

CARROLL COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUCCESS STORY

The Carroll County Conservation District Nature Center (CCCD Nature Center) are a group of volunteers who have worked to bring life to an area of Camp Kysoc in Carroll County Kentucky. Surrounded by over a hundred acres of old growth forest and a lake, The Nature Center is a free public site available for individual and small groups to enjoy environmental education programs and events.

Camp Kysoc was once a portion of Butler State Park, designated for children with special needs. The camp had closed and the property is now owned by Fiscal Court. The area was not being utilized when the volunteer group took it over. Carroll County Conservation District's Education Advisor, Gail Becraft, spearheaded the project along with help from fiscal court, our District Supervisors, and many enthusiastic community volunteers. The Conservation District has assisted with this wonderful project from the beginning.



Gail Becraft, CCCD Education Advisor, spearheaded the project



Besides the lake, there are several buildings which have been repaired and upgraded. This includes the lodge, a meeting house, an office, and the nature center building. There are also several cabins throughout the property. In addition to the buildings on the property, there are ancient trees, a variety of woodland wildflowers, and animals. The lake welcomes fishing and non-motor boat usage. In 2020, with donations and through many volunteer hours of labor to repair, rebuild, and landscape, the Nature Center began to evolve.

The focus was to provide a quiet place to study wildlife from the window of the center's main building, a beehive in progress, an aquarium with aquatic life, prehistoric relics, farm animals, and nature walks. The center also showcases and honors the property's past as a camp for children with special needs, who often returned from year to year and were known to all. These children were loved by local counselors and those who worked at the camp.



In May of 2021, these plans came to fruition when the Nature Center held its Grand Opening for the public to much success. Since then, the Nature Center has been the host to adult groups and busloads of students, who come to learn about nature and conservation practices. It is a wonderful place to hike, relax and learn about nature.

