1) **Title of Project:**

Outdoor Learning Environment Project at the Dragoon Trace Nature Center

2) **Project Description**

The Ringgold County Conservation Board’s goal is to create an intentional outdoor learning environment with native species to attract pollinators and numerous bird species for public education. This will provide individuals the experience to immerse themselves into nature in a safe, comfortable environment while enhancing public knowledge of native plant species, pollinators and avian resources. Through displays and programs such as live bird programs with Rufous (permanently injured screech owl) and Slate (permanently injured American Kestrel), owl night hikes, identification classes, bird counts and mounted displays, the public will be exposed to the extraordinary avian world. The outdoor learning environment will highlight the diverse bird species in Ringgold County by providing visitors with prime viewing of these creatures in their natural habitat.

Ringgold County Conservation will help people of all ages understand the environment and become advocates of the natural world. Ringgold County Conservation is able to provide school and public programs with the educational materials and funding from this grant. An outdoor learning environment is not only a great resource for local communities, but a great destination and source of tourism for Ringgold County. The Iowa Ornithologists’ grant has helped Ringgold County Conservation develop a unique outdoor learning environment around the Dragoon Trace Nature Center that will benefit all ages.

3) **Project Goals:**

- To Redefine Outdoor Classrooms or Learning Environments
- To Create an Intentional Space for Exploration, Inquiry and Learning
- To Empower Environmental Literacy and Education
- To Educate Iowans on wildlife and Natural Resources
- To Emphasize Education on Native Pollinators and Birds
4) **Project Impact**

Through the Iowa Ornithologist’s Union, Ringgold County Conservation has been able to provide more diverse habitat that will benefit multiple species and improve viewing of these marvelous birds and pollinators to the public. This project will have long-lasting benefits for numerous species.

Funding from the Iowa Ornithologists’ Union was used to create bird watching areas in the outdoor learning environment by planting native trees, along with tallgrass prairie for habitat. Native trees and prairie plugs were purchased for intentional habitat plantings to improve habitat quality for a diverse range of birds. These educational items will improve the quality of programming in Ringgold County and provide the public with a place to view and learn about the diverse species of birds in Iowa.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Date: 5/24/2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To:</td>
<td>Rugoff C. Associates</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Attn: Kate Zimmerman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Account With:</td>
<td>Shane Berry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1862 Jaguar Ave.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Creston, PA 52201</td>
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Move trees as required

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<td>440</td>
<td></td>
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<td>30.50</td>
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Total: $470.80

Thank you!
They look good!
Son
The Friends of Warren County Conservation
Making a connection between people and nature.

Annett Nature Center
15665 118th Avenue, Indianola, IA 50125-8852
(515) 961-6169  (515) 961-7100 (fax)
http://www.warrencb.org/fwcc/fwcc.html

Invoice

Bill to:
Ringgold County Conservation Board
2205 210th Street
Mount Ayr, IA 50854

40 plants @ $4 each

Total Amount Due: $160

Thank you for your purchase.

Make checks payable to:
FWCC
15665 118th Ave
Indianola, IA 50125
Watch our Facebook and mycountyparks.com pages for updated events and postings!!

Monarch Tagging – September 1st at 10:00-11:30 AM
Nature Tots – September 8th at 10:00-11:30AM
Yoga Hike – September 15th at 9:00 – 10:30 AM
SOAR Program – September 30th at 1:00 PM
Haunted Halloween Hike – October 20th at 5:30 – 10:00 PM
Holiday Lights in the Park – November 30th, December 1st, 7th, 8th, 15th from 5:30 – 9:00 PM

Here is a little history about the “old lake”.
In 1913 the public petitioned the city council for a new water system. The special election passed a bond issue and the 40 acres for the “old lake” was purchased and construction began in 1914. However, by 1938 Mount Ayr was struggling to keep up with the heavy demand for water, calling the “old lake” a mud puddle, not more than 5 feet deep at any given point. By 1939 another election was held and the public passed a mandate to construct a new lake named Loch Ayr.

Ringgold County Conservation Board
Annual Newsletter 2018
2205 210th St Mount Ayr, Iowa 50854 – 641-464-2787

Ringgold County Conservation Board and Staff
Chair – Jim Norris  Member – Susie Catanzareti
Vice-Chair – Doug Frost  Member – Dale Walkup
Secretary – Randy Bishop

Executive Director: Kate Zimmerman
Seasonal Staff: Cecil Dolecheck, Bill Stump, Jake McCreary and Kaitlyn Dolecheck

Ringgold County Conservation Takes Over The “OLD LAKE”

Ringgold County Conservation is excited to announce that they will be acquiring a new property currently known as the “Old Lake” from the City of Mount Ayr. The multiple public hearings about the property exchange were overwhelmingly supportive. We are excited to tackle this project and to be able to develop the area for the communities of Ringgold County!

So, what happens next??
You will begin to see a few immediate changes in maintenance at the “old lake” as staff starts working to enhance the recreational and natural aspects of the area.
Long term plans for the area include cabins, shower house, lodge and more! These larger components will be accomplished with grants and donations.
Bullfrogs are active day and night, although movement along water courses usually occurs at night and overland movements often take place on rainy nights. Otherwise, adults usually do not move far, staying in or close to their home pond. Some young bullfrogs may move considerable distances to find new homes.

When approached, bullfrogs may slip into the water and swim away silently, but more often they make a fantastic diving performance. After a few seconds underwater, they may swim or swim and dive several times before emerging. Bullfrogs usually emit a loud high pitched “meap!” and make several jumps over the surface of the water before diving and remaining submerged for several minutes.

Adults and tadpoles alike overwinter at the bottom of their home lake or pond. The adults are inactive at this time, but the tadpoles may swim and even feed under the ice. For bait or food. A valid fishing license is required to possess this species.