

Pathways to Nature

A Newsletter of the Webster County Conservation Board

June 2018



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What's New...

By Matt Cosgrove

BEAT THE HEAT this summer with Webster County's on-water programs & events!!

The Des Moines River & Lizard Creek Water Trails offer a variety of paddling options for experienced paddlers and Badger Lake and Brushy Creek provide beginners an opportunity to fine-tune their skills.

The Conservation Department is your "one-stop" resource for educational kayak instruction, open paddles, kayak/canoe rentals, Stand-Up Paddleboard instruction and water trail information.

Sign up for a class or join us for an organized float to experience Webster County like never before...Have Fun...Stay Safe...& Help US keep YOUR water trails CLEAN!!

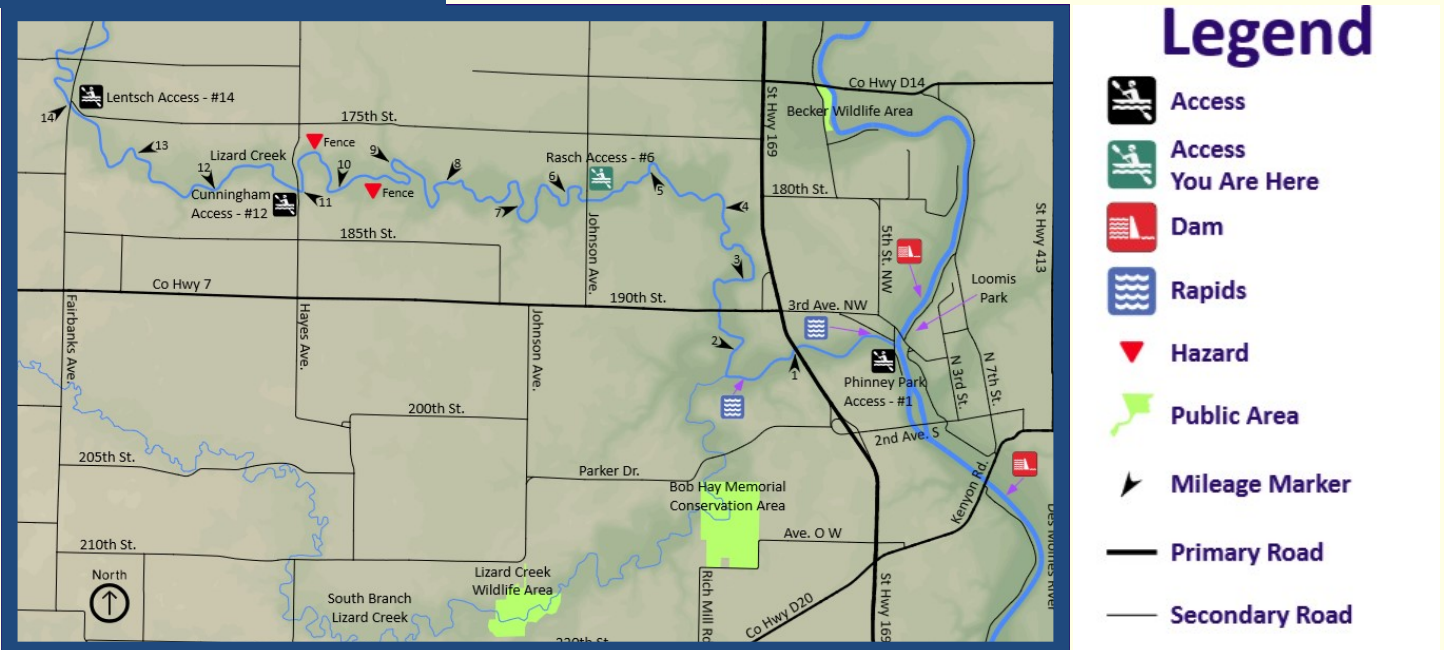
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Safety tips, paddler behavior, and more!

- ALWAYS wear a properly fitted life jacket while on the water
- Paddle with a group, not by yourself. Leave a “float plan” for your trip with a friend or relative
- Know where the dams are!
- Obey local rules and regulations. Use only public lands and access points.
- Be considerate to others while on the water. Give anglers a wide berth.
- LEAVE NO TRACE—carry in, carry out your trash. Always leave it cleaner than you found!

Did you
know?

Webster County has 60 miles of designated
water trails on the Des Moines River and
Lizard Creek



Canoeing & Paddleboarding

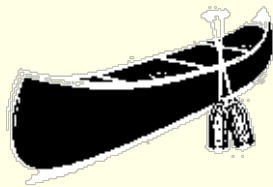
Evening Paddles

Explore Badger Lake at dusk

June 28 8:30 pm

July 26 8:30 pm

Aug 27 8 pm



- Meet at the Kennedy Park boat ramp.
- Canoes, paddles, and pfd's will be provided
- Bring your own vessel if you wish
- All boating regulation enforced
- Free family fun event

Stand Up Paddleboard Lessons

June 28

July 26

Aug 27

- Group 1 at 5:30 pm & Group 2 at 6:30 pm
- Group 2 at 6:30 pm
- 4 person max for each class
- \$10 per instruction
- Registration required at www.mycountyparks.com/County/Webster.sapx



Not Your Typical Playdate

By Erin Ford

Playscape Playdates were created for families of young children wanting to explore and strengthen their connection to nature. This summer we have 6 nature themed programs twice a month that allow children to learn about nature topics while still providing free play and exploration. Activities are geared towards 3-5 year olds but all ages are welcome and are provided at no charge to the participants. We do ask that you register online at www.mycountyparks.com so we have a participation number for supplies if needed. Though we



only provide these playdates during the summer months of June, July and August we hope that families create connections and continue their outdoor exploration on their own. During each program there is a chance of getting dirty, wet and having an all-around great adventure. Future Playscape Playdates are June 26th, July 12th & 31st, and Aug 9th and 28th.

Fireside Chat at Camp WaNoKi

June 14 7:00 -- 9:00 pm

OWL PROWL

Cozy up around a campfire as Karen Hansen will be focusing on owls of Iowa before setting out into the woods to call owls. Join us for a guided hike through the woods as darkness descends.

**** Bring a bag chair, hiking shoes,
and a friend or family members.**

Camp WaNoKi is located 1 mile east of Coalville (235th)
and 1 mile south on WaNoKi Camp Road.

Mark your calendar for
future Fireside Chat nights.
Bring family and friends for
an educational evening
around a campfire on the 2nd
Thursday of the month.

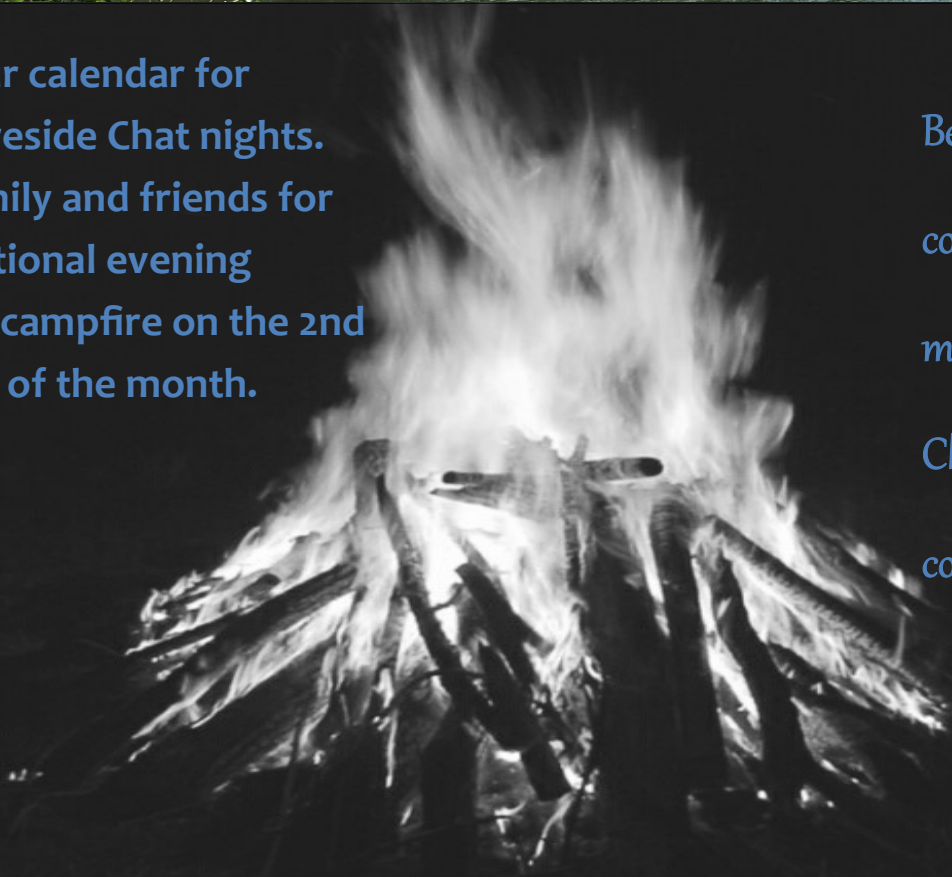
July 12

August 9

Sept. 13

Oct. 11

Be watching for a
complete list of
monthly Fireside
Chat programs
coming soon.....



Lending a Hand...the Conservation Corps of Iowa

The Gypsum City OHV Park has a few extra hands during the first week of June thanks to a five-member crew with the Conservation Corps of Iowa (CCI). The park's 60-miles of trails require constant trimming and grooming to create a safe and enjoyable riding experience for visitors.

CCI is a non-profit group that provides hands-on environmental stewardship and service-learning opportunities for young adults while accomplishing conservation and natural resource work. The program's goals are to help young people from diverse backgrounds become more connected to the environment, engaged in conservation, involved in the community and prepared for future employment.

Conservation Corps programs devote 20 percent of program time to technical-skills training, career-building skills such as resume writing and interviewing, and educational activities focused on environmental science and technology. Using scientific inquiry and experiential learning, the Conservation Corps helps young people learn more about the world around them and think critically about the impact of their personal choices on the environment.



In four days the crew trimmed over 26 Miles of trail at Gypsum City!!

Meet Webster County Conservation's Summer Employees



Preston Nerhus

From: Fort Dodge

High School: FDSH 2016

College: Graduated Iowa Central, enrolled at ISU for Animal Ecology

Interest: Outdoors, Sports

Favorite Part of the Job: Being able to do a wide variety of work at different locations



Michael Miller

From: Fort Dodge

High School: Humboldt 2017

College: ISU for Music Education

Interest: Hunting, fishing, camping, outdoors

Favorite Part of the Job: It's easy and I don't have to think about it. Great co-workers too. Also, outside all day is great

Fun Fact: Michael is the grandson of former Conservation Director, Charlie Miller



Derek Sebring

From: Fort Dodge

High School: FDSH 2017

College: ICC 1st year, plan to go to ISU and get my bachelor's degree in conservation

Interest: Being outside

Favorite Part of the Job: Being outside. It's not an easy job but the people here make it fun to work here.



Congratulations to Operations Supervisor, Cody Peterson and wife Katie, on welcoming a daughter, Laney Jo, on May 14th

Nature Day Camps 2018

Sponsored by: Webster County Conservation

Middle School Day Camp (5th — 8th grade)

- I. June 19, 20, 21 9:00 -- 3:00
- II. July 17, 18, 19 9:00 -- 3:00
- III. August 7, 8, 9 9:00 -- 3:00

Location: Camp WaNoKi (2401 WaNoKi Camp Road, Fort Dodge)

- ~ Hiking
- ~ Primitive Hunting Skills (Archery / Atlatl / Tomahawks)
- ~ Geocaching
- ~ Orienteering
- ~ Stewardship work (Working on the land with hand tools)
- ~ Survival Skills (Fire building / Shelter building)

Get Connected with Nature

Register at www.mycountyparks.com

Cost: **\$30/camp** -- Includes snacks, drinks, lunch, and supplies.

Space is limited; minimum of 10 to hold camp so tell your friends.



Wear and/or Bring:

- * old clothes
- * long pants
- * old, close-toed shoes
- * insect repellent
- * sunscreen
- * water bottle

Upcoming Public Programs & Events

Your Guide To The Outside

Date	Time	Event	Location
June 14	7 - 9 pm	Fireside Chat	Camp WaNoKi
June 18	6:30-7:30 pm	Kayaking 101*	Kennedy Park
June 19 - 21	9 am - 3 pm	Youth Conservation Program*	Camp WaNoKi
June 20	5:30 pm	Mid Week River Paddle	TBD
June 21	5:30 pm	Start of Summer Hike	Kennedy Park
June 26	10:30 -11:30 am	Playscape Playdate*	Kennedy Park
June 28	5:30 pm	Stand Up Paddle Board Class*	Kennedy Park
June 28	6:30 pm	Stand Up Paddle Board Class*	Kennedy Park
June 28	8:30 pm	Evening Paddle	Kennedy Park
July 11	5:30 pm	Mid Week River Paddle	TBD
July 12	10:30 - 11:30 am	Playscape Playdate*	Kennedy Park
July 12	7 - 9 pm	Fireside Chat	Camp WaNoKi
July 17 - 19	9 am - 3 pm	Youth Conservation Program*	Camp WaNoKi
July 17 - 19	9 - 11 am	Half Day Nature Camp*	Kennedy Park
July 26	5:30 pm	Stand Up Paddle Board Class*	Kennedy Park
July 26	6:30 pm	Stand Up Paddle Board Class*	Kennedy Park
July 26	8:30 pm	Evening Paddle	Kennedy Park
July 31	10:30 - 11:30 am	Playscape Playdate*	Kennedy Park

**Indicates Registration Required at www.mycountyparks.com*

Kayaking 101 Classes

June 18 6:30 - 7:30 pm.

There is a 10 person max for each class. Cost is \$10/ person. Registration required at:

www.mycountyparks.com/county/webster.aspx.

This class or a specified online class must be taken to rent kayaks available at Kennedy Park.

For the most up to date information,

LIKE us on Facebook:

Webster County Conservation



For more information or a complete listing of all 2018 public programs and events, visit
www.mycountyparks.com/County/Webster.aspx



Congratulations to the Orville O'Connell Memorial Scholarship Recipients!

The scholarship was created by the O'Connell Family to celebrate the life of Orville O'Connell and his commitment to wildlife conservation and land stewardship. Orville lived a life of conservation and service. He served on the Webster County Conservation Board and was instrumental in the development of the Oleson Park Zoo. The scholarship is awarded annually to a Webster County resident who is pursuing a degree in Conservation, Natural Resource Management, Wildlife Biology, Animal/Fisheries Ecology or related natural resource field.



Below: Friends of Webster County Conservation Board member KC Coleman presents the recipients with their scholarship checks



Jacob Galles, St. Edmond Catholic School, plans to attend Iowa State University next year and major in Animal Science



Natalie Peterson, Fort Dodge Senior High, plans to attend Iowa State University next year and major in Biology

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Fort Dodge, IA 50501
515-576-4258

conservation@webstercountya.org

www.mycountyparks.com/Webster.aspx



Webster County Conservation

STAFF

Matt Cosgrove	Director
Cody Peterson	Operations Supervisor
Darren Herzog	Park Ranger
Brad Janssen	Park Ranger
Karen Hansen	Naturalist
Erin Ford	Naturalist
Andy Stanberg	IRVM/Vegetation Specialist
Tasha Nielsen	Natural Res./Trail Tech
Adam Moeding	Natural Res./Trail Tech
Joni Hefley	Office Manager

BOARD MEMBERS

Nick Carlson	Fort Dodge
Geri Winge	Fort Dodge
Jerry Beck	Fort Dodge
Kirk Seltz	Badger
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 or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.