

A BLENDING OF NATURE'S NEWS

# *Earthtones*

*Spring 2022*

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***Article of Some Sort***

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*Washington County Conservation Board*

# Spring 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.*

**Wednesday, April 6th**      9:30 a.m.      CEC  
*Toddler Time*

Join us for our first Toddler Time since the fall! To kick things off for Spring, we will be learning all about springtime babies! Spring is the time when many of our wildlife mamas are preparing for little ones. We will read an adorable book and do a fun craft afterwards!

**Wednesday, May 11th**      9:30 a.m.      CEC  
*Toddler Time*

This month, we will be learning all about signs of wildlife. In particular, we will be learning about animal droppings (poop), or scat. We can learn a lot about wildlife just by examining their poop! Kiddos will get the chance to look at droppings and make some that they can eat!

**Saturday, May 28th**      8:30 p.m.      Shelter #3  
*Movie Night at the Park*

Join us for Movie Night at the Park! This will be our first movie night of the camping season. We will meet at Shelter #3 at the front of the park. The movie is *The Great Outdoors!* Bring your own snacks and drinks, and chairs or blankets to sit on.

**Wednesday, June 1st**      9:30 a.m.      CEC  
*Toddler Time*

This month, we will be going on an alphabet hike. As we hike throughout the park, the kids will be challenged to collect as many items as they can, from the ground that start with each letter of the alphabet.

**Saturday, June 25th**      9:00 p.m.      Shelter #3  
*Movie Night at the Park*

Join us for Movie Night at the Park!

## Washington County Conservation Board

**Office:** 319/657-2400

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**Website:** [co.washington.ia.us](http://co.washington.ia.us)

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Barb Donkersloot  
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**Staff:** Zach Rozmus, Exec. Director  
Megan Jorgensen, Naturalist  
Randi Brase, Center Coordinator  
Fritz Engel, Maint. Supervisor  
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.

# Summer Camps 2022

June 8th, 9th, 10th 9:00 a.m.-11:00 pm.

## *Tadpole Camp (Pre-K & Kindergarten)*

Designed with the younger kids in mind, this camp is an introduction to the outdoors. Campers will go on hikes, go fishing, explore the prairie and wetlands, and get crafty! The camp is limited to 15 kids. Registration is required with a \$20 fee!



June 21st, 22nd, 23rd 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

July 6th, 7th, and 8th 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

## *Archery Camp (4th -9th Grade)*

Offering two sessions this summer, archery camp will introduce kids to the sport of archery, or give more experience to those who already enjoy it. Kids will play games and compete in some friendly competition. Each session is limited to 15 participants. Registration is required with a \$20 fee.

June 27th-July 1st 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

## *Dragonfly Camp (1st-3rd Grade)*

Come learn about nature as passengers aboard the magic treehouse. Following the beloved Magic Treehouse books, campers will investigate the great outdoors as young explorers. Registration with a payment of \$30 is required. There is a maximum of 15 participants.



July 11th-July 15th 9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

## *Kestrel Camp (4th-6th Grade)*

Do you have a kiddo in your life who is obsessed with Minecraft? This year, campers will dive deep into conservation as players in several Minecraft worlds. Registration and a payment of \$40 is required. The camp is limited to 15 participants.



July 26th- 30th 9:00 am- 2:00 pm.

## *Mink Camp (7th-9th Grade)*

This camp is designed with teenagers in mind. Campers will participate in super hero themed activities, while also introducing them to the outdoors. Teens will participate in fishing, kayaking, archery, spear throwing, hiking, shelter building, and much more! We may even do some TikToking! Registration with a payment of \$40 is required. The camp is limited to 15 participants.



Questions or concerns? Give us a call at 319-657-2400!

Registration forms are located on the WCCB website & Facebook page.

([co.washington.ia.us/170/conservation](http://co.washington.ia.us/170/conservation))

# Tips for a Successful Camping Trip

Now that spring has arrived, it is safe to say that camping season is also underway. With warmer temperatures, spring is the perfect time to get outside and enjoy nature. Among the many possibilities, camping is one activity perfect for families to do together. Further, it will surely provide your family with fond memories they will cherish for years to come. Whether you have been camping before, or are new to the endeavor, the following are some helpful tips for camping with children.

First, the best way to get kids excited, is to introduce them to camping with a backyard campout, before going out for the first time. Teach the kids how to set up a tent, and experience a night outdoors in a sleeping bag. Take the opportunity to look at the stars and listen to the night sounds. Once you have piqued their interest, now you can begin the process of going on a camping trip at a local campground, maybe Marr Park.



Next, allow them to be involved in the process. For example, allow them to help with the decision on where to go and what activities to do. Plan and shop for meals, as well as prepare and pack equipment and supplies together. Familiarize them with the outdoors, in order to eliminate their fears. Give them camp chores, kids love to be helpful!

Be sure to take the necessary gear and supplies. Pack extra clothing and shoes. Bring warm clothes and remember to dress in layers. Pack insect repellent and sunscreen. Take a first aid kit. You never know when you may need one of those! Pack rain gear. Give each child a flashlight or glow stick! Glow sticks are incredibly exciting for kids. Of course, do not forget to pack snacks and water.



The most important part of any camping trip, is creating memories. Take along your camera and extra batteries. Be sure to pack disposable cameras for each child! They will enjoy taking their own photos. Keep a journal. Provide one for your kids as well. Take those photos and make a scrapbook of your camping trip. Or post them to your social media accounts to be shared online. Do not forget a bug jar! Kids always have a fascination with bugs. Some of my fondest camping memories include catching lightning bugs and putting them in a jar!

Finally, be sure to plan some alternative activities. We all know that the weather in Iowa can be unpredictable. What was supposed to be a sunny day, could easily turn into a cloudy, rainy day. Pack some card games, puzzles, and games. Maybe bring along some books to read. Hopefully, you will find these tips helpful! If you take the opportunity to camp at Marr Park, be sure to share your experience with us!

By: Megan Jorgensen, Naturalist



# Binocular Craft for Kids (& Fun Adults)

Looking for a fun craft project to do with the kiddos in your life, that will also encourage them to go outdoors? Follow the steps below to create toilet paper roll binoculars. Then, take your kiddo outdoors and see what variety of wildlife you observe!

## Supplies:

2 empty toilet paper rolls  
1 small strip of card board (to connect rolls)  
1 piece of yarn or string  
Colored paper, crayons or markers for decorating the toilet paper rolls  
Glue

## Directions:

1. Decorate two toilet paper rolls however you choose. Use colored paper, crayons or markers.
2. Cut a small strip of card board. The length depends on how far apart your toilet paper rolls need to be from each other in order to see through both of them.
3. Poke a small hole on one side of each toilet paper roll. Do this at the top of the toilet paper roll. This is where the string will go.
4. Glue the strip of cardboard on the top of the two toilet paper rolls in order to connect them together.
5. Tie string through both holes. This will allow the binoculars to be worn around the neck.



## Camping Rates for

As of January 1st, 2022, camping rates at Marr Park increased from \$16 a night to \$20 a night. This is in accordance with the state, who has increased rates at state parks. The state has not seen an increase in over 20 years. The Washington County Conservation Board previously adopted all state rules and regulations, and will continue to do so indefinitely. For those new or returning to camping at Marr Park, we have camping coupon books available for purchase during our regular business hours at the Conservation Education Center located south of the campground. For the price of \$120, you will receive coupons for 7 nights of camping. With each coupon book, you pay for 6 nights of camping up front, and get the 7th night free! Questions? Give us a call at 319-657-2400!

WASHINGTON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD  
2943 HIGHWAY 92  
AINSWORTH, IA 52201

Electronic Service Requested

**Summer Center Hours  
(Beginning May 1)**

Tuesday-Thursday  
8:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Friday-Saturday  
9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Sunday-Monday  
Closed

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## Trout Stocking at Marr Park

Every year, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) stocks trout across the state in publicly accessible streams and community trout fisheries. In addition, there are over 50 wild, self-sustaining trout fisheries throughout northeast Iowa. Typically, the DNR stocks trout in community lakes and ponds on a rotational basis. Rarely, does it occur every year.

Fortunately for residents of Washington County, the DNR has chosen to once again, stock 1,000 Rainbow Trout in the little pond at Marr Park! This is the pond just north of Mary Marr Lodge. If you are interested in trout fishing at Marr Park, there are some things to keep in mind before coming out.

First, community trout stockings are supported by the sales of the trout fee. Any person 16 years of age or older will need to purchase an Iowa fishing license as well as pay the trout fee. Additionally, the daily bag

limit is 5, and the possession limit is 10. Children age 15 or younger do not need a fishing license. However, if they would like to keep their own bag limit, they must have a trout stamp. Otherwise, any trout they catch, must be combined with their supervising adult's daily limit.

The trout are very active and eager to bite when they come off the hatchery truck. A small hook with a nightcrawler or corn under a small bobber, or small spinners, are all you need to get in on the fun. When fishing on open water, cast several lure types with ultralight gear, including a small jig and twister, in-line spinner, or small stick baits. You can also fish with a bobber, small split shot and a worm on a small hook!

The most important thing is to have fun out there! Be sure to share your experiences with us, if you decide to come out! Happy fishing!