



Iowa's County Conservation System

45th ANNUAL HABITAT IMPROVEMENT AWARDS

Sponsored & Presented by the Iowa Division of the
Izaak Walton League of America - 2024

WINNERS – County Populations Less than 20,000

NOMINATED CCBS: Butler, Calhoun, Chickasaw, Fayette, Dickinson, Hamilton, Harrison, Jackson, Monona, Mitchell, & Palo Alto.

1ST PLACE –Planted 5,453 trees on private land & 596 trees on public acres; Burned or mowed 887 acres and planted/ restored 88 acres to the prairie. Restored/developed 56 acres of wetland; entered 30 “Acres for Wildlife” agreements impacting 359 acres; provided timber stand improvement work on 31 acres, including savanna restoration; employed a full-time Roadside Biologist/Manager; Offered 33 educational programs about habitat improvement distributed 1,282 trees/shrubs and 343lbs. of grass/forb seed.

2ND PLACE – Conducted prescribed fire on 3,133 acres of public land and 1,561 acres of private land, totaling 4,695 total acres! They also planted food plots, made equipment available to the public for rent, and employed a Roadside Manager.

3RD PLACE –Burned or mowed 2,132 acres of prairie species. Did timber stand improvement, sponsored nest box programs, planted food plots; and implemented an invasive species plan. They made equipment available to establish 15 acres of wildlife habitat, distributed 500 trees and 30lbs. of grass/forb seed, etc. Lead volunteer habitat workdays.

WINNERS – County Populations Greater than 20,000

NOMINATED CCBS: Dallas, Des Moines, Johnson, Linn, Marshall, Polk, Story, & Woodbury

1ST PLACE – Acquired three connected parcels totaling 115 wildlife acres. Planted 1,743 lbs. of prairie/ground cover on 257 acres of public land; burned 2,048 acres and did establishment mowing on 100 acres. Implemented grazing on nine parcels managing 479 acres. Restored 85 acres of wetlands. Completed TSI on 119 acres, including savanna restoration. Harvested 227 lbs. of native seed. CCB employs a full-time roadside Biologist/Manager, implemented an invasive species plan, and provided numerous educational programs and volunteer days with habitat work.

2ND PLACE – Acquired two connected parcels totaling 156 wildlife acres; Planted 247 lbs. of prairie/groundcover on 32 acres.; Burned or mowed 367 acres of prairie species on public land. Provided informational programs about wildlife habitat improvement techniques, made equipment available for rent, provided food plots, employed a Roadside Manager, and implemented an invasive species plan. Completed 5 acres of TSI work, including savanna habitat.

3RD PLACE – Acquired 123 total Wildlife acres. Planted 574 lbs. of native seed on 78 acres; burned or mowed 392 acres of public & private land; completed TSI on 11 acres, including Savanna; implemented Grazing on five parcels totaling 140 acres; provided 51 informational programs about wildlife habitat improvement techniques; planted food plots, employed a Roadside Manager, implemented an invasive species plan & harvested 322lbs. of native seed.

ICCS is most appreciative for the representatives from the Iowa Chapter of IWLA for joining us today to present these awards.