

Attachment A (Part I & Part II)

REAP CEP *Perpetuate a Good Idea* Grant Program Midterm and Final Report Form

Please submit this completed form via e-mail to Salterberg@uni.edu.
If you include other documents, if possible please paste them at the end of this report rather than
as a separate attachment.

Grant Recipient (organization name): Linn County Conservation Board

Project Title: Park Packs – Nature Activity Packs (N.A.P)

Report Prepared by: Jenny Corbett & Sarah Wendt

Project Number: 08-02

Date Submitted: January 11, 2008

Final report (covering July 07-Sept. 07 activities) **DUE: Oct. 15, 2007**

Note: Your Final Project Billing Form and back-up documentation will be due to Susan Salterberg (CEP contract monitor) on **Nov. 30, 2007**. See Grant Agreement, Attachment B, for a copy of the Billing Form. Send billing information to: Susan Salterberg, 4059 Stewart Rd., Iowa City, IA 52240.

1) Objectives and activities

The REAP CEP Board expects all work outlined in your original proposal to be completed. At a minimum, briefly explain activities completed to date for the following, as well as the percent of total work completed to date. Include what is going well, and explain. Also include challenges, and explain. Add other objectives as you deem appropriate.

- 1) Purchase packs and assemble
- 2) Develop an archaeology pack about Woodland people
- 3) Advertise the new program and CEP's contribution
- 4) Conduct evaluation.

EXAMPLE	Percent completed to date
<p>#1: Market REAP CEP and workshops (i.e., public communications)</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Seven news releases published in: Iowa Reading Association, Iowa Middle Level Educators and Iowa Recycling Association newsletters as well as in the Creston, Clear Lake, Dubuque and Davenport newspapers.2) Two workshop announcements published in Iowa Environmental Council listserv and in Iowa Conservation Education Council newsletter <p>Additional explanation: The releases sent to local newspapers generated a lot of inquiries, and subsequent registrations from teachers. I will definitely do this again. The challenge is to get more middle school teachers enrolled, as they are the target audience, but seem to be more pressured than el ed teachers with NCLB requirements.</p>	80%
<p>#1: Purchase Backpacks & Assemble</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>#1: Contacted Polk County Conservation</p> <p>#2: Purchase high-quality discounted backpacks on-line.</p> <p>Additional explanation, if needed: We contacted Polk County Conservation for guidance and information about their Park Pack program. We took the very useful information and tailored it to our needs. We purchased the backpacks and had the Linn County Conservation logo embroidered to the packs. The cost of the packs and embroidery, was used at match. Much of the materials inside the packs were purchased</p>	100%

<p>from Acorn Naturalist, Common Ground and a local wild bird store, Wildlife Habitat. The owner of this store gave us an educational discount. At this time we decided to call our program, Nature Activity Pack otherwise known as N.A.P's. This is really fun to advertise we used the phrases, "Take a N.A.P to a park" in many of our flyers.</p>	
<p>#2: Develop Archaeology pack about Woodland people.</p> <p>Activities: #1: Most information was already available at Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center. #2: Obtain local artifacts for hands-on activities.</p> <p>Additional explanation, if needed: Most of the information about the Woodland people was already available at our Nature Center but didn't have "kid-friendly" activities. We are <u>continuing</u> our search for more hand's on activities that do not promote digging or disturbing natural areas.</p>	95%
<p>#3: On going advertisement for N.A.P's (Nature Activity Pack) & CEP's contribution.</p> <p>Activities: #1. Linn County Conservation's, Oak Hickory Newsletter; distributed to over 2,500 mailings and roughly 3,000 emails sent. #2. Promotional Sign displayed at the entrance of Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center. #3: Flyers & brochures distributed at Linn County Conservation's main office in Marion and Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center.</p> <p>Additional explanation, if needed: The N.A.P's were advertised over the holiday break. We did not get a high response due to travels and busy schedules. Our <u>next step</u> is to advertise through the local AEA and Boy Scout to distribute promotional flyers.</p>	95%
<p>#4: Conduct Evaluation & Check-out forms.</p> <p>Activities: #1: Created Evaluation & Check out form. See attached. #2: Check-out rules.</p> <p>Additional explanation, if needed: Staff agreed upon the amount of \$50 for deposit per pack. Users will only be charged if an item is lost or damaged, otherwise there is no fee for using the pack.</p>	100%
<p>#5: Staff & Volunteer Training</p> <p>Activities: #1: Awareness of the N.A.P's.</p> <p>Additional explanation, if needed: Staff provided Wickiup Hill volunteers about the check-out rules of the packs.</p>	100%
<p>#6: N/A</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>Additional explanation, if needed:</p>	

2A) Are there changes in the direction of your project (i.e., something different than outlined in your grant proposal)?

Yes No

2B) If yes, please explain the changes and the reason for them:

Note: Any major changes must be approved by the Board as soon as possible. Contact CEP Contract Monitor, Susan Salterberg, at Salterberg@uni.edu or 319-337-4816 to determine whether board approval is needed for your proposed changes.

3A) Is the project on schedule? Yes No

3B) If no, please explain:

4A) Did matching funds come in for your project as anticipated and outlined in your proposal?

Yes No

4B) Please explain: Linn County Conservation purchased the backpacks and embroidered the LCCB logo totaling the matching funds of \$620.22. See attached budget sheet.

5) Please provide at least one concrete example of how your project met one or more of the environmental education goals listed below.

- Understand environmental processes and systems (such as the earth as a physical system, the living environment, humans and their societies, and/or environment and society)
- Develop skills for understanding and addressing environmental issues
- Understand personal and civic responsibility
- Develop lifelong learning skills such as critical thinking, questioning and analysis skills
- Understand that human well-being is tied to environmental quality
- Understand and forge connections with their immediate surroundings
- Conserve and protect Iowa's resources

(Example: The "Project X" helped students develop skills for understanding and addressing environmental issues, understand personal and civic responsibility and forge connections with their immediate surroundings. This was made possible through service-learning projects. Nearly all of the 260 students involved with Project X devoted a combination of around 10,000 hours on service-learning projects in their communities...from picking up litter and establishing recycling programs to selling used books and giving money earned to a charitable cause working on humanitarian and environmental causes.)

Linn County Conservation's Nature Activity Pack's (N.A.P) program addresses the "Understand and forge connections with their immediate surroundings" goal. With more and more Iowans living in urban areas, expanded and improved recreation and preservation areas are essential to our ability to enjoy and appreciate our tremendous natural resources. Each backpack has a specific outdoor theme that contains, field guides, books and a variety of activities that will teach others about Iowa's natural resources and the importance of their preservation and protection. We expect an increase of use once spring and summer arrive. Projected results; 72 packs checked out over a 12 month period; 5 users/pack x 72 checked out = 360 individuals enjoyed nature discovery with the assistance of the Nature Activity Packs; 5 hours average use x 360 = 1800 hours of nature discovery without a Naturalist and quality family time or educational pre-k time focused on nature.

6A) Please read Questions 6A, 6B and 6C before responding.

Please summarize your project in three or fewer pages. This summary should include the following (including the headers), in the order shown below. Your honesty and frankness will be appreciated, and will help strengthen environmental education in Iowa.

- **Project title and Project number:**
- **Organization’s name, contact person, website, phone and e-mail:**
- **Project’s purpose and targeted audience:**
- **Reflect on your project, providing a self-assessment. At a minimum, answer the following questions: Did your project go as planned? Explain what went well and why. Explain what you would do differently if you did the project again, and why.**
- **Please list the most relevant outputs,¹ and explain, if necessary.**
- **Please list the outcomes,² and explain, if necessary. Be sure to include the outcomes outlined in your grant proposal.**
- **Were there any negative outputs or outcomes, and/or concerns about the accuracy of your evaluation data, which you did not list above? If so, please identify the most relevant ones and explain.**
- **Identify your one to three most effective marketing tools (i.e., conferences, e-mails, flyers, news releases in local papers), describe your use of them, and why they were effective.**
- **At least one but no more than three photo(s) of activities in jpeg format.**

❖ **See attached.**

6B) The REAP CEP Board wants to share your successes and lessons learned with other environmental educators. However, they respect your wishes to not share on the web potentially sensitive information that you may not want readily accessible to others. With this in mind, may the summary you have written (as well as the photos submitted) for 6A be published on the REAP CEP website?

Yes **No (If no, please see 6C.)**

6C) If no, please omit the sections and/or revise the above summary for publication on the web. Include the revised section below. Note: The primary audiences for the REAP CEP website are formal and non-formal educators, who may be able to learn from your experiences—both positive and negative.

Please carefully write and review your summary to ensure it is in publishable format.

7) Please include attachments, including a copy of your evaluation form(s), your complete evaluation results, and a minimum of one photo in jpeg format. Some of this information may be published on the web, along with your project summary. Please clearly mark any attachments you do NOT want included on the website.

8) Other comments? Linn County Conservation staff is already looking to create a Geo-Cache Nature Activity Pack (N.A.P)

¹ Measurements of production, such as number in attendance at a workshop.

² What important things happen as a result of the project, such as a documented change in behavior or new concepts learned.

Project title and Project number: Park Packs #08-02

Organization's name, contact person, website, phone and e-mail: Linn County Conservation, Jenny Corbett, www.LinnCountyParks.com, 319-892-6485, jenny.corbett@linncounty.org

Project's purpose and targeted audience: To increase awareness and appreciation for the outdoors for families, youth groups, home school or anyone who wants to learn more about the environment.

Reflect on your project, providing a self-assessment. At a minimum, answer the following questions: Did your project go as planned? Explain what went well and why. Explain what you would do differently if you did the project again, and why.

We had underestimated the amount of time required to develop the activities that needed to be created for the packs. When we started to work on the packs it was during the field-trip season and couldn't devote the time needed and a grant extension was requested and approved. Once we started looking for backpacks to purchase we had to keep in mind that they needed to be large enough to hold all the items, we almost purchased some that were too small looking only at purchase price and not size. Make a list first of what items you would like to have in the packs, books, puzzles, craft items, etc. Keep in mind, if there are many craft activities, you will need to re-supply some items. For example, at one time we considered plaster of paris for the Animals of Iowa N.A.P, after thinking about this, what a mess! And the cost to replace the plaster of paris. Another thought was, what amount do you include? If you would put enough materials for 3 – 4 tracks would that be enough? Then how much do you put in if you know a Boy Scout troop will be using the pack? When the backpack order was placed, some of them were on back-order so I would suggest ordering the packs as soon as you can. Also, if they need to be embroidered you will want to plan accordingly since this took about 2 weeks.

There are many places to order environmental education materials on-line. We found that Acorn Naturalist, for many games and hands-on activities, Common Ground, for books and Nature Watch for additional hands-on activities were the best resources. And don't forget your local stores too! Wildlife Habitat, a wild bird store was a great place to shop and the owner gave a great discount.

What I would suggest doing differently is, identifying what activities and items you want to put inside the backpacks. Just because you have previous curriculums developed and a library full of resources does not mean you don't have to spend the time tailoring them to fit your needs and photocopying them.

Please list the most relevant outputs,³ and explain, if necessary.

In the short amount of time, 23 people used 6 different packs. We expect an increase of use once spring and summer arrive. Projected results; 72 packs checked out over a 12 month period; 5 users/pack x 72 checked out = 360 individuals enjoyed nature discovery with the assistance of the Nature Activity Packs; 5 hours average use x 360 = 1800 hours of nature discovery without a Naturalist and quality family time or educational pre-k time focused on nature. I will be looking forward to report to the CEP Board towards the end of the summer to report our results.

Please list the outcomes,⁴ and explain, if necessary. Be sure to include the outcomes outlined in your grant proposal.

We received many great comments on the returned evaluations but some really summarized what the packs were designed to do. A family member, who used the Birds of a Feather Nature Activity Pack (N.A.P) reported, "They (children) had a new appreciation when we filled the birdfeeders and heated birdbath". Another user who checked out the Treeific Trees reported, "Got my child outdoors"! We feel these packs will continue to increase the awareness and appreciation of Iowa's natural resources.

Were there any negative outputs or outcomes, and/or concerns about the accuracy of your evaluation data, which you did not list above? If so, please identify the most relevant ones and explain.

³ Measurements of production, such as number in attendance at a workshop.

⁴ What important things happen as a result of the project, such as a documented change in behavior or new concepts learned.

No negative outputs or outcomes to report.

Identify your one to three most effective marketing tools (i.e., conferences, e-mails, flyers, news releases in local papers), describe your use of them, and why they were effective.

The three main marketing tools used was the Linn County Conservation's, Oak Hickory Newsletter that was distributed to over 2,500 mailings and roughly 3,000 emails sent. A Promotional Sign is displayed at the entrance of Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center. Flyers & brochures distributed at Linn County Conservation's main office in Marion and Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center. The most effective was through friends and the newsletter. We will be sending brochures to the Boy & Girl Scout office's.

At least one but no more than three photo(s) of activities in jpeg format.

Sent by email to Susan Salterberg.

Nature Activity Pack Evaluation

Please fill out this evaluation before returning the Nature Activity Pack (N.A.P.). Your input will help us to make the packs better. The ratings of 1 to 5 (**1 is best, to 5 being the worst**)

Circle the checked-out Pack: 1. Animals of Iowa, 2. Birds of a Feather, 3. Creatures of the Night, 4. Rock Hound, 5. Eight Legs or Six?, 6. Life in a Pond, 7. Outdoor Skills, 8. Prairies, 9. Treeific Trees, 10. Wildflowers and Plants 11. Dig into the Past

1. How did you find out about the N.A.P.'s? Newspaper, poster/flyer, Oak Hickory, Friends, Other _____.

2. Was this pack utilized by a family, scout group, homeschool, church group, Other _____.

3. How would you rate your overall Nature Activity Pack experience:

1 (great) 2 3 4 5 (wouldn't check out again)

Comments:

4. N.A.P. organization: Was the N.A.P. organized and easy to understand?

1 2 3 4 5

Comments:

5. Was there sufficient content and variety of activities for your family/group?

1 2 3 4 5

Comments:

6. What was your favorite activity(ies) in the pack?

7. Did you visit any new parks/natural areas with your pack? Which ones?

8. Was the pack a good catalyst in assisting you to explore the outdoor world?

9. Was the two-week checkout period sufficient time for utilizing the pack? Approximately, how many hours did you use the pack?

10. How many people used the pack?

11. What other types of programs would you like to see the Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center offer?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Wickiup Hill at 319-892-6485. For more information about Linn County Conservation go to

www.LinnCountyParks.com

Nature Activity Pack Evaluation - RESULTS

Please fill out this evaluation before returning the Nature Activity Pack (N.A.P.). Your input will help us to make the packs better. The ratings of 1 to 5 (**1 is best, to 5 being the worst**)

Circle the checked-out Pack: 1. Animals of Iowa, 2. Birds of a Feather, 3. Creatures of the Night, 4. Rock Hound, 5. Eight Legs or Six?, 6. Life in a Pond, 7. Outdoor Skills, 8. Prairies, 9. Treeific Trees, 10. Wildflowers and Plants 11. Dig into the Past

12. How did you find out about the N.A.P.'s? Newspaper, poster/flyer, Oak Hickory, Friends, Other _____.

Newsletter – 2

Friends – 4

Work – 1

Email – 1

13. Was this pack utilized by a family, scout group, homeschooler, church group,

Other _____.

Family – 8

14. How would you rate your overall Nature Activity Pack experience:

1 (great) 2 3 4 5 (wouldn't check out again)

Comments:

6 – rated it as a 1; 2 as a 2

The weather and lots of holiday activities somewhat limited our use. Great well-thought out activities. Can do in winter too. Good variety. Glad my child was exploring nature and outside. A new appreciation for feeding the birds.

15. N.A.P. organization: Was the N.A.P. organized and easy to understand?

1 2 3 4 5

Comments:

3 – rated it as a 1; 5 as a 2

Great resources. Getting through most of activities. During the school year in with other activities is challenging. Wish there was a checklist of items, I was afraid we would misplace something. Lots to find.

16. Was there sufficient content and variety of activities for your family/group?

1 2 3 4 5

Comments:

5 – rated it as a 1; 3 – as a 2

Great- only the harsh weather and other family holiday plans limited our use.

17. What was your favorite activity(ies) in the pack?

Bird song Identifier, identifying birds at feeder, hide the feather, hands on bird items like the owl foot, kids books, bird call device, Mancala game, card game, books, track rubbing plates, tree cookies, leaf rubbings, experience and night science book, listening for owls.

18. Did you visit any new parks/natural areas with your pack? Which ones?

Used backyard, Wickiup Hill Center (2), no to cold

19. Was the pack a good catalyst in assisting you to explore the outdoor world?

Yes, a lot to talk about outside, Kids loved pointing out the birds and bird sounds, Yes, even when it gets warmer outside, Very much indeed. Winter couldn't get outdoors, to cold.

20. Was the two-week checkout period sufficient time for utilizing the pack? Approximately, how many hours did you use the pack?
Would be enough time in the summer. Or a less busy season. Not sure additional time would add use to young kids. 2 weeks for than enough. Yes ½ - 1 hour a day. 2 hours- didn't spend as much time as would have liked because it was winter and no bugs!
21. How many people used the pack?
23
22. What other types of programs would you like to see the Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center offer?
Unique hiking programs geared towards kids. Guided hikes.

Packs checked out: for a 2 week time period.

Birds of a Feather – 2

Creatures of the Night – 2

Rock Hound – 1

Eight legs or Six? – 1

Animals of Iowa – 1

Treeific - 1

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Wickiup Hill at 319-892-6485. For more information about Linn County Conservation go to www.LinnCountyParks.com