

Polk County Annual Report



POLK COUNTY
Leading the Way



Fiscal Year

July 1, 2017- June 30, 2018

Polk County exists to serve the public. We are committed to service excellence, fiscal responsibility and enhancing the quality of life. We will be the most effective, productive and responsive local government in Iowa.

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Message From The Chair: Angela Connolly

On behalf of the Polk County Board of Supervisors, I am pleased to present our FY 17/18 Annual Report.

We continue to see record breaking success at the Iowa Events Center and were provided with nearly \$1.7 million in revenue for the third year in a row. After years of work we celebrated the opening of the new Hilton Hotel at the Iowa Events Center last spring. The Hotel is expected to be a game changer for the region by bringing 3 million more visitors to Iowa during its first 20 years, elevating hotel demand by 100% and increasing bookings to the Iowa Events Center by one-third. This is one of the largest and most complex construction projects that Polk County has been involved in and it took the cooperation of many governmental agencies along with the support of the private industry.

During the last year the Board of Supervisors remained committed to making a difference in the lives of our residents. One of the largest projects that we have undertaken is the Partnership for Hunger Free Polk County, which strives to ensure no person in Polk County goes hungry. The Board was able to raise over \$5.3 million that has been used to help expand the food pantry network to make assistance more accessible to working families.

As we look to the future, we will be focusing our efforts and resources on having this same kind of impact on our mental health system. We continue to see mental health needs for both adults and children increase, while available funding for services decreases. We will continue to advocate for mental health funding; improve services available in Polk County; and increase the awareness of mental health issues and services.

The Polk County Board of Supervisors are thankful for the hard work and dedication of all of the Polk County employees. Thank you and we look forward to another successful year in Polk County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Connolly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Angela Connolly, Chair

Polk County Board of Supervisors

Polk County Board of Supervisors

Robert Brownell

District 1



Robert Brownell was re-elected in 2016 and is currently serving his fifth term. Supervisor Brownell serves the citizens of Clive, Johnston, Urbandale, Windsor Heights, Grimes, Polk City, Alleman, Elkhart and a portion of Sheldahl that is part of Polk County. Brownell's experience in government began as a City Councilmember in Clive, elected in 1985. He was elected as Mayor in 1993 where he served until his election to the Polk County Board of Supervisors in 2000.

Brownell was raised in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He attended Missouri Military Academy in Mexico, Missouri, and graduated from Kennedy High School in Cedar Rapids. He obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Iowa cum laude in English and Education. He has attended Drake University for post graduate work. Brownell served as Branch Manager for Yellow Transportation in Des Moines for 15 years. Prior to Yellow Transportation, he held several management positions with Roadway Express across the midwest. Bob is also a published author. He is currently working with Carve Literary Services. Brownell is married to Jenna Jurgensen and has a son, daughter-in-law, one granddaughter, Carmen and one grandson, Oscar.

Angela Connolly

District 2



Angela Connolly was first elected as a Polk County Supervisor in 1998. She represents the 2nd District which includes the northwestern area of the City of Des Moines, a portion of unincorporated Polk County as well as the suburb of West Des Moines.

Community engagement has always been a priority for Angela and she enjoys participating regularly in neighborhood organizations and civic activities. Angela currently serves as Co-Chair of The Tomorrow Plan and Tri-Chair for Capital Crossroads: A Vision for Greater Des Moines and Central Iowa and is the Chair of Rebuilding Together.

In addition, she represents the Board of Supervisors on the following boards: Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority – DART, Des Moines Arts Festival Board, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau, Polk County Health Services, Riverfront Development Authority, Mainframe Studios, Polk County Housing Trust Fund, and Homeless Coordinating Council.

In 2014, Supervisor Connolly received the Hero for Homeless award from Central Iowa Shelter & Services for her assistance with reducing homelessness. In 2015, she was awarded the Distinguished Public Servant Award from Primary Health Care and she received the national award for Outstanding Elected Official Leadership from the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations. In 2016, Supervisor Connolly was named to the 2016 Top 25 Most Influential Business Leaders, was the recipient of the national Tom Bradley Leadership Award for Outstanding Elected Official Leadership by the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations and was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame. In 2017, Supervisor Connolly was named to the 2017 Top 25 Most Influential Business Leaders.

Steve Van Oort

District 3



Steve Van Oort was elected as a Polk County Supervisor in 2012 after serving seven years as mayor of Ankeny. He currently represents the 3rd District which includes Altoona, Ankeny, Bondurant, Mitchellville, Pleasant Hill, and a portion of unincorporated Polk County.

Supervisor Van Oort serves as a Polk County representative on the boards of Aging Resources of Central Iowa, Central Iowa Workforce Development Board, Greater Des Moines Partnership Regional Economic Development Board, Impact Community Action Partnership, Metro Advisory Council, Mid-Iowa Association of Local Governments, Mid-Iowa Development Fund, Neighborhood Finance Corporation, and Polk County Housing Trust Fund.

Steve also serves on the Ankeny Economic Development Corporation and East Polk Innovation Collaborative. He is a member and past president of Rotary Club of Ankeny and a member of the board of directors of the Partnership for a Drug Free Iowa.

Steve was named Ankeny Citizen of the Year in 2000, Ankeny Rotarian of the year in 2004, Ankeny Person of Vision in 2010, and a 2016 inductee into the Ankeny High School Hall of Honor.

Tom Hockensmith

District 4



A Polk County Supervisor since 2003, Tom Hockensmith has proven to be the kind of leader who is truly more about actions than words. His work ethic, common sense and ingenuity have resulted in projects that have been beneficial for the people of Polk County and for the people of District 4.

Supervisor Tom Hockensmith began serving his first term as Polk County Supervisor in January 2003. Supervisor Hockensmith currently represents Polk County's 4th District which includes East Des Moines, Runnells, Camp Township, Four Mile Township, as well as a portion of Saylor Township and the North and Southeast portions of the City of Des Moines. Prior to redistricting in 2012, he represented Polk County's 3rd District, which included the cities of Alleman, Altoona, Bondurant, Elkhart, Mitchellville, Pleasant Hill, Polk City, and Runnells.

Tom's previous professional experience includes positions as a policy advisor for Iowa Governor Thomas J. Vilsack, a union representative for American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and as an electrician for the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Tom has lived and worked in Polk County for more than 40 years. Supervisor Hockensmith and his wife have four children and seven grandchildren. He is an avid supporter of youth athletics in East Des Moines, past president of the East High Alumni Association and is a member of the East High Alumni Hall of Fame.

John Mauro
District 5



John F. Mauro represents Polk County's Fifth District which includes the majority of Des Moines' south side, downtown and a portion of the inner city area.

John previously served the citizens of Polk County for two consecutive terms after being elected in 1990. John served as Chair of the Board of Supervisors in 1993, 1996, 2004, 2008, 2011 and 2014.

During John's tenure he has served on many boards, some of which are as follows: City of Des Moines Fire and Police Pension Board, Polk County Housing Trust Fund, Convention and Visitors Bureau, Polk County Health Services, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Metro Waste Authority and Polk County Risk Management.

John is a native of Des Moines and was born and raised on the south side. He has been a self-employed businessman.

Polk County Elected Officials

John Sarcone
County Attorney



John Sarcone graduated cum laude from Rockhurst College in 1972 with an A.B degree in History and was a member of Alpha Sigma Nu, the Jesuit Honor Society. In 1975, he graduated from Drake University Law School and was admitted to the Iowa Bar in June of that same year.

Sarcone served as a staff attorney at the Polk County Offender Advocate Office from July, 1975 to March, 1979. He then became an Assistant Attorney General in the Environmental Law Division of the Iowa Attorney General's Office from March, 1979 to January, 1991 and was in charge of the Environmental Law Division from 1983 to 1991.

Sarcone was first elected as Polk County Attorney in 1990. He assumed the responsibilities of County Attorney in January 1991 and was re-elected in 1994, 1998, 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014 and 2018. Sarcone was President of the Iowa County Attorneys Association and was the Iowa State Director of the National District Attorneys Association from 1998-2000. He served as a Vice President of the NDAA Board of Directors and is currently a member of the NDAA Board of Directors.

Jamie Fitzgerald
County Auditor



Jamie Fitzgerald is currently serving his third full term as Polk County Auditor and Commissioner of Elections.

As Auditor, Fitzgerald has implemented efficiency, technological and conservation measures which have been instrumental in saving Polk County hundreds of thousands of dollars as well making his office more transparent.

These include an office reorganization that decreased the size of the office through employee retirements, decreasing the amount of paper used by switching to electronic agendas for board meetings, changing how board agendas, minutes and audio are distributed by making the entire board packet available on his website for the public to view. He also produces a bi-weekly newsletter for citizens, staff and the media.

He has championed a transparent, open-government office, inviting candidates, the media and the public to his office for election demonstrations, tours and explanations of the voting process as well as speaking at civic and public service organizations.

Jamie received his Bachelor of Arts from Iowa State University in 1994 and an Associate of Arts degree from Iowa Central Community College in 1992. He also added a Certified Public Manager Certificate from Drake University in 2010.

Julie Haggerty

Recorder



Julie Haggerty was sworn into office in January 2007. She is a life-long resident of Polk County, attended Dowling High School and Arizona State University. She is a 2008 graduate of the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute. She and her husband, Michael, have been married for 35 years and together they have 3 grown children and 2 grandchildren all living in the Des Moines area.

Since taking office, Haggerty has extended her office hours and established a same-day recording policy. She has upgraded the current operating system twice and continues to look for ways to preserve and protect real estate and vital records for events that occurred in Polk County. Since taking office, she has seen a significant increase in e-submissions and serves on the board that monitors the activity and policies related to electronic filings.

As an elected official, she has been given the opportunity to serve residents of Polk County in many ways. When Homeland Security established new laws requiring passports for travel to Mexico and Canada, she brought services to the citizens by launching Passport Saturdays in libraries, senior centers and even opened her downtown office on several Saturdays for passport applications and boat registration renewal. She has met with members of the Citizen's Academy and other civic groups to explain the duties of her office and share the many ways that the Recorder's Office and Polk County serve its citizens. Julie served as a member of the Miracle League steering committee that helped build a baseball field near Principal Park for kids with disabilities.

She has also served as a member of the Capital Improvements Program Board for the City of Urbandale, and is currently part of the Information Technology Steering Committee in Polk County and a board member of the Urbandale Food Pantry, the Electronic Services Systems Coordinating Committee and the ESS Communications Subcommittee. Haggerty has also served as President of District 1 of the Iowa Recorder's Association.

In 2015, the Recorder's Office, with the support of the Polk County Board of Supervisors, was awarded another Historical Resource Development grant from the State of Iowa. The funds from this grant will help digitize, maintain and preserve marriage, birth and death events that occurred in Polk County from the early 1900's to 1999. The digitization of these records will give the general public easier access for the retrieval and reproduction of these archived documents.

Bill McCarthy Sheriff



Bill McCarthy was elected Sheriff in November 2008, re-elected 2012 and 2016. Prior to becoming Sheriff, McCarthy served for two years as Chief Deputy. Sheriff McCarthy's law enforcement career began over 48 years ago as a Police Officer with the Des Moines Police Department. He held positions as an Investigator, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Chief and served as the Des Moines Police Chief until his retirement in February 2007.

McCarthy earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice and a Master of Public Administration Degree from Drake University. He is a graduate of the Police Executive Research Forum's and Harvard's Senior Management Institutes for Police and the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Program and is a certified Polygraph Examiner.

Sheriff McCarthy served five years as president of South Des Moines Little League. He has also administered the Police Athletic League, which over a number of years has provided a variety of youth sporting activities for hundreds of low-income children in the Des Moines inner city and was instrumental in reopening the Westside Boxing Club and establishing the Eastside Boxing Club.

Among his many civic involvements, one that stands out in particular, was his participation in the Presidential White House Policy Council meetings on youth gangs and violence, helping to shape the President's initiative on federal juvenile legislation. Sheriff McCarthy continues to be active in many civic and community organizations.

Mary Maloney

Treasurer



Mary Maloney has served as Polk County Treasurer since 1989 and serving her seventh term.

Maloney is a 1977 graduate of Iowa State University with a degree in Economics. She brought a financial and computer background in business to Polk County.

Significant technological changes have been made to the office, wherein, the Treasurer received an “Innovations in Government Award” for many of these improvements. Maloney kicked off an eGovernment initiative in 2002 during her presidency of ISCTA, which received two national awards.

Budget

Deb Anderson
Budget Management



The financial condition of Polk County government remains strong. Cost saving measures along with voter support and continued revenue from Prairie Meadows have allowed the County to solidify its fiscal stance. The County has been able to undertake new Conservation and Court projects, strengthen its services to the community, and serve a key role in area development efforts.

Polk County maintains AAA bond ratings from Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's Ratings Service. The ratings are the highest ratings available, and distinguish Polk County as having an extremely strong capacity to meet its financial commitments. Reports from these investor services cite the County's strong fund balances, conservative budgeting practices, low debt burden, and steady economic growth as the basis for the ratings.

It is estimated the County will continue to maintain healthy fund balances throughout the upcoming fiscal year. Estimated General Fund ending balances are projected above 25 percent of expenditures, a percentage that satisfies the County's adopted financial policies. We are committed to responsible fiscal management and will continue to evolve to serve the community in a cost-effective manner.

GAMING REVENUE USE SUMMARY
POLK COUNTY, IOWA

FY 2017/2018

Pay off Iowa Events Center Debt	13,700,000
Pay off Sewer Debt	600,000
Prairie Meadows Property Tax	4,500,000
Revenue Sharing with City & Schools	2,500,000
Community Grants, Economic Development & Operations	5,900,000
Total:	27,200,000

Grant Awards

Economic Development Grant Awards Continued

Polk County's goal for economic development is to increase the tax base. Job creation, job retention, and the enhancement of the economic well being of our county and our citizens are also desired outcomes. This year, Polk County was proud to assist the following businesses:

Polk Soil and Water Conservation

Polk County Aviation Authority

Greater Des Moines Partnership

Community Betterment Grant Awards

The Polk County Board of Supervisors also provides the opportunity for community service organizations to apply for betterment grant funds. Polk County Community Betterment Grants are non-economic development grants, as well, funded from profits received by Polk County from the operation of Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino .

Altoona Area Historical Society
Altoona Elementary School, Southeast Polk School District
Altoona Historical Museum
Ankeny After Prom
Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce
Ankeny Area Historical Society
Ankeny Community Chorus
Ankeny Community Foundation
Ankeny Community School District Foundation
Ankeny Mayor's Youth Council
Beaverdale Betterment Coalition
Beaverdale Farmers Market
Beaverdale Little League
Beaverdale Neighborhood Association
Best Buddies Iowa
Bondurant-Farrar High School After Prom
Brook Run Neighborhood Association
Brubaker Elementary-Des Moines Public Schools
Capitol Park Neighborhood Association
Central Iowa High Adventures
City of Alleman
City of Mitchellville
City of Pleasant Hill-Parks & Recreation
City of Urbandale Parks and Recreation
Civic Music Association of Des Moines
Clive Community Services
CLIVEFESTIVAL

Community Betterment Grant Awards Continued

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Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines fiscal agent for Des Moines Regional Skate Park Project

COPS Against Cancer

Dallas Center Grimes After Prom

Dallas Center-Grimes Education Foundation

Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) Foundation

Des Moines Area Youth Track Club & Youth Development

Des Moines Carousel Foundation

Des Moines East & South Chamber of Commerce

Des Moines East Boys Basketball

Des Moines Golden Kiwanis and Kiwanis Foundation

Des Moines North High School Polar Bear Boosters

Des Moines Park & Recreation Foundation d/b/a Friends of Des Moines Parks

Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center

Douglas Acres Neighborhood Association

Douglas Avenue Coalition

Downtown Events Group

Dragon Scholarship Fund, a Division of Johnston School District

East Des Moines Swim Team

East High Alumni Association

East High Golf Classic

East High Post Prom c/o Scarlet Pride Inc.

Endow Urbandale

Ethnic Minorities of Burma Advocacy & Resource Center

Fairgrounds Neighbors for Community Improvement

Fairmont Park Neighborhood Association

Family Promise of Greater Des Moines

Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Central Iowa

Friends of the Polk City Community Library

Grand View University

Community Betterment Grant Awards Continued

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Great March for Climate Action

Great Outdoors Foundation

Highland Park Neighborhood Association

Hoover High School

Hoover High School Post Prom

House of Mercy

Immigrant Entrepreneurs Summit

Iowa Bandmasters Association Inc.

Iowa Cubs 501C3 Foundation

Iowa Heartland Resource Conservation & Development

Iowa Radio Reading Information Service for the Blind and Print Handicapped

J-Hawk Soccer Club

John R. Grubb YMCA

Johnston Chamber of Commerce

Johnston High School After Prom

Kingdom Cares Corporation

Lincoln High School Senior After Prom/Senior Celebration

Link Associates

Merle Hay Neighborhood Association

Merrymakers in Central Iowa

Mid-America EDC

Mitchellville Public Library

Music Under the Stars, Inc.

NAMI Greater Des Moines

North High School Post Prom

North Polk Post Prom

Northeast Neighbors and Friends

Northeast Neighbors, Inc.

Oakridge Neighborhood Services Fiscal Agent for Refugee Alliance of Central Iowa

Community Betterment Grant Awards Continued

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On With Life Foundation
One Iowa Education Fund
Parks Area Foundation
Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce
Rails Football Club
Rails Football Club-BLH Booster Club
Rails Wrestling Club-BLH Booster Club
Rams Baseball Club
Roosevelt High School
Saydel Eagles Athletic Booster Club
Saydel High School After Prom
SCKIC INC. d/b/a Dorothy's House
Sheridan Gardens Neighborhood Association
South Central Iowa Federation of Labor Charity
Southeast Polk CSD (Runnells Elementary)
Southeast Polk Post Prom
Taste of the Junction
The Valley After Prom Committee
Triad Foundation
Urban Dreams
Urbandale Chamber of Commerce
Urbandale Community Action Network
Urbandale Post Prom
Valley High School Baseball
Watrous Neighborhood Association
WDMCS Student Scholarship Fund
West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce
West Des Moines Historical Society
Woodward-Granger School-After Prom
YMCA of Greater Des Moines (John R. Grubb YMCA)
Young Professionals of Iowa

Community Development Grant Awards Continued

The Polk County Board of Supervisors also provides the opportunity for community service organizations to apply for betterment grant funds. Polk County Community Betterment Grants are non-economic development grants, as well, funded from profits received by Polk County from the operation of Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino .

180 Degrees, Inc.

ALS Association Iowa Chapter

Bidwell Riverside-Center

Central Iowa Shelter & Services

Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines Fiscal Agent for Capital Crossroads

Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines Fiscal Agent for Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines Fiscal Agent for Principal Charity Classic

Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines Fiscal Agent for the Suburban Response Team

Des Moines Arts Festival

Des Moines Community Playhouse

Des Moines Symphony & Academy

Friends of Des Moines Parks

Friends of SW 9th

Grandview Little League

Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute

Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation

Healthy Birth Day, Inc.

IMPACT Community Action Partnership, Inc.

Iowa Women Lead Change

Kids First Law Center

Kiwanis Miracle League

Latino Resources, Inc.

Luther Care Services

Meals from the Heartland

National Alliance on Mental Illness-Iowa, Inc.

On With Life Foundation

Orchard Place

Parks Area Foundation

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Iowa, Inc.

Save Our Sons

SEP Education Foundation Fiscal Agent for Centennial PTA

SEP Education Foundation Fiscal Agent for Southeast Polk High School Fiscal Agent for Southeast Polk High School

The Nature Conservancy in Iowa

Urban Dreams

Urbandale Community Action Network

Variety-The Children's Charity of Iowa

Community Development Grant Awards Continued

The Polk County Board of Supervisors also provides the opportunity for community service organizations to apply for betterment grant funds. Polk County Community Betterment Grants are non-economic development grants, as well, funded from profits received by Polk County from the operation of Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 738

Waterbury Neighborhood Foundation

West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce

Woodland Heights Organization

YMCA of Greater Des Moines

Initiatives

Courts Space

Since the passing of the \$81 million referendum in November 2013 work is well under way on the multiple phase project that includes the renovation of the JC Penny/Wellmark building into the new Polk County Justice Center; the Old Main Jail into a Criminal Courts Annex; and a complete renovation of the Historic Courthouse. Phase I of the project saw the completion of the third floor of the Justice Center renovated into space for the County Attorney staff, who moved in during March of 2014. As Phase III began in 2018 we saw start of the complete renovation of the Old Main Jail, including the removal of the top four floors, to be converted into a Criminal Courts Annex. We will also see the interior of the Historic Courthouse renovated in the final phase.

Iowa Event Center and Convention Hotel

Polk County again saw near-record revenues of \$1.7 million returned to the County. This is the third year in a row that we received just under \$2 million in profits. The profits that were received from Spectra are reinvested back into the facilities for capital repairs and upgrades. During the last year Iowa Events Staff worked with RDG to redesign the suite levels for a more modern look.

Hilton Hotel

The new Hilton Hotel opened on March 21. This has been a dream of ours ever since opening Wells Fargo Arena. With the hotel open we hope that the blocks around the hotel and Wells Fargo Arena will start to develop into a complete entertainment district. The Hilton Des Moines Downtown is an eight-story, convention hotel connected by the skywalk to the Iowa Events Center. The hotel is a collaboration between Polk County, the City of Des Moines, the Des Moines Redevelopment Company, the Iowa Events Center Corporation and The Weitz Company. The Hotel is expected to be a game changer for the region by bringing 3 million more visitors to Iowa during its first 20 years, elevating hotel demand by 100% and increasing bookings to the Iowa Events Center by one-third. Located at the intersection of Fifth Avenue and Park Street the Hilton Des Moines Downtown showcases simple, modern exterior materials and composition that were inspired by Iowa's agrarian landscape and will be enhanced by unique lighting elements. Hotel amenities will include 330 guest rooms; a 10,000-square-foot ballroom with pre-function and outdoor terraces; 4,000 square feet of breakout meeting rooms; a full-service kitchen; restaurant with outdoor seating; lobby with bar; tech lounge; swimming pool; and fitness center. To date it has been performing as expected and will continue to drive tourism in Central Iowa.

Hunger

The Polk County Board of Supervisors have been working for nearly five years on reducing the number of people who go hungry in Polk County. The Partnership for Hunger Free Polk County was formed under the leadership of Polk County Supervisor John Mauro. Local non-profits who are dedicated to reducing hunger in Polk County identified the gaps that exist in the current food safety network and estimated that it would cost up to \$10 million to fill those gaps over the next five years. To date, over \$5.3 million has been raised and is being used to implement the plan that was outlined by hunger partners. Activities include:

Opened a new food pantry at Polk County River Place. It is located on a bus line, open 40 hours per week and located near additional social services. It opened in 2014 and is currently serving approximately 2,500 people per month.

Opened a new food pantry at the new Polk County Community Center at 6th & Boston. It is currently serving approximately 500 per month.

-Provided assistance to St. Vincent De Paul to open a new human services campus on Army Post Road that includes a food pantry. Through mapping research this area of the metro was identified as having a high number of possible food pantry users and no actual pantries. They are currently serving approximately 600 per month.

-Helped six existing pantries expand their hours to include evenings and weekends, making them more accessible to working families.

-Funded a mobile pantry that is visiting 13 underserved neighborhoods and seeing nearly 500 people each month.

-Recently funded two new mobile food pantries that will focus on reaching low-income housing residents as well as schools.

Our work is not yet done. With the departure of Supervisor Mauro from the Board of Supervisors, his colleagues have committed to continuing this work by funding the work that has been put into place for several more years.

Jester Park Nature Lodge

In August Polk County Conservation opened a new Natural Center at Jester Park, a project that has been in the making for decades. 67 other counties in Iowa have nature centers but Polk County - the most populous county in Iowa, with 14,000 acres of land and 21 parks – had no central place to gather, even for their staff. The project cost \$10.3 million and was paid for through a capital campaign and Water & Land Legacy bonds that the voters approved several years ago. The new center is adjacent to 1,700 acres of park along Saylorville Lake that includes cabins, an equestrian center, a golf course, hiking trails and a children’s playscape. The park already sees a half a million visitors per year and the addition of the nature center should easily double that. The nature center will serve as a hub for environmental and outdoor education for kids and adults. You should go for a visit!

Mental Health

Despite all of the services that Polk County provides for mental health, we have a serious mental health crisis in our state. The state legislature has not acted to provide a long-term solution to mental health services in Polk County. They have also closed mental health institutions and shifted Medicaid into the private sector which has resulted in a severe cutback in available services.

The need for mental health services is outpacing what we can provide. It’s affecting our jails and our emergency rooms. We need better solutions for mental health treatment and Polk County cannot do any more without the help of the State Legislature.

Last year there were several short term fixes that have prevented us from having to cut services, however the current “fix” sunsets in 2020. We will continue to work with our state legislators to find a permanent fix in order to continue providing first –class services to the residents of Polk County.

If successful in securing a fix for the funding issue, Polk County will be working on creating an Engagement Center where individuals who are intoxicated by drugs and/or alcohol can go to sober up safely and begin their long-term substance abuse recovery. We will also be focusing on the children’s mental health care system in Polk County.

Flood Relief

In response to the June 30, 2018 flash flood, Polk County put together a grant program for homeowners who are under 80% of area median income. The grants provided \$6,000 and helped with the purchase of new water heaters, electrical panels and furnaces. The City of Des Moines offered a zero interest loan to homeowners who did not qualify for our program. The City of Des Moines also bought out most of the properties that were located in the flood plain. Polk County Conservation contributed \$1 million to these efforts because it aligns with their goals to restore Polk County watersheds. Seventy-one Polk County homeowners were provided assistance through the Polk County emergency grant program.

Welcoming Center

In partnership with the City of Des Moines and the Greater Des Moines Partnership, Polk County initiated a study to better understand the needs of Polk County's immigrant and refugee population. It was the first step towards creating a Welcoming Center where we envision immigrants and refugees can go to access basic services, such as translation, transportation, child care, job training, food, and more. It would also serve as a hub for ethnic based non-profits to mentor each other and build the capacity of their organization to better serve their communities.

Neighborhood Revitalization

The Polk County Board of Supervisors partnered with the City of Des Moines to complete a third party study on the existing Neighborhood Revitalization program. The City of Des Moines is taking a new approach to neighborhood planning, following a year-long evaluation of this program. Polk County is a partner in this effort. Several neighborhoods have been identified as areas where the City and its partners will pilot new approaches, in order to build a toolkit that can be applied to other neighborhoods over time. The pilot neighborhoods are Oakpark/Highland Park, Columbus Park, a portion of Drake and 48th/Franklin. City staff, Polk County and a consulting team from CZB LLC will be kicking off a planning process in November for all four areas, working with residents and other stakeholders in each area. The process will take approximately 10 months and will include physical planning for the built environment as well as understanding how neighbors can work together towards shared goals. Both the City of Des Moines and Polk County intends to commit funding towards implementation, which may include work such as home improvements, first time buyer assistance, beautification, code enforcement, and possible demolition.

Cities for Financial Empowerment

Polk County was awarded a \$20,000 planning grant from the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund, which is funded Bloomberg Philanthropies. First implemented in New York City, the purpose of this grant is to offer free one-on-one professional financial counseling as a public service. Just like our senior meals or flu shots, financial empowerment will become a Polk County service. The Board of Supervisors will be working with other Polk County departments to embed this service into their current programming and will be working with community based organizations to enhance existing financial empowerment programs and increase referrals to the program.

Elected Officials and
Department Heads

Polk County Board of Supervisors



Elected to represent one of five districts in Polk County, members of the Board of Supervisors establish local law and policies, manage the County's budget, allocate funding and prioritize County initiatives. Their mission is to effectively represent the interests of Polk County citizens and provide leadership in the greater community of Polk County. The Board of Supervisors convenes each Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. in Room 120.

1st District	Robert Brownell	515.286.3115
2nd District	Angela Connolly	515.286.3117
3rd District	Steve Van Oort	515.286.3119
4th District	Tom Hockensmith	515.286.3116
5th District	John Mauro	515.286.3118
County Administrator	Mark Wandro	515.286.2125
Board Exec. Assistant	Sarah Boese	515.286.3895
Budget Manager	Deb Anderson	515.286.3016
Budget Specialist	Shelly Poole	515.286.3991
Budget Coordinator	Michelle Morton	515.286.2168
Executive Secretary	Heather Ksiazek	515.286.3120
Executive Secretary	Kristen Steele	515.286.3301
Grant Administrator	Lisa Moody-Tunks	515.323.5225

Website: www.polkcountyiowa.gov/supervisors

Polk County Attorney



The County Attorney is responsible for the prosecution of criminal offenses occurring in Polk County. The County Attorney also provides legal counsel to the Board of Supervisors and its departments and boards, the County Auditor, the County Record, the County Sheriff, the County Treasurer in civil matters.

The County Attorney handles all juvenile matters including delinquencies, child in need of assistance and termination of parental rights. Child welfare mediations are also handled in this office. The Restorative Justice Center (RJC) provides Polk County citizens and businesses the opportunity to receive justice in non-traditional law enforcement situations.

The County Attorney's office has a Collections Unit, responsible for collecting outstanding court costs and fines, once they become delinquent. Parallel with the collection of delinquent court debt, the Unit also works closely with the Polk County Sheriff's office in the collection of jail room-and-board fees.

General Information	515.286.3737
Criminal Division	515.286.3737
Domestic Abuse	515.286.3737
Drug and Gang	515.286.2121
Major Offense	515.286.3680
Main Criminal FAX	515.286.3428
Juvenile Bureau	515.286.2035
Restorative Justice Center	515.286.3057
Civil Division	515.286.3341



Polk County Auditor



The Polk County Auditor performs a wide variety of functions and duties which include: preparing and certifying tax levies, keeping real estate transfer records, maintaining financial records (including budgeting), clerking the Board of Supervisors' meetings, maintaining the Geographic Information System and is the Commissioner of Elections,

General Information	515.286.3079
Accounts Payable	515.286.3414
Accounts Receivable	515.286.3419
Central Accounting	515.286.3575
Dog License	515.286.3076
Beer/Cigarette Licenses	515.286.3079
Election Office	515.286.3247
Mapping	515.286.3091
Payroll	515.286.3067
Property Descriptions	515.286.3097
Tax Department	515.286.3097
FAX	515.286.3608



Website: www.polkcountyiowa.gov/auditor

Polk County Recorder



The core mission of the Polk County Recorder's office is to serve the citizens of Polk County by preserving a true and reliable account of all real estate transactions and vital human events, along with collection of revenue taxes on required real estate transfers, providing public access to entitled records, both historic and current, issuing user permits and registrations for recreational vehicles and boats.

The Recorder's office also maintains a collection of related taxes on behalf of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, maintaining title and lien records for recreational vehicles and boats, recording documents on the day received and reviewing and accepting passport applications.

General Information	515.286.3160
Passports	515.286.3160
Real Estate	515.286.3160
Trade Names	515.286.3160
Boat/Snowmobile/ATV Registration	515.286.3162
Imaging	515.286.3175
Military Records	515.286.3175
Uniform Commercial Code	515.286.3182
Vital Records	515.286.3183
FAX	515.323.5393



Polk County Sheriff



The Polk County Sheriff is the Chief Executive Officer of the largest Sheriff's office in Iowa with over 500 plus full-time employees and volunteers with an annual budget of more than \$55.5 million. The Sheriff's office is a full-service law enforcement agency with Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Civil and Jail Divisions.

Sheriff Bill McCarthy	515.323.5446
Chief Deputy Victor Munoz	515.323.5346
Administrative Services	515.286.3814
Civil Division – Civil Manager	515.286.3940
Community Relations	515.286.2051
Jail Division	515.323.5400
Office of Planning & Development	515.286.3943
Office of Professional Standards	515.323.5456
Patrol Services	515.286.3306



Email: PolkCounty.Sheriff@polkcountyiowa.gov

Website: www.polkcountyiowa.gov/sheriff

Polk County Treasurer



The Treasurer's office receives, disburses, reports and invests all funds payable to Polk County. The Treasurer's office also issues vehicle titles and registrations, collects property taxes and manages the annual tax sale.

The Treasurer implemented online payment services through the Iowa Tax and Tags website, www.iowataxandtags.gov at no out-of-pocket expense and with no additional staffing for online payment of property taxes and vehicle registration renewals. These online applications offer enhanced customer service to citizens and businesses and greater investment opportunity for the County.

Tax Division	515.286.3060
Vehicle Division	515.286.3030
Cash Management	515.286.3035
General Information	515.286.3041

Website: www.polkcountyiowa.gov/treasurer



Community, Family, & Youth Services



The Department of Community, Family & Youth Services offers congregate meals, commodity and supplemental foods, nutrition education, preventive health services, advocacy and counseling, and senior/community centers for Polk County's elderly. Transportation and home-delivered meals for both the elderly and disabled are also available.

Counseling for crime victims, support services for families in transition from public assistance to self-sufficiency, child care resources, emergency financial assistance for individuals/families who are disabled or in crisis, a three day supply of healthy, nutritious food for those in need, 24-hour centralized juvenile intake, and juvenile detention are all services provided by this department.

Adult Services	515.286.3484
Centralized Intake	515.286.3350
Child & Adult Care Food Program	515.286.2136
Commodity Supplemental Foods	515.286.3655
Crisis and Advocacy Services	515.286.3600
Family Enrichment Center	515.286.3406
General Assistance	515.286.2088
Juvenile Detention	515.286.3344
River Place Food Pantry	515-286.3695
Senior Services	515.286-3679

Website: www.polkcountyiowa.gov/CFYS

Conservation



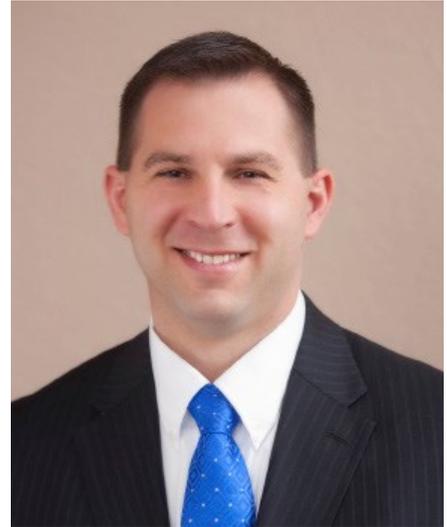
From parks and preserves to forests and fairways, the Polk County Conservation Board maintains more than 14,000 acres of land and more than 45 miles of trails.

Polk County Conservation ([PCC](#)) provides education and recreation programs to more than 32,000 kids and adults each year. More than 2.3 million visitors camp, fish, boat, hunt, hike or ride on PCC lands each year.

Administration	515.323.5300
Administration FAX	515.323.5354
Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt	515.967.2596
Easter Lake Park	515.285.7612
Jester Park	515.323.5366
Jester Park Equestrian Center	515.999.2818
Jester Park Golf Course	515.999.2903
Jester Park Nature Center	515.323.5350
Thomas Mitchell Park	515.967.4889
Yellow Banks Park	515.266.1563

Website: www.leadingyououtdoors.org

Emergency Management



Polk County Emergency Management purpose and mission is protecting the whole community by coordinating, supporting and integrating activities to mitigate, prepare for, and respond to and recover from all hazards.

You can reach us at:

Phone: 286-2107

Website: www.polkcountyiowa.gov/emergency-management

Email: emergency.management@polkcountyiowa.gov

General Services



The General Services Department provides building maintenance, construction oversight, purchasing, printing, mail processing and other related services for the County.

The employees in the department support the activities of other County offices and departments in delivering services to the public.

Administrative Division	515.286.3215
County Information Desk	515.286.3000
Buildings & Grounds	515.286.3228
Purchasing Division	515.286.3191

Website: www.polkcountyiowa.gov/general_services

Health Department



The Health Department is responsible for minimizing the spread of disease in our community. But, being healthy is more than not being sick. It means being able to live your life to its fullest. It means thriving. As such, the Health Department is also responsible for creating the conditions that support people developing healthy habits.

The primary programs and strategies used to make this happen are: educating individuals; providing health screenings and immunizations; offering wellness exams; mobilizing and participating in community partnerships; identifying community health priorities; monitoring the community's health status; encouraging independent living through home health care and conducting disease outbreak investigations.

Administration	515.286.3798
Disease Prevention	515.286.3890
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	515.286.3897
Immunizations	515.286.3798
Immunizations- Travel	515.286.3657
Healthy Women Program	515.286.3642
Lead Poisoning Prevention	515.323.5232
Health Education	515.286.3848
Wellness Exams	515.286.3798

Health Services



Polk County Health Services exists to support improved access to health care and to promote full citizenship for people with mental illness, intellectual or other developmental disabilities.

We promote this mission to serve people with disabilities by:

- ◆ Partnering with a network of community service organizations, people with disabilities, their families, and the community to promote improved health care and integrated living and working opportunities.
- ◆ Identifying, developing, and maintaining efficient, effective, and responsive service delivery system.
- ◆ Advocating for their rights and educating the larger community to increase acceptance and full participation within the community.

Our service delivery goal is to balance consumer satisfaction, fiscal realities, regulatory compliance, and desired outcomes for people with disabilities.

General Information 515.243.4545

Fax 515.243.8447

Website: [www.polkcountyiowa.gov/health services](http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/health%20services)

Human Resources



The Human Resources Department strategically partners with all County offices and departments to provide comprehensive human resource services so that County operations, projects and programs can be safely, effectively and efficiently administered to nearly 1,200 employees and the general public.

The major functional areas of Human Resources are employment, labor relations, classification/compensation, benefits, employee development and administrative support.

General Information	515.286.3200
Job Line	515.286.3831
Benefits	515.286.3203
Employment	515.286.3204
Labor Relations	515.286.3033
TDD	515.286.2003

Website: [www.polkcountyiowa.gov/human resources](http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/human%20resources)

Information Technology



The Department of Information Technology is responsible for the development and maintenance of software applications, the design and maintenance of the County's wide/local area networks, the development and maintenance of the County's website and the installation and technical support for personal hardware and software.

General Information	515.286.3757
Call Center (Help Line)	515.286.2299

Website: www.polkcountyiowa.gov/it

Medical Examiner



The Office of the Polk County Medical Examiner provides forensic autopsy and investigative services when a death occurs under Medical Examiner jurisdiction (Iowa Code 331.802). A Medicolegal Death Investigator will respond to the scene of the death to complete an investigation. If an autopsy is warranted, the body will be transported to the Polk County Morgue. If no further investigation is warranted, the body is released to the funeral home in which the next of kin has chosen. A person's death which affects public interest shall be reported to the County Medical Examiner; such cases include sudden, unexpected, violent or unnatural deaths. Any death in which the manner is not natural or any death in which the decedent is not under a physician's care within the previous 36 hours (extended to 30 days for terminal patients), must be investigated by the Medical Examiner's Office.

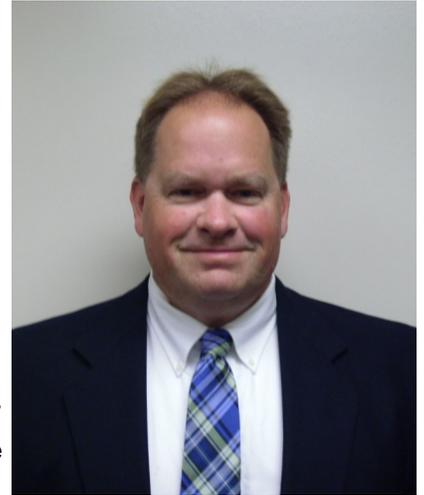
The Office is also responsible for investigating all requests for cremation, positive identification, locating and notifying next of kin, providing testimony upon request, and obtaining specimens as requested by law enforcement/other agencies.

Main Office 515-286-2102

To report a death contact Polk County Dispatch 515-286-3333

<http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/medicalexaminer/>

Public Works



The Public Works Department is divided into three divisions: Air Quality, Engineering & Roads, and Planning & Development. It is one of the largest departments with Polk County and offers community services including construction, maintenance, and inventory of Polk County secondary roads and bridge system, including survey, design, and inspection, maintenance and snow removal, vegetation control, land use planning and zoning regulations, building permits, construction inspection, sanitary & sewer infrastructure, air quality control, management of drainage districts and code enforcement.

Polk County Public Works Department strives to develop, manage, and maintain the highest quality road system, provide excellent snow removal and weed eradication services, promote orderly growth, protect our health and environment and ensure structures and uses are safe and sound. All these services help to enhance the quality of life for all citizens of Polk County.

Air Quality	515.286.3705
Building	515.286.3352
Code Enforcement	515.286.3705
Environmental Health	515.286.3705
General Information	515.286.3705
Housing Services	515.286.3705

Planning/Zoning	515.286.3705
Secondary Roads	515.286.3705
Tax Deed Property Management	515.286.3705
Weatherization	515.286.3356
Weed Commissioner	515.286.3005

Website: [www.polkcountyiowa.gov/public works](http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/public%20works)

Veteran Affairs



The Commission is responsible for the management of a program which provides emergency assistance to eligible veterans and their families including temporary shelter costs, utility payments, food, and health supplies.

Veteran Affairs assists with funeral expenses to those veterans and their families who are eligible; provides complimentary flags and grave markers for Polk County citizens; and maintains veterans' graves in cooperation with the Des Moines Parks Department.

This Commission also acts as the local referral agency for elderly and/or disabled veterans and spouses who are seeking application/admission to the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown.

Assistance to military veterans and their families to meet basic needs, funeral expenses, filing claims, and possible placement at the Iowa Veterans Homes in Marshalltown is available.

Mission Statement

Polk County Veteran Affairs provides financial assistance programs to eligible veterans.

General Information	515.286.3670
Director	515.286.3673
Veteran Administrator	515.286.3671

Website: [www.polkcountyiowa.gov/veteran affairs](http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/veteran%20affairs)