



Dallas County Conservation Board eNews

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For more information or to register for any of our programs contact:
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News & Events

Raccoon River Valley Trail Maintenance

A number of improvement projects are taking place this year along the Raccoon River Valley Trail.

A bridge lighting project in Adel began in mid-May. Crews will close this bridge during the day, but hope to reopen it for trail users in the evenings and on weekends. Impacts from this Adel bridge lighting project are expected from mid-May through mid-June.

Maintenance work continues along the Raccoon River Valley Trail as contractors are conducting overlay work and bridge repair projects between Adel and Redfield. For the safety of trail users and workers, segments of the Raccoon River Valley Trail will be closed between Adel and Redfield through mid-summer. No detour routes are available. “While we recognize this is a short-term inconvenience, the trail improvements will help us maintain this world-class trail,” said Mike Wallace, Dallas County Conservation Board Director.

“The safety of trail users is our highest priority,” director Wallace continued. “Even with the necessary trail closures, Dallas County offers up dozens of miles of paved path along the north loop of the Raccoon River Valley Trail and High Trestle Trail.”

COVID-19 Impacts on Dallas County Conservation Board

Effective May 8, Camping Partially Reopens at Sportsman Park

While monitoring the COVID-19 situation in central Iowa, the Dallas County Conservation Board is updating policies to maintain safe environments for visitors and staff.

Effective 8:00 a.m. on Friday, May 8, the Sportsman Park Campground is open to self-contained units only until further notice. The restrooms and shower house will NOT be opened. All sites are first come/first serve. No tent camping will be allowed. Camping at Kuehn Conservation Area remains closed until further notice.

Outdoor spaces including conservation and natural area properties and the Dallas County portions of the Raccoon River Valley and High Trestle Trails remain open for day use at this time, however visitors are encouraged to respect physical distancing guidelines. Restrooms and water facilities, including trailside depots, remain closed at all Dallas County Conservation Board Properties. Trail users are reminded that due to overlay work and bridge repairs, sections of the Raccoon River Valley Trail will be closed between Adel and Redfield through mid-summer.

The DCCB office, as well as all other buildings and restrooms administered by the department, remain closed to public access effective through July 1, 2020, or until further notice. Facility reservations including Sportsman Park Cabins, Sportsman Park Lodge, Dayton Stagecoach Inn, and Glissman Lodge are on hold.

Red Buffalo and Monarch Watch Videos Posted on Facebook



Red Buffalo - Restoring the Landscape with Fire is an 8-minute binge watch explaining how fire fits in with the land management goals for Dallas County Conservation Board properties. Monarch Watch is a short segment posted for Earth Day. Butterflies remind us the interconnectedness of the planet, since four monarchs tagged at Dallas County Conservation Board programs were recovered on the Mexican wintering habitats for the species. These videos, along up up-to-date program information, events, and news are posted regularly on the DCCB Facebook page. [Follow](#) along for fun photos, throwback memories, and current conditions. Watch the seasons change throughout all of the Dallas County Conservation Board properties.

Sponsoring Leopold Benches with Quotes

As a part of the celebration of the 70th Anniversary of Aldo Leopold's "A Sand County Almanac" Eagle Scout Josh Nelson constructed a number of Leopold style benches. These will be available for sponsorship at the \$40 level. Leopold quotes can be inscribed in the benches. A list of quotes can be found on the DCCB webpage (News and Events Tab), or you can supply your own quote conservation quote from Leopold.

COVID-19 Altered Hours for Dallas County Parks:

My County Parks Reservations



The Dallas County Conservation Board is canceling all public and school programming until further notice as a response to the COVID-19 virus. Additionally, all DCCB buildings and restrooms will be closed to public access effective now through July 1, 2020, or until further notice. Outdoor spaces including conservation and natural area properties and the Raccoon River Valley Trail and portions of the High Trestle Trail in Dallas County remain open for day use at this time, however visitors are encouraged to not congregate in any location. Respect physical distancing guidelines even when outside. All rentals also suspended for now. Facility reservations have been temporarily placed on hold. Sportsman Park Campground is now open to self-contained units only until further notice. The restrooms and shower house will NOT be opened. All sites are first come/first serve. No tent camping will be allowed and cabins and the lodge remain closed. Camping at Kuehn Conservation Area remains closed until further notice.

Online Reservations (closed through July 1, 2020): www.mycountyparks.com

Sportsman Park, Near Dawson. Park open 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily. Self-contained camping open. Restrooms, cabins and lodge closed until further notice.

Dayton Stagecoach Inn, A restored historic 1868 lodge available as a secluded rental house south of Bouton. Closed to public until further notice.

Glissman Lodge: Southwest of Adel, this rental can sleep 8. Lodge is closed to public until further notice. Conservation Area remains open to walk-in day use visitation.

Kuehn Conservation Area, Earlham: ½ hour before sunrise to 5:00 p.m. daily. Restroom facilities closed. Primitive camping prohibited until further notice.

Voas Nature Area, Minburn: ½ hour before sunrise to 5:00 p.m. daily. Restroom facilities closed.

Hanging Rock, Redfield: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily.

Trindle Park, Van Meter: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily.

MUSEUMS: FREE! No fees to visit!

Forest Park Museum, Perry: Closed to public until further notice.

Voas Rock & Mineral Museum near Minburn: Closed to public until further notice.

Grand Army of the Republic, Redfield: Closed to public until further notice.