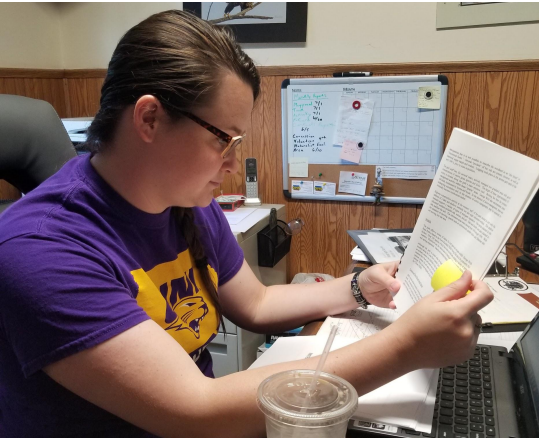


To Dredge or Not to Dredge



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2019 extern at George Wyth State Park

Part I: Overview of Workplace

George Wyth State Park is located on the Northeastern part of Iowa along the Cedar River, off of Highway 218. The park has been designated as a National Urban Wildlife Sanctuary and is home to many species of plants and animals. In addition to the natural scenery the park has four lakes that are used for recreational activities all year.

Part II: Workplace Focus

The Goal of George Wyth park and staff is to draw in urban communities to provide new experiences and practical, enduring knowledge that helps them connect with and respect our natural resources. The park offers programming to youth and families to educate visitors on wildlife and habitat conservation and hunting/ fishing laws and regulations.

Part III: The Problem

With the construction of the new amusement park in Waterloo there is a high demand for crushed stone, used for cement. A local company is looking into open a dredging operation to harvest materials from George Wyth and Alice Wyth lakes.

Part IV: Background

Students should consider the costs and benefits of dredging including:

- Cost of transporting materials.
- Types of materials that can be dredged.
- Loss of Wildlife habitat/farmland
- Use of land after dredging
- Disruption of land around dredge
- History of Dredging at the park

Part V: Solutions

The Students will present a cost/benefit analysis of reopening a dredging operation at George and/or Alice Wyth lakes. They may take roles such as park official, Economic developer, civil engineer, or civilian/land owner.

Part VI: Educational Pathways

There are many positions that can be held within the state park: Seasonal help, Naturalist, Park Ranger, Park Manager, Conservation officer. At minimum a seasonal (entry level) needs to be 18 with a HS diploma, they are usually students that are working towards an associate or Bachelor's degree in Conservation, Biology/Ecology, criminology. Some positions, like Park Ranger, require additional training or certifications in law enforcement.