PUBLIC PROGRAM GUIDE





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Nick Carlson Geri Winge Jerry Beck K.C. Coleman

Beth Collins



# YOUR 2024 GUIDE TO THE OUTSIDE

The Webster County Conservation Board invites you to explore over 2,000 acres of public parks, wildlife management areas, trails, water trails, Off-Highway Vehicle trails, nature preserves and historic sites. The board appreciates the opportunity to manage YOUR public lands and looks forward to hosting you and your family and friends as you make memories in the scenic Des Moines River Valley of North-Central Iowa! How to Use This Guide: This outdoor guide is designed to be your primary resource for outdoor adventure, programs and facilities in Webster County! The Conservation Department offers reservations for shelters, camping and overnight accommodations through the www.mycountyparks.com website. There are programs that require registration and/or a minimal fee to help cover the cost of the event. Most program registrations can be found by scanning the QR codes at the bottom of each page. Partnership programs will have a QR code next to them to use for non-county registrations, for any inquiries please call 515-576-4258.

The Webster County Conservation Department creates an electronic newsletter with a variety of information about current conservation and recreation-related topics called "Pathways to Nature". If you would like to be added to our newsletter list, please send an email to conservation@webstercountyia.gov with "Subscribe" in the subject line.

For additional information about everything Webster County Conservation has to offer scan the QR codes Below.







# CAMPS

TREAT YOUR CHILD TO A FUN SUMMER THEY'LL NEVER FORGET! OUR NATURE CAMPS ENCOURAGE NATURAL CURIOSITY OF THE OUTDOORS AND ENGAGE KIDS IN FUN AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

Summer program registrations will begin May1st



## scan to

## Intro to the Outdoors \$

Loomis Park

N 7th St & Loomis Park Drive, Fort Dodge

Ages 3-4: <u>June 3rd</u>, <u>4th & 5th</u> 9:30 - 10:15 am

Age 2: <u>June 3rd & 4th</u> 10:30 - 11:00 am

Webster Country Conservation is partnering with the City of Fort Dodge to bring fun nature programs to Loomis Park. Registration is available online at Fort Dodge Parks and Rec.

## Nature Link Day Camp \$

Kennedy Park

1415 Nelson Ave, Fort Dodge

Ages 7-9: <u>June 27th & July 25th</u> 9:00 - 3:00 pm

Each camp will include outdoor nature exploration, activities and snacks. Please bring a lunch, refillable water bottle, old clothes, long pants, closed toed shoes, insect repellent and sunscreen. \$10 per participant, registration required (min participation 8, max 12).

## Summer WILD Camp \$

Camp WaNoKi

2400 WaNoKi Camp Road, Fort Dodge

Ages 10-12: <u>June 24, 25, 28 & July 9, 10, 11</u> 9:00 - 3:00 pm

Boys & Girls - Survival Skills, Land Stewardship, & Shooting Fun

These two camps will cover outdoor skills including fire starting, shelter building, hiking, compass use, orienteering, land stewardship work, archery, atlatls, wildlife, etc. \$30 per participant, registration required (min participation 8, max 12).



## Spring into Spring

Camp WaNoKi 2400 WaNoKi Camp Rd

Families March 16 12--4:00 pm

- Golden antler hunt
- · Maple syruping
- Walking sticks DIY
- · Dutch oven cornbread
- · Bird house giveaway

Bring the family for outdoor fun. Hike the trails at WaNoKi looking for a "golden antler". Watch how maple syrup is made and taste some on cornbread. Try making your own walking stick. No fee.



## Tuesday at Ten Hikes

Follow Facebook for new hiking locations each month March 19/ April 16/ May 28/ June 18/ July 16/ Aug. 20/ Sept. 17/ Oct. 15/ Nov. 19/ Dec. 17 10:00 am

Need someone to hike with? Maybe you're a mom of young ones but want to get them all out hiking. This could be one of the best things you do for yourself or your entire family. Join others who love to get outdoors. Go at your own pace, but with the support and safety of others.

## Trick or Treating

Kennedy Park & Gypsum City OHV Campgrounds
1415 Nelson Ave & 2390 Mill Road, Fort Dodge
Families Oct 12th 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Dress in your favorite costume and walk the campgrounds for trick or treating.



## Spring: Evening Hike

Children's Forest

1386 National Ave, Fort Dodge

Families April 23rd 7:00 pm

Get out of the house and bring the family to the Children's Forest parking lot for a evening hike with the naturalist.



## Kids Trap Shoot

ICCC Trap Range
2091 Richmill Road, Fort Dodge
Ages 12-18 Aug 10th 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Sponsored by Webster County Pheasants Forever, Webster County
Conservation & Iowa Central Community College. Call 515-5764258 to register and for more information.



### **Youth Pheasant Hunt**

Kennedy Park 1415 Nelson Ave, Fort Dodge Age 15 and under <u>Oct 19th</u> 8:00 - 12:00 pm

Webster County Conservation is partnering with Pheasants Forever & Iowa Central Community College to provide a mentored youth pheasant hunt. Participants must be 15 or younger. For registration and information please call 515-576-4258.

## Kayaking Beginners Class \$

Kennedy Park, boat ramp 1415 Nelson Ave, Fort Dodge Ages 13 and up <u>July 11th</u> 6:00 pm

This course covers kayaking basics including safety, personal flotation devices, paddling skills and techniques, entering and exiting kayaks and more. Classes are instructed 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. Payment will be taken at the beginning of class. Contact Webster County at 515-576-4258 for registration. Private lessons are also available.

## Stand Up Paddle Boarding \$

Kennedy Park, 1415 Nelson Ave, Fort Dodge <u>June/July & Aug</u>

Call and reserve a date and time for your group to learn the basics of paddle boarding. \$10 per person (max of 4 people due to availability of boards). Call 515-576-4258 to schedule.





Kids: Artists by Nature \$

Kennedy Park, Children's Forest 1386 National Ave, Fort Dodge July 10th, 23rd & Aug 8th 9:30 am All Ages In partnership with the Blanden Art Museum students will combine nature and art to create take home masterpieces. Classes will be outside weather permitting. To register for classes go to https://www.blanden.org/classes-events or scan the





City of Fort Ďodge information

## Kids to Parks Day

OR code.

Fort Dodge Parks and Rec / Webster County Conservation Webster County

Families May 18th

Webster County Conservation is partnering with the City of Fort Dodge for National Kids to Parks Day, a day of outdoor play. Find word clues at 3 county & 3 city parks to win prizes, For more information visit www.fortdodgeiowa.org or scan the QR code.



Winery registration

## Nature Craft at the Winery \$

Soldier Creek Winery / Webster County Conservation 1584 Paragon Ave, Fort Dodge

Nov 7th & March 6th (2025) 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Webster County Conservation is partnering with Soldier Creek Winery for of their monthly craft nights. Sign up through Soldier Creek Winery's website https://soldiercreekwinery.com/events/#public-events or scan the QR code.



Families registration

## Play & Learn at the Park \$

1415 Nelson Ave & 2400 WaNoKi Camp Rd Fort Dodge

Families 9:00 - 11:00 am

Kennedy Park: June 26th, July 31st & Aug 7th

Camp WaNoKi: June 12, July 17, Aug. 14

Join us for nature fun and exploration as we partner with Fort Dodge Play & Learn for some play at the park days. Visit this website to register https://www.linking-families.com/play-and-learn-center or scan the OR code.



## Fireside Chat Series 6:00 pm

Camp WaNoKi 2400 WaNoKi Camp Road, Fort Dodge

The Fireside Chats are open to the public and generally geared for all ages, with families in mind.

Pre-register at www.mycountyparks.com

## June 27 Primitive Weapons

A little history lesson about weapons from the past will start this active evening. Join the fun as we offer participants the chance to use a variety of weapons from the past. Dart throwing with atlatls, tomahawks, knives, and slingshots will be offered.



## July 25 Campfire Cooking

Learn how to build a campfire for cooking. Different cooking methods will be demonstrated and participants may try one. Different ingredients will be available for sampling. Participants are encouraged to bring their own pie iron or Dutch oven along with any ingredients to share. This is a great family outdoor activity to utilize at home.

#### Aug 22 Geocaching

Learn the basics of Geocaching with the use of your cell phone. Geocaching is a popular hobby and a good way to get outdoors to explore the woods as you search for a geocaches. Join us as we go on a quest for some geocaches at Camp WaNoKi. We will have GPS units for use if you don't have the geocaching app on your cell phone.

## **Sept 26** Flint Knapping

Local knappers, Donnie Arends and Matt Mitchell, will help beginners learn about this ancient art of creating a functional tool from stone. Available will be some examples of different tools that would have been used by people long ago in everyday life. This hands on activity will allow participants to try to create their own "arrowhead" or similar tool.

## Oct 24 Luminary Night Hike

Ever hiked in the dark? Enjoy the mysteries of the night with a guide leading the way following a trail of luminaries. Learn about nocturnal woodland animals and their adaptations for survival. Bring a headlamp if you have one; a limited supply will be provided.



# EVENT LIST

## MARCH

Spring into Spring EventTuesday at Ten <u>Hike</u>

## APRIL

16th Tuesday at Ten Hike

23rd Spring Evening Night Hike

## MAY

18th National Kids to Parks Day28th Tuesday at Ten Hike

## JUNE

7th - 9th Free Fishing Weekend

3rd - 5th Intro to the Outdoors (3 & 4 yr)
 3rd & 4th Intro to the Outdoors (2 yr)
 12th Play & Learn at Camp WaNoKi

18th Tuesday at Ten Hike

24th, 25th & 28th Summer WILD Camp

26th Play & Learn at Kennedy27th Nature Link Day Camp

27th Fireside Chat--Primtive Weapons

June Stand Up Paddle Boarding

## JULY

9th - 11th Summer WILD Camp
10th Kids: Artists by Nature
11th Beginners Kayaking Class
16th Tuesday at Ten Hike
25th Nature Link Day Camp
17th Play & Learn at Camp WaNoKi
25th Fireside Chat -- Campfire Cooking

31st Play & Learn at Kennedy
July Stand Up Paddle Boarding





## AUGUST

TBD River Clean-up

7th Play & Learn at Kennedy 18th Kids: Artists by Nature

10th Kids Trap Clinic

14th Play & Learn at Camp WaNoKi

20th Tuesday at Ten Hike

22nd Fireside Chat -- Geocaching August Stand Up Paddle Boarding

## <u>SEPTEMBER</u>

17th Tuesday at Ten Hike

26th Fireside Chat -- Flint Knapping
TBD Call of the Wild Fundraiser

## **OCTOBER**

12th Trick or Treat Campgrounds

15th Tuesday at Ten Hike19th Youth Pheasant Hunt

24th Fireside Chat --Luminary Night Hike

## **NOVEMBER**

7th Nature Craft at the Winery

19th Tuesday at Ten Hike

## DECEMBER- FEBRUARY

Pop-up programing

• Stay tuned for River's Edge Discovery Center Programming

Additional pop-up programming throughout the year...follow us on Facebook

Contact us at: <u>(515) 576-4258</u> Email: <u>conservation@webstercountyia.gov</u> Making Webster County a great place to work, live, and play!



The Friends of Webster County Conservation is a non-profit organization of people who are concerned with preserving our natural areas and providing opportunities for people to interact and learn about our natural environment.

## BECOME A FRIEND!



Scan the code for our online membership form



# Keepers of the Land Volunteer Opportunities:

Kennedy Park Water Monitors Center Hosts

Tree Care Natural Resources Trail Stewards

Parks Goat Grazing Special Event Helpers

Playground Invasive Species Environmental Ed/
Spruce Up Removal Outdoor Recreation

Garbage Wildlife River's Edge Wranglers Managment Areas Discovery Center

We are bolstering our Volunteer Program and hope to build a diverse base of individuals and groups to share their talents and time at your parks and facilities.

To volunteer scan the QR code.



# RIVER'S EDGE



## RIVER'S EDGE DISCOVERY CENTER

Pledge & Donation Form



Full Name / Company:			
Spouse/Partner Full Name:			
Address:	City, State, Zip:		
Email Address:			
I/We would like to make an immediate of	donation of \$		to this project.
I/We would like to make a pledge of \$		over	years. (1, 2, or 3 yrs)
This gift is a corporate commitment from:			
Name and title of corporate contact:			
Please have this gift recognized in publication	ons, Wall of Honor, (etc.) in th	ne following w	ay:

<sup>\*</sup> All donations/pledges over \$100 will be permanently recognized at the facility in order of giving levels. Your gift is tax deductible according to current tax law.



#### MAIL PLEDGE & GIFT TO:

Friends of Webster County Conservation c/c River's Edge Discovery Center 1415 Nelson Ave Fort Dodge IA 50501 QUESTIONS? Call: 515-576-4258 Thank You!
Webster County
CONSERVATION

Webster County Conservation 1415 Nelson Avenue, Fort Dodge, Iowa www.mycountyparks.com conservation@webstercountyia.gov

# KENNEDY PARK & GYPSUM CITY OHV CAMPGROUNDS

## ONLINE RESERVATIONS

THIS SIGN IS POSTED AT RESERVABLE SITES



RESERVE THIS CAMPSITE ONLINE

IF NOT RESERVED

PLEASE DO NOT REGISTER FOR MORE THAN 2 DAYS AT A TIME





Reservable campsites are available online at <a href="https://www.mycountyparks.com">www.mycountyparks.com</a>

Reservations must be made 5 days prior to arrival, full payment required at time of reservation.

# FEE SCHEDULE



## CAMPING (APR 15TH - OCT 15TH)

## Kennedy Park

Full Hook-up \$25/per night
Full Hook-up (reservation) \$30/per night
\*must reserve 5 days ahead online

Electric Only \$20/per night
Primitive \$15/per night
Seasonal Sites \$2,500

\*Firewood \$5/bundle

\*Dump Station Fee \$3 (Non Campers Only)

## SHELTER RENTAL

## Bob Heun Shelter at Kennedy

Rent (Fri/Sat/Sun) \$300 (Mon -Thurs) \$150 Dec - Feb (Mon - Fri only) \$100

## Terry Moehnke Veteran's

## Memorial Park at Kennedy

Amphitheater/Shelter Rental \$100

Military FREE

\*must contact office for free reservation

## The Lodge at Camp WaNoKi

Rent (Fri/Sat/Sun) \$300 (Mon - Thurs) \$150

## **Gypsum City OHV**

Full Hook Up \$30/per night
Electric & Water Only \$25/per night
Sites 1-8 are walk up ONLY
\*Must reserve 5 days ahead online
Friday/Saturday's booked together
3 night min on holiday weekends

# YURTS & TINY HOMES (APR 15TH - OCT 15TH)

## <u>Kennedy Park</u>

Mulligan Yurt \$125/per night Rod & Reel Yurt \$125/per night

\*must reserve 3 days ahead online 2 night min rental/3 night min on holiday weekends

## **Gypsum City OHV**

Mill House \$75/per night
Bunk House \$100/per night
Hunting Cabin \$100/per night

\*must reserve 3 days ahead online Friday/Saturday's booked together 3 night min on holiday weekends

Reservations on-line by scanning the QR code www.mycountyparks.com - \$4.00 processing fee per facility added



# RENTAL INFORMATION

You can check out equipment by filling out the appropriate rental form online at www.webstercountyia.gov, once filled out and returned, staff from Webster County Conservation will contact you with rental details. Payment and a photo ID will be accepted at the River's Edge Discovery Center prior to your rental.

## <u>Snowshoes & Cross Country Ski (skis/boots/poles) Rental:</u>

- Rentals must be picked up Mon Fri by scheduling a pickup time with staff between 9-4 pm and all rentals must be returned by 4 pm to the park office on date scheduled to
- Kids 15 & under FREE with an adult rental
- Rentals may be extended for long holiday weekends, must be approved by the WCCB staff
- On clinic days equipment can be rented out after clinics, clinics will be posted to our Facebook page

Skí Set / Snowshoes: \$10/day \$20/wknd \$30/wk

## Kayaks/Canoe Rental:

- Rentals must be picked up Mon Fri by scheduling a pickup time with staff between 9-4 pm and all rentals must be returned by 4 pm to the park office on date scheduled to return
- 6 Kayaks and 2 canoes available
- 5 Stand Up Paddle Boards 2 hour rental on Badger Lake only
- Must be at least 18 years old to rent
- What you need to bring ...

Cash or check—must be paid in full at time of rental Photo ID and/or Current Driver's License Proof of completion of safe paddling course for water vessel rental

Stand-Up Paddle Board

Kayak & Canoes

\$15/2-hr (M-F)\*use at Badger Lake Only

\$15/2-hr (M-F) \$20/day \$30/wknd

\$100/wk

All equipment will be loaned out on a first-come, first-served basis however calling ahead for availability is encouraged. Before leaving Webster County Conservation, you are responsible for inspecting all equipment carefully and to bring any missing or damaged equipment to a staff member's attention. Make sure any discrepancies are noted on the rental agreement. Failure to note any discrepancies may result in a fee for damaged or missing equipment.

Don't have a paddle safety course!?

Don't Worry!! Visit <a href="https://www.boaterexam.com/paddling/">www.boaterexam.com/paddling/</a> for a FREE online course!

(Required prior to renting paddle craft)







## GYPSUM CITY OHV PARK

Iowa's largest Off-Highway Vehicle Park, Gypsum City, offers 800 acres of land and 65 miles of trails through rolling hills and timber. Located southeast of Fort Dodge, the park serves as a destination for ATVs, dirt bikes, side-by-sides and snowmobiles. In addition to trails, the park includes a 1.5 mile motocross track, an amateur supercross track, skills developmental course, a youth track and a beginner/safety training area.

Trails are open sunrise to sunset. The park may close due to heavy rainfall or maintenance activities. Please check the Iowa DNR website for closures and a complete list of rules and regulations.

https://www.iowadnr.gov/Things-to-Do/Off-Highway-Vehicles

## REQUIRED TO RIDE:

Current Iowa DNR registration Helmets for all riders



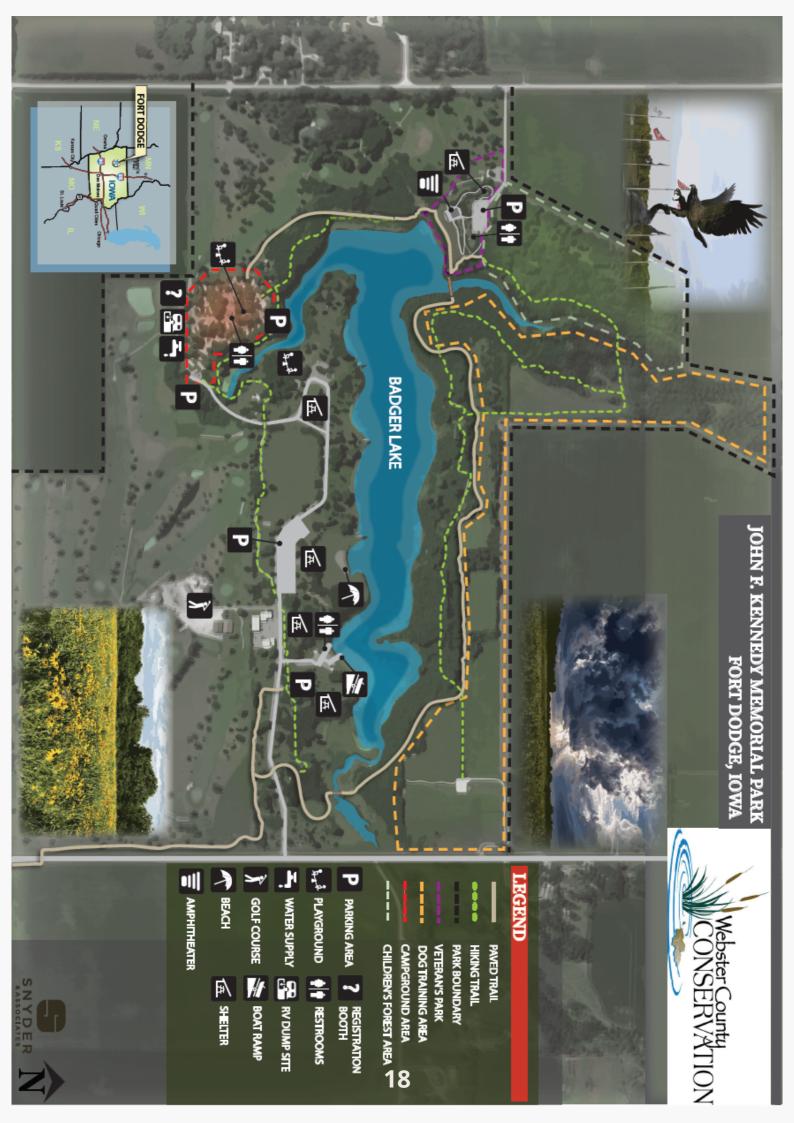
For additional requirements, visit link above or scan the QR code.

The park also includes a 33-site campground with full hook-up and electric/water sites. Modern shower house, picnic tables and grills are available. Three tiny homes are also located within the campground. Sites and tiny homes are reservable at www.mycountyparks.com.

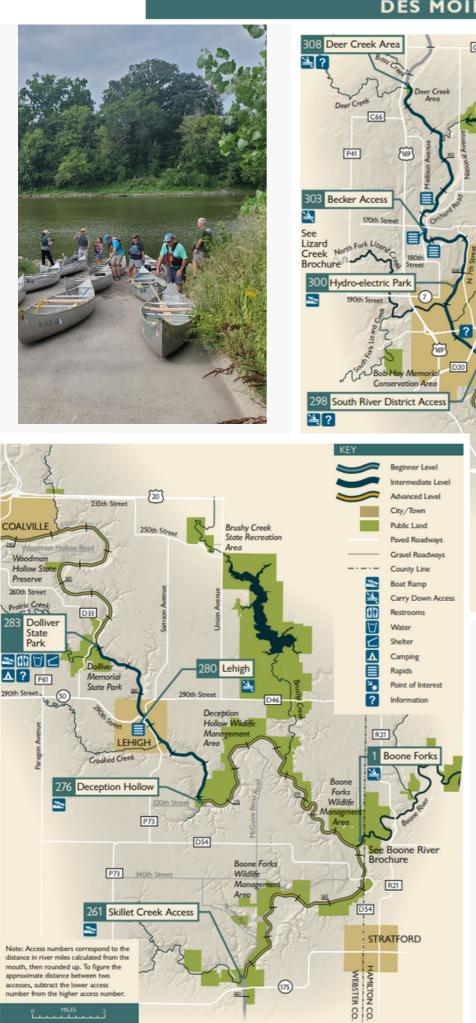


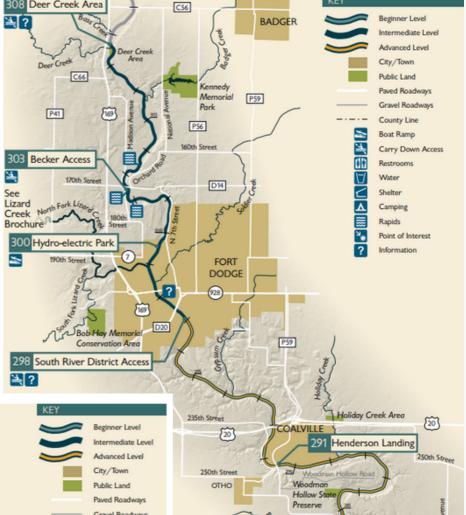






## **DES MOINES RIVER WATER TRAIL**



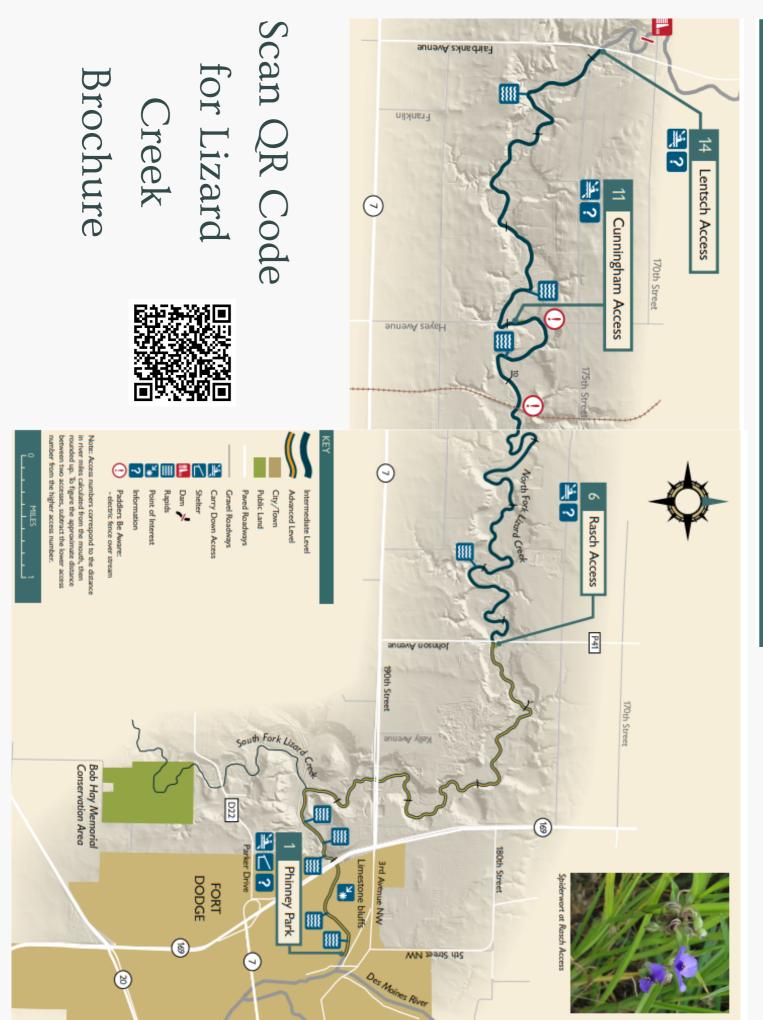


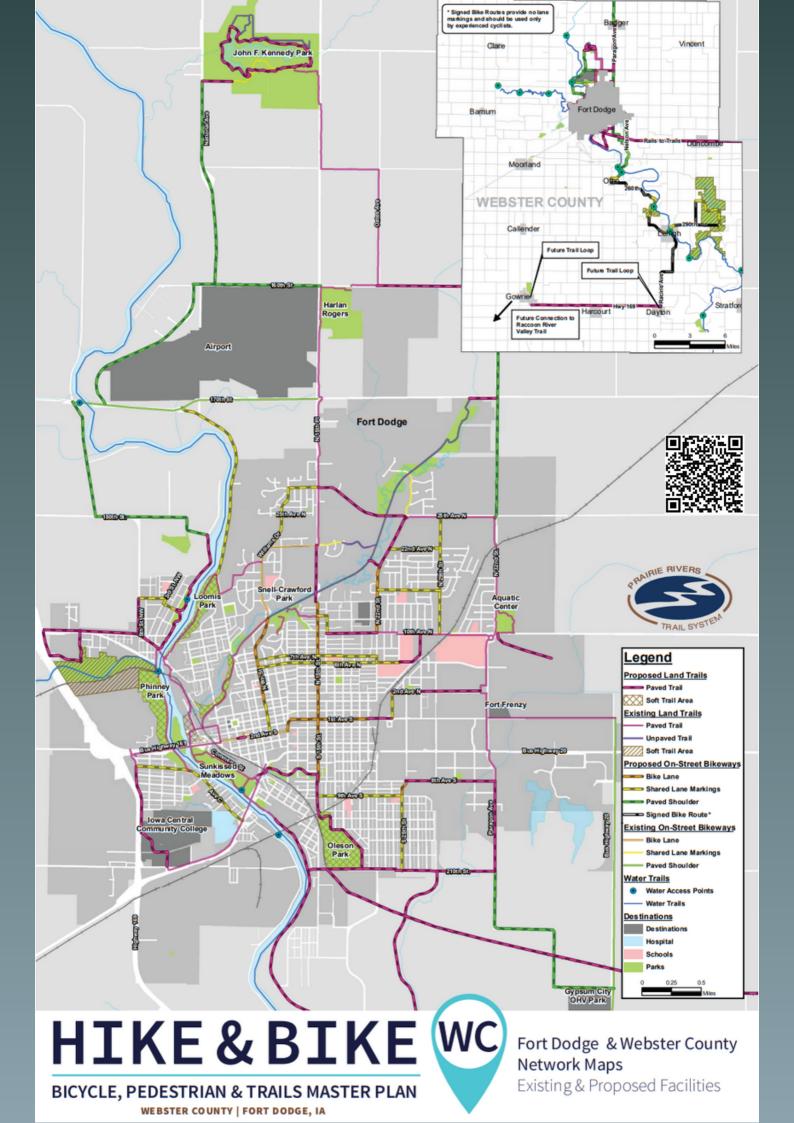
283 Dolliver State Park

Scan QR
Code for
DSM River
Brochure

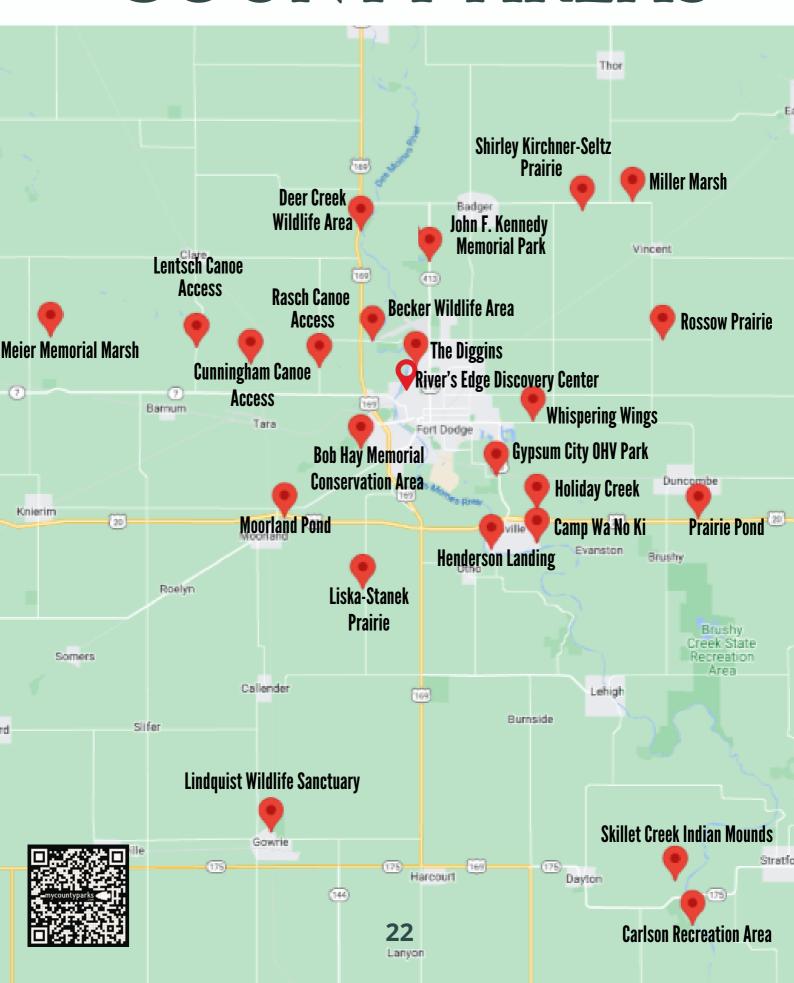
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# WEBSTER COUNTY AREAS



## WEBSTER COUNTY AREA AMENITIES

## **QUICK GLANCE AMENITY ICONS**

























AKFA	
/ 1111-/1	

**BECKER WILDLIFE AREA** 

BOB HAY MEMORIAL CONSERVATION AREA AVE O WEST, FD

CAMP WA NO KI

CARLSON RECREATION AREA

**CUNNINGHAM ACCESS** 

DEER CREEK WILDLIFE AREA

GYPSUM CITY OHV PARK

HENDERSON RIVER ACCESS

HOLIDAY CREEK WILDLIFE AREA

JOHN F. KENNEDY MEMORIAL PARK

LENTSCH ACCESS

LINDOUIST WILDLIFF SANCTUARY

LISKA-STANEK PRAIRIE

MEIER MEMORIAL MARSH

MILLER MARSH

MOORLAND POND

PRAIRIE POND

RASCH ACCESS

**ROSSOW PRAIRE** 

RIVER'S EDGE DISCOVERY CENTER

SHIRLEY KIRCHNER-SELTZ YOUTH PRAIRIE

SKILLET CREEK INDIAN MOUNDS

THE DIGGINS

WHISPERING WINGS

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H	UL	JI I	Lu	
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1702 MADISON AVE. FD

2400 WA NO KI CAMP ROAD, FD

3838 RIVER RD. DAYTON

1780 HAYS AVE, FD

HWY 169. FD

2390 MILL RD, FD

**NELSON AVE, KALO** 

PETERSON DRIVE, FD

1415 NELSON AVE, FD

1500 175TH ST. CLARE PLEASANT ST. GOWRIE

2601 JOHNSON AVE. FD

170TH ST. MANSON

120TH ST. BADGER

1599 HWY 20. MOORLAND

VASSE AVE, DUNCOMBE 1794 JOHNSON AVE, FD

70TH ST, VINCENT

20 N 1ST ST, FD

TAYLOR AVE. VINCENT

RIVER ROAD, DAYTON

25TH AVE N. FD

OLD HWY 20. FD

## **ACRES**

10

225

80

176

.28

17

800

2.73

36

400

.28

7

20 35

185

23

18

1.04 40

5

80 19

7 20



























## FAQ

## \* Can I reserve a campsite at Kennedy Park Campground?

Campsites 5 - 14 may be reserved online at www.mycountyparks.com. The remaining campsites at Kennedy Park Campground are available on a first come, first served basis. There are 7 seasonal campsites available that must be applied for by October of each year and are drawn lottery-style.

## \* Can I reserve a campsite at Gypsum City OHV Park Campground?

Yes, you can reserve most campsites at Gypsum City OHV Park Campground. Sites 1 – 8 are available on a first come, first served basis. The remaining sites may be reserved at www.mycountyparks.com.

## \* How do I go about reserving your other facilities?

All other rentable facilities are available to be reserved online at www.mycountyparks.com. That includes: Bob Heun Shelter House, Terry Moehnke Veteran's Memorial Park Amphitheater, Kennedy Park Yurts, The Lodge at Camp WaNoKi, and Tiny Homes at Gypsum City.

## \* Can I reserve the open shelters at Kennedy Park?

No, the open shelters at Kennedy Park are available on a first come, first served basis only. The Terry Moehnke Veteran's Memorial Park shelter does require a reservation.

## \* What if I need to cancel my reservation?

Please understand at the time of booking your reservation you immediately prohibit other people from reserving and utilizing that facility they, therefore, go elsewhere to locate a facility for that date. Should you choose to cancel your reservation you will forfeit 100% of all reservation fees paid or you have the opportunity to reschedule within 12 months. \*\*Gypsum City OHV Park Campground users have the option of utilizing a coupon code to reschedule at a later time if trails are closed.

## \* How do I know if the OHV Park is open?

To check the status of the OHV park, please visit www.iowadnr.gov -> Things To Do -> Off-Highway Vehicles

## \* What do I need in order to ride at Gypsum City OHV Park?

To ride at Gypsum City, your machine must display a current registration and you MUST wear a helmet. For a complete listing of the park's rules and regulations, please visit: <a href="https://www.iowadnr.gov">www.iowadnr.gov</a> -> Things To Do -> Off-Highway Vehicles

## \* Who do I call if I have questions regarding wildlife?

Please call State Conservation Officer, Bill Spece: 515-571-0127

## \* What if I have questions about a city park?

Please contact Fort Dodge Parks and Recreation Department: 515-576-7237

## \* How do I contact Lakeside Golf Course?

Please call 515-576-6741

## \* How do I contact our local state parks?

Brushy Creek State Recreation Area: 515-543-8298 / Dolliver State Park: 515-359-2539

