

Opportunities

Drop-in visitors to the Center are always welcome. Organizations and groups may also schedule tours or educational programs with our naturalist. A wide variety of nature-related topics are available to suit your needs.

After you visit, explore the other aspects of Marr Park. Several picnic shelters are located for family enjoyment near playground equipment. Our modern campground provides for the overnight visitor, while the pond and lake attract the angler in your family.

Don't forget to enjoy our trails through woodland and prairie. Grass trails weave through hardwoods, prairie, and pines. Along the pine trail, discover our bird blind and nature play area for your amusement. Those wishing to bike or take a longer stroll may want to take Advantage of the Ainsworth-Marr Park Trail. This paved trail begins at the conservation center, travels around Thomas Marr Lake, and then heads to Ainsworth, a mile away.



*The Washington County Conservation Education Center was developed through funding gained by the Washington County Conservation Foundation and is maintained by the Washington County Conservation Board.

The primary purpose of the Center is to promote conservation, environmental education, and other outdoor recreation opportunities. The Center provides, with equal opportunity, easy access to materials and resources to the public as well as improved facilities for school trips, park visitors, and programs.



Center Hours

Summer Hours

(May 1st - Labor Day)

Monday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday:

10:00 am - 6:30 pm

Sunday: 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

We are closed on Tuesday & Wednesday

Winter Hours

Mon., Thurs. and Fri.: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Saturday: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sunday: 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm



***Providing the conservation needs of all
Washington County residents since 1963.***

Washington County Conservation Education Center



Marr Park

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Washington County Conservation Board

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<http://co.washington.ia.us/departments/>

Rental Policy

Reservations are taken for the calendar year beginning October 1 of the previous year. The fees are as follows:

1. *Steinbeck Conference Hall and Kitchen*: \$175
2. *Nicola Library*: \$40
3. *Hall and Library*: \$215

For each of these categories, the returnable deposit is equal to the rental fee.

The following policy applies:

1. Without exception, full price shall be paid by any group on weekends, holidays, or any events where fees are charged.
2. Other Washington County government entities shall be allowed to use Marr Park facilities free on unscheduled weekdays.
3. Washington County-based nonprofit groups, service groups, and conservation agencies will be allowed one free use per year and half price all other times.
4. Church groups and nonprofit groups not based in Washington County will be allowed one use per year at half price.

The Center is an alcohol and smoke free environment. During scheduled open hours, the building itself, except for rented rooms, will remain open to the public.



Available Equipment

24 Rectangular tables
200 chairs
Easels
Podium
Slide projector
Video projector
Internet-ready computer
DVD/VCR player
19" Television
Sound system
Whiteboard
Projector screen
Refrigerator
Stove
Microwave
42-cup coffee maker

Your group is responsible for set up and tear down of tables and chairs.



Features

Tinnes Exhibit Hall: You and your family will enjoy exploring the interactive exhibits in this room. Get a glimpse of the underwater world through the exhibit's 180-gallon aquarium with native fish.

Steinbeck Conference Hall: A cathedral ceiling and panoramic view enhance this large meeting room. A small, attached kitchen allows for catered meals. The room seats 144 with tables and 200 with chairs.

Nicola Library: Find answers to your nature questions from species identification to backyard habitat design. A large handcrafted oak table sits 12 for your small meeting needs.

Dallmeyer Laboratory: Used for educational programs, the lab provides space for water study and craft activities.

Federation Bank Observation Deck: Take a break and enjoy the relaxing view overlooking Thomas Marr Lake.

River Products Company Outdoor Classroom: Watch for butterflies and birds in this native landscape of prairie and trees. Gather ideas to create your own backyard habitat.

Conservation Board Office: In this centralized location, you can reach all Board staff, reserve facilities, and schedule programs.