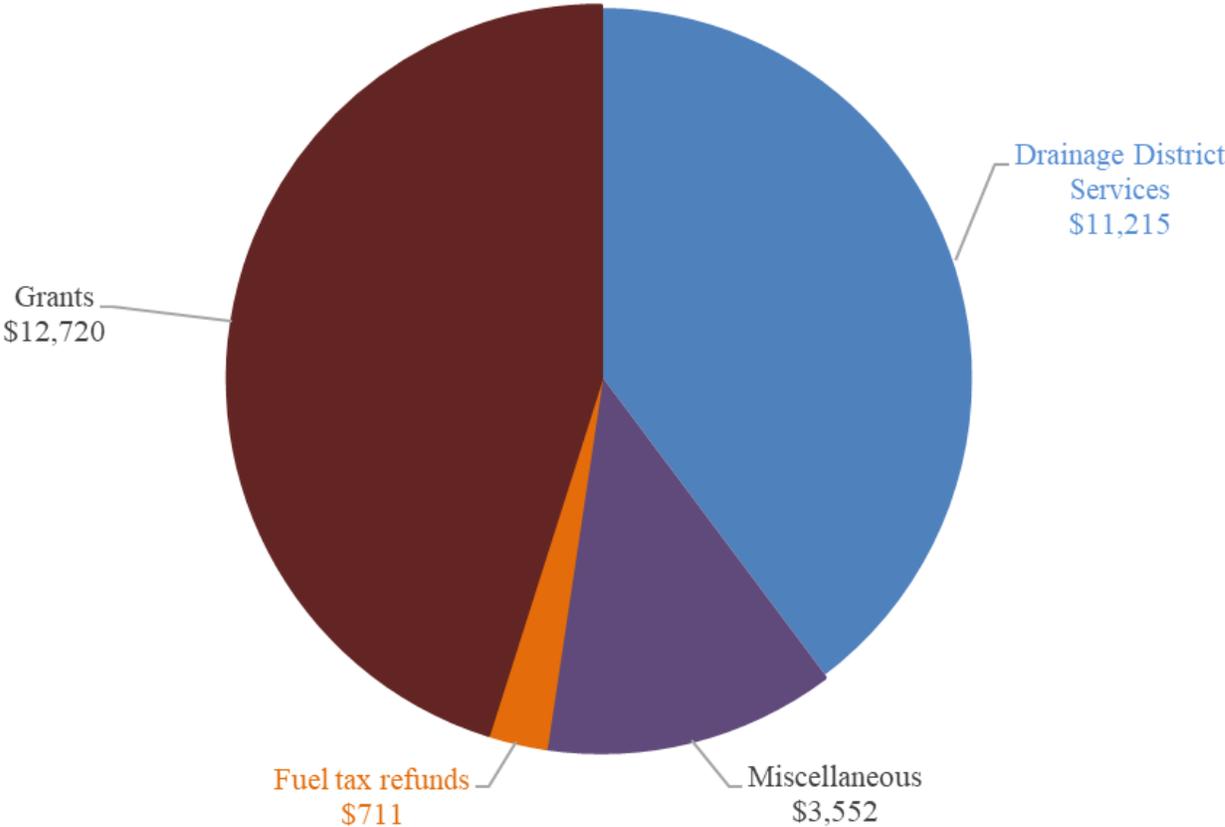
- General Basic – fees, building and equipment rentals, miscellaneous (\$65,412); state grants and payments (\$208,125).
- Friends of Conservation Trust Fund – donations (\$126,421); Partners memberships (\$19,394); Operation Releaf grant (\$29,605); interest earned (\$5,104).
- Conservation Acquisition & Capital Projects – camping fees (\$156,662).
- REAP (annual per county and per capita distributions from the state (\$28,774); interest earned (\$493); grant reimbursement (\$13,167).

CONSERVATION EXPENDITURES - FY18 = \$2,511,757



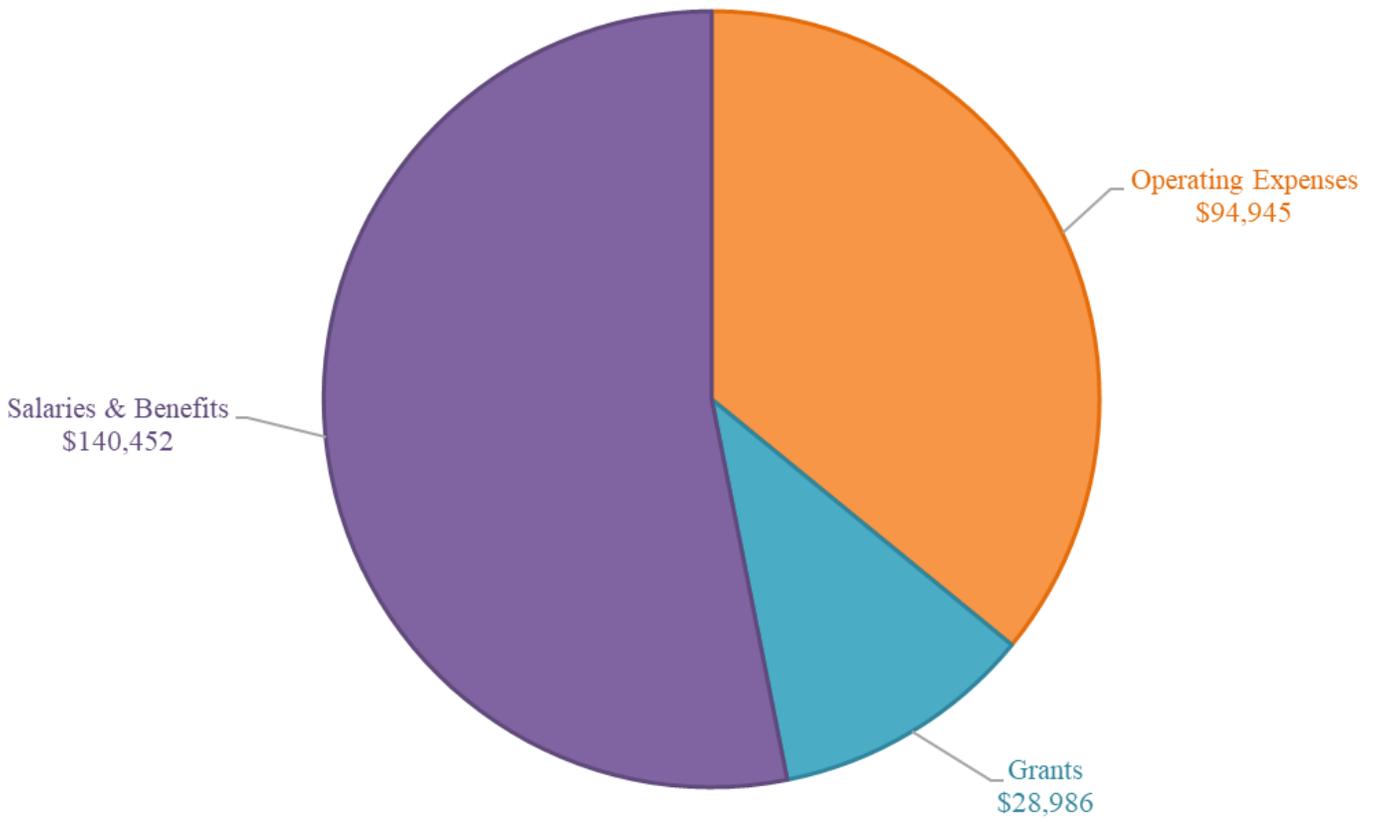
- Salaries & Benefits – 19 full-time and 14 seasonal staff.
- Operating Expenses – shop, office, programming, and recreational supplies; vehicle, building and grounds maintenance; utilities; education and training; new equipment.
- Capital Projects – new garage at Hickory Grove ranger residence (\$13,534); enclosure of portion of Hickory Grove storage building (\$16,963); new entrance monument/sign at Hickory Grove Park (\$20,593); replacement of McFarland Park sidewalks (\$19,464); planning for Heart of Iowa Nature Trail paving (\$13,388); completion of pond renovation at Robison Wildlife Acres (\$64,394); shoreline stabilization project at Hickory Grove Lake (\$31,871); revetment at West Peterson Park (\$16,380); restoration projects at Robison Wildlife Acres (\$2,717); and stream mitigation at ISU Research Park (\$149,999).
- Friends of Conservation Trust Fund – completion of showerhouse/storm shelter at Breezy Bay Campground (\$71,170); fall 2017 Operation ReLeaf tree distribution (\$25,605); miscellaneous expenditures from donations and memorials (\$4,527); *Partners* administration and projects (\$1,941).
- REAP – completion of “Planting the Seeds” REAP-CEP grant project (\$1,344).
- Conservation Acquisition & Capital Projects – \$0 expended in FY18.

IRVM REVENUE FY18 = \$28,198



- Grants - reimbursement for three Living Roadway Trust Fund grants.
- Drainage District Services – fees collected for brush control in the county’s drainage districts.
- Miscellaneous – fees for equipment rentals (\$2,991); custom planting and mowing (\$450); weed violations (\$111).
- Fuel tax refund (\$711).

IRVM EXPENSES FY18 = \$264,383

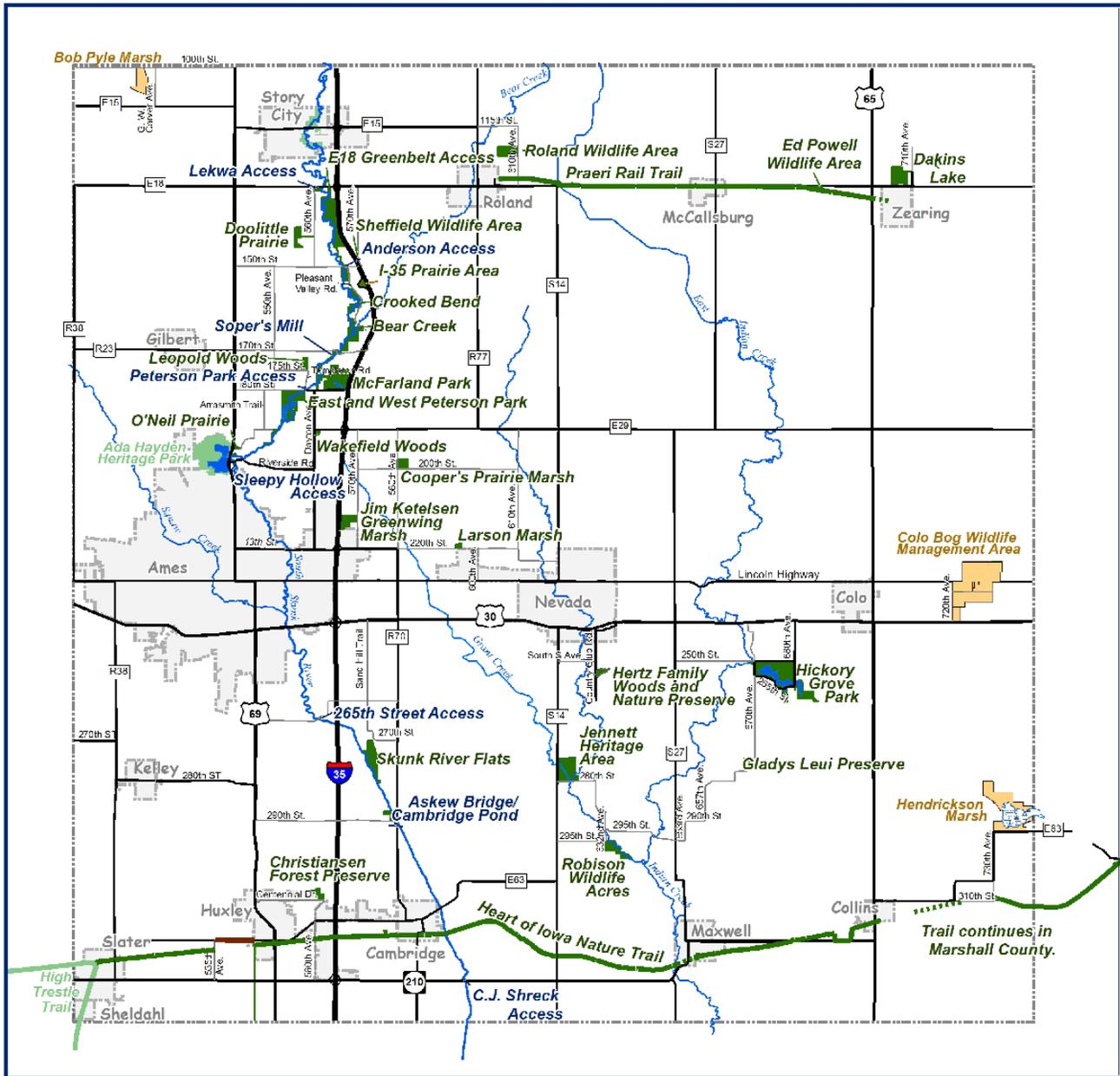


- Salaries & Benefits – 2 full-time and 3 seasonal staff.
- Operating Expenses – shop and miscellaneous supplies; vehicle, building, roadsides, and drainage district maintenance; utilities; contract services; education and training; new equipment.
- Grants – new equipment purchased through Living Roadway Trust Fund agreements.

FACILITIES REVENUE AND USAGE - FY16-FY18

	FY16	FY17	FY18
Dakins Lake Main Campground Revenue	\$32,413	\$35,853	\$38,252
# camping nights	1,701	1,770	1,678
# people	5,173	5,318	5,183
Dakins Lake Primitive Campground Revenue	\$5,389	\$3,139	\$5,162
# camping nights	390	224	342
# people	1,119	731	1,162
Hickory Grove Breezy Bay Campground Revenue	\$105,479	\$94,938	\$108,359
# camping nights	6,363	6,224	5,967
# people	18,962	18,641	18,042
Hickory Grove Primitive Campground Revenue	\$6,788	\$5,908	\$4,387
# camping nights	571	476	364
# people	1,702	1,484	1,299
Miscellaneous Camping Revenue	\$444	\$450	\$502
# camping nights	28	18	18
# people	420	261	440
Total Camping Revenue	\$150,513	\$140,288	\$156,662
Total Camping Nights	9,053	8,712	8,369
Total Number of People	27,376	26,435	26,126
 			
Multipurpose Room Revenue	\$5,313	\$4,210	\$5,160
# paid rentals	33	25	19
# rentals with fee waived	35	26	50
 			
Dakins Shelter Revenue	\$940	\$735	\$300
# reservations	24	21	13
Oriole Ridge Revenue	\$2,825	\$3,775	\$1,817
# reservations	53	66	65
Snow Bunting Revenue	\$770	\$874	\$710
# reservations	22	22	25
Total Lodge Revenue	\$4,535	\$5,384	\$2,827
 			
Firewood Revenue	\$1,674	\$448	\$1,160
 			
Special Events Permits Revenue	\$375	\$375	\$450
# permits	10	8	13
 			
Boat Rental Revenue	\$5,600	\$4,939	\$4,406
# rentals	1120	988	881
 			
Waterfront (Concessions) Revenue	\$2,546	\$2,399	\$2,574

Story County Conservation Properties Map



Legend

- County Managed
- State Managed
- City Owned
- Developed Trail
- Undeveloped Trail
- On Road

Parks in blue are Skunk River Water Trail Access Points

Story County Conservation Parks and Natural Areas Matrix

	Acreage	Archery Range	Boat Ramp	Camping	Concession Stand	Fishing	Hunting	Open Shelter	Picnicking	Playground	Restrooms-flush*	Restrooms-portable*	River Access	Showers	Snowmobiling	Swimming	Trail - Biking	Trail - Hiking	Trail - Equestrian	
265th Street Bridge Access	1					x							x							
Anderson Canoe Access	2					x							x				x	x	x	
Askew Bridge/Cambridge Pond	27					x	x						x					x		
Bear Creek	116					x	x										x	x		
C.J. Shreck Access	3		x			x							x							
Christiansen Forest Preserve	49																x	x		
Cooper's Prairie Marsh	40						x													
Crooked Bend	66					x	x													
Dakins Lake	103		x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x		
Doolittle Prairie	43						x													
E-18 Greenbelt Access	210					x	x										x	x	x	
Ed Powell Wildlife Area	17						x													
Gladys Leui Preserve	25																			
Heart of Iowa Nature Trail	394						x		x		x				x		x	x	x	
Hertz Family Woods and Nature Preserve	22																x	x		
Hickory Grove Park	445	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		
I-35 Prairie Area	23																			
Jennett Heritage Area	171					x	x													
Jim Ketelsen Greenwing Marsh	68						x											x		
Larson Marsh	12						x													
Lekwa Access	10					x							x							
Leopold Woods	20																			
McFarland Park	240					x	x	x	x		x	x					x	x		
O'Neil Prairie	5																			
Peterson Park	203		x			x	x	x	x			x	x		x	x	x	x	x	
Peterson Park Access	1					x							x							
Praeri Rail Trail	135						x								x		x	x	x	
Robison Wildlife Acres	78			x		x			x			x					x	x		
Roland Wildlife Area	80						x													
Sheffield Wildlife Area	3						x													
Skunk River Flats	123					x	x											x		
Sleepy Hollow	13					x							x				x	x		
Soper's Mill	16					x	x						x							
Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor	37																			
Wakefield Woods	10								x										x	