

Fiscal Year 2015-16



An ANNUAL REPORT of the 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.

Gypsum City Partnership Receives National Award



Board Members

	Yrs.
Jerry Beck	10
Beth Collins	5
Nick Carlson	1
Geri Winge	2
Kirk Seltz	10

On June 8, 2016 the Gypsum City Off-Highway Vehicle Park Partners (Webster County Conservation Board, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Webster County Improvement Corporation, and the Iowa OHV Association) received national recognition from the Coalition For Recreation Trails Annual Achievement Awards. The award recognized the collaborative efforts of city/county/state and the private sector to create Iowa's largest riding area.

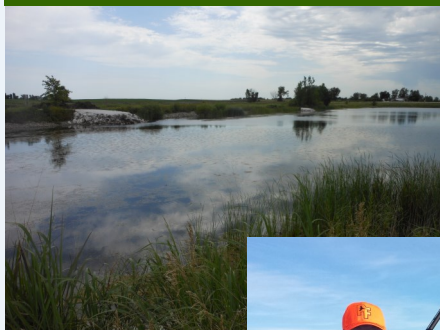
Award Category - Public-Private Partnerships and Access to/Use of Public Lands – facilitating and/or encouraging cost-effective partnerships between public and private entities, especially to increase access to and use of federal, state and local public lands, including parks, forests and wildlife refuges.

Receiving the award in Washington DC are Dan Kleen—Iowa OHV Association, Helen Miller, - State Representative, Dennis Plautz—Webster County Improvement Corporation, and Matt Cosgrove—Webster County Conservation.

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

2015-16

Land Management Activity

Native Grass & CRP Seeding	42 acre
Private acres seeded with CCB drill	42.5 acres
Prescribed Burning	135 acres
Acres of native seed ordered	84.5 acres
Bridge & Ditch Clean-out plantings	33
Trees planted	600
Canada Thistle spraying	(North 1/2 of county)
Leafy Spurge spraying	(North 1/2 of county)
Managed County Brush Contract	(1st tier)

Weed Complaints

2010—10
2011—4
2012—6
2013—2
2014—3
2015—7
2016—8



WCCB...Financial Report

EXPENDITURES—General Fund	2015-16	2014-15
Administration	\$427,451	\$410,297
Operations & Maintenance	\$ 91,302	\$ 94,462
OHV Budget	\$ 79,840	\$202,079
EXPENDITURES—General Supplemental Fund	\$152,454	\$145,836
EXPENDITURES—Rural Basic		
<u>Integrated Roadside Vegetation Mgmt.</u>	<u>\$142,279</u>	<u>\$132,602</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$893,326	\$985,276



Special Account Balance

REAP Account	\$32,961
Conservation Trust	\$79,077

REVENUE	2015-16	2014-15
Recreation Fees (Camping, Shelter, rentals)	\$139,617	\$121,465
State Grants & Reimbursements	\$107,665	\$ 98,139
Rental (land & equipt)	\$ 3,068	\$ 3,972
Sale of Wood, Publications, etc	\$ 2,644	\$ 3,547
<u>Other Income</u>	<u>\$ 18,832</u>	<u>\$ 29,880</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	\$271,826	\$257,003

2015-16 Highlights

- ▶ Completed river inventory for Des Moines River & Lizard Creek through IDNR grant
- ▶ Completed Camp Wanoki Master Plan
- ▶ Celebrated 50th Anniversary of Kennedy Park with festival
- ▶ Gypsum City OHV Progress—Phase 3 trails completed and water & electric service installed in campground
- ▶ Playground restroom replaced & open shelter renovated
- ▶ New Office Manager Position created
- ▶ Young Guns Program and Shooting Sports trailer purchased with Pheasants Forever
- ▶ Call of the Wild Fundraiser event with Friends of Webster County Conservation
- ▶ Brad Luke resigns from board after 15years. Replaced by Nick Carlson
- ▶ Board of Supervisors approves resolution to allow Conservation Board to retain 50% of user fees for park projects and natural resource management—THANK YOU!!!



STAFF	Yrs.
Matt Cosgrove, Director	20
Cody Peterson, Operations Supervisor	9
Pat Shehan, Ranger	17
Darren Herzog, Ranger/OHV Manager	9
Brad Janssen, Ranger	4
Karen Hansen, EE Coordinator	23
Erin Ford, Co/DNR Naturalist	11
Joni Hefley, Office Manager	1
Andy Stanberg, Vegetation Specialist	4
Tasha Nielsen, Trail/Natural Resource Tech.	2
Dave Scherff, Natural Resource Tech.	31

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