



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Mission Statement

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 SPIRIT OF GIVING...

Greetings Friends,

The *Friends Group* was started in 2004 to provide passionate people the opportunity to volunteer their time and invest their treasure in the natural resources and environmental education of Webster County.

2014 marks the 10th Anniversary of the Friends of Webster County Conservation. Countless projects, programs, and events would not be possible without the hundreds of hours donated by our "Friends"!



Nancy Hamilton, pictured above with Kennedy Park's Little Free Library, is just one of the many examples of local volunteers making a difference in our community!! Nancy is the library steward for the LFL in Kennedy Park's campground.

Each year I am amazed by the generous people that serve on our boards, committees, work groups, field trips, and seasonal festivals. These activities would not be possible without volunteers. Thank you for your time, talent, and treasure!! **Your efforts are an investment in the future of Webster County's natural resources!**

THANK YOU!!

Tim Hazel

Chairperson

Laura Ludgate

Vice Chair

Jim Patton

Secretary

Jerry Beck

Treasurer

Laura Gurnett

Member

Doug Breyfogle

Member

John Thrams

Member

Steve Johanson

Member

Matt Thrams

Member

John Copper

Member

Matt Benzie

Member

2014—A YEAR IN REVIEW

Trail Celebration Event & Firefly 5K

On August 15th the Friends held the Annual Firefly 5K in partnership with a community trail celebration event. The event marked the completion of the \$6.7 million dollar trail expansion over three years in Fort Dodge & Webster County!

The celebration included: the Firefly 5K night walk/run, a family bike ride, a poker ride, a ribbon cutting and dedication by the Trails Advisory Board & Greater Fort Dodge Growth Alliance Ambassadors.

The evening festivities also included music by Rusty McNeil, food by the Fort Dodge Lion's Club, and glow accessories to light up the night!

Many "thanks" to the participants, sponsors, and all that have supported the trail expansion efforts in our community!!



Additional Activities

Plant Some Shade—DNR/Mid American Energy Residential Tree Program

National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council Iowa Trail Building Workshop

Stewardship workdays

"Parks to People" Training—Iowa Parks Foundation

Adventure Trip planning

Reed Russell Receives 2014 Orville O' Connell Scholarship

Reed attends Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids majoring in Parks & Natural Resources. Reed has worked for WCCB, IDNR, and recently worked at Lake Manawa near Council Bluffs.

Reed is from Fort Dodge. His mom is a school teacher and his dad works for UPS.

Congrats Reed!

Fall Festival

Over 500 people participated in the Kennedy Park Annual Fall Festival on Oct. 12th. The Conservation Staff & Friends, in partnership with the Healthy Webster County Coalition, WC Public Health, and other "friends" hosted a wide variety of outdoor activities including: archery, bb gun shoot, Dragon Boat rides, kayaking, canoeing, hay rides, fishing, geo-caching, and more!



FINANCIAL REPORT 2014

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2014 INCOME

Memberships.....	\$ 755.00
Memorials.....	\$ 660.02
Grants/donations	
Playscape.....	\$ 22,150.00
Scholarship Fund.....	\$ 500.00
Endowment.....	\$ 3,000.00
Fishing Derby.....	\$ 100.00
SEI Giving.....	\$ 500.00
Kayak Equipt.....	\$ 7,772.00
OHV Park Dedication.....	\$ 823.90
Events	
Annual Meeting.....	\$ 835.00
NWLI Workshop.....	\$ 600.00
Plant Some Shade.....	\$ 6,740.30
TOTAL	\$44,436.22

2014 EXPENDITURES

Banquet—2013.....	\$ 457.19
Memorials/Projects.....	\$ 8,157.57
Events	
NWLI Workshop.....	\$ 195.01
Fishing Derby.....	\$ 134.37
Plant Some Shade.....	\$ 5,770.30
Trail Celebration.....	\$ 95.86
OHV Park Dedication.....	\$ 823.90
Earth Day.....	\$ 31.34
NOHVCC Conference.....	\$ 96.30
Programs.....	\$ 180.00
Miscellaneous.....	\$ 1,954.42
Transfer to Community Foundation.....	\$ 18,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 36,396.26

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BALANCE	\$31,925.84
<u>INCOME</u>	<u>\$44,436.22</u>
	\$76,362.06
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>(\$36,396.26)</u>
BALANCE	\$39,965.80
<u>COMM. FOUND. FUND</u>	<u>\$18,000.00</u>
TOTAL ASSESTS	\$57,965.80



ACCOUNT INFORMATION

GENERAL FUND	\$ 12,494.82
DESIGNATED FUNDS	\$ 4,925.94
EVENT FUND	\$ 1,045.04
PLAYSCAPE FUND	\$ 21,500.00
COMM. FOUNDATION FUND	\$ 18,000.00
ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$57,965.80

Kennedy Park Natural Playscape Moves Forward

Thanks to a generous donation by the Sertoma Sundowners Club, the natural playscape at Kennedy Park is one step closer to reality! The Sundowners recently decided to dissolve their club due to shrinking membership. The club donated \$20,000 to the playscape project to make a lasting impression on the community from the Sundowners!

Abundant Playscapes from Iowa City has completed the design of the new playscape. Features include: a sand play area, water feature, fort, stones & logs for climbing, art & music, and native plants. Construction is planned for the Summer of 2015!!

If you would like to help with this project, please contact the Conservation Department.



Thank You!!

Pictured above from left to right—Geri Dunn, Fort Dodge Sertoma Sundowners Club, Tim Hazel—Friends Chairman and Sertoma Sundowner, and Matt Cosgrove, Conservation Director.

“Keepers of the Land” Endowment

After a year’s worth of work by the Advisory Committee, the Friends Board is happy to announce that they have invested several new funds with the Community Foundation & United Way.

The “Keepers of the Land” Endowment was created through the generous donations from Jim & Diane Patton. The Patton’s have been long-time supporters of the Conservation Program and Friends Group. Their generosity and vision have encouraged the board to create:

1.) Keepers of the Land Endowed Fund—the interest from this fund can be used on conservation & education projects in Webster County. The principle will remain in the fund to create a long-term funding source to compliment public funds.

2.) Conservation & Education non-endowed fund—this fund can be used as a fundraising vehicle for Webster County Projects & environmental education.

3.) Orville O’Connell Scholarship Fund—an annual scholarship fund established by the O’Connell Family to celebrate the conservation efforts of former Conservation Board Member Orville O’Connell. The scholarship is awarded annually to a college student majoring in a Natural Resource field.

If you would like to contribute to this endowment or would like more information about the tax benefits of charitable giving, please contact a Friends Board Member.

