

Newsletter



FALL 2024

Badger Trail Ribbon Cutting

On October 17th, a group of community officials and trail enthusiasts gathered in Badger on a blustery fall day to celebrate the completion of the Badger Trail Connection. The Badger Trail project is a 5.43 mile extension of the Prairie Rivers Trail System connecting Fort Dodge and Badger. The \$4.1 million project was funded through a DOT COVID-19 Trail Grant and the Webster County Board of Supervisors through a quality of life bond.

The project was championed for many years by Keith Dencklau, former Webster County Supervisor. Cutting the ribbon with the Growth Alliance Ambassadors is Austin Hayek, current District 1 Supervisor.

The project is the first phase of eventually linking the Prairie Rivers and Three Rivers Trail System, creating the fourth longest trail network in Iowa! Webster & Humboldt Counties have secured a \$750,000 Transportation Alternative Grant for 2027. Additional planning and fundraising are currently underway.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT MADE THIS PROJECT POSSIBLE, ESPECIALLY THE WEBSTER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THEIR CONTINUED INVESTMENT IN WEBSTER COUNTY'S QUALITY OF LIFE!!

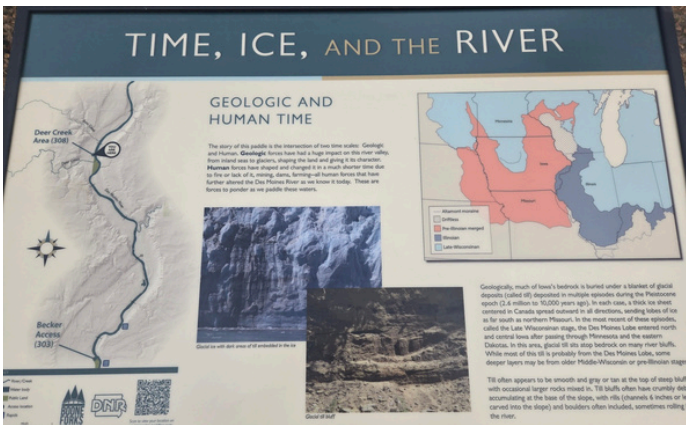


Project Updates

Water Trails Get New Signage

The Des Moines River and Lizard Creek Water Trails will have a new look next season thanks to a Great Places Grant and continued partnership with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Hamilton County and Boone County. Twenty-two new interpretive signs will be added to the water trail access sites in the Boone Forks Region.

The updated signs will include the traditional maps and other information about the water trail, but will also offer stories about the local history, geology, culture and unique characteristics of each specific segment of the water trail. The signs in Webster County will include information on the mining history of the region, Fort Clarke, local pottery, the Manson Meteor and local wildlife.



New Deer Creek Access sign about the impacts of glaciers and humans.



Cody Peterson, Operations Supervisor and Brody Bertram, Trail Technician install the new sign at Deer Creek Access.



Check out the Webster County Conservation Board's Annual Report

Other Updates



Elanco's Volunteer Day

Elanco's Global Day of Purpose provides an opportunity for their employees make a positive impact. On October 4, Elanco staff gave back by sprucing up the playscape area at Kennedy Park. Tasks included staining the deck, filling rock into the streambed, removing early fall leaves and debris, and tightening the spider web. Thank you to Elanco for the great attitudes and willingness to give back to the community.

Tree Distribution Partner

Through a partnership with the Iowa DNR and the USDA Forest Service, 146 discounted trees were distributed at the Matt Cosgrove River's Edge Discovery Center on October 10. Tree species included Northern Pecan, Northern Catalpa Tulip Tree, Sycamore, Bur Oak, Serviceberry, and Dwarf Chinkapin Oak.

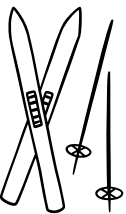
Winter Equipment Rentals

Improve your cardiovascular fitness, build muscle strength, and enjoy the beauty of winter by cross country skiing or snow shoeing. The River's Edge Discovery Center (REDC) has the needed equipment available to rent.

Cross Country Skis & Snowshoes Rental:
(skis/boots/poles)

\$10/day | \$20/weekend | \$30/week

- Visit mycountyparks.com to reserve the equipment.
- Stop by the REDC to pick up your equipment (payment and photo ID are required)
- All equipment is loaned out on a first-come, first served basis.
- Rentals must be picked up Monday-Friday by scheduling a pickup time with staff between 9:00 am to 3:30 pm.
- All rentals must be returned by 3:30 pm on the date scheduled to return.
- Kids 15 and under are FREE with an adult rental.
- On clinic days, equipment may be rented out after the clinic. Clinics will be posted to our Facebook page.



Fall 2024

Programs & Events

Night Hike



Youth Pheasant Hunt



Lazy Ike Gathering



Trick or Treating



School Field Trips





VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Interested in volunteering at the new Matt Cosgrove River's Edge Discovery Center? We would love your help as a greeter. Contact us and we will be in touch!



Contact Us



515-576-4285



conservation@webstercountytia.gov



20 N 1st Street, Fort Dodge

-ACCEPTING DONATIONS-

Gypsum City OHV Park PLAYSCAPE



Mineshaft



Log jam



Overlook



Dig area

For more questions, call 515-576-4258,
email: natasha.west@webstercountyaia.org
Accept online payments as well!

To donate online, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/4j73fdpj>



Thank you for
helping promote
outdoor recreation
for kids!

PASTOR AL PAVILION



LOCATED AT KENNEDY PARK

To celebrate SOS' 10th Anniversary, we have partnered with Webster County Conservation to create a memorial shelter for Pastor Al Henderson.

Each pillar of the shelter will honor those servants he dedicated his life to. Pastor Al was Chaplain for Fort Dodge Police, Fort Dodge Fire Departments, Webster County Sheriff's Office & Iowa State Patrol Post 7.



*Design is a mockup and subject to change

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!

\$100,000

All donations are tax deductible!

Donation Locations:
Shimkat Motor Company or
United Way/Community Foundation

*Contact T.J. Pingel
for more information.
call or text: (515) 408-2231
tj@shimkat.com



venmo

MEMO: Pastor Al or SOS



Get your "Oil Can" Nameplate displayed at the shelter starting with a \$500 donation.*

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



On-line Volunteer Form



CONTACT US

On-line Friends Form

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

RIVER'S EDGE DISCOVERY CENTER

AFTER HOURS

FOR GRADES
3RD-5TH

TO REGISTER VISIT
MYCOUNTYPARKS.COM

LIMITED TO 30 REGISTRANTS

TUES.
NOV. 26TH

6-8:30 PM
MOVIE &
ACTIVITIES

20 N 1ST ST
FORT DODGE
IA 50501



SPONSORED BY:

**FRIENDS OF
WEBSTER COUNTY
CONSERVATION**

Upcoming Events

Nov
7



Craft Night at the Winery

Join us on November 7 from 6:30-8:30 pm for a fun-filled evening of crafting, wine, and good company! We've partnered with Solider Creek Winery to bring you a special DIY Holiday Door Swag class. Spots are limited—sign up today and find out more information at www.soldiercreekwinery.com.

Nov
9



Night Hike

Bring your flashlights for a hike in the dark at Skillet Creek Indian Mounds. Hike through the old mining town of Hard Scrabble and explore the river valley with guides leading the way. The location is 4.5 miles east of Dayton on Highway 175, one quarter mile north on River Road, then left on Skillet Creek Road for one half mile. The parking area is before the bridge. Hike starts at 5:30 pm. Watch Facebook for weather related cancellations.

Nov
19



Tuesday at 10 Hike

Join others who love to get outdoors. Enjoy a hike at your own pace, but with the support and safety of others. November's hike will take place at Camp Wa No Ki at 10:00 am. Meet at the firepit area. Camp Wa No Ki is located one mile east of Coalville on 235th St and one mile south on gravel.

Nov
21



Friends Annual Meeting

Friends of Webster County and volunteers are invited to the annual meeting at the Matt Cosgrove River's Edge Discovery Center. Election of officers, project updates, and volunteer recognition will take place. Invites with full details were sent via email to active friends members. Please contact the office if you did not receive an email.

Nov
26



After Hours

Youth in grades 3rd-5th are invited to our first movie night at the Matt Cosgrove River's Edge Discovery Center on Tuesday, November 26. Activities, snacks, and a showing of Night at the Museum 3 will take place from 6:00-8:30 pm. Register online at mycountyparks.org. Registration is limited to 30 participants. This event is sponsored by Friends of Webster County Conservation.

Dec



Lights at Kennedy

This drive-through light show at Kennedy Park Campgrounds is choreographed to music and includes light displays sponsored by local businesses. Dates for the event: December 6-8, 13-15, and 20-22 from 6:00-9:00 pm. Free will donation.

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 or additional pop-up programming, follow us on Facebook: Webster County Conservation

20 N 1st Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
515-576-4258
conservation@webstercountya.gov
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	Environmental Education Coordinator
Erin Ford	Naturalist
Andy Stanberg	IRVM/Vegetation Specialist
Tasha West	Trail Tech II
Adam Moeding	Natural Resources/Park Tech
Brody Bertram	Trail/Park Tech
Lindsay Kavanaugh	Administrative Assistant



BOARD MEMBERS

Jerry Beck	Fort Dodge
Geri Winge	Fort Dodge
Nick Carlson	Fort Dodge
KC Coleman	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 Matt Cosgrove River's Edge Discovery Center 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.