

The Jasper County Conservation Board's *Environmental Awareness Program* was created using funds made available by the Environmental Education Act of 1970 and funding contributions by all five school districts in Jasper County.

Today Jasper County employs two full-time naturalists, Katie Cantu and Nathan Unsworth. They are available to help teachers at all grade levels and all subject matters.



Services Available

- Help in planning units of study dealing with environmental topics
- Help in leading field trips with your children
- Development of outdoor activities to teach various concepts
- Aiding student-faculty groups in planning outdoor classrooms
- Providing in-service programs for teacher groups in environmental education
- *Classroom Naturalist* programs in which the naturalist will bring a special presentation into the classroom

Outdoor Areas

Many schools have fine areas for outdoor study within walking distance. For extended field trips the Jasper County Conservation Board has many parks and recreation areas for use as outdoor classrooms.



A Sample of the Topics and Concepts that can be Taught Outdoors

History: Pioneer history from tombstone rubbings, historical sites such as the Wagaman Mill in Lynnville, studies of Native American cultures.

Ecology: Study of basic ecosystems including ponds, woods, prairies. A look at what lives in these ecosystems, how they interact with each other and their environment, seasonal variations in these patterns.



Conservation: The composition and value of soil. Causes of soil erosion and problems with water quality. Soil, water, and wildlife conservation principles.



Geology: Fossil identification, natural resources, landforms.



Mathematics: Making contour maps, orienteering with a compass, physical measurements.

Sociology: Study of human waste disposal, trash analysis to study consumer habits, study of land-use patterns, policies. Pollution studies.



Art: Outdoor photography, making art objects from nature.



Physical Education: Playing nature-themed games such as *The Food Chain Game* or *How Many Coyotes*. Outdoor survival activities and recreation opportunities such as fishing, snowshoeing, hiking, and archery.

Literature: Writing outdoor journals and non-fiction stories about nature. Recording observations about the outdoors.

Service Projects: There are many volunteer opportunities to choose from, please call us for a current list of projects.





Since the beginning of the environmental education program in 1970, two curriculum units offered by the Jasper County Conservation Board have been utilized by all 5th and 6th grade classes in the county.

Pictured above are 5th grade students studying plant life on the *Woodlands and Me* field trip at Ashton Wildwood Park. Pictured below are 6th grade students testing the water quality as part of *You and Your Environment* at Mariposa Recreation Area.



Take advantage of these services available to you. You can contact Katie or Nathan by:

Phone: (641) 792-9780

Mail: 115 N. 2nd Ave. E., Newton, IA 50208

Email: conservation@co.jasper.ia.us

or visit our website at

www.jaspercountyconservation.com

The "Real" Classroom is Outdoors



Get your students into it!