

*A NEWSLETTER OF THE
BREMER COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD*

Spring 2025 Edition

*Future Boat Ramp for North Cedar Park
By Andrew Hockenson*

Rivers have a way of doing what they want. Once the river makes its mind up as to the route it wants to take, it can get pretty tough to try and change it. A prime example of this is the Cedar River flowing through North Cedar Park east of Plainfield. Several high-water events over the years have chewed an opening through what once was land on a sharp bend in the river. This change has been witnessed within the past few years as the river finished cutting through, creating a new main channel.

The recent river channel shift to the east is causing problems for the concrete boat ramp on the west side of the river. With sand continuing to deposit at the current ramp site, launching a boat is getting very challenging throughout the summer. High river levels during the spring and early summer of 2024 which prompted park closures, did open the original channel some, however as levels receded, additional sand deposited and closed the channel back up.

Fears of having a boat ramp that will continually be unusable throughout the year prompted looking into sites within the park better suited for accessing the river. After consulting with the IA DNR Fisheries Biologists, looking at different locations within the park and DOT right-of-way, it was determined that a new ramp could be placed upstream where ample water exists. The potential of this happening again in the future is very minimal. This new location would provide water depths suitable to launch motorboats and would be on the outside bend of the river where those levels will be maintained.

Concrete ramps on this stretch of the river are at Nashua (Access #219), North Cedar Park (Access #207), and Three Rivers Park (Access #195) in Waverly. At times when the ramp is not usable, there is a 24-river mile stretch between Nashua and Waverly. The Bremer County Conservation Board felt it was important to continue to provide access at North Cedar Park and began exploring funding options to make this happen.

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Boat Ramp (continued)

By Andrew Hockenson

Fortunately, a state Water Recreation Access Cost-Share (WRAC) grant was secured in late 2024, which assists with funding 75% of the project. Current plans are to construct a 14ft X 60ft. concrete ramp as well as shape and armor 125ft. of shoreline at the north end of the camping area. If weather and river levels remain favorable, look for the project to begin soon.

Below are historical images depicting how the river has changed, particularly the area within the circle.



Cedar River 1980's



Cedar River 2023 – boat ramp on west side of the river

Thanks to the following for donating.

Butler County REC
Shine the Light
Program

Cedar Bend Cabin

Mark Bohner

Memorial to cabin for J. Meyers

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Memorial to cabin for Marc Hemmes

Kevin Miller

Cedar Bend Cabin

Bremer ISU Extension
Master Gardeners

New Naturalist for Bremer County Conservation

Hello, I'm Liz Wilgenbusch, the newest Naturalist! I started at the beginning of December 2024 and I'm quickly getting to know all that Bremer County has to offer. With Angie on medical leave for my first 2.5 months of the job, I really hit the ground running, but luckily our county has a wonderful staff that has made the transition easy. So far, my favorite part about the job has been the fact that I'm always learning something new about our fascinating environment or friendly community.

A little bit about me - I was born and raised in Dubuque, IA, but graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in May 2023 with a Biology-Honor's Research degree, a minor in Chemistry and a distinction in Peer Education. During my college years, I spent a summer as a Naturalist Intern for Dubuque County Conservation. I also studied pollinator habitat in CRP land in Northeastern Iowa through UNI's undergraduate research program. Since graduation, I studied pollinator habitat in log landing habitats throughout National Forests within Indiana, Missouri and Illinois on a project with the University of Massachusetts-Amherst in conjunction with the National Forest Service. This past field season, I was a part of the Northeastern Iowa crew for the Multiple Species Inventory and Monitoring project with Iowa State University and the Iowa DNR. I was also an Educator for the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque.

In my free time, I love to spend time outdoors in my hammock, hiking, roaming through the wildflowers or spending time by the water. I'm always looking for a good book to read, a new recipe to bake, or an item to crochet or embroider. I also plan to get married this October! I'm looking forward to learning more about Bremer County as the summer season approaches, and sharing my knowledge of nature with everyone!



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Bremer County Conservation Board

(319) 882-4742

conservation@butler-bremer.com

www.mycountyparks.com/county/bremer.aspx

Like Bremer County Conservation on Facebook "Bremer County Conservation"

For the vision impaired, or for those who cannot read the size of print in this publication, a recording or larger sized version of the text is available by contacting the Bremer County Conservation Board at 319-882-4742.

Picnic in the Park

We are changing up Picnic in the Park this year. We are going to move it around to two different locations. 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 June 2nd.



11:30 am - 1:00 pm

June 10 WaterWorks!
at Cedar Bend Park, Waverly

June 24 Butterflies
at Cedar Bend Park, Waverly

July 1 Playscape and Painting Rocks
at North Woods Park, Sumner

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 June 2nd



10:00 - 11:15 am

June 9 All About Birds
at Babcock Woods, Waverly

July 7 Animal Tracks
at Cedar Bend Park, Waverly

August 4 Insects
at North Cedar Park, Plainfield

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/2025OutdoorExplorers> by June 30th. There is no fee for these programs but you must register.

July 14 9:30-11:30 am Readlyn Grump Trail

July 18 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 18
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: Tuesday, June 17
Time: 9:30am – 1:30pm
Age: Completed 3rd grade and up; Limit 11
Fee: \$20

Twin Ponds Nature Center

We will travel to the Twin's Pond Nature Center, where we will fish at the pond before touch live animals in the nature center.

Date: Wednesday, July 16
Time: 9:30am – 1:30pm
Age: Completed 3rd grade and up; Limit 11
Fee: \$30

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: Tuesday, August 5
Time: 9:30am – 1:30pm
Age: Completed 3rd grade and up; Limit 11
Fee: \$20

Summer Outdoor Explorers Programs

To register for any Outdoor Explorers events, please go online to <https://bit.ly/2025OutdoorExplorers> then pay at <https://givebutter.com/BCNAOutdoorExplorers> for the amount of the class or combination of classes. Please email Angie Auel at angie.auel@co.bremer.ia.us if you have any questions. Register by June 30th.

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.

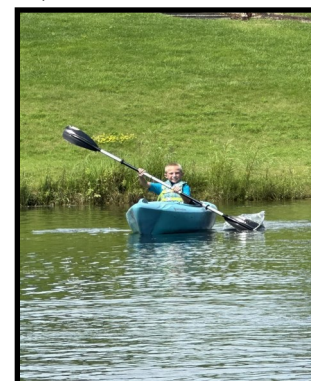
Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 - 11:15 am

Grades Completed: 2nd - 3rd

Place: Cedar Bend Park East Shelter (1267 205th Street, Waverly)
& Three Rivers Park (1000 Adams Pkwy, Waverly, IA 50677)

Fee: \$35

Date	Activity	Location
July 8	Get to Know You Games	Cedar Bend Park
July 10	Solar Smores/Stained Glass Leaves	Cedar Bend Park
July 15	Fishing/SUP/Kayaking	Three Rivers Park
July 17	Survival Day	Cedar Bend Park
July 22	Color Day	Cedar Bend Park
July 24	Using a Compass	Cedar Bend Park



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 8	Intros, Games, Animal Olympics	Cedar Bend Park
July 10	Outdoor Cooking, Scavenger Hunt	Cedar Bend Park
July 15	Fishing/SUP/Kayaking	Three Rivers Park
July 17	Biking (Bring bike & helmet) & Disc Golf	Brookwood Park
July 22	Pellet Guns/Archery	Cedar Bend Park
July 24	Zombie Apocalypse Survival	Cedar Bend 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 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Grades Completed: 6th - 8th

Fee: \$50 for all dates

Date	Activity	Location
August 12	Kayaking (Renning's-Shell Rock)	Shell Rock River
August 13	Geocaching	Around Waverly
August 14	Kayaking (Cedar Bd-Waverly)	Cedar River

Bremer County Conservation Fees for 2025

Camping

Cedar Bend Park \$15.00 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)
\$485 per 30 consecutive nights, Gravel Sites (limit 5)
\$410 per 30 consecutive nights, Grass sites (limit 10)

North Woods Park \$15.00 per night per camping unit without electricity
\$20.00 per night per camping unit with electricity (30 amp lower sites)
\$25.00 per night charge for upper gravel sites (water & 50 amp)
\$485 per 30 consecutive nights, Upper gravel sites (limit 5)
\$410 per 30 consecutive nights, Grass sites (limit 5)

Alcock Park and North Cedar Park
\$15.00 per night per camping unit
\$20.00 per night per camping unit with electric (30 amp outlets available)
\$410 per 30 consecutive nights, Grass sites (limit 5)

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

Dumpstations are located in all parks. 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

Alcock, North Cedar, and North Woods cost **\$6.00** each specified amount of firewood is obtained from the firewood pile. Cedar Bend will have a private vendor and pricing at the park.

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.**