

Pathways to Nature

A Newsletter of the Webster County Conservation Board

June 2019



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What's New... By Matt Cosgrove

On May 23rd the “*Students in the Arts*” (SITA) Program unveiled enhancements to the natural playscape at Kennedy Park with a celebration of music, food & fun. The improvements include:

- A Dino-Discovery – a sand table with ceramic dinosaur bones, paint brushes for exploring and interpretive signs about dinosaurs;
- Rocks painted as ladybugs or inspirational messages;
- 3-D metal insects mounted on ten-foot poles and placed on Discovery Point

The “*Students in the Arts*” Program is a way to recognize local 5th & 6th Grade Students that excel in the visual and performing arts. The program was started in 1995 and is led by Ann Halbur. Students are nominated by their teachers from area schools and come together for two months to brainstorm, collaborate & complete a project.

The 2019 SITA Project marks the second time students have chosen Kennedy Park to display their work. In 2018, the students worked with Iowa Central Community College Graphics Designers and the Fort Dodge Industrial Technology Program to create metal art called “Prairie Feathers” along the trail entering the park.

The Webster County Conservation Board is extremely grateful for the partnership with the SITA Program, Ann Halbur, project sponsors and community partners and is excited to share the appreciation of the arts as part of the outdoor experience at Kennedy Park.



THANK YOU!!

Sponsors

C&S Products Co., Catherine Deardorf Charitable Foundation, Hiway Truck & Equip., Fort Dodge Convention & Visitors Bureau, McClure Engineering, Carpet One, Cargill, Decker Truck Line

Community Partners

SITA Foundation, Friends of Webster County Conservation, Iowa Central Community College Culinary Arts Program, FDSH Ceramic Art Class, FDSH Industrial Technology Program



Always Something To Do This Summer...

ON THE WATER

Paddling at Kennedy Park

Meet at the canoe and kayak access near the boat ramp (second right as you enter the park). Canoes, paddles, and PDF's will be provided. Come out and enjoy a leisurely stroll around the lake. This is a free family event.

Evening Paddle: June 18th at 8pm

Open Paddle: July 16th & August 13th at 7 pm

Stand Up Paddle Boarding (SUP) Classes

Come and try out this fun way to enjoy the water! Paddle boards, paddles and PDF's are provided. Registration is required by calling 515-576-4258 and the cost is \$10. The class size is maxed at 4 participants due to the number of boards.

June 18th at 6:30 pm

July 16th & August 13th at 5:30 pm

CREATE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

Discovery Packs

Designed to help families, scout groups, home schoolers, and other groups explore the wonders of nature around them. Each pack comes with just about everything you may need to assist in the discovery of the specific nature topic. These are FREE to use, just come into the Park Office between 8-4 pm to reserve yours!

Themes to Check Out:

Trees

Birds

Animals of Iowa

Insects/Spiders

Pond/Wetland

Prairies/Woodlands

Kennedy/County Areas

Geology/Archeology

AT THE PLAYSCAPE

Playscape Playdates at Kennedy Park

Hands on activities to get your little one out in nature with time to explore the new playscape. This Free program lasts about an hour but registration is required so we have enough materials on hand. Children 5 and under with an adult .

June 20th at 2 pm,

July 18th at 12pm

August 15th at 10:30 am

A group of children are wading in a shallow stream, surrounded by lush green trees and foliage. Some children are holding up clear plastic bags, possibly for water sampling or collecting. The scene is bright and sunny, with reflections on the water.

WITH OTHERS

Nature Summer Camps

These camps are filled with nature adventures and activities for participants 6 - 9 years old. There is a max number of 10 participants per camp and each camp is \$10. Call 515-576-4258 to register by the Friday before each camp.

July 9th - 11th 9 - 11 am
Aug 6th - 8th 1 - 3 pm

Conservation Corps Camp

A great way to connect with nature for those who have completed 5th - 8th Grades. Meet at Camp WaNoKi to learn primitive hunting and orienteering skills, participate in stewardship work and learn survival skills. Camp is \$30. Call 515-576-4258 to register by July 12th.

July 16, 17 & 18
9 am - 3 pm

AT NIGHT

Fireside Chats

On the 3rd Thursday of each month, join Naturalist Karen Hansen for a evening around the fire at Camp WaNoKi. Each month will include a themed learning session, fireside snack and hike through the woods.

Bring a friend and a comfortable campfire chair if you don't want to sit on our big limestone sitting stones.

June 20th

July 18th

August 15th

October 19th

Like our Facebook page for updates regarding time and topic!

Kayak & Canoe RENTAL



Webster County Conservation is continuing their kayak and canoe rental program. These watercrafts may be rented by an hourly, overnight, weekend and weekly rate!

Rentals may be picked up Monday - Friday only between the hours of 10:00 am and 4:00 pm at the Webster County Conservation office at John F. Kennedy Park - 1415 Nelson Ave, Fort Dodge. We have 6 kayaks and 2 canoes available.

Renters must be at least 18 years old to rent and provide a photo ID and/or current driver's license upon check out. We do require proof of completion of a paddle safety course in order to rent. If you have not taken a Kayaking 101 class through Webster County Conservation, you may take a FREE online course at:

www.boaterexam.com/paddling/

Rates

	Per 1 Kayak	Per 1 Canoe
2 Hours- - - - -	\$ 10	\$ 15
One day/overnight rental - - - - -	\$ 20	\$ 30
One weekend rental, Friday - Monday - - - - -	\$ 30	\$ 40
One week rental, to include one weekend - - - - -	\$ 100	\$ 120

Meet Our Summer Staff



Michael Miller

From: Fort Dodge

High School: Humboldt 2017

College: ISU for Music Education

Interests: Hunting, fishing, camping, outdoors

Favorite Part of the Job: It's easy and I don't have to think about it. Great co-workers too. Also, outside all day is great

This is Michael's 2nd summer with us!



Justin Koester

From: Vincent

High School: FDSH 2019

College: Iowa Central

Interests: Showing Cattle

Favorite Part of the Job: Working outside



Quentin Hatton

From: Clarksville, TN

High School: Middle College @ APSU 2014

College: Univ. of Tennessee @ Knoxville

Interest: dendrology, hiking, fishing, gaming

Favorite Part of the Job: Working outside and with my hands

Did You Know?

Agriculture and worldwide food security depend on **honey bee health**



Approximately **1/3** of world's agricultural crop production is affected by pollinators

Sources: Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations

Approximately **\$18 billion** of U.S. agricultural production is supported by the **honeybee** pollination



Source: USDA

If we don't take action, **honey bee health** and the **global food supply** will be impacted



June Is National Pollinator's Month

How You Can Help:



Educate Yourself



Spread the Word



Improve honey bee nutrition by providing diversity in forage

A Traveling Selfie Stand



The selfie stand has been set in it's second location. Venture out and enjoy the sights at the Skillet Creek Indian Mounds.

The selfie stand will stay put until June 14th when it moves to Liska Stanek Prairie

Please note the trail at Skillet Creek is rated *Strenuous*



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!



Upcoming Public Programs & Events

Your Guide To The Outside

Date	Time	Event	Location
June 1	12:00 pm	YEA! Fishing Tourney	Kennedy Park
June 2	5 - 7 pm	4H Trap Team*	Webster Co 4H
June 17 - 19	9:30 - 10:15 am	City Mini Camps \$	Loomis Park
<i>Registration on the City of Fort Dodge Website</i>			
June 18	5:00 pm	4H Outdoor Adventure Club*	Webster Co 4H
June 18	6:30 pm	Stand Up Paddle Class \$	Kennedy Park
<i>Call 515-576-4258 to sign up</i>			
June 18	8:00 pm	Evening Paddle	Kennedy Park
June 20	2 - 3 pm	Playscape Playdate	Kennedy Park
<i>Call 515-576-4258 to sign up</i>			
June 20	6 - 8 pm	Fireside Chat	Camp WaNoKi
June 23	5 - 7 pm	4H Trap Team*	Webster Co 4H
July 9 - 11	9 - 11 am	Day Camp (6 - 9 years old) \$	Kennedy Park
<i>Call 515-576-4258 to sign up</i>			
July 16	5:30 pm	Stand Up Paddle Class \$	Kennedy Park
<i>Call 515-576-4258 to sign up</i>			
July 16	7:00 pm	Open Paddle	Kennedy Park
July 16, 17, 18	9 am - 3 pm	Conservation Corps Camp \$	Camp WaNoKi
<i>Call 515-576-4258 to sign up</i>			
July 18	12 - 1 pm	Playscape Playdate	Kennedy Park
<i>Call 515-576-4258 to sign up</i>			
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

* Indicates registration required through Webster County 4H

\$ Indicates there is a fee for this event



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*



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

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.