

2016 Annual Report

PARTNERING

The creation of the Ronald “Dick” Jordan Family Wildlife Area was a key 2016 partnership project for the Outdoor Alliance of Story County (Outdoor Alliance). The Outdoor Alliance partnered with Story County Conservation (SCC) and Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) in seeking funds to acquire this 175 acre South Skunk River floodplain property southeast of Ames from the Baldus Family. Additional partners included Pheasants Forever, ISU Student Pheasants Forever, Skunk River Paddlers, W heatsfield Grocery Coop, Kohl’s, and JAX Outdoor Gear.



Photo by Nathan Louck



For a second year the Outdoor Alliance received a \$1,500 environmental education grant from Kohl’s. For the 2016 Kohl’s Cares event, the Outdoor Alliance organized a cleanup at the new Jordan Family Wildlife Area on June 4, 2016. The team included 5 Kohl’s associates, Outdoor Alliance volunteers, SCC and INHF staff. We look forward to working on more service projects in the upcoming year.

The Outdoor Alliance was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Fabrikant Mads Clausen Foundation (Danfoss A/S) to assist with the creation of the Jordan Family Wildlife Area. This new wildlife area will be managed by Story County Conservation and is near the Danfoss facility in Ames, Iowa that will enhance conservation, recreation and outdoor education opportunities for Danfoss employees and area residents.

Pheasants Forever and Big Bluestem Audubon partnered with the Outdoor Alliance to support SCC’s Service Learning Project. Students from six county schools participated in environmental education activities and provided nearly 900 hours of service collecting prairie seed. This project reimburses schools for some of their transportation cost.

The Outdoor Alliance partnered with SCC to acquire funds (\$200) to purchase Yo-Ho gardening tools that will be used by volunteer elementary students, parents, school staff and SCC staff and volunteers to plant pollinator habitat on public elementary school grounds. This project will allow the schools to use the habitat to enhance education in the importance of pollinators in our environment and for food production. This grant was only available to non-governmental groups like the Outdoor Alliance.

Slater’s new city park REAP Grant was supported by the Outdoor Alliance with a letter. The Alliance also facilitated letters of support from two new partners, the Ames Bicycle Coalition and Team Skunk Cyclists. The Outdoor Alliance will be there to support ongoing efforts to enhance city and regional recreational trails and services.



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ENHANCING AWARENESS

The Outdoor Alliance participated in several public forums: All Species One Earth Event, Ames Ecofair, and Wild Women of the Woods. We also hosted the third annual legislative reception with SCC. The Outdoor Alliance held its annual meeting on March 22nd in cooperation with SCC and their partners. Joe McGovern, Director of INHF, was the keynote speaker addressing the recent Story County land acquisitions including the Jordan Family Wildlife Area and the Carroll Prairie.

OUR ENDOWMENT

The Outdoor Alliance's endowment with Story County Community Foundation met its modest goals for the year. The endowment provides a source of funding for tomorrow and into the future. Our partner, Story County Community Foundation, makes donations to the Outdoor Alliance endowment particularly attractive. Details can be found on our website www.oasco.org.

ACQUIRING ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: Looking Ahead

Plans for 2017 include continued fund raising for Story County Conservation to complete the acquisition of the Jordan Family Wildlife Area and Carroll Prairie. This project will need the support of Outdoor Alliance members, volunteers and partners. The Outdoor Alliance is also co-sponsoring a series of winter hikes with SCC and is partnering with the Ames Historical Society and Ames Public Library to offer three presentations on outdoor recreation, education or conservation in Story County. Details for the hikes and presentations are on the Outdoor Alliance website (www.oasco.org)

OUTDOOR ALLIANCE OF STORY COUNTY BALANCE SHEET

Current Assets*	2013	2014	2015	2016
Unrestricted Funds	\$ 236	\$ 2,444	\$ 5,882	\$ 10,242
Dedicated Student Service Learning Funds	\$ -	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,939	\$ 2,170
Dedicated Land Acquisition Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 128
Grants	\$ -	\$ 2,375	\$ -	\$ -
Total Current Assets	\$ 236	\$ 6,119	\$ 7,821	\$ 12,539
Long-term Assets- Story County Community Foundation	\$ 0	\$ 5,562	\$ 6,154	\$ 7,404
Total Assets	\$ 236	\$ 11,681	\$ 13,974	\$ 19,943
Total Liabilities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Net Assets	\$ 236	\$ 11,681	\$ 13,974	\$ 19,943

*Current assets are from the end of year bank balance.

Prepared by Greg Vitale, Treasurer