

2018 Annual Report

PARTNERING TO PROTECT OUR WATER QUALITY

Indian Creek, Squaw Creek and the South Skunk River provide water to the communities in Story County. Outdoor Alliance became a new partner with Story County Conservation's Water Monitoring Project, which will provide information on water quality, and any issues that need addressed. As part of its water monitoring team, Story County Conservation and Outdoor Alliance are also working with Iowa Prairie Rivers. We are excited to be supporting efforts in monitoring the water all of us rely on in Story County.

PARTNERING TO SUPPORT LAND ACQUISITIONS



Jordan Acres - Outdoor Alliance celebrated the successful completion of Story County Conservation's acquisition of The Ronald "Dick" Jordan Wildlife Area at the Dedication in August. This was the first land acquisition project we worked on with Story County Conservation and Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. Other partners who made this acquisition possible included generous corporations, groups and individuals.

Jordan Acres is just downstream from the Hunziker Sports Park on the east side of the South Skunk River at 265th Street. It is near Ames major water wells. Restoration work will be on-going for these 275 acres as prairie, oxbow wetlands and savanna are reestablished, which will better protect Ames water supply.

- **Carroll Prairie** - We are supporting another Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and Story County Conservation project. Once acquired and restored, Carroll Prairie will be another piece of a checkerboard green space on West Indian Creek, along with Story County Conservation's Jeannette Prairie.
- **Sleepy Hollow** - We ended the year by making another contribution to help Story County Conservation acquire 15 acres of land along the South Skunk River across from Ada Hayden Heritage Park. This is another piece of the greenbelt that can help protect the water we depend on in Story County.
- **Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor** – Our donation to Story County Conservation's newest park on the southwest edge of Ames will help with enhancements. Expect a grand opening in 2019.

PARTNERING THROUGH SERVICE PROJECTS TO ENHANCE CONSERVATION LAND

Carroll Prairie - In June 2018, Outdoor Alliance teamed up with a great group of volunteers from Kohl's and Story County Conservation. We spent a summer evening removing fencing from interior sections of Carroll Prairie's 49 acres of land that is being acquired by Story County Conservation along West Indian Creek. It was a hot, humid evening. We ended with the last of the daylight, a pick-up truck loaded with barbed wire, a good size pile of fence posts and some well-deserved cold ice-cream.

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Harvesting Seed - Kohl's employee volunteers also collected and cleaned prairie seed at Hickory Grove on a blustery cold fall day in 2018. Steve Lekwa, a former director of Story County Conservation, led the group and the orientation to collecting and cleaning the prairie seed. The Outdoor Alliance is hopeful that Steve and Kohl's employees will be working with us again in 2019.

Outdoor Alliance applauds Kohl's as a great partner: In addition to Kohl's employee volunteers, Kohls also donates to Outdoor Alliance. These donations can only be made to nonprofit groups like the Outdoor Alliance of Story County. We love working with the Kohl's volunteers and the support Kohl's provides the Outdoor Alliance. The Outdoor Alliance is seeking opportunities to work with other corporations and employee volunteers. If you know of other opportunities, please let us know.

PARTNERING to ENHANCE AWARENESS.



The Outdoor Alliance continued our series of Thursday Winter Hikes in 2018, co-sponsored with Story County Conservation. It is a great way to explore parks, greenbelts and other public lands in Story County.

In 2018 we explored: Soper's Mill along the South Skunk River; Ames' North and South Riverside Park; The Ronald "Dick" Jordan Wildlife Area; and The Heart of Iowa Trail at Cambridge, which is part of the transcontinental American Discovery Trail.

The 2019 Thursday afternoon winter hikes are now underway. We will be hiking on the Skunk River Greenbelt Trail, ISU's Reactor Woods, Dakin's Lake, McFarland Park, Robison Wildlife Acres and Soper's Mill. Check out the Calendar of Events on our website, www.oasco.org.

PARTNERING to ENHANCE EDUCATION

Winter Presentations - Outdoor Alliance continued our successful partnership with the Ames Public Library, the Ames Historical Society and Story County Conservation with the 2018 winter presentations. Audiences enjoyed the following speakers:

- Alan Spohnheimer took us downstream *Along the Skunk* with his stories, early history, and observations;
- Tyler Harms, biologist and Executive Director of Iowa Young Birders, highlighted work with the next generation of conservationists by using birds to connect kids to the outdoors; and,
- Amy Yokum, Story County Conservation's Natural Resource Specialist, told *Stories from the Stones*, a tour of the cemeteries in the county, with their headstone art, symbolism and local history.

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The 2019 series of winter presentations are just as engaging: Thursday January 24, 2019, Sam Wormley will present *Winter Skies: Constellations, Stories and Folklore*; Wednesday, February 20, 2019, Ms. Christina Murphy will highlight the *History of the 13th Street Dam* including recent changes; and, Wednesday, March 13, 2019, Dr. Tom Rosburg will talk about the *Floral Jewels of the Tallgrass Prairie*.

All presentations begin at 7 pm at the Ames Public Library in the Farwell T. Brown Auditorium on the first floor. Other details are on the web at www.oasco.org.

Ames Reads Leopold - Outdoor Alliance joined numerous community partners to organize the 2018 Ames Reads Leopold as part of a nationwide exploration of the conservation and land ethic writings of Aldo Leopold. His most famous work, *A Sand County Almanac*, published in 1949, is still popular with naturalists and writers alike. Guest Readers shared essays from this book, his other books and from other like-minded writers. Planning is already underway for 2019 Ames Reads Leopold which will be on April 14, from 2 pm until 4 pm at the Ames Public Library.

Reaching Out - In addition to the winter hikes, winter presentations and community service projects, Outdoor Alliance participated in other community events including Iowa Prairie Network's Annual Fair, Ames's Eco Fair and, Story County Conservation's Fall Celebration. We also made a presentation to Story County Conservation's OWLS. Let us know if you would like us to make a presentation to your group.

PARTNERING through OUR ENDOWMENT

The Outdoor Alliance Endowment with our partner, Story County Community Foundation, is a key strategy to putting outdoor education, conservation and recreation in Story County on a sustainable basis. Story County Community Foundation makes donations to the Outdoor Alliance endowment particularly attractive, creating a way for individuals and organizations to provide a valuable source of funding for tomorrow and into the future. Details can be found on www.oasco.org

ANNUAL & FIVE-YEAR CELEBRATION in 2019

We will also be celebrating 2018 accomplishments and The Outdoor Alliance 5th year of action to enhance outdoor recreation, education and conservation in Story County. Tom Hazelton, Iowa's County Conservation System Executive Director, will give a presentation on the economics of investing in the outdoors at our annual celebration.

This year the Annual Celebration will be on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 beginning at 6 pm at the Ames Public Library in the Farwell T Brown Room. Hope you can join us too.

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Outdoor Alliance of Story County Revenues & Expenses						
REVENUES	Revenues	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
	General Revenues	\$ 3,840	\$ 4,795	\$ 5,375	\$ 5,038	\$ 5,740
	Dedicated Funds including Land Acquisition	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,000	\$ 4,088	\$ 12,594	\$ -
	Grants & Other Contributions	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,692	\$ -	\$ -
	Subtotal	\$ 7,640	\$ 7,295	\$ 11,154	\$ 17,632	\$ 5,740
	Community Endowment Donations	\$ 4,368	\$ 750	\$ 850	\$ 20,639	\$ 300
	Total Revenues	\$ 12,008	\$ 8,045	\$ 12,004	\$ 38,271	\$ 6,040
EXPENSES	Project Expenditures					
	Story County Conservation Land Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,410	\$ 15,722	\$ 1,000
	Story County Conservation Water Monitoring	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
	City of Ames Dam Restoration	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000
	Story County Conservation Student Support	\$ -	\$ 361	\$ 1,269	\$ 540	\$ -
	Winter Presentations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ 150
	Story County Conservation Legislative Forum	\$ 103	\$ 85	\$ 65	\$ 84	\$ 158
	Ames Reads Leopold	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 56
	Annual Meeting	\$ -	\$ 277	\$ 204	\$ 210	\$ 425
	Endowment Fund Contributions	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 1,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -
	Subtotal Project Expenditures	\$ 103	\$ 974	\$ 5,948	\$ 20,706	\$ 3,790
	Supporting Operating Expenditures					
	Web Hosting and Email Service	\$ -	\$ 251	\$ -	\$ 267	\$ -
	P O Box	\$ 132	\$ -	\$ 140	\$ 166	\$ 182
	Financial Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51
	Printing, Outreach and Other Costs	\$ 381	\$ 171	\$ 317	\$ 185	\$ 8
	Subtotal Operating Expenses	\$ 132	\$ 251	\$ 140	\$ 433	\$ 241
	Subtotal Projects and Expenses	\$ 235	\$ 1,225	\$ 6,088	\$ 21,139	\$ 4,030
	Nonrecurring Expenses					
	Grants, Reimbursements & Other	\$ 125	\$ 2,375	\$ 400	\$ 1,821	\$ -
	Donationpay Financial Fees	\$ 15	\$ 323	\$ 381	\$ -	\$ -
	Subtotal Nonrecurring Expenses	\$ 140	\$ 2,698	\$ 781	\$ 1,821	\$ -
	Total Expenditures	\$ 375	\$ 3,923	\$ 6,869	\$ 22,960	\$ 4,030
	Net Revenues	\$ 11,633	\$ 4,122	\$ 5,136	\$ 15,311	\$ 2,010
Outdoor Alliance of Story County Balance Sheet						
	Current Assets*	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
	Unrestricted Funds	\$ 2,444	\$ 5,882	\$ 10,242	\$ 7,026	\$ 8,739
	Grants & Other Dedicated Funds	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,939	\$ 2,298	\$ -	\$ -
	Total Current Assets	\$ 3,744	\$ 7,821	\$ 12,540	\$ 7,026	\$ 8,739
	Community Foundation Assets	\$5,562	\$6,154	\$7,404	\$29,981	\$27,723
	Total Assets	\$ 9,306	\$ 13,974	\$ 19,944	\$ 37,007	\$ 36,462
Prepared by Greg Vitale, Treasurer						