

Up and Down the River

JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD SUMMER 2016

Visitor Pavilion at Prairie Creek

By Jessica Wagner, Environmental Education Coordinator

Plans are moving forward with developments at Prairie Creek Recreation Area. The Jackson County Conservation Board is in the process of bidding out Phase I; which includes installing a hard surface interior road on the west side of the park, creating a new and larger fishing pond and bringing utilities into the park. Friends of Jackson County Conservation has committed to raising the funds to build a visitor pavilion and restroom facility at the park.



An artist's rendering of the pavilion to be built at Prairie Creek Recreation Area.

We're excited about the projects and we need your help to make it all happen!

Friends of Jackson County Conservation is accepting donations for the Pavilion. Our goal is to raise \$120,000 so please consider making a donation for this great addition to the park. Maquoketa Rotary has already committed \$10,000 to the project! Over \$5,000 was raised on Great Give Day for the shelter through Parks to People, plus 15% of the cost will come from Parks to People if the rest of the funding is raised. To make a donation, send a check to Friends of JCC, 18670 63rd Street, Maquoketa, Iowa 52060 or go online to JacksonCCB.com. We appreciate your contribution!

Join us for the Prairie Creek Fun Day on Saturday, June 25th to learn more about these exciting projects. The event will be held on "the knoll" where the future picnic pavilion will be built. Come out between 11:00-2:00 to enjoy a picnic at the park. We will be serving lunch as well as having wagon rides, geocaching, creek stomping, an informational table, plus a guided hike to the rock shelter at 12:30. We'll have maps and images of hiking trails, Phase 1 developments and a master plan of the park created by ISU students this spring. Free event; freewill donations accepted. Park at the Summit St parking lot (follow signs for additional parking at some neighboring businesses). We hope to see you there!

We invite you, along with family and friends, to get out to Prairie Creek Recreation Area this summer and enjoy a hike through the woods and wander along the creek. Enjoy the limestone bluffs, rolling hills, several small caves and rock shelter. This park offers some great outdoor experiences and has a lot of potential for recreation opportunities.

We are excited about some new additions to our natural playscape at the Hurstville Center thanks to two organizations and one awesome volunteer!

JCCB Wins Build with Bags Grant

Jackson County Conservation has a new picnic table and umbrella that graces the plaza by the frog pond courtesy of the Build with Bags program. The plastic bag recycling program being led by Iowa grocers awarded us \$500 to purchase the table that is made from recycled plastic bags by Plastic Recycling of Iowa. For example, one table represents approximately 20,000 bags that won't end up in the landfill.

Encouraging purchases of furniture and equipment made from recycled plastic for parks and schools through its grant program is one of four goals established by



Build with Bags partners. The other three include increasing the amount of plastic bags recycled, reducing consumption of plastic bags and increasing the safe use of reusable bags. Build with Bags, a cooperative effort of the Iowa Grocery Industry Association, Keep Iowa Beautiful, Metro Waste Authority in Des Moines, Iowa Department of Natural Resources and The Des Moines Register.

Funding received from IDPH

This spring we were approached about using some available funding from our local steering committee for the Iowa Department of Public Health to improve access to outdoor facilities. We immediately went to our wish list for our playscape and decided to use the funding to add discovery tables to our building center, install a human sun clock, create a sand pit, build a kid size picnic table and put out a toy box for the pond equipment. A big thank you to IDPH for allowing us to add these fun additions for kids and visitors of all ages to enjoy! The sun clock and sand pit will be installed this summer by our My Community My Future summer youth corps members.

Our summer youth corps workers were busy their first two weeks on the job installing the sand area (shown right) and human sun clock.



Bring the kids and a picnic and spend a day playing at the Hurstville Center this summer!

Volunteer of the Year— and it's only June!

The year is less than half way over, but we feel it is necessary to acknowledge a volunteer who has gone above and beyond for us this spring. Dean Nelson has worked tirelessly to help us enhance the playscape outside of the Hurstville Interpretive Center. Dean repurposed discarded plastic lumber from the observation deck (overlooking the wetland off Hurstville Rd) to create functional and beautiful additions to the Center. We are so grateful for volunteers like him!



Dean poses next to the raised beds he made from salvaging discarded plastic lumber. We loaded the beds with soil and compost and planted tomatoes, strawberries and pumpkins.

Kids at play using the discovery table that Dean built. With plenty of sticks, bark, pinecones, small bricks, shells and other natural materials, kids can use their imagination to build and create!



Summer Day Camps at the Hurstville Interpretive Center

Adventure Camp

July 12, 13, 14 from 9:00-3:00 each day

Canoeing, kayaking, trap shooting, rock climbing and more! For youth entering 5th-8th grade; \$45/child.

Ranger Camp—FULL WAITING LIST ONLY

July 19, 20, 21 from 9:00-2:00 each day

Have fun learning about Iowa's wildlife and habitats through fun outdoor games, activities and crafts! For youth entering 2nd-4th grade; \$35/child.

Explorer Camp

July 26, 27, 28 from 9:00-2:00 each day

Kids will have fun exploring nature through games, crafts and activities! For youth entering Kdg-1st grade; \$35/child.

Sign up at the Hurstville Interpretive Center or online at jacksonccb.com. Registration and payment due by the Friday before camp starts. Camps are limited to 20 youth; first come first serve. Lunch and snacks are provided.

Wild Edibles—Elderberry

By Jennifer Meyer, Naturalist

In continuing our theme of wild edibles, let's focus on one I know you can go find for yourself: elderberries (*sambucus canadensis*).

Perhaps the unsung hero of our ditch growers, elderberry shrubs are prolific and beneficial to our pollinators. The khaki gray bark with corky bumps paired with the large white umbrella like show of flowers makes them easy to locate for future berry collection. The habit of growing in little colonies should encourage you to explore all of the uses the plant has to offer. The flexible branches become hollow when dried to become useful for basket and furniture making, creating toy whistles and flutes and readily take dye.



As far as eating elderberry goes, start with the flowers. They are best picked on a sunny, dry day soon after opening. Be sure to give them a gentle shake to remove insects and rinse well in cold water. The petals are an eye catching salad topper. Add them to fruit desserts and baked goods for a sweet and earthy scent. The flowers can be added to water, lemon juice and sugar to make a cordial drink; cooked into a syrup or dipped in a light batter and fried. The bbcgoodfood.com site has many recipes to get you started.

When the berries are ripe, look for those that have matured into a dark purple-black. Be forewarned, they stain! Actually, many indigenous people used them as a stain. You do need to remove the berries from the stems to prevent a bitter taste in your food and some sources consider them a potential toxin source. Using your fingers gives you the best control but a large toothed comb or a fork will work as well. Once they are clean, you have so many options. Dry them, mix with other berries in a salad, make wine or syrup or jam or fruit leather and... Have fun!

Bike Trail to Hurstville

Preliminary design work is being done for a 1.1 mile bike trail that will extend from the city of Maquoketa to the Hurstville Interpretive Center. The conservation board hired IIW Engineers to come up with plans and costs for the trail. The City of Maquoketa and Maquoketa State Bank have already designated funds for the bridge across the Maquoketa River. This is part of the Parks to People project, which brings in 15% of the cost of the trail. The conservation board will apply for funding for the trail through the Iowa DOT state recreational trails program.

Paddle Your Way to a New Adventure

By Tony Vorwald, Naturalist Intern

With summer upon us, those with an adventurous spirit may be growing restless. When thinking of adventure, many dream of faraway lands, wild and untamed, with vast expanses and flowing rivers. For those seeking adventure, you are in luck right here at home! We do not have to seek far off places to find adventure, we can find it in our own home county. The Maquoketa River can provide many opportunities for those with an adventurous spirit.

Canoe and kayaking enthusiasts can enjoy Jackson County's Maquoketa River Water Trail. There are a series of developed and maintained river access points. With the rivers accessibility, paddlers of any experience level can come and enjoy the natural beauty of the Maquoketa River. Though the summer season is upon us, the Maquoketa River can be enjoyed by paddlers throughout the year. With this being said there are truly many adventures one could have on this scenic gem called the Maquoketa River.

Paddling down the Maquoketa's winding waters will unlock the wild nature of Jackson County's natural history. Flowing under towering limestone bluffs and through forests, one can experience a truly fulfilling experience in nature. Each time you go out on the river, even if it is the same stretch of river, you can experience something new. From the time of year, vegetation, and wildlife exploring the Maquoketa River is a renewing adventure. With the renewing adventure anyone's adventurous spirit can be renewed as well.

Safety should always be a top priority for anyone enjoying the river. Water levels can be very unpredictable. Canoeing or kayaking during high water events is never a good idea. Logs and other obstacles can be submerged just to the point where they are not visible, or they could be free flowing. Weather can also be unpredictable, and being out on the river during violent weather is not a good situation. Make sure to plan your trip ahead of time and let people know where you are going and when you are expected to be back. Make sure to always have well fitted and appropriate life jackets.



Next time you are looking to get out in nature and explore, look to the Maquoketa River. All you need is a canoe or kayak, life jacket, paddle, and a good friend or two, and some wild spirit!



Summer Events

June

Pollinator Field Day

Monday, June 20 from 6-8 pm

Hurstville Center & Hamilton's Prairie

Join us for guided walks at local prairies; including the Hurstville Center's restored prairie and Ray Hamilton's prairie remnant. Topics to be covered during the walks include: pollinator programs for landowners, prairie planting and management, flower and insect identification. Sponsored by JCCB, NRCS and Pheasants Forever.

Prairie Creek Fun Day

Saturday, June 25 from 11:00-2:00

Prairie Creek Recreation Area

Join us for a picnic at the park and learn about the developments taking place there. We'll have lunch, guided hikes, creek stumping, geocaching, wagon rides and more! Park at the Summit St. parking lot. Free event; freewill donations accepted for lunch. All ages welcome!

July

Campground Programs

Friday, July 1 at 6 pm at Spruce Creek Park

Saturday, July 2 at 6 pm at South Sabula Park

Join a naturalist for some fun games and activities at the picnic shelter at each campground.

Butterfly Roundup

Saturday, July 9 at 1:00 pm

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Join a naturalist in catching and identifying the butterflies at the Hurstville Prairie. Learn more about butterflies in Iowa and how to identify them. Nets will be provided. All ages welcome.



Rain Barrel Workshop

Saturday, July 16 at 1:00 pm

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Build a rain barrel for your home at this workshop. Cost is \$40 which covers all the materials needed to construct a rain barrel to catch the water off your roof to use to water your garden this summer. Registration and payment required by July 11 at noon.



Upcycle Workshop

Sunday, July 17 at 2:00 pm

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Join the discussion in how to use items for a new purpose instead of disposing of it. Share your creative ideas! Learn how to crochet a bag from VHS tape and take your creation home with you. Free program. Registration requested.

Paddling Trip on the Maquoketa River

Saturday, July 23 from 9:00—2:00

Canton-Royertown

Take in the views while enjoying a leisurely paddle down the river. We have canoes and kayaks available for use or bring your own. First come first serve so sign up early. Registration required by Wednesday, July 20 at noon. We'll help shuttle people and vehicles from start to end.

Prairie Painting

Sunday, July 24 at 2:00 pm

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Seek inspiration through the natural wonders of the Hurstville Prairie. Create a painting while viewing the plants, landscape and animals. Materials and supplies will be provided.

August

Insect Zoo

Sunday, August 7 from 2:00-4:00 pm

Hurstville Interpretive Center

ISU will be visiting with their insect zoo! This is a super fun event where kids get the chance to get close up with lots of different kinds of bugs. Also enjoy a bug hike, critter crafts and insect treats! For youth ages 4-14; \$5/child. Parents/guardians are welcome to attend or drop off children. Registration and payment REQUIRED by Friday, July 29. *Sponsored by Friends of Jackson County Conservation!*



OWL Event—Pontoon Ride

Thursday, August 4 from 4:30-7:00 pm

Rock Creek Marina, Camanche, Iowa

Enjoy a pontoon boat ride along the main channel and sloughs of the Mississippi River led by a Clinton County Naturalist. Prior to the boat ride, we will take a tour of the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center at Rock Creek Marina. Event part of the OWL series for our older, wiser and livelier adults sponsored by Dubuque, Jackson and Jones CCB. Registration required. Limited space available.

Nature Tales—Astronomy

Tuesday, August 9 from 10:00-11:00 am

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Children ages 3-5 and a guardian are invited to come and learn more about the sun, earth and moon through some fun games and activities.

Nature Writings & Readings

Saturday, August 13 at 1:00 pm

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Come and share environmental themed writings that have inspired you; bring original works as well. Following the readings and discussion, create your own inspired poem or other writing inspired by our natural world. Refreshments will be provided.

Kid's Page

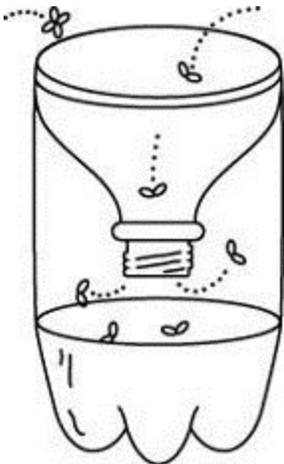
Explore the bugs in your backyard this summer with these fun activities!

(Please release the critters when you are done investigating)

Make a bug jar!

- First, finish eating the peanut butter, then clean out the jar, poke some holes in the lid and you have a great bug jar for collecting and watching insects.
- Feel free to decorate it using paints, permanent markers or other materials.

What did you catch? Where do they live? What do they eat?



Create an insect trap

- Take an empty 2-liter bottle, using scissors cut off the top third of the bottle, making a funnel shape.
- Place the bait in the bottom piece of the bottle.
- Nestle the funnel piece top side down inside the bottom piece.
- Dig a hole in your yard deep enough for the bottle.
- Place rocks around the edge of the bottle and put a board over the trap and rocks to keep out water but let the bugs investigate and fall in.
- Check the trap every morning and evening.

What did you find? Did you find more in the evening or morning? How many of each kind of bug did you find? What adaptations do they have?

Investigate Underneath

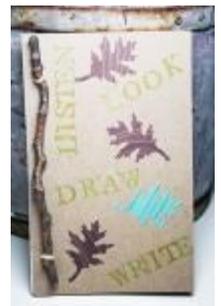
- Carefully roll over or move rocks, logs, flower pots, etc... to explore what lives out of sight. Put everything back how you found it when you have finished.
- You might even find tunnels formed by beetles; do a crayon rubbing to save the cool pattern! Place a piece of paper over the log and use a crayon with the wrapping removed and rub the long side of the crayon over the paper.

What did you discover? How do they move? Why are they hide underneath the rocks?

Play with worms



- Start a vermicompost and watch the worms devour your leftovers.
- You'll need a container (ice cream bucket works well), some bedding (moist newspaper torn into strips), kitchen scraps (fruit and veggie scraps cut into small pieces) and some worms (red worms or red wigglers specifically; buy online, bait stores or get some from us).
- Now you can tell everyone you have pet worms!



Make a Journal

- Make a twig journal using a hole punch, stick, rubber band and some paper. Put paper together and make a hole near the top left edge and bottom left edge. Put the rubber band along the backside and through the holes and around the stick in front both at the top and bottom.
- Be a scientist and record your hypothesis, questions and discoveries!



Friends of Jackson County Conservation



Friends Mission Statement

The Friends of Jackson County Conservation brings people together through educational and recreational opportunities in partnership with the Jackson County Conservation Board and inspires people to understand and care for our environment.

Friends Meetings

Join Friends members for one of their quarterly meetings to get involved in environmental education and outdoor recreation in Jackson County.

Meetings are held:

2nd Tuesday of January, April, June and October
7:00 pm at the Hurstville Interpretive Center
Come early for a potluck at 6:30 pm

Bus Scholarships

Friends is committed to assisting schools with busing costs for conservation related field trips. \$1,000 is allocated each school year to assist Jackson County schools with transportation costs for field trips. Applications are available on our website at jacksonccb.com.

This spring, two schools received our bus scholarship funding. Maquoketa 7th graders used the funding for transportation to Isle Royale for a backpacking and camping trek. Funding was also awarded to Marquette 2nd & 3rd graders for transportation to the Hurstville Interpretive Center for their field trip. Teachers from Marquette sent us a thank you card and included some quotes from the students. We had to share!

“It was the best field trip ever!”
“This was the best day of school yet”
“I want to go again and take my family”



A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Jackson County Conservation would like to thank and acknowledge the following individuals, organizations and businesses for their continued support and donations. With your help, we have been able to do so much more!!!

Volunteered for JCCB— Alice Gilmore, Chris Tubbs, Karen Manning, Mary Hayward, Wendy Hainstock, Jim Dean, Karen Krueger, Kylee Stanton, Peggy Miller, Fannie Miller, Sandy Walton, Cassie Sheehan, Kathi Atkinson, Dave Lauricha, Green Iowa AmeriCorps, Dakota Jordan, Luke Johnson, Randy Johnson, Sky Hankemeier, Jon Stroyan, Larry McDevitt, Kathy Wosoba, Ann Burns, Ben Wagner, Chris Cornelius, Randy Bender, Don Yanda, Julie Reuter, Jeremy Meyer, Kim Jochum, Jo Ellen Langerman, Bob Koranda, Bob Walton, Linda Grobstick, Lou Behrends, Judy Bickford, Jennie Wilcox, Marie Rossman, Laura Keller, Lana Flagel, Bonnie Daemerich, Dean Nelson, Zola McMahan, Ray Hayes, Braydon Michels, Darrell Miller, Darlene Elsner, Karin Hoover, Keelan Hoover, Chloe Swanson, Denise Swanson

Donations— Denise Swanson & Family (books, bags), Ken Weuste (wren houses), Sandra Heth (bird house lumber), Eagle Optics (binoculars), Jessica Wagner (books, plants), Mary Stroyan (carts), Jen Meyer (puzzle, plants), Dean Nelson (hardware)

Cash Donations—Delwood Kindergarteners, Geraldine W Lambert Trust Estate, Geraldine W Lambert Endowment, Mary Helen Stewart, Kevin & Ann Burns, Chuck & Chris Cornelius, David Gossman, Karen Manning, Daryl Parker, Maquoketa State Bank employee match, David Heiar, Wesley Merryman, Keep Iowa Beautiful Build a Bag Grant, Iowa Department of Public Health

Donations for Friends Endowment on Great Give Day— Bill & Wendy Hainstock, Jo Ellen Langerman, Drs. Atienza & Gehl, Katharine Atkinson, Mark & Kendra Beck, David & Angie Burmahl, Elaine Edwards, Maquoketa State Bank employee match

Donations made in memory of/or in honor of:

Mike Oetken



Spring Activities with Jackson County Conservation



Midland 1st graders catching critters in the pond as part of their field trip to the Hurstville Center this spring

Andrew 5th graders tried out our caterpillar skis as part of a team building activity during their spring field trip. Communication was key!



Thank you to the folks that came out for our Garlic Grab on Earth Day and helped pull the invasive garlic mustard at Prairie Creek!



Can you balance on our teeter totter? Cardinal 2nd graders can!



Conservation Board Members

Randy Bender, Chair	Bellevue	563/872-5953
Christine Cornelius	Andrew	563/672-3590
Kathy Wosoba	Monmouth	563/673-4551
Larry McDevitt	Maquoketa	319/541-6357
Don Yanda	Maquoketa	563/652-2706

The Jackson County Conservation Board meets the third Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm.

Address & Contact Information

Offices at the Hurstville Interpretive Center
18670 63rd Street Maquoketa, IA 52060

Phone: (563) 652-3783

Fax: (563) 652-2191

Spruce Creek Shop (563) 872-3621

E-mail jacksonccb@jacksonccb.com

JacksonCCB.com

www.facebook.com/HurstvilleInterpretiveCenter

Conservation Staff

Daryl Parker	Executive Director
Jessica Wagner	Environmental Ed. Coordinator
Ryan Owen	Park Ranger
Jeannie Collins-Heer	Park Ranger
Jerry Widel	Operation Technician
Pam True	Office Manager
Jennifer Meyer	Naturalist
Emily Highnam	Naturalist
Tony Vorwald	Naturalist Intern
Cole Wentworth	Youth Corps Leader
Jonathan Bopes	Conservation Worker
Derek Hopson	Conservation Worker

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Offices for Jackson County Conservation

Hours Monday—Friday 9:00 am—4:00 pm
Saturday—Sunday April-Oct 12:00—5:00 pm
Outdoor Area is open 6:00am—10:30 pm

No Admission Fee!



Holidays:

No Holiday Closings this Spring; Open Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day

We reopen for weekends on April 2

Our online reservation system is up and running!

**You can now register for our events
and reserve picnic shelters and
the community room ONLINE!**

JacksonCCB.com

Our online reservation system includes:

- Register for events and programs online (both free events and ones that cost)
- Reserve a picnic shelter at Spruce Creek Park or South Sabula Lake Park
- Reserve the community room at the Hurstville Center
- Donate to Friends of Jackson County Conservation

Our domain name links directly to our webpage within MyCountyParks.com. MyCountyParks is a great online resource for camping, hiking, biking, paddling, hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities in all of Iowa's 99 counties' parks.

**Campsite reservation at
Spruce Creek & South Sabula Lake Park
will launch January 5th, 2017**

Questions? That's what we're here for.
Call us at (563)652-3783 for technical assistance.

mycountyparks
.com

