



The Jasper County Jewel

Jasper County Conservation Board Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2023

Jasper County Conservation Awarded Destination Iowa Funds

In the final round of grant funding from Destination Iowa, Governor Kim Reynolds and the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) awarded \$550,000 to the Jasper County Conservation Environmental Education Center.

Destination Iowa, a \$100 million investment in quality of life and tourism attractions, opened in May 2022 and accepted applications through December 31. The final funding round provided \$26.88 million in grant funding, including an additional investment of \$15 million to fund Destination Iowa applications from rural communities that did not receive grants in previous rounds.

Applications were scored based on eligibility, completeness, and the project's ability to meet the program goal of creating transformational tourism attractions. For the program, rural communities were defined as communities with 30,000 or fewer residents that are not adjacent to communities of 30,000 or more residents. Jasper County Conservation's award is part of the additional \$15 million designated for rural communities.

The Jasper County Conservation Environmental Education Center has been years in the making. The 7,200-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility is to be located on 40 acres of land. The center will feature a display area, laboratory, classrooms, and an outdoor viewing platform. The center will be a green energy design and will utilize photovoltaic cells and passive solar energy. It will provide public conservation education, outdoor learning experiences, and space for staff use.

Funded projects must be completed by June 30, 2026. Funding for this program has been made available through the federal American Rescue Plan Act.

Nature Center Fundraising Challenge

Great news, Conservation Friends! We have received word from a very generous Environmental Education Center donor who would like to challenge all of our supporters to give to the project now! This supporter will match the first \$25,000 we receive from now until we reach that \$25,000! That means your donation will be doubled right away! Here's how you can give:

1. An online donation can be made at <https://jasperia.ejoinme.org/jaspercountyconservation> (click the "Donation Page" button at the top left of the page)
2. Donations can be made to Jasper County Conservation, 1030 W. 2nd St. S., Newton, Iowa, 50208
3. Donations can also be made to Jasper Community Foundation in the name of the Environmental Education Center and mailed to P.O. Box 1332, Newton, Iowa 50208
4. Or, stop in and see us! We LOVE to talk about this special project! We accept cash, check, and credit card donations at our office located at 1030 W. 2nd St. S. in Newton.

Thanks for helping us reach our fundraising goal!



Above: Architect's image of the Environmental Education Center.

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Caring for Conservation Golf Classic

Saturday, May 20, 2023

Shotgun start at 9:00AM

Westwood Golf Course, Newton

Help us raise funds for the Future Environmental Education Nature Center by playing in the Caring for Conservation Golf Classic sponsored by Gregg Young Automotive Group. This is a 4 person best shot tournament on Saturday, May 20th at Westwood Golf Course with a 9 AM shotgun start. Registration includes 18 holes, cart, lunch and two drink tickets. There will be contests with prizes, raffles, games and more!

Registration can be found at <https://jasperia.ejoinme.org/jaspercountyconservation>.

We are still currently looking for hole sponsors. If you would like to support conservation and sponsor a hole contact us at (641) 792-9780 or jread@jasperia.org.



Batterson Receives Award

Congratulations to JCCB volunteer and retired Jasper County DNR Officer, Darrell Batterson, for 50 years of being a Hunter Education Instructor! Thank you, Darrell, for all of the time you have dedicated to Jasper County, to conservation, and to youth education!

Right and Below: Darrell Batterson receives an engraved rifle from Iowa DNR Recreational Safety Officer Allen Crouse for his 50 years of teaching hunter education.



Uncle Jake's Syrup for Sale

Uncle Jake's Sugar Shack at Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve had a great season with over 1,600 gallons of sap boiled and nearly 32 gallons of finished product!

Jars of our pure maple syrup are available for \$15/pint and \$8/half pint. They will sell out fast, so don't delay getting yours! We are also selling heather-green Uncle Jake's Sugar Shack t-shirts that have the syrup logo on the front. They are \$15/shirt.

Money from the sales goes directly back into the Sugar Shack operation. These items are available for purchase at the JCCB office in the Jasper County Armory/Annex Building in Newton. Thank you for supporting conservation!



Community Garden Space Available

Have you ever wanted to try out your green thumb but haven't had the room to do it? A summer of growing fresh produce to enjoy is easier than you may think!

Thirteen raised beds are available to reserve at the Community Garden, located in Newton east of the Centre for Arts and Artists. A double-sided composting bin is available for use, along with a rain barrel for watering plants. Growers are responsible for weeding and maintaining their raised beds. Produce is reserved to the person(s) maintaining the plot unless that person has given permission to another grower to take produce from their plot. A produce stand will be at the garden site for those who wish to share their extra produce.

Jasper County Conservation is currently taking reservations for raised bed plots. Plots are free and open to all community members. To reserve a garden bed, call JCCB at (641) 792-9780 or email jread@jasperia.org.



Summer Camps: The Wild is Waiting! 3

Summer Camp Registration

JCCB is offering programs for kids of all ages this summer! **Each child is limited to 2 camps only.**

Registration begins **Monday, April 24**, through a signup link on JCCB's website at www.jaspercountyconservation.com and also posted on JCCB's Facebook page.

Payment for each camp is required online at registration. Waivers are due within 14 days of signing up or the child will lose their spot. If a child fails to attend the camp they signed up for, their registration fee will be considered a donation to Jasper County Conservation.

A big thank you to our summer camp sponsor, Newton Noon Kiwanis!



Junior Naturalists

for kids ages 8-12 years old

Group 1: Wed., June 7, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Group 2: Thurs., June 8, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Both groups: Fri., June 9, 7:00-10:00 PM

Ashton Wildwood Park

Fee: \$20.00; limit 12 kids per camp

Campers will explore the woods with a focus on wildlife, habitat and nature discovery. We will go on a creek hike and learn various outdoor skills. *Special note: the creek hike is very steep and challenging—this is only for kids who are good hikers and don't mind getting muddy!*

Please bring a sack lunch to camp. On Friday night, both groups will enjoy a hotdog picnic and listen to a presentation by the Des Moines Astronomical Society, followed by stargazing. Campers are required to have an adult with them for Friday evening's program.

Geology Camp

for kids ages 8-12 years old

Friday, June 23, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Mariposa Recreation Area

Fee: \$15.00; limit 12 kids

This camp will totally rock!! Become a rock detective and dig into Earth's past with some fun geology activities. Campers need to bring a sack lunch.

Survival Camp Overnighter

for kids ages 10-14 years old

June 14, 12:00 PM through June 15, 12:00 PM

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

Fee: \$50.00; limit 12 kids

Participants will gain experience in wild edible identification, fire starting methods, outdoor cooking, and basic first aid. Participants will be paired up and provided tents for camping on Wednesday night. Meals will be provided Wednesday night and Thursday morning. Campers are encouraged to bring a water bottle and snacks that will fit in a lunch bag.

For more information, contact Naturalist Greg Oldsen at goldsen@jasperia.org.

Archery Camp

for kids ages 10-16 years old

Group 1: Tues. June 20, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Group 2: Thurs., June 22, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Newton Izaak Walton League

Fee: \$15.00; limit 15 kids per camp

Learn basic shooting techniques and safety on the line. Kids will enjoy learning the sport of archery on our mini 3D course and through games such as "arrow tic-tac-toe." All equipment will be provided.



Mariposa Park Discovery Days

for kids all ages with an adult

Thursday, June 22, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Thursday, June 29, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Thursday, July 6, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Mariposa Recreation Area

Fee: these programs are free (suggested donation \$5/child)

These programs will be set up "open house" style. Check in at the picnic shelter and take part in a fun craft or activity. Groups will then gather around 10:00 AM for an hour-long naturalist led hike or program. Families are encouraged to explore the Nature Playscape Trail and enjoy a picnic lunch on their own.



4 Summer Camps: The Wild is Waiting!

Nature Quest

for kids ages 5-7 years old

Group 1: Monday, June 26, 9:00-12:00 PM

Group 2: Tuesday, June 27, 9:00-12:00 PM

Newton Izaak Walton League

Fee: \$15.00; limit 12 kids per camp

Our quest is to have fun and explore the outdoors with activities including hiking, pond netting and fishing. A snack will be provided.

Youth Photography Camp

for kids ages 8-12 years old

Thursday, July 6, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Uhlenhopp Arboretum

Fee: \$40.00; limit 12 kids

Outdoor photography is a great way to enjoy our parks all year long. Summer offers a wonderful variety of wildflowers, birds, and scenic views that can be captured by young photographers. Campers will learn how to compose landscape and macro photos focusing on elements such as lighting, contrast, and leading lines. Each participant will receive custom printed notebook with a photo captured during camp. Please bring a sack lunch.



Drawn To Nature Art Camp

for kids ages 8-12 years old

Friday, July 7, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

Fee: \$40.00; limit 15 kids

Make and keep some awesome new art projects inspired by nature! Campers will work with a variety of mediums, including painting on canvas, working with clay, photography, quilling paper art and sketching. Please bring a sack lunch.

Junior Botanists

for kids ages 10-14 years old

Wednesday and Thursday, July 12 and 13

9:00 AM-1:00 PM each day

Mariposa Park

Fee: \$40.00; must attend both days, limit 12 kids

Take a closer look at what makes plants unique, using art, science experiments, and outdoor exploration at Mariposa. Participants will create several botanical projects to take home. Please bring sack lunches.



Watersports Week

for kids ages 8-16 years old

Group 1: Tues., July 11, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Group 2: Wed., July 12, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Group 3: Thurs., July 13, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

Fee: \$20.00; limit 15 kids per camp

Spend a day on the water kayaking and paddle boarding. Slide down the giant slip and slide and take part in a fun relay. Equipment will be provided, including life vests. Bring a water bottle, sack lunch and sunscreen. Campers may only participate in one watersports day!

Upper Iowa Overnight Camp

for kids ages 10-16 years old

Pre-trip: July 20-21

Quarry Springs Park, Colfax

Upper Iowa trip: July 25-27

Fee: \$150.00; limit 8 kids, you must fill out an application for this camp

Join the Jasper County Conservation staff for a fun adventure in beautiful Northeast Iowa. You will experience a three-day trip that will challenge you both mentally and physically. Our adventure will consist of a 16-mile kayak trip on the Upper Iowa River spanning two days. Previous paddling and tent camping experience is preferred but not required. A pre-trip workshop will be held the week before our departure and is required for camp participants. This workshop will cover basic water safety, river navigation by kayak, and tent camping basics.

Participants will be selected using an application process. Applications are due May 25. For more information about the camp and to receive an application, contact Greg Oldsen at goldsen@jasperia.org.



100 Acre Woods Camp

for kids ages 5-7 years old

Group 1: Thursday, July 27 9:00-12:00 PM

Group 2: Friday, July 28, 9:00-12:00 PM

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

Fee: \$15.00; limit 12 kids per camp

Come explore our "100 Acre Woods" with Winnie the Pooh and all of his friends! We will hunt for heffalumps and woozels and explore pollinators. Please bring a sack lunch for a picnic in the park. Parents/guardians are welcome to stay and enjoy the activities.

Scavenger Hunt 2023

We had more people request another type of scavenger hunt and so here it is! We are challenging participants to solve riddles about something specific in Jasper County Conservation parks. You will have to find wherever the riddle takes you in the park to get the answer.

A riddle will be posted on our Facebook page, @jaspercountyconservation, the first Friday of every month. If you are not on Facebook, you can contact Naturalist Katie Cantu by email for the riddles at kcantu@jasperia.org. You may view all posted riddles in the “Jasper County Scavenger Hunt” event link on our Facebook page and you have all year to collect the answers. Please do not share your answers on social media so that everyone has a chance to find them on their own!

Each of the twelve riddle answers will be used at the end of the year to solve one last puzzle. Once you’ve solved the puzzle, send or bring us your answer by December 31st and you’ll be entered into a drawing for a free, one night stay at the Uhlenhopp Arboretum cabin! Good luck, and enjoy your county parks!



Evening Prairie Burn

Friday, April 14, 7:00 PM

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve

Fire is a very important management tool for Iowa's tallgrass prairies. Learn about the history and use of fire in prairies and witness this spectacular event as the sun sets. Please meet at the parking lot at the east entrance of the preserve. Old clothing and shoes are appropriate and cameras may be desirable.

In case of rain or strong winds, the burn will be cancelled. Please call the JCCB office or check our Facebook page for updated information.

Programs at Ashton Observatory

The Ashton Observatory telescopes at Ashton Wildwood Park will be open for public programs at 8:00 PM Saturday evenings, April-October. There will be talks given in the observatory, followed by observing through the telescopes. For more detailed information, go to the Des Moines Astronomical Society's (DMAS) website at www.dmastronomy.com.

Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors (OWLS)

10:00–11:00 AM

**Jasper County Armory/Annex Building
1030 W. 2nd St. S., Newton**

Come for coffee and a short presentation. All programs are from 10:00-11:00 AM unless otherwise noted.

April 12—“The Year the Earth Changed”

Join us for a showing of this documentary, narrated by David Attenborough, depicting how wildlife and the Earth changed during the Covid pandemic when most of us were on lockdown in our homes.

May 10—Central Iowa Organic Fertilizer Vermicomposting

Learn all about using worms and worm castings in your garden in this informative presentation!

Rendezvous with the Chichaqua

Free Skinners

Saturday, May 13, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Sunday, May 14, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Ashton Wildwood Park

See early 1800's lifestyles of mountain men on the frontier at this free public event. Catch craftsmen and artists at work demonstrating skills from the 18th and 19th centuries, including blacksmithing, basket weaving, scrimshaw, leather working, and more. Many craftsmen offer their handmade items for sale or trade.

Also witness mountain men contests using primitive skills: bow shoots, tomahawk and knife throws, cooking contests and a cannon ball toss. Don't miss the Candy Man with his Candy Cannon, several times each day!



Wagaman Mill and Museum Tours

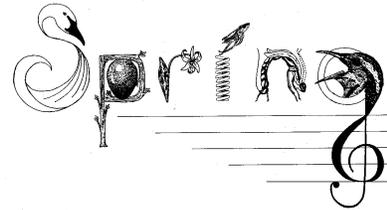
Wagaman Mill in Lynnville will be open from 1:00-4:00 PM each Sunday afternoon between Memorial Day weekend and the end of September. For more information regarding Wagaman Mill, please call (641) 792-9780.



E.L. Thompson

Jasper County Conservation Board
1030 W. 2nd St. S.
Newton, IA 50208

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#ExploreJasperCountyParks



Jasper County Conservation Board

M - F 8:00 - 4:00 (641) 792-9780
email: conservation@co.jasper.ia.us
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A Big Thank You To....

Ina Heidemann for supporting our educational programming, Newton High School Experienced Based Career Education program for taking care of our program animals, Bill Yeager for making the kestrel box kits and all the volunteers who helped build the boxes. Thank you!

Shelter House Reservation

Shelter houses located in Jasper County parks can be reserved for \$25 per day. Shelters are located at Uhlenhopp Arboretum, Ashton Wildwood Park, Mariposa Recreation Area, Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve, Reimer Refuge, Wagaman Mill, and the Chichaqua Valley Recreation Trail. Call (641) 792-9780 to make your reservation.

Jasper County Conservation Board's programs are consistent with pertinent federal and state laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identification, age and handicap. If anyone believes they have been subjected to discrimination, they may file a complaint with the Jasper County Conservation Board or the Office of Equal Opportunity, Washington, D.C. 29240