

**STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION  
QUARTERLY REPORT  
February 24, 2026  
Michael D. Cox, Conservation Director**

---

**Educational Programming**

- Normal countywide school and public programming is underway
- Planning is underway for Wild Women of the Woods which will be held October 9 and 10 at Hickory Grove Park
- We are hosting a Wildness First Aid training March 12 and 13 for naturalists statewide.

**Natural Resources**

- Oak Wilt mitigation is underway at Hickory Grove Park.
- Timber Stand Improvements initiatives are ongoing at numerous parks via staff and volunteer efforts. Conservation Corps of Iowa have removed honeysuckle from the ravine at Deppe Family Conservation Area

**Personnel and Administration**

- Selection is underway for the Watershed Coordinator
- Seasonal position offers have been made
- Story County has been awarded the High Flyer status with Bird Friendly Iowa. This is the highest achievement level for bird friendly practices.

**Story County Land and Water Legacy Bond**

- Construction is complete on the oxbow restorations at Wicks Family Wildlife Area and at Carroll Prairie.
- Design is underway for Hanums Mill Dam Mitigation, CJ Shreck Water Trail Access, R38 Alternative Trail ROW analysis, and Hickory Grove Beach and Accessibility Improvements.
- Bids are being solicited for the Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor Shelter and the Dakins Lake Cabin.

**Select Upcoming Events**

March 18, 1-3:00 p.m. **Global Recycling Day at Cambridge Tract.**

This is a joint effort with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to remove discarded tires and other trash from this prospective new wildlife area.

March 28, 10-11:30 and 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. **Rain Barrel Workshop at McFarland Park.**

This workshop will teach participants stormwater runoff mitigation and they will construct rain barrels for them to use at their homes. A session is also being offered at the Nevada Public Library on March 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

For a complete list of events please see: <https://www.storycountyiowa.gov/1579/Conservation-Parks>