

# Life on the Prairie



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.



## It's Maple Syrup Time...

Join the Webster County Conservation Staff & Friends for a day of Nest Box Building and Maple Syrup sampling on Sat., March 20th.

Starting at 9:00 a.m., build a nest box for your favorite backyard birds. Pre-registration and a small fee are required for this event.

At 1:00 p.m., see the process of making maple syrup. You'll learn how to tap trees, collect sap, boil the sap, and finish with a sweet "taste-test"!

**Bring the family & friends for this informative program about pioneer skills!**



**Nest Box Building Workshop**  
9:00—11:00 a.m.  
(Pre-registration required)

**Maple Syrup Festival**  
1:00 p.m.  
**Bob Heun Shelter, Kennedy Park**  
(FREE)

### Calendar of Events

*Nestbox Building* Mar. 20  
*Kennedy Park* 9:00 a.m.

*Maple Syrup Festival* Mar. 20  
*Kennedy Park* 1:00 p.m.

*Friends Board Mtg* Mar. 29  
*Kennedy Park Office* 6:00 p.m.

*Campground Opens* April 15  
*Kennedy Park*


*Earth Day @* April 17  
*Brushy Creek*


*Wildflower Walk* May 4  
*Dolliver State Park* 6:00 p.m.


*Plant Some Shade* May 13  
*Tree Pick-up @ KP*

*Friends Board Mtg* May 31  
6:00 p.m.

### Green Tips of the Day

 Resist the stacks of napkins given from fast-food joints and eateries.

 Cold Water Laundry: Give It a Try

 Use old clothes to make your own rags.

 **TEACH A CHILD ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT!!!**

## Protecting the Badger Lake Watershed

In 2007, the WCCB and Webster Co. Soil & Water District received a \$15,500 grant to study the Badger Creek Watershed. For the past two years, water has been sampled, land use studied, and silt loads calculated.

The board recently hired MER Engi-

neering to help design a series of wetlands and control structures to reduce siltation and filter nitrates.

In June, the board will apply for a watershed grant to assist with the funding of the project.

**Wish us luck & we'll keep you posted!!**



Local angler enjoying a day of fishing at Badger Lake.



## ***Conservation Board Impacted By County Budget Trouble***



The recession that has seriously crippled the United States Economy has made it's way to the Midwest. It seems every time we pick up a local paper or turn on the news we hear about another school closing, more lay-offs, and businesses closing.

In December of 2009, the Webster County Board of Supervisors were forced to make a ten percent across the board cut in the County Budget. The Conservation Board's share of this cut was \$42,500. During the next fiscal year, the WCCB will also lose a Park Ranger Position, reduce

seasonal staff from six to three, and many needed infrastructure repairs will be put on hold. Also, the department will not be able to offer the summer paddleboat rentals .

We thank you for your past support of our programs and activities and ask for your patience and understanding as we go through this challenging time.

*Thanks,  
WCCB Board & Staff*



Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.

[Ralph Waldo Emerson](#)

## ***TRAILS, TRAILS, TRAILS...***

The Conservation Dept., in partnership with the City of Fort Dodge and Trails Task Force, continues to expand recreational trails in Webster County.

The staff will start Phase III of the Badger Lake Trail. Phase III will consist of grading and rocking the final portion of this 2-mile, rock trail. Upon completion of this phase the department will top-

coat the entire trail with a crushed limestone to make the trail more "user-friendly".

The city and county will bid the hard-surfaced trail from Fort Dodge to Harlan Rogers this summer. We are hoping for a fall construction of this 2.4 mile extension. A \$350,000 Transportation Grant and city/county funds will make this plan a reality. The group is applying for a

\$1 million Vision Iowa grant this summer to more than double our current trail system.

The local water trail group continues to work on the development of the Lizard Creek Water Trail. New brochures will be out this summer, thanks to the CVB & Central Iowa Tourism!!





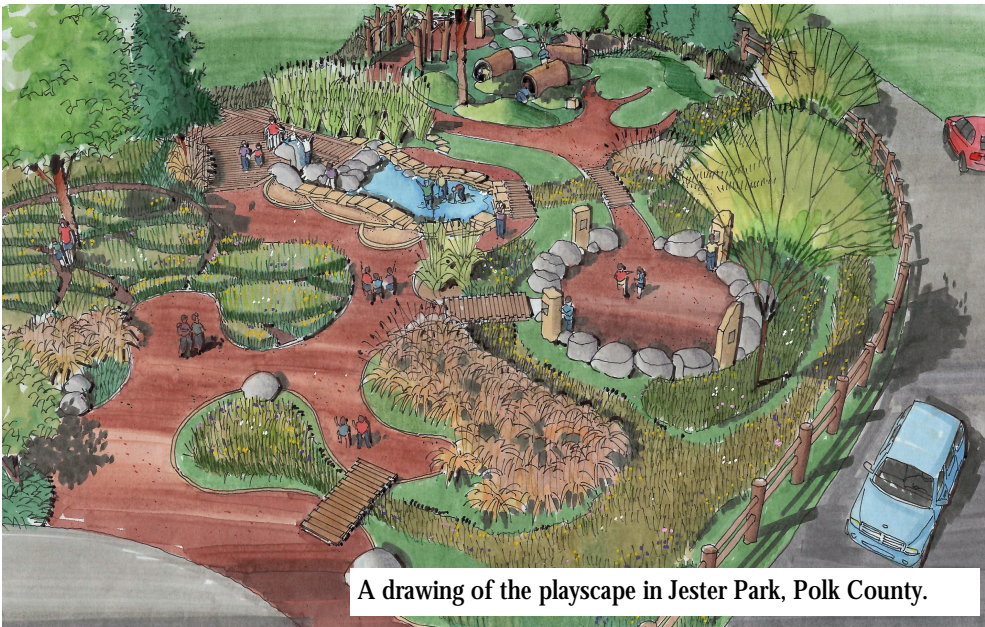
# Building a Natural Playscape

What is a “playscape”? A playscape is a playground made from natural materials.

The Friends & WCCB are working together to design and build a natural playscape in Kennedy Park. The group is currently working on the design plan, locating the various materials, and fund-raising.

If you would like to help with this project please let us know!

Stay tuned...



A drawing of the playscape in Jester Park, Polk County.

(Cut and Mail This Portion with Payment )

## Sign Up Today!!

*Please fill out this form, detach, and mail to:*  
**1415 Nelson Avenue, Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501**



MEMBERSHIP FORM	Price	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Single Membership	_____	\$15 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership	_____	\$25 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Membership	_____	\$100 _____
Total:	_____	_____

Name	_____
Address	_____ _____ _____
Email	_____
Phone	_____

*Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.*

~Sherry Anderson