

DISTRICT LONG RANGE PROGRAM



DES MOINES COUNTY, IOWA

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

P.O. Box 637
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ORGANIZATION AND AUTHORITIES

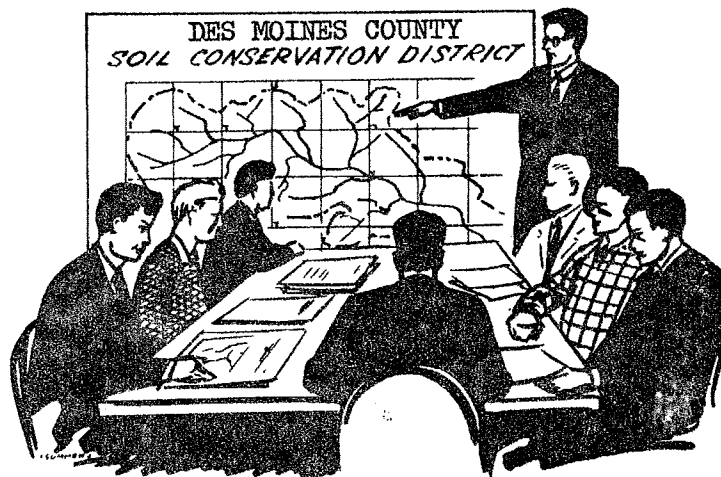
Soil Conservation District

A governmental subdivision of the State of Iowa, and a public body, corporate and politic, organized in accordance with the provisions of the Soil Conservation Laws, Chapter 467A, Code of Iowa. Each district in Iowa is organized on a county boundary basis with the exception of Pottawattamie County, which is divided into two districts. Each district was organized by the landowners of the district and is governed by five elected commissioners. Soil conservation districts and commissioners have many responsibilities and duties. A few of these responsibilities and duties are as follows: To conduct surveys, investigations and research relating to soil and water conservation; to conduct demonstrations within the district to demonstrate by example the means, methods and measures by which soil and water may be conserved; to cooperate with other agencies, governmental or otherwise, and with owners and occupiers of the land; to promote the development of comprehensive programs of planning, application and maintenance of necessary soil and water conservation measures; to enter into agreements with individuals, landowners and operators, and in general promote a sound soil and water conservation program within the district. The activities of the soil conservation district and the district commissioners are intended to benefit the people of the district, and also the public and nation in general. Soil conservation districts have also been assigned the responsibility of adopting and implementing soil loss regulations under the Conservancy District Law enacted by the 64th Iowa General Assembly.

Soil Conservation District Commissioners

Each district is governed by five commissioners who are elected for six-year terms. Any qualified elector may vote for soil conservation district commissioners in the general election and is an eligible candidate for the office of soil conservation district commissioner. The only restriction is that each commissioner must reside in a different township--refer to Chapter 467A.5 Code of Iowa 1977.

District commissioners may appoint as many assistant commissioners as deemed necessary. The assistant commissioners are usually assigned specific duties.



Conservancy District Law

The Des Moines County District Commissioners have adopted soil loss limit regulations in accord with the Conservancy District Act of the 64th Iowa General Assembly. The commissioners have therefore declared soil erosion a nuisance.

A. Declaring Soil Erosion

a Nuisance

Soil erosion is declared a nuisance if it results in or contributes to

1. Damage by siltation to any internal improvement of a conservancy district, or
2. Damage by siltation to property other than that of the owner or occupant of the land on which such erosion is occurring.



B. Complaints

Complaints that damages by sediment resulting from excessive erosion are occurring on land of another must be filed in writing with the soil conservation district.

District commissioners investigate complaints and determine if soil loss limits are being violated.

Notice of the determination by the district commissioners is given to owner(s) alleged to be in violation of limits, and voluntary abatement of the nuisance is sought.

C. Administrative Order

When an administrative order is necessary, it is issued by the district commissioners to the party(s) found to be in violation of the soil loss limit regulations to advise each as to action required.

On construction sites, work needed to control soil erosion must start within 5 days and be completed within 30 days from date of order. On other land, landowners have 6 months to start and 12 months from date of order to complete needed erosion control practices.

D. Cost Sharing

On agricultural and horticultural lands, district commissioners will determine that adequate public or other cost-share assistance is available, and will supplement their administrative order when final commitment of cost-share funds is obtained.

Legal requirements for cost sharing applicable to agricultural and horticultural lands are:

1. 75 percent of the cost of installing any permanent soil and water conservation practice¹
2. an amount set annually by the State Soil Conservation Committee for any temporary soil and water conservation practice²

On all other lands there is no provision for cost sharing.

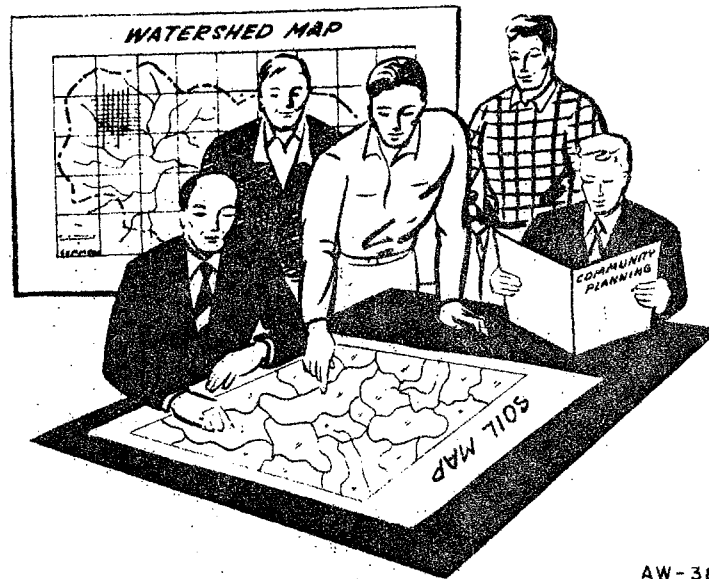
E. Penalties

If the owner(s) fails to initiate necessary conservation work by the time specified in the administrative order, the district court may be petitioned by the commissioners to issue a court order to obtain immediate compliance with the commissioner's order. In such action, the burden of proof is on the district commissioners.

Unless the owner(s) complies with the court order, he may be found in contempt of court and so punished.

¹Permanent soil and water conservation practices include the planting of perennial grasses, legumes, shrubs or trees, the establishment of grassed waterways, the construction of terraces or other permanent practices approved by the State Soil Conservation Committee.

²Temporary soil and water conservation practices include planting of annual or biennial cover crops, use of stripcropping, contour planting, minimum or mulch tillage, and any other cultural practices approved by the State Soil Conservation Committee.



AW-388

BASIC POLICIES

The Des Moines County Soil Conservation District adheres to these basic policies:

1. Effective work for the conservation and development of natural resources and for the improvement of the environment can be done best by those who live on the land and use it, along with all the related measures.
2. At the same time, we hold that all Americans share in the responsibility for stewardship of the resources upon which everyone depends.
3. Since each conservation district is charged by state law with conducting a conservation program within its boundaries, we seek the cooperation of all interests that can help advance district programs. We urge maximum teamwork in conservation programs.

BELIEFS

We believe the emerging tasks of resource conservation and environmental improvement which now face the American people must be shared by all citizens, rural and urban, and that these tasks require forthright and continuing attention.

We believe programs to meet oncoming resource and environmental needs should be directed toward 1) preventing waste, pollution, and damage to natural resources; 2) improving the quality of the resources; 3) exploring and developing the potentials of resources; and 4) encouraging the efficient and beneficial use of resources.

Conservation and resource development programs should be designed deliberately to move forward at a rate and with sufficient dimensions to meet, on time, the probable oncoming needs of the nation for the uses and products of its natural resources.

In achieving these purposes, we urge that resource programs be authorized and conducted in such a manner as to maximize 1) voluntary action, 2) local participation and decision, 3) private enterprise, 4) partnership between private and public interests at all levels of government, 5) full utilization of existing facilities and services, and 6) flexibility in meeting the diversity of problems and needs.



INVENTORY OF SOIL

AND

WATER RESOURCES

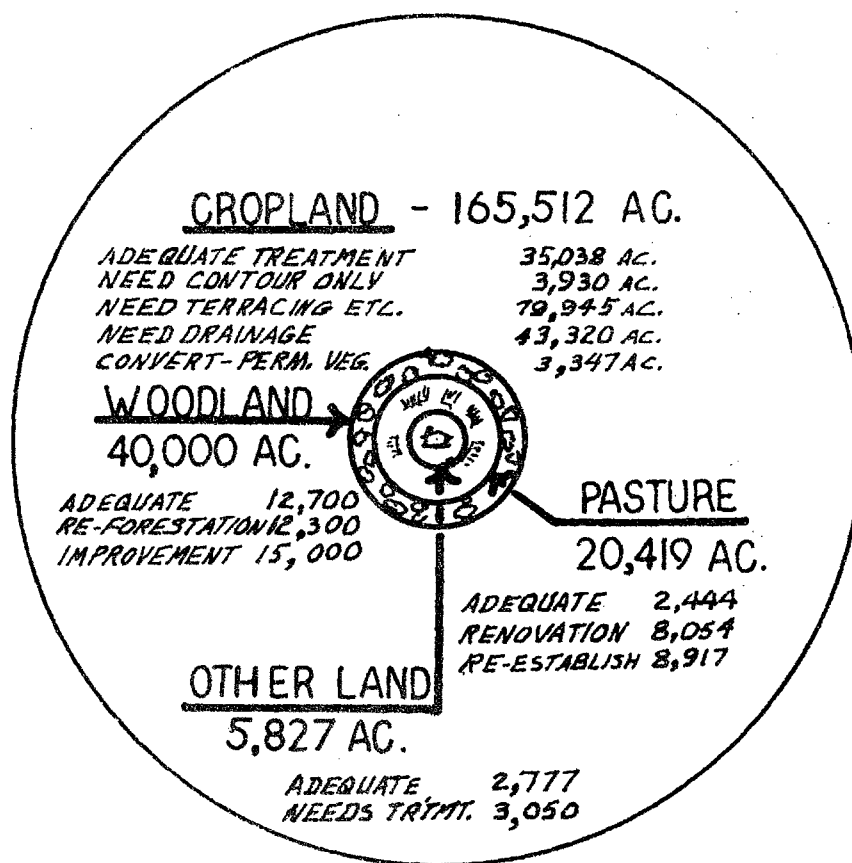


THE INDIAN LEFT US A HERITAGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES....

AW-240

LAND USE AND CONSERVATION NEEDS

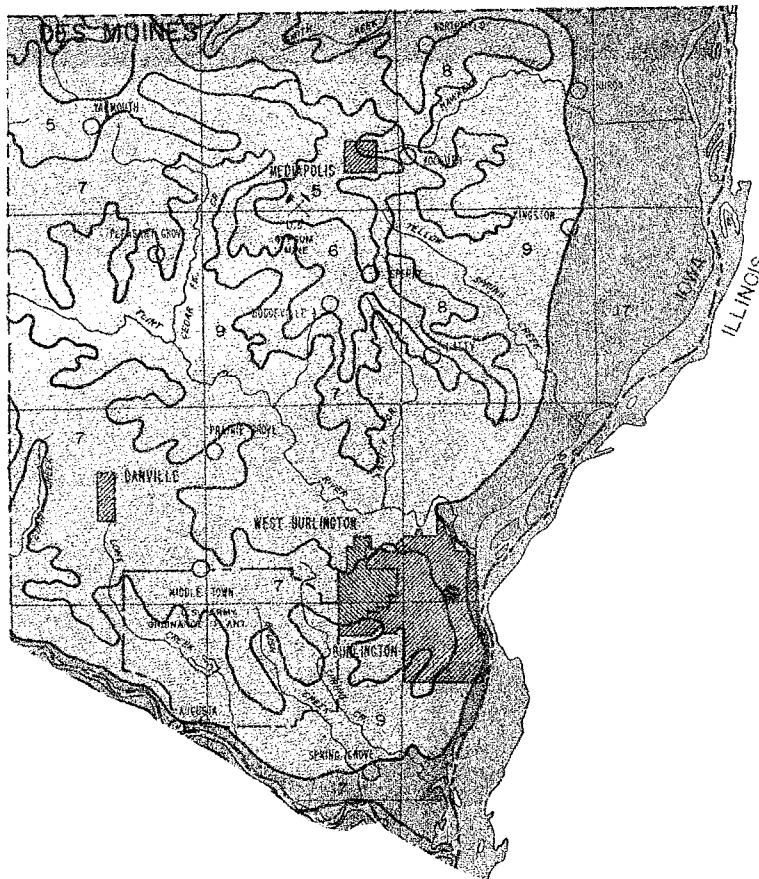
DES MOINES COUNTY



TOTAL LAND IN INVENTORY 1967

231,758 ACRES

GENERAL SOIL MAP
OF
DES MOINES COUNTY



SOIL ASSOCIATIONS

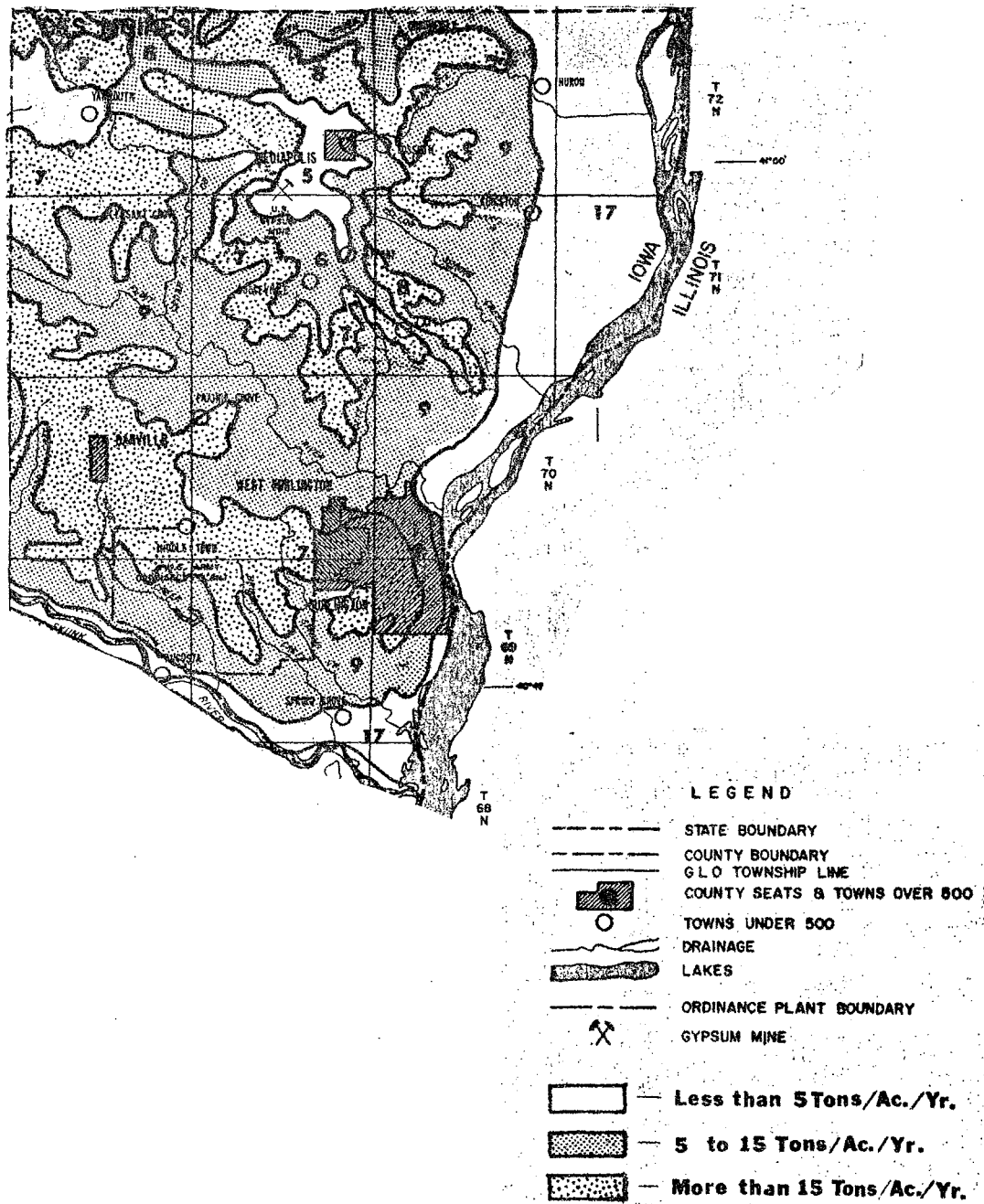
Soils developed in thick loess (approx. 10 to 12 feet thick)
and associated glacial till soils

- 5 Taintor
- 6 Taintor-Mahaska
- 7 Mahaska-Givin-Gara
- 8 Mahaska-Givin-Clinton-Gara
- 9 Clinton-Lindley

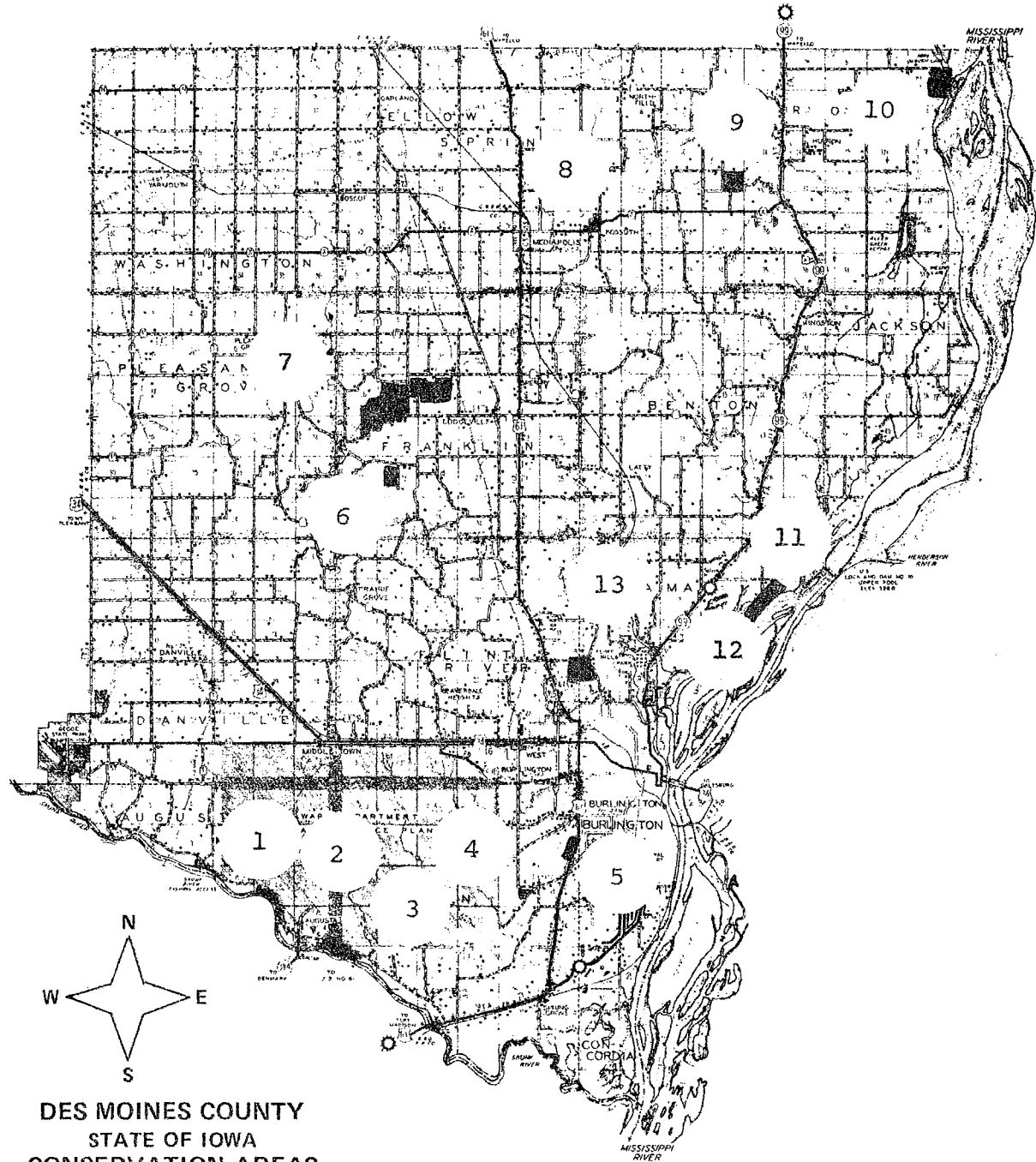
Soils on stream terraces and bottom land

- 17 Colo-Tuskeego-Waukee

DES MOINES COUNTY SOIL LOSS
DUE TO WATER EROSION



DIRECTORY TO OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS



DES MOINES COUNTY
STATE OF IOWA
CONSERVATION AREAS
PROVIDING
ACCESS AND RECREATION

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

DES MOINES COUNTY

Description

1. UPPER AUGUSTA SKUNK RIVER ACCESSES - Located approximately one mile northwest of Augusta, these accesses consist of about 15 acres along the Skunk River. Facilities at these accesses provide for tent and trailer camping, picnicking, boating and nature study. Facilities include access roads and parking area, camping bays, boat ramp, restroom, picnic tables and grills, footbridge and fishing access. A small fee is charged for camping.
2. WELTER RECREATION PARK - This 17 acre park is located immediately east of Augusta along the Skunk River. Facilities provide for camping, both tent and trailer, picnicking, fishing, open field games, and nature study. Picnic tables, grills, drinking water, shelterhouse, and sanitary facilities are available. There is a charge for camping.
3. LOWER AUGUSTA SKUNK RIVER ACCESSES - These accesses are situated $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of Augusta and consist of approximately 85 acres. Activities provided for are camping with and without electricity, picnicking, volleyball, fishing, hunting and nature study. Facilities include camping bays, picnic tables, grills, shelterhouse, volleyball court, swing set, foot trails, hunting area, fishing access, drinking water, firewood and sanitary facilities. A fee is charged for camping and firewood.

4. HUNT WOODS - Located $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles southwest of Burlington, this 58 acre native timber is one of the most beautiful and well preserved tracts in Iowa. The area is maintained mostly in its natural state, but does provide for primitive camping, picnicking, and nature study.
5. ROUTE #61 REST AREA - This 8 acre park is situated $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Burlington on Hwy. 61. It contains shelterhouses, picnic tables, drinking water and sanitary facilities.
6. ZION SCHOOL MUSEUM - Situated $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles southwest of Dodgeville, this one room schoolhouse, built in the 1800's. This historical building is equipped with slate blackboards, pot-bellied stove, old desks, books, and other furnishings typical of that period. The interior of this school can be seen only by appointment.
7. FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP LAKESITE - 3 miles northwest of Dodgeville lies nearly 700 acres which will be developed into a park with a 175 acre lake. This park will provide for boating, camping, swimming, fishing, picnicking, horseback riding, winter sports, target practice, and nature study.
8. CHAUTAUQUA PARK - This 10 acre park, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Mediapolis contains such facilities as a shelterhouse, playground equipment, drinking water, grills and sanitary facilities. Labels are on many of the trees and the area is used as an arboretum.

9. LUCKENBILL WOODS - This 32 acre nature study area is located $4 \frac{3}{4}$ miles east of Mediapolis. This area is in the process of being reestablished as a native timber. The area contains an information booth, foot trails, foot bridges and benches along the trails. Access to the area is permitted by appointment only. The area is used by groups wishing to study nature.
10. 4th PUMPING PLANT RECREATION PARK - 6 miles north and 5 miles east of Kingston is a 17 acre park which provides facilities for camping, fishing, picnicking, boating, and swimming. Facilities include camping area, drinking water, shelterhouse, boat docks, boat ramp, swimming area, and sanitary facilities. A small camping fee is charged.
11. TAMA BEACH - This area is located $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles northeast of Burlington along the Mississippi River. The area consists of about 3 acres and provides boat access, fishing, and picnicking.
12. EDGEWATER BEACH - This one acre river access is situated 4 miles northeast of Burlington along the Mississippi River levee. A boardwalk over the levee provides access to fishing at the wingdam and picnic table.
13. STARR'S CAVE PARK - Located about one mile north of Burlington along Irish Ridge Road, this 140 acre park is maintained as a forest preserve. It is unique in that it contains a cave and limestone bluffs. This area contains hiking trails that wind throughout the park.

LAND TREATMENT NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES

Cropland 165,512 Acres

There are approximately 35,000 acres out of the 165,512 acres of cropland that are adequately treated. This means that only 21 percent of our cropland is protected or adequately treated.

There are approximately 130,512 acres of cropland needing erosion control treatment.



AW - 41.9

In the past, we have used structural means and rotations to deal with these erosion problems. Times have changed and there are no longer conservation cropping rotations being used. Contouring has virtually disappeared even though it is still a very effective practice for preventing erosion.

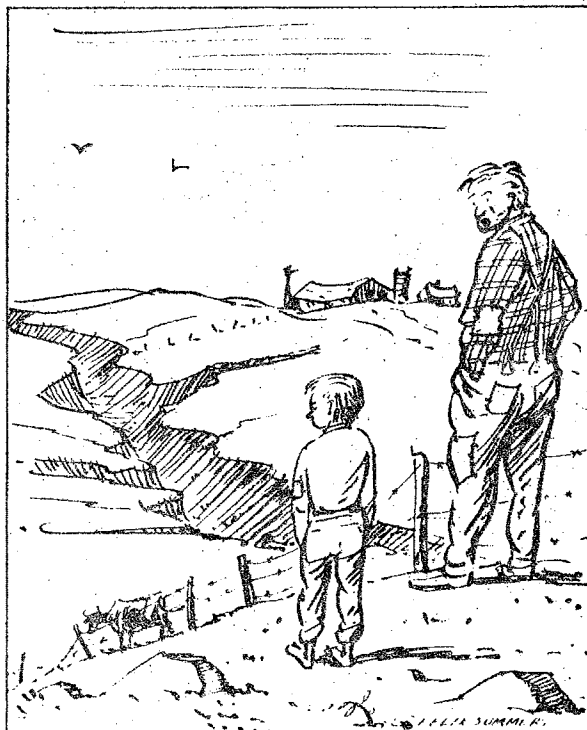
We are faced with a present need for erosion control that is acceptable to both landowners and conservationists. We also need to get the job of erosion control implemented soon.

While terracing is very effective in controlling erosion, especially when used in conjunction with other conservation practices such as conservation tillage and crop rotations, it does not appear that all of the acres needing terracing can possibly be done in the near future. There are 85,000 acres in need of terracing at present. This is equivalent to 21,000,000 feet of terracing or 3,977 miles of terraces. At present we have been averaging 50,000 to 100,000 feet of terraces being built each year. At this rate, we can expect to complete terracing of Des Moines County in 210 to 420 years. It is evident from these figures that another alternative is needed for reducing erosion immediately. If our cropland is farmed as we are presently farming for 420 years, we will have lost 5,460 tons of soil from each acre. This would amount to 3 feet of soil lost from each acre.

By implementing conservation tillage, a fast, economical, and efficient means of erosion control can be a reality in Des Moines County. Also by using conservation tillage, the need for structural erosion control measures, such as terracing, will diminish.

Goals per Year

	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
No-Tillage Demo Plots	10	10	10	10	10
No-Tillage (Ac.)	160	600	2,000	3,000	5,000
Conservation Tillage (Ac.)	2,000	3,000	4,000	5,000	5,000
Terracing (Ft.)	60,000	60,000	75,000	100,000	100,000



"Someday this will all be yours, son."

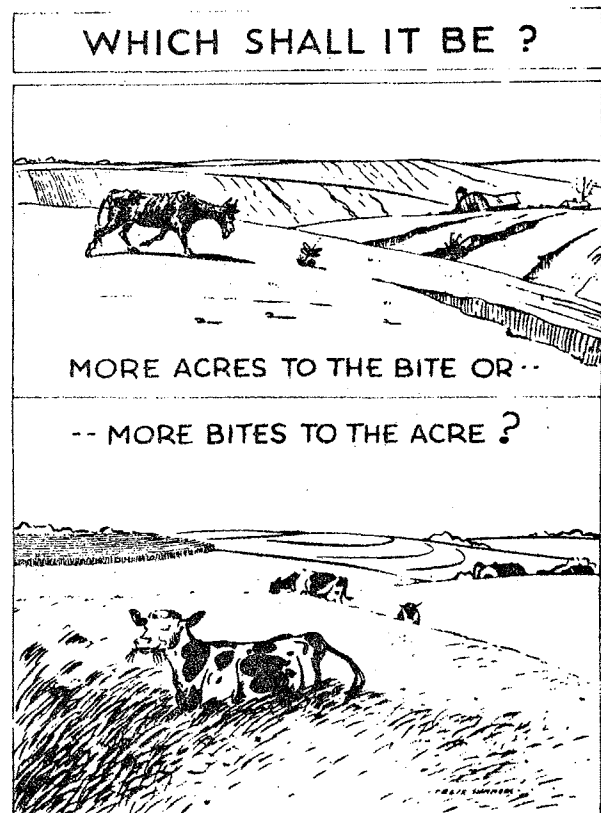
AW-205

Pasture 20,419 Acres

Approximately 83 percent of all pastureland needs renovation or re-establishment. Our pastures are badly over-grazed, over populated and poorly managed. We promote the concept of creating well managed pastures with well rounded forage needs being met by proper stocking populations and use of cool and warm season grasses. We recognize the problem of severe erosion during renovation periods and urge landowners to use seeding methods that do not disturb the present sod cover.

Goals

1. Include complete pasture management systems in conservation plans for proper stocking populations and adequate seasonal forage supplies.
2. Develop three demonstration pasture plots for warm season grasses to show how valuable mid-summer pasture can be obtained.
3. Develop three demonstration pasture plots showing the use of no-till drilling of grass seed to insure adequate soil protection during pasture renovation.



AW-23

4. Inventory and evaluate large pastureland acreages in order to identify specific areas for concentrating pasture management efforts.
5. Implement a plan to communicate with these pastureland owners and educate them as to the process of successful pastureland management.



WOODLAND PROTECTION

LA 49

Woodland 40,000 Acres

Woodlands are disappearing at an alarming rate. Areas are being cleared, plowed, and cropped. These areas are usually very steep and susceptible to severe erosion.

Many existing woodlands are being grazed. Cattle and timber are not compatible and soon the timber is destroyed.

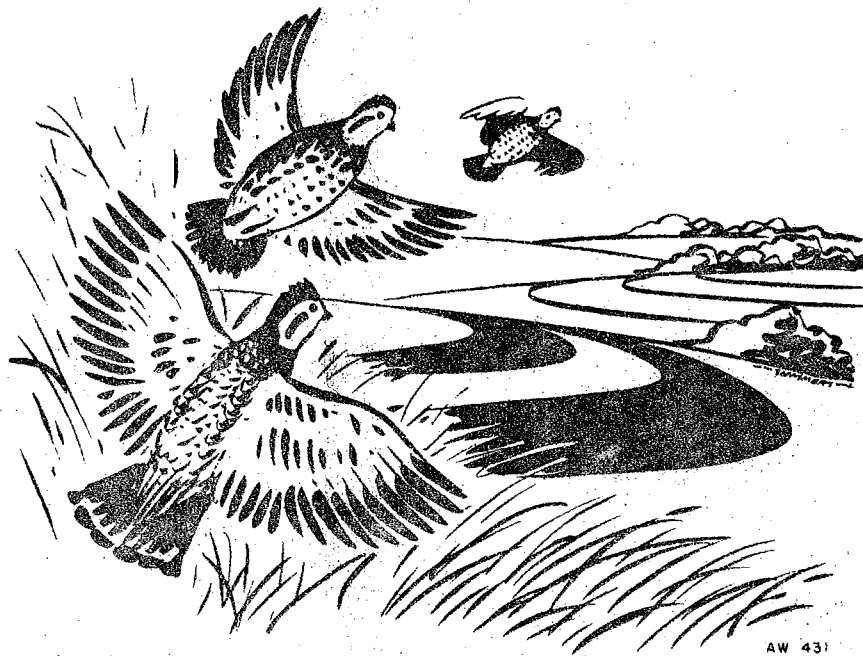
Still other woodlands are not managed at all because the landowner does not realize the economic potential.

Goals

1. Cooperate with the District Forester by preparing a simple inventory designed to identify persons that own relatively large tracts of forests. This inventory would provide the state and district forester with a means to dramatically increase communications with the private owner. By using regular mailings intended to help motivate large forest landowners, the total number of acres under management should increase.
2. Encourage landowners through conservation plans to utilize their timber resource for a specific purpose and manage it properly.
3. Urge landowners to fence livestock out of their woodlands.



"Conservation made this the best fishing spot I've seen in a Coon's Age!"



AW 431

Wildlife

Wildlife habitat has suffered because of intensified row cropping systems and the virtual elimination of meadow rotations. Field borders, fence rows, brush piles, and small thickets bordering cropland is diminishing.

Goals

1. Help all landowners understand that we can have both efficient farming and wildlife improvements.
2. Inform cooperators as to proper methods and special programs for increasing and protecting wildlife through conservation planning.
3. Provide landowner with wildlife plan for all pond areas.

Recreation

We recognize that recreation is a human need which contributes to human happiness, is essential to the well-being of all people, and is necessary for the fulfillment of each individual.

The desire for outdoor recreation is fundamental to us in at least two ways: (1) as a people, because it embodies those activities which remind us of our beginnings as a nation and (2) as individuals, because of man's eternal desire to remain close to the basic natural resources of soil, water, and clean air, as well as the wonder of evolving plant and animal life.

We support responsible programs for the expansion of outdoor recreational facilities on both public and private lands.

Goals

1. Keep current the inventory of existing and planned public recreational areas and existing privately-owned recreational enterprises.
2. Appraise the potential for each type of outdoor recreational enterprise.
3. Solicit the help of sportsman's organizations and other groups in making surveys of the types of recreational facilities desired.



AW-360

4. Encourage the development of income-producing recreation program for lands within the district.
5. Priority efforts will be placed on the Franklin Lake site for water based recreation and camping.

Urban Development

Soil and water problems exist in the urban area due to continuing construction. These construction sites are susceptible to severe erosion problems causing damage to public facilities such as sewers, water courses, streams, rivers, roadways and private property. Spot zoning and indiscriminate land use policies are deplored because these practices result in tangled unmanageable situations that eventually individual taxpayers have to deal with.

Goals

1. Work with city government to promote a sediment ordinance which contains provisions for adequate planning to prevent sediment from leaving construction sites and also plan for construction with minimal damage to the natural environment.
2. Provide city with RC&D measure ideas to stabilize critical erosion sites within the urban area.
3. Provide assistance to individuals in urban areas who have problems of pollution or erosion control.
4. Provide information and advice to developers of land resources through inventories and evaluations of areas under consideration for development.
5. Assist cities, towns, county and federal government units in solving land use problems for which the district has applicable information.



EDUCATION

Since all people depend for their survival on the natural resources of the world, the conservation and wise use of these resources must be the responsibility and concern of everyone.

We emphasize that the foundation for conservation and environmental understanding must be laid in our schools, so that every child will be taught early in life the vital importance of resources, grave dangers of continued waste and pollution, and the difference between the constructive and the destructive actions of man in relation to environmental and resource management issues.

The district supports and encourages the adoption of programs in our schools as rapidly as possible to provide teachers with the necessary knowledge and skills enabling them to present a body of conservation information and to form attitudes in students fundamental to their understanding of conservation, resources, and the environment.

We advocate the teaching of conservation and care for the environment in all its ramifications as an integral part of our school curricula for pre-kindergarten through higher educational levels.

Whether this instruction is termed conservation education, environmental education, or environmental conservation education, the need for dissemination of information about natural resource use and demand is of prime importance to young people of the nation.

We also recognize the urgency for a better informed public to assure intelligent decisions and policies on environmental matters. Population growth,



expanding urban and industrial areas, scientific and technological advances, increased mobility of people, and more leisure time all play a part in the management and use of resources. These changes influence our choices of how the nation's assets will be used. We believe, therefore, that the need is great for acceleration in environmental education.

Goals

1. We will regularly enlist the aid of cooperating organizations and agencies in conducting conservation tours, field days, and programs that will expand public understanding of local conservation and environmental problems as well as the progress of district programs in dealing with them.
2. We support an active RC&D measure to develop an adequate educational program of conservation in grades K-12 in the entire RC&D area.
3. Encourage the use of and help establish outdoor classrooms for schools.
4. Provide teaching materials and technical help in training as available.

INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

Goals

1. Maintain relations with all media: newspapers, radio, TV and others--who may be able to benefit the district program through their promotional efforts.
2. Develop an annual plan to assure adequate publicizing of district activities and accomplishments.
3. Prepare an annual report for distribution to cooperating individuals and groups having an input into the program.
4. Maintain a continuing program of explanation of the district activities such as: Planning, Watersheds, Resource Inventories, etc.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION PLANNING

We believe that each landowner should develop and use a conservation plan. Piecemeal and uncoordinated conservation efforts cannot be fully effective. When each acre is protected according to its individual needs and used within its individual capabilities, the cost of production per unit is reduced and the yield per acre is usually increased.



SOIL SURVEY

The soil survey of Des Moines County is projected to be completed by November of 1978. We know that accurate soil surveys, properly interpreted, are needed to provide the facts required for all types of land use planning, including not only agricultural and watershed uses but metropolitan development.

Planning and zoning authorities need this basic data to help prevent the misuse of land and to help regulate development in a planned and orderly way.

The facts derived from interpretive soil surveys can be used to promote conservation of natural resources and help sustain the ecological balance in our environment.

Goals

1. Provide the public with an understanding of the published soil survey of Des Moines County.
2. Make sure that the published soil survey report is distributed properly.
3. Include the published soil survey report as an interpretive reference for soil characteristics in conservation plans.

IOWA-CEDAR AND SKUNK CONSERVANCY DISTRICTS

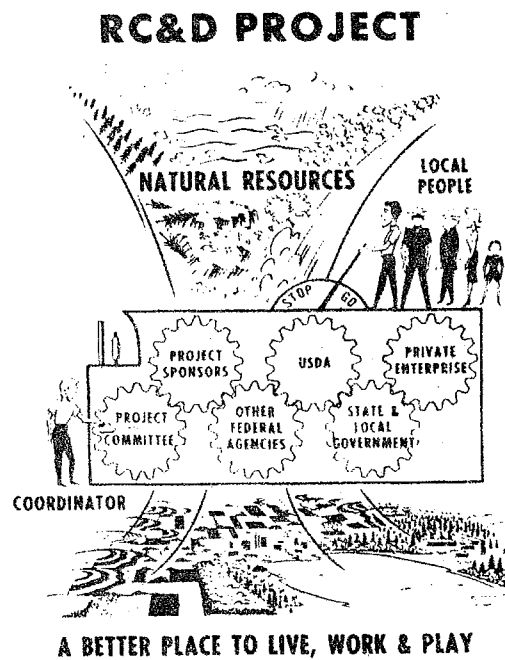
Goals

1. By district commissioner representation on the resource coordinating board, we will push for an accurate assessment of soil erosion throughout the Conservancy Districts.
2. We recommend that a good determination of water quality be made in connection with a detail study of soil loss.
3. We will cooperate in implementing an overall water quality plan for the State of Iowa.
4. A survey seeking farmer advice on non-point pollution to aid in the preparation of a water quality plan will be taken.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

We are sponsors of the Geode Wonderland Resource Conservation and Development area which is comprised of Des Moines, Lee, Louisa, and Henry Counties. Along with the Soil Conservation District, the County Board of Supervisors, Area XVI Regional Planning Commission, and people at large provide representatives to the county RC&D council.

RC&D provides the means whereby local people, conservation districts, and local units of government can organize on a county or multi-county basis for the purpose of identifying and dealing with a wide range of resource-related problems and opportunities that cannot be dealt with successfully on a farm or small community basis.



Goals

1. Support the following measure proposals:
 - A. Franklin Township Lakesite and Watershed Protection
 - B. Old Pasture Renovation
 - C. Environmental Education Coordination
 - D. Bike and Pedestrian Trail System
2. Implement the Flint Hills Golf Critical Area Measure Plan in 1977.
3. Maintain the Dolbee Prairie Associated Measure Plan.
4. Provide RC&D county council with new ideas for measures.

COST-SHARE PROGRAMS

There are two programs for cost sharing on conservation practices in Des Moines County. One is the State cost-share program, administered at the State level by the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation and at the county level, the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District. A special note of appreciation is given to the Department of Soil Conservation for their monetary assistance which is provided by funding through the Iowa General Assembly. The second cost-share program is the Federal program administered by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS).

State cost-share funds are used only in conjunction with the initial establishment of needed permanent soil and water conservation practices, such as terraces or erosion control dams. Priority consideration is given to conservation practices on agricultural lands that will result in the greatest public benefits. All practices must be properly maintained by the landowner.

Most State cost sharing is allocated through voluntary agreements between the district and the landowner. The landowner must be a district cooperator. The rate is 50 percent cost sharing to the landowner.

Cost sharing under the Federal program includes many of the same conservation practices as the State program. Each year the ASCS county committee develops a priority list of practices on which to cost share. Most are at 50 percent rate; a few are at 75 percent.

In both programs an application for funds must be made. A determination of needs, feasibility, and estimate of cost is determined by Soil Conservation Service (SCS) technicians. Approval is then made by the district commissioners and the ASCS county committee. In both programs installation must meet SCS specifications before cost sharing is paid.

In the Federal ASCS program there is a maximum limitation of \$2500 that can be paid to a landowner in one program year. The State program does not have a maximum limit.

POLICY FOR REVIEWING AND UPDATING
THE LONG RANGE PROGRAM

1. The long range program will be reviewed semi-annually and used in the development of the District's annual plan of work.
2. The long range program will be updated when objectives or goals change and when goals are complete. Changes in the long range program will be discussed at each semi-annual review.

Statement of adoption: We, the Commissioners of the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District, adopt this program on the 23rd day of February, 1977.

Dwight Stuckel
Chairman

Statement of approval: This updated program of the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District was reviewed and approved by the Department of Soil Conservation on Feb. 28, 1977.

William H. Greiner
Director
Department of Soil Conservation

References:

Districts' Memorandum 1 (Rev.) 2-7-66, USDA-SCS
Districts' Memorandum 11 2-28-62, USDA-SCS
USDA Secretary's Memorandum 1488 2-1-62
Basic Memorandum of Understanding between the
Soil Conservation District and the USDA
Districts' Memorandum 13 4-30-65, USDA-SCS,
with attached guidelines for developing a
soil and water conservation district long-
range program
Policy Positions - NACD
Conservation Art Work for the Midwest, USDA-SCS
Des Moines County Conservation Board

