



Willow Lake Recreation Area
Harrison County Conservation

SAVE THE DATES:

The ICCS Calendar is also
available online via

mycountyparks
.org

- * July 21 – Winterfest Planning Mtg.
- * Aug. 6 – ICCS Board of Directors Mtg. - ZOOM
- * Aug. 18 – Winterfest Planning Mtg.
- * Aug. 19 – Dist. 3 Mtg. – Sioux CCB
- * Aug. 20 – Dist. 4 Mtg. – Harrison CCB
- * Sept. 9-11 – Roadside Conference - Winneshiek
- * Sept. 16-18 – ICCS Fall Conference – Ames*
- * Oct. 5-7 – CCPOA 35th Annual Fall Workshop

District Meetings are
Tentatively Scheduled
(*Online Registration
currently available)



2020 ICCS

65th Anniversary
Fall Conference
September 16-18, 2020

Ames, IA



#REAPworks

Newsletter

Volume 61
Issue No. 15
June 25, 2020

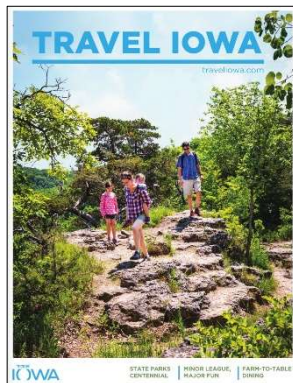
WE NEED JUST ONE FINAL COVID-19 UPDATE

As we approach the 4th of July Holiday Weekend next week, some things are trending towards normalcy – while others remain in the mystical COVID-19 limbo. One constant we have heard across the state is about record-setting use patterns in almost every category of outdoor recreation and park / trail activities! ☺ Be sure to capture these observations and sights as they will be the stories to tell in the months to come about essential quality-of-life opportunities as provided and managed by your local county conservation boards!

ICCS plans to push out some social media posts early next week in advance of the 4th of July, with linkage back to our “CCB UPDATES” database. We would like this to be pretty up-to-date for all 99 CCBs by early next week. SO – as previously requested, it would be perfect if all of you can review the currently posted version at the link which follows, and provide ICCS with an update on the categories listed as necessary. Most-likely this will be the final time we pester you for updates for this document.

https://www.mycountyparks.org/uploads/1/0/6/7/106716567/covid-19_ccb_updates_6.24.20.pdf

[OFFICE](#) [NATURE CENTER](#) [PARK/TRAILS](#) [CAMPING](#) [RESTROOMS](#) [CABINS](#) [PHONE](#) [MORE INFORMATION](#)

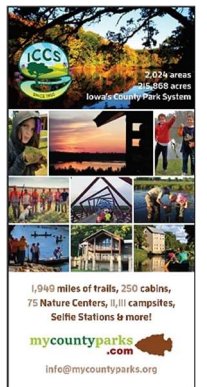


IOWA TRAVEL GUIDES – FREE TO YOU!

The Iowa Tourism Office has offered to deliver **FREE to you** as long as supplies last! 40 guides per box – up to two boxes per CCB. Please utilize the link below to request your boxes of the 2020 Iowa Travel Guide - featuring our 2020 ICCS promotion!

Travel Guide Order Form Link:

<https://form.jotform.com/traveliowa/TourismPartnersOrderForm>



WINTERFEST 2021 PLANNING CONTINUES

The IACCB Winterfest Planning Committee has continued to meet via Zoom these past couple of months toward the 46th annual event on January 26-28, 2020. As with any large gathering, there are many challenges in front of the committee – knowing that Winterfest 2021 will be significantly changed from any previous editions of the event. The committee is connecting with the Marriott to ascertain adjusted capacities and how social distancing requirements will impact what the event can look like



for 2021. The July 21st meeting of the Committee will be critical to the planning process as they hope to have an “in-person” meeting in Central Iowa. It will be important for ALL committee members to attend this meeting! It is anticipated that the conference may have restrictions on attendance, and discussions are already happening about a “virtual” Collegiate Day and other format changes.

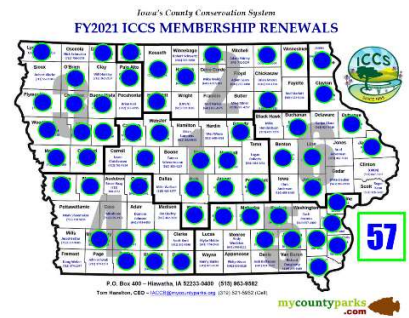
IACCB@mycountyparks.org

(515) 963-9582

mycountyparks
.com

FY2021 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS WELL AHEAD OF FY2020

MANY THANKS! To the 57 CCBs that have renewed their ICCS Membership for FY2021 - well in-advance of the August 1st renewal deadline! Invitations to renew were distributed via email to all CCB Directors on April 14-15 – several weeks in advance of normal distribution in early May. We hope that this added time has allowed better flexibility with your scheduling of renewal. At this time in June of 2019, we had less than half of current renewals – appreciation for attention to your membership updates! ☺

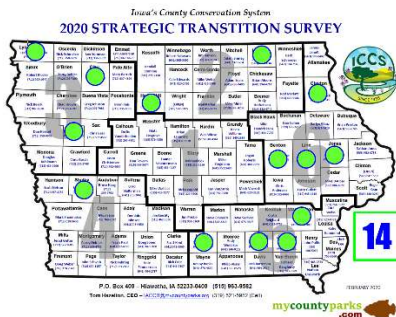


STORY CCB GETS NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT from NRPA!

KUDOS! To the **Story CCB** for their article by Erica Place in the May 2020 edition of *Parks and Recreation* publication of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). The article focuses on the developing Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor within the ISU Research Park and the local partnerships and dedication to learning that has made this a reality. The full article (magazine) can be reviewed at the link that follows. The Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor will be highlighted at the ICCS 2020 Annual Fall Conference in September!

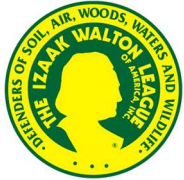
LINK TO ARTICLE:

<https://ezine.nrpa.org/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=b79615fa-7332-4754-a0e6-5b9d8ab1b0ec>



STRATEGIC TRANSITION SURVEY – DUE AUG. 1st

The 2020 ICCS Strategic Transition Committee is anxiously awaiting the submission of your surveys to keep on task for their work towards 2021. We are aware that many of you have circulated the worksheet with your Conservation Board, and will distill the responses into the online submission – exactly what we hoped your plan would be! We are looking forward to 100% participation from across our system on this important effort – thanks to first 14 that have already done the Monkey! ☺



FY2020 WILDLIFE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT SURVEY

The **46th Annual Wildlife Habitat Improvement Survey** was distributed to all CCB Directors via email on June 23rd - **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION - Aug. 1st!** ICCS/IACCB has partnered with the Iowa Division of the Izaak Walton League of America since 1974 - having recognized 135 CCBs over the years for their work at improving wildlife habitat across Iowa. The survey is your opportunity to self-nominate your CCB for this annual recognition. Plaques will be awarded at the 2020 ICCS Annual Fall Conference in September. More Info: IACCB@mycountyparks.org

2020 ICCS 65th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE - September 16-18, Ames

As we have noted in previous communications - what this conference will eventually look like is an evolving process. The **2020 Conference Planning Committee** is engaged with the changes, and will provide everyone with updates soon. We are still working with a maximum on-site attendance capacity of 130, and note that as of today - we have 20 registrants from 8 county conservation boards. The Committee is in touch with registered exhibitors as we will be changing-up the opportunities that they have to connect with conference attendees and are soliciting feedback from them.

PREVIOUSLY COMMUNICATED EVENT CHANGES: 1) CCB Alumni Gathering has been postponed until 2021 in Dubuque; 2) No bus/shuttle transportation for tours or to off-site events, participants will need to provide own transportation; 3) Current **Risk Mitigation Information** for the Conference is available here: <https://www.mycountyparks.org/conferences.html>; 4) Face masks are recommended and social distancing will be required; 5) Food service will be significantly modified to incorporate all safety protocols.....stay tuned.....more to come ☺ **REGISTRATION LINK** below:

<https://www.mycountyparks.com/Org-Event/29/2020-ICCS-ANNUAL-FALL-CONFERENCE.aspx>



A COUPLE OF UPDATES FROM ACROSS OUR DIGITAL SYSTEMS

1. MERCHANT ACCOUNTS – All 40 CCBs that currently are providing online reservations/registrations were sent a request on June 19th to provide information about their Merchant Account Provider used for credit card processing. Please expedite the return of this information as requested....many thanks!

2. EMAILS ELIMINATED – As previously announced – the following emails for our CCB system no longer exist – please remove them from your communications: IACCB@mycountyparks.com, INFO@mycountyparks.com, countyparksia@gmail.com and Tom.Hazelton@mycountyparks.com

3. RECORD-SETTING WEBSITE ACTIVITY! – MyCountyParks.com currently has **118,000 Registered Users** – 8,000 new users in the past three months, 255 new users on June 23rd alone! **May was a record month** for online reservations – **4,370 reservations generating \$488,106.00** in revenues for 37 county conservation boards – **WOW!**

4. 2020 DEVELOPMENT – PHASE #1 RELEASED – Version 8.1 of our 11-year old website was released on June 4th, and has now settled in with stable operations following a few minor tweaks. Improvements in this Phase primarily centered around public event and CCB event registration systems/reporting. Discussions on the 10-project Phase #2 commenced on June 24th, and should begin development soon. Following fall testing, Phase 2 is planned for public release around November. An important feature of Phase 2 will be an all-new and much expanded “Banner Ad” functionality that will provide a wider variety in the banner advertising arena.

5. MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT DISCUSSIONS commenced on June 24th with our website developer, Informatics. A target of May 2021 has been established for the launch of the pilot transition program to 3rd party management of the website. We are currently establishing which aspects of overall operations and management of the website should remain “in-house” with ICCS while transitioning the bulk of day-to-day operations to Informatics. This will be a multi-year transition, and 100% of the funding will be provided by revenues generated from the website. We anticipate a smooth transitioning period which will also include administrative enhancements to the website to assist the 250+ County Administrators with submitting requests for service, assistance and future development requests. ICCS is working with the MyCountyParks.com Division Advisory Committee to move forward. Looking forward to this process!



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DEADLINES, DEADLINES, DEADLINES.....

JULY 1 - State Recreational Trails (SRT) Grant Application Deadline

https://iowadot.gov/systems_planning/Grant-Programs/-Federal-and-State-Recreational-Trails

AUGUST 1 – ICCS FY2021 Membership Renewal Deadline

AUGUST 1 – FY2020 Habitat Improvement Survey/Nomination for IKES Awards Deadline

AUGUST 1 – Nomination/Application for ICCS Regional Board Member Representative

AUGUST 1 - ICCS Strategic Transition Survey Completion (Survey Monkey link)

AUGUST 3 - Early Registration Discount ends for ICCS Fall Conference

AUGUST 16 - Registration Deadline for ICCS Fall Conference

AUGUST 16 - Room Block Cut-offs for Lodging at ICCS Fall Conference



NEXT STEP ADVENTURE

Was part of the team that put together our 2019 **99 PARKS** promotion last year and has some great resources and ideas on their website for summer activities, etc. Give it a visit:

<https://nextstepadventure.com/category/environmental-education/>



EXPERTS Rate the Risks of 14 Summer Activities Amidst COVID-19*

1. BYOB backyard gathering with one other household - Low to Medium Risk
2. Eating indoors at a restaurant - Medium to High Risk
3. Attending a religious service indoors - High Risk
4. Spending a day at a popular beach or pool - Low Risk
5. Outdoor celebration with more than 10 people - Medium to High Risk
6. Using a public restroom - Low to Medium Risk
7. Letting a friend use your bathroom - Low Risk
8. Going to a vacation house with another family - Low Risk
9. Staying at a hotel (cabin) - Low to Medium Risk
10. Getting a haircut - Medium to High Risk
11. Going shopping at a mall - Risk varies
12. Going to a nightclub - High Risk
13. Going camping - Low Risk
14. Exercising Outdoors - Low Risk

(* NPR Morning Edition - 5.23.2020)



HISTORIC MEETINGS – Districts 5 and 6 GATHER ONLINE IN JUNE

In a sign of the times, two regularly-scheduled District Meetings were held via ZOOM online this past week. While EVERYONE is basically suffering from “Zoom Fatigue”, these gatherings have proven to be functional and somewhat productive over the past four months. The ICCS Zoom Platform has hosted over 70 scheduled meetings, and dozens of impromptu “instant” meetings. As we get past this crisis and the urgency of meeting online also passes – if you need the Zoom Room in the future to gather your groups – let us know! 😊



DISTRICT 5 – June 18, 2020



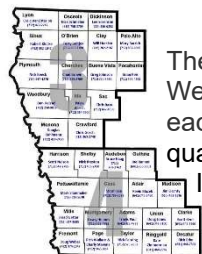
DISTRICT 6 – June 17, 2020

“FORWARDING” Vendors & People on to ICCS

Over the past couple of months there have been four or five occasions where CCB personnel have passed along ICCS contact information to vendors or individuals. While this why we are here – please give me a courtesy “heads up” that these folks may be contacting ICCS. Generally, I find that they have a product or service that they would like to promote to our broader system, and this is where you are certainly welcome to introduce them to our **Preferred Vendor Program**, which is where I focus my attention to these inquiries: <https://www.mycountyparks.org/preferred-vendors.html> – THANKS!

COUNTY CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP TEAM OPENINGS

Looking for an opportunity to sharpen your skill set and develop your personal network of professional contacts within the finest county conservation system in the nation?! What better way for you share your talents and enhance your all-around leadership abilities than giving back to your industry through one of the opportunities as follows:



BOARD MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE TO ICCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The ICCS Board of Directors is currently accepting applications for Board Member representatives from the Western (Districts 3 & 4) and Eastern (Districts 5 & 6) Regions. One Conservation Board Member from each region represents the two combined Districts as established in 2018. The 11-member Board meets quarterly (generally two of these by Zoom), and also convenes for the Annual Meeting each fall at the ICCS Fall Conference. The three-year term for each Region is as follows: Western 2019-2022, and Eastern 2020 – 2023 (*Terms start and end with Annual Meetings*) For questions, or to obtain an application form, please contact ICCS at: IACCB@mycountyparks.org

33 Counties
165 Board Members



32 Counties
160 Board Members

IACCB DIVISION LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Employees Association will be electing two member employees to leadership roles during this annual cycle – with balloting this fall and election announcement at Winterfest 2021:

Representative to the ICCS Board of Directors – a three-year term from January 2021 – January 2024, one of two positions representing CCB Employees to the ICCS Board of Directors. This position has responsibilities to both the ICCS and IACCB Organizations – currently occupied by Mark Vavroch from Poweshiek CCB. More information is available : IACCB@mycountyparks.org, IACCB@mycountyparks.org

Vice-President of IACCB – Successful Candidate will serve a three-year term as Vice President in 2021, President in 2022, and as Past-President in 2023. Additional information about the duties of this position is available from current IACCB President – Logan Roberts at: IACCB@mycountyparks.org

MyCountyParks.com DIVISION LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

As a new Division of ICCS in 2018, the **MyCountyParks.com Advisory Committee** serves an important role by reviewing and advising as to current and future operations of our award-winning website. The Committee convenes on an as-needed basis at the discretion of the System Administrator, and will become a direct liaison to the website development and management team at Informatics, Inc. as we transition to Management Agreements in 2021. The Committee invites participation from both E-Commerce counties and those that do not provide online reservations, and of any size. For additional information, contact Tom at: IACCB@mycountyparks.org



WHITEROCK CONSERVANCY – Executive Director Opportunity



As the current Executive Director prepares for retirement, Whiterock Conservancy is seeking a skilled leader with experience and aptitude for leading a small staff and developing strong relationships. This nonprofit organization stewards a 5,500-acre expanse of woods, river, prairie, trails, campgrounds and rolling cropland under the dark sky. Their mission blends outdoor recreation and nature experiences with innovative conservation management of working lands. All applications are held in confidence. Details at: <https://www.whiterockconservancy.org/ed-search>

“You don’t need to practice social distancing from Mother Nature: Enjoy Iowa’s County Parks!”



<http://www.mycountyparks.com/Jobs/Default.aspx>

1. DECATUR Co. – Conservation Technician
2. HAMILTON Co. – Clubhouse Mgr. / Golf Pro
3. BENTON Co. – Park Ranger – River Parks
4. MARSHALL Co. – Maintenance Technician
5. DALLAS Co. – Outreach Coordinator
6. POLK Co. – Laborer II – Construction
7. DES MOINES Co. – Park Ranger
8. WOODBURY Co. – Office Clerk (PPT)
9. SEASONAL POSITIONS – 28+ opportunities listed on website

■ Full Time

■ Seasonal/Part-Time



06/25/2020

