



THE PRAIRIE STAR



**County
Parks**

Cabin Rentals & Program Registrations Can Now Be Made Online

There is a new and easy way to rent the Eveland Access Cabins and sign up for educational programs with Mahaska County Conservation. Simply go to **www.MyCountyParks.com** and **select Mahaska County**. By using this method, you can pay online with a credit card and sign up or select what you need at the click of a button. You no longer need to call or email us to make reservations. Soon, the public will also be able to make online rentals for the community room in the lower level of the Environmental Learning Center, and also park shelter houses. Keep in touch for more details! Feel free to contact our office with any questions.

Inside This Issue

- 2 MCCB Updates
- 3 Nature Notes
- 4-6 Programs for All Ages
- 7 Halloween Bash
- 8 Youth Outdoor Field Day
- 9-11 Programs for Kids
- 12-13 Programs for Adults
- 14 B.A.R.K. Rangers
- 15 Volunteer News
- 16 Conservation Corner
- 17 MCCB Meeting Dates, Board Members, Staff
- 18 County Park Addresses

Monarch Butterflies Are Back at the ELC!

It's that time of year again—Monarch butterfly caterpillars have returned to the Environmental Learning Center! Visitors are invited to stop in and witness their incredible transformation as they grow and prepare to become butterflies.

Once each Monarch emerges from its chrysalis, the public is welcome to join us for their outdoor release. Be part of this magical moment and help these butterflies begin their journey! Follow our Facebook page for the latest Monarch updates and release times.

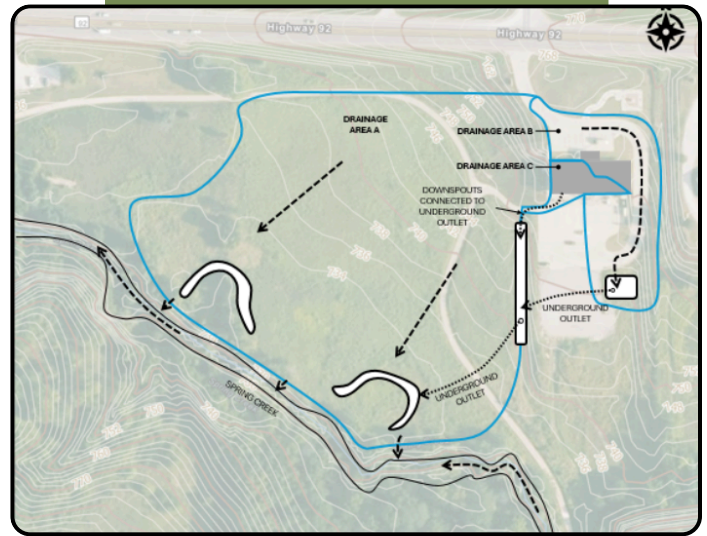


MCCB UPDATES

Big Changes Blooming at Caldwell Park!

by Chris Clingan, Director

There's something special happening at Caldwell Park—and if you've been by recently, you've probably noticed the transformation underway! Thanks to the Mahaska County Water Quality Initiative (WQI) project, the park is getting a major conservation makeover with native landscaping, wetland restoration, and a whole lot of community spirit. Local volunteers, along with the Mahaska Soil and Water Conservation District and Green Iowa AmeriCorps, rolled up their sleeves to help plant a variety of native grasses and wildflowers throughout the park this summer. These plantings don't just look great—they're also doing important work behind the scenes, like filtering stormwater, improving soil health, and attracting pollinators.



But that's just the beginning. Caldwell Park is also the site of an exciting oxbow wetland restoration, made possible through a partnership with the Iowa Soybean Association. Their team has provided the design work, managed the permitting process, and will oversee the construction phase to ensure it's completed with environmental precision. And powering the restoration effort—literally—is Carl Drost, who will be operating the heavy equipment to bring the oxbow back to life. With Carl on the machine and the Soybean Association guiding the process, this wetland is in expert hands.

After the earthwork is complete, the Iowa Soybean Association will also supply a diverse native seed mix to plant throughout the restored area. This beautiful blend of grasses, sedges, and wildflowers will create a thriving habitat for birds, amphibians, and pollinators while helping improve water quality by slowing runoff and filtering pollutants. Wetlands like this are nature's water filters and flood managers—and soon Caldwell Park will have one working quietly and beautifully right in its heart.

And as if that's not enough—this is all happening in addition to the Nature Playscape currently under construction nearby! Caldwell Park is truly becoming a hub for hands-on environmental education, outdoor adventure, and family fun.

Once completed, this space will offer not only ecological value but also powerful learning and play experiences for all ages. From watching wildlife in the restored wetland to climbing logs in the playscape, visitors will get a full-sensory experience of Iowa's natural wonders.

There's a lot going on at Caldwell Park—and we couldn't be more excited. Thanks to the collaboration of conservation partners, generous supporters, dedicated volunteers, and skilled professionals, this once-simple park is evolving into a vibrant, engaging space that brings people and nature together. Make sure to stop by and see the progress—you won't want to miss what's next!



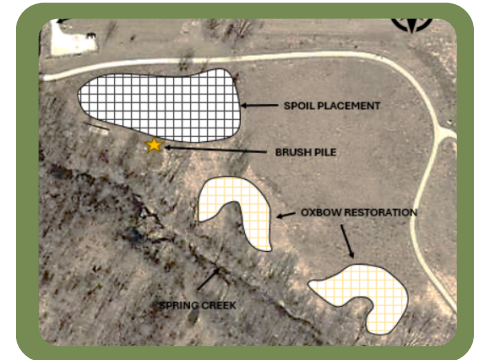
NATURE NOTES

Oxbow Wetlands

by Laura DeCook, Naturalist

An oxbow wetland is a natural feature that forms when a river changes course and leaves behind a curved, isolated section of water. Over time, this area becomes a wetland, supporting a variety of plant and animal life. Oxbow wetlands are important because they help reduce flooding by holding extra water during heavy rains. They also act like natural filters, trapping pollutants and improving water quality. These wetlands provide valuable habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife, making them an essential part of a healthy ecosystem.

Oxbows will be restored in Caldwell Park alongside Spring Creek that runs through the park. You can see on the map to the right where the oxbows will be formed. When the project is finished it will be a great place to watch waterfowl and other wildlife from the Environmental Learning Center and nature playscape, and also a great location for outdoor educational activities.



Eveland Access CABINS

1681 – 290th St., Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577



You can now rent cabins online!

<https://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Mahaska>



Apple and Birch Cabins are available for rent online year-round. To view pictures of the cabins and to find rental information, visit our website: www.mahaskaconservation.com

Reservations are made at www.mycountyparks.com/County/Mahaska

PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES



August

5 Polar Bear Documentary

1:00-2:30 pm

Environmental Learning Center

This documentary tells a story of a new polar bear mother whose memories of her own youth prepare her to navigate motherhood in the increasingly challenging world that polar bears face today. Feel free to bring a drink and snacks. *Save your seat by signing up with the QR code on this page.*



11 The Magic of Monarchs

6:00-7:00 pm

Environmental Learning Center

Join Ella Paulson, Green Iowa AmeriCorps member, as she shares the fascinating story of monarch butterflies—their life cycle, incredible migration journey, and even a live butterfly release! You'll get a chance to see live monarchs in every stage of life. No registration is required for this program.

21 Cattail Duck Decoys

6:00-7:00 pm

Environmental Learning Center

Join us at the Environmental Learning Center for a fun and creative experience! Learn about the cultural significance of cattails and build your own cattail duck decoy to take home. All materials will be provided by Mahaska County Conservation. This is a free program. *For ages 13 and up. Limited to 15 participants. Pre-registration is needed to reserve a seat. Save your seat by signing up with the QR code on this page.*



28 Birding Basics with Ella

6:00-7:00 pm

Environmental Learning Center

Join Green Iowa AmeriCorps member Ella Paulson for a bird-watching adventure at Caldwell Park! We'll meet behind the Environmental Learning Center and explore the area while learning the basics of birding. Ella will share tips on how this relaxing activity can turn into a fun lifelong hobby. Binoculars will be available to borrow, but feel free to bring your own. All ages are welcome! Registration is not needed for this program.

September

4 More Birding with Ella

6:00-7:00 pm

Maskunky Marsh Bird Blind

Join Green Iowa AmeriCorps member Ella Paulson for another exciting bird-watching outing—this time at Maskunky Marsh! We'll meet at the bird blind near the south parking lot and explore the area in search of migrating waterfowl. Learn birding basics and enjoy the sights and sounds of the marsh. Binoculars will be available to borrow, but feel free to bring your own. All ages are welcome, and no pre-registration is required!



PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES



September cont.

23 Tiger Documentary

1:00-2:30 pm

Environmental Learning Center

Watch the journey of Ambar, a young tigress raising her cubs in the forests of India. Her cubs are curious, rambunctious and at times a bit clumsy, and have a lot to learn from their mother who will do all she can to keep them safe from pythons, bears and marauding male tigers. This documentary took an amazing 1,500 days of filming! Feel free to bring a drink and snacks. *Save your seat by signing up with the QR code on this page.*

24 Tracks & Trails

10:00-11:00 am

Environmental Learning Center

Come take a relaxing stroll with us on the bike trail next to the Environmental Learning Center! This outdoor walk is open to all ages and is a great way to enjoy nature together. Along the way, we'll explore topics like plant and wildlife identification, try nature scavenger hunts, and discover other fun activities. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll head inside to check out the exhibits instead.

Pre-registration is needed and you can sign up using the QR code on this page.



October

14 Sea Lions of the Galapagos Documentary

1:00-2:30 pm

Environmental Learning Center

This documentary takes place deep in the Pacific Ocean at the Galapagos Islands. These islands are home to animals found nowhere else. We will watch Leo, a young sea lion pup learning how to survive with help from his mom, Luna. As Leo grows, he learns to swim, fish, and explore the world around him. One day, he must leave home to find his own place—where only the strongest sea lions become leaders. Along the way, Leo meets many fascinating creatures and faces exciting challenges in both land and sea. Feel free to bring a drink and snacks. *Save your seat by signing up with the QR code on this page.*



15 Tracks & Trails

10:00-11:00 am

Environmental Learning Center

Come take a relaxing stroll with us on the bike trail next to the Environmental Learning Center! This outdoor walk is open to all ages and is a great way to enjoy nature together. Along the way, we'll explore topics like plant and wildlife identification, try nature scavenger hunts, and discover other fun activities. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll head inside to check out the exhibits instead. *Pre-registration is needed and you can sign up using the QR code on this page.*

PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES



October cont.

25 Halloween Bash

1:00-9:00 pm

Eveland Access Campground

Join us for a favorite fall tradition! Enjoy an afternoon at the campground filled with carnival games, BINGO, contests, and not-so-spooky stories by Linda Fox. Don't miss the dog costume parade and campground-wide trick-or-treating! Campers are encouraged to decorate their sites for both trick-or-treaters and the nighttime auto tour. Prizes will be awarded for the best-decorated campsites on both the east and west sides. Campsites fill up fast, so be sure to plan ahead! There will be plenty of parking for all visitors. *The event schedule and detailed information are found on page 7.*

31 Trick or Treating at the Environmental Learning Center

4:00-8:00 pm

Environmental Learning Center

Ghouls and goblins are invited to come out the ELC and collect candy for trick-or-treating. While you visit, take a look around to see the exhibits and live animals. The ELC will be open until 8 pm and trick-or-treating will take place as long as supplies last.



November

18 Tracks & Trails

10:00-11:00 am

Environmental Learning Center

Come take a relaxing stroll with us on the bike trail next to the Environmental Learning Center! This outdoor walk is open to all ages and is a great way to enjoy nature together. Along the way, we'll explore topics like plant and wildlife identification, try nature scavenger hunts, and discover other fun activities. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll head inside to check out the exhibits instead. *Pre-registration is needed and you can sign up using the QR code on this page.*

18 Planet of the Birds Documentary

1:00-2:30 pm

Environmental Learning Center

This captivating documentary highlights the only animal found on all seven continents—birds. It explores how birds adapt and thrive in diverse environments, showcasing their incredible resilience and versatility. A must-watch for bird lovers and anyone fascinated by the natural world. Feel free to bring a drink and snacks.

Save your seat by signing up with the QR code on this page.



PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES

HALLOWEEN BASH *at Eveland Access*

- 1-3 pm Carnival Games (tickets on sale at event)
- 1-2 pm B.A.R.K Ranger Fun: (meet at shelter house)
Dog Costume Parade around east side campground
Bobbing for Hotdogs
- 2:00 pm Decorated Pumpkin Contest
For kids & adults - bring your already decorated pumpkins to the shelter house
- 2:30 pm Halloween BINGO in shelter house
- 3:30 pm Spooky Stories with Mrs. Fox
- 4-5:30 pm Trick-or-Treating around campground
- 7-9 pm Decorated Campsite Auto Tour
(\$5 suggested/free-will donation per vehicle at entrance)
Each person in vehicle gets to vote for favorite campsite!
- 9:15 pm Decorated Campsite Awards in Shelter House

Saturday, Oct. 25 / 1:00-9:00 pm

CAMPGROUND CAMPERS: Get into the spirit by decorating your campsite for a chance to win fun prizes!
We ask that campers provide candy for trick-or-treaters. If you're camping on the east side, consider bringing dog treats too—our dog costume parade will pass through that area!
Campsites are first-come, first-served at \$20 per night. Planning a longer stay?
Grab a coupon book—11 nights for \$200 (that's one night free!). **SPOTS FILL FAST, SO PLAN AHEAD!**



Eveland Access Campground

2890 Galeston Ave., Oskaloosa, IA 52577
For information call 641-673-9327



PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES



YOUTH OUTDOOR *Field Day*

Join Us for a Morning of FUN Outdoor Activities
at Russell Wildlife Area



SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

2254 - 200th St., New Sharon, IA 50209

FISHING

**SHERIFF & POLICE
K-9 DEMOS**

**HUNTING SAFETY
TRAIL & .22 SHOOTING**

**FOSSIL
DIGGING**

**ATLATL
THROWING**

BOWFISHING

**TREE
IDENTIFICATION**

**WATER
SAFETY**

\$5 per person before & on day of event.

Sign up early to purchase an event t-shirt and avoid the registration crowd by using the QR code! T-shirts can be purchased until Aug. 31.

**AND MORE
ACTIVITIES!**



For more info: 641-673-9327 | decook@mahaskacountyia.gov

PROGRAMS FOR KIDS



August

6 Knee-High Naturalists “Nature Stories & Pajama Day”

10:00-11:00 am

Environmental Learning Center

This is a free program for kids ages 5 and younger. This month, the kids will listen to nature stories. Feel free to bring your own nature books to share and don't forget to wear pajamas! **Pre-registration is needed and you can sign up using the QR code on this page.**

September

10 Knee-High Naturalists “Big Bouncy Bubbles”

10:00-11:00 am

Environmental Learning Center

This is a free program for kids ages 5 and younger. This month, the kids will have a blast with bubbles! Blow, chase, and pop bubbles of all sizes as they float through the air. It's a simple, silly, and super fun way to play. **Pre-registration is needed, and you can sign up using the QR code on this page.**



13 Youth Outdoor Field Day

8:00 am -12:00 pm

Russell Wildlife Area

This annual event is a family favorite, offering a wide range of outdoor activities for kids to enjoy. This year's lineup includes fishing, wildlife identification, .22 shooting, fossil hunting, trapping, water safety, atlatl throwing, and more! Families can explore the trails while taking part in these hands-on activities. Registration is available in advance or on the day of the event. Those who register by August 31 will have the chance to purchase an event t-shirt. **The cost is \$5.00 per person. Skip the lines and secure your t-shirt by registering online before August 31 using the QR code on this page. More information is found on page 8.**

17 Homeschool Science Lab “Animal Adaptations”

10:00-11:00 am

Environmental Learning Center

This free program is open to homeschool and online students of all ages. This month's session will explore the incredible adaptations animals use to survive in the wild. **Pre-registration is needed, and you can sign up using the QR code on this page. A minimum of 5 kids is needed to hold the program.**



PROGRAMS FOR KIDS



October

1 Knee-High Naturalists “Animal Mix & Match”

10:00-11:00 am

Environmental Learning Center

This free program is designed for kids ages 5 and younger. This month, little learners will explore different animals and have fun sorting and matching them by species through hands-on activities. *Pre-registration is needed, and you can sign up using the QR code on this page.*

8 Homeschool Science Lab “Atlatl Throwing”

10:00-11:00 am

White Oak Conservation Area

This free program is open to homeschool and online students of all ages. This month, kids will have a chance to try their hand at throwing a primitive hunting tool called an atlatl. Children ages 6 and up will have the best success with the activity, while younger participants will enjoy an alternative hands-on activity to help them join in the fun. *Pre-registration is needed, and you can sign up using the QR code on this page. A minimum of 5 kids is needed to hold the program.*



24 STEM Lab for Kids “Owl Pellets”

10:00-11:00 am

Environmental Learning Center

Grab your friends and head to the ELC for a FREE and fun, hands-on science activity—dissecting owl pellets! Discover what makes owls such incredible hunters while exploring the fascinating remains of their meals. It's a unique and exciting experience you won't want to miss! *Pre-registration is needed, and you can sign up using the QR code on this page. A minimum of 5 kids is needed to hold the program.*

25 Halloween Bash

1:00-9:00 pm

Eveland Access Campground

Join us for a favorite fall tradition! Enjoy an afternoon at the campground filled with carnival games, BINGO, contests, and not-so-spooky stories by Linda Fox. Don't miss the dog costume parade and campground-wide trick-or-treating! Campers are encouraged to decorate their sites for both trick-or-treaters and the nighttime auto tour. Prizes will be awarded for the best-decorated campsites on both the east and west sides. Campsites fill up fast, so be sure to plan ahead! *A schedule and detailed information is found on page 7.*



31 Trick or Treating at the Environmental Learning Center

6:00-8:00 pm

Environmental Learning Center

Keep the Halloween fun going and swing by the Environmental Learning Center for more treats and spooky surprises! Show off your costumes, collect candy, and check out the cool exhibits and live animals while you're here. Don't forget to snap a photo at our selfie station next to the life-sized Woolly Mammoth skeleton—it's the perfect spot for costume pics! Trick-or-treating will be available while supplies last.

PROGRAMS FOR KIDS



November

12 Knee-High Naturalists “Wild About Animals”

10:00-11:00 am

Environmental Learning Center

This free program is just for kids ages 5 and younger! This month, little ones can bring their favorite stuffed animal from home to join in the fun with story time, animal-themed movement games, and coloring activities.

Pre-registration is needed, and you can sign up using the QR code on this page.

14 STEM Lab for Kids “Paper Airplanes”

10:00-11:00 am

Environmental Learning Center

Stop out at the Environmental Learning Center for a FREE and fun, hands-on science activity—making paper airplanes! All supplies will be provided for you as well as directions on how to make great flyers. Once we have the airplanes made, we will give them a test flight to see how they fly. Bring a friend and come have fun with us! *Pre-registration is needed, and you can sign up using the QR code on this page. A minimum of 5 kids is needed to hold the program.*



19 Homeschool Science Lab “Critter Cafe”

10:00-11:00 am

Environmental Learning Center

This free program is open to homeschool and online students of all ages. This month, kids will discover what animals eat—whether they're carnivores, herbivores, omnivores, or insectivores. What would a restaurant menu look like for all these different diets? We'll get creative and design our own animal menus filled with wild and wacky meals! *Pre-registration is needed, and you can sign up using the QR code on this page. A minimum of 5 kids is needed to hold the program.*



Discover Nature in Iowa!



**MAHASKA COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER**

2342 Hwy. 92, Oskaloosa, IA 52577
Ph: (641)673-9327

OPEN HOURS

Monday - Wednesday	12:30-4:30 pm
Thursday & Friday	12:30-7:00 pm
Saturday	10 am - 2 pm
Sunday	CLOSED

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS



August

8 Coffee Club

9:00-10:00 am

Environmental Learning Center

Drop in and join us for fresh coffee and tasty treats on a Coffee Club day. We talk about upcoming programs, volunteer opportunities with Mahaska County Conservation, and about everything in nature. **This month, bring a coffee cup or mug that has the color blue on it to take part in a door prize.** Registration is not needed, and we meet upstairs in the Discovery Lab.

29 O.W.L.S. "Dutch Oven Cooking"

11:00 am-12:00 pm

Environmental Learning Center

Adults of all ages are welcome to join the O.W.L.S. (Older, Wiser, Livelier Souls) program! This month, come ready to enjoy delicious homemade treats cooked in Dutch ovens. You'll also learn just how simple it is to cook with and care for these classic outdoor cookware pieces. **Pre-registration is needed to reserve a seat and a fork. You can sign up using the QR code on this page.**



September

5 Coffee Club

9:00-10:00 am

Environmental Learning Center

Drop in and join us for fresh coffee and tasty treats on a Coffee Club day. We talk about upcoming programs, volunteer opportunities with Mahaska County Conservation, and about everything in nature. **This month, bring a coffee cup or mug that has words on it to take part in a door prize.** Registration is not needed, and we meet upstairs in the Discovery Lab.

26 O.W.L.S. "Monarch Butterflies"

11:00 am-12:00 pm

Environmental Learning Center

Adults of all ages are invited to join the O.W.L.S. (Older, Wiser, Livelier Souls) program! Bring a friend and discover the amazing fall migration of monarch butterflies—and learn simple ways you can help support their journey. **Pre-registration is needed, and you can sign up using the QR code on this page.**



PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS



October

3 Coffee Club

9:00-10:00 am

Environmental Learning Center

Drop in and join us for fresh coffee and tasty treats on a Coffee Club day. We talk about upcoming programs, volunteer opportunities with Mahaska County Conservation, and about everything in nature. **This month, bring a coffee cup or mug that has something spooky on it to take part in a door prize. If you don't have one, feel free to decorate one!** Registration is not needed, and we meet upstairs in the Discovery Lab.

31 O.W.L.S. "Spooks of the Night"

11:00 am-12:00 pm

Environmental Learning Center

Adults of all ages are welcome to join the O.W.L.S. (Older, Wiser, Livelier Souls) program! Bring a friend and enjoy some spine-tingling stories as we explore why certain creatures and legends give us the creeps. We'll dive into the mysteries of bats, owls, spiders... and even Bigfoot! **Pre-registration is needed to save you a spook-free seat. You can sign up using the QR code on this page.**



November

14 Coffee Club

9:00-10:00 am

Environmental Learning Center

Drop in and join us for fresh coffee and tasty treats on a Coffee Club day. We talk about upcoming programs, volunteer opportunities with Mahaska County Conservation, and about everything in nature. **This month, bring a coffee cup or mug that is the newest one in your cupboard to take part in a door prize.** Registration is not needed and we meet upstairs in the Discovery Lab.

21 O.W.L.S. "Storytelling by Linda Fox"

11:00 am-12:00 pm

Environmental Learning Center

Calling all Older, Wiser, Livelier Souls! Adults of all ages are invited to bring a friend and settle in for a delightful time with local storyteller Linda Fox. Get ready to laugh, imagine, and be whisked away by her fun-loving and charming tales! **Pre-registration is needed to reserve a seat. You can sign up using the QR code on this page.**



B.A.R.K. RANGERS



Your Dog Can Be A B.A.R.K. Ranger in Mahaska County

by Laura DeCook, Naturalist

Mahaska County Conservation is excited to be onboard with a National Park program called B.A.R.K. Rangers. Just like many national parks, Mahaska County has pet-friendly parks for you and your furry companion to enjoy. As someone who absolutely loves the term "pet-friendly," I always look forward to bringing my dog along on adventures. There are so many parks to enjoy with your dog here in Mahaska County!

When you participate, you and your pet commit to following the B.A.R.K. Ranger rules:

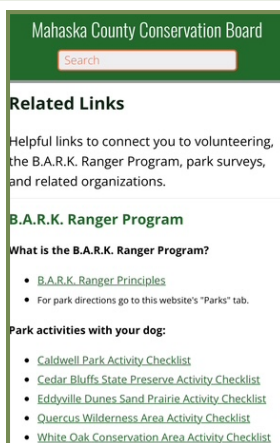
BARK RANGER RULES

- B**ag your waste
- A**lways wear a leash
- R**espect wildlife
- K**now where you can go



(Above) Dogs and dog walkers participated in a BARK Ranger Hike on July 17th at White Oak Conservation Area. Each participating dog received a special event certificate stamped with their paw print!

Select a Mahaska County park and complete a fun and easy activity checklist to earn your **FREE** B.A.R.K. Ranger certificate! Find the checklist on our website at www.mahaskaconservation.com under the "Links" tab (see image below). After your visit, stop by the ELC during our open hours to get your certificate stamped with your dog's paw print. You can also buy a B.A.R.K. Ranger dog tag for \$10.00. Cash or check to FMCC.



VOLUNTEER NEWS



Lend a Hand This Fall with Mahaska County Conservation

by Laura DeCook, Naturalist

Looking for a way to give back and enjoy the great outdoors? Mahaska County Conservation is seeking volunteers to assist with a variety of projects and events this fall. Whether you have an hour or a whole day to give, your help makes a difference! Here are some ways you can get involved:



- **Assist with native plantings** in the Nature Playscape this September.
- **Help remove weeds** in native planting areas at Eveland Access Cabins and the Environmental Learning Center.
- **Serve as a Host** at the Environmental Learning Center—welcome visitors and share your enthusiasm for nature.
- **Lend a hand with light housekeeping** at the Environmental Learning Center.
- **Volunteer during the Youth Outdoor Field Day** at Russell Wildlife Area on **Saturday, September 13**.
- **Join the fun at the Halloween Bash** on **Saturday, October 25**—help with carnival games, contests, and the spooky night tour at Eveland Access.
- **Become a Park Steward**—“adopt” a park to help with trash cleanup, report maintenance needs, and support special projects.

If you're interested in any of these opportunities, please contact Laura DeCook at Mahaska County Conservation at (641)673-9327 or

Volunteer Training Dates

If you would like to join our volunteer team, come to our one-hour training on **September 8, 2025** at the Environmental Learning Center. **Please sign up for one of two sessions by scanning the QR code below.**



Afternoon session 1:00-2:00 pm
Evening session 6:00-7:00 pm



CONSERVATION CORNER

Thanks to the Summer Conservation Crew!



Jackson Abrams (left) and **Colton Heintz-Kuderer** (right) have been very busy in our county parks this summer. As the summer Conservation Technicians, their job has been to keep the parks in great shape by mowing, trimming and helping the park rangers with projects.



Oskaloosa High School teacher, **Stephanie Visser**, has joined MCCB for her third Iowa STEM teacher externship term this summer. Stephanie has used her skills and knowledge to help with native plantings, mowing for a wetland reconstruction project, and other projects around the Environmental Learning Center.

Nature Playscape Progress Photos



Completion of the Nature Playscape is scheduled for Fall 2025!



MAHASKA COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Mahaska County Conservation Board & Meeting Dates

Chairperson	Curt Jager, Eddyville
Vice-Chairperson	Linda Fox, Rose Hill
Secretary	Jennifer Peterson, Oskaloosa
Member	Chuck Webb, Oskaloosa
Member	Steve Dixon, Oskaloosa

MCCB's monthly board meetings begin at 6:00 pm on the third Monday of each month. Public is welcome to attend. Meetings are held in the lower level of the Environmental Learning Center, 2342 Hwy. 92, Oskaloosa, IA 52577.

August 18, 2025
September 15, 2025
October 20, 2025
November 17, 2025

Dates and times are subject to change. Call MCCB at (641)673-9327 for more information.

Mahaska County Conservation Staff

Director	Chris Clingan
Naturalist	Laura DeCook
Park Ranger	Tommy VanRenterghem
Park Ranger	Steve Nugteren
Administrative Assist.	Molly Hicks
ELC Attendant	Kylee Eastwood
Green Iowa AmeriCorps & ELC Attendant	Ella Paulson



The Prairie Star is the newsletter of the Mahaska County Conservation Board and is emailed to those persons on our mailing list. There is no charge for the newsletter. Please help us by keeping us informed of any change of email address or if you no longer wish to receive our newsletter.

Mahaska County's programs and facilities are consistent with pertinent federal and state laws and regulations on non-discrimination regarding race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, and handicap. If anyone believes he or she has been subjected to discrimination, he or she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Mahaska County Conservation Board or the office for Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington D.C. 29240.

Discover Nature in Iowa!



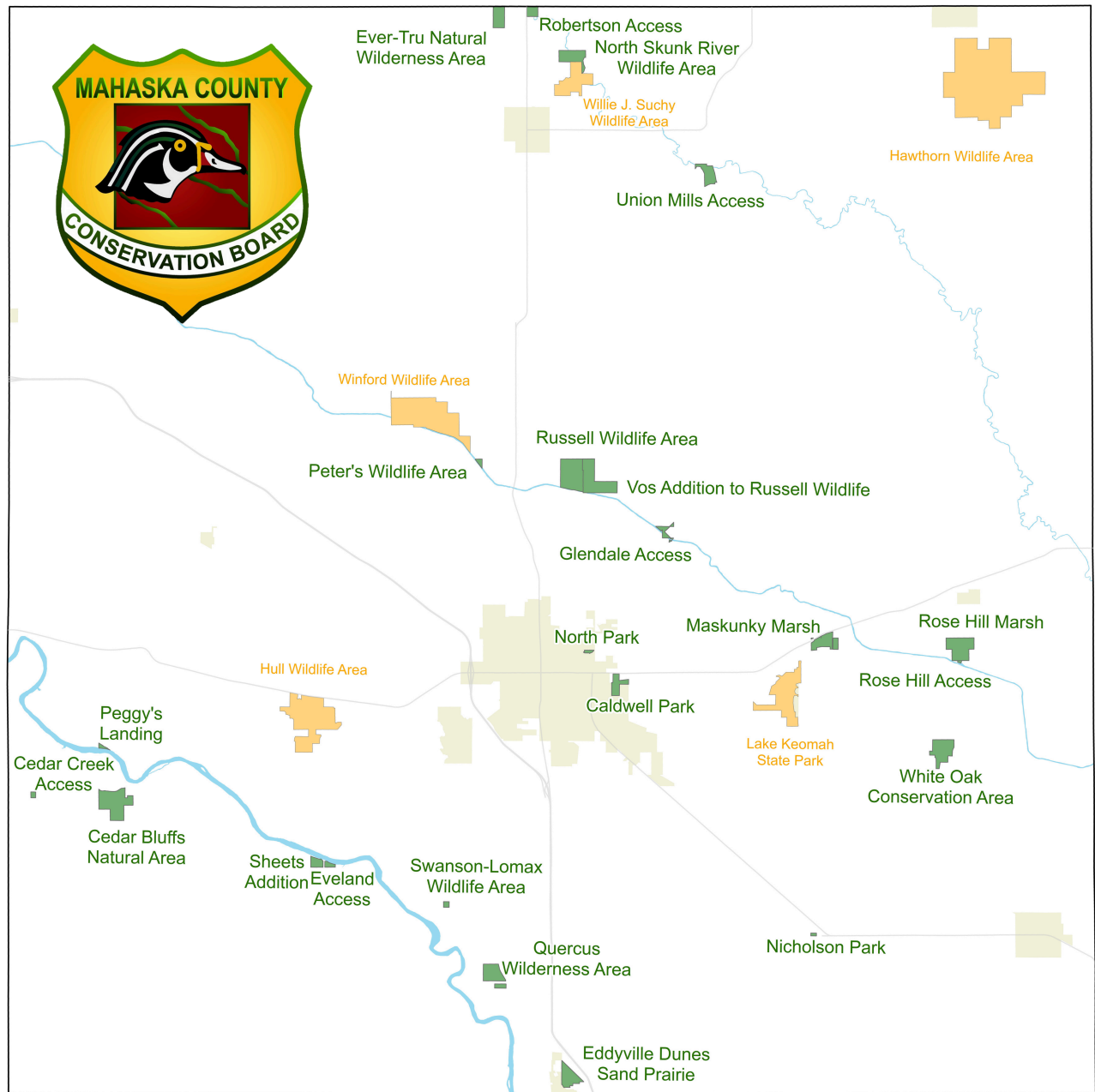
**MAHASKA COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER**

2342 Hwy. 92, Oskaloosa, IA 52577
Ph: (641)673-9327

OPEN HOURS

Monday - Wednesday	12:30-4:30 pm
Thursday & Friday	12:30-7:00 pm
Saturday	10 am - 2 pm
Sunday	CLOSED

MAHASKA COUNTY CONSERVATION PARKS



MAHASKA COUNTY PARK

ADDRESS

Caldwell Park & Environmental Learning Center	2342 Hwy. 92, Oskaloosa, IA 52577
Cedar Bluffs State Preserve	1235—280th, Oskaloosa, IA 52577
Cedar Creek Access	2748 Ashland Ave., Tracy, IA 50256
Eddyville Dunes Sand Prairie	901 N. Merino Ave., Eddyville, IA 52553
Eveland Access Cabins	1681—290th St., Oskaloosa, IA 52577
Ever-Tru Natural Wilderness Area	Lexington Ave., New Sharon, IA 50207
Maintenance Shop	2254—200th St., New Sharon, IA 50207
Maskunkum Marsh	2395 Snyder Ave., Oskaloosa, IA 52577
Nicholson Park	2791—305th St., Cedar, IA 52543
North Skunk River Wildlife Area	2236—110th St., New Sharon, IA 50207

MAHASKA COUNTY PARK

ADDRESS

Peggy's Landing	1198 River Road, Leighton, IA 50143
Peter's Wildlife	Hwy. 63, New Sharon, IA 50207
Quercus Wilderness Area	3139 Kent Ave., Oskaloosa, IA 52577
Robertson Access	1010 Hwy 146, New Sharon, IA 50207
Rose Hill Marsh & Access	3108 Ventura Ave., Rose Hill, IA 52586
Russell Wildlife Area & Vos Addition	2254—200th St., New Sharon, IA 52577
Swanson-Lomax Wildlife Area	1972—295th St., Oskaloosa, IA 52577
Union Mills Access	1355 Parkin Ave., New Sharon, IA 50207
White Oak Conservation Area	2647 Ventura Ave., Cedar, IA 52543