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CEDAR FALLS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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Human
Behavior

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November 26, 1968

Mr. Loren D. Reese
Executive Director
Black Hawk County Conservation Board
Black Hawk Park
Route #3
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

Dear Mr. Reese:

We have for a number of years recognized the need for improvements in our instructional methods and materials in the area of outdoor education. This past fall through the efforts of Black Hawk County Naturalist Mr. Krebill and Mr. Claussen of UNI, we were able to organize a one-day, outdoor-education workshop for our teachers of grades four through six. This event has sparked considerable enthusiasm upon which we hope to capitalize. We are very appreciative of the fine work of Mr. Krebill and his willingness to give of his time in followup work both with students and teachers.

We have within the past two months become aware of the possibility that Black Hawk County might develop a Nature Education Center as a part of our already fine park facilities. I believe such a project would be a tremendous asset in assisting both the teacher and the conservationist in helping young people really enjoy the out-of-doors, to appreciate nature and to better understand the need for preserving one of our most precious assets. Such a Nature Education Center would be invaluable as a training ground for in-service work with teachers and equally important as an out-of-doors classroom.

Black Hawk County is rapidly becoming an urban area. Now is the time to insure that we make ample provisions for open spaces. However, to give proper usage to such nature areas, both children and adults will need to have frequent orientations to the necessity of conservation. It seems to us that a Nature Education Center would be an integral part of the total park facilities.

Our elementary enrollments are presently running at 500 to 550 students per grade level. Most of our existing formal conservation work is handled at the upper grade levels. However, there is no reason why field trips for varying degrees of intensive study could not and should not be made available to younger children. From these