

Quarterly Report



**January 1, 2023-
April 1, 2023**

Environmental Education

- OCCB received a REAP conservation education program grant for \$9,599 towards the purchase of 4 kayaks, paddles, lifejackets and a trail groomer for snowshoeing and cross country skiing- The trail Groomer has been purchased, the kayaks and paddles are ordered.
- Homeschool nature programs were held monthly and covered various topics.
- Winter Funderland at Mill Creek on February 11 was a great success with over 100 participants throughout the day. Participants enjoyed ice fishing, sledding, pine cone bird feeders, bird house painting, snow painting, snowball slingshot, snowshoeing, roasted marshmallows and hot chocolate.
- Open Range Nights at the Prairie Heritage Center were held every other week with around 10 participants each week.
- Library programs were held at Paulina, Hartley and Sutherland Libraries. Topics covered were winter animals, animal teeth, bird eggs, and animal adaptations.
- Programs were held at Community Memorial Health Center in Hartley and Fieldcrest Assisted living in Sheldon. Topics covered were winter animals and Bird eggs and sounds.
- Several evening programs were held in the parks and at the Prairie Heritage Center. These programs included Snow shoe hikes, full moon hikes, Macramé and paper making.
- School visits included topics such as Star lab, animals in winter, nocturnal animals, snakes and reptiles, bird eggs, animal teeth, energy and various other science related topics.
- Eagle Watch day at the Prairie Heritage Center was a success with over 130 visitors, Christina Roelofs from Shelby County Conservation brought her live education eagle.
- Director Scott has been working with schools to setup time blocks with each school to go see several classes at once instead of one at a time. This is an attempt to cut drive time/ fuel usage and see more students.
- 1609 people participated in programs during this quarter.
- Staff picked up 5 roadkill deer to attract eagles for viewing in the bottom below the Prairie Heritage Center.
- Lindsey Craig accepted the Naturalist position and started on March 27. Lindsey joins us after working as an interim naturalist in Sioux County.

Parks & Recreation

- Chris Van Beek resigned on January 10, 2023.
- Campground and Cabins are closed for the season. All modern cabins reopen March 31, Campgrounds and rustic cabins reopen April 15.
- Staff is working to develop management plans for every conservation managed area.
- Staff cut several diseased, dying or dead ash trees at Mill Creek Park.
- Staff has been mowing brush and cutting trees to manage invasive species and cedars in OCCB managed wildlife areas and parks.
- Ice fishing has been popular this year on Mill Creek and Dog Creek.
- Staff has been working to apply epoxy floor coating on the concrete cabin floors. The 12 person cabins are complete.
- Staff has repaired cracked walls and paint chips in the Bin cabins.
- Staff replaced several light bulbs and fixtures, updating to LED to help conserve energy usage.
- Staff has been working to move cabin and lodge reservations to an online reservation system to save staff time, postage and make reserving a cabin more convenient. This system will be operational May 1.
- As always, staff has been working to keep all vehicles and equipment up to date on maintenance. Detailed maintenance logs are kept in the shop.
- We have received 2 large playground structures to be installed at Mill Creek and Dog Creek parks. These pieces were ordered in February 2022. The Mill Creek play equipment was paid for with ARPA funding.
- OCCB was awarded \$100,000 from ARPA funding for upgrades at Tjossem Park. The contractor plans to complete the infrastructure upgrades in the Spring of 2023. We have also applied for another \$62,000 Wellmark Grant to add a restroom and playground to this project.
- Staff has started park cleanup to get ready for camping season, road grading stump removal, grass seeding, leaf and branch cleanup have been priority to this point.
- Revenue from this quarter was: \$18,740.75