

County Conservation Areas

The Conservation Board currently has 14 areas under its management agreements including three parks, Cold Springs, Hitchcock Recreational Area, and Pellett Memorial Woods. These areas provide county residents with a diversity of outdoor activities including; camping, picnicking, swimming, fossil digging, fishing, hunting, and nature study.



Immature Great-Horned Owls, Cass County, IA

Natural Resources

Residents of Cass County are fortunate to have an abundance of natural resources available for their use and enjoyment. More than 200 different kinds of plants and many species of animals inhabit the roadsides, fields and forests of the county. People can enjoy the abundant wildlife and beautiful wildflowers that can be found during a walk through one of the county conservation areas.

Blood root, Pellett

Memorial Woods

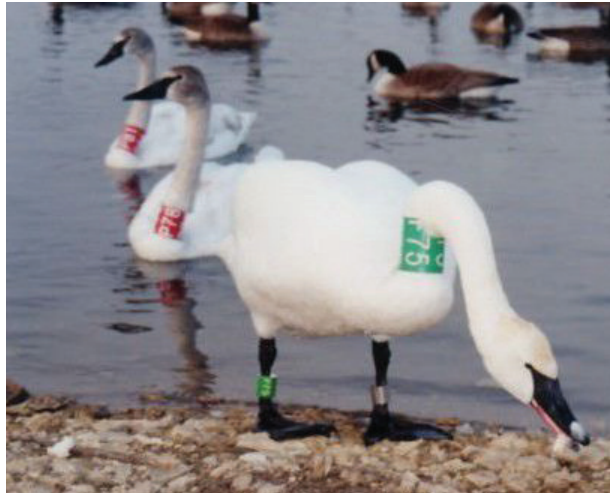


Cass County Visitors

Atlantic has become a "traditional" wintering site for Trumpeter Swans.

History

In 1932, Iowa's native Trumpeter Swans were close to extinction. Only sixty-nine swans remained south of Canada, due to loss of wetlands and unregulated hunting. Iowa's last Trumpeter Swan nesting occurred in 1883 in northern Iowa.



Two young (cygnets), with an adult (F75) at Atlantic

Reintroducing Trumpeter Swans

Headed by the Department of Natural Resources, Iowa's Trumpeter Swan restoration effort began in 1995. Trumpeter Swans have been obtained from 25 different states to increase genetic diversity. Swans are marked with neck collars and leg bands before they are released. A major milestone was reached in 1998 as Iowa experienced the first modern day nesting Trumpeter Swan.

Environmental Education

Environmental education is necessary in order to inform the public of the need for conservation and to instill a sense of caring for the land and its inhabitants.

The county Naturalist provides a wide range of educational opportunities including:

- Hands-on activities in the classroom
- Educational hikes
- Seminars and workshops
- Family-oriented programs
- Seasonal nature camps
- Programs for clubs and organizations

To Request an environmental education program please call Lora at:

Phone: 712-769-2372

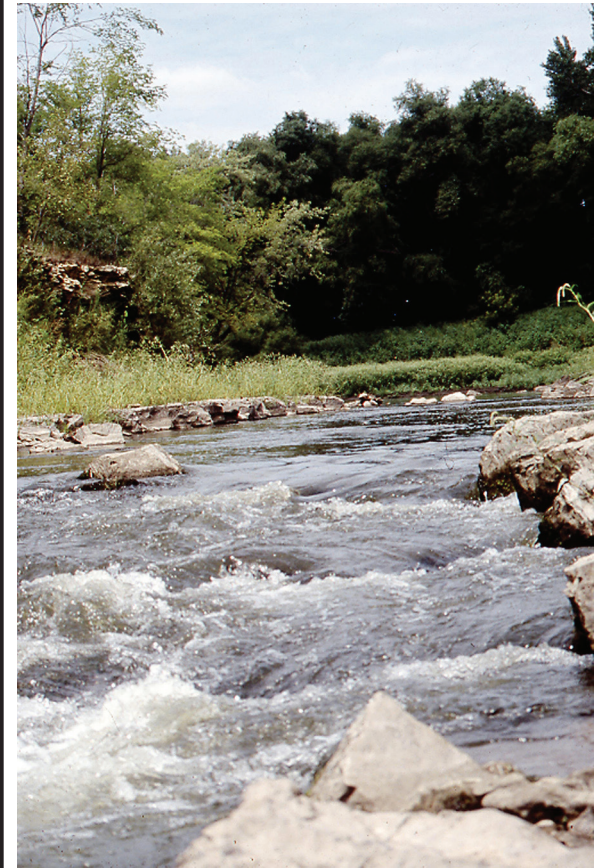
Fax: 712-769-2392

<http://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Cass.aspx>



The Conservation Board invites you to visit your parks and wildlife areas and in leaving, remember those who follow you.

Cass County Conservation



Cass County Conservation
57744 Lewis Rd
Lewis, IA 51544
(712) 769-2372
(712) 769-2392 (fax)

History and Purpose

The Cass County Conservation Board was established in 1958 as the county resource agency with the authority to acquire lands specifically for recreation and conservation. Each member of the board is appointed by the Cass County Board of Supervisors and is appointed for five-year terms. The Cass County Conservation Board is dedicated to wildlife habitat development, management and preservation. These goals are reached by purchasing land for wildlife, by improving habitat quality and by providing educational programs for the citizens of the county.

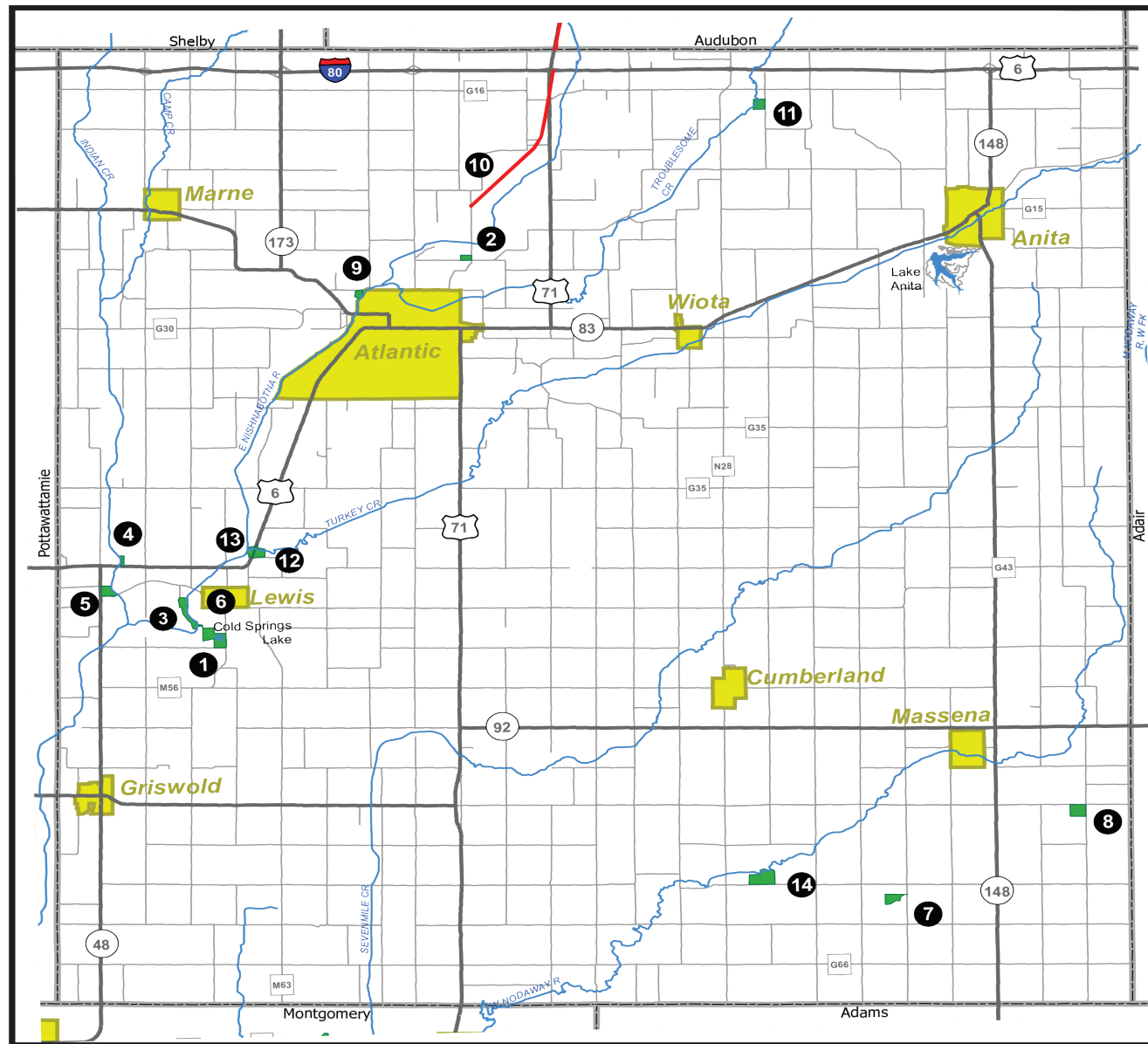


Current Board members are:

John Curry, Massena
 Bob Muldoon, Atlantic
 Duane Curtis, Cumberland
 Luanne Steffens, Griswold
 Jerry Hudson, Lewis

County Conservation Staff
 712-769-2372

Micah Lee, Executive Director
 Lora Kanning, Naturalist
 Ryan Lockwood, Park Superintendent
 Caretaker, Hitchcock House, 712-769-2323



1. Cold Springs Park. This 104-acre park, a long-time favorite of area residents, is found one mile south of Lewis. A large camping area and a 16-acre lake provide numerous recreational opportunities. Activities: Picnicking, Swimming, Fishing, Hiking, Nature Study, Camping (electricity 26 sites, primitive 20 sites.)

2. Frank Chapman Pellett Memorial Woods. Located two miles north and 3/4 of a mile east of Atlantic. A 20-acre tract containing an 8 acre native woodland that was established as a wildflower preserve in 1908. It is known to contain more than 120 species of plants, many of which are identified by markers along

a winding trail. Activities: Nature Study. NO HUNTING

3. Hitchcock Recreation Area. This 66-acre area is located west of Lewis along the Nishnabotna River. The George B. Hitchcock House, is on the National Register of Historic Places, is located on the site. This house was used to hide runaway slaves during the Civil War. Open May– Sept, fee is charged to tour. Activities: Hunting, Nature Study, Hiking self guided trail.

4. Indian Creek Wildlife Area. Located 1/2 mile east of the U.S. Highway No. 6 and U.S. Highway No. 48 intersection. This is a 10-acre area of dense timber and hilly terrain. Activities: Hunting, Nature Study.

5. Iranistan Wildlife Area. A diverse 34-acre tract located five miles north of Griswold along U.S. Highway No. 48. This area has a 10-acre pond and a variety of plant communities. Activities: Hunting, Fishing, Nature Study.

6. Nishnabotna Rock Cut. The site of an unusual limestone outcrop on the Nishnabotna River, this 3-acre area is found just west of Cold Springs Park. Activities: Fishing, Hiking, Nature Study. NO HUNTING.

7. Nodaway Wildlife Area. Consists of 40 acres located four miles south and two miles west of Massena. This area has two ponds and is developed for wildlife, having more than 1,500 pine and shrub plantings and approximately 15 acres of switch grass, a native prairie grass. Activities: Hunting, Fishing, Picnicking.

8. Outdoor Educational Classroom. This diverse habitat area includes wetlands, restored native prairie, fishing, nature study, with hardwoods and pines. There is an enclosed shelter (please call CCCB office to reserve) equipped with heat, electricity, and running water. Activities: fishing, hiking, nature study.

9. Pellett Wildlife Refuge. Located north of Atlantic along the Nishnabotna River, this wooded 19-acre area was donated to serve as a refuge protecting flora and fauna. Activities: Hiking, Nature Study, NO HUNTING.

10. T-Bone Trail. This paved four mile section of multipurpose recreation trail will eventually connect Atlantic to Audubon. The head of the trail is located just southwest of the I-80/Hwy 71 intersection, near the hotel. Activities: Biking, Hiking, In-line Skating, Nature Study. NO MOTORIZED VEHICLES and NO HORSES.

11. Troublesome Creek Wildlife Area. A 40-acre tract, located northeast of Wiota, consisting of dense timber with Troublesome Creek flowing through. Activities: Hunting, Fishing, Nature Study.

12. Turkey Creek Educational Area. The east side is the location of the Turkey Creek Nature Trail which is approximately one mile in length. Activities: picnicking, nature study, hiking. NO HUNTING.

13. Turkey Creek Wildlife Area. Consisting of 57 acres on either side of Highway 6 four miles south of Atlantic. The west parcel provides access to the Nishnabotna River. Activities: Hunting, Fishing, Nature Study, Hiking.

14. West Nodaway Wildlife Area. This 120-acre area is located five miles south and 1/2 mile east of Cumberland. The West Nodaway River flows through a heavily forested part of the area while the remainder being upland habitat with food plots throughout. Activities: Hunting, Nature Study.