

An ANNUAL REPORT of the Webster County Conservation Board

Fiscal Year 2019-20

Mission Statement

The Webster County Conservation Board exists to protect, manage and interpret our natural resources and open spaces for the benefit of present and future generations.

2020—The YEAR of COVID-19...One for the record books!



Webster County's Natural Areas

Area

Acres

Board Members

Yrs.

Jerry Beck	14
Beth Collins	9
Nick Carlson	5
Geri Winge	6
Kirk Seltz	14



1. Bob Hay Memorial Wildlife Area	225
2. Becker Wildlife Area	10
3. Carlson Recreation Area	176
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
18. Lentsch Access	.28
19. Cunningham Access (easement)	1.04
20. Rasch Access (easement)	.28
21. Kirchner-Seltz Youth Prairie	80
22. Camp Wa-No-Ki	80
23. Henderson Access	2.85
TOTAL	1,403.45

Management Agreement

Acres

Gypsum City OHV Park	800
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Land Management

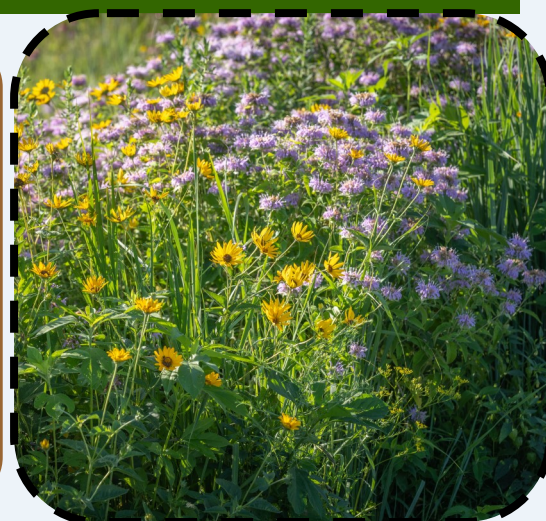
2019-20

Land Management Activity

Native Grass & CRP Seeding—public	10 acres
Private acres seeded with CCB drill	45 acres
Prescribed Burning	55 acres
Acres of native seed ordered	3 acres
Bridge & Ditch Clean-out plantings	25
Trees planted	0
Canada Thistle spraying	(North 1/2 of county)
Leafy Spurge spraying	(North 1/2 of county)
County Brush Contract	(1st tier)

Weed Complaints

2014—3
2015—7
2016—8
2017—3
2018—3
2019—2
2020—6



WCCB...Financial Report

EXPENDITURES—General Fund	2018-19	2019-20
Administration	\$533,471	\$508,124
Operations & Maintenance	\$216,760	\$261,952
EXPENDITURES—General Supplemental Fund	\$188,087	\$208,253
EXPENDITURES—Rural Basic		
<u>Integrated Roadside Vegetation Mgmt.</u>	<u>\$179,383</u>	<u>\$177,518</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,117,701	\$1,155,847
MAJOR PROJECTS	Camp Wa-No-Ki Streambank	\$ 20,463
	Kennedy Park Trail Bridge	\$139,508
	Kennedy Park Yurts	\$ 60,565
	Henderson Acquisition	\$ 9,611



Special Account Balance

REAP Account	\$ 26,397.73
Conservation Trust	\$236,938.82

REVENUE	2018-19	2019-20
Recreation Fees (Camping, Shelter, Rentals)	\$204,280	\$190,654
State Grants & Reimbursements	\$126,264	\$ 70,197
Rental (land & equip)	\$ 7,621	\$ 500
Sale of Wood, Publications, etc.	\$ 10,344	\$ 4,104
<u>Other Income</u>	<u>\$ 23,656</u>	<u>\$ 33,611</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	\$372,165	\$299,066

STAFF**Yrs.**

Matt Cosgrove, Director	24
Cody Peterson, Operations Supervisor	14
Darren Herzog, Park Ranger	13
Joe Sherbon, Park Ranger	1
Karen Hansen, EE Coordinator	27
Erin Ford, Naturalist	15

Joni Hefley, Office Manager	5
Andy Stanberg, Vegetation Specialist	8
Tasha Nielsen, Trail/Natural Resource Tech.	6
Adam Moeding, Maint/ Natural Resource Tech.	3
Kyle Redmond, Shared Trail Tech.	1
Dave Scherff, PT Natural Resource Tech.	35

TOTAL YEARS OF SERVICE = 152

2019-20 Highlights

- The board completed culvert replacement and streambank stabilization projects at Camp Wa-No-Ki.
- Kyle Redmond was hired as the City/County Trail Technician.
- The board established a maintenance fund using department revenue.
- Gypsum City improvements include: a new super-cross track, main park signage, and three tiny homes constructed by the ICCC & Prison Carpentry Program.
- The board purchased approx. three acres from Dean & Sharon Henderson to construct a new access on the Des Moines River near Kalo. The department also received a \$30,000 Water Trail Assistance Grant from the DNR.
- A 180-foot pedestrian bridge was completed on the Badger Lake Loop Trail.
- The board hired Snyder & Associates to draft plans for potential trail projects to Badger, Dayton & Gowrie.
- Brad Janssen, Park Ranger accepted a position with Polk County Conservation Board.
- Joe Sherbon was hired as a Park Ranger, replacing Janssen.
- The board identified six potential locations to construct a nature center. The board and staff are working with the Board of Supervisors to develop plans for a new nature center in the Central River District of Fort Dodge.
- The board received a \$700,000 regional trail grant to construct a hard-surfaced trail around Badger Lake.
- **The COVID-19 global pandemic created unprecedented challenges for the department's staff, facilities, programs and events. The virus caused delayed openings, cancelled events and record numbers of park and trail users.**



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