Pathways to Nature

A Newsletter of the Webster County Conservation Board

July 2019





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What's New... By Matt Cosgrove

As summer heats up and paddlers head to the water to cool off they will notice new safety signage at key access points along Webster County's Water Trails.

The project was spearheaded by Jon Schreck with the Fort Dodge Fire Department. Jon approached the Conservation and Fort Dodge Parks & Recreation Departments following recent rescue efforts and a drowning on the Des Moines River.

The new signage compliments the standard water trail signage that is required by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for waterways that are designated by the state as official water trails. The designation means that there is a local sponsor or sponsors that have created and maintained access areas, parking, signage and maps.

The new signage highlights the importance of safety on our water trails. It focuses on the "know before you go" aspects of paddling. Understanding the water levels, distance from put-in to take-out, skills necessary for the area you plan to paddle, appropriate equipment and the stewardship of our waters are all key factors in having a fun and safe day on the water.

Have fun & Stay Safe this summer!

Did you know Webster County offers 60+ miles of paddling on designated water trails on the Des Moines River & Lizard Creek?

Exciting New Renovation Happening At Kennedy Park!

The butterfly garden at Kennedy Park is about to be renovated! Established in 1990, by Bonnie Miller, the garden was planted with a variety of flowers and shrubs to attract butterflies and pollinators. Since 1990 the garden has consisted of several mixed garden areas and four planters built with butterfly boxes. After 29 years of countless weddings and family pictures and honoring the original purpose of the area, it's time for an update.

The renovation will continue to focus on the butterfly/pollinator theme and will include a registered butterfly waystation. The plan is to remove the over grown shrubs, dying crabapple trees, and deteriorating butterfly garden boxes to be replaced with approximately a 5,000 square foot pollinator garden and include a patio with pergola or gazebo with a seating area. The garden will be registered as a butterfly waystation and an interpretive sign will be posted detailing the important roles pollinators play in the natural environment. We hope this renovation will enhance the park visitor experience and provide valuable habitat for our pollinator friends!

Stay tuned...

Kennedy Park Playscape Addition

A new and exciting addition is planned for this summer at Kennedy Park's Natural Playscape! Thanks to a generous donation from the employees at Citizens Community Credit Union the Webster County Conservation Department is able to purchase a 12' diameter Native American Tipi.

A Tipi is a cone-shaped, wood-framed structure that was traditionally covered with buffalo hide. Once fabric became more available canvas was used because of its lighter weight and availability.

Like our modern tents, tipis were designed to set-up and break-down quickly. The simple design allowed tribes to move from place to place during different seasons or following the movements of buffalo.
In the summer, tipi covers can be raised at the bottom to allow cool air to flow through and keep the inside cool. In the winter, additional coverings can be added on the inside with grass insulation to keep the tipi warm. Fires were often placed in the center of the tipi where the hole in the top would release the smoke.

We hope you enjoy this new addition to the playscape that will inspire young minds with a connection to the past!

Thank you to our friends at Citizens Community Credit Union for their generous donation!!



Adventure Awaits

Summer is upon us and it's time for an outdoor adventure! Webster County Conservation has fun nature day camps and playscape playdates scheduled throughout the summer.

Our first day camp is scheduled for July 9th – 11th, 9-11 am, each camp has a max of 10 participants and you must be 6-9 years old. This camp will be focusing on camping and outdoor skills. The second day camp is August 6th – 8th, 1-3 pm will be focused on Space, with out-of-this-world activities and fun crafts. These camps are three days, 2 hours each day, with each camp costing $10 per participant and located at Kennedy Park.

The Playscape Playdates are a great way to get outside and have some fun while learning about nature! Each playdate will have fun nature activities with time for playing at the playscape. These playdates are free but we would like participants to register to make sure we have enough supplies. The playscape playdates are scheduled for July 18th at 12 pm and August 15th 10:30 am for participants 5 and younger and siblings.

Both camps and playdates can be registered for by calling 515-576-4258. We can't wait to show you what amazing adventures await!





Conservation Corps Camp

Again this year we will be offering a Conservation Corps Camp for middle school age children at Camp WaNoKi located east of Coalville. The dates for the camp are **July 16, 17, and 18 from 9 am - 3 pm.** This camp is for kids just finishing 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.

New this year will be a "family time" (come-and-go style) on the Friday after camp. This will give the campers a chance to show-and-tell what they did and lead family members around places they explored. The camp will conclude with a relaxing campfire and snack that will be prepared by the participants.

Activities will involve:

- Hiking
- Survival Basics
- Stewardship
- Primitive Hunting Skills
- Team Building

Cost of the camp will be $10 / day. (Attend all three days for $30). This covers the Friday Night Family Time supplies. Call the Kennedy Park office at 576-4258 to register.



To Brian McClain with ProMark Striping for donating the repainting of the center line at Kennedy Park!!





New to John F. Kennedy Memorial Park are paddleboard rentals for those looking for a fun and exciting way to test your balance and explore Badger Lake. The paddleboards can be rented for use at Kennedy Park for **$15 for 2 hours.** Each rental includes the paddleboard, paddle, ankle strap, and PFD. Rentals are available Memorial Day through Labor Day each year between the hours of 10 am and 4 pm Monday through Friday at the Webster County Conservation Office.

Renters must have taken a stand up paddleboarding class or Kayaking 101 class. They may also take the FREE online certification lesson by going to boaterexam.com/paddling and providing proof of completion. Those who want hands on instruction can do so by signing up for SUP Classes offered July 16th and August 13th at 5:30 pm. Please call 515-576-4258 to register as there are only enough boards for 4 participants in each class.

Reminder - we also rent kayaks and canoes so you and your family and friends can spend time on the water this summer!

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2009, stand up paddling became the fastest growing paddle sport in America!

A Traveling Selfie Stand



The selfie stand has been set in it's third location. Venture out and enjoy the sights at Liska Stanek Prairie at the corner of Johnson Ave and 260th St, Fort Dodge.
The selfie stand will stay put until July 12 when it moves to Camp WaNoKi



SHOW US YOUR SELFIES!

be sure to include the hashtags below

#THISISIOWA #MYCOUNTYPARKS



The Selfie Stand at the Gypsum City OHV Park (shown here) will not be moving locations.

You can take your selfie at the pond by the campground!

GYPSUM CITY OHV PARK



Upcoming Public Programs & Events

Your Guide To The Outside

Date	Time	Event	Location
July 9, 10, 11	9 - 11 am	Day Camp (6 - 9 years old) $ *Call 515-576-4258 to sign up*	Kennedy Park
July 16	5:30 pm	Stand Up Paddle Class $ *Call 515-576-4258 to sign up*	Kennedy Park
July 16	7:00 pm	Open Paddle	Kennedy Park
July 16, 17, 18	9 am - 3 pm	Conservation Corps Camp $ *Call 515-576-4258 to sign up*	Camp WaNoKi
July 18	12 - 1 pm	Playscape Playdate *Call 515-576-4258 to sign up*	Kennedy Park
July 18	6 - 8 pm	Fireside Chat	Camp WaNoKi
July 21	5 - 7 pm	4H Trap Team*	Webster Co 4H
July 28	5 - 7 pm	4H Trap Team*	Webster Co 4H
Aug 4	5 - 7 pm	4H Trap Team*	Webster Co 4H
Aug 11	5 - 7 pm	4H Trap Team"	Webster Co 4H
Aug 6, 7, 8	1 - 3 pm	Day Camp (6 - 9 years old) $ *Call 515-576-4258 to sign up*	Kennedy Park
Aug 13	5:30 pm	Stand Up Paddle Class $ *Call 515-576-4258 to sign up*	Kennedy Park
Aug 13	7:00 pm	Open Paddle	Kennedy Park
Aug 15	10:30 - 11:30 am	Playscape Playdate *Call 515-576-4258 to sign up*	Kennedy Park
Aug 15	8:30 - 10:30 pm	Fireside Chat	Camp WaNoKi

* Indicates registration required through Webster County 4H

$ Indicates there is a fee for this event

Webster County CONSERVATION

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

mycountyparks.com

Let's Be Friends!

With your support, we can make a difference in Webster County now and for future generations

Friends of Webster County Conservation

Sign Up Today!

Fill out this form and mail to:

Friends of Webster County Conservation
1415 Nelson Ave
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Membership Form

☐ **Membership** $25 _____

☐ **Business** $100 _____

_____
Name

_____
Address

_____
City, State Zip

_____
Email

_____
Phone

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.

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.

1415 Nelson Ave
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
515-576-4258
conservation@webstercountyia.org
www.mycountyparks.com/Webster.aspx



Webster County Conservation

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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 meeting are held at the Kennedy Park Office building at 5:30 p.m. All meeting are open to the public and visitors are welcome.

Webster County CONSERVATION

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.