

# 2019 Annual Report

## First Time Projects.

**Reconnecting the River** - The Outdoor Alliance contributed funds to the City of Ames to modify the 13th Street Dam at North River Valley Park. Dams are potential killing machines because of the downstream hydraulics. Dams that have been modified or removed have often enhanced fishing, paddling sports and other recreational activities on the rivers we depend upon for our water supply. Iowa and now Ames, are making progress on this statewide and national effort.

**River Cleanup** - We also teamed up with Story County Conservation, the City of Ames, the Skunk River Paddlers and community volunteers to clean a section of the South Skunk River this year. Dirty, tired and wet, the 24 volunteers cleaned up 1.2 tons of trash, including lots of glass, 28 tires and 4 rims. There were lots of smiles at what we were able to accomplish.



**KHOI Outdoors** - The Outdoor Alliance also teamed up with KHOI, Story County and surrounding area's local radio. KHOI has a program hosted by Pat Schlarbaum, a retired DNR specialist, about the natural world and its many inhabitants. For the first time in 2019, the Outdoor Alliance sponsored Pat's timely updates on what is going on all around us.

**Rummage Rampage** - The Outdoor Alliance and 21 other volunteer groups joined with the City of Ames and its partners, Iowa State University Office of Sustainability and the Volunteer Center of Story County, in the Rummage Rampage this year. The Rummage Rampage is a community rummage sale designed to keep reusable items out of the waste stream. The event diverted 116,424 pounds of furniture and housewares from the landfill and raised funds for local non-profit agencies. We hope that you will help us with this project next year at the end of July and early August.



Thanks for your support which made these five new initiatives possible. You helped make Story County a better place for outdoor recreation, education and conservation as well as a better place to live, work and play. And with your continued support, we will be able to do so again in 2020.

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## Ongoing Projects.

**2019 Winter Outdoor Presentations** – For the third year, the Outdoor Alliance partnered with Ames Public Library, the Ames Historical Society and Story County Conservation to host the Winter Outdoor Presentation Series. They included:

- **Winter Skies: Constellations, Stories and Folklore** - Dr. Sam Wormley explored what one can see in the winter sky.
- **Ames 13th Street Dam** - Ms. Christina Murphy discussed the Ames water supply, the history of the dam and upcoming changes planned to make this area paddler friendly.
- **Floral Jewels of the Tallgrass Prairie** - Dr. Tom Rosburg described the making of the tallgrass prairie from the perspective of their wildflowers.

**2019 Winter Hikes** – There were six winter hikes held on Thursday afternoons in January and February. A number of hardy souls explored the winter sights and sounds in local parks including E18 Greenbelt Trail, Reactor Woods, Dakin’s Lake, West McFarland Park, Robison Wildlife Acres, and Soper’s Mill. The hikes were co-sponsored with Story County Conservation.

**Ames Reads Leopold** – For the second year, the Outdoor Alliance was a partner for this event. Guest readers (students and local residents) read aloud writings of Aldo Leopold, widely acknowledged as the father of wildlife conservation in America. Last year was the 70th anniversary of Leopold’s *A Sand County Almanac*, and his words have never been more poignant than they are today.



The program also included a portion of the "Re-Imagining Leopold" Exhibit in the Library Gallery, featuring works by Kevin Lair and selections of writing edited by Kathranne Knight; each were part of the original exhibit at the Iowa State University Museum’s ReACT Gallery in Fall 2018.

This annual Leopold celebration is presented through the partnership of the Ames Public Library, Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park, Creative Writing & Environment at ISU, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Outdoor Alliance of Story County, Story County Conservation, The Sustainable Agriculture Student Association (SASA) - ISU with support from Ames Public Library Friends Foundation.

**Collaboration with Kohl’s** – Kohls has been a great partner since 2015. In 2019 we continued to work with employees of the Ames Kohl’s to complete conservation service projects. Prairie seed was collected at Doolittle Prairie in September and October. The project was in cooperation with Story County Conservation. At each of the seed gathering events, 5 Kohls and OASCO attendees joined with other Story county volunteers to collect seeds in containers that will be used in prairie restoration projects throughout the county. This was the third seed collection in cooperation with Kohls. A tree and shrub planting at Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor occurred on April with 15 volunteers planting more than 50 native trees and shrubs with guidance from Story County Conservation. We look forward to continuing this partnership in 2020.



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**Partnering to Protect Our Water Quality** - Indian Creek, Squaw Creek and the South Skunk River provide water to the communities in Story County. The Outdoor Alliance is continuing to partner with Story County Conservation's Water Monitoring Project, which collects current water quality data and identify issues to address. The water monitoring team also includes Iowa Prairie Rivers and citizen volunteers. We are excited to be supporting efforts to monitor the water all of us rely on in Story County.



**Funding Land Acquisitions** - After an update from Mike Cox, Story County Conservation Director, the Outdoor Alliance made several additional contributions for three new public areas along the South Skunk River. These acquisitions add to the checkerboard green space along the river enhancing the wildlife corridor, improving water quality and moderating future flooding along the river. These areas include the 55-acre Wicks Wildlife Area just north of Story City; the 37-acre Osheim Acquisition just south of Story City and about 15 acres at Sleepy Hollow east of Ada Hayden Heritage Park on the north edge of Ames.

**Hickory Grove Park** - The Outdoor Alliance also made a donation designated for the emergency shelter and beach house which is part of the ongoing park restoration project. This facility will provide essential services and the ongoing economic vitality of the campground and lake. The lake has been drained for improvements but is expected to be ready later this year for public enjoyment.

## Looking Ahead to 2020

Thanks for helping the Outdoor Alliance support Story County Conservation and our other partners' many efforts to make Story County a great place to live, work and enjoy outdoor recreation. The projects described above could not have happened without your help. The following are our 2020 goals to help enhance the outdoor resources of Story County. Can you assist in achieving these goals?

### Outdoor Alliance Goals for 2020:

#### Organizational

- Evaluate our programming to assure the most efficient use of our financial and volunteer resources to meet our objectives.
- Develop strategies to attract new members and volunteers, particularly younger members and volunteers
- Improve telling our story by enhanced public relations and communications.

#### Mission Directed

- Continue support of land acquisition projects in Story County.
- Increase water quality project support through financial and volunteer input.
- Engage in other Story County projects to enhance conservation, outdoor recreation and education including raising funds for an accessible boat dock at Ada Hayden Park.
- Continue sponsoring or partnering with like-minded organizations to sponsor projects e.g., winter hikes, outdoor presentations and volunteer service projects.



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<b>Outdoor Alliance of Story County Revenues &amp; Expenses</b>						
<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>Revenues</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
	General Revenues	\$ 4,795	\$ 5,375	\$ 5,038	\$ 5,740	\$ 12,075
	Dedicated Funds including Land Acquisition	\$ 1,000	\$ 4,088	\$ 12,594	\$ -	\$ -
	Grants & Other Contributions	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,692	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 7,295</b>	<b>\$ 11,154</b>	<b>\$ 17,632</b>	<b>\$ 5,740</b>	<b>\$ 12,075</b>
	<b>Community Endowment Donations</b>	<b>\$ 750</b>	<b>\$ 850</b>	<b>\$ 20,639</b>	<b>\$ 300</b>	<b>\$ 300</b>
	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 8,045</b>	<b>\$ 12,004</b>	<b>\$ 38,271</b>	<b>\$ 6,040</b>	<b>\$ 12,375</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>Project Expenditures</b>					
	Story County Conservation Land Acquisition	\$ -	\$ 3,410	\$ 15,722	\$ 1,000	*
	Story County Conservation Water Monitoring	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000
	City of Ames Dam Restoration	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
	Story County Conservation Student Support	\$ 361	\$ 1,269	\$ 540	\$ -	\$ -
	Winter Presentations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ -
	Story County Conservation Legislative Forum	\$ 85	\$ 65	\$ 84	\$ 158	\$ -
	Ames Reads Leopold	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 56	\$ -
	Iowa Prairie Network Lunch					\$ 321
	Annual Meeting	\$ 277	\$ 204	\$ 210	\$ 425	\$ 358
	Ames Historical Society					\$ 250
	Wild Women of the Woods					\$ 500
	Tedesco Environment Learning Center					\$ 250
	Iowa Prairie Network					\$ 120
	River Cleanup Lunches					\$ 199
	Endowment Fund Contributions	\$ 250	\$ 1,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
	Miscellaneous					\$ 312
	<b>Subtotal Project Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 974</b>	<b>\$ 5,948</b>	<b>\$ 20,706</b>	<b>\$ 3,790</b>	<b>\$ 6,310</b>
	<b>Supporting Operating Expenditures</b>					
	Web Hosting and Email Service	\$ 251	\$ -	\$ 267	\$ -	\$ 162
	P O Box	\$ -	\$ 140	\$ 166	\$ 182	\$ 204
	Financial Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51	\$ -
	Printing, Outreach and Other Costs	\$ 171	\$ 317	\$ 185	\$ 8	\$ 147
	Liability Insurance annual fees					\$ 828
	KHOI Public Info spots					\$ 306
	<b>Subtotal Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 251</b>	<b>\$ 140</b>	<b>\$ 433</b>	<b>\$ 241</b>	<b>\$ 1,647</b>
	<b>Subtotal Projects and Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,225</b>	<b>\$ 6,088</b>	<b>\$ 21,139</b>	<b>\$ 4,030</b>	<b>\$ 7,957</b>
	<b>Nonrecurring Expenses</b>					
	Grants, Reimbursements & Other	\$ 2,375	\$ 400	\$ 1,821	\$ -	\$ -
	Donationpay Financial Fees	\$ 323	\$ 381	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	<b>Subtotal Nonrecurring Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,698</b>	<b>\$ 781</b>	<b>\$ 1,821</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 3,923</b>	<b>\$ 6,869</b>	<b>\$ 22,960</b>	<b>\$ 4,030</b>	<b>\$ 7,957</b>
	<b>Net Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 4,122</b>	<b>\$ 5,136</b>	<b>\$ 15,311</b>	<b>\$ 2,010</b>	<b>\$ 4,418</b>

<b>Outdoor Alliance of Story County Balance Sheet</b>						
	<b>Current Assets*</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
	Unrestricted Funds	\$ 5,882	\$ 10,242	\$ 7,026	\$ 8,739	\$ 12,075
	Grants & Other Dedicated Funds	\$ 1,939	\$ 2,298	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$ 7,821</b>	<b>\$ 12,540</b>	<b>\$ 7,026</b>	<b>\$ 8,739</b>	<b>\$ 12,075</b>
	<b>Community Foundation Assets</b>	<b>\$6,154</b>	<b>\$7,404</b>	<b>\$29,981</b>	<b>\$27,723</b>	<b>\$35,440</b>
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 13,974</b>	<b>\$ 19,944</b>	<b>\$ 37,007</b>	<b>\$ 36,462</b>	<b>\$ 47,515</b>

\* NOTE: \$3,000 was committed to land acquisition in December 2019 but not applied to our 2019 balances.

Prepared by Greg Vitale, Treasurer