

# Newsletter

A Newsletter of the Webster County Conservation Board



## A Season of Projects

As we continue to emerge from the COVID-19 Pandemic, Webster County is responding to Iowa's renewed interest in the outdoors by investing in a variety of outdoor recreation projects.

## BADGER LAKE RESTORATION PROJECT

In the Spring of 2021, the Conservation Department received a significant number of reports of dead fish at Badger Lake. The department staff worked closely with Ben Wallace, Fisheries Biologist, and the IDNR Fisheries Bureau to survey the lake and determine the best options for improving the fishery and water quality at Badger Lake.

After reviewing the survey data, it was apparent that the majority of the lake's game fish had been lost to the recent winter-kill. Natural fish die off is common in Iowa lakes and rivers following long winters with significant ice cover; however the winter-kill that occurred in 2020-21 at Badger Lake was devastating to the fish population structure. The winter-kill occurs when the lake's dissolved oxygen levels drop too low to support aquatic life. In a typical winter-kill event a lake can respond, but this event resulted in the loss of the majority of the lake's predator fish species, creating an imbalance in the species composition of the lake.

On September 23, 2021 the Conservation Department and DNR held a public meeting to inform the public about the issue and discuss potential solutions. (Continue on Page 2)

The projects include:

- Badger Lake Trail
- Fort Dodge - Badger Trail
- Dayton Trail
- Gowrie Trail
- Riverfront Nature Center
- Badger Lake Restoration

A description of the projects, budgets, timelines and updates will be posted on the county's website at: [www.webstercountyiowa.org](http://www.webstercountyiowa.org) and the department's Facebook page.

### PROJECT GOALS

- PROTECT THE LAKE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS
- REDUCE SILTATION
- REDUCE NUTRIENTS
- STABILIZE SHORELINE & STREAMBANKS
- IMPROVE FISHERY
- IMPROVE ACCESS – FISHING & BOATING
- IMPROVE OVER-ALL WATER QUALITY PERCEPTION



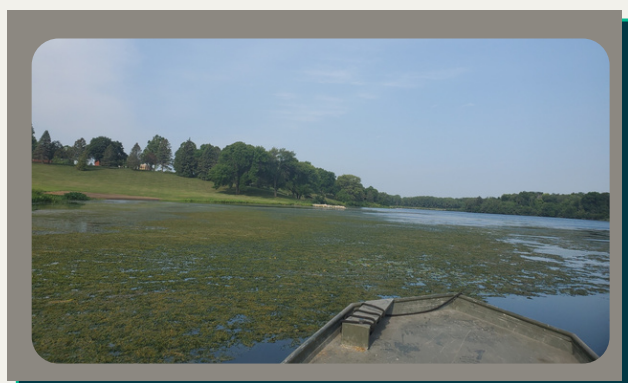
# LAKE RESTORATION, (Cont. from page 1)



Based on feedback from the public meeting, the department will begin a lake restoration project at Badger Lake in August of 2022. The project will start with lowering the lake by fifty percent and applying a chemical called Rotanone to kill the remaining fish in the lake to prepare for re-stocking. The re-stocking will create a new balance in the fish populations. Killing the remaining fish, predominantly Common Carp and small Crappies, is necessary to re-establish balance in the predator/prey structure of the lake.

In addition to the fish renovation, the project will include improved fishing access, construction of fishing jetties, vegetation management, shoreline protection, sediment removal and water quality improvements.

The projects are scheduled to be completed by the summer of 2023.



## LAKE HISTORY

- Badger Lake Dam Completed 1963
- Badger Lake filled & Kennedy Park dedication 1965
- Silt Pond Install 1988
- Badger Lake Dredging Project 1991
- Watershed Development Grant Award 2007
- Purchased 6.65 ac. Along Badger Creek 2008
- Water Monitoring 2008-09
- (Depth, flow, testing – nitrates, phosphorous, e.coli, sediment)
- SRF Streambank Stabilization 2016
- Silt pond maintenance every 5-7 years



# TRAIL AT BADGER LAKE

*Under Construction*

The trail around Badger Lake is currently under construction. The trail will remain closed to the public during the construction phase of the project.

Peterson Contractors Inc. from Reinbeck is the general contractor on the project and is currently on-site installing drainage structures, erosion control and preparing for grading. The cost of the project is \$1,196,915.78 and is partially funded by a \$700,000 Transportation Alternatives Program Grant administered by the IDOT.

The project is expected to take about four months to complete and will provide a 10-foot wide, asphalt trail approximately 1.4 miles around Badger Lake.

*Stay Tuned....*



**LENGTH - 1.4 MILES**



## MEET BRODY BERTRAM - TRAIL/NATURAL RESOURCE TECHNICIAN

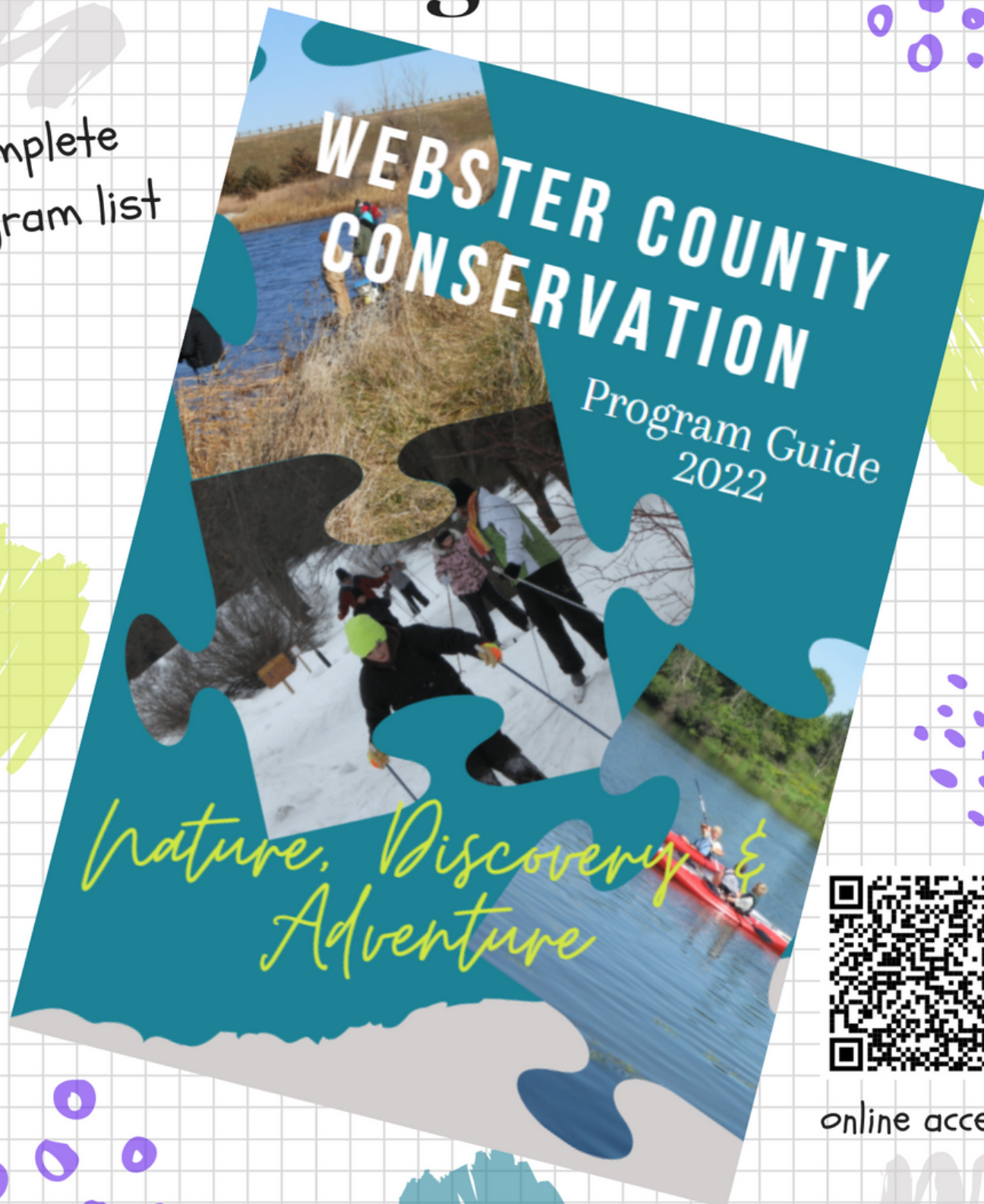


Hi, I'm Brody Bertram, the new Trail Technician for the WCCB. I grew up in Aplington, Iowa and graduated from Aplington-Parkersburg in 2005. From there I attended Ellsworth Community College & Upper Iowa University. In my 13 years in Parks & Natural Resource management, I worked ten of them with Franklin County Conservation and then split the other 3 years with the City of Algona and the DNR at Dolliver State Park. In my free time I simply enjoy being outdoors with my wife, daughter, and dogs. You can usually find us around a campfire, casting a line, or planting some trees. I am very excited about my future with Webster County, getting to know the people, enhancing our public lands, and spreading the good word about natural resources & outdoor recreation.

Looking forward to seeing you on the trails!

# 2022 Program Guide

Complete  
program list



online access

**Program registration begins May 1st!**

# CAMPING AHEAD

*April 15th - Oct. 15th*

Tis the season! Camping Season! The campgrounds located at John F. Kennedy Memorial Park and Gypsum City OHV Park opened for the season at 8:00 am Friday, April 15th.



- John F Kennedy Memorial Park Campground sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Gypsum City OHV Park Campground has 8 sites that are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The remaining sites may be reserved online at [www.mycountyparks.com](http://www.mycountyparks.com).
- Yurts, Tiny Homes, Bob Heun Shelter & Camp Wanoki Lodge can be reserved online at [www.mycountyparks.com](http://www.mycountyparks.com)

For a complete Fee schedule, please visit  
[www.mycountyparks.com/County/Webster.aspx](http://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Webster.aspx)

## MAPLE SYRUP SEASON 2022



Waking to a dusting of snow and chilly temperatures didn't deter the public from attending the Maple Syrup Making event at Camp WaNoKi on the first Saturday of April. Actually, it seemed just so appropriate. That is exactly the type of weather one should expect during maple syrup season. About 80 people of all ages gathered to learn how to collect and cook sap. Sampling the sweet syrup was a highlight too.



An easy way to remember when the season starts is: temperatures in the 40's during the day and below freezing overnight. If you missed the event or just want more information to give it a try at home, there is a program scheduled Thurs., Oct. 27th at Camp WaNoKi near the stone fire ring.

# EARTH DAY EVENTS

## Earth Day Celebration

Camp WaNoKi  
2400 WaNoKi Camp Rd, Fort Dodge

April 22 6:00-8:00 pm

- Teepee Building
- SMILE rock hunt
- Campfire S'mores

Help us celebrate one of the best times of year! Enjoy the fresh air, walk a little, hike the trails, hunt for SMILE rocks, build a teepee just because, sit around a fire, eat a s'more, etc. The goal is to get kids with their families and adults with friends outdoors to enjoy nature, relieve stress, and create lasting memories. The public is welcome to participate in structured activities like building a teepee and searching the trails for painted SMILE rocks created by students and staff from Cooper and Feelhaver schools.

## Tree Planting Clinic

Kennedy Park  
1415 Nelson Ave, Fort Dodge

April 24th 2:00-4:00 pm

Meet at the Heun Shelter to participate in a Earth Day tree planting event throughout Kennedy Park. Registration required by calling 515-576-4258.

**FREE tree give-away for the first 150 people. Drive-thru and pick up to three bare-root seedlings of Hackberry, Swamp White Oak and Thornless Honeylocust.**



Happy Earth Day



# DNR MONITORING FOR AVIAN INFLUENZA IN WILD BIRDS

[www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov)

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources and its federal partners are working together to monitor for the presence of avian influenza in Iowa's wild birds.

Avian influenza is a highly transmissible, naturally occurring disease often found in certain waterfowl and shorebirds. There are various strains of the disease ranging from strains causing no harm to domestic poultry to strains that are lethal.

"Bird loss in the wild is a natural occurrence, so seeing one dead bird shouldn't be cause for alarm, but if someone is finding a number of dead birds, especially ducks, geese or raptors, we want to know about it," said Dr. Rachel Ruden, state wildlife veterinarian with the Iowa DNR.

Ruden said those who find five or more dead wild birds within a week should report their findings to their local wildlife biologist or state conservation officer.

Avian influenza can exist in a deceased bird for several weeks, depending upon environmental conditions.

"We are encouraging the public not to handle sick or dead birds or to take sick birds to a wildlife rehabilitator to avoid unintentionally spreading avian influenza in the event that the bird is positive," said Dr. Ruden.

At this point, she said, backyard birdfeeders are not of concern, unless mallards are actively using the feeder. Avian influenza's impact on upland birds, like wild turkeys, is much less, because of the behaviors and preferred habitats make them less likely to encounter the disease in the wild.

# UPCOMING PUBLIC PROGRAMS & EVENTS

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
April 15	8 am	Campgrounds Open	
April 22	6 pm	Earth Day Celebration	Camp WaNoKi
April 24	2 pm	Tree Planting Clinic	Kennedy Park
April 30	9:30 am	Soap Making Event	Camp WaNoKi
May 19	6:30 pm	Soldier Creek Nature Class	Soldier Creek
May 21		Kids to Parks Day	
May 23	7 am	Early Bird Hike	Dolliver
June 3	6 pm	River Excursion	Lentsch Access
June 3-5		Free Fishing Weekend	
June 4	10 am	Free Kids Fishing Clinic	Kennedy
June 6-8	10:30 am	Intro To The Outdoors	Loomis Park
June 6-9	9 am	Summer Wild Camp	Camp WaNoKi
June 13	7 am	Early Bird Hike	Woodmans Hollow
June 15	10 am	Toddler Time	Camp WaNoKi
June 20-21	10:30 am	Intro To The Outdoors	Loomis Park
June 21-23	9 am	Summer Wild Camp	Camp WaNoKi
June 23	6 pm	Fireside Chat	Camp WaNoKi
June 26	1 pm	Kayaking Beginners	Kennedy
June 28	11 am	Nature Exploration	Kennedy
June 29	10 am	Storybook Adventure	Children's Forest
June 29	10 am	Toddler Time	Camp WaNoKi
June 30	9 am	Nature Day Camp	Kennedy
June 30	6 pm	Evening Paddle	Kennedy

***For a complete listing of Webster County Conservation events and  
for more information, including registration, please visit  
[www.mycountyparks.com/County/Webster.aspx](http://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Webster.aspx)***



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





# Friends of Webster County Conservation

The Friends of Webster County Conservation is a non-profit organization of people, like you, that are concerned with protecting our natural areas and are concerned about providing opportunities for people to interact and learn about our natural environment.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT JOINING THE "FRIENDS" CONTACT THE KENNEDY PARK OFFICE**

## Be a Friend...

Pledge your support today for high quality environmental education, healthy living, expanded open space, restored natural areas and greater outdoor recreation opportunities in Webster County.

## Friends Enjoy...

- Receive current Friends & Webster County Conservation Department activities & events.
- Participate in special programs, tours & events designed exclusively for Friends.
- Special invitation to our "Call of the Wild" Friends Celebration event.
- Have your name/business included in the Friends Annual Report.

**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 generation.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Levels (please check)

Family (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_ Business (\$100) \_\_\_\_\_

Additional gift \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to volunteer \_\_\_\_\_

The Friends of Webster County Conservation is a 501c3 organization. Your donation may be considered tax deductible

## Our Funding Priorities

Environmental Education

Youth Recreation

Trails-land & water

Outdoor Recreation

Natural Resources Conservation

Habitat Protection

*"A friend may well be reckoned the  
masterpiece of nature"*  
Ralph Waldo Emerson



Mail to: Friends of Webster County Conservation, 1415 Nelson Ave, Fort Dodge IA 50501

# WEBSTER COUNTY CONSERVATION

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)



## 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./Park Tech
Brody Bertram	Natural Res./Trail Tech
Joni Hefley	Office Manager

## BOARD MEMBERS

Jerry Beck	Fort Dodge
Geri Winge	Fort Dodge
Nick Carlson	Fort Dodge
KC Coleman	Fort Dodge
Beth Collins	Fort Dodge



The Webster County Conservation Board meets monthly on the second Tuesday of each month. The meeting are held at the Kennedy Park Office building at 5:30 p.m. All meeting 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, Webster County Human Resources or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.