



Newsletter

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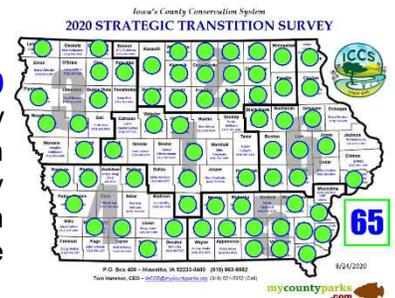
And then came a record-breaking thing called a Derecho?!

So, the new word “2020” has become a descriptor for life happenings that are really messed up. As if reeling from a COVID-19 pandemic and accommodating new ways of everything we do weren’t enough...we get this little 140 MPH windstorm through the heart of Iowa! Similar to networking in the early months of the pandemic confusion, it has been rewarding to see/hear of CCBs assisting not only each other – but their local communities and other county departments as well throughout the derecho’s path through central Iowa. Trails and parks have had their landscapes transformed forever as the mature tree canopies have disappeared. In Cedar Rapids alone, the city estimates that over 50% of the tree canopy that existed on August 9th no longer exists. The impacts on Iowa’s agricultural industry are also staggering with both crop losses and infrastructure damage.

It is the steadfast will of Iowans to brush ourselves off, stand tall and recover from these challenges....but I do think the majority of us are ready for 2020, with all of its incantations & feldercarb to step aside – Uf-Da!

ICCS 2020 Survey Deadline Extended

We have added 27 more CCBs to the tally of completed **2020 ICCS Strategic Transition Surveys** since last month – only 34 to go! The original August 1st deadline has passed, but with delays due to COVID-19 and now the impacts of recovery from the derecho for many CCBs – the deadline has been extended to October 1st. We look forward to receiving a couple dozen more in the weeks ahead – MANY THANKS!



As Long as We are Talking 'Bout Extensions.....



I am very pleased to share that at their August 6th meeting, the **ICCS Board of Directors** accepted a request to extend my retirement date approximately 15 months – towards the end of 2022. 😊 With 2020 seemingly to be a “lost year” in many ways, there is still much I wish to get accomplished before departing this awesome conservation system. There are a couple of obvious BIG items still in my wheelhouse: 1) Securing funding for the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund (IWILL); and, 2) Cultivating an appropriate management plan for the operations of our ever- expanding and award-winning MyCountyParks.com website. I have never been one to leave a task before it is finished – and I truly wish to ensure that when this transition does occur, it will be seamless in every way possible. So, having added a bit more time to my CCB system tenure – I look forward to working with you all for the next 27-ish months to continue our progressively forward motion with many aspects of the finest county conservation system in the country. I am proud to have known the many CCB folks that historically graced our paths, building the foundations for what we experience today. Collectively, we are challenged by them to continue this great work for those that will follow us.....*thanks for all you do!* Tom

IACCB@mycountyparks.org

(515) 963-9582

mycountyparks.com

SAVE THE DATES:

The ICCS Calendar & Zoom Meeting Room Bookings are available online via

mycountyparks.org

- * Aug. 27 – District 2 Meeting - ZOOM
- * Sept. 9-11 – Roadside Conference - *Cancelled*
- * Sept. 16-18 – ICCS Fall Conference - *Cancelled*
- * Oct. 5-7 – CCPOA Fall Workshop – *Cancelled*
- * Nov. 4-6 – IAN Fall Workshop, - VIRTUAL*
- * Jan. 26-28 – Winterfest 2021 – *Cancelled*

(* Online registration available on Sept. 7th)



2021 ICCS

65th Anniversary +1
Fall Conference
September 15-17, 2021

Ames, IA



#REAPworks

Trumpeter Swan Survey Due this Week!

All CCB Directors received a forwarded email from the DNR on August 18th requesting feedback on trumpeter swan nesting/sightings in their counties. This survey is done every five years and the metric they are most interested in is nest attempts. So, if you have observed a swan nest (successful or not) or cygnets between May and August 2020 send your count information on the form that was attached to the 8/18 communication to David.Hoffman@dnr.iowa.gov. Dave is a Wildlife Research Technician with the DNR out of Clear Lake.....thanks for your assistance!

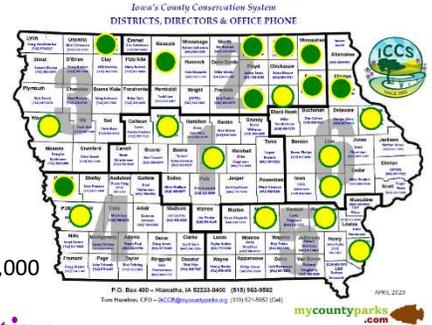


FY2020 Habitat Improvement Awards Update

Many thanks to the 20 CCBs that submitted nominations for the **46th Annual Izaak Walton Habitat Improvement Awards**. The scoring has been completed, and we are still working with the Iowa IKES Division about presentation options – inasmuch as there will be no ICCS Annual Conference this year to do so. Once determined, we will let those nominated know what the procedures will be. *Thanks for the participation!*



- - CCBs w/populations > 20,000
- - CCBs w/populations < 20,000



ICCS Annual Report & 2020 Annual Meeting

The **ICCS FY2020 Annual Report** is near completion, and will be posted to our [MyCountyParks.org](http://www.mycountyparks.org) website by August 31st (link below). The **ICCS Board of Directors** has also determined that they will hold a **virtual Annual Meeting in November** in conjunction with their regular quarterly meeting. The meeting will be held on our ZOOM platform – the agenda will be posted with the Annual Report, and an invitation will be sent to all current member CCBs. Look for additional information to your inboxes in the weeks ahead! 😊

LINK: <https://www.mycountyparks.org/conferences.html>

CCDA Provides First Look at 2021 Legislative Priorities

The **CCDA Legislative Committee** met via Zoom on August 5th in preparation to submit County Conservation legislative priority proposals to ISAC for review to be potentially included with the ISAC priorities for the 2021 Legislative Session. The work of the Committee has been under review for a couple of weeks and is now available online in **the PORTAL FILES / LEGISLATIVE file**. Probably not a surprise to anyone – the five main priorities include: Funding of the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund, Full Funding of the REAP Program, Bottle Bill Expansion, the Forest Reserve Law, and Tagging Tree Stands on Public Land. You can learn more about all of these priorities as well as the numerous Policy Statements that have been adopted by the CCDA over the past several years – all to be found in the Portal File system.



Legislative Priorities



Iowa's County Conservation Director's Association

FY2021 - I.A.C.C.B. SALARY SURVEY Des Moines County Conservation Board														
NO.	NAME	DATE	EMP. NO.	CLASS	STEP	VAL	EMP. NO.	CLASS	STEP	VAL	EMP. NO.	CLASS	STEP	VAL
1	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
2	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
3	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
4	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
5	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
6	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
7	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
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10	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
11	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
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45	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
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51	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
52	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
53	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
54	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
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57	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
58	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
59	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
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63	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
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65	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
66	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
67	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
68	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
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71	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
72	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
73	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
74	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
75	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
76	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
77	BOYD, JAMES	12/15/19	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200	1	1	1	20200
78														



POLLINATOR / FOOD PLOTS or TOURIMS HOT SPOTS!?!?!?

Apparently – “If you build it, they will come!”- especially once it gets posted on some social media platform! 😊 Whether it is ¼ acre or 10 acres....just when you think you are having a quiet summer – the damn things bloom! We have heard the stories recently from Poweshiek and Wapello CCBs – both of which thought they were just innocently planting a food plot for doves or an enhancement to a nearby butterfly garden – then shazam!, the public goes whacko over them....even to the extent of professional photographers scheduling family and senior photo-shoots at the fields. Perhaps a dead-end road isn't the best location to handle several hundred cars a day? Not to mention the multi-thousands of views and kudos you get on social media?!?

So, this COULD be a “teachable moment” for visitors to one of these plots?? Some appropriate educational signage perhaps? Got your food plot plans decided yet for 2021...??? Don't say we didn't warn you, or would that be *inspire* you?! Pretty much a no-brainer, and the public will love it! 😊



How's YOUR 99 Parks Promotion Still Going?

After all the 99 PARKS hoopla of 2019, we haven't heard much of how your Selfie Stations are doing? ICCS still maintains an online listing of where you put them up – IF you let us know. Station parts and signs were distributed to 80 CCBs, and our online listing only represents 52 counties. Visit the link below, and if your park is not listed – be sure to let us know – thanks! **Kudos to Wapello CCB** for repainting their stencil markings at the American Gothic House and Pioneer Ridge Nature Area and promoting them on Facebook! 😊

LINK: <https://www.mycountyparks.org/selfie-stations.html>

100+% Revenue Growth in 5 Years!

Year-to-Year comparisons of Online E-Commerce CCBs:

Year	#CCBs	#Reservations	Revenue	YtoY %
FY15	11	11,640	\$1,133,151	-
FY16	15	14,082	\$1,371,248	+21%
FY17	21	17,066	\$1,715,310	+25%
FY18	24	20,628	\$2,078,008	+22%
FY19	32	24,130	\$2,410,752	+16%
FY20	37	25,594	\$2,733,347	+14%*

(* Severely impacted by COVID-19 in March & April)



mycountyparks.com

We are currently working with **Sac, Wapello and Decatur CCBs** to begin their online reservation services for their customers in the upcoming months. As of today, the website has 124,578 registered users – an increase of 16,468 since January – up 16%.

An interesting side note is that our online requests for hard copies of the **County Conservation Guide to Outdoor Adventure** have almost tripled over the past 5 months – MORE folks wanting to find outdoor things to do....close to home!



zoom

ZOOM Meetings Update

Looking forward to our District 2 Zoom Meeting tomorrow, August 27th and catching up with CCB happenings in north / central Iowa. **A REMINDER** that after Sept. 27th, Zoom Meetings will need a password to gain access to meetings utilizing the platform. This is a new security procedure being implemented and required by Zoom. CCBs booking the ICCS Zoom Meeting Room will receive this reminder along with a new password in their confirmation email. Questions always welcome.....

ICCS New Employee School & E-Commerce Summit Under Discussion



Not unlike Winterfest and the ICCS Fall Conference, these two events cannot occur status quo as they have in the past. The **MyCountyParks Advisory Committee** will be meeting in September to discuss the possibilities of a virtual summit yet this fall to keep everyone informed with website development and management.

The **New Employee School** has a few more moving parts with several instructors that contribute to the school. It will most likely migrate to early 2021 with considerations to also possibly becoming virtual – though with a preference to keep it as an in-person event if possible.



Last Call for ICCS Eastern Region Board Member Applications

The **ICCS Board of Directors** has received a nomination for the Board Member Representative from the Eastern Region (*combination of Districts 5 & 6*). A ballot is being prepared for distribution by the middle of September. If there are any additional Conservation Board Members interested in pursuing this 3-year term on the ICCS State Board of Directors, we need to hear from you by Friday, Sept. 11th in order for your name to appear on the ballot. If you have any questions or would like to obtain an application, please contact Tom Hazelton at IACCB@mycountyparks.org - thanks for your service!



(NOTE – We continue to have a similar Board Member opening for the Western Region (Districts 3 & 4) for any of you from Western Iowa that may have an interest?! 😊)



Some MCP.com Digital Updates

#1 – For the past couple of weeks, some MCP County Administrators and a few customers have had difficulties working with the site utilizing Google Chrome as their browser. As we have mentioned before – it takes a bunch of digital cookies to allow MyCountyParks.com to function as it does. When a browser (*Chrome, Explorer, Edge, Firefox*) makes an improvement, security adjustment, etc. – these updates may not allow the cookies to interact with the site as they did previously. A new code release this week should alleviate this problem – took a couple of weeks to isolate the issue(s). **All administrators working on the site are reminded to completely close out of mycountyparks.com in their browsers, or clear their cookies through browser settings.** Mucho apreciado for all your feedback during this process!

#2 – Testing has commenced on Phase 2 of our 2020 scheduled improvements for the website. While mainly administrative in nature, this wave of upgrades also includes the new Portal View Administrator profile that can be made available for individuals that wish to have the ability to operate within the Portal tabs to view Files, Contacts, Jobs and Best Practices. This profile type will have no modification privileges to create data in the Portal.

COUPLE OF CCB PERSONNEL NOTES OF INTEREST

JOB POSTINGS RECYCLED – Several CCBs had online postings (on MCP.com) that have been languishing on the website in excess of 6-7 months. Any posting over 5 months online was recently switched from “OPEN UNTIL FILLED” to an August 10th application deadline – essentially placing the posting in storage. If any CCB wishes to renew those posts, it’s as simple as updating the deadline to a future date. Thanks!

EMAIL HARVEST OF PORTAL SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 30th – Thanks to everyone for keeping your personnel information (Employees & Board Members) up-to-date in the **Portal CONTACTS**. We have scheduled the fall harvest of email addresses for our ICCS database for September 30th – encouraging you all to review & update your listings over the next several weeks. We have some 1,214 people in this digital “Personnel Directory” – many of which are no longer serving / working within our CCB system. Believe it or not – there are some 286 individuals that have not been updated since the Portal listing was started in 2013.....some CCBs have never visited this listing – isn’t it about time? We have email listings for 79% of Employees (521 of 661), and 77% of Board Members (379 of 495). For the most part, we experience about a 5% “bounce-back” rate from bad addresses in the Portal.

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



- Full Time
- Seasonal/Part-Time

Johnson CCB assists local communities and rural county areas with tree removal following derecho.

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

1. O'BRIEN Co. – Naturalist
2. WOODBURY Co. – Naturalist
3. BUTLER Co. - Naturalist
4. DICKINSON Co. – Community Relations Coordinator
5. SEASONAL POSITIONS – 2+ opportunities listed on website

08/26/2020



Crew from Dubuque CCB responds to August 10th derecho disaster by assisting Linn CCB with the massive clean-up in front of them.