

Earthtones

Summer 2022

Marr Park Shower House

In two out of the last three years, the Washington County Conservation Board (WCCB) has generated record camping revenues at our 41 site campground located in Marr Park. With the sustained up tick in camping numbers, comes an increased number of park visitors and a heightened level of expectation. Feedback from the public and input from our board and staff, is pushing the WCCB to reinvest those record revenues directly back into Marr Park.

In recent years, we have upgraded all the campsites to 50amp service, purchased new firepits and picnic tables, paved parking areas and campsites, installed drinking fountains and water bottle filling stations, placed trash receptacles throughout the park, as well as made enhancements to our water system infrastructure. Each of these projects has been an investment in enhancing the experience and amenities we offer here at Marr Park. Although some of these additions are more obvious than others, each of them showcase our commitment to reinvesting money back into the park that serves as the home base for the WCCB. What's next?

The WCCB is excited to announce that we are at the beginning stages of planning to build a new shower house within the campground at Marr Park. The current shower house was built in 1991, and has reached the end of its lifespan. For years, the current shower house has served the needs of park users, but the aging infrastructure within the building is requiring more and more upkeep. The WCCB staff works hard year after year to replace aging plumbing and keep the facility functional for all park users. The current shower house was created to serve the needs of a 26 site campground.

When the campground was expanded from 26 sites to 41 sites in 2012 the WCCB knew that one day a new shower house would need to be built. Thus, the WCCB is now in the process of creating a general design/wish list for what the new structure would possess. Due to the needs required, the new facility will likely offer a larger number of showers, sinks, and toilets that we hope will more adequately meet the needs of the campground. If any member of the public would like to have input on design of the shower house we encourage you to reach out to us by calling our conservation center at: 319-657-2400 or emailing us at wscountyconservation@gmail.com. Any input would be greatly appreciated.

The WCCB intends to use funds derived from our capital projects account as well as grant funding to finance this project. If organizations or individuals are interested in donating towards the project, please use the contact information listed above to contact us for more information.

Thank you for your continued support,

Executive Director
Zach Rozmus



Summer 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.

Saturday, July 23rd **At Dark** **Shelter #3**
Movie Night at the Park

Join us for movie night! We will be playing the classic film, *Heavyweights!* The movie will be played near Shelter #3. We encourage everyone to bring their own chairs or blankets, and snacks and drinks.

Thursday, July 28th **6:00-8:00 p.m.** **CEC**
Crafty Conservationists

Join our naturalists for the summer session of Crafty Conservationists. This program is for adults only. Each participant will have the choice between 3 summer themed projects to complete. Registration and a fee of \$10 is required. Project options can be found below and on the form.



Project A



Project B



Project C

Wednesday, August 3rd **9:30 a.m.** **CEC**
Toddler Time

Join us for Toddler Time! This month, we will be learning all about mammals. Naturalist Megan will bring out the furs, some feathers, and maybe even a turkey foot! We will be outside.

Friday, August 12th **At Dark** **Shelter #3**
Movie Night at the Park

Join us for movie night at Shelter #3. The movie title will be announced at a later date, so stay tuned. The movie will start at dark. We encourage everyone to bring their own chairs, blankets, snacks and drinks.

Saturday, August 20th **8:00-5:00 p.m.** **CEC**
Hunter Education Classroom Course

WCCB will be hosting a traditional Hunter Education Classroom Course on Saturday, August 20th, and Sunday, August 21st. Saturday will begin at 8:00 a.m. at the nature center, and will be a class day. An exam will be proctored at the end of the day. Sunday, will be required range day at Clemons Creek Shooting Range beginning at 9:00. To sign up, give us a call at 319-657-2400.

Washington County Conservation Board

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Website: co.washington.ia.us

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

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.

Places to Explore in Washington County

Directions: Find all of the words listed below, to discover places across the county to explore this summer! Each of the places are county-owned outdoor recreation areas open to the public.

B Q D O S B R M G F D C C S H
K R T N Z V A I S H R B L D A
L Q I Q O R P D C A K X E O Y
K X V N R P K H W U Y D M O E
C F S P T D R F W O F A O W S
F Y A I L O O E E R Z L N R T
H R S C C R N O T U F E S E I
K E G W D P M T Q S M T C L M
I Y D P D X A A I E O R R T B
A S O U F V F K P M V F E A E
L N Y Z F E C Y M X B C E T R
D N D I R D H V A T U E K S H
X L K R A P F F I L C N R E F
F O S T E R W O O D P A R K Y
T H E G D I R M U K C O S C A

Brinton Timber
Fern Cliff Park
Hayes Timber
Statler Woods
Crawford Pond

Clemons Creek
Foster Pond
Marr Park
Foster Wood Park
Sockum Ridge

Tips for a Successful Camping Trip With Kids

Now that spring has arrived, it is safe to say that camping season is also underway. With warmer temperatures, summer 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, 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 Too)

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:

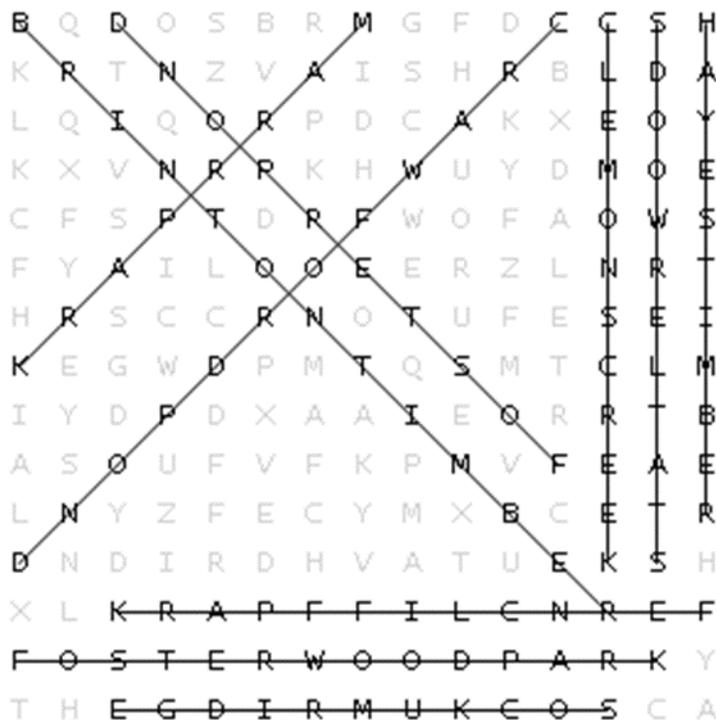
1. Decorate two toilet paper rolls however you choose. Use colored paper, crayons or markers.
2. Cut a small strip of card board. The length depends on how far apart your toilet paper rolls need to be from each other in order to see through both of them.
3. Poke a small hole on one side of each toilet 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



Newsletter Updates

Recently, we have received many newsletters back to us due to undeliverable addresses. In an effort to update our mailing list, we are asking for help. If you receive our newsletter in print, and have a change in address, please reach out to us. Additionally, if you would prefer to receive an electronic version of the newsletter, you may provide us with an email address and we can add you to the list. Finally, if you know of anyone who may be interested in receiving our newsletter, please also let us know that. You can give us a call at 319-657-2400, or email our naturalist at wccbnaturalist2@gmail.com.

Word Search Answers



WASHINGTON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
2943 HIGHWAY 92
AINSWORTH, IA 52201

Electronic Service Requested

Summer Center Hours

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

Friday-Saturday
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday-Monday
Closed

Camping Rates for 2022

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!

