

Funding Conservation Efforts



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Brief Background



Hawkeye Area Council Conservation Committee:

- ~\$35,000 in funding since 2016
- Mostly modest (<\$3,000) grants awarded through:
 - Local corporations
 - Local nonprofit opportunities
 - Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- Allows work/resources that wouldn't happen otherwise
- Supports the Council budget

A Few Topics We Can Consider



1. Before looking for funding: What is your plan?
2. Who might fund our efforts?
3. Nuts and bolts: Writing an effective proposal

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What Is Your Plan?

Conservation strategic plan

5-Year Conservation Plan

- Living document (adaptable)
- Guide to long-term plans and to regular, seasonal needs

FA-704	CONSERVATION PLAN (Revised January 1, 2020)
STANDARD: There is an approved and current conservation plan for the camp property. The plan addresses the protection and stewardship of biological, ecological, and cultural resources of the camp property.	Applies to: 
INTERPRETATION: The conservation plan should be approved by the appropriate council officer or committee. A conservation plan is current if it has been reviewed by the appropriate council officer or committee within the past five years and it is not obsolete (e.g., most actions referenced occur in the past) or fails to address an obvious issue (e.g., fire that burned significant portion of camp more than six months before). Refer to the <i>Council Conservation Committee Guidebook</i> , No. 430-022, available online. VERIFICATION: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Documentation of the plan and appropriate approvals• Observation of the plan in action REFERENCES: The <i>Council Conservation Committee Guidebook</i> , No. 430-022, is available at scouting.org/outdoor-programs/conservation/conservation-resources/	

What Is Your Plan?



Conservation strategic plan

5-Year Conservation Plan

Purpose

This document serves as the strategic planning and priority document for the conservation management of the Howard H. Cherry Scout Reservation (HHCSR). This five-year plan provides an inventory of regular, ongoing management needs at the Reservation, as well as a list of potential future needs and priorities. This plan was guided by conservation resources and guidelines from the Boy Scouts of America.

What Is Your Plan?



Conservation strategic plan

5-Year Conservation Plan



What Is Your Plan?



Conservation strategic plan

5-Year Conservation Plan

What can we get funding for?

tools, supplies, plants/seeds

equipment

program

work crews

Scope of Funding Opportunities



1. Before looking for funding: What is your plan?
2. Who might fund our efforts?
3. Nuts and bolts: Writing an effective proposal

Scope of Funding Opportunities



All funding is local...

Not all of it is local, but that's the best place to start*

*work with the Council staff to avoid duplication/conflicts

Options:

- Local corporations/businesses with charitable giving

- Nonprofits

- Individual donors

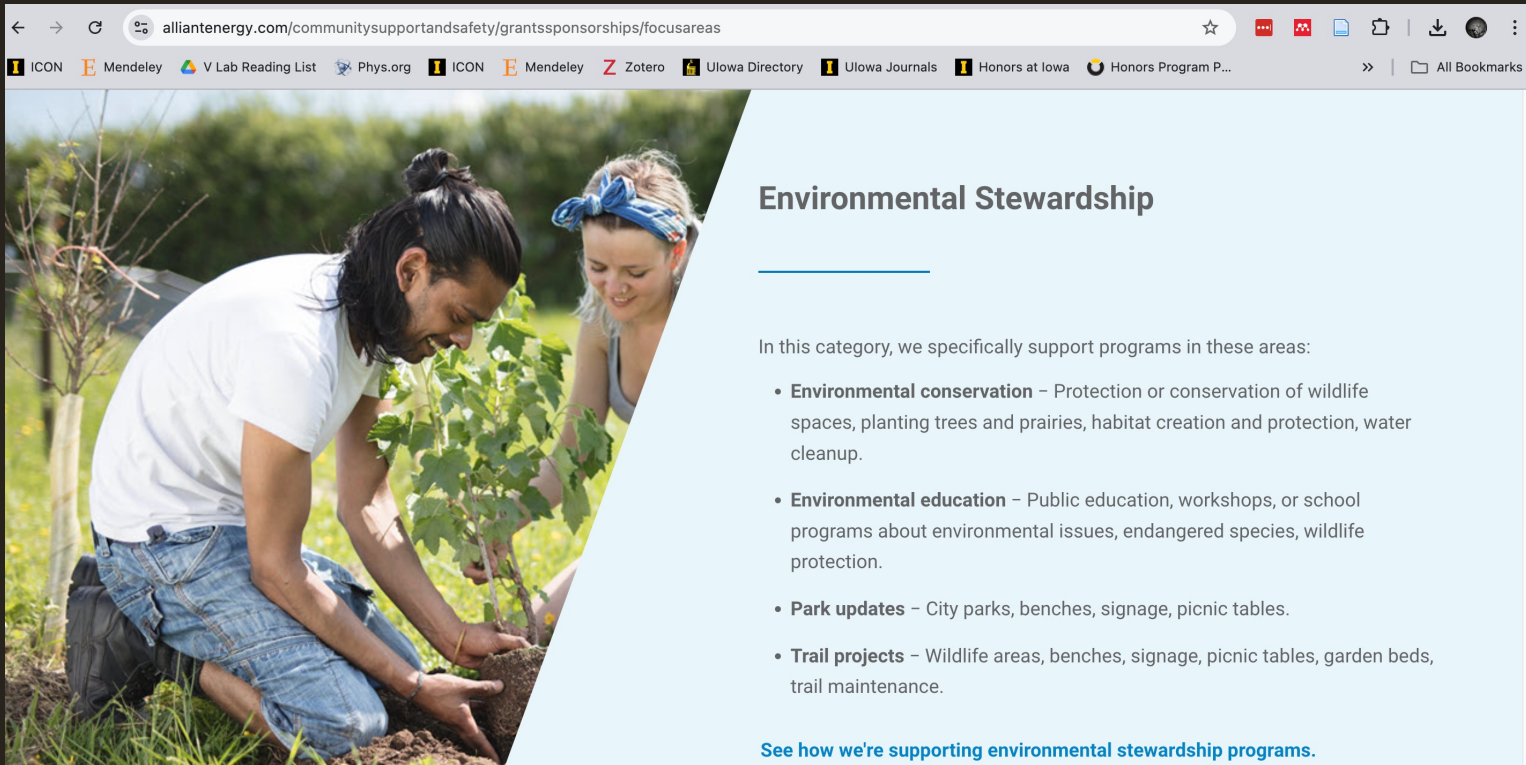
Scope of Funding Opportunities

A few examples:



Scope of Funding Opportunities

A few examples:



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL alliantenergy.com/communitysupportandsafety/grantssponsorships/focusareas. The browser's address bar and bookmark bar are visible. The main content area has a light blue background and features a large photograph of a man and a woman planting a young tree in a field. To the right of the photo, the heading "Environmental Stewardship" is displayed. Below the heading, a paragraph states: "In this category, we specifically support programs in these areas:". This is followed by a bulleted list of four categories: "Environmental conservation", "Environmental education", "Park updates", and "Trail projects". At the bottom of the section, there is a link: "See how we're supporting environmental stewardship programs."

Environmental Stewardship

In this category, we specifically support programs in these areas:

- **Environmental conservation** – Protection or conservation of wildlife spaces, planting trees and prairies, habitat creation and protection, water cleanup.
- **Environmental education** – Public education, workshops, or school programs about environmental issues, endangered species, wildlife protection.
- **Park updates** – City parks, benches, signage, picnic tables.
- **Trail projects** – Wildlife areas, benches, signage, picnic tables, garden beds, trail maintenance.

[See how we're supporting environmental stewardship programs.](#)

Scope of Funding Opportunities

A few examples:

The screenshot displays the Iowa Department of Natural Resources website. The header includes the IOWA logo and the text "Iowa Department of Natural Resources". Navigation links include HOME, HUNTING, FISHING, THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO GO, CONSERVATION (highlighted), ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, and ABOUT DNR. A search bar is present with the text "ENHANCED BY Google".

The main content area is titled "WILDLIFE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES" and includes a breadcrumb trail: CONSERVATION > IOWA'S WILDLIFE > WILDLIFE DIVERSITY PROGRAM > WILDLIFE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES.

A left-hand sidebar menu lists various categories, with "Iowa's Wildlife" selected. Sub-items under "Iowa's Wildlife" include: Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, Osprey, Trumpeter Swans, Occasional Wildlife Visitors, Wildlife Status Reports, Wildlife Diversity Program (selected), Diversity Projects, Program Funding, Wildlife Grant Opportunities, Volunteer Wildlife Monitoring, and Osprey Cam.

The main content area is titled "Wildlife Grant Opportunities" and contains the following text:

The Iowa DNR's Wildlife Diversity program has two separate grant programs: 1) Habitat Management Grants, and 2) Small Grants. Please read below for information about each program and instructions for submitting applications. Successful applicants must be doing work in Iowa.

You must apply for each of these programs through the DNR's Slideroom Portal! Clicking on the heading for each grant program below will take you directly to the application for that grant.

Habitat Management Grants Program

The Iowa DNR's Wildlife Diversity Program is making small grants available for habitat management projects directly contributing to wildlife diversity conservation in Iowa. Approved projects will be funded on a single-year basis but can be submitted for additional funding in subsequent years, though after 3 years points will be deducted during scoring. Proposals will be accepted from any organization engaged in management for the benefit of wildlife conservation in Iowa. Projects should be closely related to the goals of Iowa's Wildlife Action Plan. The maximum allowable funding ask per proposal is \$7,500. **Deadline for proposals is midnight on November 1st of each year for the following year's monies.** No match is required for these funds.

- Management Grant Description [PDF](#) (Request for Proposal)

Small Grants Program Funds Available

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources, funded by donations through Chickadee Checkoff and Natural Resource License Plate funds, has small grants available for research or education projects that directly contribute to wildlife diversity conservation in Iowa. Approved projects will be funded on a single-year basis but can be submitted for additional funding in subsequent years (limited to 3 years of funding). The maximum allowable funding ask per proposal is \$5,000. If you are interested in applying for small project funding, please refer to the [Small Grants Brochure PDF](#) for further information. **Grant proposals are due by midnight on November 1st of each year for the following year's monies.**

For both programs, grantees will be required to sign a Small Grant Agreement with the Iowa DNR. A generic example of this agreement is linked below if you'd like to review that before applying for a grant. Please note that reporting requirements at the completion of the grant will be slightly different for each program.

- Small Grant Agreement Example [PDF](#)

Effective Proposals



1. Before looking for funding: What is your plan?
2. Who might fund our efforts?
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Effective Proposals



No silver bullet...

Know what the funding source expects (information, format, etc.)

Draw on strengths:

- Scouting Conservation Program and youth experience

- Conservation plan and benefit to local community/ecosystem

Tell a story*

*if the format of the proposal will allow

Effective Proposals

Project Benefit

Describe how the project provides environmental benefit to the community.

Loss of native plant habitat, notably the tallgrass prairie ecosystem, has imperiled several native pollinator species. Perhaps the most widely known at-risk native pollinator is the Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), but other native pollinators at risk include several species of butterfly, native wasps, and native bees, including the rusty patched bumblebee (*Bombus affinis*), which has been placed on the USFWS Endangered species list.

To improve the local habitat for native pollinators that are species of greatest conservation need, we are re-establishing native prairie at several locations at the Howard H. Cherry scout Reservation (HHCSR). Native pollinators are frequent visitors to the reservation, where area scout youth have residential and short-term outdoor experiences on the reservation's approximately 500 acres. The reservation is operated by the Hawkeye Area Council and serves over 5000 Scout youth from seven counties in east-central Iowa, making the council one of the largest youth organizations in the area.

Local scout youth will contribute to the project and will "learn and earn": By learning about conservation and native plants and pollinators species, scouts will earn scout program award requirements, such as merit badges, for their participation. Our project will be hands-on and will allow scouts to earn the service hours required by various awards.

The participation and education of scout youth, made possible with support from Collins Aerospace, will facilitate our native plant and pollinator restoration efforts and provide for the long-term ecological health of the scout reservation and nearby communities. Past support from the Green Communities program also has benefitted the conservation education of hundreds of scout youth in the Hawkeye Area Council.

Effective Proposals

1. What need(s) does this project seek to fill? What observations, data, and/or expert testimony document this need(s)?

(maximum 1,800 characters)

The Hawkeye Area Council, Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is creating an interpretive nature trail to support the conservation education of area youth, their families, and the public. The mission and vision of Scouts BSA is to “prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes” and to become responsible, participating citizens and leaders. This mission encompasses stewardship of the natural world as Scout youth learn Leave No Trace principles and complete many badges and service hours focused on environmental and conservation issues.

The goal of our project is to create new opportunities for conservation education at the Howard H. Cherry Scout Reservation (HHCSR). Existing conservation education events at Scout camp are offered through the Ecology program area by staff and volunteers. These educational opportunities are limited in that they are only available during residential summer camp and other organized programs. Scout units (packs and troops) can camp year-round at HHCSR (and members of the public can rent cabin-type buildings). When unit camp on their own- that is, not during residential summer camp or a Camporee- they are responsible for their own activities. Our proposed interpretive trail will complement existing conservation education by providing year-round, self-guided educational stations. Our interpretive trail will be a “living” trail in that it will highlight different aspects of nature appropriate to the season and time of year. The built-in flexibility of altering educational displays throughout the year will encourage Scouts and other visitors to observe, appreciate, and continue learning about nature whatever the season and whenever they are at camp.

2. In what ways is this project important to environmental education in Iowa?

(maximum 1,800 characters)

Exposure to nature and natural areas is critical for supporting experiential environmental education, that is, learning by doing. Exposure to nature has many physical and mental health benefits, and exposure to nature increases the support for and participation in conservation and environmental efforts.

To receive the benefits of exposure to nature, individuals must have access to quality educational natural areas. Our interpretive trail will create a convenient and accessible experiential learning opportunity for Scout youth and their families by providing on-site environmental educational opportunities at the Scout reservation. Convenient, on-site opportunities, rather than visits to other parks or sites, will increase the likelihood that Scouts and their units will be exposed to the educational information and activities we provide.

Summary & Conclusions



Work from your conservation plan—everything else will follow

Look for local resources and opportunities

Connect proposal to your plan and to youth

Tell a story (but also be prepared to hear ‘no’)