

Jones County Conservation provides a full venue of outdoor recreation opportunities, from developed, high use recreation areas with cabins and a beach, to secluded sites with few amenities for those who enjoy the quiet side of nature.

The Conservation Board supports projects and provides interpretive programs that promote preservation of historic sites and cultural heritage. To obtain more information about historic sites and those listed on the National Register of Historic Places, contact officials at the JCCB Administrative Office.

Recreation and Education

Full service camping facilities, a boat ramp and beach, hiking trails, Nature Center, cabins and other outdoor recreation amenities are provided at Central Park.



Fishing, whether at Central Park Lake, the Hale Wildlife Area ponds, or along the banks of the Maquoketa or Wapsipinicon rivers, is a favorite pastime for many.



Welcome to Jones County!

The Jones County Conservation Board (JCCB) extends an invitation to visit and enjoy the many recreation and natural areas within Jones County. More than twenty five public areas provide a variety of recreational opportunities to all those who enjoy the outdoors.

The Wapsipinicon and Maquoketa River Valleys provide an area rich in natural and cultural history. Jones County is the birthplace and home of Iowa's most famous artist, Grant Wood. Many of his most famous paintings are expressions of harmony between agriculture and the environment. A harmony that the Board strives to maintain today.

The Conservation Board is comprised of five persons appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. Each member serves a five year term. The purpose of the Board is to provide programs that preserve and enhance natural and cultural resources and provide recreational opportunities for all people.



Jones County is located about 20 miles east of Cedar Rapids and 20 miles west of Dubuque.

Humans have occupied the landscape of Jones County for thousands of years. Indigenous tribes such as the Ioway, Sauk, Fox, Sioux and Winnebago lived in the area for centuries. The first settler of European descent moved into the northeast corner of Jones County in 1836.

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Cultural Resources

Many caves and rock shelters can be discovered along the stream and river valleys of Jones County. These shelters were important seasonal and temporary homes to many early human inhabitants of the area.



Through native prairie preservation, prairie restoration plantings, and critical landscape management rare prairie survivors, like these pasque flowers, can still be found.



Many species of fish and wildlife are found throughout the County. Healthy populations of wild turkey, white-tailed deer, raccoon and beaver are common in all of the river valleys. Cattish, walleye, black bass and bluegill are the primary game fishes sought by anglers.

Plant communities of tall grass prairie, eastern deciduous forest and savanna created the rich and fertile soils that we all depend on today. Remnant stands of white pine, Canada yew and wild blueberries can be found along some of the more special segments of river valley.

The erosive action of the Wapsipinicon and Maquoketa Rivers have exposed massive outcrops of sedimentary rock that form vertical bluffs and scenic vistas along the river valleys. Geologic events that formed the outcrops of limestone and dolomite were active millions of years ago when this part of Iowa was part of a vast and shallow inland sea.

The forested river valleys of the Maquoketa and Wapsipinicon provide an ever changing kaleidoscope of beauty and mystery around every bend.

Natural Resources

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Park Hours

4:30 AM to 10:30 PM

Shelters and Cabins

At Central Park may be reserved by calling the JCCB Administrative Office at (563)487-3541.

Camping - Central Park

First come first serve in all areas
No Reservations

Litter and Trash Removal

All areas are Carry In/Carry Out

Speed Limit

15 MPH in all Parks

Fires

Campfires permitted only in fire rings.
No Ground Fires



Jones County Conservation Board
12515 Central Park Road
Center Junction, IA 52212
(563) 487-3541 (phone)
(563) 487-5034 (fax)

www.jonescountyiowa.org/conservation

Jones County Conservation & Recreation Areas

Jones County, IA