



## WINTER CHILL

We are getting closer to spring, and boy are we all ready for the sunshine and warmer weather! This has been a bit of a crazy winter at the park, crazy cold followed by lots of snow, but these conditions did not make very good ice, and our ice fishing season sure didn't last long. There were a few nice fish caught through the ice while it was here. These fish reports leave me with high hopes for our spring fishing! Walleye, crappie and catfish are all looking great at Lake Icaria! As our temperatures start to warm up and everyone is looking to get outside on these warm afternoons please consider a hike around the park. Our trail system is a great place for a leisurely stroll. If you want to keep your feet dry and out of the puddles, wear a good hiking boot or stay on the paved roads if things off road are still a bit muddy. This is the time of year that our bodies are craving some vitamin D, and outside in the sunshine is the best medicine we can give ourselves. Get outside and soak up the sun!

With the dry conditions we have had over the last couple of years, the lake level is still very low. We are currently between 3 and 4 feet below normal pool levels. This snow melt will help, but we are still very much in need of some late winter/spring rains to see more runoff into the lake. Lets keep our fingers crossed that mother nature will help us fill the lake up this spring so we can get all of the boat docks in as soon as possible. If water levels remain low, we may postpone placement of some of the docks.



## WINTERS WORKLOAD ☆ \* ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ \* ☆

The park staff has been actively clearing brush and invasive woody plants from various park locations this winter. Their efforts aim to encourage the growth of native grasses and trees within these areas. When driving through the park, you may notice these sections visible from the roads. The focus is on enhancing the park and roadways by promoting indigenous prairie grasses and forbs. In some regions, invasive trees are being removed to preserve native oak and hickory tree species, fostering an open savanna ecosystem. Initially, trees and shrubs are mechanically removed using chainsaws or brush mowers on skid-steers. Subsequently, prescribed fires and chemical treatments are applied to stumps or re-sprouts. It will take a few growing seasons to manage re-sprouts and seed germination before introducing new native seed mixtures. The staff is eager to discover native species waiting in the seed bank for sunlight to begin their growth. To protect these species, chemical applications are minimized. Over time, prescribed fires will manage non-native and invasive species in these areas. While the process may temporarily alter the appearance, patience will reveal the beauty of these areas in the future.



## 'TIS THE SEASON TO DONATE

I wanted to take a moment to shine a light on our Adams County Conservation Foundation! Our Conservation Foundation, a 501-C3 Not-for-Profit organization, operates under the motto "Where your gift will reach the next generation." Throughout the year, we gratefully accept numerous donations, many of which are memorial tributes. We wholeheartedly thank all the families who have chosen Lake Icaria as a place to honor their loved ones. Your contributions enhance our park, allowing us to undertake projects beyond our budget's capacity. In the past year, we have installed new park benches, trees, and a shelter at our newly established archery range. When you visit, take a moment to appreciate the beautiful plaques commemorating the families' generosity from this year and years past. Remember, donations need not be limited to memorials. All contributions to the Adams County Conservation Foundation are tax-deductible, and some families include us in their annual donations. We extend our sincere gratitude to all who support Lake Icaria through your annual charitable giving, helping us maintain the park as a premier outdoor recreation destination in Southwest Iowa! For more details on how effortless it is to donate to the Adams County Conservation Foundation, please contact the park office at 641-322-4793, or email [accb@adamscounty.iowa.gov](mailto:accb@adamscounty.iowa.gov).



### Adventure Awaits...Reserve now

During this time of year, when many of us are spending more time indoors. While you are scrolling through your devices visit the park's website, [www.mycountyparks.com](http://www.mycountyparks.com). Locate us under Adams County, and easily reserve Cabins, Cottages, Campsites, and Shelter Houses from the comfort of your home. Explore our park and other County Parks across the state on this comprehensive website. Discover the numerous adventures waiting for you in Iowa's County Conservation Parks system. This website serves as your ultimate resource for planning summer activities. If you're interested in our Cabins or Cottages, make your reservations online now! Cabins and Cottages can be reserved up to 2 years in advance, while Campsites are available for booking a year ahead, and we already have bookings coming in for the upcoming season. Weekends are popular, so secure your dates early for this summer recreation season. If you have any queries, don't hesitate to reach out to us through the park office.

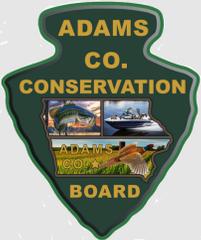
### STRAIGHT AS AN ARROW

We are excited to invite all archery enthusiasts to visit our public archery range free of charge anytime. We are currently working on establishing a set schedule with volunteers or park staff available regularly. You will find four large 4ftX4ft stationary targets set up at ranges from 10 to 40 yards for continuous shooting. Additionally, we offer 3-D targets and archery equipment during organized programs. If you are interested in assisting with our archery range or organizing a local archery group, please contact us at the park office to discuss how we can collaborate on these developments.



### PUPPY LOVE

Lake Icaria has always embraced pets as part of the family. However, we have revised our pet fees due to a rise in damages caused by pets in our Cabins and Cottages. The new fee is \$50 per night for the pet(s) brought along. If the fee is not prepaid and you have a pet with you, the charge will be \$250 per night. Please keep in mind pet etiquette during your stay at all our facilities. At ACCB, we value our four-legged family members and kindly request that they behave appropriately.



Remember winter does not last forever and soon the sights and sounds of spring will arrive. Many wonderful facilities are still open for you to enjoy the beauty of our park and the great outdoors. Remember, there are year-round activities at the park, so step outside, leave your phones behind, and embrace the outdoors! We can't wait to welcome you all at the lake!