

# Pathways to Nature

A Newsletter of the Webster County Conservation Board

September 2021



## IN THIS ISSUE...

- Call of the Wild Fundraiser
- Gypsum City grant
- Corporate Retreats
- Badger Lake meeting
- Quality of life projects
- Kennedy Park Trail work
- Seasonal Campsite application
- Campground Halloween



## Excellence In Action

### Tiny House Project Receives Award

The Webster County Conservation Board Tiny House Project is the recipient of the 2021 Iowa State Association of Counties “Excellence in Action” Award. The project includes placement of three tiny houses at the Gypsum City OHV Park Campground.

The Conservation Board partnered with Iowa Central Community College and the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility to construct the houses through the federal Second Chance Pell Grant Program. The program is used to offer college-level carpentry classes and other trades to inmates at the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility.

The tiny house project was described as a “win-win-win-win” for the county, community college, correctional facility and inmates. Besides the principle participants, the taxpayers of Webster County and the visitors from across the state and beyond are also winners as this innovative project has created a new revenue stream that can be used for re-investment in the park and provides a cost-effective lodging option for those enjoying Iowa’s largest Off-Highway Vehicle Park.

*Photo and information provided by the Iowa State Association of Counties*



# CALL OF THE WILD

FUNDRAISER

**09.19.21**

**3 - 6 P M**

## CAMP WANOKI

2400 WANOKI CAMP RD FORT DODGE, IA 50501

**TICKETS \$10/PERSON  
12 & YOUNGER FREE**

**\*PICNIC MEAL \*SILENT AUCTION  
\*DOOR PRIZES \*CHALLENGE COURSE**

**CALL 515-576-4258  
FOR TICKETS  
BY SEPTEMBER 15**



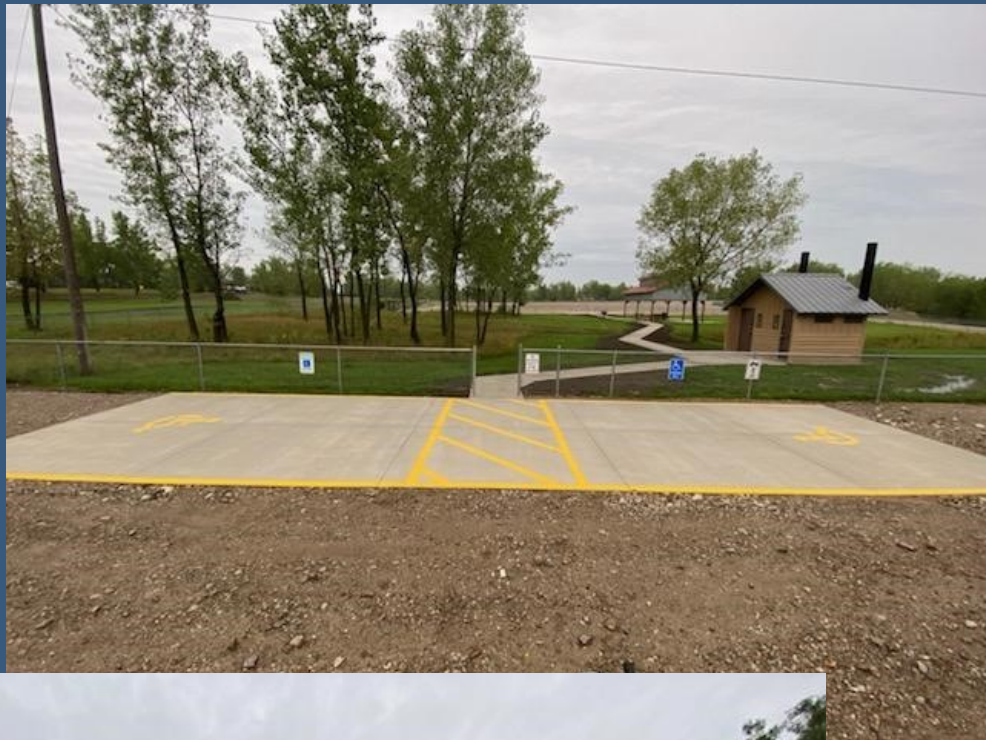
**A CONSERVATION & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ANNUAL FUNDRAISER  
SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS OF WEBSTER COUNTY CONSERVATION**



# Gypsum City receives grant to improve accessibility

The Webster County Conservation Board and Webster County Improvement Corporation recently received a \$20,000 grant to improve access to the restroom and shelter at the Gypsum City Off-Highway Vehicle Park. The grant was part of the annual State ATV Grant Program. The program is funded by the state OHV registration program and invests the rider's dollars back into the state's seven OHV Parks.

The grant allowed the department to pave an existing rock trail that connects the parking area to the restroom and shelter. Concrete unloading areas and an accessible campsite were also added to the park to improve accessibility for people with mobility issues.





# WCCB & Iowa Central Offer Corporate Retreats



WCCB and Iowa Central Community College recently teamed up to offer corporate retreats for area businesses. The group held their first retreat in July with Cascades Moulded Pulp from Clarion. The retreats are designed to connect the region's businesses with recreational and team-building opportunities.

Despite the drought conditions, the group spent part of their day kayaking on the Des Moines River Water Trail. WCCB Staff provided a guided trip on the river, demonstrated water testing and explained our role in the watershed and the importance of clean water.

ICCC Staff provided a catered lunch and offered a variety of team-building activities.

The retreats are held at the Camp Wa-No-Ki Lodge. If you are interested in a retreat for your business, contact ICCC at 515.574.1900 for more information.

 IOWA CENTRAL  
Business & Community  
*Connecting you*

## CORPORATE RETREAT

**Grow together.**

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far,  
go together."

African Proverb





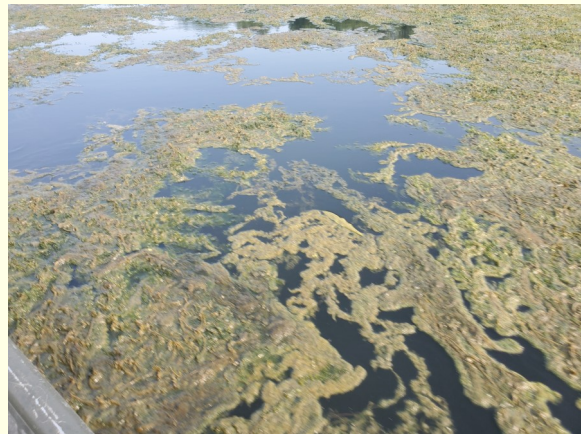
# PUBLIC MEETING

**Thursday, September 23, 2021 6:00 pm**  
**Bob Heun Shelter at John F Kennedy Park**  
**1415 Nelson Ave**  
**Fort Dodge, IA 50501**

The Webster County Conservation Board and the Iowa DNR Fisheries Staff are hosting an informational meeting regarding Badger Lake in Kennedy Park.

The meeting will provide a brief history of Badger Lake and recent challenges. The WCCB and DNR Staff will present options for potential lake renovation projects that will be considered by the Conservation Board.

The public is encouraged to attend to provide comments regarding the lake and the proposed projects.





# Quality of Life Update

The Webster County Board of Supervisors and the Conservation Board are working on the following “Quality of Life” improvements:

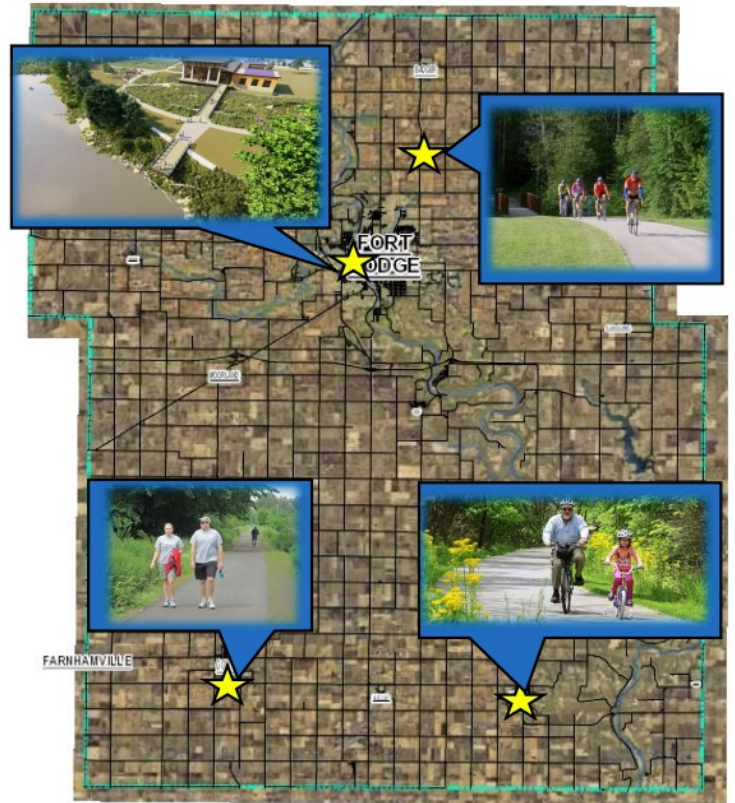
- Riverfront Conservation Education Center
- Badger Lake Trail Loop
- Fort Dodge to Badger Trail Connection
- Dayton Trail Plan
- Gowrie Trail Plan

Trail planning and facility designs are currently underway for the projects. Each project will be highlighted in future newsletters as more detailed plans become available.

*Thanks to the Webster County Board of Supervisors for their continued commitment to investments in Webster County’s quality of life!!*



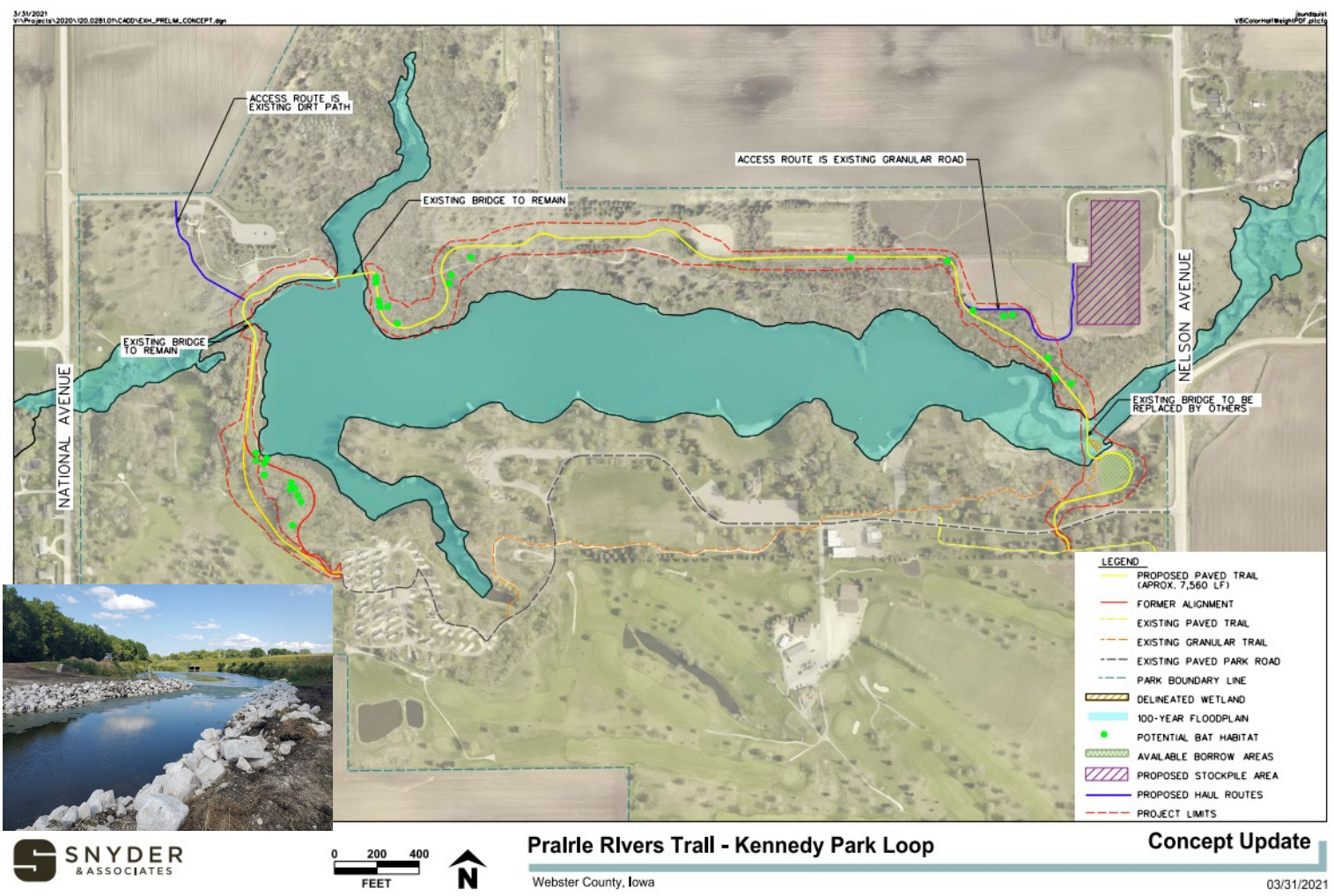
## WEBSTER COUNTY Quality of Life Projects



## Riverfront Conservation Education Center







**IMPORTANT  
NOTICE**

## TRAIL WORK AT KENNEDY PARK

Construction has begun to remove the existing east trail bridge, near the silt pond at the park entrance. It may take several weeks to get the site prepared and the new bridge installed. The trail around the lake will be closed in this area. The new bridge is scheduled to be installed September 13th—17th.

In addition to the bridge replacement, the county is paving a 10-foot, loop trail around Badger Lake. Depending on the contractor's schedule, the grading could begin this fall and project completion scheduled for next spring/summer.

More details will be shared as they become available. Thanks for your patience!



# Now Taking Applications for 2022 Seasonal Campsites

**Seasonal sites at  
John F Kennedy Park Campground  
will offer asphalt pads, electric, water & sewer  
hook ups. Sites will be available  
April 15 through October 15.**

**6 months of  
camping for only  
\$2,500**

For more information or for a seasonal campsite application, visit

[www.mycountyparks.com/County/Webster.aspx](http://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Webster.aspx)

Or call 515-576-4258

Applications are also available at the Webster County Conservation office

1415 Nelson Ave, Fort Dodge

Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Applications are due in office by Friday, **October 1, 2021 at 4:30 pm**

Drawing for sites will take place during regularly scheduled October

Conservation Board meeting, **October 12, 2021 at 5:30 pm**

If selected for a site, a \$500 deposit will be due by November 1, 2021.

The remaining \$2,000 will be due by April 15, 2022.



# Upcoming Public Programs & Events

*Your Guide To The Outside*

# SAVE THE DATE

## Saturday, October 9, 2021

### 4 - 6 PM

**John F Kennedy Park Campground  
AND**

**Gypsum City OHV Campground  
Halloween Event!!**

*More details to come...*

For a complete compilation, registration information and more view the  
*2021 Webster County Conservation Program Guide*  
at [www.webstercountytia.org](http://www.webstercountytia.org) & [www.mycountyparks.com](http://www.mycountyparks.com)

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](mailto:conservation@webstercountyia.org)

[www.mycountyparks.com/Webster.aspx](http://www.mycountyparks.com/Webster.aspx)



# Webster County Conservation

## STAFF

Matt Cosgrove	Director
Cody Peterson	Operations Supervisor
Darren Herzog	Park Ranger
Joe Sherbon	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
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.*