

Newsletter



A Newsletter of the Webster County Conservation Board

GETTING BY...WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

EXCITING NEWS IN 2024...Webster County Conservation is rolling out a new volunteer program called “Keepers of the Land”. For years the Conservation Department has relied heavily on our generous volunteers to accomplish our mission. The department staff is working to launch a new program that will organize our volunteer efforts and allow interested individuals to participate in park and land stewardship opportunities throughout the county’s parks, wildlife areas and facilities.

The program will offer a variety of volunteer opportunities that can be tailored to align with the interests and strengths of the volunteer. The program will list volunteer options that can be a one-time project or a recurring task and will be available for individuals, groups and businesses. The program details and volunteer opportunities will be posted at www.mycountyparks.com. **Launch date is January 1, 2024!**



KEEPERS OF THE LAND Volunteer Opportunities

- General Park/Grounds Maintenance
- Veteran’s Park Maintenance
- Children’s Forest Steward
- River’s Edge Discovery Center Greeter
- Trail Maintenance
- Habitat/Land Management
- Environmental Education

*STAY
Tuned...*





RIVER CLEANUP RESULTS FROM AUGUST 5TH, 2023

First a great big thank you for all that made this event the success it was. It would not have been possible without the unique skillsets of all involved.



OUR MISSION:

- Cleanup 2.3 miles of the Des Moines River starting at Sunkissed Meadows Park in Fort Dodge and finishing just south of the City Limits
- a wish list of 24 tires, 3 metal culverts, a toilet, a T.V., a traffic cone, and one plastic pallet. (aside from the normal trash) was the goal.
- Also get it done safely and timely

OUR FLEET:

- Number of participants: 23
- Number of Staff: 5
- Land resources: 5
- Number of boats: 15
(13 canoes & 2 kayaks)



COLLECTION STATS



- 1 ton of Metal
- 72 Tires weighing 4,020 lbs. collectively
- 1 ton of trash was landfilled
- 2 T.V.'s
- 3 of the heaviest microwaves ever lifted



IT ALL ADDS UP

2,000 lbs. of metal
4,020 lbs. of tires
+2,000 lbs. of trash
over 8,000 lbs. or 4 tons of
unwanted material pulled from the
Des Moines River.

LOOKING AHEAD:

These are just 2.3 of more than 50 Des Moines River miles in Webster County, not to mention The Lizard Creek and other local bodies of water. We challenge anyone that is out enjoying our great natural resource assets to Leave It Better Than You Found It and all will benefit.

CAMPING

at Kennedy Park

6 MONTHS OF
CAMPING FOR
ONLY

\$2,500

2024 SEASONAL CAMPSITE INFORMATION

John F Kennedy Park Campground will offer asphalt pads, electric, water & sewer hook ups. Sites will be available April 15 through October 15. For more information, please call 515-576-4258 or visit www.mycountyparks.com.



Applications

Available online or at the WCCB office Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm. Applications are due in office by Friday, September 29, 2023.



Drawing

Drawing for sites will take place during the regular October Conservation Board meeting, October 10, 2023 at approx. 5:30 pm



Deposit

If selected for a site, a \$500 deposit is due by November 1, 2023. The remaining \$2,000 will be due by April 15, 2024.

FOR AN APPLICATION:
1415 NELSON AVE FORT DODGE
www.mycountyparks.com/County/Webster.aspx



CALL OF THE WILD

TRIVIA NIGHT

Come prove your nature knowledge!



**Thursday,
Sept. 28th**

at River Hops Brewery
1014 Central Ave,
Fort Dodge
Happy Hour starts @
5:30pm
Trivia begins @ 6:30pm

- FREE WILL DONATION**
- Nature Trivia
 - Fundraiser
 - Food
 - Round Prizes
 - FUN!!!

All proceeds will support the
River's Edge Discovery Center Project

Register online at
mycountyparks.com by scanning
the QR code, or call the center at:
515-576-4258



Webster County Conservation

Badger Lake Trail Grand Opening

October 14th 4-8 pm

Join us as we celebrate the opening of the Badger Lake Trail at John F. Kennedy Memorial Park! Meet at the Heun Shelter for fun activities for the whole family!

- Fall Photo Booth
- S'more Bar
- Self Guided Luminary Trail Walk
- Chili & Hotdogs, 4pm until gone
- Trick or Treat in Campground, 4-6 pm

*This event is Free Will Donation
with proceeds going towards the
River's Edge Nature Center.*



KENNEDY PARK & GYPSUM CITY OHV CAMPGROUND TRICK OR TREATING

OCTOBER 14TH, 2023

JOIN US FOR OUR LAST WEEKEND OF THE SEASON AS WE HOST A TRICK OR TREAT EVENT IN THE CAMPGROUNDS FROM 4-6 PM. CAMPERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO DECORATE THEIR SITE AND HAND OUT CANDY. PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED FOR BEST DECORATED CAMPERS. NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS WILL BE COLLECT FOR THE FOOD BANKS IN TOWN. PLEASE BRING YOUR DONATIONS TO THE CAMPGROUND HOSTS. WE'RE EXCITED FOR A SPOOKTACULAR EVENT!
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 515-576-4258.

WWW.MYCOUNTPARKS.COM

GYPSUM CITY OHV CAMPGROUND
KENNEDY PARK CAMPGROUND

2390 MILL RD FORT DODGE
1415 NELSON AVE FORT DODGE





FUTURE HOME

OF GYPSUM CITY OHV PARK
PLAYSCAPE!



MINE SHAFT



LOG JAM



OVERLOOK DECK



DIG AREA

ACCEPTING DONATIONS

515-576-4258

For more information contact

nnielsen@webstercountya.org



"Connecting Kids & Nature" Capital Campaign

The Friends of Webster County Conservation launched their "Connecting Kids & Nature" Capital Campaign in the Fall of 2022 with a Trivia Night at River Hops Brewery. The goal of the campaign is to raise \$500,000 of private funds to match the state's \$4 million Destination Iowa Grant. Additional events were held at Soldier Creek Winery and the Lizard Creek Ranch to provide information and spread the word about the fundraising effort.

Thanks to the generous donations of local businesses, individuals and organizations, the campaign has currently raised \$412,000. We need your help to raise the final \$88,000 by the end of 2023 to secure our match to the state's funding.

If you are interested in learning more about the campaign or would like to make a donation, you can fill out the attached donor form or contact the Conservation Department Office for more details and to schedule a presentation.

Stay Tuned for more events coming soon!

\$412,000 FUNDS RAISED

\$500,000
Our goal

THANK
YOU!

We Need You



RIVER'S EDGE DISCOVERY CENTER

Pledge & Donation Form



Full Name / Company: _____

Spouse/Partner Full Name: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ Telephone #: _____

I/We would like to make an immediate 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 publications, Wall of Honor, (etc.) in the following way:

* 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
1415 Nelson Avenue, Fort Dodge, Iowa 515-576-4258
www.mycountyparks.com
conservation@webstercountyia.org

UPCOMING PUBLIC PROGRAMS & EVENTS

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
Sept 28th	5:30 pm	Nature Trivia Night	River Hops Brewery
Oct 4th	10-11:30 am	Toddler Time Outdoors	Camp WaNoKi
Oct 12th	6:30-8:30 pm	Nature Craft at the Winery	Soldier Creek Winery
Oct 14th	4-6 pm	Trick or Treat Campgrounds	Kennedy Park & Gypsum City
Oct 14th	4-8 pm	Trail opening/luminary walk	Kennedy Park
Oct 17th	10 am	Tuesday at Ten Hike	Woodman Hollow Preserve
Oct 18th	10-11:30 am	Toddler Time Outdoors	Camp WaNoKi
Oct 21st	TBD	Youth Pheasant Hunt	Kennedy Park
Oct 26th	6 pm	Luminary Night Hike	Camp WaNoKi
Nov 4th	7 pm	Skillet Creek Night Hike	Skillet Creek Indian Mounds
Nov 21st	10 am	Tuesday at Ten Hike	Camp WaNoKi



For a complete listing of Webster County Conservation events and for more information, including registration, please visit

www.mycountyparks.com/County/Webster.aspx



For the most up to date information,

LIKE us on Facebook:

Webster County Conservation

mycountyparks
.com 

Working together to make Webster County a great place to play, live, and work!

Get Involved & Get Outside!

FRIENDS OF

WEBSTER COUNTY CONSERVATION



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.

Pledge your support today for high quality environmental education, healthy living, expanded open space, restored natural areas and greater outdoor recreation opportunities in Webster County.



BE A FRIEND

Name _____
Phone _____
Address _____
City/Zip _____
Email _____

Membership Levels (please check).

- Family (\$25)
- Business (\$100)
- I would like to volunteer

*Additional gift
*The Friends of Webster County Conservation is a 501c3 organization. Your donation may be considered tax deductible

CONTACT US

515-576-4258
conservation@webstercountya.org
mycountyparks.com
Friends of Webster County Conservation
1415 Nelson Ave Fort Dodge IA 50501

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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./Park Tech
Brody Bertram	Natural Res./Trail Tech
Brittany Ridgway	Office Manager



BOARD MEMBERS

Jerry Beck	Fort Dodge
Geri Winge	Fort Dodge
Nick Carlson	Fort Dodge
KC Coleman	Fort Dodge
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, Webster County Human Resources or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.