

Center Hours and Rental Fee's

The Washington County Conservation Center will be changing to Winter Hours starting **Tuesday October 7, 2019**. The Conservation Center will be open as follows:

⇒ Monday–Friday 8:00 am–4:30 pm.

For the month of October, the Center will also be open Saturdays 8:00 am–4:30 pm to accommodate the public with our upcoming events.

The Washington County Conservation Board will begin taking reservations for the 2020 year on all facilities on October 1, 2019. The rental prices are as follows:

- ⇒ Shelter 1 Facility is \$40 to rent with a \$50 deposit fee.
- ⇒ Mary Marr Lodge is \$50 to rent with a \$50 deposit fee.
- ⇒ Mary Marr Lodge & Gazebo are \$75 to rent with a \$75 deposit fee.
- ⇒ Steinbeck Conference Hall is \$175 to rent with a \$175 deposit fee.
- ⇒ Steinbeck Conference Hall on Memorial Day, July 4th, or Labor Day is \$75/hour with a **MINIMUM** of 3 hours. Deposit will be \$175.

To make a reservation or for any questions regarding rentals, email wscountyconservation@gmail.com or call 319-657-2400.

Wildlife Exploration

Marr Park is filled with all things nature-related. Below are the list of items you might see out at the Park. Can you find them all? Answers on page 5.

- ANTLERS
- BLUEGILL
- BUCK
- CARDINAL
- CONSERVATION
- GOBBLE
- GOLDENROD
- GROUNDHOG
- MONARCHS
- MULBERRY
- MUSHROOM
- OAK
- OPOSSUM
- PHEASANT
- PLAYGROUND
- POND
- RABBIT
- RACCOON
- SCAT
- SQUIRREL
- TRAILS
- TURKEY
- TURTLE



Meet Your New Naturalist

By Megan Jorgensen, Naturalist

A native to Iowa, I grew up in Vinton, a small town in Benton County. Growing up, values of environmental stewardship were instilled in me. At a young age, I was exploring and actively investigating our natural world. It did not take long for me to develop a love for the outdoors, a passion that has tremendously grown with me into my adulthood. Becoming “one with nature,” significantly impacted my decision to pursue a career in conservation. In my professional career, I have served as a partner employee with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources since graduation from college. Most recently, I was a Private Lands Wildlife Specialist, working closely with private landowners, providing them with technical assistance on implementing wildlife conservation on their property. While I certainly enjoyed working and developing relationships with the landowners and producers, particularly with those who shared a passion for conservation, my heart has always been elsewhere.

In college, I was granted the opportunity to become a volunteer Hunter Education Instructor for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. As an instructor, I have actively participated in the facilitation and implementation of the hunter education program, as well as other outreach initiatives, such as Outdoor Journey for Girls, Becoming an Outdoors Woman, the National Archery in the Schools Program, the Scholastic Clay Target Program, and the Learn to Hunt Mentorship Program. Having been a part of this program for over five years, the youth and adults I have worked with, have left a positive impact on my life. There is nothing more powerful than seeing the excitement in the eyes of our youth, after discovering and resonating with something, their niche, in the outdoors. I have come to realize that this is seemingly rare in today’s society where modern entertainment has disengaged youth from the wilderness. As a result, I have come to the realization that if we want our youth, young adults, or even adults, to develop a conservation ethic, we must re-engage them, help them to discover something relatable in nature.

As your new naturalist, it is my goal to facilitate the implementation of environmental education programs to youth, young adults, and adults, in both the schools and the public setting. I want to serve as a mentor for the public, someone who can encourage and help them to discover their wild side. I want to educate and help others to understand the impact we have on our natural world. I hope to motivate them to become passionate about the environment, thus inspiring them to become environmental stewards. Likewise, my hope is that they will leave one of my programs excited about conservation or an aspect of nature, with the desire to share their newly developed passion with others. Ultimately, I hope to see them become “one with nature.”

For questions about upcoming or potential programs, feel free to email me at wccbnaturalist2@gmail.com. You may also give me a call, at 319-461-2195, or stop in the Conservation Center, if you have questions or would like to meet me!



Autumn Calendar

The Washington County Conservation Board meets the second Thursday of each month. Meetings are held at the Conservation Education Center in Marr Park at 4:30 p.m.

Washington County Conservation Board

Office: (319) 657-2400

Fax: (319) 657-2500

E-mail: wscountyconservation@gmail.com

Website: co.washington.ia.us

Members: Craig Capps
Bill Nickell
Barb Donkersloot
Stan Stoops
Kim Prier

Staff: Zach Rozmus, Executive Director
Randi Brase, Center Coordinator
Megan Jorgensen, Naturalist
Fritz Engel, Maint. Technician
Cody Smith, Ranger/Technician
Brett Johnson, Ranger/Technician

Washington County Conservation Board meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m. at the Conservation Education Center. Visitors are welcome.

The WCCB is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

If you would like a copy of this newsletter in larger print, please contact our office.

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

Thurs. Oct. 24 **6:30 pm** **Marr Park**
Halloween Hike: Discover the Wild

This year, the Halloween Hike will be held on a Thursday evening closer to Halloween. Activities will include a ring toss, bobbing for apples, turkey calling, and much more. Refreshments and snacks will be provided in the Conservation Hall.

Thurs. Nov. 21 **6:00 p.m.** **Marr Park**
Turkey Time



Join Washington County Conservation for a fun-filled night dedicated to learning about the Eastern Wild Turkey of Iowa. Discussions will include physical, behavioral, and dietary needs. Fun activities and crafts will follow. Just in time for the Thanksgiving season!

Thurs. Dec. 5 **6:00 pm** **CEC**
Holiday at the Conservation Center!

Washington County Conservation will be hosting an ornament making and sugar cookie decorating event! Using all things nature, this event will get you ready for your holiday season. Bring your whole family to this free event. Enjoy Hot Chocolate and as many cookies as you can!



Project Updates

Kirkwood Trail Head

The Washington County Conservation Board, the City of Washington, and Kirkwood Community College teamed up to create the Kirkwood Trail Head, located on Lexington Blvd west of Highway 1 in Washington. The trail head serves as an excellent access point for the Kewash Trail. The recently paved trail spur meanders past Willow Pond before attaching to the main trail. Substantial funding for the project was provided by: The Washington County Riverboat Foundation, a City Sponsored REAP Grant, The city of Washington, and the WCCB. When traveling the Kewash Trail, be sure to stop by and check out the new improvements.



The trail head serves as an excellent access point for the Kewash Trail. The recently paved trail spur meanders past Willow Pond before attaching to the main trail. Substantial funding for the project was provided by: The Washington County Riverboat Foundation, a City Sponsored REAP Grant, The city of Washington, and the WCCB. When traveling the Kewash Trail, be sure to stop by and check out the new improvements.

past Willow Pond before attaching to the main trail. Substantial funding for the project was provided by: The Washington County Riverboat Foundation, a City Sponsored REAP Grant, The city of Washington, and the WCCB. When traveling the Kewash Trail, be sure to stop by and check out the new improvements.

County Conservation Staff

Over the last year, there have been several new faces added to the Conservation Staff. As fall arrives, you may see them out and about presenting environmental education programs or maintaining the nearly 2300 acres the WCCB staff oversees.



Megan Jorgensen—Naturalist
Brett Johnson—Ranger/Technician
Cody Smith—Ranger/Technician
Zach Rozmus—Executive Director
Fritz Engel—Maintenance Technician
Randi Brase—Center Coordinator/
Naturalist Assistant



Conservation Center Displays
The Timmes Exhibit Hall at the Conservation Center is seeing some new exhibit updates! Phase 2 has been installed, which includes an interactive Ant Hill, building your own Eagle’s Nest, and much more. Stop by the conservation center during open hours to begin exploring.



WASHINGTON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
2943 HIGHWAY 92
AINSWORTH, IA 52201

Electronic Service Requested

Winter Center Hours

Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.

Closed
Saturday-Sunday

Halloween Hike: Discover the Wild!

Washington County Conservation is proud to present its annual Halloween Hike! This year's event will take place on Thursday, October 24th, 2019, from 6:30- 8:30 p.m., at Mary Marr Lodge!

How well do you know the woods? Have you ever ventured off into a prairie? What about a wetland? Dare to go on an exploration?

Begin your adventure at the Mary Marr Lodge, where you will play a game of wildlife identification. Continue your journey along a luminary-lit trail, where you will discover some of the wildlife in Iowa and their habitats. Who knows, you may even find some lurking around in the night!

Wrap up your journey at the Conservation Center for refreshments and a wildlife photo booth!

Enjoy some games along the way. There will be a wildlife identification game, antler toss, bobbing for apples, and turkey calling!

The event is free and open to the public. Meet at Mary Marr Lodge, at 2943 HWY 92, Ainsworth, Iowa.

For more information, please call 319-657-2400, or email wccbnaturalist2@gmail.com.

