

Newsletter

A Newsletter of the Webster County Conservation Board

PROJECT UPDATES

Badger Lake Restoration Project



Pumping to lower the lake level



Installing stake beds for fish habitat



Mechanical silt removal

If you have made a recent trip to Kennedy Park this fall, it is pretty obvious that the Badger Lake Restoration Project is in full swing.

Due to a significant fish-kill in the winter of 2020-21, the lake lost the majority of its game species (bass, bluegill, catfish and crappie). After consulting with the DNR Fisheries Staff and holding a public meeting, the board approved a major renovation project that includes:

- Lowering the lake level by 11 feet
- Applying a chemical to remove the remaining fish species
- Re-stocking the lake with bass, bluegill, catfish and crappies
- Installing fish habitat (stake beds, rock reefs, cedar trees, concrete culverts, spawning beds, boulder piles)
- Install a rock dam water quality structure between the campground and golf course
- Remove and install a new boat ramp
- Improve and expand fishing jetties
- Remove siltation
- Repair the concrete on the spillway
- Rock armor shorelines

The project is expected to be complete by March 2023 and the lake will naturally fill through snow melt and spring rainfall.

A special thanks to KC Nielsen, Tim Lennon, Webster County Secondary Roads, City of Fort Dodge, Irels Pederson Co. and the DNR Fisheries Staff.



PROJECT UPDATES

Badger Lake Trail Loop

The Badger Lake Trail Loop Project is nearing completion after eight months of construction. The 1.4 mile trail will provide a hard-surfaced, accessible route around Badger Lake in Kennedy Park. The project has been in the Conservation Board's plans for over twenty years. The trail will be a popular addition to the thirty-plus miles of the Prairie Rivers Trail System.

The \$1,300,000 project is being funded through a \$700,000 grant from the Transportation Alternatives Program, administered by the Iowa Department of Transportation, and a partnership between the City of Fort Dodge and Webster County.

The Conservation Department Staff has been busy re-routing and adding rock surfacing to additional trails throughout the park. The park's trail system will consist of a variety of trail surfacing (grass, rock, asphalt and concrete) to appeal to a wide variety of trail users.

The anticipated project completion is Spring of 2023. Additional trail projects are being planned for connecting to Badger and creating trail loops in Dayton and Gowrie. Stay tuned...



OHV CHALLENGE COURSE OPEN HOUSE

On Friday, October 21st the newest addition to the Gypsum City Off-Highway Vehicle Park was officially opened and named the Larry Leiting Skills Development Course. Larry Leiting, a local business owner and the Chairman of the Fort Dodge Convention and Visitors Bureau in 2000, suggested converting the former gypsum mines into a park for ATVs, motorcycles and snowmobiles. An open house was held to honor Larry's vision and dedication to creating Iowa's largest OHV Park. The event included a brief presentation about the park's history, a park tour and lunch.

The purpose of this course is to offer riders a different experience from traditional trail riding. The obstacles will help the new riders further their riding skills and develop the skill necessary for riding on uneven terrain. There are fifteen obstacles throughout the course that are open to all machine types. Several obstacles offer an easy, medium and hard route. Riders can select a level that is appropriate for your skill level. Each obstacle offers a bypass route if needed.



WEBSTER COUNTY AND THE CITY OF FORT DODGE AWARDED \$4,000,000 FOR QUALITY OF LIFE PROJECTS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Governor Kim Reynolds ★ Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, October 7, 2022

Governor Reynolds announces \$14.1M in fifth round of Destination Iowa funding for quality of life and tourism

DES MOINES -- Today, Governor Kim Reynolds and the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) announced \$14.1 million in grant funding for the following four projects through Destination Iowa. The \$100 million program, announced in April, invests in transformational projects that will bolster the quality of life in Iowa communities and attract visitors and new residents.

The Webster County Conservation Board and the City of Fort Dodge have been awarded \$4,000,000 toward the Central River District Park and Discovery Center. The center will offer meeting spaces, indoor and outdoor classrooms, a large interpretive area, and a scenic overlook with views of the Des Moines River. The award represents 17% of the total project investment of \$19,906,495, which also includes a 1.3-acre stormwater treatment wetland and in-stream recreational features such as a whitewater drop, fishing pools and access points.

IEDA began accepting applications on May 9 and will continue to review applications as they arrive through December 31 or until funding runs out. Applications are scored based on eligibility, completeness, and the project's ability to meet the program goal of creating transformational tourism attractions. Cities, counties, nonprofits and other organizations can apply for Destination Iowa grants through four separate funds: Economically Significant Development, Outdoor Recreation, Tourism Attraction, and Creative Placemaking.

Funded projects must be completed by June 30, 2026. For more information on the Destination Iowa program, visit iowaeda.com/destination-iowa/. Funding for this program is being made available through the federal American Rescue Plan Act.





WE NEED YOUR HELP...recently the city and county were awarded \$4 million from the Governor's Destination Iowa Program. The program requires a variety of funding sources, including local private dollars. The Friends of Webster County Conservation's "Connecting Kids and Nature" Capital Campaign is currently underway. With more than \$13 million secured, we need your help to raise the remaining \$500,000.

The River's Edge Discovery Center will provide not only the place for learning and discovery, but guidance that teaches children (and adults) to be careful stewards of the natural world around us. The central theme for the facility and exhibits is "Immerse yourself in the living story of Iowa's water – the lifeblood that shapes our communities and our landscapes – while discovering our responsibilities to protect it for the future."

"Time in nature is not leisure time: it's an essential investment in our children's health (and also, by the way, in our own)", said Richard Low, author of The Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder.

RIVER'S EDGE DISCOVERY CENTER

Pledge & Donation Form



Full Name / Company: _____

Spouse/Partner Full Name: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ Telephone #: _____

☐ I/We would like to make an immediate donation of \$ _____ to this project.

☐ I/We would like to make a pledge of \$ _____ over _____ years. (1, 2, or 3 yrs)

This gift is a corporate commitment from: _____

Name and title of corporate contact: _____

Please have this gift recognized in publications, Wall of Honor, (etc.) in the following way:

* All donations/pledges over \$100 will be permanently recognized at the facility in order of giving levels. Your gift is tax deductible according to current tax law

MAIL PLEDGE & GIFT TO:

Friends of Webster County Conservation
c/c River's Edge Discovery Center
1415 Nelson Ave Fort Dodge IA 50501
QUESTIONS? Call: 515-576-4258



Webster County Conservation
1415 Nelson Avenue, Fort Dodge, Iowa 515-576-4258
www.mycountyparks.com
conservation@webstercountyia.org

Thank You!



Join Us

ANNUAL MEETING & HOLIDAY SOCIAL



The Friends of Webster County Conservation

- Chili Supper - Free Will Donation
- WCCB Project Update Presentation
- "Connecting Kids & Nature Capital Campaign"

November 28, 2022

Time: 5:30pm - 8:30 pm

The Lodge at Camp Wa-No-Ki

RSVP (515)576-4258 or

conservation@webstercountytia.org



RIVER'S EDGE DISCOVERY CENTER

WEBSTER COUNTY
NATURE CENTER

WEBSTER COUNTY NATURE

CONNECTING KIDS
AND NATURE

TICKETS
1 FOR \$10 OR
3 FOR \$20

**DRAWING WILL BE HELD DECEMBER 1,
2022**

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!!!

All proceeds go towards construction of
Webster County Conservation's new nature
center: River's Edge Discovery Center

**Blackstone 17"
Tabletop Griddle**



Grizzly Cooler



**Old Town Heron
9 xt Kayak**



515-576-4258

conservation@webstercountyia.org

UPCOMING PUBLIC PROGRAMS & EVENTS

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
Nov 28	6 pm	Friends of WCC Open House	Camp WaNoKi



It's time to lay some tracks!

You can check out a set of cross-country skis or snowshoes by calling Kennedy Park.

Snowshoes & Cross Country Ski Rental:
\$10 to stay at Kennedy Park -
(skis/boots/poles or snowshoes) rentals
must be returned by 3 pm to the park office
on the same day as rental
\$20 for use outside of Kennedy Park - for
the weekend, pick up no later than 4 pm
Friday and return to the park office by 4 pm
Monday

Kids under 18 FREE with an adult rental. All
equipment will be loaned out on a first-
come, first-served basis. To rent, please call
515-576-4258

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



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

mycountyparks
.com 



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
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.