



ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2013 - 14

BOARD MEMBERS

YRS.

Jerry Beck	8
Beth Collins	3
Brad Luke	15
Jim Eslick	9
Kirk Seltz	8



Conservation Corps of Iowa trail building

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Webster County Conservation Board to preserve our natural resources, to educate the public about the environment, to create learning and recreational opportunities without exploiting our resources, to promote activities that create an awareness or understanding of the environment through programs of conservation and to ultimately develop environmentally responsible citizens of Webster County.

From the Director's Desk

Matt Cosgrove, Director



The 2013-14 Fiscal Year has proven to be one of great accomplishments for the Webster County Conservation Board and associated partners!

The Seltz Family sold approx. 80 acres to WCCB for a Youth hunting/trapping area through a bargain sale. Don Seltz is recognized by Gov. Branstad, Lt. Gov. Renolds, and Chuck Gipp, DNR Director in the picture above at the State Capital. The city and county continue their trail partnership through

a shared employee, trail signage, and additional miles of trail.

Work continues at the Gypsum City OHV Park to create Iowa's largest OHV destination. Approx. 30 miles of new trail are under construction by the Forest Service. The first stage of the 33-site campground is also under construction.

Thanks to a \$2.1 million dollar grant from the State's Wastewater Revolving Loan Fund, the city and county are designing clean water projects in the Badger Lake Watershed and Snell-Crawford neighborhood.

The board is preparing for the Emerald Ash Borer by completing a park inventory, starting selective tree removal, passing a new firewood policy, and informing local residence about the potential threat of the pest.

The board continues a successful partnership with Noon Sertoma to add a new shelter and additional walking path at the Veteran's Memorial.

The board approves a design and begins raising funds to construct a natural playscape at Kennedy Park. *Stay tuned for a great 2014-15!!*

2013-14 Highlights...

- Fort Dodge & Webster County continue work on 15 miles of new trail in 3 years!
- Trails Unlimited is hired to build 30 miles of new trail at the Gypsum City OHV Park..
- The Gypsum City Campground design is completed and Stage 1 construction starts.
- Don Seltz sells approx. 80 acres to WCCB.
- WCCB & FD Park & Rec. share a trails/natural resource employee.

- WCCB & City install trail/wayfinding signs.
- Fort Dodge & WCCB receive \$2.1 million dollar grant for Badger Lake Watershed & Snell-Crawford Park.
- USG donates 40 acres for campground. WCCB leases the 40 acre site from WCIC.
- Board approves design for playscape.
- Additional path and new shelter constructed at Veteran's Memorial Park.

Webster County's Natural Areas



Lizard Creek Water Trail

*Buy land,
they're not
making it
anymore.*

Mark Twain

Area	Acres
1. Bob Hay Memorial Wildlife Area	225
2. Becker Wildlife Area	10
3. Carlson Recreation Area	126
4. Deer Creek Wildlife Area	17
5. Holiday Creek Wildlife Area	36
6. John F Kennedy Memorial Park	400
7. Lindquist Wildlife Sanctuary	7
8. Liska-Stanek Prairie	20
9. Lundgren Church Nature Park	1
10. Meier Memorial Marsh	35
11. Miller Marsh	185
12. Moorland Pond	23
13. Prairie Pond	18
14. Rossow Prairie	40
15. Skillet Creek Indian Mounds	19
16. The Diggings	7
17. Whispering Wings Marsh	20
Lizard Creek Access	
18. Lentsch	.28
19. Cunningham	.28
20. Rasch	1.04
21. Kirchner-Seltz Youth Prairie	80
TOTAL	1,270.6



Management Agreements	Acres
Gypsum City OHV Park	800
Smeltzer Learning Farm	157
Smeltzer Gowrie Farm	40
TOTAL	997

Land Management

2013-14



Kirchner-Seltz Youth Prairie

Land Management Activity	Acres
Native Grass & CRP Seeding	1 acre
Private acres seeded with CCB drill	43 acres
Prescribed Burning	120 acres
Acres of native seed ordered	43 acres
Bridge & Ditch Clean-out plantings	20
Trees planted	25
Canada Thistle spraying (North 1/2 of county)	
Leafy Spurge spraying (North 1/2 of county)	
Managed County Brush Contract (3rd tier)	

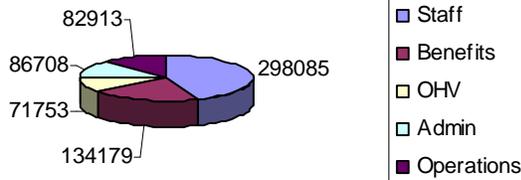
Weed Complaints
2006—21
2007—12
2008—10
2009—7
2010—10
2011—4
2012—6
2013—2
2014—3

WCCB...Financial Report

EXPENDITURES—General Fund	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12
Administration	\$518,973	\$508,656	\$478,875
Operations & Maintenance	<u>\$128,195</u>	<u>\$107,641</u>	<u>\$ 56,420</u>
	\$700,168	\$616,297	\$535,295
EXPENDITURES—Rural Basic			
Integrated Roadside Vegetation Mgmt.	\$128,232	\$142,126	\$118,339

INCOME	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12
Recreation Fees (Camping, Shelter, rentals)	\$148,621	\$130,063	\$133,869
Grants & Reimbursements	\$ 98,108	\$ 73,983	\$ 45,784
Rental (land & equipmt)	\$ 18,470	\$ 6,455	\$ 16,149
Sale of Wood, Publications, etc	\$ 1,022	\$ 666	\$ 1,068
Other Income	\$ 15,589	\$ 12,599	\$ 6,492
<u>City of Fort Dodge</u>	<u>\$ 20,201</u>	<u>\$ 14,810</u>	<u>\$ 6,000</u>
TOTAL	\$302,201	\$238,576	\$209,362

2013-14 Expenditures



Special Account Balance

REAP Account	\$92,827.16
Conservation Trust	\$55,272.29

Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land.

Aldo Leopold

2013-14 Revenues

Campground	\$132,868
Shelter Rental	\$ 12,200
Camping Cabin	\$ 1,595
Veteran's Park	\$ 925
Firewood	\$ 1,022
State OHV Reimbursement	\$ 65,098
Shared Naturalist	\$ 26,640
City—Shared Trail Tech	\$ 14,201
Golf Course Lease	\$ 6,000



New path at Veteran's Memorial Park



Gypsum City Trail Construction



Webster County Conservation

STAFF	Yrs.
Matt Cosgrove Director	18
Cody Peterson Operations Supervisor	8
Pat Shehan Ranger	15
Darren Herzog Ranger/OHV Manager	7
Brad Janssen Ranger	2
Karen Hansen Naturalist	21
Erin Ford Co./DNR Naturalist	9
Cindy Knickerbocker Secretary	24
Dave Scherff Natural Resource Tech.	29
Andy Stanberg Trail/Nat. Resource Tech.	2



Phone: 515-576-4258
 Fax: 515-574-3763
 E-mail:
conservation@webstercountyla.org

Equal Opportunity: Federal and State law prohibits employment and/or public accommodation discrimination on the basis of age, race, creed, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information contact Iowa Civil Right Commission at 1-800-457-4416; the Office of Equal Opportunity, Department of Interior, Washington D.C. 20240 or the Webster County Attorney's Office 1-515-573-1452.



2013-14 Partners

Iowa Department of Natural Resources—Shared Naturalist Position & Gypsum City OHV Park
Ann Smeltzer Trust—Iowa Learning Farm & Gowrie Farm
Daybreak Rotary Club—18th Annual Dragon Boat Bash
Noon Sertoma—Veteran's Memorial Park & Lights At Kennedy
Webster County Trails Advisory Board—Trail development planning
Friends of Webster County Conservation—Event volunteers & funding assistance
IDNR—Water Trails (Des Moines River & Lizard Creek)
HyVee—Half Marathon

Webster County Pheasants Forever—Project funding and habitat assistance
Webster County Bowhunters & Archery Assoc.— 3D Archery Shoots & archery instruction
Iowa High School State Cross County Meet
Iowa Department of Natural Resources Fisheries— Trout Stocking—Moorland Pond
Natural Resource Conservation Service—Badger Creek Watershed planning assistance
City of Fort Dodge—Shared Trails Position. Equipment sharing & grant administration
Brushy Creek State Recreation Area—Staff/Equipment sharing
Badger Lutheran & St. Olaf Lutheran Church Service—Campground service (Mem. Day— Labor Day)
Special Olympics of Iowa—Polar Plunge
Loyal Order of Moose—Fishing Tournament
Community Fundraisers—trail walks, runs, & biking events