

# Newsletter

A Newsletter of the Webster County Conservation Board

## River's Edge Discovery Center Update

We're excited to share the construction photos of the River's Edge Discovery Center! Jensen Builders and a variety of sub-contractors are making great progress on the Discovery Center. The project is currently ahead of schedule and the exhibits are in the fabrication phase by Taylor Studios Inc. **The anticipated opening date is scheduled for July 2024. Stay tuned....**



## Webster County River's Edge Discovery Center OPENING 2024!





# "Connecting Kids & Nature" Capital Campaign

The Friends of Webster County Conservation launched their "Connecting Kids & Nature" Capital Campaign in the Fall of 2022 with a Trivia Night at River Hops Brewery. The goal of the campaign is to raise \$500,000 of private funds to match the state's \$4 million Destination Iowa Grant. Additional events were held at Soldier Creek Winery and the Lizard Creek Ranch to provide information and spread the word about the fundraising effort.

Thanks to the generous donations of local businesses, individuals and organizations, the campaign has currently raised \$356,000. We need your help to raise the final \$144,000 by the end of 2023 to secure our match to the state's funding.

If you are interested in learning more about the campaign or would like to make a donation, you can fill out the attached donor form or contact the Conservation Department Office for more details and to schedule a presentation.

*Stay Tuned for more events coming soon!*



**\$356,000**

**FUNDS RAISED**

**\$500,000**

Our goal

THANK  
YOU!



# 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](http://www.mycountyparks.com)  
[conservation@webstercountyia.org](mailto:conservation@webstercountyia.org)

Thank You!





# BADGER LAKE TRAIL PROJECT

In the fall of 2021, Webster County Conservation began preparing for the construction of a paved trail around Badger Lake. The conservation crew cleared trees that winter in preparation for PCI (Peterson Contractors, INC.) to begin grading work in the spring of 2022. The roughly 2-mile section of trail ties into the cement trail that comes from Fort Dodge to Kennedy Park and allows riders to circle the lake and then head back towards town. This is part of the Prairie Rivers Trail System which includes the City of Fort Dodge and Webster County Trails. The project has been in plans dating back to the 1990's, but was recently prioritized during the creation of the Webster County Hike & Bike Master Plan.

Before the construction of the paved trail there was a gravel trail that circled the lake. The Conservation Department has tried to keep as much of the gravel trail as possible and continues to expand that system to offer both hard and soft surfacing for a variety of users. This new trail has some unique features such as “living walls”, which are layers of soil-wrapped material that allows vegetation to grow through the front face of the walls. This makes the walls look like a bed of grass which stabilizes the soil within the structure. The wall design is the first to be utilized in Iowa and offers a more natural appearance than standard retaining walls.

The trail opened prior to Memorial Day Weekend and trail counts have increased from 25 people per day to over 140 people per day! This trail project was funded by a \$700,000 grant through the Iowa Department of Transportation, the City of Fort Dodge and Webster County. In conjunction with Snyder & Associates Engineering Firm and Peterson Contractors, Inc. the Conservation Department is excited to “officially” open the trail with hopes that it will provide enjoyment to users for many years to come. Stay tuned for a connection to Badger in 2024!





**NOT SURE WHAT TO DO AND  
LOOKING TO GET OUTSIDE? JOIN  
US FOR AN ACTIVITY AT ONE OF  
OUR PARKS!**

**20  
23**



**VIEW ALL OF THE  
CURRENT EVENTS  
HERE!**



**SIMPLY SCAN THE CODE TO GET STRAIGHT TO  
OUR EVENTS PAGE ON MYCOUNTYPARKS.COM**





# SPRING SPRUCE UP GROUPS MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT KENNEDY PARK



From tree planting, to laying out wood chips, plus many other helpful tasks in keeping Kennedy Park looking its best, we thank groups from Fort Dodge Ford-Toyota, Cargill Corn Milling, Kohl's Department Store, the Girl Scouts and the Johnson Jaguars 4H Club.

If you have a group interested in volunteering at any of our WCCB managed areas reach out to us at: 515.576.4258 or email [conservation@webstercountytia.org](mailto:conservation@webstercountytia.org)

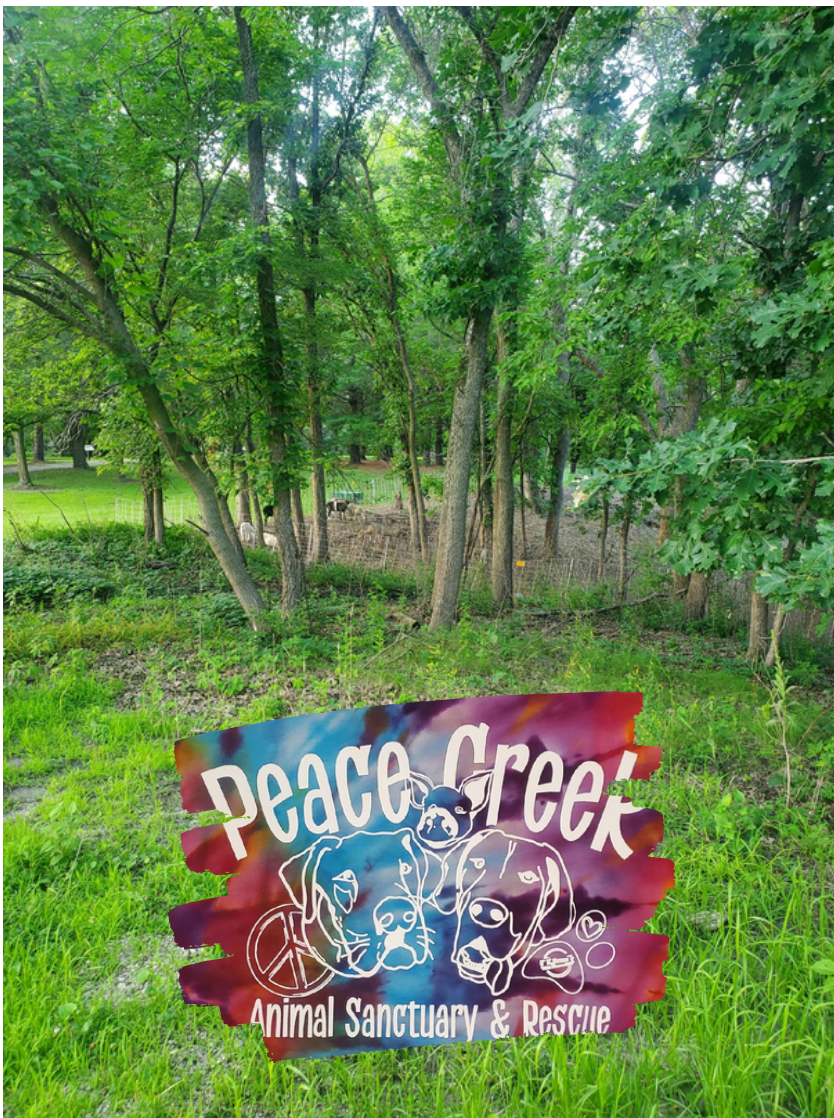


# HABITAT NEWS...



Meet the newest residents of the Children's Forest. Through a unique partnership with Peace Creek Animal Sanctuary & Rescue, WCCB is utilizing the help from eight goats to combat invasive vegetation.

The goats will provide another "tool" in the toolbox for habitat management in county parks and wildlife areas. Our hungry herd is making an immediate impact on the honeysuckle, buckthorn and other invasives. A special "thanks" to our friends at Peace Creek, Humboldt Vet Clinic, and Franklin County Conservation.







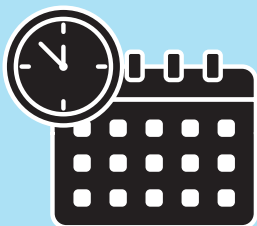
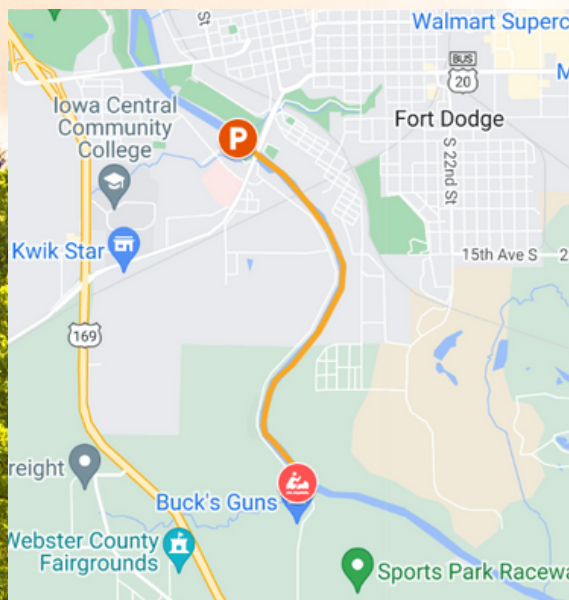
The Terry Moehnke Veteran's Memorial Park recently received a new arch and welcome sign. The project was funded through a partnership with Fort Dodge Noon Sertoma, Webster County Conservation and Crimmins Welding. \_\_\_\_\_ Page 8

## Pollinator Garden Added at the Children's Forest



A Pollinator Garden has been added to the Children's Forest in honor of Mina Landes, the "Steward of the Children's Forest". Pictured are Mina's daughters and grandchild planting an oak tree and enjoying Mina's memorial bench. \_\_\_\_\_ Page 9





**WHERE: SUNKISSED MEADOWS BOAT RAMP**

**326 11TH AVE SW FT DODGE, IA**

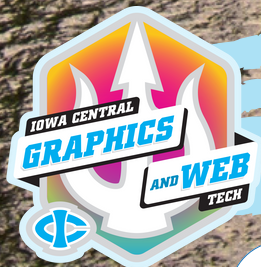
**WHEN: AUGUST 5, 2023 AT 9:00 AM**

**PADDLERS WILL BE SHUTTLED BACK TO SUNKISSED MEADOWS FROM TAKEOUT FOR A 2.3 MILE TRIP**

**REGISTER YOURSELF OR A GROUP ON**

**[MYCOUNTYPARKS.COM/COUNTY/WEBSTER/EVENTS.ASPX](https://mycountyparks.com/county/webster/events.aspx)**

**CALL 515.576.4258 WITH QUESTIONS**



**LUNCH  
PROVIDED  
AFTERWARDS  
AT AMIGOS**





# PICKIN' UP WHILE PADDLIN' DOWN

Join the FUN as the public participates in a River Clean-Up event on Saturday, August 5, 2023.

The group will enjoy time paddling on the river while helping make a difference in our local waters on the Des Moines River.

Participants will get muddy and wet picking up trash from the river and hauling it out by canoe.

Call to reserve a canoe and equipment from Webster County Conservation by August 3, 2023. The event is free and open to the public. A limited number of canoes are available. Sign up is available for groups & individuals on:

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

If registering a group, please put in the comments of the registration how many participants you are planning to have, and if you need canoes.

Call the Webster County Conservation Office at (515) 576-4258 for questions.





# NEW FACES OF WEBSTER COUNTY

## KADEN BALL



Hello! My name is Kaden Ball and I am a Conservation Aide for the summer. I just graduated high school from Cedar Falls and am spending the summer in Clare. If I'm not busy tinkering around Kennedy, I'm usually outside or near a fishing pond, reeling in the big ones! My favorite thing about Webster County is the people; they're super nice and welcoming. In the future, I plan to go to UNI and study Biology and Medical Lab Sciences. I'm happy to be here for the summer!

## BRITTANY RIDGWAY

Hi! My name is Brittany Ridgway, and I am the new Office Manager. I started out working in Conservation at Story County, living in Nevada, Iowa. Moving up here was the best decision, and I'm loving Webster County! I hope to continue to be an asset to the staff and the public, helping out wherever I can. If I'm not at work, I can be found in one of our parks, or checking out all that Ft Dodge has to offer. I'm looking forward to working with everyone, and meeting new people!





# UPCOMING PUBLIC PROGRAMS & EVENTS

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
July 20	9 am-3 pm	Nature Link Day Camp	Kennedy Park
July 25	10:30 am	Nature Exploration	Kennedy Park
July 25	10 am	Tuesday at Ten Hike	Dolliver Park
July 26	10-11:30 am	Toddler Time Outdoors	Camp WaNoKi
July 27	6-8 pm	Fireside Chat-Early Weapons	Camp WaNoKi
Aug 2	10-11:30 am	Toddler Time Outdoors	Camp WaNoKi
Aug 5	9 am	River Clean-Up	Des Moines River
Aug 5	9-11 am	Beginners Kayak Class	Kennedy Park
Aug 8-10	9 am-3 pm	Teen Explorers Camp	Camp WaNoKi
Aug 12	9 am-12 pm	Kids Trap Clinic	ICCC Trap Range
Aug 15	9:30-11 am	Kids: Artists by Nature	Kennedy Park, Children's Forest
Aug 15	10 am	Tuesday at Ten Hike	Carlson Recreation Area
Aug 16	10-11:30 am	Toddler Time Outdoors	Camp WaNoKi
Aug 17	6:30 pm	Beginners Kayak Class	Kennedy Park
Sept 19	10 am	Tuesday at Ten Hike	Liska-Stanek Prairie
Sept 20	10-11:30 am	Toddler Time Outdoors	Camp WaNoKi
Sept 28	6-8 pm	Fireside Chat-Artifacts	Camp WaNoKi



***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**





Working together to make  
Webster County a great place  
to play, live, and work!

**Get  
Involved  
& Get  
Outside!**

**FRIENDS OF**

# WEBSTER COUNTY CONSERVATION



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

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.

**BE A  
FRIEND**

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



#### **CONTACT US**

515-576-4258 

conservation@webstercountyia.org 

mycountyparks.com 

Friends of Webster County Conservation 

1415 Nelson Ave Fort Dodge IA 50501



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[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./Park Tech
Brody Bertram	Natural Res./Trail Tech
Brittany Ridgway	Office Manager

## BOARD MEMBERS

Jerry Beck	Fort Dodge
Geri Winge	Fort Dodge
Nick Carlson	Fort Dodge
KCColeman	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.