

Pathways to Nature

A Newsletter of the Webster County Conservation Board

April 2019

Maple Syrup Festival

April 13

1 - 4 pm

Camp WaNoKi



IN THIS ISSUE...

What's New...

Wildlife Babies

Selfie Stands

Boaters Beware!

Earth Day Clean Up

Kids to Parks Day

Upcoming Events &
Programs

Friends Information

What's New...

Webster County Conservation, in conjunction with Hamilton County Conservation, invites you to a Maple Syrup Festival! The festival will be held Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 1 - 4 pm (come & go) at Camp WaNoKi. Camp WaNoKi is located at 2401 WaNoKi Camp Rd, Fort Dodge.

This will be both educational and fun for the whole family. You will take a walk through the woods and learn how sap is collected from trees, watch sap cook over a fire and slowly turn into amber sweetness. You will also be able to sample some homemade maple syrup on snack-sized pancakes. There is no comparison of fresh maple syrup to that which you buy at your local grocery store. Real maple syrup is generally thinner and less sweet. It's completely different than most mass-produced syrups that contain large volumes of high-fructose corn syrup, food coloring, and artificial flavors. It is truly a labor of love as it takes 40 gallons of sap to produce a single gallon of syrup.

Join us for this free event that ushers in the spring season!



Leave Wildlife Babies In The Wild

www.iowadnr.gov



If you find an animal baby that appears to be on its own, don't worry. Generally, one of its parents is nearby watching.

They're teaching their offspring to be independent, and in the case of danger, some animal parents will take off in order to create a distraction away from their young.

Many people "rescue" wildlife babies they believe to be abandoned. But when you take that "orphaned" rabbit out of the nest or that raccoon out of the tree, you're taking that baby away from its parents, its natural setting and a chance to live in the wild. Many times, taking an animal out of the wild greatly reduces its chances of survival.

In most cases, these wildlife babies perish soon after capture. If an animal does survive the initial trauma of being captured and confined, it often succumbs more slowly to pneumonia, other diseases or malnutrition.

However, if you know for a fact that the babies' parent has died, or if it's clear the animal is injured, a wildlife rehabilitator can help. Rehabilitators receive extensive training, including an apprenticeship, to learn how to care for animals and reintroduce them to the wild. They know when to feed them, how to feed them, how to treat injuries and they have the space and equipment to house the animals.

Do not try to take the animal in yourself – not only could it present a safety risk to both you and the animal – it's also illegal, as wild mammals are protected by state law and wild birds are protected by state and federal law.

If there is not a licensed wildlife rehabilitator near you, contact your local conservation officer.

For the closest state-licensed wildlife rehabilitator to you, please go to:

www.iowadnr.gov/portals/idnr/uploads/files/wildliferehab.pdf

*Sometimes the hardest thing to do, is nothing at all...
leave wildlife babies in the wild*



99 Parks / 99 Counties Promotion

Iowa Travel & Tourism, in its efforts to promote all of Iowa's 99 Counties, has created a "99 Counties, 99 Parks" promotion. This promotion will highlight one county park in each county starting April 22nd through October. During this promotion, certain parks have been chosen to provide additional interests including selfie stands, events and activities. In Webster County, the Gypsum City OHV Park was selected as our highlighted park and includes a selfie-stand. This is a fun and unique way to see if you can visit all 60+ selfie-stand locations throughout the state of Iowa. For more information about this promotion and to see a map of all participating parks visit the Iowa Travel and Tourism website, www.traveliowa.com/99parks/.

In addition to the Gypsum City OHV selfie-stand, Webster County has created another selfie-stand that we will be moving monthly throughout Webster County to some of our other county parks. Starting on April 22nd and running through Sept 2nd the selfie-stand will be moved five times. The first month's location will be at Veteran's Memorial Park at Kennedy Park. To find out where the selfie-stand will be moved to next visit our Facebook page. We will post information and pictures on each upcoming location. This is a great way to check out *new to you* Webster County parks. Post your selfies on our Facebook page to share your outdoor adventures! Also, remember to "tag" your pictures with **#THISISIOWA** and **#MYCOUNTPARKS**. Warmer weather is on its way and there is no better time to get out and enjoy your county parks.



99 PARKS

Boaters Beware

Boaters warned to avoid the hydroelectric dam on the Des Moines River

Fort Dodge - The Fort Dodge Hydroelectric Dam, formerly a 16-foot high dam, has been partially removed to about five feet high.

All boaters should avoid the stretch between the Hydroelectric Park Access and mouth of Lizard Creek until the rest of the dam is removed this summer.



The dam's removal is staged into two steps to prevent all the sediment in the impoundment from being released at the same time. Recirculating currents will continue to be a safety hazard around the remaining portion of the dam until the dam is completely removed.

Check out a time lapse video of the first stage of the dam's removal on the "City of Fort Dodge, Iowa Official Page" Facebook page dated February 27, 2019.

Contact: Todd Robertson, Iowa DNR River Programs Outreach Coordinator at 515-243-3714.

Earth Day Trail Clean Up

Monday, April 22nd

12:30 - 3:30 pm

Webster County Conservation is celebrating Earth Day by cleaning up the trail from Village Inn to Kennedy Park and YOU are invited!

Please RSVP to Joni Hefley, jhefley@webstercountyiowa.org or 515-576-4258

We will add additional trail sections if there is enough interest.

Please meet us at the soccer field parking area at Harlan Rogers



PARK & PLAY SCAVENGER HUNT

National Kids to Parks Day May 18, 2019

Kids to Parks Day is an annual celebration to encourage play that connects kids and families with PARKS. Our hope is to introduce the public to the park inventories of Webster County Conservation and Fort Dodge Parks, Recreation, Forestry Department.

Kids to Parks Day is an opportunity to cultivate future generations of outdoor enthusiasts and conservationists. We hope by bringing families and kids of all ages outdoors to their local city and county parks—they can unplug from life's daily grind and reconnect with each other, enjoy the outdoors, exercise, relax, and PLAY!

Kids to Parks Day is promoted by the National Park Trust (www.parktrust.org), National Recreation and Park Association (www.nrpa.org), and countless others. There is no preregistration, exact timeframe, or stringent rules—this “Scavenger Hunt” is a great way to help facilitate your family to our local parks and be doing so, you could win a prize!

Scorecard available at www.fortdodgeiowa.org/parks or stop into Citizen's Central or City Hall Parks and Rec, or Webster County Conservation office to get a copy!



Upcoming Public Programs & Events

Your Guide To The Outside

Date	Time	Event	Location
April 13	1:00 pm	Maple Syrup Festival	Camp Wa-No-Ki
April 15	8:00 am	Campground Opens	Kennedy Park
April 15	8:00 am	Campground Opens	Gypsum City OHV
April 22	12:30 pm	Trail Clean Up	Soccer Fields
April 22	All Day	Earth Day	
May 18	All Day	Kids to Parks Day	City & County Parks

CAMPING SEASON IS HERE!

Both Kennedy Park and Gypsum City OHV Park's campgrounds will open Monday, April 15th at 8:00 am.

Fees per night

Kennedy Park

Full Hook Up - \$22

Electric Only - \$18

Primitive - \$15

Gypsum City OHV Park

Full Hook Up - \$30

Electric & Water - \$35

Reservations for Gypsum City OHV Park
Campground can be made at
www.mycountyparks.com



*For the most up to date information,
LIKE us on Facebook:
Webster County Conservation*

mycountyparks
.com





The “Friends of Webster County Conservation” is a non-profit, 501c3 organization that helps the WCCB with volunteers and raising funds to enhance environmental education, outdoor recreation, and conservation projects in Webster County.

Volunteer Donate Protect

The mission of the Friends of Webster County Conservation is to provide awareness, appreciation, and the preservation of Webster County’s natural resources for future generations.

Sign Up Today!!

Please fill out this form and mail to:
Friends of Webster Co. Conservation
1415 Nelson Avenue
Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501

MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ Membership _____ \$25 _____

☐ Business Membership _____ \$100 _____

Total: _____

Name

Address

Email

Phone

*Be The Change You Wish
To See In The World
~ Mahatma Gandhi*

1415 Nelson Ave
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
515-576-4258

conservation@webstercountyia.org

www.mycountyparks.com/Webster.aspx



Webster County Conservation

STAFF

Matt Cosgrove	Director
Cody Peterson	Operations Supervisor
Darren Herzog	Park Ranger
Brad Janssen	Park Ranger
Karen Hansen	EE Coordinator
Erin Ford	Naturalist
Andy Stanberg	IRVM/Vegetation Specialist
Tasha Nielsen	Natural Res./Trail Tech
Adam Moeding	Natural Res./Trail Tech
Joni Hefley	Office Manager

BOARD MEMBERS

Nick Carlson	Fort Dodge
Geri Winge	Fort Dodge
Jerry Beck	Fort Dodge
Kirk Seltz	Badger
Beth Collins	Fort Dodge

The Webster County Conservation Board meets monthly on the second Tuesday of each month. The meetings are held at the Kennedy Park Office building at 5:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public and visitors are welcome.



The Webster County Conservation Board in the provision of services and facilities to the public does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, national origin, age, or disability. If anyone believes he/she has been subject to such discrimination, he/she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Webster County Conservation Board or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.