



Dallas County Conservation Board eNews

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News & Events

Birthday Donation to Let's Connect Trail

Tate Boyd recently celebrated his half birthday, in a very special way. The now 10.5 year old had a joint birthday party with his sisters, but instead of asking for gifts, the young trio raised donations for charity projects. Tate is an enthusiastic bike rider, so he donated his birthday haul to the Let's Connect Bike Trail Project which is constructing a new path between Perry and Woodward. The first phase of this \$5 million project is already underway as crews are constructing the initial 1.5 miles of trail starting in Perry and working east. To read the full story, including how you can match Tate Boyd's gift, or make a birthday contribution of your own, visit online at www.letsconnectdallascounty.com.

Summer River Float: Raccoon River Paddling and Mussels

Saturday, August 25, location TBD based on water levels, preregistration required.

Jennifer Kurth, ISU mussel researcher, brings us the story of Iowa's mussels. The program begins with a presentation on mussel ecology, natural history and identification. Following a lunch break (bring your own lunch), participants are welcome to join us for a paddle down the 'Coon. Now, with a trained ear, listening to the voice of a mussel, we will examine the 'Coons waters. Which mussels will we observe? Can you apply your new found identification skills? What lessons of ecology can our mussels share with us? You will never paddle past a river sandbar again without taking note of what mussels are present and listening to the ecology lessons they teach. *Preregistration is required for this program.*

Skull Painting

Saturday, September 8, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. @ Forest Park Museum

Native peoples in parts of Mexico annually celebrate the Day of the Dead. Part of their tradition includes decorating sugar skulls and other skull related art. This program will get you started on painting a real animal skull (deer, beaver, or raccoon), as we prepare for our October celebration. *Space is limited. Preregistration is required for this free event.*

Prairie Awakening – Prairie Awoke Celebration: Elders & Trees

Sunday, September 9, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. @ Kuehn Conservation Area

Native drums welcome visitors to the annual Prairie Awakening – Prairie Awoke Celebration, encouraging you to join the dancing in the arena carved into the tallgrasses of Kuehn's prairie. This year a rehabilitated raptor will be released back into the wild skies. Additionally, world champion hoop dancer Dallas Chief Eagle will perform an exhibition dance and engage the audience in story-telling around a bonfire. Four burr oak trees will also be ceremonially planted, both a physical and symbolic honoring of the Elders instrumental in the creation of the celebration. Elders will be honored with drumming, song, dance, and the placing of trees in the four directions. Few programs offer this magical setting of the long light of the evening across the autumn hues of the prairie, embolden with the invitation to awaken by the drum, dance and stories of our places' first voices. *Bring your lawn chairs or blankets for seating. No pets please. Concessions will be available. This event is free and no registration is required.*

Destination Dallas County: Trindle Park, 3555 Richland Circle, Van Meter

In 1973, the Dallas County Conservation Board purchased 24.57 acres of land from the George and Myrtle Trindle estate with the land to be used as a public park. A beautiful property, [Trindle Park](#) overlooks the city of Van Meter and provides a view for several miles. During the months of May thru October the entry gate will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily. Restroom facilities will be open. Reservations accepted for the shelters.

On Call Programs

Animal Feedings

Mondays (thru October), 10 a.m. @ Forest Park Museum

Join us for a chance to see our snake collection eat their tasty weekly meal and learn about the other Dallas County critters in our live collection. These underappreciated critters play important roles in our ecosystems and have some "superpowers" to share. *Free. No registration required.*



Dallas County Conservation Board is on Facebook

Stay up-to-date on programs, events, and news. [Follow](#) along for Museum Monday, Trail Tuesday, and Throwback Thursday!

My County Parks Reservations



Many DCCB properties including the Sportsman Park cabins, lodge, and camping, plus Glissman Lodge and Dayton Stagecoach Inn are now available on the [My County Parks](#) online reservation system. Weekly rentals still require a phone call to our office at 515-465-3577.

Summer Hours for Dallas County Parks: May 1 – October 31

It's not too late to make your cabin, camping, shelter, Glissman Lodge, Dayton Stagecoach Inn and Sportsman Lodge reservations for 2018. Sportsman Park campground, cabins and lodge are open year-round.

Sportsman Park, Dawson: 8:00 a.m. – 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: 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: ½ hour before sunrise to 10:00 p.m. daily. Restroom facilities will be open.

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

Trindle Park, Van Meter: 8:00 a.m. – 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 ~8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. & Saturday, Sunday and Holidays ~1p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Snake Feeding 10 a.m. most Mondays at Forest Park Museum

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

Grand Army of the Republic, Redfield: Open most Sundays ~ 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. 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 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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