



Fiscal Year 2009-10

# Annual Report 2009-10

Webster County Conservation Board

## Mission Statement

*It is the mission of the Webster County Conservation Board to preserve our natural resources, to educate the public about the environment, to create learning and recreational opportunities without exploiting our resources, to promote activities that create an awareness or understanding of the environment through programs of conservation and to ultimately develop environmentally responsible citizens of Webster County.*

## From the Director's Desk

The 2009-10 Fiscal Year has been a time of challenge and excitement. In December 2009, the Board of Supervisors requested all county departments to reduce the current budget by ten percent. While the cuts were difficult, the Conservation Board found a way to trim and save. Department Staff has worked hard to paint instead of replace and stretch our limited resources farther than ever before. Recent budget cuts have encouraged us to re-organize staff and evaluate the programs and events that the County can offer.

In addition to the cuts, the State of Iowa has experienced record-breaking snow and rainfalls. The long, snowy winter and persistent rains have taken their toll on area parks, equipment, and wildlife.



In the midst of our challenges, we find ourselves in exciting times as we continue to develop our Webster County Water Trails Network. We are also making great strides in trail development that will soon connect Fort Dodge to Harlan Rogers and Kennedy Park. Also, the first phase of the Veteran's Memorial Park has been completed by the Noon Sertoma Club.

The Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards is planning for the future by conducting a long-range plan and establishing a committee to make recommendations to the Board of Directors.

The board and staff would like to thank the partners that have supported County Conservation in Webster County over the past year and we look forward to an exciting and prosperous 2010-11!

*Sincerely,*

*Matt Cosgrove, Director*

## Board Members Yrs.

<b>Jerry Beck</b> Chairperson	3
<b>Mark Thompson</b> Vice Chairperson	22
<b>Brad Luke</b> Secretary	10
<b>Jim Eslick</b> Member	4
<b>Kirk Seltz</b> Member	4
<b>Total Yrs. of Service</b>	<b>43</b>

## A Look Back...

- Designated Des Moines River Water Trail
- Phase I Veteran's Memorial Park - Completed
- Rip Rap Badger Lake Shoreline

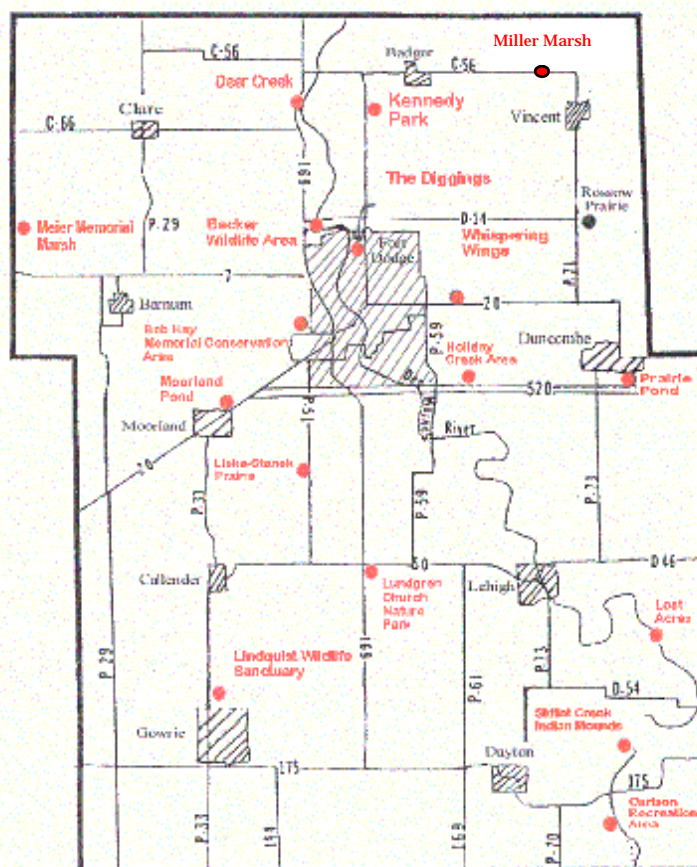
- Installed new Wi-Fi Internet Service in park & campground
- Received \$11,000 DNR Grant to develop the Lizard Creek Water Trail



# County Conservation Lands

Area	Acres
Bob Hay Memorial Wildlife Area	225
Becker Wildlife Area	10
Carlson Recreation Area	126
Deer Creek Wildlife Area	17
Holiday Creek Wildlife Area	36
John F Kennedy Memorial Park	400
Lindquist Wildlife Sanctuary	7
Liska-Stanek Prairie	20
Lost Acres *	28
Lundgren Church Nature Park	1
Meier Memorial Marsh	35
Miller Marsh	185
Moorland Pond	23
Prairie Pond	18
Rossow Prairie	40
Skillet Creek Indian Mounds	19
The Diggings	7
Whispering Wings Marsh	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,217</b>

\* (pending donation to DNR)



*We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.*

Aldo Leopold

## Land Management

### 2009-10 Land Management Activity

Native Grass & CRP Seeding	119 acres
Private acres seeded with CCB drill	129 acres
Prescribed Burning	63 acres
Acres of native seed ordered	131
Bridge & Ditch Clean-out plantings	15
Trees planted	133
Canada Thistle spraying (North 1/2 of county)	
Leafy Spurge spraying (South 1/2 of county)	
Sprayed all county bridge rails (X2)	



### Weed Complaints

2006—21
2007—12
2008—10
2009—7
2010—10



## WCCB...By The Numbers

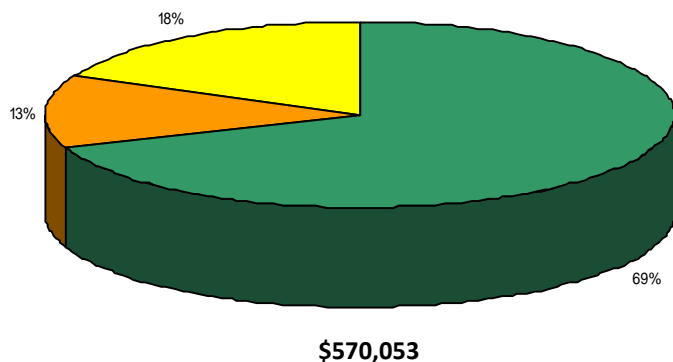
EXPENDITURES—General Fund	2009-10	2008-09
Administration	\$394,427	\$384,229
Operations & Maintenance	<u>\$73,025</u>	<u>\$98,394</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$467,452</b>	<b>\$482,623</b>

### EXPENDITURES—Rural Basic

Integrated Roadside Vegetation Mgmt.	\$102,601	\$102,409
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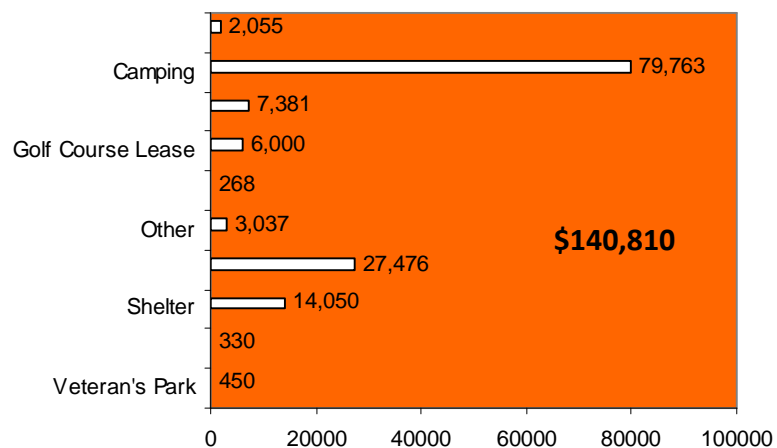


Conservation Department Budget 2009-10



1 Administration  
2 Operations & Maint.  
3 IRVM

REVENUES	2009-10	2008-09
Recreation Fees (Camping, Shelter, rentals)	\$96,916	\$119,711
State Grants & Reimbursements	\$27,476	\$12,636
Equipment Rental	\$7,381	\$14,060
Sale of Wood, Publications, etc	\$1,749	\$689
Other Income	<u>\$7,288</u>	<u>\$972</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$140,810</b>	<b>\$148,068</b>





## 2009-10 Partners

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources**—Shared Naturalist Position

**Ann Smeltzer Trust**—Iowa Learning Farm & Gowrie Farm

**Daybreak Rotary Club**—14th Annual Dragon Boat Bash

**Noon Sertoma**—Veteran's Memorial Park & Lights At Kennedy

**Webster County Trails Advisory Board**—Trail development planning

**Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation**—Trail development assistance and land holding

**Iowa High School State Cross County Meet**

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources Fisheries**—Fish stocking and rip rap project

**Natural Resource Conservation Service**—Miller Marsh & Badger Creek Watershed planning assistance

**City of Fort Dodge**—Equipment sharing & grant work

**Brushy Creek State Recreation Area**—Equipment sharing

**Badger Lutheran & St. Olaf Lutheran Church Service**—Campground service (Mem. Day—Labor Day)

**St. Edmond High School**—Host Annual Labor Day Walk/Run

**Friends of Webster County Conservation**—Event volunteers & funding assistance

**Iowa Central Community College**—Cross County Meets, Outdoor Sports Show & planning assistance

**Webster County Pheasants Forever**—Project funding and habitat assistance

**Fort Dodge Young Professionals**—Adventure Race

**Webster County Bowhunters & Archery Association**—3D Archery Shoots & archery instruction

**Duck Unlimited, Wild Turkey Federation, Whitetails Unlimited**

Thank You!!

### Webster County Conservation Board

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Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501

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[www.webstercountyia.org](http://www.webstercountyia.org)

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

## WCCB Staff



Equal Opportunity: Federal and State law prohibits employment and/or public accommodation discrimination on the basis of age, race, creed, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information contact Iowa Civil Right Commission at 1-800-457-4416; the Office of Equal Opportunity, Department of Interior, Washington D.C. 20240 or the Webster County Attorney's Office 1-515-573-1452.

Staff	Yrs.
<b>Matt Cosgrove</b>	14
Director	
<b>Dave Scherff</b>	25
Ranger	
<b>Pat Shehan</b>	11
Ranger	
<b>Darren Herzog</b>	3
Ranger	
<b>Karen Hansen</b>	17
Naturalist	
<b>Erin Ford</b>	5
Co./DNR Naturalist	
<b>Cindy Knickerbocker</b>	20
Secretary	
<b>Cody Peterson</b>	4
Vegetation Specialist	