

Pathways to Nature

A Newsletter of the Webster County Conservation Board

May 2019

National Kids To Parks Day May 18, 2019



IN THIS ISSUE...

National Kids To
Parks Day

Invasive Species
Month

Treasure Hunt

Selfies Stands

Upcoming Events &
Programs

Friends Information

Kids to Parks Day is an annual celebration to encourage play that connects kids and families with PARKS. Our hope is to introduce the public to the park inventories of Webster County Conservation and Fort Dodge Parks, Recreation, Forestry Department.

Kids to Parks Day is an opportunity to cultivate future generations of outdoor enthusiasts and conservationists. We hope by bringing families and kids of all ages outdoors to their local city and county parks—they can unplug from life's daily grind and reconnect with each other, enjoy the outdoors, exercise, relax, and PLAY!

Kids to Parks Day is promoted by the National Park Trust (www.parktrust.org), National Recreation and Park Association (www.nrpa.org), and countless others. There is no preregistration, exact timeframe, or stringent rules—this “Scavenger Hunt” is a great way to help facilitate your family to our local parks and be doing so, you could win a prize!

Scorecard available at www.fortdodgeiowa.org/parks or stop into Citizen's Central or City Hall Parks and Rec, or Webster County Conservation office to get a copy!



May is Invasive Species Awareness Month

In an effort to increase awareness of invasive species and the impact they have on Iowa's ecosystems and economy, Governor Kim Reynolds recently proclaimed May as Invasive Species Awareness Month in Iowa.

Each year, public and private organizations spend millions of dollars in an effort to control invasive plants, insects, diseases and animals species.

Invasive species, such as emerald ash borer, Asian longhorned beetle and oriental bittersweet threaten Iowa's ecosystem by competing with and destroying native trees and by disrupting the natural complex habitat system.

Iowa woodlands, wildlands and waterways draw hundreds of thousands of tourists and recreational users each year, and raising awareness of invasive species and their impacts is an important step towards behavior change, which can prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species.

Invasive Species Awareness Month provides an opportunity for the public and private sectors to join forces, and take action against the introduction and spread of invasive species in the Iowa.

More information on forest invasive species can be found on the DNR website at www.iowadnr.gov/invasives.

Media Contact: Tivon Feeley, Forest Health Program Leader, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-725-8453 or tivon.feeley@dnr.iowa.gov.



Emerald Ash Borer

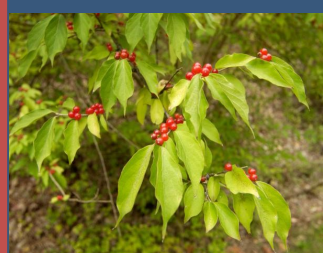


Asian Longhorned
Beetle



Oriental Bittersweet

5 of Iowa's Most Invasive Species



Bush Honeysuckle



European Buckthorn



Multiflora Rose



Reed Canary Grass



Garlic Mustard

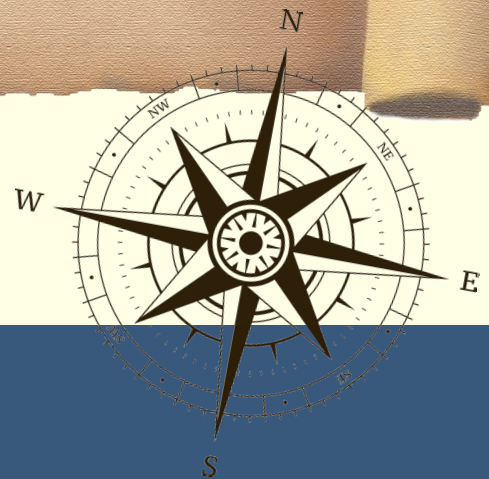
Webster County Conservation Treasure Hunt

A treasure box is hidden in one of our Webster County Conservation areas.

Find the location of this treasure box to win a 2 night stay at the Kennedy Park Camping Cabin & a weekend rental of up to 4 Kayaks.

- The box is placed above the ground, not buried
- Inside the box are instructions on claiming the prize
- A poem which contains clues will lead to the goal
- Separate verses of the poem will be released on our Facebook page throughout the summer

The first clues will be released on our Facebook page on **May 24th!**



The box you will be looking for

A Traveling Selfie Stand



The selfie stand is set in it's first location!

Come out and enjoy the view at Veteran's Memorial Park.

The selfie stand will stay put until May 20th when it moves to Skillet Creek Indian Mounds



SHOW US YOUR SELFIES!

be sure to include the hashtags below

#THISISIOWA #MYCOUNTYPARKS



The Selfie Stand at the Gypsum City OHV Park (shown here) will not be moving locations.

You can take your selfie at the pond by the campground!



Upcoming Public Programs & Events

Your Guide To The Outside

Date	Time	Event	Location
May 16	6 - 8 pm	Fireside Chat	Camp WaNoKi
May 18	All Day	Kids to Parks Day	City & County Parks
May 19	5 - 7 pm	4H Trap Team*	Webster Co 4H
June 1	12:00 pm	YEA! Fishing Tourney	Kennedy Park
June 2	5 - 7 pm	4H Trap Team*	Webster Co 4H
June 17 - 19	9:30 - 10:15 am	City Mini Camps	Loomis Park
<i>Registration on the City of Fort Dodge Website</i>			
June 18	5:00 pm	4H Outdoor Adventure Club*	Webster Co 4H
June 18	6:30 pm	Stand Up Paddle Class	Kennedy Park
<i>Call 515-576-4258 to sign up</i>			
June 18	8:00 pm	Evening Paddle	Kennedy Park
June 20	2 - 3 pm	Playscape Playdate	Kennedy Park
<i>Call 515-576-4258 to sign up</i>			
June 23	5 - 7 pm	4H Trap Team*	Webster County 4H

* Indicates registration required through Webster County 4H

Fireside Chat



at Camp WaNoKi

Thursday, May 16 6 - 8 pm

Backpacking 101

Enjoy an informal chat session on backpacking basics, have a campfire snack and then go for a hike through the woods. There will be seating available on large limestone rocks, or bring your own campfire chair.

Park in the big lot and walk to the fire ring!



*For the most up to date information,
LIKE us on Facebook:
Webster County Conservation*

mycountyparks
.com



Let's Be Friends!

*With your support, we can make a difference in Webster County now and
for future generations*



Sign Up Today!

Fill out this form and mail to:

**Friends of Webster County
Conservation
1415 Nelson Ave
Fort Dodge, IA 50501**

Membership Form

☐ **Membership** **\$25** _____

☐ **Business** **\$100** _____

Name

Address

City, State Zip

Email

Phone

The mission of the Friends of Webster County Conservation is to provide awareness, appreciation, and the preservation of Webster County's natural resources for future generations.

The "Friends of Webster County Conservation" is a non-profit, 501c3 organization that helps the WCCB with volunteers and raising funds to enhance environmental education, outdoor recreation, and conservation projects in Webster County.

1415 Nelson Ave
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
515-576-4258

conservation@webstercountyia.org

www.mycountyparks.com/Webster.aspx



Webster County Conservation

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Erin Ford	Naturalist
Andy Stanberg	IRVM/Vegetation Specialist
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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.