



Annual Report

July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

Mission Statement

The Friends of Jackson County Conservation brings people together through educational and recreational opportunities in partnership with the Jackson County Conservation Board and inspires people to understand and care for our environment.

Brief History

Friends of Jackson County Conservation is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that was created in 1999 to help with fund raising for the building of the Hurstville Interpretive Center. It has since expanded its fund raising efforts and other projects to support all aspects of the conservation department.

Board Members

Board Members can serve two 3-year terms. Board members during the 2016-17 FY were:

Jeremy Meyer, Chair
Julie Reuter, Vice Chair
Wendy Hainstock, Treasurer
Sandy Walton, Secretary
Clayton Pederson, At Large
Kathi Atkinson, Board Rep
Jessica Wagner, Staff Rep

Awards/Grants

Grants Received:

1. Wellmark \$10,000 for Prairie Creek Pavilion
2. Theisen's More For Your Community Grant \$1,000 for Prairie Creek Pavilion
3. Community Foundation of Jackson County \$5,000 for Prairie Creek Pavilion
4. JCATA \$500 for two banners; 1 for JCCB and 1 for FJCC

Administrative

- Friends of Jackson County Conservation & Jackson County Conservation served 11,340 people through environmental education programs and events.

Membership

- Membership dates changed to calendar year (January – December) instead of fiscal year.
- A mailing was done in January to encourage more membership renewals.
- Over \$3,500 was brought in for membership dues this fiscal year.

Fundraisers

- We held a raffle from July-August. We raffled off \$300, tree planting kit, truck bed liner and a photo on canvas by Chris Cornelius. Proceeds were for Prairie Creek Pavilion.
- Lewis & Clark dinner was held in October to raise money for the Prairie Creek Pavilion. It was held in conjunction with a program about Sacajawea.
- A BioBlitz Lunch & Learn was held in January. Jennie Wilcox presented on her graduate project on future plans for Prairie Creek. A lunch was served along with the program. Proceeds were for Prairie Creek Pavilion.
- Tweet Nothings was held in February. Dave Shealer, Professor at Loras, presented a program about bird mating. Friends members served dinner along with the program. Proceeds were for Prairie Creek Pavilion.
- A May Basket Auction was held at the Pavilion ground breaking event in May.
- A Luncheon was held in June in conjunction with a Flowers of the Prairie presentation by Danuta Hutchins. Proceeds were for Prairie Creek Pavilion.

Projects Funded and Supported

- Prairie Creek Pavilion
- Supported Jackson County My Community My Future Summer Youth Corps.
- Sponsored the summer naturalist intern. Andy Benson was hired for the summer of 2017.
- Continued support of the trumpeter swan reintroduction program and live education animals at the Hurstville Center.
- Provided bus scholarship for area schools for field trips: Bellevue 5th grade field trip to Eden Valley in April 2017.
- Supported public and youth programs and events: including summer day camps, Dubuque bald eagle watch, bird feeder workshop, bird house workshop, OWLS events, soap making class, beeswax class, rain barrel workshops and other public programs.
- Helped fund the Hurstville Marsh Pump
- Sponsored outside speakers, including: Danuta Hutchins presented on Prairie Flowers in June and Beverly Hinds presented on Sacajawea in October and Insect Zoo from ISU in August

Prairie Creek Pavilion

- This was our big project for FY 15-16 & FY 16-17
- Fundraising Goal: \$160,000
- The committee secured contractors and construction began in May. Construction continues into next fiscal year.