

Nature Center Staff

Dan Cohen.....Director
Sondra Cabell.....Naturalist
YuVonne Buckman.....Receptionist
Linda Heins.....Secretary/Receptionist
Sandra Hemmingsen..Secretary/Receptionist

Nature Center Regular Hours

Mon. - Tues.: 8 a.m. - Noon
Wed. - Fri.: 8 a.m. - Noon; 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Weekends: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Nature Center Winter Hours

Mon. - Tues.: 8 a.m. - Noon
Wed. - Fri.: 8 a.m. - Noon; 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Weekends: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.



Volunteer Program

The Nature Center's volunteers meet new people, help nature center staff, and expand their own knowledge about the environment. Persons interested in volunteering will fill out an application, be interviewed, and then receive introductory training. For more information, call or email: 319 636-2617; bccbdan@iowatelecom.net

Fontana Interpretive Nature Center

Visitors Guide



Buchanan County
Conservation Board
Fontana Park
1883 125th St.
Hazelton, Iowa 50641
319-636-2617
bccbdan@iowatelecom.net

www.east-buc.k12.ia.us/BCCB/home.htm

“Making Our Home in a Living Environment”

The exhibits in the Fontana Interpretive Nature Center will help visitors understand how we can better “make our home in a living environment.” Displays interpret woodlands, wetlands, and prairies — the natural heritage and natural resources of Iowa. They also demonstrate how people use resources for agriculture, home, use, industry, recreation, and more. Sometimes our use of resources causes environmental problems. The displays help visitors understand these problems and discover ways to work toward solutions. As visitors use the nature center, they see and touch natural objects, play games, and find answers to questions. Visitors can also use the nature center library and displays to help them identify and understand the wonders of nature they encounter at Fontana park.

Classroom and Board Meeting Room

The lower level of the Fontana Interpretive Nature Center contains a classroom used for workshops and conservation programs. There is also a smaller meeting room where the Conservation Board holds its monthly meetings. Displays by featured artists are often set up in these rooms, as well as past Buchanan County Photo Contest winners. During the school year, thousands of students come to Fontana Park for field trips. The classroom is used as a staging area and instruction center for these field trips. Also located in the lower level of the nature center is the physical plant for the unique lake-loop heating and cooling system.

Programs Upon Request

Groups and organizations may request special programs on a variety of environmental and nature topics. If possible, these programs should be scheduled well in advance of the desired program day. Naturalist programs include hikes, live animal programs, slide shows, craft activities, campfires, and more! Most programs are free or simply cover the costs of materials. Donations, however, are always appreciated.

Fontana Park

The Fontana Interpretive Nature Center is located in Fontana Park. In addition to the Nature Center, visitors can enjoy the live wildlife display that features animals native to Iowa. Animals in the display include orphaned, injured, or human-raised wildlife that can no longer live in the wild. There is also a historic mill site with information about how the mill once operated. Other attractions at Fontana Park include self-guided nature trails, modern and primitive camping, picnic grounds, and fishing in Otter Creek.

Nature Center Construction

The Fontana Interpretive Nature Center is unique among public buildings. There is no debt against the building and no tax increases were used to fund its construction. The nature center is also unique in its use of energy efficient technology and local resources. The lake-loop heating and cooling system saves fossil fuels and reduces pollution. Energy efficient lights, water-saving toilets, and the use of recycled materials demonstrate the Conservation Board's commitment to conservation. The nature center furnishings and woodwork were constructed by local craftsmen. The red oak, which is used throughout the building, was harvested in Buchanan County.

Public Support

The Fontana Interpretive Nature Center is the result of the efforts and involvement of many individuals and organizations. Many people have donated their time, talent, and money to help make the nature center a success. Anyone interested in becoming involved, either as a volunteer or as a donor, should contact the Nature Center (319-636-2617; bccbdan@iowatelecom.net).

