

Up and Down the River

JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD FALL 2015

PROGRESS AT PRAIRIE CREEK

By Daryl Parker, Executive Director

Plans are moving forward for the future of the Prairie Creek Recreation Area, Jackson County's newest park. Acquired as a donation from the Robert Martin Estate in April 2014, the 273 acre property located on the southeast edge of Maquoketa has a bright future for outdoor recreation in Jackson County.

The construction of a pedestrian bridge from the 223rd Ave parking lot over Sanborn Creek was recently completed by the conservation department staff and assistance from the Maquoketa Kiwanis Club. This 36' bridge spans Sanborn Creek and allows hiker access to the 2 mile trail system already developed on the east side of the property. The bridge project was funded with a grant from Wellmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield as a way to promote healthy living. A planned bridge dedication celebration will be held on the site on Saturday, September 12th at 10:00 AM. Please join us for this event and take a hike on the trail system at Prairie Creek.



In August, the Jackson County Conservation Board approved a contract with WHKS Engineering and Design from East Dubuque, IL to complete the design work and related bidding documents for the construction of a roadway leading from Summit Street in Maquoketa and traveling to a planned shelter site in Prairie Creek. Also included in this design work will be the installation of utility services (water, sewer and electric) for future campground and cabin development. Included in the roadway design will be the construction of a planned 2 acre pond site for public fishing. Funding for this phase of development at Prairie Creek will come from the Parks to People Initiative approved for the Grant Wood/Mississippi River region including Jackson, Jones, and Dubuque Counties. Additional funding for these projects will be sought

through grants from the Fish Habitat Program (pond construction) and REAP (shelter construction). Additional private funding will also be needed to complete this project and will be part of the capital campaign through Parks to People. All of these projects are planned for construction in 2016 with additional projects including the campground and cabin facilities after 2017 as funding is secured.

The future of Prairie Creek as a true destination site and a crown jewel for the Jackson County Conservation Department is really exciting news. The need to honor the wishes of Robert Martin to make this area a "public outdoor recreation area for the public to enjoy" is certainly a priority of the conservation board and an opportunity for everyone. We hope everyone has an opportunity to become involved with this project for the good of Jackson County.



**My Community,
My Future**
Jackson County Conservation
Youth Corps

For 8 weeks, with 7 youth and an endless supply of learning opportunities, the 2015 Youth Corps accomplished physical improvements to county areas and also to their own selves. The program is designed to give unique experiences to local youth to gain job skills, create community ties and promote healthy relationships.

This summer we were able to make a dent in invasive species populations, provide labor to make improvements at the fairgrounds and in Sabula, grid the Spragueville cemetery and collect trash from the river, among other things.

Thank you to our sponsors: Community Foundation of Jackson County, Friends of Jackson County, Iowa Native Plant Society, Clinton/Jackson DECAT and Kwik Star. Also to: Sabula Community Visioning, MSB, JCPH HR, IDNR, BioBlitz volunteers.



Welcome to our New Naturalist!

Emily Highnam comes to us from Central Iowa, where she worked as an assistant naturalist for Polk County Conservation. Emily’s interest in environmental education began with her employment at Iowa State University’s Outdoor Recreation Program, where she led students on outdoor excursions across the country. After graduating with a degree in Animal Ecology, Emily has worked in environmental education throughout the Midwest, including Custer State Park in South Dakota. Emily is excited to join the Jackson County Conservation team and the Eastern Iowa community.



Iowa’s Prairie Heritage on Display
At the Hurstville Interpretive Center through Oct. 12

Millions of people around the world will sit down to a meal sometime today courtesy of the prairies that once covered much of Iowa. Jackson County Conservation invites visitors to experience the story of our prairie heritage through the traveling exhibit “Tallgrass Prairie – Past, Present and Future”; on display through October 12 at the Hurstville Interpretive Center.



The “Tallgrass Prairie” exhibit was produced by the Iowa Association of Naturalists with funds from the Resource Enhancement and Protection – Conservation Education Program (REAP – CEP), Living Roadway Trust Fund, Pheasants Forever, Iowa Trust for Local Conservation, the Tallgrass Prairie Center – UNI, and Truax Company.



Hands-on displays and interactive components will engage visitors in learning about the prairie landscape and native plant and animal species. Area residents are also

invited to become personally involved in the preservation and restoration and learn more of the prairie ecosystem through public events scheduled through the conservation office this fall. See the Calendar of Events page for opportunities to learn more about the tallgrass prairie!



Fall Programs



Honey Beekeepers Presentation **Thursday, September 3 at 5:15 pm** **Hurstville Interpretive Center**



Iowa State apiarist, Andrew Joseph, will present about honey bees as important pollinators, measures to be taken to assure the health of a colony and late season management tasks that will help the colony to survive Iowa's long cold winters.

Campground Program—Eat 'em in Autumn **Friday, Sept 4 at 7 pm—South Sabula Lake Park** **Saturday, Sept 5 at 7 pm—Spruce Creek Park**

You can eat that?!? Learn about all kinds of wild edible plants that can be harvested in the fall— taste tests included!

Monarch Tagging **Every Saturday in September at 1:00 pm** **Saturday, September 5, 12, 19, 26** **Hurstville Interpretive Center**



Learn about the life cycle and migration patterns of the monarch butterfly. Be a part of the research by helping to catch and tag this year's migrants. All ages welcome.

Fall BioBlitz **Friday & Saturday, Sept 11 & 12** **Prairie Creek Recreation Area** **Basecamp—605 Birch Drive, Maquoketa**

Join us for our 3rd and final bioblitz at Prairie Creek this year! Participants will work with ornithologists, botanists and other specialists in locating, identifying and mapping plants and animals found on the property, including: birds, reptiles, amphibians, butterflies and other insects, flowering plants, fungi and more. There will be multiple searches going on Friday evening, Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon. Participants can sign up for one or more sessions. Specialists will also be presenting educational programs at basecamp for those that would like to learn without the hunt. Information gathered will be used when developing plans for the Prairie Creek Recreation Area. Registration is required to participate in a survey. Registration forms and a schedule of activities will be available online at www.jacksonccb.com/bioblitz or pick one up at the Hurstville Center. *Deadline to register is Monday, Sept 7th.*

Prairie Creek Bridge Grand Opening **Saturday, September 12 at 10:00 am** **North parking lot on 223rd Ave.**



Join us in celebrating our first major capital improvement project made possible by a Wellmark Award.

Conservation Board Meeting **Tuesday, September 15 at 5:00 pm** **Ozark Wildlife Area & Hurstville Center**

Join our county conservation board for their monthly meeting and learn more about what is happening with our county parks. Tour Ozark Wildlife Area with the board at 5:00 pm; meeting to follow at the Hurstville Center at approx. 6:00 pm.

Family Fun Day **Wednesday, September 16 from 1:30-3:00 pm** **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Join a naturalist for an afternoon of fun! We'll take a walk through the tall-grass prairie and build bug hotels to provide a nice place for insects to overwinter. All ages welcome.

Codfish Hollow Hill Prairie Hike **Saturday, September 19 at 10:00 am** **Ray Hamilton's Prairie, junction of 35th St & 188th Ave, north of Maquoketa**



Enjoy a fall prairie hike on Ray's 20 acres of original native prairie. We expect to see various fall asters, ladies tresses orchids and many other fall blooming prairie flowers.

Youth Outdoor Skills Day **Saturday, September 26 from 9:00-2:00** **Hurstville Fishing Pond**

Youth ages 8-14 are invited to come and learn more about outdoor recreation opportunities including fishing, canoeing, geocaching, shooting sports and archery! Free event. Lunch provided. Limited to the first 45 registered participants. Registration forms will be available at the Hurstville Center and online at www.jacksonccb.com.

Sandbox Dig **Sunday, September 27 at 2:00 pm** **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Join a naturalist in a mock dig looking for artifacts and learn more about our past. All ages welcome!

Work Night at Prairie Creek **Monday, September 28 from 5-7 pm** **Monday, October 12 from 5-7 pm** **Prairie Creek Recreation Area**



Meet at the Summit St parking lot. Join the conservation staff in removing fence and invasive species at the park.

Prairie Seed Harvest **Sunday, October 4 at 2:00 pm** **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

Learn to recognize prairie flowers and grasses and then help collect the seeds by hand. The seeds will be used to enrich prairie plantings on various parks in the county.

REAP Assembly for Region 8 **Tuesday, October 6 from 6:00-8:00 pm** **Hurstville Interpretive Center**

REAP has helped fund the enhancement and protection of Iowa's beautiful natural resources. Let your voice be heard at an assembly near you this fall. www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/REAP/REAPPublicParticipation.aspx

Pikes Peak & Effigy Mounds Trip **Wednesday, October 7**

Join our Older Wiser Livelier (OWL) adult group for a day trip to Pikes Peak & Effigy Mounds in NE Iowa. More details to come.

Fall Night Hike

Friday, October 9 from 7-9 pm

Jackson Co. Rec. Trail—Z34 parking lot

Join us for a chance to visit nature after-hours! Enjoy a nice walk on the trail and experience nature in the dark. Bring a flashlight and dress for the weather. *All ages welcome.*



Safari Party

Sunday, October 11 at 2:00 pm

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Anyone who completed the Jackson County Safari is invited to join us in a celebration! We'll share stories of our adventures, enjoy ice cream sundaes & draw for door prizes. Complete 6 of the 10 tile rubbings in the journal before Sept 30 to be eligible for prizes. *RSVP for the party by Oct 8.*

Friends of Jackson Co. Cons. Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday, October 13 at 7:00 pm

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Join the Friends group for their quarterly meeting. A potluck will be held at 6:30 pm. All are welcome.

Family Fun Day

Wednesday, October 14 from 1:30-3:00 pm

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Join a naturalist on this early dismissal day for some fun nature related activities! Participants will help paint a window at the Center to help prevent bird collisions and learn how to do plant and leaf rubbings. All ages welcome.

Paddling Trip

Thursday, October 15 at 4:00 pm

Maquoketa River—Bridgeport to Iron Bridge

Enjoy the fall colors as we paddle down the Maquoketa River. Canoes and kayaks are available free of charge on a first-come-first-serve basis. RSVP required by Oct 12.



Halloween Hike

"Hurstville Happenings—1900 Edition"

Saturday, October 17 from 6:00-8:00 pm

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Bring your family to the Hurstville Interpretive Center for some Halloween fun with a night time twist. Activities include activities, a snack, and a trail hike full of characters from historical Hurstville. Cost is \$2/person or \$5/family. *Call ahead to sign up for a specific hike time between 6-8.*

Jackson County Conservation Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 20 at 6:00 pm

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Join the conservation board for their monthly board meeting and learn more about what is happening with county parks.

Drive on the Rec Trail

Saturday, October 24 at 9:00 am

Jackson County Recreation Trail

We are opening up the trail one day only to motor vehicles—cars, trucks, 4-wheelers. Enter at the Spragueville parking lot between 9:00-9:30 am for a **'one-way'** drive down the trail to Z34. Great way to see this entire section of trail!

Bat House Workshop

Saturday, Oct. 31 at 1 pm, Hurstville Center

In honor of National Bat Week, Bat Conservation's goal is to set a world record of the most bat houses built on Oct 31. Be part of a world record AND help out our bats. Bat houses provide summer roosting for bats. *Sign up to build a bat house by October 26. Cost is \$18 per kit.*

Morning Nature Hike

Saturday, November 7 at 9:00 am

Prairie Creek Rec. Area: 1st parking lot on 223rd Ave

Exercise, birds, nature's beauty, geocaches—whatever the reason, get outdoors and join us for an enjoyable walk on the trails at the park! All ages welcome.



Bird Feeder Workshop

Saturday, Nov. 7 at 1:00 pm, Hurstville Center

Get ready to feed your winter visitors! This workshop will provide the materials and instructions to build your own Sunflower Bird Feeder. We'll discuss what types of seed attract which birds and how to keep them safe and healthy! Cost is \$7.00. *Sign up required by Nov 2.*

Solving the Puzzle within the Puzzle

Sunday, Nov. 8 at 2 pm at the Hurstville Center

Join geocacher Pete Maier in learning more about puzzle caches and learn some tips for solving them.

Volunteer Appreciation Event

Thursday, November 12 from 5:00-6:30 pm

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Details on page 6.



Hibernation Celebration

Saturday, Nov. 14 at 1 pm, Hurstville Center

Join us as we play games, read stories and meet animals who spend their winters dreaming of spring. Critters large and small share this amazing adaptation—come learn what all the buzzzzzzzz is about!

A Symphony of Soils (OWL event)

Wednesday, November 18 from Noon-3:00

Hurstville Interpretive Center

2015 is the International Year of Soils, come and celebrate this resource with us as we show the documentary, "A Symphony of Soil." By understanding the elaborate relationships and mutuality between soil, water, the atmosphere, plants and animals, we come to appreciate the complex and dynamic nature of this precious resource. Optional lunch (\$) will be from Noon-1:00. Adam Hoffman, Professor at UD, will speak about soil health before the film. OWL events are for older, wiser, livelier adults who want to learn more about natural resources and have fun with like minded adults.

Reptile Riot

Sunday, Dec. 6 at 2:00 pm, Hurstville Center

Turtles, lizards and snakes, oh my! Learn with a naturalist about Iowa's scaliest critters. This program will showcase **live animals** and everyone will get something to take home!



Summer Fun with Jackson CCB!



More than 50 people participated in our July BioBlitz! *Above*, people observe a painted turtle that was caught. *Below right*, Jim Durbin and others observe moths that are attracted to the lighted sheet. *Bottom left*, Russ Benedict displays a bat that was caught in their mist nets.

Thank you YMCA youth for volunteering for us this summer!!!



Over 50 youth participated in our summer day camps at the Center. A lot of fun was had by all!



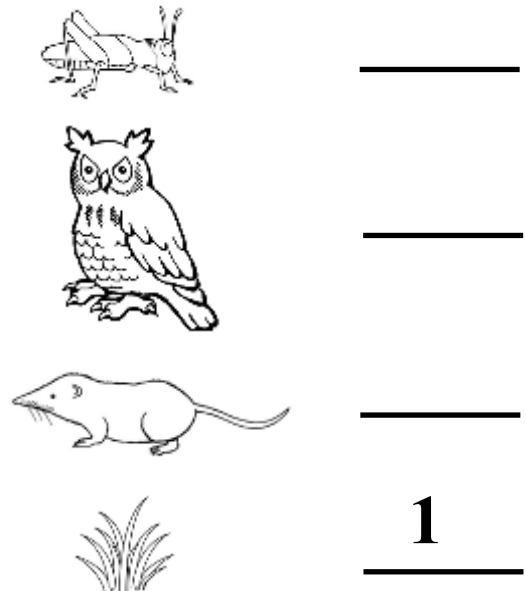
We visited each of the libraries in the county this summer presenting "Bee a Hero" as part of the summer reading program.

Kid's corner

Match critters with their tracks!



Put the animals in their order in the food chain!





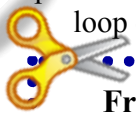
Friends of Jackson County Conservation



Membership Renewal

Renew your membership now! Friends of Jackson County Conservation membership run from **July 1—June 30**. Clip the form below and mail in with a check to stay current on your dues (or just send a check with “Friends Dues” in memo).

Not a member? No problem, anyone is welcome to become a member of the Friends group! Make sure to provide an up-to-date email address so you stay in the loop on Friends activities and projects.



Friends of Jackson County Conservation Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone number: _____

Email Address: _____

Type of Membership (Please check one per form and make checks payable to Friends of JCC)

Student \$5

Regular \$10

Senior Citizen \$5

Family \$20

Sustaining \$50

Individual Life \$500

Amount Enclosed..... _____

Please send membership form and fee to:

Friends of Jackson County Conservation

18670 63rd Street

Maquoketa, Iowa 52060

Environmental Ed. Wish List

Gently USED items are OKAY!

- ◇ Halloween Hike costumes (donate material and/or help sew/put together)—*talk to Jen for specifics*
- ◇ Snowshoes (adult & youth size)
- ◇ Nature story books and field guides
- ◇ Plastic storage tubs with lids
- ◇ Funds for taxidermy work
- ◇ Black oil sunflower seed

Next Friends Meeting

Tuesday October 13

Potluck at 6:00 pm

Presentation at 6:30 pm

Meeting at 7:00 pm

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Join the Friends of Jackson County Conservation for their fall meeting and learn more about the benefits of being a friend and become involved. We'll meet for a potluck at 6:00, followed by a presentation from the Maquoketa 7th Grade Isle Royale Students, and the fall business meeting. Come for any or all of the evening's agenda.



Election Time

Friends members will have the opportunity to elect two board members at the October meeting. Consider running—a great opportunity to be more involved with county conservation! **2014-15 Board Members:** JoEllen Langerman, Jeremy Meyer, Kathi Atkinson, Wendy Hainstock, Sandy Walton

Thank you to Jo Ellen Langerman for serving two 3-year terms on the Friends Board!!! We appreciate all your hard work and dedication to the Friends organization!!

*Volunteer
Appreciation
Night!!*

Thursday, November 12

5:00-6:30 pm

At the Hurstville Interpretive Center

We invite anyone who has volunteered with us in the past year to join us for our appreciation event. We want to thank you for your generosity! Supper provided.

Please RSVP by Monday, November 9

We hope to see you there!



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/Friends JCC—

Lou Behrend, Carol Breuch, Chris Cornelius, Alice Gilmore, Wendy Hainstock, Mary Hayward, Jeanne Hoesley, Dakota Jordan, Bob Koranda, Karen Krueger, Larry McDevitt, Zoe McMahon, Mary Methers, Peggy Miller, Ashley Quinlan, Chloe Swanson, Sean Swanson, Sandy Walton, Emily Kloft, Kylee Stanton, Maquoketa Art Experience, Bill Schwenker, Bonnie Schwenker, Chris Tubbs, Bonnie Daeemerich, Karen Manning, Julie Brown, Kathy Wosoba, Don Yanda, Randy Bender, Jo Ellen Langerman, Jeremy Meyer, Kathi Atkinson, Luke Johnson, Randy Johnson, Vincent Frana, Victor Frana, Simone Frana, Kerry Schepers, Daryl Schepers, Dylan Schepers, Fannie Miller, Kevin Burns, Ann Burns, Kathy Seyfert, Larry McDevitt, Brad Young, John Franzen, Jolinda Burr, Steve Hummel, Jim Durbin, Laura Helmich, Bob Bryant, Brian Ritter, Harlan Ratcliff, Dean Abel, Damian Pieper, Dave Gossman, Sue Gossman, Bill Hainstock, Charlie Winterwood, Bob Walton, Jo Ellen Langerman, David Manning, Ryan Rasmussen, Russ Benedict, Jennie Wilcox, Cassie Sheehan, Renee Lietz, Cassidy Lieta, Bob Koranda, Bailey Lietz, Kobi Lietz, Don Becker, Kathy Miller, Robin Sokol, Steve Tubbs, Dave Updegraff, Katie Kimmer, Mark Fried, Travis Douley, Randy Lyons, Bob Sheets, Doug Knickrehm, Paul Miller, Steve Kahler

Helped with Free Fishing Clinic—Family Dollar: Keith Diltz, Joe Assenmacher, Chris Bruue, Emily Dontje, Travis Dontje, Randy Feuss, Mark Fier, Tina Fier, Justin Fry, Cathy Graf, Matt Graf, Jay Smith, Ryan Springer, Olivia Van Keuren, Joe Westcott

Donations—Grace Trenkamp (bird feeder), Charlie Veach (plant stakes), Jess Wagner (kitchen supplies), Julie Brown (food for camp), JoEllen Langerman & Teri Wiese (EE curriculum), Julie Lehrman (tracks)

Cash Donations—Robert Hillis, Ann & Kevin Burns, Graham Holdings, Maquoketa State Bank, Ann & Kevin Burns, Arabella Tubbs, John & Barb McCray, Madonna & Phillip Feeney

Donations made in memory or in honor of:

In Honor of Asher Schroeder
In Memory of Helen Feeney
In Memory of Dorothy Nabb



Board Members

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

The Jackson County Conservation Board meets in regular session the third Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm. Meetings are held at the Hurstville Center (unless stated otherwise). Meetings are open to the public.

Address & Contact Information

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

Website www.jacksonccb.com &

www.MyCountyParks.com/County/Jackson.aspx

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

Thank you to our summer staff

Conservation Techs

Cory Thielen & Derek Hopson

Education Intern

Tony Vorwald

Youth Corps Assistant Leader

Cole Wentworth

Youth Corps Members

Levi Behrens Troy Sams

Matt Bowling Elijah Ridsen

Zach Spann Adrian Friederich

Doug Hute

For a job WELL DONE!

Jackson County Conservation
Hurstville Interpretive Center
18670 63rd Street
Maquoketa, IA 52060

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In the news....

“Bring Back the Pollinators”

“Bee Beautiful”

“Plant. Grow. Fly”

“Create & Conserve Monarch Habitats”

Pollinators have been in the news a lot lately. And for good reason—we know they are important: pollinators, such as bees, butterflies, birds, bats, beetles and moths, transfer pollen on flowering plants. This is necessary for these plants to produce fruit and seed. Pollinators provide us and wildlife with much of the food we eat so of course it is in our best interest to provide the habitat necessary for them to thrive.

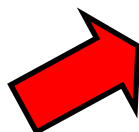
To learn more, the Xerces Society has great information on their website. The link below has resources for recommended pollinator plants, planting guides, recommended nurseries and seed companies, bee identification and more for the Midwest.

www.xerces.org/pollinators-great-lakes-region/



How can I

help?



Printed on recycled paper

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Offices for Jackson County Conservation

Hours Monday—Friday 9:00 am—4:00 pm

Weekends January– March Closed

Weekends April–October 12:00–5:00 pm

Weekends November– December 12:00–4:00 pm

No Admission Fee!



Holidays:

Open Labor Day!

Closed Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving & Weekend,
Christmas & Weekend, New Year's & Weekend

2015 Fall Native Seed Sale

To order native prairie seed from us, pick up a form at the Hurstville Interpretive Center or download one from our website www.jacksonccb.com.

Register Your Pollinator Garden!

Have a pollinator garden? Get some recognition and register it with Plant. Grow. Fly (an initiative in Iowa) or as a Monarch Waystation!

www.blankparkzoo.com/en/conservation/plant_grow_fly/
www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/