

Pathways to Nature

A Newsletter of the Webster County Conservation Board

March 2021



Special Edition—Celebrating the Friends of Webster County Conservation

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Lessons Learned—Living One Year in a Global Pandemic

By Matt Cosgrove, Director

It's hard to believe that this month marks one year since COVID-19 was discovered in Iowa. As I reflect on the past twelve months, I'm reminded of some valuable lessons that will change the way I view the world moving forward.

- Life is short. Don't sweat the small stuff and enjoy each day!
- During this time of crisis, people have found comfort in the outdoors and have re-discovered the natural world close to home.
- Quality of Life amenities are an essential part of any community. Parks, trails and green spaces play a huge role in our physical and mental well-being. *(I already knew this one)*
- Our friends, families and relationships are the most important things in our lives. For many, the pandemic has changed or cancelled family plans... no birthdays, holidays and vacations .

For these reasons, this edition of the "Pathways to Nature" Newsletter is dedicated to the Friends of Webster County Conservation and the important role they play in their relationship with the Conservation Board and the many benefits they offer the citizens and visitors of Webster County.

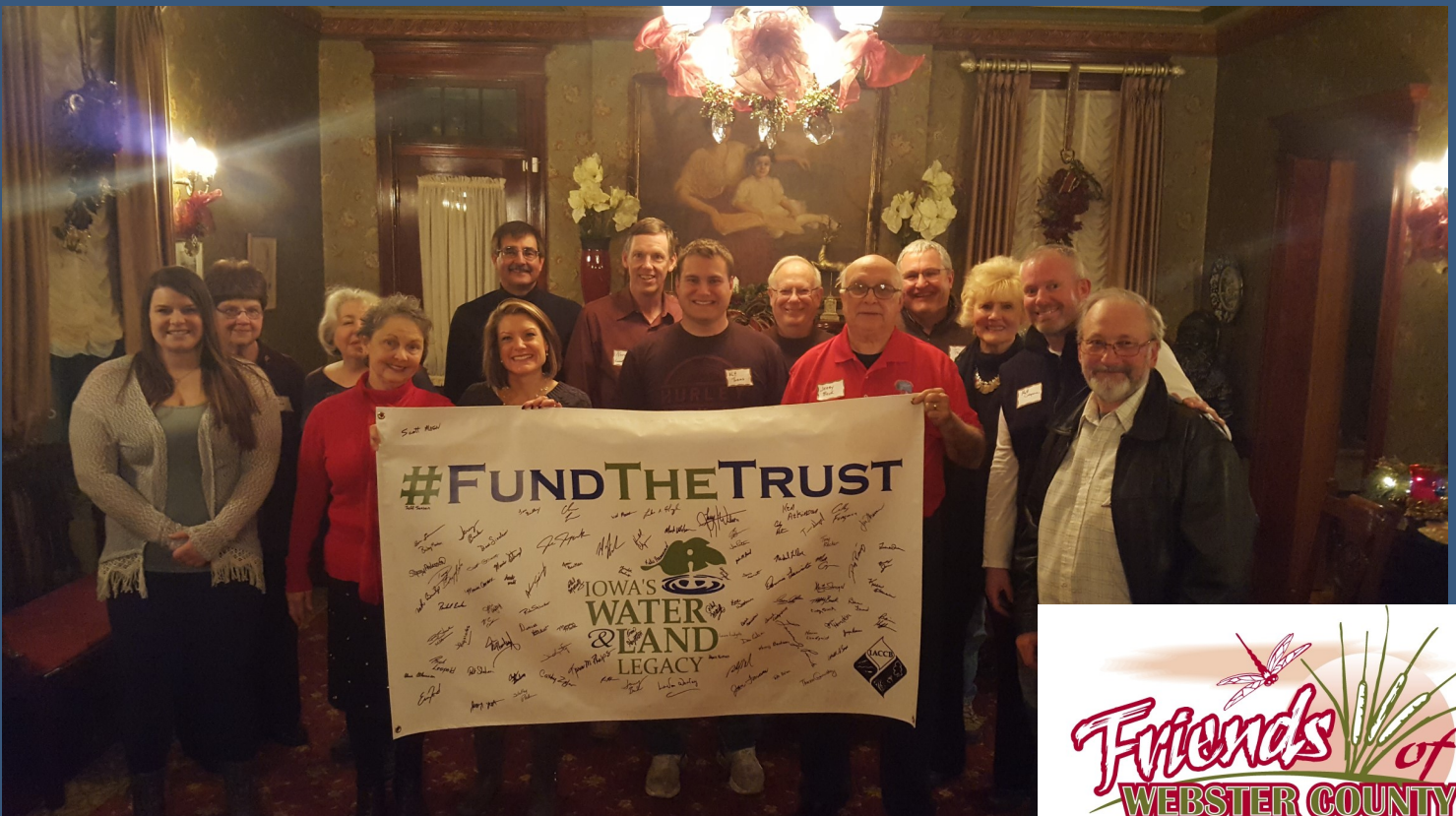
In the beginning—the Friends of Webster County Conservation

On a September evening in 2004, a group of concerned citizens gathered in the Bob Heun Shelter at Kennedy Park to discuss the future of conservation and recreation in Webster County. During the discussion a vision emerged – a local investment in the natural resources of Webster County is essential for providing environmental stewardship and recreational opportunities for future generations.

The product of this meeting was a (501c3) non-profit organization known as the “*Friends of Webster County Conservation*”. The mission of the group is to provide awareness, appreciation, and the preservation of Webster County’s natural resources for future generations.

The mission will be accomplished by: 1.) Encouraging the citizens of Webster County to be good stewards of the land, 2.) Providing educational programming that allows people to interact with the natural environment, and 3.) Creating an opportunity for local citizens to actively participate in the decision-making process for conservation and recreation issues in Webster County.

“A Friend may well be reckoned the masterpiece of Nature.” **Ralph Waldo Emerson**



The “Keepers of the Land” Fund

An established fund of cash, securities or other assets set aside for perpetuity to provide long-term funding for the Friends of Webster County Conservation

“Keepers of the Land”

Endowment



**A local investment
in the natural
resources &
environmental
education**

- Provide financial support for general conservation, educational purposes and other charitable work of the Friends of Webster County Conservation
- Funds invested and managed by the Fort Dodge Community Foundation
- Tax deductible to the donor
- Additional State tax credit may be available
- Annual distribution of 3% – 5%
- All gifts are irrevocable

Conservation & Education

Non-Endowed Fund

Funds will be used to improve facilities, provide equipment, and assist with programming for environmental education in Webster County



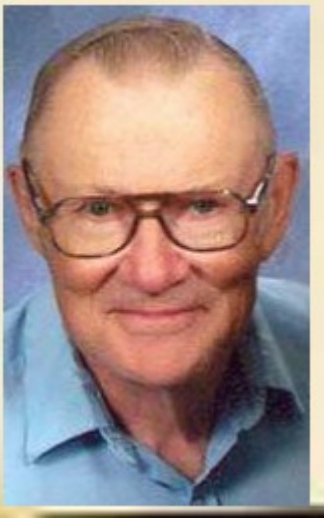
- Funds are invested and managed by the Fort Dodge Community Foundation
- Tax deductible with donor documentation
- Expenditures of funds must be directed and approved by a motion of the Friends Board
- All gifts are irrevocable

If you are interested in making a donation to the “Keepers of the Land” Fund or would like more information, please contact the Conservation Office at (515)576-4258 or conservation@webstercountyia.org, or the Fort Dodge Community Foundation.

Orville O'Connell Scholarship Fund

**One \$500 scholarship
awarded annually**

- Webster County resident
- Candidate pursuing a degree in:
 - Conservation
 - Natural Resource Management
 - Wildlife Biology
 - Animal/Fisheries Ecology
 - Related natural resource fields
- Prefer students that have completed at least one year of post-secondary education
- Applications received by May 1
- Tax deductible contributions
- Applications should be directed to:
 - *Friends of Webster County Conservation*
 - *c/o Scholarship Committee*
 - *1415 Nelson Ave.*
 - *Fort Dodge, IA 50501*
 - *PH: 515-576-4258*



Orville O'Connell lived a life of service and conservation. He served on the Conservation Board for 23 years (1984-2006)

Friends “Keepers of the Land”

Stewardship Opportunities

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. These events are typically held monthly in the evening on the third Tuesday of each month. If you are interested in lending a hand, please contact the Conservation Office at 576-4258 or conservation@webstercountyia.org to sign up. Updates will be posted on the Conservation Department Facebook Page.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Time</u>
March 30	Kennedy Park Playscape	Mulch, stain, prep for season	6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
April 20	Kennedy Park Veteran’s Park	Mulch trees, weed/plant flower beds	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
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	River float & clean-up	9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
	* Held on Saturday		
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.





stewardship





Projects



Call of the Wild

Planning is underway for the Friends of Webster County Conservation's annual "Call of the Wild" event and fundraiser.

Follow Webster County Conservation's Facebook Page for updates!

A Benefit for Conservation & Environmental Education

Sponsored by the Friends of Webster County Conservation

Proceeds benefit conservation & education projects in Webster County



Upcoming Public Programs & Events

Your Guide To The Outside

Date	Time	Activity	Location
March 29	6:00 pm	Friends of WCC board meeting	Kennedy Park
March 30	6-7 pm	Stewardship— Mulch, stain, etc.	KP playscape
April 20	6-7:30 pm	Stewardship—Mulch, pull weeds, plant	KP Vet's Park
April 22	6-8 pm	Fireside Chat — Earth Day Exploration	Camp WaNoKi
April 22	6:30-8:30 pm	Winery Nature Craft class	Soldier Creek Winery
May 13	6-8 pm	Fireside Chat — Lyme Disease & Morel Hunting	Camp WaNoKi
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 

Upcoming Public Programs & Events

Your Guide To The Outside

Webster County
Conservation

New Program Guide

Complete
program list



Webster County Conservation 2021 Program Guide

Camps

Programs

Stewardship

Rentals



NATURE DISCOVERY ADVENTURE



online access

www.mycountyparks.com

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

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.