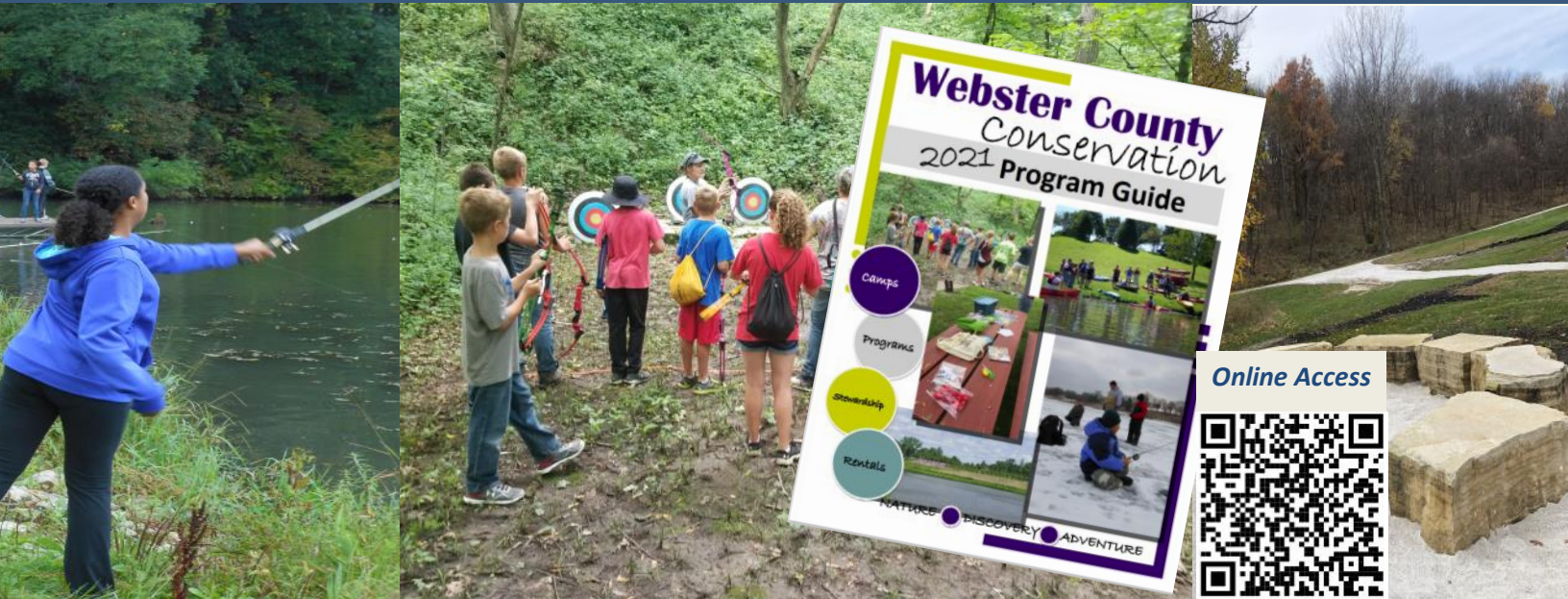


# Pathways to Nature

A Newsletter of the Webster County Conservation Board

May 2021



## Introducing the 2021 Webster County Conservation Program Guide!

This truly is your guide to the outside! Your one stop spot for all Webster County Conservation spring, summer and fall programs. Registration for summer programs will begin May 1<sup>st</sup> at [www.mycountyparks.com](http://www.mycountyparks.com).

This guide is available online at [www.webstercountyia.org](http://www.webstercountyia.org) or by scanning the QR code above.

There are multiple locations where you can pick up a hard copy:

- |                               |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| ● Web Co Conservation Office  | ● Gowrie Library    |
| ● Fort Dodge Library          | ● Dayton Library    |
| ● Iowa State Extension Office | ● Callendar Library |
| ● Web Co Recorder's Office    | ● Lehigh Library    |
| ● Iowa Outdoor Store          | ● Badger Library    |
| ● Fort Dodge Downtown Rec     | ● Clare Library     |
| ● Fort Dodge CVB              | ● Duncombe Library  |

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# Webster County Conservation 2021 Program Guide

## Camps

Treat your child to a FUN summer they'll never forget! Our natural curiosity of the outdoors and engage them in fun.

### Nature Day Camps

Kennedy Park Nature Center  
1415 Nelson Ave, Fort Dodge  
Ages 7-9 June 10th / July 8th 9 am-3 pm

Each camp will include outdoor nature activities, crafts, exploration and snacks. There is a 10 participant max each day, \$10 for each camp. Please bring a lunch, refillable water bottle, old clothes, long pants, closed toed shoes, insect repellent and sun screen.

### Nature Hour

Kennedy Park Playscape Open Shelter  
1415 Nelson Ave, Fort Dodge  
Ages 4-6 June 8th & 22nd / July 20th 11am

Each camp includes a nature book story, craft and/or activity to take home and nature exploration. Afterward families are welcome to explore the playground, playscape or have a picnic in the park. Nature Hour will meet by the open shelter near the playscape. There is a 10 participant max each day, \$5 fee for each camp.

### Nature Camp Kits

Kennedy Park Nature Center  
1415 Nelson Ave, Fort Dodge  
Two different kits are available each week: one for ages 4-6 & one for ages 7-9. Register By: June 7th & 21st / July 12 & 26th

Want to do a nature theme day camp but on your own time? Sign up for Na then pick up and take home to do at your own time. Every kit will come w project except items like scissors, glue etc. Kits will need to be picked up the pick up time.

## Programs

### Kayaking Beginners Class

Kennedy Park  
1415 Nelson Ave, Fort Dodge  
June 24th / July 22nd 5:45-8pm

This course covers kayaking basics concerning safety, personal floatation devices, paddling skills and techniques, entering and exiting kayaks and more. Classes are taught by Doug Breyfogle a certified ASA Level 2 kayaking instructor. All equipment will be provided. Open to ages 13 and up. Cost is \$15 per person with 10 participants max each lesson. **Payment will be taken at the beginning of class.**

\*Private lessons also available, contact Webster County at 515-576-4258 if interested



### Full Moon Paddle

Kennedy Park Boat Ramp  
1415 Nelson Ave, Fort Dodge  
June 25th 8 pm

Meet at Kennedy Park for an evening float on Badger Lake. Meet at the boat ramp, bring your own vessel or use one of ours, lights and PDF's will be provided. A great way to spend a relaxing night on the last supermoon of 2021.



### Stand Up Paddle Boarding

Kennedy Park  
1415 Nelson Ave, Fort Dodge  
June / July

SUP Private group lessons (4 participants max) : G dates to learn about stand-up paddle boarding. Ea schedule your group, \$10 per participant, all equipme

## Programs

### Wilderness Skills Series

Camp WaNoKi  
2400 WaNoKi Camp Road, Fort Dodge  
6-8 pm, Thursday nights

Designed for families or individuals wanting to pursue a future overnight adventure. Or if you just want to be more connected to nature, this is for you. Limit of 10 per class. No fee.

#### May 20 Knots & Shelter Building

Ever wonder if you'd be able to survive in the wild? Learn a few basic knots and build a tarp shelter. Then try to build a shelter out of woodland materials such as sticks and bark. Leave with confidence in a very important outdoor skill.

#### May 27 Fire Building

Using primitive tools, participants will practice building fire the old fashioned way. Bring your patience and leave with an understanding of how challenging this skill can be. Components of fire and its use historically will be discussed, followed with hands-on fun making fire.

#### June 10 Map & Compass

Find yourself comfortable with very basic navigation using a map and a compass. Learn how to locate maps of different areas on your bucket list. Try out an orienteering course in the woods.

#### June 17 Water Purification / Survival Packing

Start the evening learning why it's important to purify water and several methods in wilderness situations. Learn what to pack in a day pack for short hikes and a backpack for long hikes or overnight. If time allows, you strap on a pack and hike the WaNoKi hills.

#### July 8 Campfire Cooking / Foraging Skills

This evening will allow participants to build their own fire and cook over it. Different cooking methods for camping, backpacking and basic survival will be covered. Leave with some campfire recipes and backpack food suggestions.

#### July 15 Primitive Camp-out / Primitive Weapons

Join some members of the Friends of Webster County Conservation for an evening camp-out at tent camp sites, all at Camp WaNoKi. Let some folks with experience help make your campout a positive experience. Follow-up with some fun throwing skills both primitive and modern (atlatls, tomahawks, knives, slingshots)



Camps

Programs

Stewardship

Rentals



**The Webster County Board of Supervisors and Webster County Conservation Board** have created a new initiative that will enhance the conservation and recreation opportunities in Webster County.

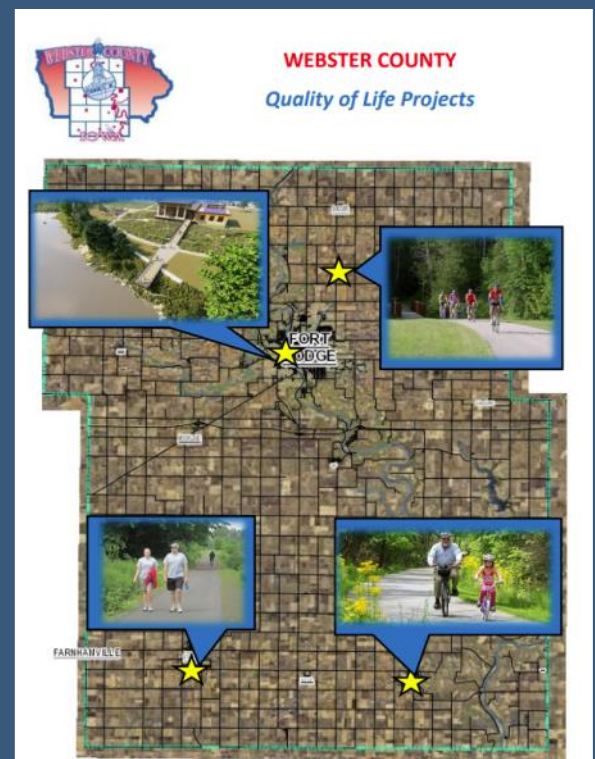
The Webster County Board of Supervisors is embarking on a visionary plan to implement a variety of infrastructure projects that will improve Webster County's quality of life and make our communities better places to live, work and play!

The plan includes the construction of a riverfront, conservation education center and several recreational trail projects. The projects were identified in the recent Webster County "Hike & Bike" Trail Master Plan and Parks, Recreation & Facilities Master Plan.

These "Quality of Life" projects will be primarily funded through a bond that will be re-paid by the county's Tax Increment Financing Program. The supervisors understand the importance of providing healthy, livable communities and the role they play in workforce recruitment and retention. The funding for these projects is made possible through the economic growth of the region and the supervisors are excited to reinvest these funds in Webster County's "quality of life" initiatives.

## Projects

Riverfront Nature Center  
Fort Dodge to Badger Trail Connection  
Badger Lake Loop Trail  
Gowrie Trail  
Dayton Trail





## RIVERFRONT NATURE CENTER

The proposed Riverfront Nature Center is a building facility located on the east bank of the Des Moines River, west of downtown Fort Dodge. Facility highlights include classroom and learning lab space, kitchen and restroom facilities, exhibit space and administrative offices, as well as outdoor classroom space in the adjacent courtyard. The Nature



Center acts as a hub to multiple outdoor passive recreation opportunities on site, and connects to multiple outdoor learning and interpretive spaces. This center will be the flagship facility for Webster County Conservation administrative and educational functions.

## BADGER CONNECTION



This trail was identified in the Hike and Bike WC Master Plan as an important connection for the Prairie Rivers Trails System. The Badger Trail Connection would extend from the Nature Trail Extension at 160th Street to a newly constructed trailhead in Badger. It is proposed to be located along the east side of Paragon Avenue, allow trail users to access the popular Soldier Creek Winery along the way. Ideally, it would be located at the back of the ditch along the highway to allow comfortable separation from motorized vehicles.



# BADGER LAKE LOOP

The Badger Lake Loop Trail at Kennedy Memorial Park is popular with people hiking, running and mountain biking. However, its current state as a 6- to 8- foot -wide granular trail with extremely steep slopes is not suitable for many other people biking, those pushing a stroller or those using mobility devices.



This project will pave 1.4 miles of trail stretching from the campgrounds at the southwest portion of the lake, around the north side of the lake, to the park entrance at the southeast side of the lake. The trail will be widened to 10 feet and the slopes will be ADA-compliant.



## Henderson Landing—Webster County's Newest Water Trail Access



The Webster County Conservation Board recently purchased 2.73 acres from a Dean & Sharon Henderson along the Des Moines River at Kalo to construct a public water trail access. The Henderson's agreed to sell a portion of their land to create the access as they had safety concerns about paddlers using a busy stretch of highway along the Kalo Bridge to access the river.

The proposed project was identified as a high-priority location to add an additional access point on the Des Moines River during a recent a planning effort with the City of Fort Dodge and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The new access is located half-way between Fort Dodge and Dolliver State Park. The popular and scenic area is known for its large glacial erratics, Woodman Hollow State Preserve and rich history in brick and tile production. The new access will divide this 16-mile stretch in half and allow for a more manageable day trip. In addition, the new boat ramp will provide much needed access for emergency personnel and first responders along this remote stretch of the Des Moines River. This will save valuable time in the event of an emergency on the water or ice.

***This project was made possible through the generous partnership with the Henderson Family, an IDNR Water Trail Enhancement Grant and support from the Webster County Board of Supervisors...THANK YOU!!!!***





## *Planting the seeds of conservation in Iowa*

### **COURSE TOPICS**

- History and current opportunities for conservation in Iowa
- Iowa's landform, forests, prairies, wetlands and rivers
- Communicating conservation

### **COURSE FORMAT**

Online, self-paced lessons from Iowa State University experts paired with in-person demonstrations and discussions led by local conservation leaders and educators.

**When:**

Tuesdays May 18, 25 June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

6:00-9:00pm

**Where:**

Hamilton, Pocahontas, Webster and Humboldt Counties

**To register, contact:**

Hamilton County Extension (515) 832-9597

**Additional Information:**

<http://bit.ly/masterconservationist>

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach does not discriminate on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, pregnancy, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or status as a U.S. veteran, or other protected classes. Direct inquiries to the Diversity Advisor, 515-294-1482, [extdiversity@iastate.edu](mailto:extdiversity@iastate.edu)

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Extension and Outreach



# Day of Greening

*Free Seedling Giveaway*

**Monday, May 10 from 4-6 p.m.**

GreenState Credit Union

1207 Central Avenue, Fort Dodge

**200 seedlings will be given away**

(Iowa Natives: Swamp White Oak, Serviceberry, Hackberry)

**Food will be provided – First come, first served**



**TREES FOREVER**  
Planting a better tomorrow™



**GreenState**  
CREDIT UNION



# Friends “Keepers of the Land”

## Stewardship Opportunities

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Time</u>
May 18	Skillet Creek Indian Mounds	Pulling for Pints—Garlic Mustard pull	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
June 15	Trail System	Pick up trash, trim brush, paint graffiti	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
July 20	Bob Hay Memorial Area	Remove brush from prairie	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Aug 17	Carlson Recreation Area	Trail work, remove brush from prairie	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Aug 21	Des Moines River Trash Bash * Held on Saturday	River float & clean-up	9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Sept 21	Camp Wa-No-Ki	Trail work, timber stand improvement	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Oct 19	Gypsum City OHV Park	Trail trimming, picnic table staining	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

*In an effort to provide a hands-on connection to the land, the Friends of Webster County Conservation have created the following volunteer opportunities to assist the Conservation Department with maintenance activities. If you are interested in lending a hand, please contact the Conservation Office at 576-4258 or [conservation@webstercountya.org](mailto:conservation@webstercountya.org) to sign up.*

# KIDS TO PARKS DAY

## SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2021

### KICK-OFF EVENT

OLESON PARK  
MAY 15 10:30AM-12:00PM  
\*ACTIVITY  
\*RECIEVE THE WORD FOR THE  
SCAVENGER HUNT BEFORE IT'S HIDDEN!



### SCAVENGER HUNT

CITY OF FORT DODGE- OLESON PARK  
CITY OF FORT DODGE- REYNOLD'S PARK  
CITY OF FORT DODGE- KNOLLCREST PARK  
WEBSTER COUNTY- VETERAN'S PARK  
WEBSTER COUNTY- KENNEDY PARK- PLAYScape  
WEBSTER COUNTY- NORTHSIDE KENNEDY PARK





# Congrats



Webster County Conservation Park Ranger, Joe Sherbon, graduated from the 296th class of the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy on Wednesday, April 21, 2021.

Wishing Trail Technician, Kyle Redmond, all the best as his new adventure begins in Eastern Iowa! You've seen Kyle out on the trails for the past two years keeping them in great shape for all the hikers and bikers. Kyle and his wife, Kelsey, are moving back home as their family grows!

# GOOD BYE & GOOD LUCK!



# Story Walk Open House & Ice Cream Social

*Come check out the newly constructed Story Walk Trail at Children's Forest. Read a nature themed book along the trail and stop to see The Lorax tree carvings! While you're there, enjoy an ice cream treat from the Friends of Webster County Conservation.*



**Tuesday,  
May 4th**

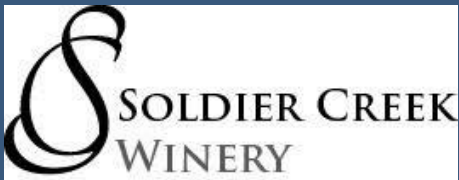
**6:00 pm**

Children's Forest/Veteran's  
Memorial Park  
1386 National Ave  
Fort Dodge, IA



## Joymobile will be on site!

The Joymobile is a bookmobile that is taken to places around the Fort Dodge community where children already are. It is a Little Free Library on wheels! There is no charge for children to take a book and donations are always welcome.



On Thursday, April 22nd, Webster County Conservation and Soldier Creek Winery teamed up for an EARTH DAY craft event where over 20 participants made and decorated their own bird houses





# 2021 CAMPING SEASON IS HERE!



## Kennedy Park Campground

1415 Nelson Ave  
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Full Hook Up     \$25/night

Electric Only     \$20/night

Primitive     \$15/night

*All sites first come, first served*

Kennedy Park Yurts     \$100/Night

*Reservations required at [www.mycountyparks.com](http://www.mycountyparks.com)*

## Gypsum City OHV Park Campground

2390 Mill Rd  
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Full Hook Up     \$30/night

Electric & Water     \$25/night

Tiny Home Rentals     \$50-75/night

*Sites 1 - 8 walk up only, sites 9 - 33 reservations available at [www.mycountyparks.com](http://www.mycountyparks.com)*

*Tiny Home reservations required at [www.mycountyparks.com](http://www.mycountyparks.com)*

## Camp WaNoKi Primitive Camping

2400 WaNoKi Camp Rd  
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Primitive Camp Sites     \$15/night

River View Primitive Cabin     \$50/night

*Reservations required at [www.mycountyparks.com](http://www.mycountyparks.com)*

# Upcoming Public Programs & Events

## *Your Guide To The Outside*

Date	Time	Activity	Location
May 4	6:00 pm	StoryWalk Open House & Ice Cream Social	Children's Forest
May 13	6-8 pm	Fireside Chat — Lyme Disease & Morel Hunting	Camp WaNoKi
May 15		Kids To Parks Day	Various Locations
May 18	6-8 pm	Stewardship—Pulling for Pints-Garlic Mustard Pull	Skillet Creek Ind Mds
May 20	6-8 pm	Wilderness program — Knots & Shelters	Camp WaNoKi
May 24	6:00 pm	Friends of WCC board meeting	Kennedy Park
May 27	6-8 pm	Wilderness program — Fire Building	Camp WaNoKi
June 3	6:00 pm	Ladies Night in the Outdoors — Fire Building	Camp WaNoKi
June 3	6:30-8:30 pm	Winery Nature Craft class	Soldier Creek Winery
June 5	10:00 am	Free Fishing Weekend Fishing Clinic	Badger Lake
June 7		Nature Camp Kits registration deadline	
June 8	11 am	Nature Hour—ages 4-6	Kennedy Park
June 9	10 am	Toddler Time Outdoors—Animals—ages 1-3	Camp WaNoKi
June 10	9 am –3 pm	Nature Day Camp—ages 7-9	Kennedy Park
June 10	6-8 pm	Wilderness Series—Map & Compass	Camp WaNoKi
June 15	6-8 pm	Stewardship—trash, trim, paint	Trail System
June 15-17	9 am—3 pm	Summer WILD Camp—ages 10-12	Camp WaNoKi
June 17	6-8 pm	Wilderness Series—Water Purification & Packs	Camp WaNoKi
June 21		Nature Camp Kits registration deadline	
June 22	11 am	Nature Hour—ages 4-6	Kennedy Park
June 24	6-8 pm	Fireside Chat—Mussels & more	Camp WaNoKi
June 24	5:45-8pm	Kayaking Beginners Class	Badger Lake
June 25	8:00 pm	Full Moon Paddle	Badger Lake
June 30	10 am	Toddler Time Outdoors—Animals—ages 1-3	Camp WaNoKi

For a complete compilation, registration information and more view the  
***2021 Webster County Conservation Program Guide***  
link on next page!

***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@webstercountya.org](mailto:conservation@webstercountya.org)

[www.mycountyparks.com/Webster.aspx](http://www.mycountyparks.com/Webster.aspx)



# Webster County Conservation

## STAFF

Matt Cosgrove	Director
Cody Peterson	Operations Supervisor
Darren Herzog	Park Ranger
Joe Sherbon	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
Kyle Redmond	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.*