

Conservation Connection

Johnson County Conservation Newsletter

Remember the Old Trees

Larry Gullett – Executive Director

Like many, I had never heard the term “derecho” until Monday, August 10, 2020. For those of us who lived through it, it is a day we will never forget. In nature, most change happens slowly, over decades, centuries, or even millennia. But on occasion, an event makes great change in a very short time – this was one of them. In terms of impacts, downed cell phone towers, electric lines, houses, crop fields and commercial/retail businesses, this was a big one. All of these things are near and dear to us and we immediately recognize the damage and affix costs based on these necessities. But the biggest impact of this event was on the trees, many of them were centuries old and will take several human lifetimes to replace.

While we can rebuild our houses, electric grids, cell phone towers and businesses, trees take time and in this fast changing world, three human lifetimes is an eternity. To put the age of these magnificent trees into context, many of them were seedlings in 1820, 26 years before Iowa became a state. A few of them were here in 1803, when President Thomas Jefferson acquired the Louisiana Purchase, all the lands between the Mississippi and Rocky Mountains, for three cents an acre. It is difficult to comprehend all the change that has occurred in those 200+ years of life. Imagine what it would be like to experience the freedom of Native American cultures on the plains, the covered wagons and trains moving west, the breaking of prairie and conversion of the landscape to millions of acres of corn, the building of cities, space travel and now the time of wireless connectivity. Many of these old

trees are now gone - all within 30 minutes. I think this event will help us appreciate and value these old trees even more. For many of us who helped and continue with clean-up of tree damage, for weeks at a time, this is mentally and physically draining. Cutting, grinding, chipping and burning these old friends can wear on a person. We need to step back, take some time, and reflect about what was lost. We lost many important and irreplaceable members of the savanna and forest community.

I cannot help but think the intensity of this derecho was in part due to our warming earth and climate change. Considering the derecho, two hurricanes in the gulf at the same time, the massive fires in our western forests, the hottest temperatures ever recorded in the United States (130° F), and the melting of polar ice caps and permafrost, we need to act. I hope people quickly understand what’s at stake and take action to demand change.



Above: JCC staff clearing fallen limbs and trees. Along with cleaning up our county parks, staff assisted our local communities in Solon, Swisher, and North Liberty.

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A Note from the Director

Larry Gullett - Executive Director



This Old Tree

For many of us that frequent the northeast part of the county near Sutliff, there is an old sycamore, iconic in terms of grabbing the attention of passersby, with its old age and stoutness. During the storm a couple of our staff were in a truck watching the old tree take full force of the wind. Immediately after the storm, one of the

staff telephoned and reported on how the old tree faired. Many of us watched trees bend to the point where we couldn't believe they didn't break, but not this old tree. It stood out in the full force of the wind, not bending, but just shaking and trembling. Sure, it lost a few branches, but it weathered the storm.



Above: The old sycamore sits on a bend of Sutliff Road, near the Sutliff Historical Bridge. **Bottom Left:** During the derecho, in the 100+ mile an hour winds, leaves rip and small limbs break. **Bottom Right:** The sycamore tree as it stands today, a few limbs lighter, but still standing.



Replanting a Healthier and More Resilient Future

Kristen Morrow - Naturalist

Trees provide a deep emotional connection to place. They shape the way a neighborhood feels, not only through the cooling shade they provide, but also in the way that they bring our neighborhoods to life, supporting hundreds of species right in our backyards. The significant loss of trees throughout many Iowa counties caused by the August 10th derecho is heartbreaking. Their loss, our loss, deserves to be mourned. However, their loss also opens the opportunity to replant healthier and more resilient urban forests than ever before.

Today, Iowa's urban forests are primarily made up of few species. Maples represent over one third of Iowa's urban trees currently, following in the wake of the former urban favorites: ash and elm. As we have seen through the unrelenting impacts of Emerald Ash Borer and Dutch Elm Disease, relying heavily on one type of tree to line our streets and to fill our parks and yards makes our communities vulnerable to the devastation of invasive pests. Going forward, as we replant from this natural disaster, we have the opportunity to replant a greater diversity of trees and create more resilient future forests.

In addition to better diversifying our urban forests, we also should seek to plant native trees whenever possible. By choosing native plants, we can provide food sources by way of host plants for pollinators and insects. For example, collectively, native oaks serve as host plants for a whopping 534 native lepidopteran (butterflies and moths) species! By comparison, non-native ginko trees are not hosts for anything - a trend that holds for many other non-native trees. When we feed the base of the food chain, the rest of the natural world flourishes too.

Deciding to choose a diverse mix of native trees is just the first step, but there are many other factors to consider. What is the soil drainage like? Soil compaction? Sunlight? Do you need to worry about future storm damage? Are there underground utility lines to consider? Will the tree need to withstand road salt spray? Once you've thought through those factors, you can find trees to fit the bill through the Iowa DNR

publication: [Rethinking Maple, Selecting Trees For Your Yard: A Case for Species Diversity.](#)

With time, our trees will once again shade our streets and fill our neighborhoods with life. Until that day comes, picking up a shovel and planting a tree is one of the most hopeful things there is.

Planting Hope

Trees Forever, an Iowa-based organization focused on planting and caring for trees while building community, has launched a campaign called Planting Hope Tree Recovery to help communities replant trees following the derecho. Along with replanting trees in public areas, this campaign will provide lost-cost saplings for homeowners to adopt. Even if your own yard or neighborhood were not impacted by the derecho, you can take part in the replanting mission by donating to the cause.

Pollinator-Friendly Native Trees

Just as monarchs need milkweed, other insects and pollinators depend on native trees as a food source. When choosing a tree, consider the selection of native trees for pollinators below.

Name:	Host Plant For:
Oaks; Native Ex: Red Oak, White Oak, Bur Oak	534 butterflies and moths (Ex: Red-spotted Purple, Red-banded Hairstreak, Polyphemus Moth)
Cherry; Native Ex: Black Cherry & Chokecherry	456 butterflies and moths (Ex: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Cecropia Moth, Imperial Moth)
Birch; Native Ex: River Birch, Paper Birch	413 butterflies and moths (Ex: Mourning Cloak, Arched Hooktip Moth, American Dagger Moth, Chocolate Prominent)
Hickory; Native Ex: Shagbark Hickory, Bitternut Hickory	200 butterflies and moths (Ex: Hickory Hairstreak, Royal Walnut Moth, Hickory Tussock Moth)
Elm Family; Native Ex: Hackberry	213 butterflies and moths (Ex: Eastern Comma, Hackberry Emperor, Tawny Emperor, Question Mark, Snout Butterfly)
Basswood (<i>Tilia americana</i>)	150 butterflies and moths (Ex: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Checkered-fringe Prominent)

More information about native trees and pollinators can be found through the Trees Forever publication, [Trees and Shrubs for Pollinators.](#)



A

B

C

A plan for *Pechman Creek Delta*

Frances Owen - Naturalist

Pechman Creek Delta is a very special place. Located on Sand Road near Lone tree, this county park boasts an incredible diversity of plants and animals, is part of the Southeast Iowa Amphibian and Reptile Conservation area, and is classified uniquely for its landforms. Purchased in 2015 from the Westfall family, much thought has gone into the future use, restoration, and development of this 380 acre property. In 2020, Johnson County Conservation worked with a team of designers, architects, and engineers, to develop a Phase I plan, to address future use and design considerations for the entrance to the property. On the following pages, dive deeper into our plan for this public area and read about the labeled locations on this map in additional detail. This Phase I plan will serve as a road map for future developments at the site.



A brief history of Pechman Creek Delta An ancient river valley (what would later become the Iowa River) forms the foundation for the unique landforms and hydrology of the area. Additionally, large terraces differentiate the site, sculpted by glacial deposits, glacial melt-water, and wind deposited soils between 30,000 to 12,500 years ago. Long before European settlers came along, this land was occupied by Native Americans, with evidence dating back at least 8,000 years. In more recent history, this land was home to members of the Ioway, Kickapoo, Sauk, and Meskwaki nations. In 1832, the land that would later become Pechman Creek Delta was part of Keokuk's Reserve, a 40 mile wide strip



A A view from the proposed parking lot to a trailhead leading back to the slough. The proposed plan includes ample parking for visitors to the park and restricts vehicle traffic into the rest of the property. Wayfinding and interpretive signs are also located at the trailhead.



B The plan preserves the old corn crib from this property's farming days to help maintain that family farm feel. In this visual, the corn crib is left as an open air structure with some interpretive signage inside. An ADA-friendly trail loops through and around to take visitors to the main building,



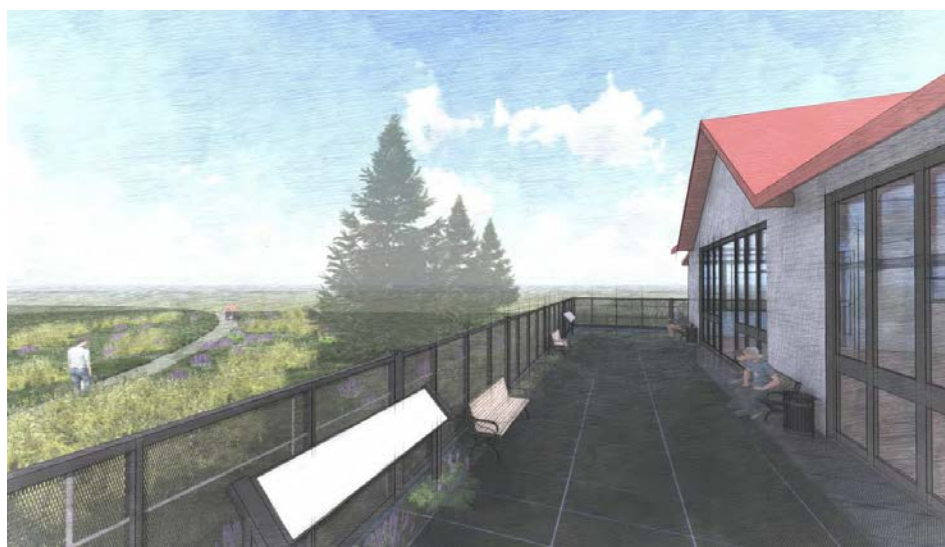
C A small shade structure sits north of the corn crib with benches to provide a shady place for picnics or bicyclists looking for a place to rest.

of land along the Iowa River, part of the Black Hawk Purchase Treaty. In 1836, Keokuk's Reserve was sold to the U.S. government, and opened up for settlers. Any remaining Native Americans were forced to move to another reserve along the Des Moines River. After European settlement, this property was initially used to supply firewood. Row crop farming has been attempted, with mixed success. The fields flooded frequently and most dramatically in the 1993 and 2008 floods (water levels from these floods are still marked on the existing corn crib). Due to the difficulties associated with trying to farm land frequently inundated with water, it is well suited for restoration back into its natural state.

D Pechman Creek Delta sits along the popular bike route, Sand Road. As part of the proposed Phase I plan, a bike maintenance stand, water fountain, and water bottle filling station will be located next to the house, right off the ADA ramp. Bicycle parking would also be provided near this location.



E An observation deck wraps around a proposed new building, designed to look like the old farm house from the front. This will provide staff offices, restrooms, and a meeting room for small groups.



F A mowed trail will loop around restored prairie and wetland, viewable from the main building's observation deck. This site has been row cropped for soybeans and corn for many years, and continues to be farmed until a plan for restoration is complete. It will be a wonderful example of how marginal farmland can be returned to a native state for improvements in water quality and wildlife habitat.





Connecting to Iowa's past... the ethics of finding artifacts

Caleigh Stanier - Naturalist Intern

Everyone wants to find an arrowhead. Just the thought of it evokes a brilliant childhood excitement and wonder. The thrill of treasure and the prospect of finding a rare, beautiful piece of history are exhilarating.

Those who have scoured creek banks for those flaked edges nestled among rocks and sand might be familiar with a common frustration; Arrowheads and points are rarely found by those who go looking for them.

I have heard stories from some that looked down and there it was; a point sitting in front of them in sand. Others have found them entirely by accident, while sifting through a handful of rocks, or while exploring a creek bed for fossils. A friend once told me that a specific spot in the creek seemed to call to them, and there they found a beautiful stone point, half buried among the pebbles.

When I sat down for a rest on a small sandbar while exploring a creek in Johnson County, I was not expecting to see the sharp, scalloped edges poking out of the sand by my toes. In a frenzy of excitement, I dug it out of its resting place to see its full, ancient beauty. The weight in my palm was more than that of just stone. It was a warmth, an energy.

I felt connected. A human before me, had held this in their hand, just like me.

I felt small. I was suddenly aware how minuscule my place was in earth's timeline. I felt wonder. Who made this? Why is it in this stream? Did somebody lose it, and if so, were they sad when they lost it? Did this take a life, and, if so, what did it kill? The point's physical presence opened my mind to the possibility of imagining another human's story outside of my own world. While I most likely had stumbled upon it by accident, it was tempting to explore the thought that a purpose or forest spirit was at work in that creek bed. However, I also felt conflicted. I had no idea what to do in this situation. It felt wrong to take the point, but I also couldn't bear to leave it in the stream.

"The weight in my palm was more than that of just stone. It was a warmth, an energy."

Eager to learn more, I reached out to Cherie Haury-Artz, an archaeologist at the University of Iowa. She informed me that I had found a "side-notched, stem projectile point", that had most likely been attached

to a short spear and thrown by an atlatl. She said that it was approximately 6000-8000 years old and from the Middle Archaic period, a time before agriculture or pottery. She identified that the point was most likely made of Croton chert, a stone found in southeastern Iowa. I learned that the stone's pink coloring meant that it had been heat-treated. In that process, the chert was dehydrated in a fire to make it easier to work with.

Cherie Haury-Artz also provided me with some valuable information on the ethics of artifact finding. On the next page are some valuable guidelines for responsibly interacting with found artifacts:



Pictured: The point sits in a sandbar as it was found.

Below: Caleigh, the author, holds the artifact in her hand, shortly after removing it from its resting place. Close-up photos show the detail and color of the artifact after it was gently cleaned and dried.



- It is illegal to collect artifacts from Johnson County Conservation property, or any other public land in Iowa (county, state, and federally owned).
- Artifacts collected on private land legally belong to the landowner.
- Document the find with a photograph - the GPS in your phone will pinpoint its location.
- Report its location to the Office of the State Archaeologist - The location will be recorded as a site. Remember, your find is an important piece of Iowa's archaeological history! Additionally, if you discover an artifact on one of Johnson County Conservation's properties, please call our main office at 319-645-2315 to report it. We would love to know!

If you do end up collecting an artifact on private land:

- Document when and where it was found
- Don't mix artifacts from different sites
- Never buy or sell artifacts
- Store them safely - it is important that they are not chipped or damaged

While arrowheads and stone points are incredibly special to find, it is important that they are not treated as collectible items or possessions. According to Cherie, "Every artifact that is removed from its context is a piece of the cultural history puzzle that is lost".

These objects help us connect to our fellow humans scientifically and spiritually. By sharing our personal finds with archaeologists, we can help deepen this connection and improve our collective understanding of human life on earth.



Environmental Education,

Kristen Morrow - Naturalist

One of the most common comments that JCC's environmental education team received from the public this summer was, "You must be pretty slow right now!" Given the abrupt shut-down of normal life that happened in the spring, many assumed that our summer programming would follow suit. The global pandemic certainly changed the way our summer looked, but the changes led to an even more fast-paced and busier summer than normal.

In late spring, after making the hard decision to clear the summer calendar of all field trips, large events, wilderness trips, and camps, all programs that had been in the works for months, the education team started fresh with a blank slate. But how to go forward in a pandemic that pushes us apart? After a spring of virtual naturalist work,

we were craving to be away from the screens and outdoors working with people again. The solution that we came up with was to do what we do best: provide experiential environmental education programs, this summer for one family at a time.

We set up a full calendar of free naturalist programs spanning from mid-June to mid-August, with programs taking place four days a week, all day long. Families could sign up online for an hour-long program. The calendar was filled with summer time hits like tadpole catching, creek stomping, and kayaking, along with new quirks and program ideas like forest bathing hikes, foraging and fossil programs, nature journaling, and caterpillar hunts. All programs were 100% outdoors, with masks worn by JCC staff and strongly recommended for participants.

The programs were a hit, and the calendar filled





One Family at a Time ☺

within just a few days. Most of the families we worked with were brand new to JCC and our educational programming. Some weeks, we were able to introduce families to Pechman Creek Delta and Cangleska Wakan, two of JCC's newest properties, public lands still unknown to most.

Beyond the popularity of these programs, it was clear that they were making an impact on the families involved. This was clearly demonstrated by another of the most common comments our team received this summer, "This meant so much to our family." We were surprised by the impact that these programs had. Though they were simple explorations of the natural world, in such a challenging summer, even an hour-long adventure was a freeing respite and a bright spot for so many.

For our part, the environmental education team

was overjoyed to share these programs with the community. For many naturalists, the best part about the job is being able to take part in the sparks of joy and wonder that the natural world brings. The four year old boy holding onto a small bullfrog and repeatedly exclaiming, "I love him *so much!*"; the independent toddler with a grin on her face insisting on picking her own handfuls of blackberries; the young boys so enthused with the wetlands that they gleefully waded in up to their chests; the awe sparked by the heron spearing a fish right in front of our kayaks; the excitement of the family that caught (and released) 27 tadpoles while wading through the creek - these moments are the bright spots for a naturalist. Despite all of the challenges this summer brought, working with our community's families, one at a time, transformed a hard summer into one of laughter and joy.



The Story Continues

This summer, the trail around the Conservation Education Center in Kent Park was consistently filled with more people and especially more young children, than in any previous year. The sudden spike in little hikers was thanks the creation of the Storybook Trail, a new feature added to the park at the start of this summer.

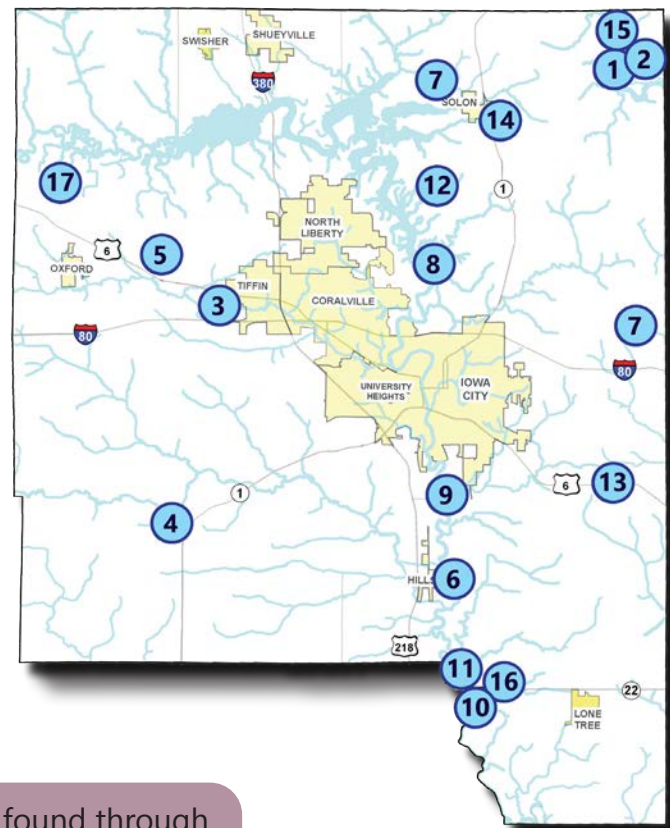
The Storybook Trail was initially added to provide a way for young families to get out and enjoy an engaging and educational activity during a summer of social distancing. Each week, a new nature-themed story was put up, with virtual guides hikers could upload to their phones to expand the discussion around the books. Many families came out every week to enjoy a new story, and numerous visitors were drawn out to the park for the first time thanks to this feature!



The success of the Storybook Trail has encouraged us to continue this trail both throughout the fall and going forward into next summer and beyond. Thanks to the extra funds raised by the community through a Facebook Fundraiser, and thanks to a generous discount provided by Prairie Lights Bookstore, we were able to purchase additional books that will be featured on a bi-monthly basis until early December. The featured books are: *Hurry and the Monarch* (August 20-Sept 21), *Hiking Day* (Sept 21-Oct 12), *Leaf Jumpers* (Oct 12-Nov 2), *Bear Says Thanks* (Nov 2-Nov 23), and *Hibernation Station* (Nov 23-Dec 7). As the season goes on, bundle up for a weekly hike, and enjoy a cute seasonal story along with the changing fall landscape.

JCC Public Use Areas

1. Cedar River Crossing	514 acres
2. Ciha Fen	81 acres
3. Clear Creek Area & Trail	87 acres, 1.3 miles
4. Frytown Conservation Area	94 acres
5. F.W. Kent Park	1,052 acres
6. Hills Access	40 acres
7. Hoover Trail	6 miles
8. Iowa River Trail	3.5 miles
9. Iowa River Water Trail	22 miles
10. River Junction Access	12 acres
11. Pechman Creek Delta	380 acres
12. Cangleska Wakan	132 acres
13. Scott Church Park	5 acres
14. Solon Prairie	3 acres
15. Sutliff Bridge & Access	1/2 acre
16. Walker Park	3 acres
17. Williams Prairie Preserve	21 acres



More information about JCC public use areas can be found through our website: www.johnson-county.com/conservation

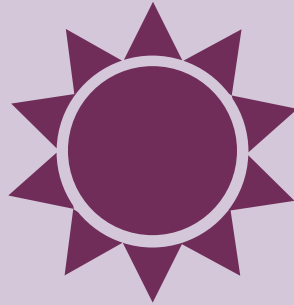
Fall Program Calendar

September	Time(s)	Event	Location
Monday, 14th	10:00 a.m.	OWLS: Monarch Tagging	CEC
Tuesday, 15th	10:00 a.m./2:00 p.m.	Monarch Tagging	CEC
Wednesday, 16th	10:00 a.m./2:00 p.m.	Prairie Seed Harvest	Kent Park, TBD
Thursday, 17th	3:00 p.m.	Hike with a Naturalist	Knight Prairie, Kent Park
Friday, 18th	10:00 a.m.	Little Tike Hikes: Monarchs	CEC
Saturday, 19th	2:00 p.m.	Simple Foraging Basket Making	Cangleska Wakan
Tuesday, 22nd	6:00 a.m.	Autumnal Equinox Sunrise Hike	Cedar River Crossing
Tuesday, 22nd	10:00 a.m./2:00 p.m.	Wetland Creatures Exploration	CEC
Wednesday, 23rd	10:00 a.m./2:00 p.m.	Prairie Seed Harvest	Kent Park, TBD
Thursday, 24th	3:00 p.m.	Hike with a Naturalist	Valley View, Kent Park
Friday, 25th	10:00 a.m.	Little Tike Hikes: Wetland Discovery	CEC
Monday, 28th	10:00 a.m.	OWLS: Bird Banding	CEC
Tuesday, 29th	10:00 a.m./2:00 p.m.	Nature Journaling	CEC
Wednesday, 30th	6:30 p.m.	Moonlight Prairie Seed Harvest	Kent Park, TBD
October	Time(s)	Event	Location
Thursday, 1st	6:00 p.m./7:30 p.m.	Sunset and Full Moon Paddle	Kent Park Boat Ramp
Friday, 2nd	10:00 a.m.	Little Tike Hikes: Birds!	CEC
Tuesday, 6th	10:00 a.m./2:00 p.m.	Animal Signs	CEC
Wednesday, 7th	10:00 a.m./2:00 p.m.	Prairie Seed Harvest	Kent Park, TBD
Thursday, 8th	3:00 p.m.	Hike with a Naturalist	Frytown Conservation Area
Friday, 9th	10:00 a.m.	Little Tike Hikes: Animal Signs	CEC
Monday, 12th	10:00 a.m.	OWLS: Ecoprinting	Cangleska Wakan
Tuesday, 13th	10:00 a.m./2:00 p.m.	Ecoprinting	Cangleska Wakan
Wednesday, 14th	10:00 a.m./2:00 p.m.	Prairie Seed Harvest	Kent Park, TBD
Thursday, 15th	3:00 p.m.	Hike with a Naturalist	Cangleska Wakan
Friday, 16th	10:00 a.m.	Little Tike Hikes: Art in Nature	CEC
Saturday, 17th	9:00 a.m.	Woodworking for Wildlife	Whippoorwill, Kent Park
Tuesday, 20th	10:00 a.m./2:00 p.m.	Tree ID Leaf Hike and Leaf Art	CEC
Wednesday, 21st	10:00 a.m./2:00 p.m.	Prairie Seed Harvest	Kent Park, TBD
Thursday, 22nd	3:00 p.m.	Hike with a Naturalist	Cangleska Wakan
Friday, 23rd	10:00 a.m.	Little Tike Hikes: Leaf Art	CEC
Monday, 26th	10:00 a.m.	OWLS: Prairie Hike and Seed Harvest	CEC
Tuesday, 27th	4:00 p.m./7:30 p.m.	Halloween Hike	CEC
Wednesday, 28th	6:30 p.m.	Moonlight Prairie Seed Harvest	Kent Park, TBD
Friday, 30th	10:00 a.m.	Little Tike Hikes: Halloween Hike	CEC
November	Time(s)	Event	Location
Wednesday, 4th	10:00 a.m./2:00 p.m.	Prairie Seed Harvest	Kent Park, TBD
Tuesday, 10th	10:00 a.m./2:00 p.m.	Nature Mapping	Cangleska Wakan
Thursday, 12th	3:00 p.m.	Hike with a Naturalist	Youth Group Camp, Kent Park
Friday, 13th	10:00 a.m.	Little Tike Hikes: Seeds	CEC
Tuesday, 17th	10:00 a.m./2:00 p.m.	Woodland Shelter Building	Youth Group Camp, Kent Park
Thursday, 19th	3:00 p.m.	Hike with a Naturalist	Cangleska Wakan
Friday, 20th	10:00 a.m.	Little Tike Hikes: Animal Homes	CEC
Tuesday, 24th	10:00 a.m./2:00 p.m.	Nature Senses Hike	CEC

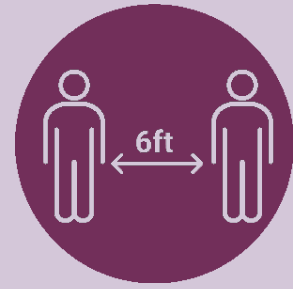
Program Guide



**MASKS ARE
REQUIRED**



100% OUTDOORS



**SOCIAL
DISTANCED**

Due to Covid-19, JCC will continue to host modified public programs. To help individuals and families enjoy enriching and educational outdoor experiences, JCC education staff will host learning activities with limited participants. All programs will be entirely outdoors; JCC staff will wear masks, and program participants are required to wear a mask unless unable to do so. Our programs are also designed to allow for social distancing of 6 feet or more. **Programs may be cancelled at any time based on current public health conditions or weather conditions.**

O.W.L.S. Hikes:

Details: Older, Wiser, Livelier, Seniors, or O.W.L.S. is a program for folks 65 years or older, who are looking for ways to get outdoors this fall. All of these programs will take place around the Conservation Education Center at F.W. Kent Park. A limit of 15 participants will be allowed in each program.

To sign up for these programs, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/jccFall2020> or call 319-645-1011 for help.

Monarch Tagging

Monday, September 14, 10:00 a.m.-11:30 p.m.
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

Come learn about the amazing monarch butterfly migration and help JCC staff tag and release butterflies that will spend their winter in Mexico.

Bird Banding

Monday, September 28, 10:00 a.m.-11:30 p.m.
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

During fall, many different species of birds pass through Kent Park on their way to Central and South America. Join us as we watch bird banders catch and measure some of the birds in Kent Park!

Eco printing

Monday, October 12, 10:00 a.m.-11:30 p.m.
Cangleska Wakan, 4045 245th St. NE, Solon, IA 52333

Did you know colors and patterns can be extracted from leaves and flowers? Learn a little about this

relaxing process and make your own naturally printed fabric.

Prairie Hike and Seed Harvest

Monday, October 26, 10:00 a.m.-11:30 p.m.
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

Absorb the beauty of the fall prairie, on a 1/2 mile hike, learn about some of our favorite prairie plants, and help us harvest prairie seed so we can plant more!



Above: 2019 senior program

Family Programs:

Details: Each family program is designed especially for families with children pre-K through upper elementary ages. Two sessions are available on each date; sessions will be limited to 4 family groups/pods. All programs are free and all equipment is provided; any equipment used (dip nets, bug nets, etc) will be sanitized following use. Each family group/pod is limited to 6 kids with 1-2 adults.

To sign up for these programs, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/jccFall2020> or call 319-645-1011 for help.

Monarch Tagging

Tuesday, September 15

Time slots at 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 2:00-3:30 p.m.
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

Learn all about the amazing migration of Monarch Butterflies! Join JCC staff as we try to catch and tag Monarchs to track their journey to Mexico.

Wetland Creatures Exploration

Tuesday, September 22

Time slots at 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 2:00-3:30 p.m.
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

Explore the wetlands with a naturalist as your guide! We'll catch wetland creatures, and learn about the critters that call Kent Park home.

Nature Journaling

Tuesday, September 29

Time slots at 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 2:00-3:30 p.m.
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

Bring a sketchbook, nature journal, or simple notebook, and learn the basics of creating and keeping a nature journal. We'll hike a short 1/2 mile loop, journaling about the flowers in bloom, insects buzzing, leaves falling, birds singing, and any other details we experience along the way.

Animal Signs: Skulls, Tracks, Scat and more!

Tuesday, October 6th

Time slots at 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 2:00-3:30 p.m.
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

Examine real animal skulls and learn how to read skulls for animal clues. We'll also explore other animal signs such as scat, tracks, dens, and more before heading out on a hunt to find signs of animal life.

Eco printing

Tuesday, October 13

Time slots at 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 2:00-3:30 p.m.
Cangleska Wakan, 4045 245th St. NE, Solon, IA 52333

Colors and patterns can be extracted from leaves and flowers with just a little bit of work. Learn a little about

this process and make your own naturally printed fabric.

Tree ID Leaf Hike and Leaf Art

Tuesday, October 20

Time slots at 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 2:00-3:30 p.m.
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

Take a 1/2 mile hike and learn about some of the most common Iowa trees. We'll collect leaves for leaf rubbings and pressings to help with ID. After the hike, we'll use leaves to make nature art.

Halloween Hike

Tuesday, October 27

Time slots at 4:00 p.m.-5:30 a.m. and 7:30-9:00 p.m.
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

It's time to wear your best costume (nature themes are highly encouraged)! Come out on a 1/2 mile hike to learn about the animals that come out at night.

Nature Mapping

Tuesday, November 10

Time slots at 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 2:00-3:30 p.m.
Cangleska Wakan, 4045 245th St. NE, Solon, IA 52333

Learn about the basic components of maps, then head out on a hike to draw a nature map of your own.

Woodland Shelter Building

Tuesday, November 17

Time slots at 10:00 a.m.-12:00 a.m. and 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

Enjoy this classic pastime of building shelters in the woods! Participants will learn about the role of shelters and basic shelter design before constructing their own woodland homes.

Nature Senses Hike

Tuesday, November 24

Time slots at 10:00 a.m.-12:00 a.m. and 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

Sight, Smell, Sound, Touch, and Taste! Try using all of your senses as you explore a trail at Kent Park!

Little Tike Hikes:

Details: These programs are designed especially for families with children 3-6 years old. Programs consist of story time, a short hike, and a possible follow-up activity or craft based on the topic. Sessions will be limited to 4 family (household) groups; up to 2 children and 1-2 adults per group. All programs are free.

Location: Conservation Education Center in F.W. Park **Time:** 10:00-11:30 a.m.

To sign up for these programs, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/LittleTikeHikesFall2020> or call 319-645-1011 for help.

Monarchs - Friday, September 18

Wetland Discovery - Friday, September 25

Birds! - Friday, October 2

Animal Signs: Skulls, Tracks, and more! -October 9

Art in Nature - Friday, October 16

Leaf Art - Friday, October 23

Halloween Costume Hike - Friday, October 30

Seeds - Friday, November 13

Animal Homes - Friday, November 20



Additional programming:

Details: These are programs geared more towards adults. Older children can also attend, unless otherwise noted in the program description. From seed harvests, guided hikes, kayaking and more, there is something for everyone!

To sign up for these programs, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/jccFall2020> or call 319-645-1011 for help.

Prairie Seed Harvest

Wednesday, September 16

Time slots at 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (adults only) and 2:00-3:30 p.m. (family session)

F.W. Kent Park, Exact location TBD

Hike with a Naturalist

Thursday, September 17 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Knight Prairie Pavilion, F.W. Kent Park

Simple Foraging Basket Making

Saturday, September 19 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Cangleska Wakan, 4045 245th St. NE, Solon, IA 52333

Come make a simple foraging basket out of cattail leaves! We will show you how to harvest, prepare, and weave cattail leaves so you can go home with your own handmade basket.

Autumnal Equinox Sunrise Hike

Tuesday, September 22 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

Cedar River Crossing

Join us for a sunrise hike to the Astronomical Clock, at Cedar River Crossing. Reach for equilibrium and celebrate day and night being of equal length.

Prairie Seed Harvest

Wednesday, September 23

Time slots at 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (adults only) and 2:00-3:30 p.m. (family session)

F.W. Kent Park, Exact location TBD

Hike with a Naturalist

Thursday, September 24 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Valley View, F.W. Kent Park

Moonlight Seed Harvest

Wednesday, September 30 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
F.W. Kent Park, Exact location TBD
Adult Only

Sunset and Full Moon Paddle

Thursday, October 1
Time slots at 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. and 7:30-8:30 p.m.
F.W. Kent Park Lake; Boat Ramp

Adults only for this evening paddle. The first session will get to paddle into the sunset, while the second session will paddle beneath the full moon and stars. All equipment is provided (kayaks, PFDs, paddles); Participants are encouraged to bring personal PFDs if available.

Prairie Seed Harvest

Wednesday, October 7
Time slots at 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (adults only) and 2:00-3:30 p.m. (family session)
F.W. Kent Park, Exact location TBD

Hike with a Naturalist

Thursday, October 8 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Frytown Conservation Area, 2198 Angle Road SW, Kalona, IA 52247

Prairie Seed Harvest

Wednesday, October 14
Time slots at 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (adults only) and 2:00-3:30 p.m. (family session)
F.W. Kent Park, Exact location TBD

Hike with a Naturalist

Thursday, October 15 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Cangleska Wakan, 4045 245th St. NE, Solon, IA 52333

Woodworking for Wildlife: Screech Owl Nest Box

Saturday, October 17 9:00 a.m -11:00 a.m.
Whippoorwill Shelter, F.W. Kent Park

Make a nest box for Johnson County's smallest owl! The Eastern Screech Owl makes its home in both rural and suburban environments, and actually does quite well in town when provided with a safe place to nest. Keep in mind that if you attract them to your yard, they might feed on smaller birds. These houses will be most successful in shaded areas in sparse woods, stream-side forests, farmland, suburban backyards, and city parks. No previous carpentry experience required! There is a fee of \$20 per house to cover supply costs.

Prairie Seed Harvest

Wednesday, October 21
Time slots at 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (adults only) and 2:00-3:30 p.m. (family session)
F.W. Kent Park, Exact location TBD

Hike with a Naturalist

Thursday, October 22 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Cangleska Wakan, 4045 245th St. NE, Solon, IA 52333

Moonlight Seed Harvest

Wednesday, October 28 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
F.W. Kent Park, Exact location TBD
Adult Only

Prairie Seed Harvest

Wednesday, November 4 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
Time slots at 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (adults only) and 2:00-3:30 p.m. (family session)
F.W. Kent Park, Exact location TBD

Hike with a Naturalist

Thursday, November 12 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Youth Group Camp, F.W. Kent Park

Hike with a Naturalist

Thursday, November 19 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Cangleska Wakan, 4045 245th St. NE, Solon, IA 52333



Seed Harvesting is a wonderful way to volunteer and take part in environmental restoration! All seeds collected during these programs are used in prairie restoration projects for JCC. The activity is easy for all ages. Additionally, the activity allows for prairie exploration and is often filled with many nature discoveries and teachable moments along the way.



Johnson County Conservation
2048 HWY 6 NW
Oxford, IA 52332

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Tall Goldenrod serves as an important nectar source for Monarch butterflies
as they migrate south to Mexico in fall.