



# Dallas County Conservation Board eNews

June 11, 2018  
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Greetings from the Dallas County Conservation Board. This newsletter has been sent to people who have asked to receive it. If you would like to unsubscribe or change your email address, please contact: [conservation@dallascountyiowa.gov](mailto:conservation@dallascountyiowa.gov) or call us at 515-465-3577.



Like us on Facebook and stay up-to-date on all of our programs, events, and news.

## **It's Coming!**

The Dallas County Conservation Board is transitioning to an online reservation system for some of our cabins, shelters and camping. The new system will launch July 2018. More details on how to make a reservation will be available as we get closer to the launch date. We realize this system comes with a learning curve for both park users and conservation board staff. We appreciate your patience as we make this transition. All questions about the new reservation system should be directed to our office at 515-465-3577.

## **Volunteer Opportunity**

There are many opportunities to volunteer for the Dallas County Conservation Board throughout the year. We can match you to something that you would enjoy doing. Please go to our website: [Click Here](#) and complete the application and submit to us. You may call Sherry James at 515-465-3577 for further questions."

## **2018 National Rails to Trails Conservancy's Doppelt Fund Grant Announces Recipients of its 2018 Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund Grants**

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) announced the recipients of its 2018 Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund grants, with an emphasis on strategic investments that support significant regional and community trail development goals. The Doppelt Fund supports small, regional projects that are vital to trail systems but often fall through the cracks of traditional funding streams. RTC received nearly \$5.5 million in application requests for the 2018 grant cycle, demonstrating the national reality of unmet trail funding needs.

## **Dallas County Conservation Board (Iowa), receiving \$15,000 for the acquisition of six parcels of land required to extend the iconic High Trestle Trail to the Raccoon River Valley Trail north of Des Moines.**

*"This \$15,000 grant will help us continue to move forward with our Raccoon River Valley Trail to High Trestle Trail Connector project. This 9 mile project will connect two of the premier trail systems in the state. The grant will allow us to acquire some of the last parcels needed for the project. We would then continue with our construction as funds allow, commented Mike Wallace, Director, Dallas County Conservation Board".*

To date over 55% of the estimated project costs of \$5 million have been raised. The Dallas County Conservation Board is currently in the process of constructing the first 1.56 miles of the trail this summer. This Phase I Construction will start in Perry at 18th street and go east to 130th street. Additional construction phases will happen as additional funds are received. If you would like to contribute towards this important project go to: [Click Here](#) or contact the Dallas County Conservation Board at 515-465-3577.

## **On Call Programs**

### **Osprey Watch**

**On-call, June and July**

**11:00-1:00**

### **Woodland Hills Elementary, Waukee**

Come experience first-hand a conservation success story; Osprey. Osprey are an eagle-sized, fish-eating bird of prey that vanished from Iowa before European settlement. In 1997 the DNR along with several other conservation partners were able to bring Osprey back to Iowa. There are now 26 nesting pairs with two of these present in Dallas County. DCCB will have spotting scopes set up on an active nest just west of Jordan Creek Mall. The scopes will be set up for viewing the birds from 11:00 to 1:00. If you live or work in the area make it part of your lunch routine!

### **Libraries Rock! Kids Concert**

**Check date and time at your Dallas County libraries**

**Or call the Dallas County Conservation Office**

The Summer Library Reading Program this year is Libraries Rock! DCCB is partnering with several area libraries to bring a Libraries Rock! Kids Concert. Naturalist Mike Havlik will be leading children in songs with his guitar. These will be fun and educational nature songs with a sing-a-long component. Learn how "Dirt Makes Your Lunch" and "Bats Eat Bugs". Bring a sack lunch and enjoy a nearby park for the remainder of the afternoon. A great way to kick off your summer.

### **Raccoon River Valley Trail (RRTV) and the High Trestle Trail (HTT) Connector**

This trail connection will link two of the premier recreational trails in Iowa. Trail supporters can click [Here](#) for the latest information.

### **Facebook**

Join us on Facebook as we post "Trail Tuesday" and "Throw Back Thursday" plus updated information on programs! Click [here](#) for more information!

### **Summer Hours for Dallas County Parks ~ May 1 – October 31**

### **2018 RRTV Trail Permits**

2018 Trail Permits on sale for just \$10 each. Stop in our office, download an order form from our website, pick up a green envelope at any trail head and mail it to us or purchase online. We accept credit cards in our office or online. [Click Here](#)

**Now is the time to make your cabin, camping, shelters, Glissman Lodge, Dayton Stagecoach Inn and Sportsman Lodge reservations for 2018. Sportsman Park campground, cabins and lodge are open year round.** Call us at 515-465-3577 for available dates and prices. Book your reservations early by contacting the Dallas County Conservation Board, 515-465-3577. [Click Here](#)

**Sportsman Park, Dawson:** Open 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily. Reservations will be accepted for the camping, shelters and cabins. Primitive and modern camping will be allowed on a first come, first served basis. Restroom facilities will be open

**Kuehn Conservation Area, Earlham:** Open ½ hour before sunrise to 10:00 p.m. daily. Restroom facilities will be open. Primitive camping allowed on first come first serve basis. Primitive campsite #1 can be reserved.

**Voas Nature Area, Minburn:** Open ½ hour before sunrise to 10:00 p.m. daily. Restroom facilities will be open.

**Hanging Rock, Redfield:** Open 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily. Restroom facilities will be open. Reservations will be accepted for the shelter.

**Trindle Park, Van Meter:** Open from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily. Restroom facilities will be open. Reservations will be accepted for the shelters.

**MUSEUMS:** FREE! No fees to visit!

**Forest Park Museum, Perry:** Monday-Friday~8am-4:30pm Saturday, Sunday and Holidays~1pm-4:30pm

**Voas Rock & Mineral Museum near Minburn:** Open selected Sunday afternoons or by appointment anytime.

**Grand Army of the Republic, Redfield:** Open most Sundays ~ 1pm-4:30pm or by appointment.

**For more information, or to register for any of our programs, contact:**

Dallas County Conservation Board  
14581 K Avenue  
Perry, IA 50220 515-465-3577  
Office hours M-F 8am – 4:30pm  
[conservation@dallascountyiowa.gov](mailto:conservation@dallascountyiowa.gov)  
[www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation](http://www.dallascountyiowa.gov/conservation)