

Pathways to Nature

A Newsletter of the Webster County Conservation Board

March 2020

Invest in Iowa...Why Webster County Conservation Supports Governor Reynolds' Plan for a Better Iowa

It has been nearly a decade since 63% of Iowa voters approved a constitutional amendment that created the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. To-date not a single penny has been deposited in the fund, resulting in over \$1 billion dollars that has **NOT** been spent improving Iowa's water, protecting our soils, building trails, improving wildlife habitat and repairing our state parks.

On January 14, 2020, Governor Kim Reynolds introduced the INVEST IN IOWA ACT – inviting legislators, supporters and ALL Iowans to join her by investing in the future of Iowa. The funding mechanism for this initiative would be to raise the state sales tax by a full penny – and therefore, officially funding the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. In addition to finally funding the Trust Fund the proposal also funds Iowa's crumbling mental health system and provides significant tax reform.

REASONS To SUPPORT "Invest in Iowa":

* **INCREASES FUNDING IN EVERY TRUST FUND CATEGORY FROM CURRENT FUNDING LEVELS**

* **FUNDING IS DEDICATED & CONSTITUTIONALLY PROTECTED**

* **+\$79.6M New Dollars for Conservation!!!**

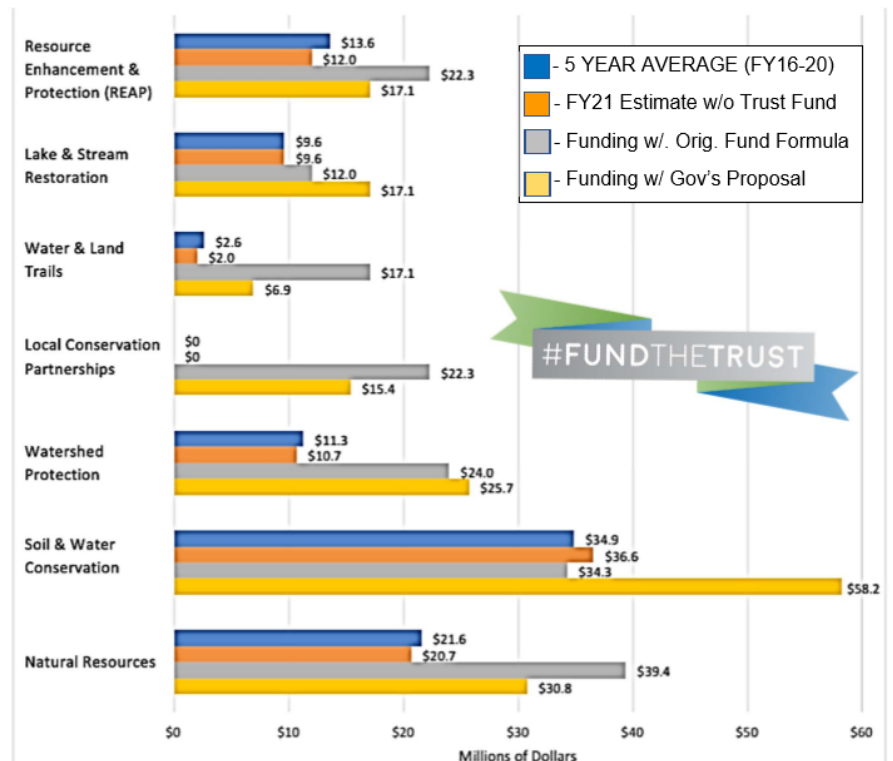
This is the largest conservation & recreation legislation of our lifetime!!

IN THIS ISSUE...

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CONSERVATION FUNDING COMPARISONS



Call *of the Wild!*

Saturday
April 18th
6:00 pm at



Celebrate Earth Day early with food,
fun and trivia!!

Limited Tickets
Available!!



Food, Trivia, Raffle, Silent Auction

all yours for

\$25 ticket



Call 515-576-4258 to reserve yours today!

Conservation & Environmental Education annual fundraiser sponsored
by the Friends of Webster County Conservation.

Fireside Chat Series presents:



Maple Syrup Magic

March 26 6 - 8 pm

Camp WaNoKi

Webster County Conservation invites you to make **Maple Syrup Magic!** This free event will be held Thursday, March 26, 2020 from 6 – 8 pm at Camp WaNoKi. Camp WaNoKi is located at 2401 WaNoKi Camp Rd, Fort Dodge.

From the earliest of times, Native Americans and pioneers have made maple syrup from the sap of sugar maple trees. Learn how it's made, find some maple trees on site, and taste some real maple sap and syrup. There is no comparison of fresh maple syrup to that which you buy at your local grocery store. Real maple syrup is generally thinner and less sweet. It's completely different than most mass-produced syrups that contain large volumes of high-fructose corn syrup, food coloring and artificial flavors. It is truly a labor of love as it takes 40 gallons of sap to produce a single gallon of syrup.

Enjoy this beautiful time of year and all the woodlands has to offer with a hike in the early spring!

Earth Day Exploration

April 16 6-8 pm

Camp WaNoKi

In celebration of Earth Day on April 22, families and individuals can join in a guided hike, scavenger hunt for young ones, and geocaching challenge for all ages. Get out and EXPLORE.

DID YOU KNOW: Earth Day 2020 is the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day!

Earth Day was established in the United States in 1970 to increase public awareness of environmental problems and became recognized world wide in 1990 - just 30 years ago.

WCCB Area Spotlight

John F. Kennedy Memorial Park—Woodland Restoration

If you have walked the trail around Badger Lake during the last month or so you have probably noticed significant removal of the understory in the woodland areas of the park. This is not the work of a pack of out of control beavers, but the on-going woodland restoration efforts of Adam Moeding, Park Maintenance Technician. Moeding is a 2016 graduate of Iowa State University with a major in Forestry.

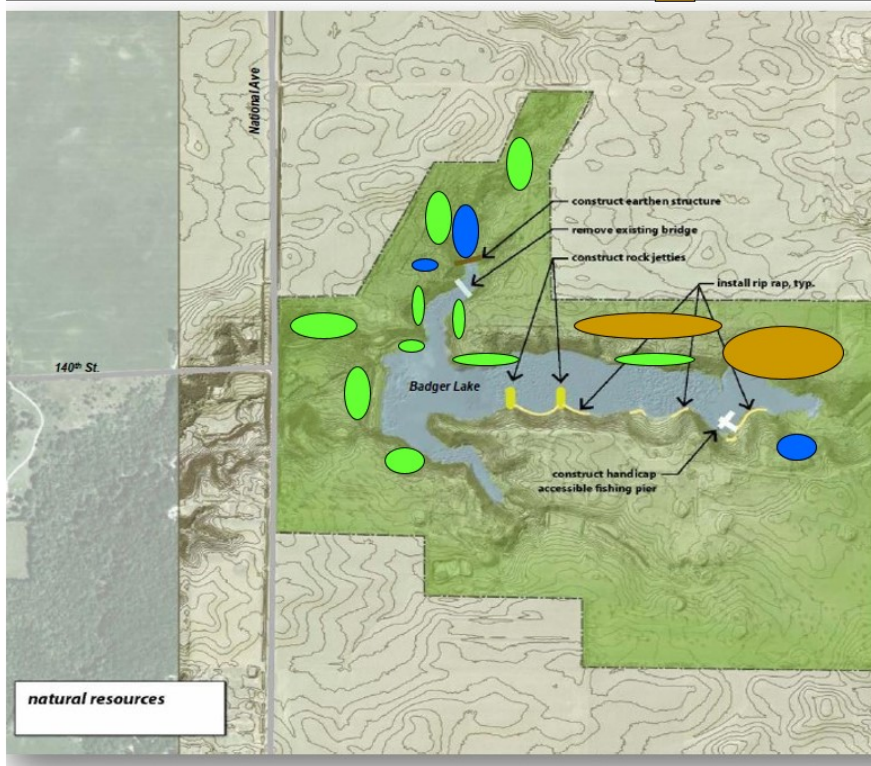
The woodland restoration plan is part of a larger effort to improve woodland, wetland and prairie habitats throughout the park. A park master plan was completed in 2011 that helped identify key restoration areas in the park. The woodland restoration, also known as timber stand improvement (TSI) is designed to remove undesirable, invasive species that out-compete our native, desirable vegetation. The primary efforts at Kennedy Park involve the removal of honeysuckle, buckthorn, and autumn olive. These aggressive shrubs are shade-tolerant and can survive and thrive in the forest understories. The result is a loss of Iowa's native vegetation and reduced species diversity in our woodlands. Iowa's oak trees are especially shade intolerant which require large disturbed openings to allow sunlight to the forest floor for successful oak regeneration.

The work is completed by mechanical means with the department's forestry mower and by good old-fashioned hand labor, cutting, piling and treating stumps. Follow-up treatments also include mowing, chemical application and prescribed burning to control re-growth. Staff identifies desirable trees and marks them with a ribbon so their competing neighbors are removed.

So as you make your way around Badger Lake you may catch a glimpse of Mother Nature's helpers in action. If you would like more information or want to help with our volunteer stewardship program please contact the park office.

Kennedy Park—Natural Resource Restoration Plan

- Wetland Restoration
- Woodland Restoration
- Prairie Restoration



WANTED

The Friends of Webster County Conservation is looking for High School Seniors and College Students pursuing a degree in Natural Resources!

ORVILLE O'CONNELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Purpose: In memory of Orville O'Connell and his commitment to wildlife conservation and land stewardship, a scholarship will be 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.

Amount: (1) scholarship will be awarded in the amount of \$500.00 annually. Scholarships will be paid directly to the school of the recipient's choice.

Basis of Award: Consideration for the scholarship will be based on a point system. 45-points for need, 30-points for leadership, and 25-for scholastic achievement.

Selection: All applications must be typed and sent to the Friends of Webster County Conservation, c/o Scholarship Committee, 1415 Nelson Avenue, Fort Dodge, IA 50501. Contact the Conservation Office for an application .

Applications must be postmarked no later than March 30, 2020.



Orville O'Connell lived a life of service and conservation. He served on the Conservation Board for 23 years (1984-2006)

Matt Sherman Memorial Scholarship

For those students who are in college or are planning to attend college next year and would like to work with native vegetation or natural resources.

Two \$500.00 scholarships are being offered in his name because, in his short professional life, Matt exemplified what a roadside manager is. His passion for prairies and using prairie species to vegetate the landscape soon became the passion of those around him.

Applications are due by June 26th. For more information and to find the application, please visit: tallgrassprairiecenter.org/irvm-job-openings



Accepting Applications for Summer Staff

Two summer Conservation Aide positions are available at John F. Kennedy Memorial Park. These positions will perform diverse tasks associated with the maintenance of the county's parks, trails and wildlife areas. This position will require some nights, weekends and holidays. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and possess a valid driver's license. Starting date approximately May 11th.

Pay: \$12.00/hour, 40 hours/week (approx. 3 months in length)

DEADLINE: by 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 27th

Applications for these job positions can be found at: www.webstercountyiowa.org under the Human Resources page and by clicking on Employment Opportunities





SAVE OUR STREAMS

IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Save Our Streams is a fun way to test water quality by collecting and identifying underwater critters called macroinvertebrates. Volunteers across the state monitor the health of their local creeks and streams to educate the public and provide data to partners, agencies, and local organizations. The Izaak Walton League is partnering with Friends of Webster County Conservation to provide a certification workshop for anyone interested in becoming a monitor.

**What:**

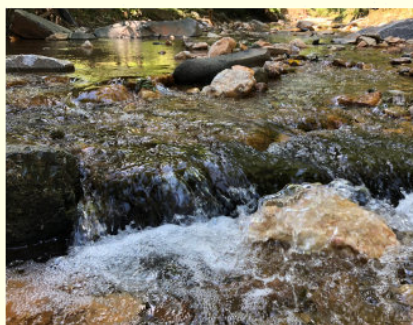
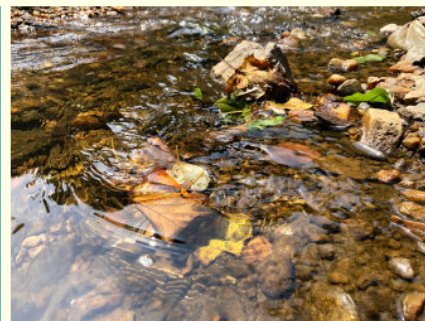
One Day Water Quality
Monitoring Workshop

Where:

Camp Wa-No-Ki Lodge
2401 Wa-No-Ki Camp Road
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

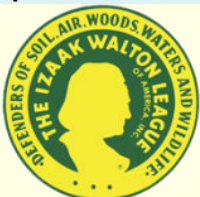
When:

Saturday, April 18th
9:00AM - 4:00PM

**Register Here:**

<https://WebsterCountySaveOurStreams.eventbrite.com>

Dress for the weather, as we will be doing the field component rain or shine. Please bring rubber boots, waders, or shoes that can get wet. All class materials will be provided, including ID books. Please bring a water bottle and packed lunch.



For questions regarding the training, please contact SOS
Coordinator Zach Moss: zmoss@iwl.org or 515-249-7213

Upcoming Public Programs & Events

Your Guide To The Outside

March 26	6-8 pm	Fireside Chat — Maple Syrup Magic	Camp WaNoKi
March 26	11 am - 12 pm	Playscape Playdate	Kennedy Park
March 30	6:00 pm	Friends of WCC board meeting	Kennedy Park
April 2	6-8 pm	Evening Stewardship	Camp WaNoKi
April 16	6-8 pm	Fireside Chat — Earth Day Exploration	Camp WaNoKi
April 18	all day	Water Training Workshop	Camp WaNoKi
April 18	5-9 pm	Call of the Wild fundraiser	River Hops
April 22		EARTH DAY	
April 23	11 am - 12 pm	Playscape Playdate	Kennedy Park
May 7	6-8 pm	Evening Stewardship	Carlson Rec Area
May 9	10 am	Wildflower Walk	Dolliver Park
May 14	6:00 pm	Ladies Night in the Outdoors — Tomahawks	Camp WaNoKi
May 18	6:00 pm	Friends of WCC board meeting	Kennedy Park
May 21	6-8 pm	Fireside Chat — Morel Hunting	Camp WaNoKi
May 28	6-8 pm	Wilderness program — Knots & Shelters	Camp WaNoKi
June 5	8:00 pm	Night Paddle	Badger Lake
June 6	12 pm	YEA! Fishing Tournament	Kennedy Park
June 18	6-8 pm	Fireside Chat—Clams & Crawdads	Camp WaNoKi
June 19	11:00 am	Toddler Time Outdoors—Plants & Mudpies	Camp WaNoKi
June 22,24,26	9 am—3 pm	Youth Conservation Camp ages 10-12	Camp WaNoKi
June 23		Day Camp at Kennedy ages 7 - 9	Kennedy Park
June 24	11 am	Nature Hour ages 4 - 6	Kennedy Park
June 25	6-8 pm	Wilderness program — Fire Building	Camp WaNoKi
June 25	5:45 - 8 pm	Beginners Kayaking Class	Kennedy Park

Continued on next page...

For the most up to date information,



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mycountyparks
.com 

Upcoming Public Programs & Events

Your Guide To The Outside

July 2	6-8 pm	Evening Stewardship	Bob Hay area
July 6,8,10	9 am-3 pm	Youth Conservation Camp ages 13-15	Camp WaNoKi
July 9	6:00 pm	Ladies Night in the Outdoors — Survival 101	Camp WaNoKi
July 9	5:45 - 8 pm	Beginners Kayaking Class	Kennedy Park
July 16	6-8 pm	Fireside Chat—Lyme Disease	Camp WaNoKi
July 17	11 am	Toddler Time Outdoors—Frogs & Water Shooters	Camp WaNoKi
July 18	9 am—1 pm	Habitat Workshop for Landowners	Smeltzer ILF
July 27	6:00 pm	Friends of WCC board meeting	Kennedy Park
July 28	9 - 11 am	Day Camp at Kennedy ages 7 - 9	Kennedy Park
July 29	11 am	Nature Hour ages 4 - 6	Kennedy Park
July 30	6-8 pm	Wilderness Series—Water & Weapons	Camp WaNoKi
Aug. 6	6-8 pm	Evening Stewardship	Carlson Rec Area
Aug. 7	11 am	Toddler Time Outdoors—Butterflies & Insects	Camp WaNoKi
Aug. 10, 12, 14	9 am-3 pm	Youth Conservation Camp ages 10-12	Camp WaNoKi
Aug. 13	6:00 pm	Ladies Night in the Outdoors — Knife Throwing	Camp WaNoKi
Aug. 20	6-8 pm	Fireside Chat—Honey	Camp WaNoKi
Aug. 27	6-8 pm	Wilderness Series — Survival Pack / Backpack	Camp WaNoKi
Aug. 27	11 am - 12 pm	Playscape Playdate	Kennedy Park
Aug. 29	9:00 am start	River Trash Bash	Des Moines River
Sept. 3	6-8 pm	Evening Stewardship	Bob Hay Cons Area
Sept. 10	6-8 pm	Ladies Night in the Outdoors — Fire Building	Camp WaNoKi
Sept. 11	11 am	Toddler Time Outdoors — Furs & Footprints	Camp WaNoKI
Sept. 17	6-8 pm	Fireside Chat — Art in Nature	Camp WaNoKi
Sept. 24	11 am - 12 pm	Playscape Playdate	Kennedy Park
Sept. 24	6-8 pm	Wilderness Series — Outdoor Cooking over fire	Camp WaNoKi
Sept. 28	6:00 pm	Friends of WCC board meeting	Kennedy Park
Oct. 1	6-8 pm	Evening Stewardship	Camp WaNoKi
Oct. 9	11 am	Toddler Time Outdoors — Fall Leaves & Nuts	Camp WaNoKI
Oct. 10		Halloween Trick or Treat in Campground	Kennedy Park
Oct. 15	6-8 pm	Fireside Chat — Critters of the Night	Camp WaNoKi

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

STAFF

Matt Cosgrove	Director
Cody Peterson	Operations Supervisor
Darren Herzog	Park Ranger
Karen Hansen	EE Coordinator
Erin Ford	Naturalist
Andy Stanberg	IRVM/Vegetation Specialist
Tasha Nielsen	Natural Res./Trail Tech
Adam Moeding	Natural Res./Trail Tech
Kyle Redmond	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.