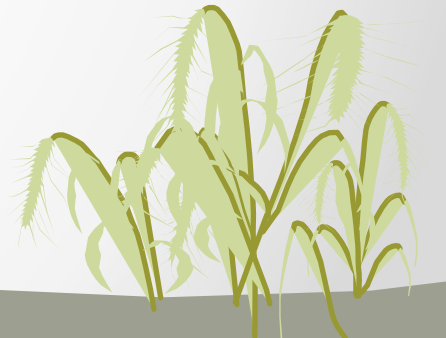
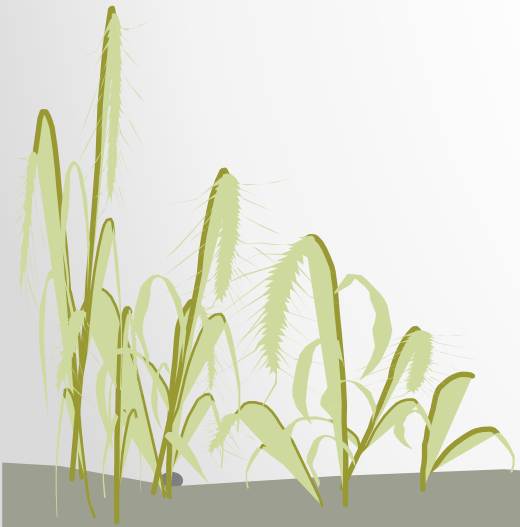


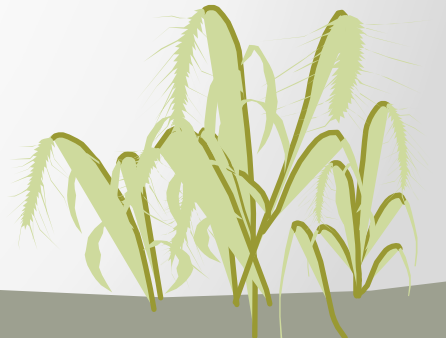
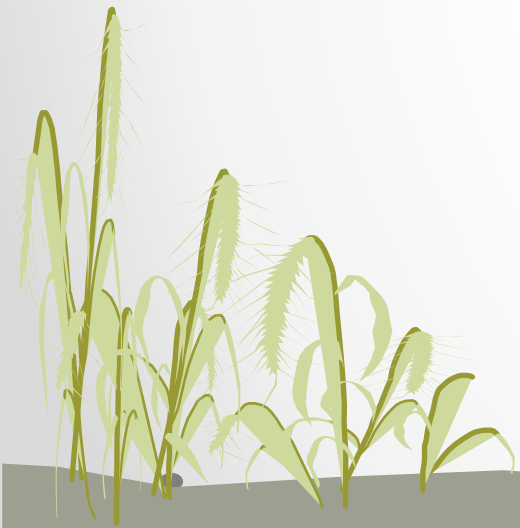
# County Conservation Directors Association (CCDA)

2023 ISAC New County Officers School  
Jenna K. Pollock, Clayton Co. Conservation Director  
Current President CCDA



# Trivia Time

## Name that county?





# Allamakee County







Emmet County



Sioux County





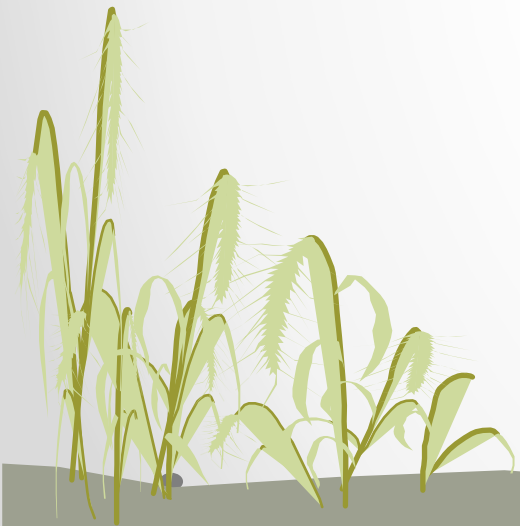
Ringgold County



# County Conservation in Iowa

- Unique local approach to conservation
- Enabled by IA Code Chapter 350 in 1955
- In all 99 counties
- Citizen led
- Statewide Association - Iowa's County Conservation System (ICCS)

*"It is my purpose here to show that such parks are needed, that they are needed now: that they should have the highest scientific value, and that in Iowa they are everywhere practicable."* Thomas H. McBride - 1896





# IA Code Chapter 350

- 350.1 Purposes.
  - The purposes of this chapter are to create a county conservation board and to authorize counties to acquire, develop, maintain, and make available to the inhabitants of the county, public museums, parks, preserves, parkways, playgrounds, recreational centers, county forests, wildlife and other conservation areas, and to promote and preserve the health and general welfare of the people, to encourage the orderly development and conservation of natural resources, and to cultivate good citizenship by providing adequate programs of public recreation.



# The People of County Conservation

## Boards

Usually, five volunteer members appointed by the county board of supervisors.

## Common Staff Positions

Director

Naturalist

Resource Manager

Office Manager/Assistant

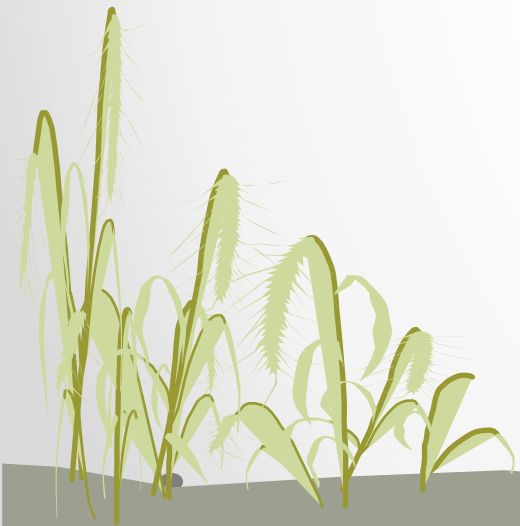
Operations Supervisors

Park Ranger

Maintenance

Technical Staff

Seasonal Interns







Plymouth County

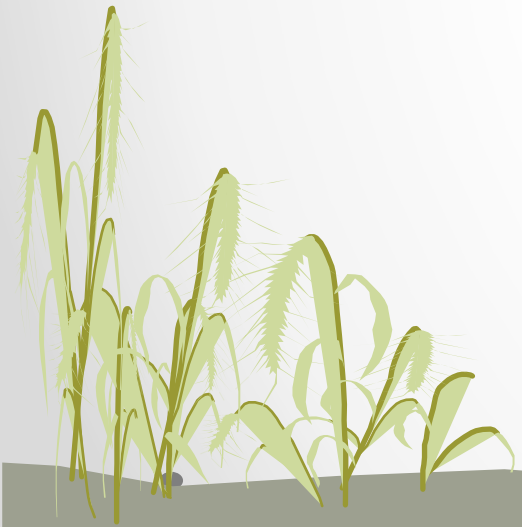






# Local Decision Making

- Local control
- Local funding
- Local support
- Local ownership
- Local partnerships



# County Conservation Partners

Pheasants/Quail Forever Chapters

Ducks Unlimited

Whitetails Unlimited

Trout Unlimited

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Conservation Corps of IA/MN

Izaak Walton League

Scouts of America

Bird Friendly Iowa

Iowa Environmental Council

Schools

Wellmark

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Iowa Prairie Network

Trees Forever

Arbor Day Foundation

Natural Resource Conservation Services

Iowa Soybean Association

Iowa DNR

Gaming Commissions

ISU Extension

USFWS

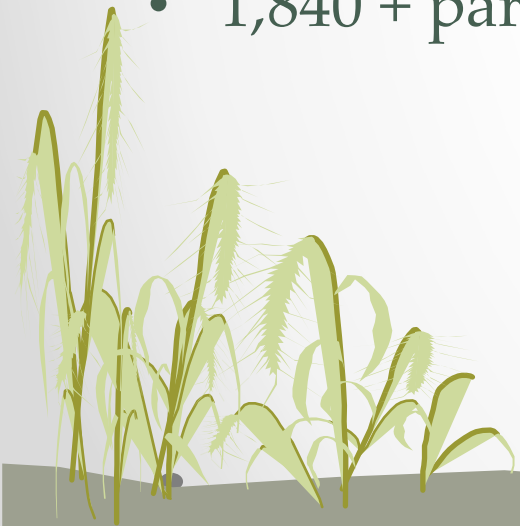
Iowa Economic Development Authority





# The Infrastructure of County Conservation

- 1,120 dedicated people – staff and board members (excluding seasonal staff)
- 195,000 + acres
- 75 education centers with 755,000+ program participants
- 1,949 miles of trails
- 11,111 campsites
- 1,840 + parks





Shelby County



# Allamakee County





# Clayton County







# Decatur County





Madison County



# State – County

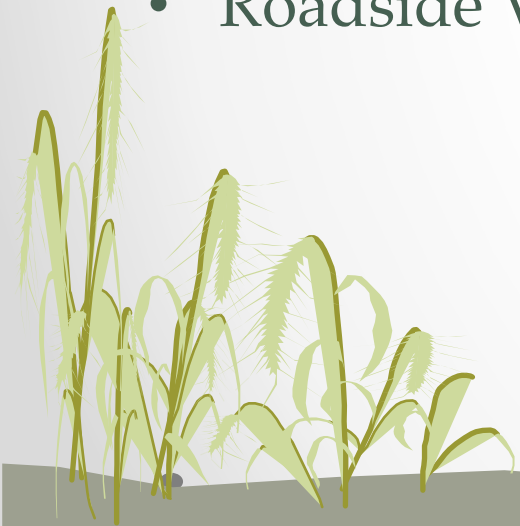
|                           | IDNR State Parks | CCB System |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------|
| Jobs Created              | 7,473            | 5,800      |
| Personal Income Generated | \$216M           | \$167.5M   |
| Annual Visitors           | 13.7M            | 24M        |
| Visitor Expenditures      | \$744.8M         | \$609M     |
| Acreage                   | 89,318           | 193,624    |
| Inventory of Assets       | \$720M           | \$1.25B    |





# What is Conservation?

- Environmental Education
- Natural Resource Management
- Outdoor Recreation
- Water Quality Protection/Improvement
- Cultural Preservation
- Roadside Vegetation Management











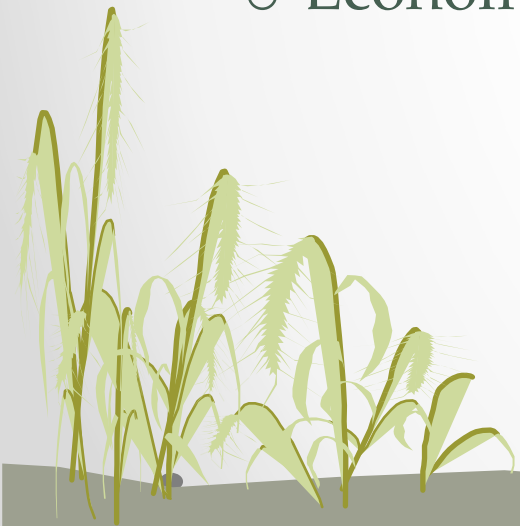


# Community Betterment

Exposure to the outdoors and understanding through experience are inextricably linked

- Physical Wellness
- Mental Health
- Social Connection
- Economic Development

*“Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wilderness is a necessity.” ~ John Muir, 1914*









# Economic Impact

- **\$609M economic impact**
- Park Use: Users spend an average of \$80 - \$120 per person per trip - \$41.7M
- Northeast Iowa Regional Backbone Trail Study: \$62M/year
- Hunting and fishing licenses in Iowa generate over \$15M annually for fish and wildlife conservation
- Hunting equipment generates additional local revenue





# Un-met needs

- **\$981M statewide in CCB system** that is \$23M per year for 42 years
- Natural Resource and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund will make \$23M per year to counties through direct funding and grant opportunities
- Un-met needs for your County available at:  
<https://www.mycountyparks.com/Info/IACCB.aspx>





# Advice from a County Conservation Director

- Get to know your County Conservation System!
  - People
  - Lands/resources (Visit Parks!)
  - Public opinion (Talk to campers, trail users, students participating in programming)
  - True Costs

