

Future Plans for Cedar Bend Park
By Andrew Hockenson

Picture this... a porch swing, a hot cup of coffee in your hand, a wonderful high top view of the Cedar River below, the sun making its way above the horizon. Sound nice? That is the type of experience the Bremer County Conservation Board is working at creating. Plans are beginning to come together for a cabin at Cedar Bend Park a few miles north of Waverly. The spot in mind would check off all those boxes of the opening sentence. The vision of the project is to construct a full-service cabin that will comfortably sleep 6 and feature 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, heat and air conditioning, and a full kitchen. The prime location and modern amenities will make this cabin an excellent choice for local families planning to stay a little closer to home, as well as a new lodging option for area visitors.



View of the Cedar River from the future site of the cabin at Cedar Bend Park

Staying in a cabin in a county park throughout the state of Iowa is no new concept. In fact, throughout Iowa's County Conservation System, over 50 counties offer nearly 240 cabins for rent. Of those, well over half are fully furnished with all the amenities, located in some very picturesque parks. Staying in a cabin at one of Iowa's county parks is a very popular option for those who do not have a camper, yet wish to stay overnight somewhere other than a hotel. Generally a cabin is going to offer plenty of room for the whole family, plus a whole park to explore, all for pretty much the same or even less than a hotel. For many counties

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Cedar Bend Park (continued) *By Andrew Hockenson*

with cabins, weekends and many week days throughout the summer and fall months are already booked for 2024. With the attractiveness of Cedar Bend Park and its location, this cabin will also be a popular addition to the park.

Currently the conservation board is working at fundraising for the cabin. With a good showing of public support through local donations from businesses and individuals, potential grant opportunities begin to open up. Donors of \$1,000 or more will be recognized on a panel at the cabin, however every donation, no matter the amount, is greatly appreciated. How well the fundraising goes will play a big factor in determining how quickly the cabin gets built. The Conservation Board has set a goal of raising \$200,000 for this project, and is confident that can be reached. To view the floor plan and brochure that is being sent to area businesses, please visit our website using the QR code or by searching MyCountyParks.com. Additional information can also be obtained by calling the office at 319-882-4742.



Please, Keep Your Pets Leashed *By Andrew Hockenson*

The Bremer County Conservation Board would like to remind park visitors to keep your pets leashed while using the parks and trails. A violation under Iowa Code 461A.45 – Parks/Public Lands Animals Not On Leash can result in a fine of \$89.50. Animal Control Ordinance 18-08 created in Bremer County also states



under section 6 “It shall be a violation of this ordinance for an owner or person in control to permit or allow any domesticated animal or livestock to run at large or remain at large.” Penalties for violating rules under this ordinance will result in a fine of \$100-\$625. The Conservation Board continues to receive complaints of very negative/threatening dog encounters while in the parks or on the trails. All of these encounters would have been avoided by keeping the dog leashed. Some of these encounters have involved dogs running up

to young children in strollers, unleashed dogs aggressively approaching leashed ones, and dogs chasing/harassing deer and other wildlife on the wooded trails. There have also been reports of loose dogs entering private property. There are places for allowing dogs to run off leash such as dog parks, public hunting areas (aside from the March 15-July 15 nesting season), or with permission, on private property. Please out of respect of park rules, wildlife in the area, and safety of other park users, KEEP YOUR PETS LEASHED.

Thanks to the following for donating.

Bremer County Pheasants Forever

Gas Power Tree Augers
Skid Steer Tree Puller
Attachment

First Maxfield Mutual

Cedar Bend Cabin

Kay Park

Cedar Bend Cabin

Readlyn Savings Bank

Cedar Bend Cabin

TruServe Insurance Group

Cedar Bend Cabin

Marsha & Reid Koenig

Cedar Bend Cabin

Ron & Judy Leistikow

Cedar Bend Cabin

Lois Peters

Memorials to cabin for
Carolyn Bohner, Shirley
Freeman,
& Darwyn Peters

Dick & Joyce Harms

Memorial to cabin for
Darwyn Peters

Stacey Snyder

Memorial for
Marion Heying

Dale & Peggy Rogers

Ingawanis Woodland

Chickadee Check-off

The Chickadee Check-off was established by the Iowa Legislature in 1981. Donations to the check-off (referred to on the tax form as the Fish/Wildlife Fund) are tax deductible on the next year's tax form. NEW this year, you can also donate online to Wildlife Diversity at <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/donations>. Additionally, every penny of your donation goes directly to the Wildlife Diversity Program - there are no administrative or processing fees. At its height, Iowans donated more than \$200,000 annually to the fund. The revenue from the Chickadee Check-off has exhibited an overall downward trend since 2001, although it has stabilized in recent years around \$130,000.

All the money contributed through the chickadee check-off helps support the Wildlife Diversity Program at the Iowa DNR. The funding assists thousands of vulnerable species such as songbirds, reptiles, amphibians, butterflies and more. Please consider donating to the Chickadee Check-off this tax season and supporting wildlife conservation in Iowa!

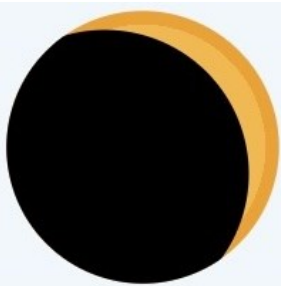


Solar Eclipse 2024

*By Stacey Snyder, BCCB Board Member,
Teacher & NSTA Solar Eclipse Ambassador*

By cosmic coincidence our Sun is 400 times larger than our Moon and also 400 times further away from the Earth than the moon. This serendipitous fact allows both to appear the same size from our perspective here on Earth. Due to this chance the relationship between the three bodies allows for eclipses.

Eclipses occur when the alignment of the three allows for the blocked illumination of one of the bodies. Upcoming we will have the moon the Moon pass between the Earth and the Sun, thereby obscuring the view of the Sun from a small part of the Earth. There is a path of totality approximately 100 miles wide covering an arc from Mexico through Texas and up through Maine.



Here in Bremer County we will see a partial solar eclipse, in which approximately 85% of the Sun's light will be blocked by the Moon. For details for your location please visit this site: www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/ and search your city. This will give you the time of beginning, maximum and ending of the eclipse event.

Safely viewing an eclipse is extremely important! The safest way to do so is to have a pair of eclipse glasses. These are available in many places ~ just be certain they are ISO certified. You should never look at the Sun with unprotected eyes and sunglasses do not count. If you do not have access to eclipse glasses you can still watch the eclipse with these simple ideas. With your back to the sun you can use a colander or slotted spoon to cast the image of what is happening on a wall or a sidewalk. You can also take an index card and poke a hole through it for the light to cast an image on another card or solid object. And even more simply, you can put your fingers together making a waffle shape (outstretched fingers, one hand over the other) and look at the image that shines through, again on a solid surface.

No matter how you choose to view the partial solar eclipse, be certain you do so as it is a rare and unique phenomenon of our planet. The last one seen in North America was in 2017 and the next one will not be until 2045! Of course, they occur approximately every 18 months so you could travel to see one. In any case, I will keep promoting sky viewing and eclipse watching so that hopefully my great grandchildren will be watching when totality covers our area in 2153.

Bremer County Nature Alliance Banquet

The Bremer County Nature Alliance (BCNA) is a local nonprofit organization whose mission is to help raise funds, coordinate local volunteer efforts, support and advocate for environmental education programs, and work closely on Bremer County Conservation projects. Each year the BCNA plans a banquet as a time to thank our existing BCNA members and provide an opportunity for interested individuals to learn more about the BCNA. This year the banquet will be on March 23rd, 2024 in the St. Elizabeth Ballroom located in the Student Center on Wartburg's campus. Doors open at 5:00 pm with social time, followed by a welcome and dinner at 5:30.



The evening will include a meal catered by Wartburg, raffle and prize drawings, and guest speaker Kip Ladage. Ladage is a local photographer and outdoor enthusiast living in a quiet area between Tripoli, Frederika, and Plainfield. Each day he finds time – sometimes just a few minutes, other days hours, to enjoy our local wildlife and outdoors. Ladage's presentation is titled "So Much Here...Adventures Close to Home." One of Ladage's unique prints will be available in a silent auction at the banquet.

BCNA will also hold a raffle for the award-winning Perception Hi Life 11.0 kayak. This vessel is described as the most versatile boat ever built, offering a sit-on-top design that can be paddled like a kayak or a stand-up paddleboard. This kayak has room for a child or dog to comfortably join your water adventures. Raffle tickets for the Hi Life 11.0 kayak, valued at \$879, will be available to purchase at CrawDaddy Outdoors in Waverly, online at https://givebutter.com/BCNA_Raffle, at the Bremer County Conservation Office in Tripoli, and at the banquet. Raffle tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. You do not need to be present to win.

Tickets to the banquet are \$20/adult and \$10/child 12 and under. These tickets can also be purchased at CrawDaddy Outdoors, online at <https://givebutter.com/bcnabanquet>, or by calling Bremer County Conservation, at 319-882-4742. Your ticket includes a meal of penne pasta, alfredo or marinara sauce, chicken fajita strips, garden salad, breadsticks, dessert, and drink. Dietary restrictions can be accommodated upon request. The deadline for purchasing meal tickets is Friday, March 15th. All are welcome to attend and learn more about the natural resources right here in Bremer County!

Thank you in advance for your support of the Bremer County Nature Alliance and Bremer County Conservation.

Come support all things outdoors in Bremer County.

WIN THIS KAYAK!
Perception Hi Life
an \$879 value

All proceeds are invested in environmental education and conservation efforts in Bremer County!

Don't delay! Ticket sales close 3/15.

RAFFLE TICKETS
\$10 each
3 for \$25

Drawing held on March 23 at the BCNA banquet. Need not be present to win.

Special Note: This kayak has a scratch on the rear deck cushioning. The purely cosmetic flaw will not affect the kayak's performance nor keep you from enjoying this unique boat for many years to come.

Picnic in the Park

Picnics are meant to help you socialize with other families in the summer and get outdoors. Each family brings their own lunch items and a blanket to spread out on. Picnic tables are also available. Each week will have a book and activity. Please email Angie at angie.ael@co.bremer.ia.us to reserve your spot. There is no fee for this program but you must register by May 31st.



**Cedar Bend Park -
East Shelter**
1267 205th Street Waverly
11:30 am - 1:00 pm

June 4 Color Day

June 11 Animal Adaptations

June 18 Fireflies

Mini Explorers

This program is for Kindergarten and 1st grade students. An adult needs to accompany the child to these events. Each week, we will explore a different park in the county and enjoy an activity together. Please email Angie at angie.ael@co.bremer.ia.us to reserve your spot. There is no fee for this program but you must register by May 31st.



10:00 - 11:15 am

June 6 Stepping Stones & Rotton Log
at Cedar Bend Park, Waverly

June 13 Canoeing & Insects
at Plainfield Lake

June 20 Nature Playscape & Water Activity
at North Woods Park, Sumner

Biking in Bremer County



Enjoy a leisurely pedal on the trail with Bremer County Naturalists. Participants must have completed 4th grade and up. Bring your bike, helmet, water bottle and dress to be outdoors which includes tennis shoes. Please register at <https://bit.ly/2024OutdoorExplorers> by June 30th. There is no fee for these programs but you must register.

August 5 9:30-11:30 am Readlyn Grump Trail

July 31 9:30-10:45 am Sweetwater Trail in Tripoli

Field Trips

Archery in SE Waverly

Participants will meet at the Waverly Archery Club near Babcock Woods. All equipment will be provided. We will begin our day shooting at a target, then walk through the woods to shoot at the 3D animals.

Date: Wednesday, June 19
Time: 9:00am – 11:00am
Age: Completed 4th grade and up; Limit 20
Fee: \$10

Trip to Heery Woods (Clarksville) in Butler County

Participants will go fishing and kayaking at Sportsman's Park. Then they will get involved with numerous team challenges and get to check out the nature center at Heery Woods.

Date: Friday, July 12
Time: 9:30am – 3:00pm
Age: Completed 3rd grade and up
Fee: \$20

Hawkeye Buffalo Ranch and Twin Ponds Nature Center

This group is off to Chickasaw County to get up-close and personal with animals! Participants will take a hay wagon ride in the buffalo pasture and feed the buffalo ears of corn by hand. Then we will travel to the nature center, where we will touch live animals before fishing at the pond.

Date: Tuesday, July 30
Time: 9:30am – 3:30pm
Age: Completed 3rd grade and up
Fee: \$30



Field Trips

Rockford Fossil Park near Rockford, Iowa

Travel to the Devonian Age when Iowa was an ocean. That's before the dinosaurs! Participants will tour the Fossil & Prairie Center before going out to look for fossils.

Date: Thursday, August 1
Time: 10:00am – 2:30pm
Age: Completed 3rd grade and up
Fee: \$20

Extreme Kayaking at Manchester Whitewater Park

CrawDaddy Outdoors will provide all the gear and training for this epic adventure! Participants will meet in Waverly and ride with a naturalist or CrawDaddy Outdoors owner. Some kayaking or canoeing experience is preferred.

REGISTER ONLINE for this program using this link to register.

<https://bit.ly/WhitewaterKayaking>

Date: Tuesday, August 6
Time: 9:00am – 3:30pm
Age: Completed 6th grade and up

Fee: \$40 (Pay online)
Location to meet: Behind CrawDaddy Outdoors at 9:00am or in Manchester at 10:30am

Subscribe!

Find Bremer County Naturalists on social media!



“Bremer County Naturalist”



“Bremer County Conservation”



“bremercountyconservation”

Summer Outdoor Explorers Programs

To register for any Outdoor Explorers events, please go online to <https://bit.ly/2024OutdoorExplorers> then pay at <https://givebutter.com/BCNAOutdoorExplorers> for the amount of the class or combination of classes. Please email Heather Gamm at naturalist@co.bremer.ia.us if you have any questions.

Beginner Outdoor Explorers

Ensure your child is outside this summer by signing them up to enjoy and learn about the great outdoors! Outdoor activities are listed below. Your child may take this class 2 years in a row. Most activities will alternate every other year.

Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 - 11:15 am

Grades Completed: 2nd - 3rd

Place: Cedar Bend Park East Shelter (1267 205th Street, Waverly)

Fee: \$35

Date	Activity
July 9	Get to Know You Games
July 11	Garden Skit/Making Salsa
July 16	Fishing/SUP/Kayaking
July 18	Survival Day—Fire Building, etc.
July 23	WaterWorks!
July 25	Using a GPS



Intermediate Outdoor Explorers

Participants will engage in hands-on activities. This Outdoor Explorers group will meet at various locations around Waverly. Please be on time for all activities. Children should bring a water bottle and dress to be outdoors which includes tennis shoes, most days.

Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Grades Completed: 4th - 5th

Place: various locations around Waverly

Fee: \$55

Date	Activity	Location
July 9	Intros, Stepping Stones, Games	Cedar Bend Park
July 11	Outdoor Cooking, Digital Scav. Hunt	Cedar Bend Park
July 16	Fishing/SUP/Kayaking	Three Rivers Park
July 18	Biking (Bring bike & helmet) & Disc Golf	Brookwood Park
July 23	Pellet Guns/Archery	Cedar Bend Park
July 25	Creek Stomp & Water Day	South Riverside Park

Advanced Outdoor Explorers

This group meets for three sessions on Mondays in July. If you sign up for only one event, the price will be as follows: \$20 per kayaking event and \$10 for geocaching.

Days: Mondays from 12:00 - 3:00 pm

Grades Completed: 6th - 8th

Fee: \$50 for all dates

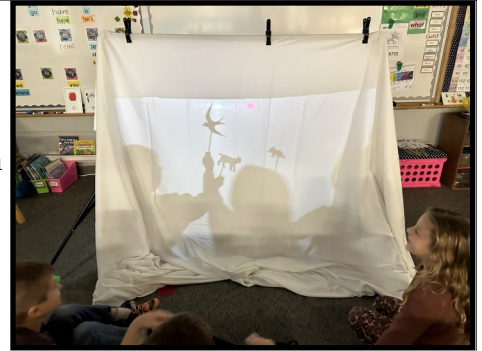
Date	Activity	Location
July 15	Geocaching	Around Waverly
July 22	Kayaking (Renning's-Shell Rk)	Shell Rock River
July 29	Kayaking (Cedar Bd-Waverly)	Cedar River

Thank You Bremer County Nature Alliance



Bremer County Naturalists recently obtained numerous supplies from Bremer County Nature Alliance donations.

Angie created a Light & Shadow program to add to our Groundhog program. Color paddles, light table, plastic animals, and sheet with stand for puppet show were all added.



With a request for two snowshoe programs with preschoolers and second graders, the urgency to purchase more youth sized snowshoes was crucial. An additional nine pairs were purchased in December 2023. They were used in January 2024 after the snow came and before it melted away.



The following books were purchased to use in programming: Kyle in his Compost Pile, The Natural History of the Snake and Lizards of Iowa, The Wartville Wizard, Eat the Alphabet, and Fairy Tale Science.

Pumpkins and skeletons were purchased to use in the sink vs float part of the WaterWorks program.



A large parachute was purchased for summer programs. In addition, camp pie irons, tablecloths, Dutch oven liners and bags to carry two new Dutch Ovens, a portable table, trail flyer games, archery cases for arrows, two additional kayak paddles and four life jackets, as well as an egg - tadpole - frog puppet was purchased for summer programs.



Finally, spider and dragonfly life cycles will be used in school programs. Penguin figurines were also purchased since the Polar Bears & Penguins program is requested a lot during the winter months. Naturalists also plan to use the fire starters to teach youth how to survive in the woods.

All these additions help improve Bremer County Naturalists abilities to provide exceptional programming for youth and adults. THANKS for donating! If you want to learn more about the Bremer County Nature Alliance, check them out on Facebook!



Jordan Schmidt's work to help paddlers in 3 county rivers Published by the Waverly Newspaper

On Dec. 6, Jordan Schmidt of Waverly Troop 90 Scouts BSA, presented her Eagle Scout Project. Bremer County Nature Alliance, the beneficiary of her project, wanted an electronic set of maps that paddlers could download to help them safely traverse the three navigable rivers in Bremer County. The maps are located on <https://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Bremer/Content/Bremer-County-Water-Trails.aspx>

Jordan began conducting research on launch and landing sites and interest points at each location late last fall and worked through the winter preparing sign artwork. She led a team of paddlers on the expedition down each river collecting GPS data to support the mapping process. Paddling over 80 miles on the Shell Rock, Cedar, and Wapsi rivers this summer prior to the drought, would provide her the necessary data to overlay with United States Geological Survey (USGS) maps to generate her maps. In addition to the maps, Jordan needed to mark each landing point with signage to help paddlers know where they are on the river.

During her research, she discovered that paddlers have become lost or needed help on the river and couldn't communicate their accurate position to authorities.

Knowing where they are on the rivers at all times with maps and signage, could help save a life someday. Jordan also worked with Bremer County Emergency Management to share her maps, GPS points, and landing names to help locate someone if a call comes in.

In total, 22 signs were needed for these three rivers. Jordan created a Facebook Fundraiser to help raise money. She also reached out to family, friends, and local service organizations.

Both Waverly and Janesville Lions donated as well as Crawdaddy Outdoors in Waverly as they saw the great benefits of this project.

In total, Jordan and her crew invested almost 700 hours of labor into this project. She will become the first female Eagle Scout in Waverly.

She will join a handful of girls in Iowa to achieve the rank of Eagle. Many more girls have joined since 2019 and the numbers continue to grow as they see the cool activities they get to do.

In February of 2019, girls were first allowed to join Boy Scouts. Separate troops were formed that gave girls the chance to lead their own group. Waverly Troop 90G was formed alongside the brother Troop 90B, which has existed for many decades. Both organizations share the same Charter Organization, Waverly Lions Club. The Troops meet at Trinity United Methodist Church in Waverly on Sunday nights at 7 p.m. The Troop accepts boys or girls 10 to 17 years old any time of the year. If you have a youth interested in joining Scouts to pursue leadership and outdoor skills, bring them to a meeting to learn more.

Jordan will turn 18 and graduate from Waverly-Shell Rock High School this May. Following high school, she has already accepted a position at Boy Scouts of America Sea Base High Adventure Base in the Florida Keys this summer to work on a scuba boat taking Scouts out to learn scuba diving. Jordan has a strong passion for scuba and helping people learn. She is planning on attending Hawkeye Community College in the fall to study nursing.

The Bremer County Conservation Board enjoys working with youth seeking Eagle Scout status, and have ideas for other projects for those approaching this age. For additional information on this project or other questions related to Bremer County parks or wildlife areas, please call the office at 319-882-4742.



Eagle Scout Jordan Schmidt of Troop 90 paddling over 80 miles of the Shell Rock, Cedar, and Wapsi rivers.

Bremer County Conservation Fees for 2024

Camping

Cedar Bend Park \$12.00 per night per camping unit without electricity
\$20.00 per night per camping unit with electricity
\$22.00 per night charge for sites A-G (gravel pads & 50 amp outlets available)

North Woods Park \$12.00 per night per camping unit without electricity
\$18.00 per night per camping unit with electricity (30 amp lower sites)
\$20.00 per night charge for upper gravel sites (water & 50 amp)

Alcock Park and North Cedar Park
\$12.00 per night per camping unit
\$18.00 per night per camping unit with electric (30 amp outlets available)

Wednesday night will continue to be a free camping night unless the Wednesday falls on a holiday (whereby there will be regular fees).

Camping fees will be collected on a self-registration basis, whereby campers fill out an envelope upon arriving at the campgrounds, and deposits the envelope and fees in a vandal-proof collection box at the campground entrance. **No reservations, all sites are first come/serve.**

Showers

Shower facilities are located in all parks. These facilities are free to those camping in one of these parks. For anyone wanting to use the showers and not camping in the park, there is a **\$2.00** charge each time this facility is used. The fee can be placed in a camper self-registration envelope and marked "shower" and placed in the camper collection receptacle.

Dumpstations

Cedar Bend Park, North Cedar Park and Alcock Park all have dumpstations. This dumpstation is included in the camping fee for those camping in the park. For anyone wanting to use the dumpstation and not camping in the park, there is a **\$5.00** charge for each time the facility is used. The fee can be placed in a self-registration envelope and marked "dumpstation" and placed in the collection receptacle in the campgrounds.

Firewood

All parks cost **\$5.00** each time a defined amount of firewood is obtained from the firewood pile. Fees for firewood can be placed in a separate vandal proof collection box located near the firewood pile.

Shelters

Shelters are located in each of the four county parks and an amphitheater is located at Cedar Bend Park. These shelters have electricity as well as nearby water and a grill. They can be used free on a first-come, first-serve basis, but can be held for you by reservation. The charges are **\$25.00 per day** for shelters or the amphitheater. Contact the BCCB office at 319-882-4742 for more information or to reserve.

Ingawanis Woodland Lodge

This facility is located at 2588 Hawthorne Avenue, Janesville. It is an enclosed facility with restrooms, heat, air conditioning and a kitchenette. It can be rented for **\$75.00 per day** and reservations can be made by calling the BCCB office at 319-882-4742.

**Bremer County Conservation Board park gates are scheduled to be open
May 1 - October 31. For additional information, call Andy Hockenson at the BCCB
office at 319-882-4742.**

Bremer Bulletin

Bremer County Conservation Board
P.O. Box 412
1104 South Main Street
Tripoli, IA 50676

BREMER BULLETIN

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Bremer County Conservation Board

(319) 882-4742

*conservation@butler-
bremer.com*

*www.mycountyparks
.com/county/
bremer.aspx*

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