



An **ANNUAL REPORT** of the Webster County Conservation Board Fiscal Year 2014-15

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.

2014-15 Highlights...

- ▶ Moorland Pond Accessible Fishing Jetties—Fish Habitat Grant
- ▶ Developed an Emerald Ash Borer Plan—Inventory & removal of Ash trees
- ▶ Selected by the Iowa Parks Foundation with Boone & Hamilton Counties to complete a regional parks plan
- ▶ Received a \$400,000 Clean Water Grant with the City of Fort Dodge for Badger Lake Watershed Improvements
- ▶ Completed Phase 2 Trail Construction at the Gypsum City OHV Park—400 acres & 35 miles of additional trails
- ▶ Completed Stage 1 Campground development at the Gypsum City OHV Park—Approx. \$650,000 project including: grading, campground water line, electric service, lighting, and site amenities
- ▶ Received a Federal Recreation Trail Grant for approx. \$200,000 to construct Phase 3 trails at Gypsum City
- ▶ Secured purchase agreement with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to acquire Camp Wanoki
- ▶ Updated Conservation Board Rules & Regulations
- ▶ Concluded Trumpeter Swan Restoration Program—goal achieved
- ▶ Entered into planning agreement with Fort Dodge & IDNR to complete a River Master Plan

Board Members

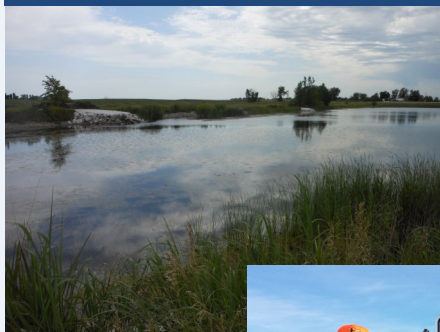
	Yrs.
Jerry Beck	9
Beth Collins	4
Brad Luke	16
Geri Winge	1
Kirk Seltz	9



Webster County's Natural Areas

Area

Acres



1. Bob Hay Memorial Wildlife Area	225
2. Becker Wildlife Area	10
3. Carlson Recreation Area	126
4. Deer Creek Wildlife Area	17
5. Holiday Creek Wildlife Area	36
6. John F Kennedy Memorial Park	400
7. Lindquist Wildlife Sanctuary	7
8. Liska-Stanek Prairie	20
9. Lundgren Church Nature Park	1
10. Meier Memorial Marsh	35
11. Miller Marsh	185
12. Moorland Pond	23
13. Prairie Pond	18
14. Rossow Prairie	40
15. Skillet Creek Indian Mounds	19
16. The Diggings	7
17. Whispering Wings Marsh	20
Lizard Creek Access	
18. Lentsch	.28
19. Cunningham	.28
20. Rasch	1.04
21. Kirchner-Seltz Youth Prairie	80
22. Camp Wanoki	80
TOTAL	1,350.6



Management Agreements	Acres
Gypsum City OHV Park	800
Smeltzer Learning Farm	157
<u>Smeltzer Gowrie Farm</u>	<u>40</u>
TOTAL	997

Land Management

2014-15

Land Management Activity

Native Grass & CRP Seeding	69.5 acre
Private acres seeded with CCB drill	20 acres
Prescribed Burning	75 acres
Acres of native seed ordered	89.5 acres
Bridge & Ditch Clean-out plantings	20
Trees planted	775
Canada Thistle spraying (South 1/2 of county)	
Leafy Spurge spraying (South 1/2 of county)	
Managed County Brush Contract (4th tier)	

Weed Complaints

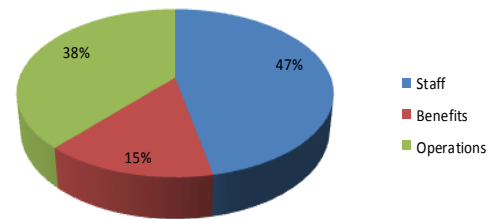
2009—7
2010—10
2011—4
2012—6
2013—2
2014—3
2015—7



WCCB...Financial Report

EXPENDITURES—General Fund	2014-15
Administration	\$410,297
Operations & Maintenance	\$ 94,462
OHV Budget	\$202,079
EXPENDITURES—General Supplemental Fund	\$145,836
EXPENDITURES—Rural Basic	
<u>Integrated Roadside Vegetation Mgmt.</u>	<u>\$132,602</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$985,276

Expenditures

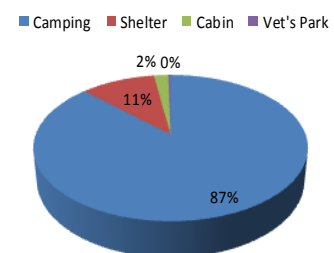


REVENUE	2014-15
Recreation Fees (Camping, Shelter, rentals)	\$121,465
State Grants & Reimbursements	\$ 98,139
Rental (land & equipt)	\$ 3,972
Sale of Wood, Publications, etc	\$ 3,547
Other Income	\$ 2,720
<u>City of Fort Dodge</u>	<u>\$ 27,160</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	\$257,003

Special Account Balance

REAP Account	\$50,489
Conservation Trust	\$52,018

Recreation Fees



2014-15 Partners

Iowa Department of Natural Resources—Shared Naturalist Position & Gypsum City OHV Park

Ann Smeltzer Trust—Iowa Learning Farm & Gowrie Farm

Daybreak Rotary Club—19th Annual Dragon Boat Bash

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

Webster County Trails Advisory Board—Trail development planning

Friends of Webster County Conservation—Event volunteers & funding assistance

IDNR—Water Trails (Des Moines River & Lizard Creek)

HyVee—Half Marathon & 5K

Webster County Pheasants Forever—Project funding and habitat assistance

Webster County Bowhunters & Archery Assoc.— 3D Archery Shoots & archery instruction

Iowa High School State Cross County Meet

Iowa Department of Natural Resources Fisheries— Trout Stocking—Moorland Pond

City of Fort Dodge—Badger Creek Watershed Clean Water Grant Award

City of Fort Dodge—Shared Trails Position.

Equipment sharing & grant administration

Brushy Creek State Recreation Area—Staff/ Equipment sharing

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

Special Olympics of Iowa—Polar Plunge

Loyal Order of Moose—Fishing Tournament

Community Fundraisers—trail walks, runs, & biking events
10 Special Events Approved

STAFF

Yrs.

Matt Cosgrove Director	19
Cody Peterson Operations Supervisor	8
Pat Shehan Ranger	16
Darren Herzog Ranger/OHV Manager	8
Brad Janssen Ranger	3
Karen Hansen Environmental Education Coordinator	22
Erin Ford Co./DNR Naturalist	10
Cindy Knickerbocker Secretary	25
Dave Scherff Natural Resource Tech.	30
Andy Stanberg Vegetation Specialist	3
Tasha Nielsen Trail/Natural Resource Tech.	1



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