

Dickinson County Conservation Board &
Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County



The Dickinson County Conservation Board was established in February 1969, and its non-profit arm, the Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County, began in 1997. The foundation moved the Back Porch restaurant from Wahpeton to Kenue Park in Okoboji in 2002, and it was transformed into the nature center, which opened to the public in 2010.

CFDC Mission Statement

“To encourage environmental awareness among visitors and residents while fostering appreciation, preservation and conservation of the Iowa Great Lakes region’s unique cultural history, glacial geological formations, native species and natural habitats through education and action.”

Volunteer



Whatever your interests and talents, you have a place as a volunteer at the nature center. Spend time visiting with guests as a front desk volunteer, help with gardening and landscaping, work at the Westport Schoolhouse or help out in a variety of other ways.



Dickinson County Nature Center
2279 170th St.
Okoboji, IA 51355

712-336-6352

www.dickinsoncountynaturecenter.com
naturecenter@co.dickinson.ia.us

Open year-round
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday (Labor Day-Memorial Day) and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday (Memorial Day-Labor Day)

DICKINSON COUNTY NATURE CENTER

...where you can explore, learn and foster an appreciation
of our natural world.



CONSERVATION BOARD

Environmental education



Environmental education isn't just for kids, we want to get all ages interested in the environment and outdoor activities.

Take part in youth summer camps, Nature Tots, Nature Explorers and Young Naturalists, or our naturalists will come right to your school or community group to talk.

Adults and kids alike will enjoy Birding on the Green, Hike the Wild and our annual Earth Day Celebration and Bee & Butterfly Festival.

Find our year-round programming schedule at www.dickinsoncountynaturecenter.com.



Permanent displays

There is always plenty to see and do inside the nature center, whether it be a visiting exhibit or some of our permanent displays.



Our permanent exhibits include:

- Live animals
- Backyard Birding
- Wonderful Woodlands
- eARTh exhibit area
- Prairie Roots
- Just Bee observation bee hive
- Okoboji Osprey and 24-hour nest camera
- Indoor wetland complex and bat cave
- Nature Store
- Explore Your Playful Nature kids area



Kenue Park



Just a short walk from the nature center are some fabulous outdoor activities.

Okoboji Gold Disc Golf Course: The professional-level, 18-hole disc golf course has two difficulty levels, professional and amateur.

Pollinator Paradise: See monarch caterpillars grow into monarch butterflies each summer.

Nature Playscape: Children will have a blast climbing tree stumps, leaping on wood lily pads, exploring an underground tunnel, making music with natural elements and building their own forts.

Westport Schoolhouse: Visit the last remaining schoolhouse in Dickinson County that was moved to Kenue Park. The schoolhouse is open seasonally.

Geocaching: Plan your adventure on our Ranger Rick Geocache Trails.

Trumpeter swans: Climb the observation tower to see the two rehabilitated trumpeter swans on the Kenue Park wetland.

You will also find bike and hiking trails, gardens, mowed trails through the restored prairie and around the wetlands as well as an oak savanna.

