

# 2021 Annual Report

## Tedesco Environmental Corridor & Trail

The Tedesco Corridor Trail on the Southwest side of Ames uses the train right-a-way that once ran from Kelly to Ames. It began with neighbors, Iowa State University, and other partners to finalize the trail site, build the trail, plant native vegetation and install bird, bat and bee houses. A lot has been done already.

The next stage in enhancing Story County Conservation's new trail is signage and four planned trailside kiosks. Installation work will begin once the design is finalized and the last of the funds raised on the GoFundMe website at [Tedesco Corridor Trail](#).

Working together is making this trail and enhancement to the trail possible. Thanks for your support. Taking the time to stretch our legs on the trail, pause for a moment on a bench and maybe catch a stunning sunset, is a perfect way to spend a day outdoors.



## Access Ada Hayden Boat Dock

The Outdoor Alliance helped raise \$20,000 of the target \$35,000 toward funding an ADA compliant boat dock for Ada Hayden. The accessible dock at Ada Hayden Park will be a permanent feature of the park and will be maintained by the City of Ames.



Accessible docks allow paddlers to safely bring their boats onto the dock and provide transfer benches, safety railings, and handles so the users can get in their boats safely.

While people who use wheelchairs are the most visible group that would use an accessible dock, others will also benefit as there is no shallow beach where boaters may safely enter or exit their boats at Ada Hayden. Novices, children, people with balance challenges, and others could use the accessible dock.

The Parks and Recreation Department (PRD) of the City of Ames committed to install an accessible dock on the north shore of the lake at Ada Hayden Park in the City's 2021-22 budget year. With anticipated cost of \$85,000 for purchase and installation of the dock, the PRP challenged the Access Ada Hayden group to partner with them and to raise \$35,000 to assist with costs.

Access Ada Hayden with the assistance of the Outdoor Alliance raised the required extra funding by June 2021, this included \$6,000 from the Story County Community Foundation, \$1000 from Walmart and Sam's Club stores in Ames and support from many individuals and organizations, including the Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park, Great Ames Adventure Race (GAAR), Mary Greeley Foundation and the four local Kiwanis groups (Town and Country, Noon, Golden K and Cyclone Aktion Clubs). Furthermore, the Outdoor Alliance set up a GoFundMe site, and Access Ada Hayden and Jax ran a canoe raffle. There were several interviews with local radio stations and WOI-TV.

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### Reconnecting the South Skunk River

A crowd gathered for the dedication of the redesigned dam in North River Valley Park, Ames in May. Though it looks different with the large rocks, the dam continues to recharge the aquifer. Ames relies on this aquifer for its water supply.

The rocks break the dangerous downstream currents of the original dam. The rocks also reconnect the upper section of the river to the lower section allowing the water to flow over the rocks, become aerated which better supports aquatic habitat. Where similar dams have been modified for both habitat and recreation, the fishing improved. The rocks also create a way for paddlers to pass downstream on the South Skunk River Water Trail and enjoy a new local whitewater play spot.

Ames redesigned North River Valley Park dam was made possible by its partners. Locally, the City of Ames, Story County Conservation, the Skunk River Paddlers, generous individuals and the Outdoor Alliance supported this project. There were also statewide groups that made this project possible: the Iowa DNR, Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association, Iowa River Revival and Iowa White Water Coalition.

The redesigned dam also makes the river more inviting. The sound of the water cascading over the rocks is an invitation to take a moment at the water's edge.



### Ames Reads Leopold



Ames has celebrated Aldo Leopold's contributions to American conservation through reading his essays as a community event, "Ames Reads Leopold," for the past 12 years and did so again in 2021, albeit outside and with other precautions because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. A group of about 50 people gathered at Ada Hayden Heritage Park on a very windy March 21st to hear five community members read a Leopold

essay that related to one of the "Faces on the Stones." The group began their walk at the Ada Hayden stone and continued west, stopping at the John Lacey and Bohumil Shimek stones. We deeply appreciated the volunteer readers: Merry Rankin, Deb Marquart, Clark Wolf, Kevin Ellis, and Jim Pease. This event would not have been possible without the partnership of Ames Parks and Recreation, Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park, Story County Conservation, Ames Public Library, Iowa State University (ISU) Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing and Environment, ISU Bioethics Program, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Office of Sustainability/Live Green! Initiative, ISU Sustainable Agriculture Graduate Student Association and the Outdoor Alliance of Story County.



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### Ongoing Projects

**Water** – We have supported water monitoring by Story County Conservation since 2018. This year we also supported the water monitoring work that Prairie Rivers of Iowa is doing in cooperation with Story County Conservation. Our support has been used to purchase the necessary site monitoring testing materials. This information will guide efforts to improve the safety of the water we all depend on in Story County.

The Outdoor Alliance supported the city of Ames loway Creek cleanup in the fall. Other cleanup partners were Prairie Rivers of Iowa, the local Skunk River Paddlers and Story County Conservation.

**Education & Recreation** - This year was the first year that the Outdoor Alliance supported Prairie Rivers of Iowa Film festival which highlighted water issues, including those in Iowa. Other on-going education and recreation support centered on Story County Conservation's Wild Women of the Woods and the winter hikes.

**Public Lands** - The Outdoor Alliance contributed to Story County Conservation's land acquisition of the Osheim, Deppe and Skunk River Flats properties. These land acquisitions support water quality, recreation and wildlife habitat. This work has become pivotal as more land is being plowed or paved. Community amenities like parks and public lands are also vital for economic prosperity in a growing county.



### Looking Ahead to 2022

The Outdoor Alliance's goals in 2022 reflect the increasing use of public parks, trails and participation in outdoor recreation as a result of the past two years of covid social distancing.

#### Outdoor Alliance Goals for 2022:

- Develop strategies to attract new members and volunteers by telling our story with community groups, Story County Conservation, Story County Partners and the media.
- Continue supporting Story County Conservation's land acquisitions financially and with service projects.
- Continue and increase water monitoring financial support as membership and fundraising allow and assist with volunteer support as the water monitoring project develops.
- Engage in other Story County projects to enhance conservation, outdoor recreation and education, including working with our partners on an accessible boat dock at Ada Hayden Park.
- Continue partnering with other formal and informal organizations to sponsor ongoing winter hikes, outdoor presentations, volunteer service and other projects.
- Explore ways to support outdoor youth programming.

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 highlighted in this report could not have happened without your help.

## 2021 Annual Report

<b>Outdoor Alliance of Story County Revenues &amp; Expenses</b>					
<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
General Revenues	\$ 5,038	\$ 5,740	\$ 12,075	\$ 6,345	\$ 6,777
Dedicated Funds including Land Acquisition	\$ 12,594	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,449	\$ 27,280
Grants & Other Contributions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,000	\$ -
Community Foundation Endowment Donations	\$ 20,639	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 250	\$ -
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 38,271</b>	<b>\$ 6,040</b>	<b>\$ 12,375</b>	<b>\$ 32,044</b>	<b>\$ 32,254</b>
<b>PROJECT EXPENSES</b>					
Story County Conservation Land Acquisition	\$ 15,722	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,000
Water Monitoring in Story County	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,500
North River Valley Park Dam Modifications	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ -
Story County Conservation Kayaking Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ -
Ada Hayden Accessible Dock	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,000	\$ 14,102
Story County Conservation Tedesco Park & Corridor Project	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 10,456	\$ 17,000
Iowa Prairie Network Winter Conference	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 441	\$ 688	\$ -
Environmental Education	\$ 900	\$ 632	\$ 1,108	\$ 250	\$ 1,685 <sup>A</sup>
Service Projects	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 199	\$ -	\$ 220 <sup>B</sup>
PayPal Project Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 197
Community Foundation Endowment Fund Contributions	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Other Projects & Support	\$ 84	\$ 158	\$ 312	\$ 116	\$ -
<b>Subtotal Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 20,706</b>	<b>\$ 3,790</b>	<b>\$ 6,310</b>	<b>\$ 27,684</b>	<b>\$ 39,704</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>					
Web Hosting and Email Service	\$ 267	\$ -	\$ 162	\$ -	\$ 182
P O Box	\$ 166	\$ 182	\$ 204	\$ 226	\$ 284
Annual Report & Membership	\$ 185	\$ 59	\$ 453	\$ 198	\$ 323
Liability Insurance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 828	\$ 849	\$ -
Non-recurring Expenses	\$ 1,821	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Subtotal Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,439</b>	<b>\$ 241</b>	<b>\$ 1,647</b>	<b>\$ 1,099</b>	<b>\$ 790</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 23,145</b>	<b>\$ 4,031</b>	<b>\$ 7,957</b>	<b>\$ 28,783</b>	<b>\$ 40,494</b>
<b>NET REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 15,126</b>	<b>\$ 2,009</b>	<b>\$ 4,418</b>	<b>\$ 3,261</b>	<b>\$(6,240)<sup>C</sup></b>
<b>Outdoor Alliance of Story County Balance Sheet</b>					
<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Unrestricted Funds	\$ 7,026	\$ 8,739	\$ 12,075	\$ 6,345	\$ 6,672
Grants & Other Dedicated Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,993	\$ 2,249
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$ 7,026</b>	<b>\$ 8,739</b>	<b>\$ 12,075</b>	<b>\$ 15,338</b>	<b>\$ 8,921</b>
<b>Community Foundation Endowment Assets</b>	<b>\$ 29,981</b>	<b>\$ 27,723</b>	<b>\$ 35,440</b>	<b>\$ 41,098</b>	<b>\$ 48,356</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 37,007</b>	<b>\$ 36,462</b>	<b>\$ 47,515</b>	<b>\$ 56,436</b>	<b>\$ 57,277</b>

### 2021 Current Year Notes

<sup>A</sup> Environmental Education expenses include Story County Conservation's Wild Women of the Woods Program, Nature Connect for children and Iowa Environmental Conference in Story County as well as Prairie Rivers Film Festival, Ames Reads Leopold and winter presentations.

<sup>B</sup> Service projects were limited due to the pandemic. A clean-up on Ioway Creek was sponsored by the city of Ames. It was supported by Prairie Rivers of Iowa, Story County Conservation, the local Skunk River Paddlers and the Outdoor Alliance.

<sup>C</sup> Dedicated unspent revenues from 2020 were expensed in 2021 making total expenditures for the year greater than revenues.