

Buchanan County and Natural Areas 2011



Buchanan County Conservation Board

Iowa's County Conservation Board System was enacted in 1955. Through a vote of its citizens, Buchanan County was among the first 16 counties to establish a conservation board in 1956. The Buchanan County Conservation Board is composed of five individuals who have a demonstrated interest in the natural environment and conservation practices. Conservation Board members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors to staggered, five-year terms. They volunteer their time and energy to assess local conservation needs and priorities. The Conservation Board employs an Executive Director, who hires staff to implement the Conservation Board's programs and policies. You likely will encounter these people as they present education programs, maintain park facilities, conduct management techniques in prairies and woodlands, patrol parks and natural areas, answer your questions on the phone, and greet you at the Nature Center. These people are dedicated to making your parks and natural areas experiences as fun and rewarding as possible.

Wapsipinicon River
Photo by Kip Ladage

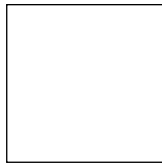


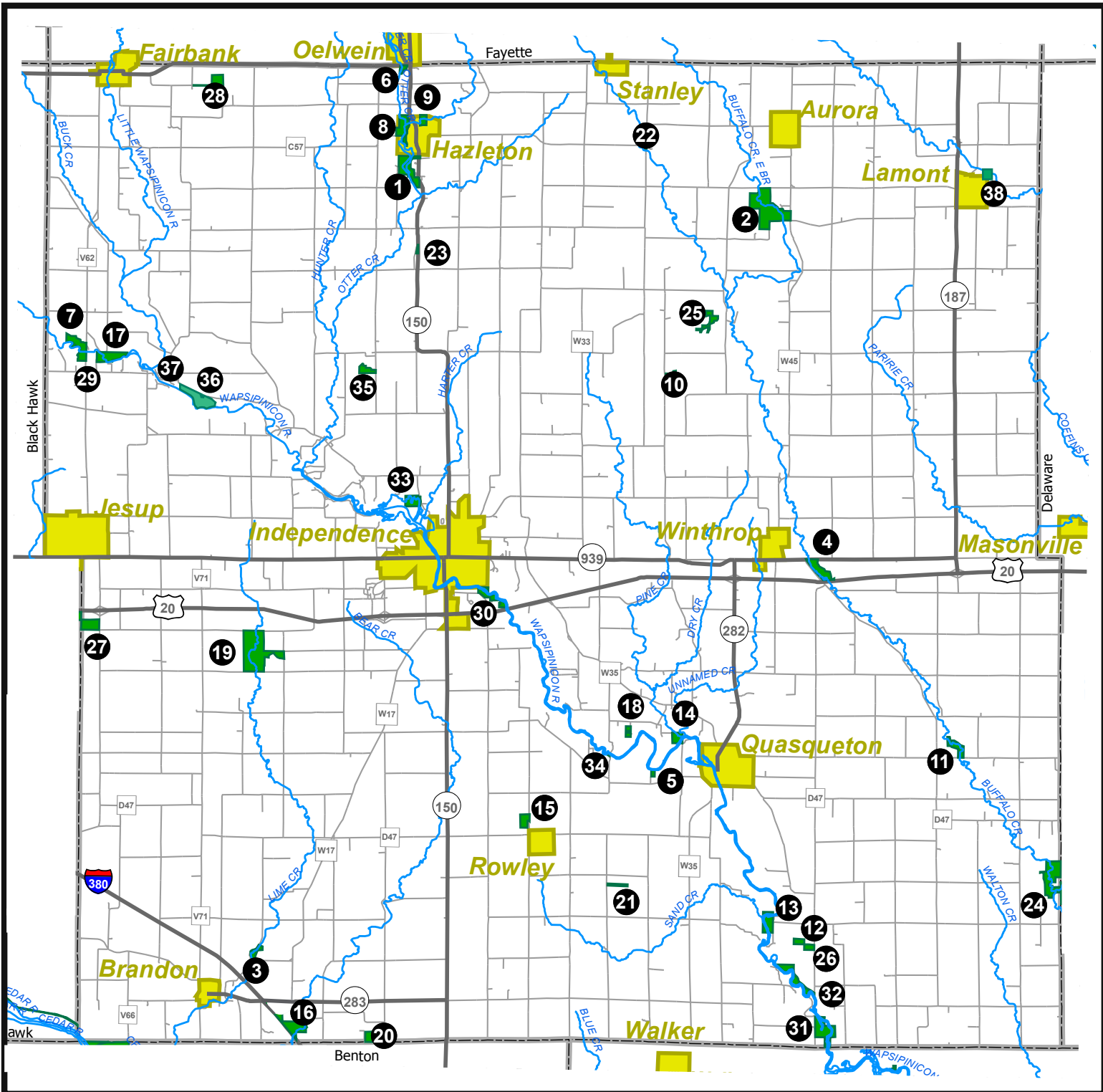
Get Involved!

The goals of conservation are only realized when people are engaged in activities and practices that promote use and protection of natural areas and the environment. The Buchanan County Conservation Board fosters conservation by providing lots of ways for people to get involved. Educational and recreational programs, and a host of parks and natural areas, are available year-round, and are advertised in the Conservation Board Newsletter – The Otter Creek Quarterly. There are more than a dozen areas in which people serve as Conservation Volunteers. These range from assisting with park maintenance projects to monitoring wildlife populations and serving as a Nature Center receptionist. More than a hundred people volunteer for the Conservation Board each year.

Visit the Conservation Board web site - www.buchanancountyarks.com. On the site, you may sign up to receive the newsletter, read more about becoming a Conservation Volunteer, and learn about programs and activities.

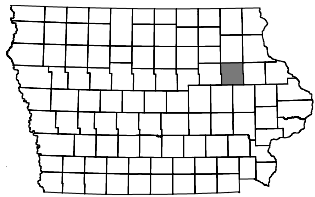
Buchanan County Conservation Department
Fontana Interpretive Nature Center
Fontana Park
1883 125th St.
Hazleton, IA 50641





BUCHANAN COUNTY

1883 125th St.
 Hazleton, Iowa 50641
 319-636-2617
 bccb@iowatelecom.net
 www.buchanancountyparks.com



- Legend**
- County Facility
 - Trails
 - Highways
 - Roads
 - River/Lakes
 - City/Town Limits

Office Hours
 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Nature Center Hours
 8 a.m. to noon – Monday - Tuesday
 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Wednesday - Friday
 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. – Saturday-Sunday (summer)
 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. – Saturday-Sunday (winter)



Buchanan County
 Conservation Board

Watch for signs!
 Arrowhead signs mark the way to all Buchanan County Conservation Board Areas. Water Trail signs will guide you to state, county, and city river accesses. Water Trail brochures are available by calling 319-636-2617, or at www.buchanancountyparks.com.



Buchanan County's Parks & Natural Areas



The Buchanan County Conservation Board invites you to visit and use the special outdoor places in Buchanan County. Rivers and streams, forests, wetlands, and prairies await your visit. There are places to hike, hunt, fish, and paddle, with unknown beauty and excitement around each bend. There also are places to camp, bicycle, attend nature programs, and view displays – enjoy!

Prairies

Before European settlement, approximately 85 percent of Iowa was covered by tall-grass prairie. Less than 1/10 of one percent of this original prairie remains in Iowa. People in Buchanan County are fortunate to have part of their heritage preserved in both native and reconstructed prairie areas.



The **Bearbower Sand Prairie** contains many rare prairie plants and animals. Prickly pear cacti, ornate box turtles, and a variety of prairie grasses and flowers are found in this native prairie. The **Bryantsburg Area**, **Blazingstar Prairie**, **Patton Prairie**, **Crumbacher Wildlife Area** and **Fairbank Fen** also contain areas of native prairie.

Substantial areas of reconstructed prairies have been planted at **Koutny Pond/Hoffman Woods**, **Ham Marsh**, **Rowley Fen**, **Crumbacher Wildlife Area**, **Anderson Addition to Cutshall Park**, **Otter Creek Roadside Park**, **Hodges and North Wildlife Area**, and **Cortright Wildlife Area**. Demonstration prairie plots exist in other parks.

Wetlands

Many rare species rely on wetlands during their development or during migration. People rely on wetlands for improved water quality and flood control. **Ham Marsh** contains a glacial marsh and sedge meadow. A variety of birds and other wildlife can be viewed from an observation blind overlooking the marsh. **Rowley Fen** and **Fairbank Fen** contain a special type of wetland, called a fen. Rare plants and animals make use of this spongy habitat. **Schneider-Heinick-Rowe Area** contains a cattail marsh surrounded by a woodland. **Patton Prairie** is a wet meadow prairie, teeming with diversity. Both natural and constructed wetlands exist in the large **Crumbacher Wildlife Area** and **Cortright Wildlife Area**. Fish can be caught in the Cortright ponds. **Koutny Pond** contains a 12-acre lake and adjacent wetland, both of which provide fishing. The **Nibeck Preserve** and **Otter Creek Wildlife Area** also have well protected wetlands.



Rivers and Forests

Water is a main feature of many parks and natural areas. The Wapsipinicon River, and Bear, Lime, Otter, and Buffalo Creeks, flow through several areas. The South Fork of the Maquoketa River flows through **Wehner Woods**. Associated with these rivers are most of Buchanan County's larger forested areas. **Jakway Forest** is the largest county forest, and is managed to enhance oaks, walnut and hickory for quality wildlife habitat. Other large forest areas along rivers include **Frogville Area**, **Troy Mills Area**, and **Newton Township Wildlife Area**. The Wapsipinicon River Water Trail guides visitors as they float or fish the Wapsi. Look for informational signs at river accesses. Water Trail brochures are available (call 319-636-2617 or visit www.buchanancountyparks.com).



Education

The Buchanan County Conservation Board's award-winning Environmental Education Program provides a variety of natural history, environmental, cultural, and recreational programs to county citizens and out-of-county visitors. A main resource for education programs is the Fontana Interpretive Nature Center. The Nature Center contains a display floor, meeting rooms, and staff offices. Although most programs and field trips are held at Fontana Park, a variety of educational and recreational programs also are held in other parks and natural areas. Public programs are listed in the Conservation Board's newsletter and at www.buchanancountyparks.com. People may schedule an education program or field trip for their specific group by contacting a naturalist at 319-636-2617.



Private Lands

About 98 percent of the landscape in Iowa is managed by private landowners and operators. Decisions made on private lands have tremendous impacts for water, soils, and wildlife. The Buchanan County Conservation Board assists landowners and operators in their efforts to improve wildlife habitat and reduce water runoff from their property. Conservation Board staff help coordinate assistance programs provided by other organizations, and provides educational materials and programs about private land conservation. Staff and equipment are available to assist with conservation plantings (rental and planting fees apply). For more information, call 319-636-2617.



Camping

Buchanan County campgrounds at Fontana Park, Jakway Forest, and Lime Creek Area provide excellent opportunities for outdoor enjoyment. All three have good electrical service. Shower house and dump station facilities are available at Fontana Park and Jakway Forest. Lime Creek Campground has electricity, but is otherwise a more primitive camping experience. A limited number of campsites may be reserved at Fontana Park. All other campsites are available on a first-come basis. Shelters may be reserved in the picnic grounds at Fontana Park.

Two new **sustainable living cabins** are available for rent at Fontana Park. These cabins feature overnight comfort surrounded by the beauty and attractions in Fontana Park. They also feature solar electricity, energy efficiency, and conservation practices. Call 319-636-2617 for more information or to make reservations.



History

Several areas managed by the BCCB have historical significance. **The Richardson-Jakway Historic Site**, located in Jakway Forest, features an 1851 restored farmstead, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Site is used to educate people about daily pioneer life and the period of American westward movement. Interpretive signs help tell the story, and programs are held at the park throughout the year.

Fontana Park was developed around a mill site, first constructed in 1849. The area was long used for outdoor recreation, even before the Conservation Board obtained the area in 1959. A shelter house now rests on the old mill foundation, and the mill stones are on display.

The **Iron Bridge Access** contains a bowstring arch bridge, dating back to 1872. Today, it is preserved as a pedestrian walkway and scenic river overlook with a modern boat access.



| Buchanan County Parks, Accesses And Natural Areas Managed by Buchanan County Conservation Board | | Stream Fishing | Lake/Pond Fishing | Boating ¹ | River Access | Hunting | Archery Range | Hiking Trails | Self-guided Trails | Ski Trails | Disc Golf Course | Nature Appreciation | Picnicking | Shelter W/ Electricity ² | Shower House | Heated Shelter House | Drinking Water ³ | Cabin Rental ⁴ | Camping (Primitive) | Camping w/ electric | Dump Station | Youth Group Camping ⁵ | Playground | Vault Toilets | Historic Site | Live Wildlife Display | Observation Blind | Equestrian Trails | Nearest Town | |
|--|-------|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------|---------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|------------|------------------|---------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Parks | Acres | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Fontana Park | 134 | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | ● | ● | ● | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | | Hazleton |
| 2. Jakway Forest | 315 | ● | | | | ● | | ● | ● | ● | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Aurora |
| 3. Lime Creek Area | 45 | ● | | | | ● | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | Brandon |
| 4. Buffalo Creek Area | 80 | ● | | | | ● | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | Winthrop |
| 5. Boies Bend Area | 26 | ● | | | | ● | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | ● | ● | ● | | | Quasqueton |
| 6. Otter Creek Roadside Park | 13 | ● | ● | | ● | | | ● | | ● | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | ● | ● | ● | | | Hazleton |
| 7. Cutshall Area | 85 | ● | | | | ● | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | ● | ● | ● | | | Jesup |
| Natural Areas and Accesses | Acres | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8. Otter Creek Wildlife Preserve | 100 | ● | | | | | | | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Hazleton |
| 9. Nibeck Wildlife Preserve | 25 | | | | | | | ● | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Hazleton |
| 10. Van Laningham Wildlife Preserve | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Independence |
| 11. Buffalo Creek Wildlife Area | 60 | ● | | | | ● | | | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Winthrop |
| 12. Hoover Area | 20 | | | | | ● | | | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Quasqueton |
| 13. Sand Creek Area | 80 | ● | | | | ● | | | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Quasqueton |
| 14. Pine Creek Area | 40 | ● | | | | ● | | | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Quasqueton |
| 15. Rowley Fen | 43 | | | | | ● | | | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Rowley |
| 16. Koutny Pond/Hoffman Woods | 106 | ● | ● | ● | | ● | | | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Brandon |
| 17. Mickey Fox Area | 97 | ● | | | | ● | | | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Jesup |
| 18. Putty Root Preserve | 15 | | | | | | | | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Quasqueton |
| 19. Crumbacher Wildlife Area | 368 | | | | | ● | | ● | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | | Independence |
| 20. Bearbower Sand Prairie | 40 | | | | | ● | | | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Brandon |
| 21. Blazing-star Prairie | 7.5 | | | | | ● | | | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Rowley |
| 22. Swartz Preserve | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Aurora |
| 23. Bryantsburg Area | 1.5 | | | | | | | | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Hazleton |
| 24. Newton Township Natural Area | 158 | ● | | ● | | ● | | | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Troy Mills |
| 25. Patton Prairie | 45 | | | | | ● | | | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Aurora |
| 26. Schneider-Heinick-Rowe Area | 20 | | | | | | | | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Quasqueton |
| 27. Hodges and North Wildlife Area | 66 | | | | | ● | | | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Jesup |
| 28. Fairbank Fen | 41 | | | | | ● | | | | | | ● | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Fairbank |
| 29. Anderson Addition of Cutshall Area | 24 | ● | | | | ● | | | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Jesup |
| 30. Three Elms Area and Access | 75 | ● | | ● | ● | | ● | | | | | ● | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | | | | | Independence |
| 31. Frogville Access | 135 | ● | | | | ● | | | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Troy Mills |
| 32. Troy Mills Wapsi Access | 63 | ● | | ● | ● | ● | | | | | | ● | ● | | | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | Troy Mills |
| 33. Wapsipinicon River Access | 51 | ● | | ● | ● | ● | | | | | | ● | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | | | | | Independence |
| 34. Iron Bridge Access | 1 | ● | | ● | ● | | | | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | | | | Quasqueton |
| 35. Ham Marsh | 54 | | | | | ● | | ● | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | | Independence |
| 36. Cortright Wildlife Area | 190 | ● | ● | | | ● | | ● | | | | ● | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● | | Jesup |
| 37. Robert "Chic" McGlaughlin Easement | 5 | ● | | ● | ● | | | | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Jesup |
| 38. Wehner Woods | 30 | ● | | | | ● | | ● | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Lamont |

General Information

- All areas close at 10:30 p.m.
- Park roads may be closed October 1 to April 15.
- Swimming is not permitted in any county areas.
- Rules are posted in each county area. The Conservation Department also publishes a rules brochure which is available upon request, and may be downloaded from the web site: www.buchanancountyparks.com.

- Questions, comments, or requests should be directed to:

Buchanan County
Conservation Department
Fontana Park, 1883 125th St.
Hazleton, IA 50641
319-636-2617 (phone)
319-636-2624 (FAX)
bccbdan@iowatelecom.net
www.buchanancountyparks.com

Notes on Activities

- ¹ Boat motors, with the exception of small electric motors, are not permitted at Fontana Park or Koutny Pond/Hoffman Woods.
- ² Two of the three shelter houses at Fontana Park may be reserved for a small fee.
- ³ Quality drinking water at Fontana and Jakway Parks is provided through Central Iowa Water Association.
- ⁴ Beginning in September, 2011, two cabins are available for public rental. These "sustainable living cabins" feature overnight comfort with solar electricity and energy efficiency.
- ⁵ Youth groups may camp at no charge in the Lee Fisher Scout Area at Fontana Park, upon approval from the Conservation Department.