

Newsletter



A Newsletter of the Webster County Conservation Board



Opportunities Abound with the **Keepers of the Land**

Volunteer Program

We are bolstering our Volunteer Program and hope to build a diverse base of individuals and groups to share their talents and time at YOUR great parks and facilities throughout Webster County.

Here are examples of great opportunities available now:

Parks

Natural Resources

Environmental Ed. /
Outdoor Recreation

Kennedy Park

Wildlife Management Areas

River's Edge Discover Center

Garbage Wranglers

Water Monitors

Center Hosts

Tree Care

Goat Grazing

Trail Stewards

Playground Spruce
up

Invasive Species
Removal

Special Event
Helpers

For More Information on Opportunities contact:

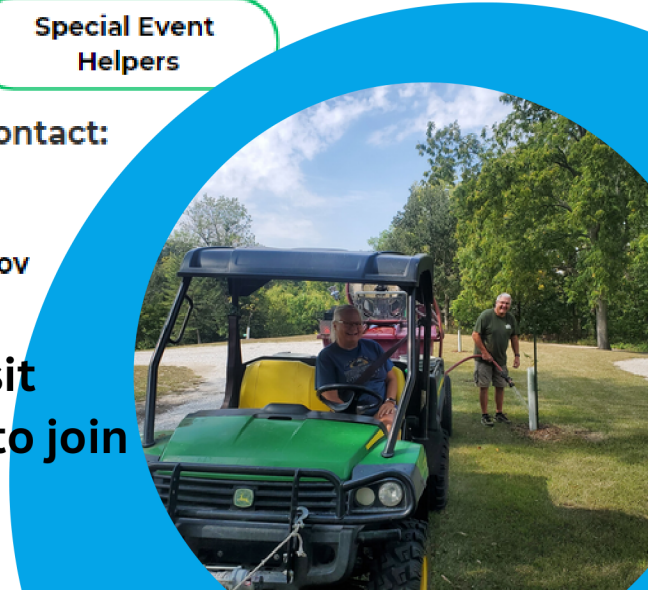
Park/Trail Technician Brody Bertram

Phone: 641-512-5947

Email: brody.bertram@webstercountytia.gov



Scan the QR code or visit
www.webstercountytia.gov to join
today!





Tasha West Wins “Partner of the Year” National Award

Tasha West, Trail Technician II at Gypsum City Off-Highway Vehicle Park attended the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) Conference in Midway, Utah October 12-14, 2023. NOHVCC holds an annual conference, which brings land managers, agency staff and OHV enthusiasts together from all over the country to network, learn and continue creating a positive future for off-highway vehicle recreation.

Annually the staff at NOHVCC present awards to volunteers and land managers that contribute time, effort and commitment to furthering responsible OHV recreation across the country. This year, West was awarded with “Partner of the Year.” State Partners serve as liaisons between NOHVCC and motorized recreation enthusiasts in their states. West has been a State Partner with NOHVCC since 2015.

Words from former NOHVCC President Dan Kleen. “I would like to congratulate Tasha (Nielsen) West for being selected as the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council’s “2023 State Partner of the Year”. Tasha is one the hardest working NOHVCC State Partners I have worked with in the last 25 years. She is not only the Park Manager of the Gypsum City OHV Park (the largest OHV Park in the Midwest at 800 acres) located in Fort Dodge, Iowa, but she has served on the NOHVCC Board of Directors for over seven years, currently serving as Secretary of the Board. Tasha’s OHV trail building and maintenance skills are second to none. In 2019 she successfully completed a US Forest Service, 40-hour specialized dozer operator training course. Anyone who has ridden the awesome trails at the Gypsum City OHV Park has experienced her great work.”

West was truly honored to receive this award and will continue working hard at the national and local level while ensuring Gypsum City OHV Park is enjoyable and safe for the riders that visit.





THE FRIENDS OF WEBSTER
COUNTY CONSERVATION
PRESENT

Winter Trivia Night
2024
It's for the Birds

THURSDAY FEB. 29TH

RIVER HOPS BREWERY

HAPPY HOUR STARTS @ 5:30

TRIVIA BEGINS @ 6:30

Proceeds to Fund a Motus Bird
Tracking Tower for the River's Edge
Discovery Center

For more information
and to signup:



www.mycountyparks.com
www.webstercountyia.gov

WEBSTER County *Conservation*

PUBLIC PROGRAM GUIDE



*Available now at
www.webstercountyia.gov*



2024



SPRING into SPRING



Saturday, March 16

Noon - 4 pm

@ Camp WaNoKi

2400 WaNoKi Camp Road

Fort Dodge

DIY Maple Syrup

- Learn how you can make your own syrup
- Sample syrup from Camp WaNoKi's trees

Other Activities Include:

- **The Golden Antler Shed Hunt**
- **Dutch Oven corn bread cooking**
- **DIY Walking Sticks**
- **Tomahawk throwing**
- **Bird house giveaways**
- **And other hand's on FUN**



All Ages Welcome, Fun for Everyone!

For more information, call 515-576-4258

RIVER'S EDGE

DISCOVERY CENTER

*Opening
July
2024!*



*Stay Tuned for Grand Opening
& Programming Details*



RIVER'S EDGE DISCOVERY CENTER

Connecting kids and nature | Giving Opportunities



There is still time to join the Friends of Webster County Conservation's "Connecting Kids & Nature" Capital Campaign until July. The group is raising funds for exhibits and educational supplies. Below are a few giving opportunities to better understand, interpret, and research the avian world for all ages.



MOTUS BIRD ANTENNA : \$4,000

The Motus Wildlife Tracking System is an international collaborative network that uses automated radio telemetry to simultaneously track hundreds of individuals of numerous species of birds, bats, and insects. The system enables a community of researchers, educators, organizations, and citizens to undertake impactful research and education on the ecology and conservation of migratory animals.



SWAN TAXIDERMY : \$1,600 (X2)

Two Trumpeter Swans will be flying above the exhibit space showing the relationship between water and it's fowl. Both swans were recovered after being lead poisoned from decades old lead that they retrieved off the bottoms of shallow ponds and lakes where they fed. With this knowledge there are additional lessons of ethical use of our environment and impacts of lead to wildlife.



PEDESTAL BINOCULAR VIEWERS : \$4,000 (X2)

These binocular viewers will be a great addition to the west deck of the Discovery Center where you look out to the river, Duck Island, and the Western bluff and greenbelt of Fort Dodge. This feature will allow for all types of wildlife viewing as well as an up close glimpse of the bird feeder trail.



Thank You to all the generous donors that help make this possible!!

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



Thank You!



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

EVENT LIST

MARCH

16th Spring into Spring Event
19th Tuesday at Ten Hike

APRIL

16th Tuesday at Ten Hike
23rd Spring Evening Night Hike

MAY

18th National Kids to Parks Day
28th Tuesday at Ten Hike

JUNE

7th - 9th Free Fishing Weekend
3rd - 5th Intro to the Outdoors (3 & 4 yr)
3rd & 4th Intro to the Outdoors (2 yr)
12th Play & Learn at Camp WaNoKi
18th Tuesday at Ten Hike
24th, 25th & 28th Summer WILD Camp
26th Play & Learn at Kennedy
27th Nature Link Day Camp
27th Fireside Chat--Primitive Weapons
June Stand Up Paddle Boarding

JULY

9th - 11th Summer WILD Camp
10th Kids: Artists by Nature
11th Beginners Kayaking Class
16th Tuesday at Ten Hike
25th Nature Link Day Camp
17th Play & Learn at Camp WaNoKi
25th Fireside Chat -- Campfire Cooking
31st Play & Learn at Kennedy
July Stand Up Paddle Boarding

AUGUST

TBD River Clean-up
7th Play & Learn at Kennedy
18th Kids: Artists by Nature
10th Kids Trap Clinic
14th Play & Learn at Camp WaNoKi
20th Tuesday at Ten Hike
22nd Fireside Chat -- Geocaching
August Stand Up Paddle Boarding

SEPTEMBER

17th Tuesday at Ten Hike
26th Fireside Chat -- Flint Knapping
TBD Call of the Wild Fundraiser

OCTOBER

12th Trick or Treat Campgrounds
15th Tuesday at Ten Hike
19th Youth Pheasant Hunt
24th Fireside Chat --Luminary Night Hike

NOVEMBER

7th Nature Craft at the Winery
19th Tuesday at Ten Hike

DECEMBER- FEBRUARY

- Pop-up programming
- Stay tuned for River's Edge Discovery Center Programming

**Additional pop-up
programming throughout
the year...follow us on
Facebook**



UPCOMING PUBLIC PROGRAMS & EVENTS

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
2-29-24	5:30pm	Winter Trivia	River Hops Brewery
3-16-24	12:00pm	Spring into Spring	Camp Wa-No-Ki
3-19-24	10:00am	Tuesday @ 10 Hike	TBD
4-15-24	8:00am	Campgrounds Open	Kennedy/Gypsum City
4-16-24	10:00am	Tuesday @ 10 Hike	TBD
4-23-24	7:00pm	Spring Night Hike	Children's Forest
5-1-24		Camp Sign-up Start	www.mycountyparks.com
5-18-24		Kids to Parks	City/County Parks



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



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)
- I would like to volunteer

*Additional gift

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

CONTACT US

515-576-4258
conservation@webstercountya.gov
mycountyparks.com
Friends of Webster County Conservation
1415 Nelson Ave Fort Dodge IA 50501

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Fort Dodge, IA 50501
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conservation@webstercountyia.org
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 West	Trail Technician II
Adam Moeding	Natural Res./Park Technician
Brody Bertram	Natural Res./Trail Technician

BOARD MEMBERS

Jerry Beck	Geri Winge
Nick Carlson	KC Coleman
Beth Collins	



The Webster County Conservation Board meets monthly on the second Tuesday of each month. The meetings are held at the Kennedy Park Office building at 5:30 p.m. All meetings 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.